

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 F&AM

# TRESTLE BOARD

NOV : DEC A.L. 2016

## MASONIC EDUCATION: WHAT IS THE POINT OF MASONRY?

Most of us have been asked the question: "What is a Mason, and what do they do?" Answers to this very common question vary widely from Brother to Brother, but all are generally acceptable to the inquisitor. The question I pose to you is:

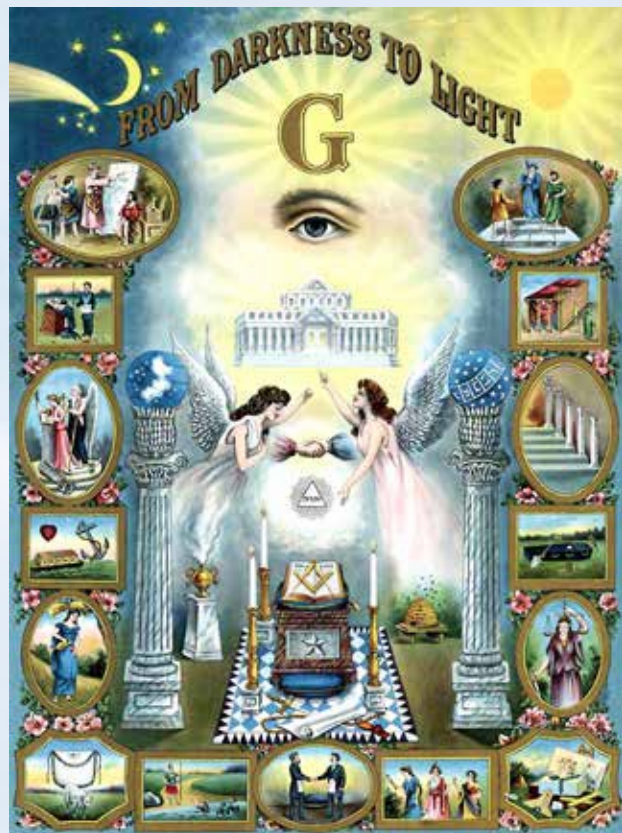
"What is the point of Freemasonry?"

To set a proper foundation for our discussion, most of us have learned that there are three principal tenets of Freemasonry. They are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. These tenets are binding upon all Masons, and help define us to the world at large.

Brotherly Love applies not only to the Fraternity and its members, but to the whole of humanity. By the practice of this virtue within the walls of Freemasonry, we apply its value in our daily meetings, interactions and conversations. We learn the true value of Brotherhood and protect it with the utmost care.

Relief is that helping hand that all Masons extend to each other, and to those in our community who are distressed or infirmed. No matter the particular charity that our Fraternity supports, the important lesson is that Masons provide relief to those who are in need.

*Continued on page 6*



**Degrees on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays**  
**Stated Communications on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays**  
**Masonic Instruction every Thursday**  
**Eastern Star meets on 1st and 3rd Saturdays**  
**DeMolay meets every Monday**

# PILLAR WISDOM



Greetings, Brothers!

The holiday season and end of the year are fast approaching, and I would like to thank all of the Officers and Brothers who have taken the time to attend and support our Lodge during 2016. Together, we have accomplished many important things this year, and as always, your participation has always been the key to our success!

We have officially launched our annual “Toys for Tots” Campaign! Please bring new, unwrapped toys for children up to age 12 to the Lodge. No realistic looking weapons or food items will be accepted. Also, please join us for our Family Night on November 29th when we will present the toys we have collected to members of the United States Marine Corps. The theme for this Family Night will be “Honoring our Military” so don’t miss this special evening!

I am happy to announce that we have held the first meeting of the Free & Accepted Masonic Book Club, and it was a big success! Our first reading will be of M.:W.:

Jorge L. Aladro’s book *Are We Making Good Men Better?* Our next meeting is on November 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the Past Masters Room. If you would like to participate, listen in, or just be added to the email list, please send an email to: kenneth.r.skillman@gmail.com.

