

TRESTLE BOARD

MAY | JUNE A.L. 2020

ARTICLE SPOTLIGHT: WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY!

As the Coronavirus sweeps the nation and events are canceled, and many of us are working from home, we have to see this as an opportunity—especially for Masons. Sometimes we forget that being a Mason isn't just about doing things—going to degrees, and meetings, and putting on events, and raising money for this pet project and that. There's a personal growth aspect to the fraternity that many of us neglect. We're so busy doing all the time, we never really get the chance to work on ourselves. We hear those words over and over again, but we never have the opportunity to actually think about them—how might I apply those concepts to my life?

So while we are at home, and the cabin fever begins to settle in (it has for me already and it's day 3), instead of looking out the window longing to go to a meeting, take this opportunity to work on yourself. There's a Japanese word "tsundoku" that I think has special meaning for me right now. Tsundoku is Japanese slang, and it refers to the practice of letting books pile up without reading them. It's the combination of two Japanese characters—the one for "pile-up" and the one for "read." I don't know many Masons that don't have a huge read pile they've been meaning to get to.

Why don't you read them? What Masons seem focused on right now is figuring out how we can do virtual meetings. We can't go a month without listening to our Secretary read the mail?



What I did is I sat down last night and made a "Sanity List." On that list, I wrote down a long list of books I have that I haven't read—both on my library shelf, and books that have been sitting on my Kindle for a long, long time. I've started a list of article titles—I've been neglecting my writing for a long, long time. I put on that list household projects that I've ignored for a long time—Tuesday I finally took ten minutes and got the bugs out of the kitchen light. Whatever that list is for you, don't waste the time watching Netflix or whatever. Here are a few ideas for you.

Continued on page 7

DOWNTOWN, TAMPA | SINCE 1850

Visit our Online Calendar at hillsborough25.org for upcoming events.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER



My Brothers,

I hope you are doing well as we all deal with this pandemic. While all of us are impacted in some way, I know many people are dealing with severe health, financial, and employment issues right now. If we can be of some assistance during this awful situation, please reach out. You can reach me directly at billyschmidtH25@gmail.com or at 813.229.2305 Extension 701 (once

you hear the voice, just type in "701").

While it feels like it, this shut down is not unprecedented. According to Right Worshipful Prosser's Lodge history book, in 1918, during the Spanish Influenza epidemic, our Lodge ceased meeting starting on August 18th, 1918 until the end of the year. Nearly four and a half months. According to the Tampa Bay Times, by the time the worst of epidemic had passed in November 1918, a quarter of Hillsborough's population had contracted the flu. Of over 20,000 people who fell sick, more than 500 died. I certainly hope for better during our current occurrence.

With that said, as I type this, we are under a directive from our Grand Master (Directive No. 3 is available on the Grand Lodge website) to not hold any meetings, degrees, or anything at all in our Lodge buildings. That directive is initially in effect until May 4th, 2020 and may

SENIOR WARDEN



Greetings My Brothers,

First off, I would like to wish and hope that all of our Brothers, their families, and friends are fairing well in these difficult times. I hope that all remain healthy and that we will see you in the near future when business for our lodge, fraternity, and country can

resume safely.

The lodge building has been running smoothly during our short break. There have been no new problems arise with our lodge building. Our normal building maintenance has been on going during our break. The air conditioning has been serviced, and a coil was fixed to ensure our beloved Secretary remains comfortable during the hot months. We have had a plumber come assess the women's restroom in the OES room to fix the toilets for proper use. If anyone else can think of any other issues that could use attention while we have a break and time to work on these, let an officer know.

I hope that we will be seeing each and everyone of you in the next month or so. Please, stay safe while we ride this

be extended. As you can tell, I filled in our calendar on pages four and five of this newsletter. These activities and events are SUBJECT TO CHANGE. We will resume our schedule when permitted, but that time may be a moving target. Please be sure to check our website calendar and social media accounts for continuous updates. I'd even check the day of an event before heading down, just in case.

Given that we have lost a significant amount of time so far, and may lose more, we will likely not go "dark" for the month of August. I fully expect that we will need to make up time for the degrees we have missed. We owe this to the great men who are currently going through the degrees, as well as those who have now unexpectedly waited many additional months to join.

I'd like to thank everyone who came out to and helped with the symposium in March. I believe it was a success and a great event. Hopefully, it was a spark that will help light a firestorm of Masonic Education in our area.

