

Ashlar Lodge No. 98 Free and Accepted Masons

St. Augustine, FL

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



July, 2024



STATED COMMUNICATIONS

Masonic Temple

4 Martin Luther King Blvd.

St. Augustine, FL

1ST & 3RD Thursdays

Meal – 6:30 p.m.

Stated Communication — 7:30 p.m.

DEGREE WORK AND PRACTICE

2nd & 4th Thursdays

CHARITY OF THE MONTH

Port in the Storm/St. Francis House

support.

Also, I am planning a friends and family night in late September and hopefully will be presenting some of our Brothers with certificates recognizing years of service has Master Mason. Information about this will be sent out by email and will be in the Trestle Board. We will be providing a meal for all those who attend so please, when you see this notice in the Trestle Board or email, please RSVP to myself or our Secretary by email.

Again, thank you for allowing me to have the privilege of being Worship Master of Ashlar Lodge

Fraternally Yours,

Terrell W. Jones, Sr., W.M.

FROM THE EAST

As we are now halfway through this Masonic year time is quickly passing. There are a lot of good things happening at Ashlar Lodge No. 98 with several new Brothers having started their journey in Freemasonry and others who will be getting started on theirs this year. We will have some new Master Masons with another group. Also, our officers will be stepping up in the chairs for future degrees so please try and attend to give our Brothers your encouragement and

July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OES	2	3 RAIN-BOW 7:00	4 Dark for 4th of July	5	6
7	8	9 Shrine Club 7:00 PM	10 District Instruction Hastings No.183 6:30	11 Ashlar TBD DeMolay, Palatka No. 34 7 pm	12	13
14	15 OES	16	17 RAIN-BOW 7:00 PM	18 STATED COMM 6:30	19	20
21	22	23	24 District Assn. Pineland No. 86 6:30 p.m.	25 Lodge Instruction TBD DeMolay Palatka No. 34 7 pm	26 Fried Chicken, Shrine Club	27 Open Books Pineland No. 86 9-noon
28	29	30	31			

From the West
George Maultsby S.W.

The Winding Stairway
by Albert G. Mackey

The steps of this Winding Staircase commenced, we are informed, at the porch of the temple; that is to say, at its very entrance. But nothing is more undoubted in the science of Masonic symbolism than that the temple was the representative of the world purified by the Shekinah (english transliteration of a Hebrew word meaning "dwelling" or "settling" and denotes the presence of God in a place), or the Divine Presence. The world of the profane is without the temple; the world of the initiated is within its sacred walls. Hence to enter the temple, to pass within the porch, to be made a Mason, and to be born into the world of masonic light, are all synonymous and convertible terms. Here, then, the symbolism of the Winding Stairs begins. The Apprentice, having entered within the porch of the temple, has begun his Masonic life. But the first degree in Masonry, like the lesser Mysteries of the ancient systems of initiation, is only a preparation and purification for something higher. The Entered Apprentice is the child in Masonry. The lessons which he receives are simply intended to cleanse the heart and prepare the recipient for that mental illumination which is to be given in the succeeding degrees.

As a Fellow Craft, he has advanced another step, and as the degree is emblematic of youth, so it is here that the intellectual education of the candidate begins. And therefore, here, at the very spot which separates the Porch from the Sanctuary, where childhood ends and manhood begins, he finds stretching out before him a winding stair which invites him, as it were, to ascend, and which, as the symbol of discipline and instruction, teaches him that here must commence his Masonic labor—here he must enter upon those glorious though difficult researches, the end of which is to be the possession of divine truth. The Winding Stairs begin after the candidate has passed within the Porch and between the pillars of Strength and Establishment, as a significant symbol to teach him that as soon as he has passed beyond the years of irrational childhood, and commenced his entrance upon manly life, the laborious task of self-improvement is the first duty that is placed before him. He cannot stand still, if he would be worthy of his vocation; his destiny as an immortal being requires him to ascend, step by step, until he has reached the summit, where the treasures of knowledge await him.

The number of these steps in all the systems has been odd. Vitruvius remarks—and the coincidence is at least curious—that the ancient temples were always ascended by an odd number of steps; and he assigns as the reason, that, commencing with the right foot at the bottom, the worshiper would find the same foot foremost when he entered the temple, which was considered as a fortunate omen. But the fact is, that the symbolism of numbers was borrowed by the Masons from Pythagoras, in whose system of philosophy it plays an important part, and in which odd numbers were considered as more perfect than even ones. Hence, throughout the Masonic system we find a predominance of odd numbers...The odd number of the stairs was therefore intended to symbolize the idea of perfection, to which it was the object of the aspirant to attain.

