

# Ashlar Lodge No. 98 Free and Accepted Masons

St. Augustine, FL

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

904-826-4086



March, 2021



## 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 QUARTER

Port in the Storm

### From the East

Brethren All,

I hope with the vaccinations proceeding that things will get back to some kind of normal.

Miss G and I got our first shots last week.

The work of the property, charity and finance committees is proceeding and they will be informing the the Craft at every

meeting of what progress has been made.

I am so pleased with the response to our Masonic Education programs and they will continue throughout the year.

Congratulations the Brs. Terrell and Trevor Jones, Patrick McGee, and Francis Cichy for completing the Masonic Leadership training course this month. These Brothers were excited and motivated by all that they learned. Well Done!

. Fraternally

David Pierucci

Worshipful Master

# March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <b>OES</b>	2	3 <b>RAIN-BOW</b> 7:00 PM	4 <b>STATED COMM.</b> 6:30 PM	5	6
7	8	9 <b>Shrine Club</b> 7:00 pm	10 <b>DIST. INST.</b> Melrose No. 79 6:30 pm	11	12	13
14	15	16 <b>York Rite Chapter/Council</b> 6:30 pm	17 <b>RAIN-BOW</b> 7:00 PM	18 <b>STATED COMM.</b> 6:30 PM	19	20
21	22	23 <b>York Rite Commandery</b> 6:30 pm	24 <b>District Assn., Hastings No. 183</b> 6:30 6:30	25 <b>Lodge Instruction</b>	26 <b>Fried Chicken Shrine Club</b>	27
28	29	30	31 <b>Open Books</b> Pineland No. 86 6-9 pm			

## From the West

My Brothers,

I hope this finds you and your families well. Our building improvements are progressing at rate even better than expected. Construction crews have turned the corner and are working hard on the South side of the Lodge. I am told that the new facilities downstairs are nearly completed and awaiting final approval. I have in mind to organize a tour for the Brethren once the site is cleaned up a bit. I'll let you know.

The officers have been preparing for the upcoming Degree on February 25th. We have been practicing diligently in order to provide our new Fellow Crafts with a good and memorable experience. I hope that as many of you as possible will attend. These Brothers are the future of the Lodge and our support is so important.

We have property and finance committee meetings scheduled soon and a full report on our deliberations will be brought to the Craft in early March. That's all for now, see you in Lodge,

Brother Jim

# April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <b>STATED COMM 6:30 PM</b>	2	3
4	5 <b>OES</b>	6	7 <b>RAIN- BOW 7 PM</b>	18	9	10
11	12	13 <b>SHRINE CLUB 7:00 pm</b>	14 <b>Dist. Inst. Ashlar No. 98 6:30 pm</b>	15 <b>STAT- ED COMM 6:30 PM</b>	16	17
18	19 <b>OES</b>	20 <b>YORK RITE CHAP- TER/ COUNCIL 6:30 PM</b>	21 <b>RAIN- BOW 7 PM Open Books Pineland No. 87 6-9 pm</b>	22 <b>Lodge In- struction TBD</b>	23 <b>Fried Chicken Shrine Club 5 pm</b>	24
25	26	27 <b>YORK RITE COMMAND- ERY 6:30 PM</b>	28 <b>District Association Bunnell No. 200 6:30 pm</b>	29	30	

## From the South

Hello my Brothers,

I want to be sure the Craft is aware that we are here for you if you need us. If you are an older brother, wife or widow and need some assistance, please reach out to us. We are able to help physically and to some degree financially to ensure you are able to remain comfortable, independent and healthy at home.

If you need some help around the house, need your lawn cut, need a ride somewhere, want to talk to someone, or just need help with a large unexpected bill you cannot afford to pay, please reach out to us.

My cell phone is 602-881-3206. If I am unable to answer when you call, please leave me a message describing how we can help and I will call you back. You can also reach me by email at [tom\\_torretta@yahoo.com](mailto:tom_torretta@yahoo.com).

In addition, I am updating our list of widows, so we can reach out to them directly. If you are aware of any widows or older masons who we may have lost touch with or who may need a helping hand, please send me their names, phone numbers, addresses and/or email addresses, so I can try to contact them.