*“The magic in these Masonic rituals is very, very old. And way back in those days, it worked. As time went on, and it started being used for spectacle, to consolidate what were only secular appearances of power, it began to lose its zip. But the words, moves, and machinery have been more or less faithfully carried down over the millennia, through the grim rationalizing of the World, and so the magic is still there, though latent, needing only to touch the right sensitive head to reassert itself.”*

— Thomas Pynchon, *Gravity’s Rainbow*

Extending My Very Best Wishes to You and Your Family in the New Year,

*Kenneth R. Skillman*

Worshipful Master



# PILLAR STRENGTH



Greetings Brothers,

Wow, how this year flew by. It seems just like yesterday that I was beginning my preparation to serve as the Senior Warden and now we have already reached the end of the year.

2016 was a very productive year for our Lodge and I’m confident in saying that we made progress on maintaining our property and managing our finances. Our Property and Finance Commit-

tees worked tirelessly to address the substantial projects and issues that we encountered. A big thank you goes out to the Brothers who served on those committees. We significantly upgraded our kitchen, made repairs to the air conditioning system that will hopefully serve us for a long time, maintained good commercial tenants, kept the property in good repair, and we stayed organized in diligently maintaining our property. Our finances and investments were also steady this year and I want to thank Brother Jeremy Hall for his hard work and commitment in connection with that.

I am most proud of my fellow Officers and Brothers of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25. The Officers really stepped up this year in everything ranging from ritual work, to increased participation in events and activities outside of the Lodge, and to preparing for Table Lodge and other events that we hosted at our Lodge. We are a great team and I’m very honored and privileged to have had the opportunity to serve with you this year. W.: Skillman, thank you for your tremendous leadership. In everything that you did this year, you demonstrated how you care deeply about our Lodge and about the Craft. You always have the Lodge’s best interest at heart.

I am especially excited about all of the Brothers who joined our Lodge this year. In his message at the beginning of the year, W.: Skillman said that his goal was to emphasize “quality over quantity” when it came to receiving new members. I am very impressed with the new Brothers who have joined our Lodge. They have already gotten involved in many aspects of our Lodge, and I look forward to what the future holds for them in our Fraternity.

Before we turn the calendar to 2017, we still have several events in November and December. Our Past Masters Degree will be on November 1st.

*Continued on page 7*

# PILLAR BEAUTY



Greetings Brothers,

Wow! 2016 has flown by this year and it has been a tremendous honor to serve as Junior Warden. I have learned a great amount from our outgoing Worshipful Master Kenneth R. Skillman, by his tireless dedication to Hillsborough 25 and the craft. I would like to thank the craft for allowing me to serve this year and I hope I have provided a delicious meal or two and some informative education along the way.

We have a little more work before this year ends with a few Degrees and our last family night on November 29th. It will also be a chance to see some well deserving Brothers receive their aprons. It should be a huge turnout for this event. Also, mark your calendars for the election of Officers. It will be on December 13, 2016.

I would like to take this time to thank my Stewards, Brother Brian Seland and Brother Patrick Whiting McCall for their support and assistance this year. I would not have been able to accomplish what I did this year without their support. I am forever grateful. Thank You Brothers!

# SECRETARY'S DESK



My Brothers,

Membership Dues Notices for 2017 will be arriving in your mail boxes soon. It is important that your dues be remitted as soon as possible. Your Lodge depends on Membership Dues to pay the necessary operational bills and costs of maintaining the Lodge property. I also remind you to keep the Lodge in mind as you do your estate planning.

Also, Lodge Officer Elections will be held on December 13, 2016. Please attend this important meeting, as the future leaders of the Lodge will be voted upon.

Although Hillsborough Lodge still has the largest membership in the Grand Lodge of Florida at 579 members, the numbers have been declining due to Non Payment of Dues and Deaths in the Lodge. Another reason for our loss of membership is that Brothers have moved and the Lodge does not have a current address for them. Consequently, they do not get their Dues Notices

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 ■ TRESTLE BOARD

Also, I must thank my lovely wife Marcia for her support in helping prepare meals and allowing me the honor to serve my Brothers at Hillsborough No. 25.

Before we wrap up this year, I would like to remind Brothers how grateful we are to have such a great lodge. A place to come together to spend quality time of Brotherly love and affection. It is YOUR presence that make us a great fraternity and "Band of Brothers". If you haven't been to Lodge in a while, make a New Years resolution to call, check to see how a Brother is doing, or come on down for fellowship and comradery and enjoy a nice meal and catch up with your Brothers.

Season Greetings and Happy Holidays!

