

# Ashlar Lodge No. 98 Free and Accepted Masons

St. Augustine, FL

Chartered January 18, A.D. 1888, A.L. 5888



May, 2024



## STATED COMMUNICATIONS

Masonic Temple  
4 Martin Luther King Blvd.

St. Augustine, FL  
1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> Thursdays

Meal – 6:30 p.m.

Stated Communication — 7:30 p.m.

## DEGREE WORK AND PRACTICE

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays

## CHARITY OF THE MONTH

Boys and Girls Club of St. Johns County

Also, I am pleased to inform you that our fire escape has been completed, inspected and approved by the authorities having jurisdiction and to thank our Renovation Committee for their due diligence, time, and efforts during this process, Thank you M.W. Robert P. Harry, R.W. Dwight Wilkes, and R.W. Chris Cannon

Also, we will be going dark on June 20, 2024 so we can visit Pineland Lodge as we have done in the past, and hopefully we will bring some things back to Ashlar Lodge.

Respectfully you  
Terrell W. Jones W.M.

## FROM THE EAST

It is my privilege to inform the Craft that Ashlar Lodge No.98 is still seeing a number of men entering their journey into Freemasonry. As of now there are six (6) Brothers being prepared to become Fellow Crafts with three in each group and we will likely see six new Master Masons In our Lodge this year. Also I would like to commend in our Instructors, mentors, and our Degree Team for time efforts in making these men Brothers.

# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 RAIN-BOW 7:00 PM	2 STATED COMM 6:30 PM	3	4
5	6 OES	7	8 District Instruction Middleburg No. 107 6:30 pm	9 Ashlar TBD DeMolay, Palatka No34 7 pm	10	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14 Shrine Club 7:00 PM	15 RAIN-BOW 7:00 PM	16 STAT-ED COMM	17	18 Open Books Pine-land No. 86 9 -noon
19	20 OES	21 York Rite Chapter/Council 6:30 pm	22 District Assn. Palatka No. 34 6:30 p.m.	23 Lodge Instruction TBD DeMolay Palatka No. 34 7 pm	24	25 Open Books Pine-land No. 86 9-noon
26 Memorial Day Grand Communication	27 Grand Communication	28 YORK RITE COM-MANDERY 6:30 PM Grand Communication	29 Grand Communication	30	31 Fried Chicken, Shrine Club	30

## From the West – George Maulsby S.W.

### The Four Cardinal Virtues and Tassels

In many jurisdictions, tassels are a fundamental part of the furniture of the Lodge and are located in appropriate places about the lodge room. In other jurisdictions, tassels appear on the Tracing Board only. In those jurisdictions employing tassels, these items play an important part in the training of Candidates, The question arises whether there is a correlation between the four cardinal virtues and the four tassels.

**In the northeast corner is Fortitude** which is related to pectoral since the heart has always been considered the seat of fortitude and courage and hence by this word is suggested to the Mason certain symbolic instructions in relation to the virtue of Fortitude.

**In the southeast corner is Prudence** which is related to manual since masons are, in a peculiar manner reminded, by the hand, of the necessity of a prudent and careful observance of all their pledges and duties, and hence this organ suggests certain symbolic instructions in relation to the virtue of Prudence.

**In the northwest corner is Temperance** which is related to guttural, since the throat is the avenue of the body which is most employed in the sins of intemperance. Temperance refers to the entrance upon the penal responsibilities and 'lest any brother should forget the danger to which he is exposed in the unguarded hours of dissipation, the virtue of temperance is wisely impressed upon his memory by its reference to one of the most solemn portions of the ceremony of initiation.'

