

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 F&AM

TRESTLE BOARD

OCTOBER A.L. 2015

PAST MASTER SPOTLIGHT: W.: ABRAHAM "ABE" MAAS, PM

W.: Abraham Maas, a brother of Sol and Jacob Maas, was born on May 22, 1855, in Dolgesheim, Germany near Hessen-Darmstadt. When he was a child in grammar school, he longed to be a doctor. But before finishing school, his two brothers Jacob and Sol Maas had left for the U.S. Abe came to the U.S. at age 20 in 1875, and like many Germans who came to America at this time, it is said that he came to escape conscription in the army. His parents, Joseph Maas and Regina Bacherach Maas, had scraped together what money they had from their small farm and sent young Abe by steerage to find freedom and success. Abe joined his brother Sol, and worked for seven years as a traveling salesman and merchant.

In 1882, Abe accepted a position in Macon, GA, and was on the road for an additional two years. When Abe travelled to Cincinnati in 1883, he married his childhood sweetheart, the beautiful and lovely Philabena Wolf, Sept. 19, 1883. "Bena" was born on March 9, 1863, in Gundesblum, Germany, the 2nd of 10 children of Joseph Wolf and Johanna Maria Koch. On July 4, 1884, Abe and Bena had a son and named him Sol after Abe's beloved brother, and later had a daughter named

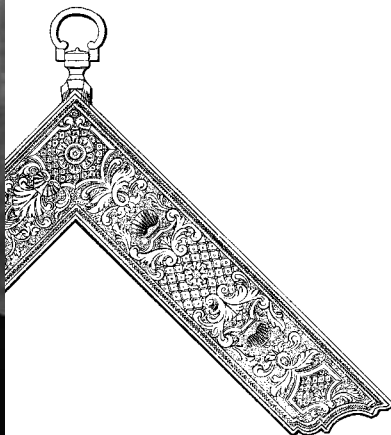


W.: Abe Maas, PM served as the Worshipful Master of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25, in 1931, and Treasurer for twenty-six years thereafter.

Continued on page 7

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 from the East,

Well Brethren, it is October... how fast this year has gone by. But, we still have several things going on. As you all are aware, the North Wall is complete and we are waiting on our grant from the wonderful City of Tampa. I would like to give special thanks to the Building Committee who diligently stayed on top of this project. I also want to thank Brother Ken Skillman who has been taking care of the malfunction of the elevator and getting that much needed piece of equipment back online.

We continue to have decent turnouts for Degree work taking place at Hillsborough No. 25. Thank you all for the hard work and support so far this year. We still have a few months left, we have many men who desire to become Masons, and it is a beautiful thing. Brother Billy Scott will be sitting in the East for the first time on December 1, 2015. Please come down to support Brother Scott.

I would also like to invite all the ladies of Master Masons who have passed on to the Lodge on High. Please come eat dinner and we will have a short program during dinner to be held on October 13, 2015 in the dinning room.

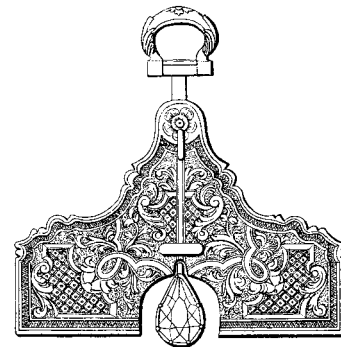
We will be hosting our annual Toys for Tots event so please bring in your toys to those who may not be as fortunate this Christmas. I would like to have all the toys available for pick up on the night of November 10, 2015.

Fraternally,

Clifford M. Allen

Worshipful Master

FROM THE WEST



Greetings, My Brothers!

As we round the third turn into the fourth quarter of 2015, it's time to focus our efforts on finishing the year in fine form. There are still plenty of opportunities to participate in Degrees, earn cards, teach catechism classes, help with meals and pitch in around the Lodge. Let's make an effort to accomplish something positive for ourselves and our Brethren as we move into the holiday season.

Speaking of the holidays, our Lodge will once again be supporting the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots charity drive. It's not too early to start collecting and dropping off toys at the Lodge. All donations must be new, unwrapped toys. Realistic looking weapons and food items will not be accepted.