Fraternally,

*Joe Davis*

Junior Warden



or Trestle Board. So if you move, please let us know what your new address is so we can change it on your Masonic Profile.

Please be aware that the Lodge is willing to perform Masonic Funeral Services for our Deceased Brethren. The Lodge also has Cemetery Lots available for purchase at a nominal rate. If you or your spouse are looking for a Retirement Home, contact the Lodge Secretary for information on being accepted into the Masonic Home in St. Petersburg.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN ON TO CIRCUMSCRIBE. NOT ONLY WILL IT HELP THE LODGE SECRETARY, BUT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MONITOR YOUR MASONIC PROFILE AND KEEP IT CURRENT.

Finally, thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Lodge Secretary this year. It has been a pleasure.
















Fraternally,

*John D. Hooker*

Secretary  
P.M., P.D.D.G.M



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
		 <p><b>Past Masters EA Degree</b> For Candidates &amp; Brothers prepared. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Degree 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p><b>District School of Instruction</b> John Darling Lodge • 7 p.m. 4601 Habana Tampa, FL</p>	 <p>Masonic Education &amp; Catechism 6:30 p.m.</p>		 <p>Chapter 11 Meeting 1 p.m.</p>		
6	 <p>Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</p>	 <p>Stated Communication DDGM Official Visit Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m.</p>	7	 <p>Masonic Education &amp; Catechism 6:30 p.m.</p>	11	<p><b>HIGH TWELVE LODGE</b> Meeting at Noon</p>		
13	 <p>Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</p>	 <p><b>FC Degree Night</b> For Candidates &amp; Brothers prepared. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Degree 7:15 p.m.</p>	16	 <p>Masonic Education &amp; Catechism 6:30 p.m.</p>	18	<p><b>Masters &amp; Wardens Meeting</b> John Darling Lodge No. 154 6:30 p.m. Tampa, FL.</p>	19	<p><b>MASONIC Park Outdoor Degree</b> 10 a.m - 2 p.m. Master Masons 18050 US 301 S Wimauma, FL</p>
20	 <p>Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</p>	 <p>Stated Communication Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m.</p>	23	 <p><b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b> Lodge Closed</p>	25	26		
27	 <p>Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</p>	 <p><b>FAMILY NIGHT!</b> Dinner 6:30 p.m. Lodge Presentations at 7:30 p.m.</p>	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p align="center"><b>MORE MASONIC EVENTS</b></p> <p>View more Masonic events and updated information on the Lodge web site: <a href="http://www.hillsborough25.org">www.hillsborough25.org</a>, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter, links available on the web site.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 10px;">   </div>				1	2	3  Chapter 11 Meeting 1 p.m.
4	5  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	6  <b>MM Degree Night</b> For Candidates & Brothers prepared. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Degree 7:15 p.m.	7 <b>District School of Instruction</b> John Darling Lodge • 7 p.m. 4601 Habana Tampa, FL	8  Masonic Education & Catechism 6:30 p.m.	9	10 <b>HIGH TWELVE LODGE</b> Meeting at Noon
11	12  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	13  <b>Stated Communication Election of 2017 Officers</b> Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m.	14	15  Masonic Education & Catechism 6:30 p.m.	16	17  Chapter 11 Meeting 1 p.m.
18 <b>MASONIC HOME BOARD MEETING</b> 11 a.m. 3201 1st St. NE St. Pete, FL	19  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	20  <b>No Lodge Meeting</b>	21	22  Masonic Education & Catechism 6:30 p.m.	23 <b>Masters &amp; Wardens Meeting</b> John Darling Lodge No. 154 6:30 p.m. Tampa, FL.	24
25  <b>Merry Christmas!</b>	26	27  <b>No Lodge Meeting</b>	28	29	30	31

*“Masonic Education” continued from page 1...*

Truth is the foundation of all commendable virtues, for without it, the purpose and aim of any undertaking would fall short. Truth enables us as Masons to promote good will and plain dealings. It distinguishes us and our Fraternity among our peers, and dictates our actions and thoughts within our social circles and communities.

To further our discussion, we must also include the higher degrees of the Allied and Appendant Orders. It is often said that the Scottish Rite is the college of Freemasonry, and the York Rite as the higher knowledge and works of Masonry. Notwithstanding the accuracy of these claims, we must acknowledge the fact that, as in any college or place of learning, a great deal of knowledge is provided only to those who are in search of it. It is incumbent upon each person to research, learn, apply and practice what is taught at such institutions, and to this end, the Blue Lodge provides a solid foundation and stepping stone toward a path of enlightenment.