**In the southwest corner is Justice** which is related to pedal, since the just man is one who, firmly planting his feet on the principles of right, is as immovable as a rock, and can be thrust from his upright position neither by the allurements of flatter nor the frowns of arbitrary power. And hence this word is suggested to the mason certain symbolic instructions in relation to justice. **The Four Cardinal Virtues And Tassels, Bro. Dr. Roy Murray**

# June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 OES	4	5 RAIN-BOW 7 pm	6 STATED COMM 6:30 PM	7	8
9	10	11 Shrine Club 7:00 PM	12 District Inst. Cabul No. 116 6:30 pm	13 DeMolay Palatka No 34 7:00 PM	14	15
16	17 OES	18 YORK RITE CHAPTER/ COUNCIL 6:30 PM	219	20 DARK VISIT TO PINELAND No. 86, 6:30 pm	21	22
23/30	24	25 YORK RITE COMMANDERY 6:30 PM	26 District Association Bunnell 200 6:30 pm	27 Lodge Instruction TBD DeMolay Palatka No 34 7:00 PM	28 Fried Chicken Shrine Club	29

## FROM THE SOUTH Mark Williams, JW

Welcome to May Brothers. Spring is in full effect and the plants and animals are bringing forth new life. We as Masons are bringing new life into our lodge so it will endure the ages also. I would like to thank all the brethren that have stepped up to do parts and lectures in the degrees, along with those that have stepped into instructor roles for the new brothers and those that have started and lead the roundtable meetings so that anyone that wants to attend can learn or refresh their knowledge in the degrees.

This month is a little different than most because we are going to the Grand Lodge meeting in Orlando to meet with other Masons in this state and vote on legislation that effects all of the lodges.

During May we have some events that if you would like to attend you are welcome. May 8 District Instruction in Middleburg, and District Association at Palatka no. 34 on May 22.

Don't forget May 12, to remember your mother and thank the mother of your children.

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### DeMolay in the 11th Masonic District

The Robert D. Trump Chapter of the Order of DeMolay meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each Month at Palatka Lodge No. 34 in Palatka, FL. All Master Masons are invited to attend and encourage these young men as they begin their Masonic journey.

## FREEMASON'S COMPANION

No one knows for certain when the Masonic Fraternity was formed, but Freemasonry is the oldest Fraternity still existing in the world. The oldest existing records of a Lodge of Freemasons date to January 1599 and are from Lodge Aitchinson's Haven in East Lothian, Scotland. Minutes dated July 1599 exist for the Lodge of Edenborough at Mary's Chapel. In 1647, Elias Ashmole, a librarian at Oxford University wrote in his diary for 16 October: "4:30 pm, I was made a freemason at Warrington in Lancashire and in 1686 Dr. Robert Plot wrote that it was the custom to admit men into the Society of Freemasons throughout the nation, especially in Staffordshire.

Bede in his *Ecclesiastical History of The English People* for the year 675 writes that Bishop Benedict crossed into Gaul and brought back with him to England masons and makers of glass. In the same ancient chronicle, Bede refers to the Church of the Four Crowned Martyrs being almost consumed by fire in 619. The Four Crowned Martyrs were the patron saints of ancient masons.

The most ancient Masonic document is accepted to be the *Regius Poem* or *Halliwel Manuscript* which is dated to about 1390. Other ancient Masonic documents include the *Cooke Manuscript* dated to 1410; the *Schaw Statutes* dated to 1598; and the *Graham Manuscript* dated to 1726.

Modern Freemason, especially in the United States and the United Kingdom, dates from the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717. The United Grand Lodge of England celebrates its three hundredth anniversary in the spring of 2017.

Freemasonry came to what is now the United States in the early 1730s. James Oglethorpe, founder of Georgia, established a Lodge at Ft. King George in what is now Darien, GA, in 1734. It is now Solomon Lodge No. 1 in Savannah, the oldest continuously operating English Constituted Lodge of Freemasons in the Western Hemisphere.

The first Lodge established in St. Augustine was Glittering Star Lodge in 1769. It was a military lodge and part of the 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot of the British Army. This Lodge still exists and is in the midlands of the England.

In the United States, there is no single Grand Lodge System. Each state in the union hosts its own. Many world leaders, entertainers, and prestigious individuals have been members. Fourteen US Presidents were Freemasons: George Washington, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, James Polk, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, James Garfield, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Howard Taft, Warren Harding, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and Gerald Ford.

Other famous Freemasons included Winston Churchill, Billy Graham, J. Edgar Hoover, Bob Dole, Trent Lott, Thomas Dewey, John Elway, Shaq O'Neal, Don Rickles, W.C. Fields, Clark Gable, Richard Dreyfuss, Nat King Cole, Roy Rogers, Red Skelton, George Pullman, Cecil B. DeMille, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, George Marshall, "Buzz" Aldrin, Normal Vincent Peal, Cy Young, Henry Ford, and Fiorello La Guardia, King George IV, King William IV, King Edward VII, King Edward VIII, and King George VI.

