

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 F&AM

# TRESTLE BOARD

AUGUST A.L. 2015

## MASONIC SPOTLIGHT: BROTHER EHRRICH WEISS

Ehrich Weiss was born on March 24, 1874, in Budapest, Hungary, to Rabbi Mayer Samuel Weiss and Cecilia Steiner Weiss. To secure a better life for his family, Mayer immigrated to America and changed his last name to Weiss.

Through a friend, Weiss gained a job serving as a rabbi to a small Jewish congregation in Appleton, Wisconsin. His family followed him to America in 1876. Because Mayer Weiss's religious views were considered old-fashioned by the Appleton congregation, he was dismissed from his position. The family moved to Milwaukee when Ehrich was about eight. The times were difficult. From a young age, Ehrich helped out by working. He sold newspapers and shined shoes to help support the family. When he was not working, Ehrich practiced acrobatic stunts. His first public performance was when he was nine years old. He hung on a trapeze suspended from a tree while wearing red socks made by his mother. He billed himself as "Ehrich, the Prince of the Air."

As his name and reputation spread, Ehrich (aka Harry Houdini) decided to take his show on the road to Europe. In 1900, Harry sailed to England



*Brother Ehrich Weiss a.k.a. Harry Houdini became a Mason in St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, New York, NY, in 1923, and was also a member of the Shrine Temple and Scottish Rite.*

*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**

## FROM THE EAST



Fraternal Greetings Brothers All,

We have been laboring hard at Hillsborough #25 and are extremely thankful for the Brothers who keep this chapter moving in the right direction. We have the HVAC system, elevator & some roofing issues that are being corrected and will be completed very soon.

August is finally upon us. As we go dark, please take the time to enjoy family, friends, and vacation time before school and returning to labor at Lodge. I would also like to thank everyone who attended Top Golf for Brotherhood Development. It is inspiring to learn about each Brother's personality and abilities outside the Lodge.

Please remember that Table Lodge is September 1, 2015, and the tickets are online. It promises to be another fun filled evening.

Fraternally,

*Clifford M. Allen*

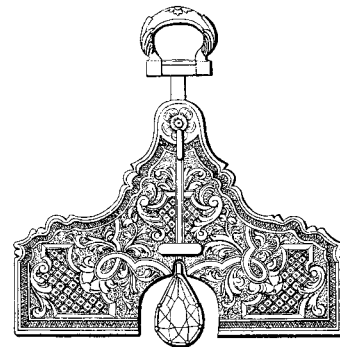
Worshipful Master



### FINAL FAMILY NIGHT!

Tuesday, September 29, 2015  
Dinner 6:30 p.m.  
Lodge Presentations at 7:30 p.m.

## FROM THE WEST



Hello, My Brothers!

As you know, the Lodge is dark during the month of August with the exception of catechism classes which will continue on Thursdays throughout the month. Those Brothers who want additional practice can make arrangements with their Instructors to meet on other nights or outside of the Lodge. I hope you all enjoy a relaxing end of summer break.

We return to the second part of the year with a bang. On September 1st, we will hold our 15th Annual Table Lodge, and as always this year's event promises to be a great evening filled with fine food and fraternity. The revelry and fun at this event have garnered it a large following, so get your tickets now!

The routine maintenance of the Lodge continues. By the time you read this, the repointing of the north wall will be complete, as well as some electrical work and several HVAC-related activities. The summer months also brought a few emergencies, such as the flashing repairs to the flat roof, ceiling repairs in the Worshipful Master's office and replacement of the Lodge elevator's backup batteries. The project to refurbish the brass front doors of the Lodge building will be ongoing during the month of August.

Again, I encourage you to spend this time with family, Brothers and friends and get ready for a busy fall at your Lodge. Your participation is always appreciated, and the art of Masonry offers many rewards in return.