The strength of our Fraternity is built upon education. As the foundation of Freemasonry is Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, its aim is to build and promote higher and nobler virtues, thus making good men better. Our journey begins with the concept of Deity, and the idea of His infinite power, wisdom and goodness. We’re encouraged to exam our own conscience and understand the ability to maintain true Faith, even in the face of adversity and doubt.

Our Degrees provide for us a blueprint to identify our shortcomings, and lessons for improvement of self. They provide tools, re-enforcement and diligent observance of what we as Masons should strive to perfect. A constant reminder if you will, of what is the true practice of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.


By a continued advancement toward knowledge and Light, we are educating our minds, which is our greatest asset in determining the world in which we live, and the manner in which we endeavor to live in it. The guiding principles of Freemasonry require us to always seek more knowledge, expand our horizons, and lead onward toward that perfect state of being...that of honesty, fidelity and good moral conduct. We are in fact required to share this state of being with every member of the human race, Mason or not.

We are reminded of this enlightenment and these lessons at every Degree, every Lodge meeting, and every assemblage of Freemasonry, whether we’re aware of it or not. Here’s something to ponder: perhaps the real purpose of regular attendance at Degrees, meetings and functions is to practice and perfect those lessons that we have learned. Think about it: It’s the perfect place to learn,

to hone our skills, among trusted Brothers and friends, who are willing to aid and assist us, and point the way to utilize these perfected skills in our daily lives.

So, again I must ask: What is the point of Freemasonry?

Perhaps the point of Freemasonry is improvement, in all its forms. To provide a constant beacon of Light to all who seek to move out of the shadows of despair and oppression. To improve ourselves, our families, society and the world at large, by employing rectitude of conduct, fair dealings, morality, good judgment, and honor. With this in mind, learning the symbolism of our art, and gaining proficiency in our Degrees is very necessary; however, intellectual and mental improvement through persistence and repetition should be the focus of our labors. To some, it may be to provide fellowship and support, or to teach an ancient lesson of some historical value. In any case, it’s not a question you have to answer to anyone in particular; however, it is a question you must answer for yourself.

In its purest form, Freemasonry is a personal journey of discovery. To a Mason, the true test of Freemasonry is how we apply the proper foundation, building, and practice of these Masonic lessons, and thus discover the true potential in our daily lives. Holding sacred and to the highest regard, the landmarks and the ancient traditions of Masonry is entrusted to our care. How we care for her will determine our future progress. 

*Source: R.·. W.·. Joseph Gonzalez, P.D.D.G.M.*

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## LIGHT IN MASONRY

Anderson’s Constitution is the basis of what we consider Modern Freemasonry and its foundation of operation. The Constitutions of the Free-Masons was a constitution written for the Premier Grand Lodge of England, to standardize the rituals and practices of Freemasonry among Lodges of London and Westminster. Anderson’s Constitutions were based on the Old Masonic Manuscripts and on the General Regulations which had been compiled first by George Payne in 1720. An edition of the Constitutions was edited and reprinted by Brother Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia in 1734, becoming the first Masonic book printed in America. A new edition of the Constitutions was published in 1754, by John Entick. It is this edition of the Charges which forms the basis of the Ancient Charges to be found today in the Constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of England.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## November 2016

Aaron H. Lewis  
Anthony M. Noto  
Brian L. Shrader  
Bruce K. Bowers  
Charles H. Trexler, III  
Cyril Silver  
Dale L. Hatchell  
Denny R. Young  
Donald J. Hawald  
Donald R. Valverde  
Errol L. Duren  
Everett I. Hodsdon  
Fernando B. Muniz  
Franklin R. Florence, Sr  
Hugh C. Sullivan, Jr.  
James G. Bennett  
James G. Vanderloop  
Jerry M. Handy  
Jimmy C. Fischer  
Jimmy C. Mills  
Joel H. Baez  
John D. Hooker  
John H. Erb, III