August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 STATED COMM 6:30 PM	2	3
4	5 OES	6	7 RAIN- BOW 7 pm	8 LODGE INSTRUC- TION TBD DeMolay Palatka No 34 7:00 PM	9	10
11	12	13 Shrine Club 7:00 PM	14 District Inst. Bunnell No. 200 6:30 pm	15 STATED COMM 6:30 PM	16	17
18	19 OES	20	21	22 LODGE INSTRUC- TION TBD	23	24
25	26	27	28 District Association Melrose No.89 6:30 PM	29	30 Fried Chicken Shrine Club	31

FROM THE SOUTH MARK WILLIAMS, JR WARDEN

Welcome to summer my brothers. i hope everyone has a good time being with friends and family. I pray that you will be safe and healthy during this season. As a fraternity we are doing well with recruiting new members. We have several men waiting with petitions in hand, and others in various stages of degrees heading toward being fellow brothers. We should be proud that men take notice of us and desire to be part of our craft. That shows that we are living what we have learned. As we have a good number of candidates and brothers advancing, check the trestle board for degrees to attend to show support for these gentlemen because we will be doing them frequently.

We have opportunities to travel this month which include District instruction in Hastings, July 10, District Association in Pineland July 24, and several lodges in this district are doing degrees as well, should you wish to attend.

We will be DARK July 4th so take due notice and we will look forward to seeing you on July 18th.

Robert D. Trump Chapter, Order of DeMolay meets at Palatka Lodge No. 34 on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7:00 PM. All Master Masons are invited to attend.

LODGE OFFICERS 2022

Worshipful Master	Terrell Jones	904-669-5249
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

SCOTTISH CHARGE

Picture, if you will, a new made Mason, appearing for the very first time, before those Grand Lodge Purple Aprons. On top of that with bag pipes as a background appeared a giant of a Scotchman, he looked about 6 foot ten, and with his bearskin hat added another 2 feet. We were given this charge and I've heard it since in Edinburgh, Scotland. Listen to the words and their meanings, and apply them to your own life.

When is a man a Mason?

Aye, Laddie, look about, and ask yourself and others.

When is a man a Mason?

Is it when he passes thru that door, into a Lodge room?
Is it when he conducted, around, and cannot see, but is
Guided to the stations, and the words are passed?

When is a man a Mason?

Is it when he can look over the majestic hills, and mountains,
and looks beyond the vast oceans . . . aye and immense deserts,
the valleys, abundant with flowers, and in the vast scheme
of this creation, of the Supreme Architect, know with a
profound sense of his own littleness?

And yet has faith, hope, and courage, and which he accepts
as the root of all virtue.

When is a man a Mason?

When he knows down in the recesses of his own heart,
that every man is as noble, as vile, as Devine, and aye as
diabolical . . . and yes . . . as lonely as he is within himself?

When is a man a Mason?

Is it when he seeks to follow, to forgive, and for all cause to
love his fellow man?

When is a man a Mason?

When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows
And aye, Lad, even in their sins, knowing that each man
fights the hard fight against many odds in life's span?

When is a man a Mason?

When he has learned to make friends and to keep them,
and above all, to keep friends with himself.

When is a man a Mason?

When he loves the flowers of the fields, aye, he can hunt
the birds of the forest . . . without a gun . . . and indeed knows
and feels the thrill of the old and forgotten joy when he hears
the laughter of a child.

When he can be happy and high minded amid the meaner
drudgeries of a life time.

When is a man a Mason?

When the star-crowned trees and the glint of sunlight
on flowing waters subdue him as the thoughts of a much
loved one and now long gone.

When is a man a Mason?

When no voice of distress reaches his ear in vain
and no hand seeks his aid without response.
When he finds good in every faith, that helps any
man lay hold of Divine thoughts toward the majestic
meaning of life . . . whatever the name of that faith may be.

When is a man a Mason?

When he can look into a wayside puddle, see something
beyond the mud . . . the reflection of a face of a most
forlorn fellow mortal . . . and . . . aye, he sees something
beyond sin.

When he knows how to pray, how to love, and how to
retain hope.

When he deeps faith with himself, his fellow man,
and his God.

When is a man a Mason?

If in his hand he carries a sword against evil, but bears
in his heart a bit of a song, always glad to live . . .

Aye . . . but nar'e afraid to die for his just cause.

Such a man . . . aye such a man . . . has found the secrets
of Masonry and this is the message we are trying to share
with the world.

Look abo't, ye lad, the man in this Lodge —every one of us—
is a Mason. So mote it be.