Abraham petitioned to join a Masonic Lodge in 1860 but withdrew noting that he did not want his petition perceived as an attempt to gain votes. He noted that he would submit his petition again when he returned from his presidency. His successor, Andrew Johnson was a Freemason.

### ***What is Freemasonry***

Freemasonry is a fraternity of men, bound together by brotherly love, relief, and truth. They offer mutual assistance, equality, secrecy, and trust. They teach lessons of social and moral virtues based on the symbolism of the working tools of operative masons. Masons meet in Lodges chartered by a Grand Lodge. There is no religious dogma permitted in Freemasonry. A man is asked one simple question: does he believe in a supreme being? Freemasons do not discriminate based on race, religion, national origin, social status, or educational background. Their personal beliefs are just that: personal.

Politics do not intrude into a Masonic Lodge. Freemasons are composed of men of various ages, backgrounds, faiths, professions, and political persuasions. It crosses all social, religious, and political barriers. The two topics forbidden are those that can destroy any friendship or marriage: politics and religion.

Freemasonry is not a religion nor does it espouse any specific religious dogma. Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and Muslims sit together "on the level" in a Masonic Lodge. Nor is Freemasonry a science. It does not dictate, it encourages exploration. It does teach its members to value learning and education. Benjamin Franklin, for example, was instrumental in the founding of the University of Pennsylvania. It encourages its member to think but does not tell them what to think.

Freemasonry grew drastically during the 1800s and early 1900s when there were no government "safety nets." Freemasons funded homes for the elderly and disabled; for widows; for orphans; and provided cemeteries for their members. Today in North America, Freemasons contribute an estimated \$1.5 million daily to charities including the Shrine Hospital System, treatment of childhood language disorders, research into eye disease, and medical research.

There are approximately four million Freemasons worldwide with about two million in the United States. The Grand Lodge of Florida has about forty thousand members. There are Masonic in all Western Nations including Cuba which is home to more than three hundred. There are Grand Lodges in Israel, Lebanon, Japan, the Philippines, and Egypt.

The basic unit of Freemasonry is the local Lodge or Blue Lodge. Its traditions are based in those of the medieval European guilds and include signs, passwords, grips, and special clothing. Its work is done through rituals which are kept private or secret, but it does participate in public ceremonies to include cornerstone laying for public buildings and funeral services for its members.

### ***Secrets***

Freemasonry is not a secret order nor is it a secret society. Freemasons wear lapel pins, rings, belt buckles, and shirts advertising their membership. Their Lodges are well marked. But like many organizations, it does have secrets which are mainly associated with admittance into the Lodge to include handshakes, words, and signs that enable one Masons to know another quickly and effectively.

Masons do obligate themselves to keep secrets both about the organization and those that might be revealed to them by a Brother. The issue is not that it is secret, but can a Mason keep his word. If he can be trusted with the small things in life—words and grips of the Fraternity—he can be trusted with greater things in life. He is a man of his word; his word is his bond.

### ***Officers in a Lodge***

The Worshipful Master sits in the East, symbolic of the rising sun. His word is final over all Lodge actions during his term of office which is usually one Masonic year. He presides over business and confers degrees. The jewel of his office is the square denoting virtue and truthfulness.

The Senior Warden sits in the west, symbolic of the setting sun. He assists the Worshipful Master in his duties and is second in command of the Lodge. Anciently, his main duty was as pay master. His jewel is the level denoting “meeting on the level” without regard to social, political, or religious status.

The Junior Warden sits in the south, denoting the position of the sun at midday. Anciently he was the timekeeper and provided food for the workers. His jewel is the plumb denoting rectitude of conduct.

The Senior Deacon sits at the right of the Worshipful Master and is the Master’s messenger. He welcomes visitors and conducts candidates. He is also responsible for opening and closing the Great Lights, presenting the flag, and he controls the ballot box. His jewel is the square and compasses with a sun in the middle. He carries a rod or *caduceus*.