Again, I hope all is well with each of you. Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Billy D. Schmidt

Worshipful Master

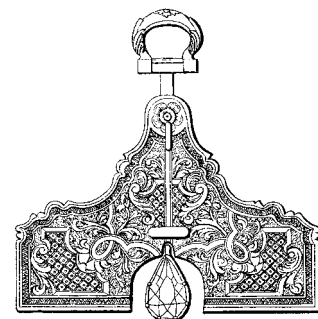


out, and if anyone needs help or assistance, please reach out to an officer, or one of our social media sites. Always remember, we are here for you, and each other. Please visit one of our social media sites for updates of when we are allowed to start meeting again, as per our Grand Lodge of Florida. Take Care, and Be Safe.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Bryan Seland

Senior Warden



JUNIOR WARDEN



Brethren,

As I prepare my trestle board message, I am quarantined at home with my immediate, nuclear family. First and foremost, I hope that each of you is safe and healthy, heeding all precautions and practicing social distancing to minimize your risk of exposure to COVID-19.

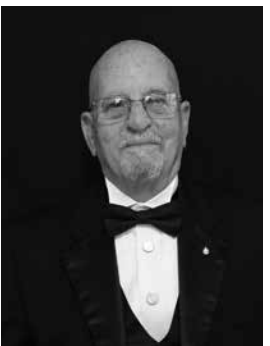
We are watching as our society is upended, redefining methods of communication, work-at-

home policies and varying levels of what is (and is not) considered "essential."

From a fraternal standpoint, I can easily reference a few things that will always remain "essential," even through the pandemic's unrest: our Masonic tenets of truth, relief and brotherly love.

- More so now than ever, seeking the truth is essential. Government leaders and heads of state across the world bring messages of comfort and normalcy to their constituents; but these messages often lose their core due to inaccuracies, insecurities and hysteria.

SECRETARY'S DESK



Brothers,

The Lodge may be closed until sometime in May or beyond, but the Office of Secretary never seems to close, not even in August when the Lodge plans to be dark. Life goes on, bills still come in and by the way, if you have not paid your 2020 dues you need to do that now. In June, I will send out a notice to all the Brothers who have

not paid their 2020 dues, after all they were due before the end of December of 2019. This is going to cost the Lodge lots of money in postage, so save us the postage and send in your dues and the time it will take to type out the address labels. By the way, if you move, let us know. We are getting lots of mail back because Brothers move and don't tell us they moved, then complain that they are not getting the trestle board or did not get a dues notice. We can't fix it if we don't know where you are.

I have noticed that some of the Brothers are not adding the \$7.30 to their payment and I know that it is a voluntary contribution to the Masonic Home, but I ask you to remember your obligation as a Master Mason that you would contribute to the relief of a worthy Brother Master Mason, that includes the Masonic Home. If you can pay the \$191.00 which is the dues plus the Grand Lodge Per Capita Tax, then surely you can afford the additional \$7.30 for the home. You might need the home

It's important to research, review and fact check as we proceed, so that we are not prompted to react to something which may not even be accurate. As Masons, we are taught to always keep our passions in due bounds toward all mankind, and this period of unknown is no different.

- In recent months, some of our community's elderly and most-vulnerable citizens have been forced to cope with this quarantine alone, lost in a hysterical reaction of some who are not necessarily in dire need. It's time that we step up and contact those in our families, our communities and our fraternal network, to see what we can do to provide this necessary relief. Whether it is a roll of sought-after toilet tissue, a simple gesture like mowing someone else's lawn, or just a kind word, we need to be the examples worthy of emulation by our communities.
- Sometimes hand-in-hand with relief, the tenet of brotherly love can often be accomplished by taking the initiative to be the first to make contact. Pride will sometimes prevent someone from taking the first step towards making contact, especially if they find themselves in need.



Continued on page 6

someday in the future. Wouldn't it be a shame if the home had to close because the Brothers that it was build for did not support it?

PAY YOUR DUES. The lodge does not run on hopes and dreams, it needs money to operate. This is your Lodge, support it by **PAYING YOUR DUES.** You can use a small portion of that stimulus check to get this done.

With the current situation of COVID-19, the Lodge remains closed until the Grand Master gives us clearance to reopen the doors to not only the Brothers, but the Eastern Star and DeMolay. Grand Lodge which is scheduled for the 25th, 26th, and 27th of May in Orlando may have to be done via electronic communication. The Grand Master has assured the Brothers that if we must cancel the meeting in Orlando, he will give us plenty of notice so that reservations can be canceled without penalty.