The maintenance of our historic building continues to require a lot of attention. The repairs to the flat roof and ceiling in the Worshipful Master's office are underway, and should be completed within the next week or two. Due to the number of emergency repairs this year, the refurbishment of the brass entrance doors and skylight above the staircase will move into the 2016 year.

If you haven't been down to Lodge lately, I encourage you to attend a meeting. I've said many times that the benefits of Brotherhood are manifold. Each Brother brings a unique perspective, range of knowledge and the ability to make their own special contributions to our society of friends and Brothers. In helping others, we help ourselves, and you can make a positive difference today!

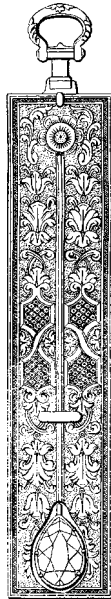
"My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me."
— Bro. Henry Ford Palestine Lodge No. 357 F.&A.M.

Sincerely & Fraternaly

Kenneth R. Skillman

Senior Warden

FROM THE SOUTH



Greetings Brothers,

We will have Master Mason Degrees on October 6th and October 20th. If you haven't been to Lodge in awhile, come join us for these Degrees as we raise several Brothers to the sublime Degree of Master Mason and celebrate this milestone in their Masonic journey.

Our annual Past Masters Degree will be November 3rd. W.: David Liniger will be presiding in the East for that Entered Apprentice Degree.

Our 15th annual Table Lodge was a huge success last month. What a tremendous evening of Brotherly love and fellowship. It was a lot of fun visiting with all the Brothers who attended, and it was great to meet several Brothers for the first time. A very special thank you to W.: Walter Schoepf and his staff for the excellent seven-course meal. It is always good to hear Brothers say that they are already looking forward to Table Lodge again next year.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Drew Baldwin

Junior Warden



Don't Forget to Bring
the Toys to Lodge!

SECRETARY'S DESK



My Brothers,

We have reached the last quarter of 2015. It has been a busy year thus far and the Lodge is running smoothly. By now, all of the Brothers that have not paid their 2015 dues have been notified and final notices have been mailed. If you have not yet paid your dues, please do so in order to prevent your suspension from the Lodge. The dues notices for 2016 are expected to be mailed at the beginning of November, as soon as they arrive. Remember Brothers, it is your dues that keep our Lodge functioning.
















In recent months, our attendance has suffered during meetings and Degrees. It is time to ask yourself why you joined this great fraternity and to renew your commitment of attending Lodge functions. There is no better way to foster fraternal bonds and create fellowship among the Brothers than being at the Lodge for our communications. Every Brother, even if he cannot make every meeting, has the opportunity to choose at least one a month to attend. So please make your best effort to support your Lodge as we Initiate, Pass and Raise new Master Masons.

Finally, Fall has arrived. As we enter these months, several important dates appear on our schedule. Past Masters night will be November 3rd for an EA Degree. The annual Outdoor Degree will take place on November 21st, hosted by the Masters & Wardens Association of Hillsborough County. Brother Eric Silvers, a member of Hillsborough Lodge, will be the candidate for the outdoor Master Mason Degree at the Masonic Park & Youth Camp. Lastly, our election of officers for 2016 which will be on December 8th. I hope to see you at a meeting in the near future.

Fraternaly,

Steven J. Silvers

Secretary
District Instructor

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p align="center">MORE MASONIC EVENTS</p> <p>View more Masonic events and updated information on the Lodge web site: www.hillsborough25.org, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter, links available on the web site.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 20px;">   </div>				 Masonic Education & Catechism 6:30 p.m.	 Chapter 11 Meeting 1 p.m.	
 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 MM Degree Night For Candidates & Brothers prepared. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Degree 7:15 p.m.	District School of Instruction John Darling Lodge • 7 p.m. 4601 Habana Tampa, FL	 Masonic Education & Catechism 6:30 p.m.	HIGH TWELVE LODGE Meeting at Noon		
 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 Stated Communication Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m.	 Masonic Education & Catechism 6:30 p.m.	 Chapter 11 Meeting 1 p.m.			
MASONIC HOME BOARD MEETING 11 a.m. 3201 1st St. NE St. Pete, FL	 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 MM Degree Night For Candidates & Brothers prepared. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Degree 7:15 p.m.	 Masonic Catechism 6:30 p.m. Finance & Property PM Room 6:30pm	Masters & Wardens Meeting John Darling Lodge No. 154 6:30 p.m. Tampa, FL.		
 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 Stated Communication Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m.					