John J. Hillyer, III  
John S. Laing  
John S. Zacheis  
Joseph G. Wamsley  
Karlo Degiacomi  
L. Robert Then  
Lawrence T. Bryan  
Lowell L. Logerwell  
Matthew D. Feck  
Matthew R. Setzer  
Norman M. Rusch  
Rafael L. Pizano  
Richard W. Taylor  
Robert E. Adams  
Robert G. Harz  
Robert L. Phillips  
Robert Phillips  
Ronald Spencer  
Roy D. Hagan  
Samuel R. Whitaker  
Thomas W. Kaenrath  
Weldon L. Weber, Jr  
William T. Staunko

## December 2016

Benjamin B. Risinger, Jr.  
Bryan M. Seland  
Charles L. Kane  
Christopher J. Roberts  
David E. Montgomery  
David S. Liniger  
Donald G. Anderson  
Donald R. Marsee  
Dwight K. Hamborsky, Jr  
Eli R. Bobo  
Frank L. Rosenblatt  
G. Robert Edenfield  
George D. Drew  
Harold G. Gnann  
Harold M. Wagoner  
Jack T. Marsh  
James E. Doling  
James T. Butler  
Jay R. Wolfington  
Jeremy R. Hall  
John A. Rivera  
John O. Zilba  
Johnny C. Butler, Jr.  
Joseph Lange

Julian Weber  
Kevin M. McLaughlin  
Marwam Taouil  
Miles B. Beamguard  
Nicholas T. Awad  
Oliver T. Davis, III  
Richard A. Kammier  
Richard L. Davis  
Robert A. Provencher  
Robert C. Weaver  
Robert J. Nagy  
Ronald S. Lucas  
Rufus M. Smith  
Samuel T. Schiavone  
Scott M. Sandoval  
Stanley M. Derryberry  
Stanley W. Baker  
Steven E. Rhodes  
Travis A. Van Buren  
Walter R. Ireland  
Walter Schoepf  
William A. Taylor  
William R. Williams, III

## EDITOR'S NOTE

My Brothers,

As this is my last production as editor of our Trestleboard, I thank each and every one of you for the great honor and privilege to represent our Lodge in this forum. For three years, I've been entrusted to continue the design which was conceived by W.M. Kenneth R. Skillman almost four years ago, and I've enjoyed every minute! As the torch once again passes, I'm certain that only great things will come in future editions. I hope that you have gained some insight to the teachings and meanings of Freemasonry over the years, and I look forward to seeing you in Lodge!

Fraternally,

*Joseph Gonzalez*

Treasurer

*"Pillar Strength" continued from page 2...*

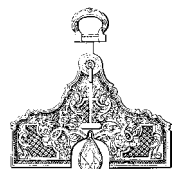
The Official Visit of our very own R.W.M. Steven J. Silvers, D.D.G.M., will be on November 8th. Family night will be on November 29th, and Election night for the 2017 Lodge Officers will be on December 13th.

May you and your family have a wonderful and joyous holiday season.

Fraternally,

*Drew Baldwin*

Senior Warden





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 508 EAST KENNEDY BOULEVARD  
 TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602-4909

PHONE: (813) 229-2305  
 FAX: (813) 228-7623  
 E-MAIL: SECRETARY@HILLSBOROUGH25.ORG  
 WWW.HILLSBOROUGH25.ORG

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## 2016 LODGE OFFICERS

W.: Kenneth R. Skillman . . . . . Worshipful Master  
 John "Drew" Baldwin . . . . . Senior Warden  
 Robert "Joey" Davis . . . . . Junior Warden  
 R.:W.: Joseph A. Gonzalez, P.D.D.G.M. . . . . Treasurer  
 R.:W.: John D. Hooker, P.D.D.G.M. . . . . Secretary  
 Billy D. Scott, III . . . . . Senior Deacon  
 Michael J. Huster . . . . . Junior Deacon  
 Bryan Seland . . . . . Senior Steward  
 Patrick W. McCall . . . . . Junior Steward  
 Domenick G. Lazzara . . . . . Associate Steward  
 Rodney W. Kohler . . . . . Marshal  
 R.:H.: Brian H. Manne, P.D.I. . . . . Chaplain  
 Jason Armstrong . . . . . Tyler  
 W.: Tom Johnson . . . . . Treasurer Emeritus  
 R.:W.: C. Donald Prosser, P.D.D.G.M. . . . . Historian  
 W.: Bob Davidson . . . . . Musician



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 and follow the links!



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