Fraternally, Bro Tom Torretta, JW

## LODGE OFFICERS 2021

### Worshipful Master

**David Pierucci** 904-460-9477

### Senior Warden

James Carrick 904-501-4348

### Junior Warden

Dwight Wilkes 904-501-5528

### Secretary

George Maulsby 703-956-0228

### Treasurer

Oscar Patterson III 904-955-9175

### Chaplain

William Roberts 904-501-1567

### Tyler

Mickey Cunningham 904-794-5762

## FRATERNAL NOTICES AND DATES

O.E.S. Chapter #12.....1st & 3rd Mondays

Rainbow Assembly #42.....1st & 3rd Wednesdays

York Rite Bodies.....3rd & 4th Tuesdays

## 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

# *RITUALS AND MAN*

by *Julian H. Cambridge, 32°*

From The Masonic Trowel

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As we contemplate the word ritual and its meanings, it becomes difficult not to think of man, and when we think of man it becomes difficult not to think of ritual. From time immemorial, man and rituals coexisted. Man is, in fact, a ritual being. One would then ask, what are these ceremonial acts and why are they an inherent part of our nature?

Stated simply, rituals convey meaningful symbolic and moral lessons, lessons about our strengths and weaknesses, high aspirations and basic flaws. Rituals arouse the inner nature of man and afford him opportunities to receive glimpses of his true self. These ceremonial acts, therefore, awaken within us emotions which are usually dormant and insights which are often shrouded.

From the very early stages of our realization of ourselves, we become aware that there is something outside of us which is much larger than ourselves. We realize that there is a macrocosmic world of which we are the microcosm and from which we cannot separate ourselves without hazarding great damage to our spiritual selves. In an attempt to connect and understand these two worlds, the macrocosmic and microcosmic, and his relation to it, man from the beginning of his existence has employed rituals.

As we look around and observe meaningful incidents, it becomes quite evident that rituals are constantly being used. There are rituals for birth, growing up and assuming adult responsibilities, graduation from schools, marriage, our demise, and many other occasions. Since rituals are such a necessary and paramount part of us, they must be accurately expressed.

To accomplish this, we use language, gestures, acts, symbols, and costumes. When these modes of expression are effectively applied, man's inner nature is aroused, and he glimpses the immortal and imperishable parts of his dual nature. He discovers the strengths which enable him to embark on the hero's journey, not as a courageous act, but as self-discovery. Through ritual, man finds within himself the sources of character to meet his destiny.

The origins of these ceremonial acts, their development and evolution, are difficult to discover and define despite the fact that the use of ritual is universal and immemorial. There is little doubt, however, that the earliest rituals evolved around the cycles of nature and man. They sought to explain the existence of the world, the sequence of seasons, the growth of crops, the nature of animals, human society, and man himself.

Indeed, every culture, nation, and institution has developed ritual forms to fit its reason for existence, its microcosm, into the larger macrocosm or reason for all existence. Ultimately, ritual provides a focus, a core, a reason for being, and such is the case with our own Fraternity, the august and noble Order of Freemasons.

Therefore, to think of Freemasonry is, forthwith, to contemplate ritual. To think about Freemasonry without at the same time thinking about ritual is like thinking about birds without wings or cars without wheels. Wings allow birds to fly; wheels enable cars to move. And so rituals inspire and teach us moral lessons and cause us to fly above, move around, and pass through the stale and negative episodes which confront us each day of our lives. Freemasonry without proper, effective, and emotionally moving rituals is not Freemasonry at all. It is true that rituals can become exoteric and dry. If rituals merely remind us of the opening and closing of Lodge or other routine ceremonies, then we have failed to grasp what rituals communicate to us.

What rituals rightly performed and executed accomplish is to resuscitate those dormant but divine qualities which are within us, thus enabling us to accomplish the task to which the Great Architect of the Universe has assigned us. For ceremonial acts to be effective, they must evoke within us the utmost we are capable of accomplishing.

It therefore behooves us to pay very close attention to rituals and what they teach us. More importantly, we must make a whole-hearted effort to live a life in congruence with our Masonic rituals and the lessons they impart to us. There are many concerns expressed about the future of Freemasonry. My answer to these concerns is: more of us must make a true effort to apply at every opportunity the lessons we are continually taught by Masonic rituals. If and when we do, our non-Masonic friends and other associates will see Masonry's Light shining in us and will ask to share in it.

Man is ethical in potentiality even if, unfortunately, not in actuality. His capacity for ethical judgment alike his capacity for reason and the other unique characteristics of the human being is based upon the consciousness which rituals evoke within him. If we practice the lessons of Freemasonry, I assure you our lives will be resplendent and the future of our Fraternity will be secured, for the basic step in achieving inward freedom is to apply the insights imparted to us through our Masonic rituals.