Stay Safe, practice those things that the CDC and the State has asked us to do. Social Distancing, washing your hands with soap and water, don't cough on or sneeze at or on other persons. Treat others as you would have them treat you and we all get through this together.
















Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Thomas C. Newton

Secretary, PM, PDI



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>NOTE:</p> <p>ALL meetings, degrees, and events subject to change due to ongoing Coronavirus restrictions.</p> <p>Please visit our website calendar and social media accounts for the most up to date informaion and announcements.</p>					1	2
3	4	5  No Degree or Meeting Happy Cinco de Mayo! Lodge Closed	6 District School of Instruction John Darling Lodge MLT 6 p.m. School 7 p.m. 4601 Habana Tampa, FL	7  Masonic Education & Catechism Lodge Open 6:30 p.m. Officers Meeting WM Office 6:30 pm Degree Practice Lodge Room 7:30 p.m.	8	9
10  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	11	12  Stated Communication Business Meeting Committee Reports, Balloting, Votes, GL Legis- lation Review, etc. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m.	13	14  Masonic Education & Catechism Lodge Open 6:30 p.m. Finance/Prop Meeting PM Room 6:30 p.m. Degree Practice Lodge Room 7:00 p.m.	15 MASONIC PARK BOARD MEETING Tampa Lodge No. 240 Tampa, FL 7 p.m.	16  OES Chapter 11 Meeting 1 p.m.
17  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	18	19  FC Degree Night For Candidates who are prepared. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Degree 7:30 p.m.	20	21  Masonic Education & Catechism Lodge Open 6:30 p.m.	22	23
24	25  191st Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Florida Orlando, FL	26  191st Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Florida Orlando, FL	27  191st Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Florida Orlando, FL	28  Masonic Education & Catechism Lodge Open 6:30 p.m. Officers Meeting WM Office 6:30 pm Degree Practice Lodge Room 7:00 p.m.	29 MASTER MASON ASSOCIATION MEETING John Darling Lodge No. 154 6:30 p.m. Tampa, FL.	30
31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	 <p>1</p> <p>Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</p>	 <p>2</p> <p>MM Degree Night</p> <p>For Brothers who are prepared.</p> <p>Dinner 6:30 p.m. Degree 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>District School of Instruction</p> <p>John Darling Lodge MLT 6 p.m. School 7 p.m. 4601 Habana Tampa, FL</p>	 <p>4</p> <p>Masonic Education & Catechism Lodge Open 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p>	 <p>6</p> <p>OES Chapter 11 Meeting 1 p.m.</p>
<p>7</p>	 <p>8</p> <p>Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</p>	 <p>9</p> <p>Stated Communication</p> <p>Business Meeting Committee Reports, Balloting, Votes, etc.</p> <p>Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p>	 <p>11</p> <p>Masonic Education & Catechism Lodge Open 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Finance/Prop Meeting PM Room 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Degree Practice Lodge Room 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>MASONIC PARK BOARD MEETING</p> <p>Tampa Lodge No. 240 Tampa, FL 7 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p>	 <p>15</p> <p>Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</p>	 <p>16</p> <p>EA Degree Night</p> <p>For Candidates who are prepared.</p> <p>Dinner 6:30 p.m. Degree 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p>	 <p>18</p> <p>Masonic Education & Catechism Lodge Open 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p>	 <p>22</p> <p>Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</p>	 <p>23</p> <p>Stated Communication</p> <p>Speakers Series / Limited Business</p> <p>Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m. Fellowship After Mtg</p>	<p>24</p>	 <p>25</p> <p>Masonic Education & Catechism Lodge Open 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>MASTER MASON ASSOCIATION MEETING</p> <p>John Darling Lodge No. 154 6:30 p.m. Tampa, FL.</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>	 <p>29</p> <p>Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</p>	 <p>30</p> <p>FRIENDS & FAMILY NIGHT!</p> <p>Dinner 6:30 p.m. Program 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Events, Meetings, and Degrees are subject to change. Continuously updated information is available on the Lodge website calendar: www.hillsborough25.org. Facebook events are also updated regularly and are a good way to receive event reminder notifications - just click the 'interested' or 'going' links for any particular event on Facebook.</p>			