*"From its origin to the present hour, in all its vicissitudes, Masonry has been the steady, unvarying friend of man.."*  
— Rev. Erastus Burr, D. D., Grand Orator, Grand Lodge of Ohio, 1845

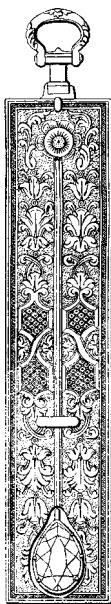
Sincerely & Fraternally

*Kenneth R. Skillman*

Senior Warden

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 ■ TRESTLE BOARD

## FROM THE SOUTH



Greetings Brothers,

The Lodge will be dark in August with no Called or Stated Communications on Tuesday nights. However, we will still have Masonic Education every Thursday night in August consisting of catechism instruction and ritual practice. If there are any seats in the ritual work that you have wanted to learn this year, now is the best time to do it before we begin the homestretch of the year in September. Come on down to Lodge on a Thursday night in August. Several Brothers have started participating in the ritual work for the first time and I want to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Our 15th annual Table Lodge will be held September 1, 2015. Seating is limited, so if you haven't purchased your tickets yet, please do so as soon as possible. This is one of our most exciting events of the year. If you have never attended Table Lodge, I encourage you to do so. It is always a fun time, as you will share friendship and Brotherly love with Brothers from throughout the entire state. Table Lodge is open to EA's and Fellowcrafts, so don't miss out!

We are still in need of more catechism instructors. If you have a Silver Card, please put it to good use by teaching a catechism class. If you are interested in obtaining a Silver Card and teaching a catechism class, please let me know.

*"The importance of improvement, setting an example, and shouldering responsibility for the future are our Masonic goals. And where will it all end? In Brotherhood. What we build today will endure. That is our hope and our faith."*

— Brother Stanley F. Maxwell

Sincerely & Fraternally,

*Drew Baldwin*

Junior Warden

## SECRETARY'S DESK



My Brothers,

Last month, the Lodge was experiencing some problems with the A/C units and we once again suffered through some uncomfortable temperatures. I am pleased to inform you that those problems have been resolved and the units are running smoothly once again. As you know, the Lodge is dark this month, however, we will resume our normal schedule beginning September 1st with Table Lodge.

By this time, the delinquent dues notices mailed during July should have been received by all those who still have not paid their dues. On this matter, I have no option but to conform with the Digest of Masonic Law, which mandates the mailing of these notices. In a short period of time, the next communication from this office will be sent once again to those who have not paid their 2015 dues in the form of a summons to appear at the Lodge to answer to why those payments have not been made, or to give sufficient reason why the Lodge should place Brothers in financial need on Emeritus status. This is an important time for our Lodge in that we rely on the membership dues to operate and maintain our building. All those Brothers who do not remit their dues or supply sufficient evidence why they cannot pay, will be suspended according to our Laws, Rules and Regulations, Chapter 24 of the Digest of Masonic Law, section 4.02. This is not a pleasant task, but one that must be done.

For those Brothers who have not been to Lodge recently, I encourage you to come on out to a meeting in the near future. This would be a great opportunity to renew old friendships and make some new ones. We hope to see you here again very soon.

Fraternally,

*Steven J. Silvers*

Secretary  
District Instructor

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY				
<div>MORE MASONIC EVENTS</div> <div>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.</div> <div><div></div><div></div></div>						1				
2	<div></div> <div>Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</div>	3	4	<div>District School of Instruction</div> <div>John Darling Lodge • 7 p.m. 4601 Habana Tampa, FL</div>	5	<div></div> <div>Masonic Education &amp; Catechism 6:30 p.m.</div>	6	7	8	<div>HIGH TWELVE LODGE</div> <div>Meeting at Noon</div>
9	<div></div> <div>Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</div>	10	11	12	<div></div> <div>Masonic Education &amp; Catechism 6:30 p.m.</div>	13	14	15		
16	<div></div> <div>Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</div>	17	18	19	<div></div> <div>Masonic Catechism 6:30 p.m.</div> <div>Finance &amp; Property PM Room 6:30pm</div>	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29				
30	<div></div> <div>Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</div>	31	<div>Lodge Dark No Meeting</div>	<div></div> <div>Masonic Education &amp; Catechism 6:30 p.m.</div>	<div>Masters &amp; Wardens Meeting</div> <div>John Darling Lodge No. 154 6:30 p.m. Tampa, FL.</div>					

## LOW TWELVE CLUB

My Brother, as you have been instructed, to relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent upon all men, but more particularly Masons. The Masonic Low Twelve Club of Tampa is a benefit fund organized for Master Masons, whose dual or current membership is in a Masonic Lodge within Hillsborough County, Florida. The purpose of the Low Twelve Club is to provide immediate monetary relief and benefit to the widow, or other beneficiary, of said Low Twelve Club member in good standing, upon his demise.