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 wishes everyone a happy,
healthy and successful Fall Season!

All Meetings Begin at 1pm, 1st & 3rd Saturdays

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need a ride,
please call the Secretary – rides can be arranged.
And don't forget, we have a working elevator.

Sandra Johnson, PGC, Secretary

402 Sinclair Hills Road • Tampa, FL 33613
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MASONIC EDUCATION: ASSET OF MASONRY

When good men gather together to accomplish something to benefit the Craft, its members, and the community, such increased association is bound to develop mutual respect among members which will develop into warm friendship. When a Mason meets another Mason for the first time, he knows that the other person believes in God, that he therefore believes that all men are brothers, and that as a result he must be kind to other persons and help them in every possible way. Such knowledge is bound to bring two persons closer together, for they instinctively realize that they have many beliefs in common. The Craft know without any express statement that a spiritual tie exists between Masons because honorable conduct is expected from every new encounter.

For one who travels extensively, Masonic friendship manifests itself time and again. Whether visiting a Masonic Lodge, attending a meeting of an appendant body, or in the market place, when you meet another Mason you should always feel a kinship with him. You should always find the door open with a welcome sign. This welcome becomes increasingly more valuable if you are in a strange place, in need of suggestions, advice or help of some kind. You should have a comfortable feeling because you know help is near, and there should also be a feeling of trust and faith which is so valuable in all human relationships.

Profane have often observed that there exists between Masons an elusive spirit of friendly relations. It is proven that strangers who have met and discover that both are members of the Craft immediately feel a kinship with each other. Masons recognize this mutual feeling and describe it as the tie that binds, but this general description mystifies and intrigues non-members. When Masons meet for the first time, they should instinctively feel a relationship because of the teaching methods used in the conferring of the three degrees, whereby certain obligations are assumed which bind Masons to a high moral code and make them better men on the spiritual and moral level.

This valuable asset of Freemasonry is often so obscured that few members of the Craft are aware of it. This moral and fraternal tie is called to your immediate attention. Having a large number of friends and Brothers will make a person better and happier. Happy persons help make this world a better place in which to live. This elusive element of Freemasonry is essential to each of us as members of the Craft, and it is one of the most valuable assets of Freemasonry as an organization.

Source: www.themasonictrowel.com/masonic_talk

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 ■ TRESTLE BOARD

“W·: Abe Maas” continued from page 1...

Jessie. In 1886, Abe's business in Dublin, Georgia, was far from successful and he decided to try his luck in Florida. He visited several towns in Florida and decided to open his store in Tampa, which back then was thought to be not much more than a fishing village. Abe knew that someday Tampa would have a fine port and develop into a big city. He had been quoted as saying to his brother Isaac, “It's a waterfront town. Who knows? It may amount to something someday.” Abe loaded his entire inventory into a railroad box car, and from this inventory would soon rise a multi-million dollar empire.


He returned to Tampa on December 1, 1886, and began setting up his store ‘The Dry Goods Palace’, with his wife Bena at his side. The store officially opened on December 10, 1886, consisting of one 23 x 90 ft. room in the two story J. C. Field Building at the corner of Franklin and Twiggs Street. Attracted by the promise of Tampa, Isaac Maas moved to Tampa from Ocala in 1887, bringing a handful of hats and ribbons from his Ocala shop. He formally joined his brother in business on September 15, 1887. Abe sent out notices to all his customers and ran ads in the newspaper announcing, “My brother Isaac has joined me, and the business henceforth will be conducted under the name of Maas Brothers.” By 1898, the Dry Goods Palace had outgrown its space, so they moved their business from the small Palace store at Franklin & Twiggs to two, 50 x 90 ft. floors of the Krause Building on the southeast corner of Franklin and Zack Streets. In 1907, Maas Brothers was incorporated and Abe became its president.

The business acumen and untiring energy of Isaac Maas was instrumental in the growth of the business from 1,100 square feet to 25,000 square feet; from a sales force of three to more than a hundred, from capital of \$625 to \$250,000; from one of the smallest to largest exclusive ladies furnishing goods houses in the state. By 1929, Maas Bros. had become Florida's largest department store south of Jacksonville. Maas Brothers dominated Florida's West Coast and was known as ‘Greater Tampa's Greatest Store.’ That year, Abe and Isaac sold their interests in the store to the Hahn Department Stores but continued on as president and chairman of the board, respectively.