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May

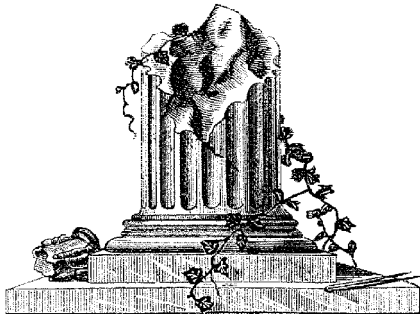
Joseph Almaguer
 Daniel Alvarez Sr.
 Morris Brill Jr.
 Martin Brown
 Robert Campbell
 Peter Cavalli
 Carl Chaisson
 Dennis Chapman
 Donald Conner
 Harry Cumber
 Jesse Dominguez
 Harold Hunt
 Michael Inman
 Lawrence Johnson
 Dennis Kolpin
 Gregory Komar
 Larry Lee
 Jack Lorenzo
 Juan Martinez
 Billy Mills

Jason Montes
 Suraj Nayee
 Michael Noell
 Kendall Orcutt
 Evaristo Palaez III
 Randolph Pattillo
 Richard Reinhardt
 Kenneth Shepherd
 Steven Silvers
 Andrew Smith
 Benjamin Stephens
 John Taylor
 Timothy Thompson
 John Totten Jr.
 James Warren IV
 Joseph Wessel
 Barry Williams
 Jack Zichlin

June

Drew Baldwin
 Scott Barrish
 Kenneth Baylor
 Marvin Campbell
 Angelo Canevari
 Kevin Chaplin II
 Joseph Citro
 Donald Dempsey
 Richard Derby Jr.
 Stanley Derryberry
 Michael Gabryszewski
 Chase Harrison
 John Hatcher Jr.
 Christopher Hewitt
 Donald Leggett Jr.
 Frank Love
 Edward Mahon
 Ilir Malaj
 Antony Marino
 Robert Martin
 Michael Mattiza
 Joseph Melchiorre Jr.

John Moose
 Albert Netterfield
 Michael Nunnery
 Charles Owen III
 Shailesh Patel
 Marko Popovich III
 Thomas Popovich
 Donald Rhodes
 Damien Rodriguez
 Brian Rumble
 Johnny Sandot
 Theodore Savering Jr.
 Billy Scott III
 Thomas Shaver
 Carlos Silva
 Lawrence Sizeler
 Charles Urbinek
 Jeffrey Zelesnikar



If you hear of a Brother who has passed to that Celestial Lodge Above, please inform the Lodge Secretary so the Lodge can give proper condolence and assistance to his Widow.



CIRCUMSCRIBE LOG IN

Circumscribe is the Grand Lodge of Florida's membership database system. **We encourage ALL members to log into Circumscribe and verify their contact information.** The system allows you to edit your contact information as well as view your Masonic record, pay dues online, and take the Master Mason exams online. The Lodge uses the address, email address, and phone number listed within the system to contact you when needed. We often find members without updated contact information and it sometimes leads to suspension for non-payment of dues.

First Time Circumscribe Log In Instructions

- Open your internet browser
- Navigate to: <https://glfl.circumscribe.net>
- Enter your initial Username:
"FL" + "Your Grand Lodge Number" + "@changeyouremail.info"
(example: FL1234567@changeyouremail.info)
- Enter your temporary Password:
"FL" + "Your Grand Lodge #" **(example: FL1234567)**
- You will be immediately prompted to change both your username and password
- Your NEW username can be any email address that you frequently use, or have regular access to.
- Your NEW password must contain at least eight characters and one number. You must enter it twice.
- Upon successfully entering both, you will be required to logout, and then log back in with your new credentials.
- Once you have logged back in, select 'Profile' from the menu items on the left side of the screen. Review your profile and make any appropriate changes, or contact the Lodge Secretary if you require other changes.
- Finally, upload a current picture for your new permanent ID card. Please avoid hats, sunglasses, other individuals or animals in the picture.
- Select 'Save Profile' to complete the process.

Please note, if you or the Lodge Secretary have already added your personal email address to the system, you will need to log in using that email address and your known password or use the "forgot password" feature. If you aren't sure which email address you used, or if one is already in the system, email the Lodge Secretary at secretary@hillsborough25.org and he can verify the email address.

"Junior Warden" continued from page 3...

We are a network of Brothers; we need to make sure that our members, their families and others within our fraternal circle receive the social support which is so desperately needed right now. Isolation often yields depression and feelings of inadequacy. You never know what a blessing you're able to provide someone, but that one phone call could change someone's life.