Only Master Masons which are in good standing within their respective Masonic Lodges, not over 65 years of age, and in good health are eligible to apply for membership. For more information, or to obtain an application, contact R. W. Houston D. White, PDDGM, at email address [hwhite3@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:hwhite3@tampabay.rr.com) or phone (813) 884-8529.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY BROTHERS!

Bryan C. Thompson  
C. Miles Hartnett  
Christopher Muratore  
Cole A. Scudder  
Daniel Bednarski  
Derrick D. Ryan  
Edward B. Martin Jr.  
Harold N. Feinberg  
Henry R. Christian  
Howard E. Sykes  
Jack Zichlin  
James H. Crook  
James P. Perrone  
Jerold A. Little  
John H. Garrett  
Joseph P. Matthews Jr.  
Justin W. Franke  
Martin R. Van Buren  
Matthew A. Wize II  
Matthew H. Haynie

Merle R. Wares  
Michael E. Manning  
Michael L. Desiderio  
Michael P. Daves  
Milton J. Roche  
Mitchell I. Horowitz  
Morgan W. Streetman  
Norman E. Daerda  
Otis C. Le Compte III  
Peter G. Hess  
Raymond D. Sapp  
Richard J. Bonilla  
Robbins H. Denham  
Robert P. Shamblin  
Roger Langston  
Ronald Dominguez  
Terrence M. McVittie  
Travis T. Seybold  
W. Brian Sherwin  
Wayne M. Witczak

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 ■ TREASURY BOARD

## 2015 TABLE LODGE

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 F. & A.M.

Tuesday, September 1st, 2015

Don't miss the Fellowship and a seven course, 5-star meal prepared by W. Walter Schoepf and Brother Karlo Degiacomi. Included in the program are celebratory toasts and responses!

*Make your reservation online at*  
[www.hillsborough25.org/table\\_lodge.html](http://www.hillsborough25.org/table_lodge.html)

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[jeremy.hall@morganstanley.com](mailto:jeremy.hall@morganstanley.com)

# ORDER OF DEMOLAY

## Paul Revere Chapter



**Meets at Hillsborough Lodge  
every Monday at 7 p.m.**

For more information, please contact:

**Brother Bill Cobb**

Personal Representative, Executive Office of DeMolay  
813-835-1793

# O.E.S. CHAPTER II



Tampa Chapter No. 11 will be dark during the months  
of

**JULY and AUGUST**

The first meeting back will be September 5, 2015, 1pm.

For more information, please contact:

**Sandra Johnson, PM, Secretary**

P.O. Box 9046 • Tampa, FL 33674-9046  
(813) 500-3460

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*"Brother Ehrich Weisz" continued from page 1...*

with no bookings and only enough money to survive a week, but Houdini was able to get an engagement at a London theater. After one particularly successful stunt, he found himself booked solid. Sold-out shows followed all over Europe. Wherever he went, he repeated the stunt. He called upon local police to restrain him in any way they could think up, but he escaped from all of them.

By the time Houdini returned to the United States in 1905, he was an international celebrity. Among the stunts performed in America were escaping from prison cells, squirming from straitjackets while suspended upside-down, and jumping into rivers from bridges while chained and handcuffed.

When America entered World War I, Houdini attempted to enlist in the army, but at forty-three, he was rejected as being too old. Unable to fight, Houdini found other ways to serve. He entertained the troops by performing free shows and organized Liberty Bond shows to help finance the war.

Houdini was one of the greatest magicians and showmen in history. He continues to fascinate magic aficionados. His famous tricks have been done over and over by many of the talented magicians that followed. Some of the tricks have been updated and modernized over time, but by their death defying nature alone, they are still very much

identifiable as belonging to Houdini. The great magicians who have kept Houdini's spirit alive by continuing to bring these illusions and tricks to new audiences do so not to outdo Houdini, but to honor his great mastery of the craft.