The Junior Deacon sits at the right of the Senior Warden and is his messenger. He is the inner guard and controls who may enter. His jewel is the square and compasses with a moon in the center. He also carries a *caduceus*.

There are two Stewards on either side of the Junior Warden. Their principal duties are to assist the Junior Warden during hours of refreshment and to prepare candidates for degrees. Their jewels are the cornucopia or horn of plenty representing food and drink—an essential part of any Masonic gathering.

The Treasurer sits at the right of the Worshipful Master and is responsible for Lodge finances. His jewel is the crossed-keys representing the company check or cash box.

The Secretary sits at the left of the Worshipful Master. He is the second most powerful person in the Lodge. He keeps all records, prepares communications, submits reports, and performs the administrative tasks associated with any large organization. His jewel is the cross quills denoting minute taking.

The chaplain sits in front of the secretary. He opens and closes the Lodge with prayers. He is most often not a minister or rabbi. His jewel is the Volume of Sacred Law.

The tyler is the doorkeeper or outer guard. His duty is to protect the entrance to the Lodge and be sure that those who enter are duly and truly Masons. His jewel is a sword, often with a wavy edge.

There is no past faster than a Past Master, previous Masters of a Lodge. After serving his year in the East, the Past Master is presented with a Past Master’s apron and jewel. A Past Master’s jewel is most often the compasses and a quadrant with the sun in the center. In some jurisdictions, the jewel is a representation of the 47<sup>th</sup> Problem of Euclid.

### ***The Rule***

Each Grand Lodge establishes and publishes its own rules and regulations through a Digest of Masonic Law. Each particular Lodge does the same through its bylaws which must be approved by its Grand Lodge.

A regular Mason is a man who is a member of a Lodge descended in some way from the original Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland. He must believe in a Supreme Being and not have been convicted of a felony.

Particular Lodges (Blue Lodges) confer only three degrees: Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason. There are appendant bodies such as Scottish Rite, York Rite, and Shrine which confer additional degrees. To be a member of any appendant body, a man must first be a Master Mason in a Regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

The three degrees have specific symbolic meaning.

The Entered Apprentice Degree represents youth and initiation.

The Fellow Craft Degree represents the passage into manhood and education.

The Master Mason Degree represents maturity, aging and death.

### ***What to Expect and What to Know***

Freemasonry is a fraternity that does not solicit members. Traditionally, a man had to ask three times before receiving a petition. The fraternity utilizes a stringent background check, investigation including home visit, and strong vetting before offer a petition for the trial of the ballot box. Anciently, Freemasons have voted with black cubes and white balls. The white ball indicates a positive vote; the black cube a negative vote. A single negative is sufficient to prevent a man from becoming a Freemason. All ballots are secret and there are strict penalties for discussing how one voted. The ballot is sacred and secret.

A man determines that he wishes to become a Mason. He approaches a man he knows to be a Freemason, a close friend, and asks for a petition. The petition requires three Lodge members’ endorsement through signature. When the petition is received, all member present vote to determine if it is accepted. If so, the petition is referred to an investigating committee composed of no less than three members who visit the home, question friends and employers, and who do their best to determine the qualifications the petitioner.

When the committee is satisfied, the petition is presented (read) again in open Lodge and the secret ballot occurs. If the petition receives a clear ballot—all white balls—the candidate is notified of the date and time of his initiation.

Masonic Lodges meet at least once each month for a Stated Communication to conduct business. They may also meet for a Called Communication to confer Degrees. Many Lodges, Ashlar Lodge No. 98 being among them, meet twice each month.

The Masonic Year begins on December 28<sup>th</sup>, the day after St. Johns' Night. Officers are installed on St. Johns Night—the Feast of St. John the Evangelist. The year runs through December 27<sup>th</sup>. A second St. Johns' Night may be held on June 24<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of St. John the Baptist. The Two St. Johns are the patron saints of modern Freemasons.

Freemasonry has traditionally involved a significant amount of memorization. Until recent years, all ritual was passed “mouth to ear.” There are modern ciphers to aid with memory, but the tradition mode of instruction is still prevalent. It serves to form close fraternal relations, brotherhood, and to protect the secrets and mysteries of the craft.