It is my fervent prayer that by the time you read this message, the virus' peak will have come and gone, and society will be implementing steps to return to normal. I long for the day when I can sit in the South at Lodge again, surrounded by my Brethren.

But, in the meantime, I am trying to utilize my time at home to improve myself in Masonry. I am working on the Lodge Officers' Training modules, reviewing my catechism and ritual, and keeping in contact with many of my Brothers. Granted, it's not the same, but it's better than nothing. As I have often told my FL DeMolay family: While this quarantine will certainly impact our operations, we will not allow it to define us.

Where were you first prepared? (Pause for response). Me too.

Stay safe, my Brothers!

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

R. J. "Jody" Mequiar

Junior Warden

SOUTHEASTERN MASONIC EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM



March 7th, 2020: THANK YOU to everyone who made it out and joined us at our inaugural Southeastern Masonic Education Symposium! It was great to see you all and we hope everyone enjoyed the event. We had over 100 Masons from around the country in attendance. Special thanks to our six awesome speakers who all provided diverse and terrific presentations, to our Officers and committee members for all of their hard work and dedication, and to our awesome vendors and info tables for providing great products and information. You can find links to the podcast that was recorded live on our Facebook page or by searching on The Masonic Roundtable's platforms. A great article by Right Worshipful Robert Johnson is also posted to our Facebook page and can also be found on The Midnight Freemasons blog.

FELLOW CRAFT DEGREE



FC Degree March 3rd, 2020: We would like to congratulate Brothers Falcher and Lynch on being Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft! These Brothers now also share a unique anniversary with Brother George Washington, all having received their Fellow Craft Degree on March 3rd - Brother Washington having received his on March 3, 1753, 267 years ago. We are happy to see our traditions continue. Many thanks to our degree team for an excellent degree, to Right Worshipful MacAlister for delivering the lecture, to Right Honorable Manne for the charge, and to everyone who came out to support these Brothers.

"What An Opportunity!" continued from page 1...

Start clearing that Tsundoku from your shelves. If you have time now and don't read them, you never really wanted to read them to begin with. Give them to somebody that will read them.

Start a daily devotion. Whatever your beliefs, start your day over coffee and scripture. Think about those areas that you need to work on, and begin improving those areas.

Learn some ritual. Has there ever been a better time to sit down and begin learning that lecture you've always meant to get to, or that part you've always wanted to do?

Seriously look at your schedule. Over the last few days, I've realized there are way too many unnecessary meetings—meetings that we are quickly finding out could have been an email. Look at where you're spending your time and your energy and ask yourself if there are things you're expending energy on that would be better used elsewhere.

Those are just a few off the top of my head. But make use of this time—don't squander it away. Don't look back at this season as a missed opportunity. Make the best possible use of it. This could be a turning point in your life. This could be your reset button. This could be an unprecedented opportunity to look at yourself, look at your life, look at where you've been and where you want to go. An opportunity to work on yourself, learn some new skills, chip a few chunks off that rough ashlar. Many of us don't know how long this will last—maybe a short time, or perhaps a very long time. It doesn't really matter how much time it is before we return to normalcy—what's important is to use it to its full advantage.

Source: The Midnight Freemasons blog can be found at <http://www.midnightfreemasons.org>. Check out their website for other great articles posted three times a week. This piece was written by Todd E. Creason, the Founder of the Midnight Freemasons blog.



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web: www.hillsborough25.org

Address Service Requested

2020 LODGE OFFICERS

W.: Billy D. SchmidtWorshipful Master
Bro. Bryan M. SelandSenior Warden
Bro. R.J. "Jody" MeguiarJunior Warden
W.: Billy D. Scott, III, P.M. Treasurer
R.:H.: Thomas C. Newton, P.D.I. Secretary
Bro. Michael T. DeiningerSenior Deacon
Bro. Ritch A. CarrollJunior Deacon
Bro. Kenneth B. GibsonSenior Steward
Bro. Samuel L. SheppardJunior Steward
W.: Alexander Rodriquez Galano Marshal
R.:W.: Steven J. Silvers, P.D.D.G.M. Chaplain
Bro. Lerone D. Wilson Tyler
W.: Tom Johnson, P.M. Treasurer Emeritus
R.:W.: C. Donald Prosser, P.D.D.G.M. Historian
TBD Musician



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