Brother Harry Houdini became a Mason in St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, New York, New York, 1923. He received his Entered Apprentice Degree on July 17, and his Fellow Craft Degree on July 31. He was Raised a Master Mason August 21, 1923, and became a life member of the Craft on October 30, 1923.

Houdini's Masonic activities included giving a benefit performance for the Valley of New York, which filled the 4,000 seat Scottish Rite Cathedral and raised thousands of dollars. In October 1926, just weeks prior to his death, he became a Shriner in Mecca Temple.

Harry Houdini died on Halloween, 1926. His last rites, held November 4, 1926, at the Elks Clubhouse in New York, concluded with traditional Masonic Rites. **TK**

Source: Todd E. Creason, *Famous American Freemasons Volume II*

# MASONIC EDUCATION: THE MYSTIC TIE

Masons describe the special quality of our fraternalism as the Mystic Tie, a phrase which acknowledges the spiritual quality of association and working together. Mystic, of course, is derived from a Greek word which designated “an initiate into the ancient mysteries,” and further suggests a sense of awe or wonder in contemplating or communing with God. Any expression in the ritual which helps the initiate to relate his Masonic experience to such a spiritual understanding is worth preserving, be it ancient or modern, archaic or new.

To qualify the title of Brother as sacred, the first time it is used to salute a new member, is to prepare him to understand “the great secret” of Freemasonry, a secret which is no real secret at all, for it has been told again and again by the lives of dedicated Craftsmen. It is a secret and a mystery to those who have never been made Masons, for it is the meaning of Brotherhood as experienced only by Masons, and even by them, only imperfectly.

Dr. Joseph Fort Newton wrote, “The secret of Masonry, like the secret of life, can be known only by those who seek it, serve it, live it. It cannot be uttered; it can only be felt and acted. It is, in fact, an open secret, and each man knows it according to his quest and capacity. Like all things most worth knowing, no one can know it for another and no one can know it alone.”

A Mason is a Brother, in the oldest, finest and truest sense of that word. He is a Brother human being, for the sake of humanity. No dogma binds the Brotherhood together; no narrow political or social goal, no intolerance of class or nationality provides the Brotherhood with a common platform.

Masons are Brothers, in the universal meaning of the word, men united by complete freedom of conscience under the banner of pure tolerance, of an affectionate regard and respect for every other human being. A Mason is a man without prejudice.

He is a Brother when he estimates the worth of a fellow human being, not by his profession or vocation, not by his special interests as a fellow citizen, not by his sectarian religious beliefs, not by the color of his skin, and not by his age, or nationality, or economic status.

A Mason is a Brother because, of his own free will and accord, he has chosen to seek the Light of truth which will set humanity free, because he has been accepted by the Brotherhood to work for the welfare of the whole human family, and because he earnestly desires the Brotherhood of Man, of all men, under the Fatherhood of God.

If that Masonic hope and ideal were the real secret of Freemasonry, it is obviously no secret at all. It is an ideal shared by many men in many places, in many religious

and benevolent associations. The secrecy associated with Masonry’s mission and purpose lies not in its universal hopes and aspirations; it lies in its methods of instruction, in its ritual and ceremonies, in its fraternal activities and labors.

That secrecy is really symbolic, for its purpose is not to exclude the “profane”, but to benefit the individual initiate, by making his initiatory experiences, in which he must actively participate, sacred, i.e., a mystic consecration. It is the nature of man to seek that which is hidden and, like Prometheus, to acquire “the knowledge of the gods”.

The real secret of Masonry, therefore, is an experience which only the members of the Fraternity have voluntarily undergone. The Mystic Tie is their expression for this experience of Masonic Brotherhood. They have lived the Mystic Tie when they have visited another Lodge in an unfamiliar city, where no one knew them even by name. But having established their claim to genuine Masonic Brotherhood, they found themselves accepted and drawn affectionately into the mystic circle of the members of the Lodge. No demand for rank, or money, or social status was made. Only the ancient phrases and forms to prove the Brother’s Masonic experience were required.