Abe Maas was always active in public affairs in Tampa and was recognized as one of the most valuable citizens movements for the advancement of Tampa. He was a member of the Tampa Board of Trade (predecessor to the Tampa Chamber of Commerce) since 1886, and remained a director of it for all that period with the exception of one year. In early 1900, Abe Maas was the founder of the Tampa Lodge of Elks and was affectionately spoken of as the father of the lodge. He was the first member initiated

into the lodge, Cardholder #1, and the first Exalted Ruler of Tampa Lodge #708. He was largely instrumental in the building of the handsome Elks home at Florida Avenue, between Lafayette and Madison Street. Besides being the president of Maas Bros. Co., he was vice-president of the Morris Plan Bank, a director in the National City Bank, the Bank of West Tampa and Thompson Cigar Company. He was also one of the first directors of what was known as the Old People's Home.

He was Past Master of our Lodge in 1931, and remained active as an Officer. He served as Treasurer of our Lodge for 26 years! He was a prominent member of the Shriners, the Knights of Pythias and charter member of the Rocky Point Golf Club. He was active and influential in various WWI activities, and in the 1920s served a second time as chairman of the European Relief campaign in Tampa, which raised funds for the starving children of distressed countries. In addition, for 25 years, he was president of the Jewish Congregation Schaarai Zedek. Abe was also an owner of the Floridan Hotel, built in 1927, along with prominent Tampa residents Messrs. T.N. Henderson and Clarence Holtsinger.

On Friday evening, June 6, 1941, Abe became very ill. As the evening progressed, Abe's health declined. Finally, at two o'clock, Saturday morning, June 7, 1941, W·: Maas passed to the Celestial Lodge above at the age of 86. 

Source: tampapix.com/maas.htm

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 or phone (813) 884-8529.



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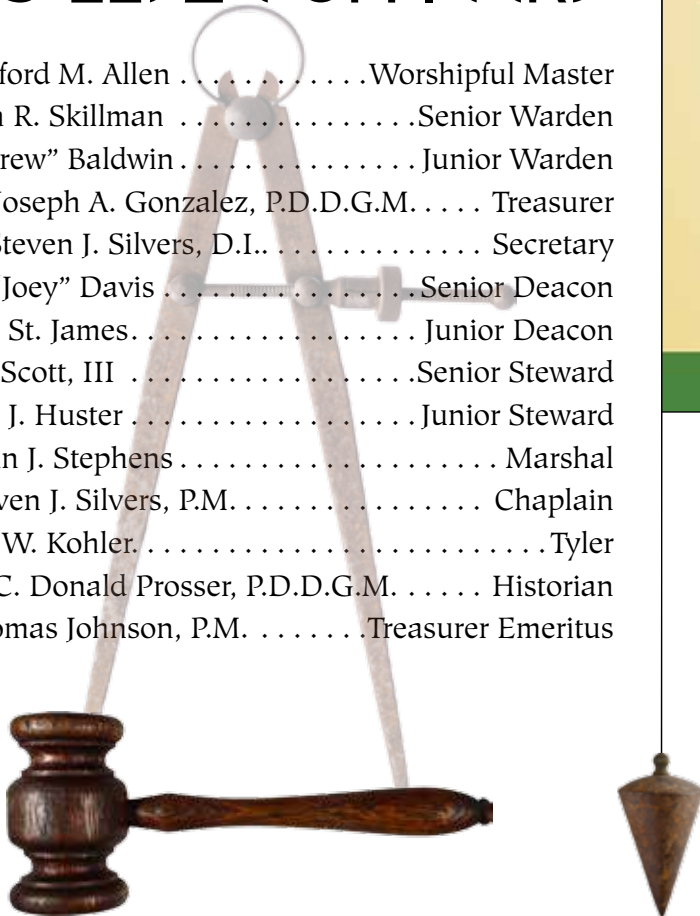
HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 F&AM
 508 EAST KENNEDY BOULEVARD
 TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602-4909

PHONE: (813) 229-2305
 FAX: (813) 228-7623
 E-MAIL: HILLS25@VERIZON.NET
 WWW.HILLSBOROUGH25.ORG

Address Service Requested

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
 W.: Thomas Johnson, P.M. Treasurer Emeritus



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