### ***For Companions***

A Freemason's obligation is to his family first. He may refer to it as his “cable-tow”. That is not a negative comment. It includes his health, his family, his business, and his obligations to others.

A Freemason will gladly share with you what information he can. Remember he took an obligation to maintain secrets.

This is a test of his worthiness to be trusted, nothing more. There are few secrets in Masonry especially in the modern digital age.

Masonic Lodges hold family nights on a regular basis. Family, friends, and potential members are invited to attend.

Masonic Lodges host events for Masonic Widows and Sweethearts that are open to non-Masons.

Masons will not act unless asked. A man cannot become a member unless he “knocks” at the door. He will not be solicited. In turn, should the family of a Mason require assistance in any way, they should contact the Worshipful Master, Secretary, or other Lodge officer for assistance, especially Masonic Funerals.

Masonic Funerals are performed only upon request of the immediate family. A friend may not make the request. The Lodge's Tyler is in charge of Masonic Funerals. The most common is the grave-side or interment service. Masonic Funerals may also be performed in a church, in a Lodge, at a funeral Home, or other appropriate location. If the service is in a church, it is preferable to be sure that the Minister approves.

Each man who becomes a Master Mason and receives a Lambskin Apron is entitled to have that apron placed on the outside of his casket and interred with him. Special provisions may be made for cremations. The family should consult with the Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

There are several avenues available for contacting a Lodge.

The Lodge's Trestleboard which is mailed or distributed digitally to all members.

The Lodge's website or Face Book page or other electronic presence.

The Grand Lodge's website which includes a Lodge Locator which will give the name and contact information for all Lodge Officers.

The internet by using Google or a similar search system to gather information about any Lodge.

A Brother is guaranteed only three things:

Fraternity and Brotherly Love

Visitation when sick or distressed

A Masonic Funeral upon request from immediate family

A Brother will receive regular mailings to include dues cards and Trestleboards from the Lodge at least monthly. The family should read these postings and publications to keep informed of Lodge activities.

Finally, when a Brother passes through the Great Pearly Gates, the family is encouraged to maintain contact with the Lodge. There may be among the Brother's possessions items that the family wishes to dispose of but which would be in interest to the Lodge. May Brothers maintain extensive Masonic libraries, some of which contain rare books. That time of material should remain within the Fraternity by being passed to family member who is a Mason or archived at the particular Lodge or Grand Lodge.

No question is too small or insignificant. Do not be afraid to ask, the Brother will gladly share with you all that he can.

**LODGE OFFICERS 2022**

<b>Worshipful Master</b>	
<b>Terrell Jones</b>	<b>904-669-5249</b>
Senior Warden	
George Maultsby	703-956-0228
Junior Warden	
Mark Williams	904-669-9694
Secretary	
Russell Sellers	512-801-7831
Treasurer	
Oscar Patterson III	904-955-9175
Senior Deacon	
Darrell Lindsey	904-814-7158
Junior Deacon	
Kevin Stees	803-406-0005
Senior Steward	
Chris Lucero	904-226-5007
Junior Steward	
Tom Street	301-300-3031
Chaplain	
Robert Harry, Jr.	904-806-1255
Marshall	
Tom Torretta	602-881-3206
Tyler	
James Carrick	904-501-4348

**OTHER 11th MASONIC  
DISTRICT LODGES**

**Palatka No. 34**

Palatka—2nd & 4th Mondays

**Lake No. 72**

Crescent City—1st & 3rd Mondays

**Pineland No. 86**

Peniel—1st & 3rd Thursdays

**Melrose No 89**

Keystone Heights—2nd & 4th Tuesdays

**Middleburg No. 107**

Middleburg—1st & 3rd Tuesdays

**Cabul No. 116**

Green Cove Springs—2nd & 4th Thursdays

**Hastings No. 183**

Hastings—2nd & 4th Tuesdays

**Bunnell No. 200**

Bunnell—1st and 3rd Tuesdays

**FRATERNAL NOTICES AND DATES**

O.E.S. Chapter #12.....1st & 3rd  
Mondays  
Rainbow Assembly #42.....1st & 3rd Wednesdays  
York Rite Bodies.....3rd & 4th  
Tuesdays