And once he had demonstrated his knowledge of common Masonic experience, whether it were in Europe, or Asia, or the North American continent, he found himself welcomed with joy into a group of men who were concerned only with the work of making Brotherhood real; and the special joy of that common aspiration brightened every activity of Lodge, whether at labor or around the festive board.

Unfortunately, there are Brethren to whom the Masonic experience is a dimly remembered verbal exercise only. The words of the Masonic ritual were impressive, and they acknowledge the noble and lofty ideas which they inspired. But to ponder them as challenges to the self, as testing tools to measure their own Masonic effort “to improve myself in Masonry,” this is disquieting enough to “turn them off,” and to regard themselves merely as members of a comfortable club or social organization.

My Brother, in what ways do you exercise Brotherly love? Do you really regard the whole human species as one family, in which every man is just as much of a brother as you are? What do you actually do to unite men of every country, sect, and opinion? How can a Mason help to aid, support, and protect our human brothers of that generation with which communication seems so difficult? How do you conciliate true friendship, even in the narrow arena of your own Lodge? These answers, which can only be given by you, and upon your Masonic honor, are sure to guide your future Masonic journey.

Source: [http://www.themasonictrowel.com/masonic\\_talk/](http://www.themasonictrowel.com/masonic_talk/)



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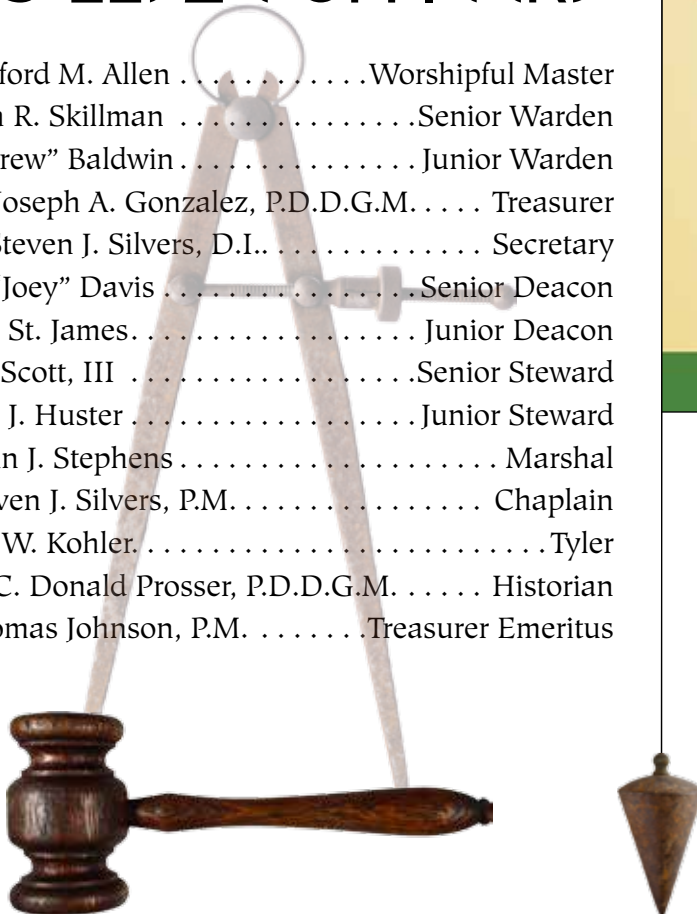
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## 2015 LODGE OFFICERS

W.: Clifford M. Allen . . . . . Worshipful Master  
Kenneth R. Skillman . . . . . Senior Warden  
John "Drew" Baldwin . . . . . Junior Warden  
R.: W.: Joseph A. Gonzalez, P.D.D.G.M. . . . . Treasurer  
R.: H.: Steven J. Silvers, D.I. . . . . Secretary  
Robert "Joey" Davis . . . . . Senior Deacon  
Michael St. James . . . . . Junior Deacon  
Billy D. Scott, III . . . . . Senior Steward  
Michael J. Huster . . . . . Junior Steward  
Benjamin J. Stephens . . . . . Marshal  
W.: Steven J. Silvers, P.M. . . . . Chaplain  
Rodney W. Kohler . . . . . Tyler  
R.: W.: C. Donald Prosser, P.D.D.G.M. . . . . Historian  
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