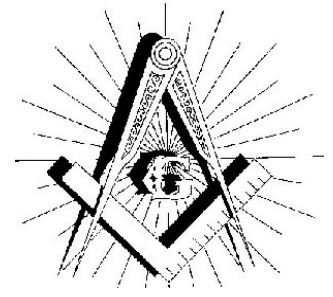


Gainesville Masonic Lodge No. 41
Trestleboard
September - October 2009



The View from the East

Masonry has been presented with a golden opportunity. For too long we have remained invisible and in the shadows. We have allowed Dan Brown, Hollywood and television documentaries to represent who we are, what we do, and the secrets we hold near and dear. They, not we, have determined public perception of our craft. It's high time we set the record straight.

With the reading public's attention now focused intensely on us, we need to open up and invite the public in. Now is the time to schedule open meetings, where we talk about the "Secrets of Masonry." There are so many half truths and outright distortions out there that we'll have little trouble finding topics to talk about.

We should lead the discussion of Dan Brown's "The Lost Symbol." We need to present our own showing of excerpts from the "National Treasure" series and offer a rebuttal. We should exhibit in our lodges parts of the television documentary, "The Secrets of Masonry" and point out what's right and what's wrong. We ought to play the opening of "The Man who Would be King" and re-port on what's "Masonic" and what's distortion in what Sean Connery says. We must turn up at civic and fund raising events for charity, wearing emblems or badges that identify us as Masons.

Challenge the public to ask us questions. Recast the debate in our own terms. Write press releases and letters to the editor, refuting the absurdities about us that are flooding the market place. Make "our" Masonry the center of attention, not theirs.

Our secrets are few and far between. They are meant to protect us from imposters because charity is our first and foremost "eternal virtue" and charity begins at home. There is no need to reveal any of those. But certainly, we have the right, even the duty, to dispute such ridiculous claims as "Jack the Ripper was a Mason" or "Masonic oaths were written by the Devil" or "Masons are out to Rule the World." We simply can't let those and others like them go unchallenged. This is our chance brothers. I say to you "Carpe diem". Seize the Day! Now is the hour.

W. Otto Johnston



Honoring Great Masons

During the past month, brothers from our lodge have visited sister Philamena Pearl, widow of brother Charles Pearl, a member of our lodge for forty-eight years. We presented her with the receipts from our charity basket. She was thrilled and grateful for the company. Mrs. Pearl was four times Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star

Brother James Cowart was awarded posthumously his sixty-year certificate and pin. Unfortunately, we received the certificates from Grand Lodge too late to present them before Brother Cowart passed away. Under direction of Worshipful Hillary Cowart (Archer Lodge), nephew of brother James, we shall visit the family and present the awards as well as contributions from our charity basket. Brothers are now going to the homes of those who cannot come to our communications to present awards from Grand Lodge in person.

Calender

Masters & Wardens

October 22th - W.T. Carlton Lodge
November 12th - Gainesville Lodge
December 5th - VA Christmas Party
December 10th - High Springs



Our Grand Master's Visit

Most Worshipful Dale Goehrig and his lovely wife Reba paid our District 14 an official visit on Monday, Oct. 5. Dinner was served to nearly three hundred guests at Holy Trinity Episcopal center, where our Grand Master spoke of the need for stewardship and generosity. Promoting his charity, the John Byrd Alzheimer's Research Foundation, Most Worshipful emphasized the need to find a cure or at least a way of containing dementia and Alzheimer. His visit raised several thousand dollars for the foundation.

Grand Lodge officers accompanying Most Worshipful spoke about the need for Masonic education, the decline in membership and the efforts to recruit new members into our fraternities.

A tiled communication was called at Schafer lodge where officers were formally introduced and more details provided on our charitable work. Here the goals for our Masonic home were clearly stated and the need for greater resources emphasized. The demand is great and the ways and means so few.

It was also pointed out that less than 16% of our membership has joined since 1965. Most of our current members were born prior to 1945. The brothers were encouraged to find new ways to recruit.

Grand Master's visit lighted the spark that will promote Masonry in our District. Faith in Masonry demands action. To say "we believe" is to pledge to act on those convictions that make a man a Mason. Most Worshipful's visit served to remind us that we can't sit on our duffs and believe we are Masons. Masonry is not static; it is action that makes good men better.

GRAND MASTER'S CHARITY

**Alzheimer's RESEARCH AT UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTH FLORIDA
PLEASE DONATE TODAY!**

Child ID Program

Children have been described as our most valuable and precious asset. Your Grand Lodge has a program designed to provide a community service to protect that asset, and if so doing can generate publicity and the Communities knowledge about our beloved fraternity.

The Child ID program is a program which assists law enforcement personnel in identifying children which are missing or have been abducted, thus saving precious time, and giving them a valuable tool to make the community aware of the crisis.

The Gainesville Crescent Foundation has underwritten the cost of all the materials involved in this program and it is free to any lodge wishing to host a venue in which its services can be rendered. The fraternity keeps no record of the event except for a headcount, and the photo CD, paperwork and information packet are turned over the parent or responsible guardian for their safekeeping.

Should anyone know of an event or like to sponsor a program, please feel free to contact WM: Otto Johnston. With us all working together, we can make a difference and make the world a safer place for our children and the community more aware of noble institution.



Lodge Officers 2009

Worshipful Master	Otto Johnston
Sr. Warden	Michael Bickelhaupt
Jr. Warden	Dustin Cowser
Treasurer	Bill Grene
Secretary	Henry Bariteau III
Chaplain	Milledge Murphy
Marshall	Chris Drouin
Sr. Deacon	Jay Ebbeling
Jr. Deacon	John Laden
Sr. Stewart	Jeffery Plant
Jr. Stewart	Mark Ivanowski
Tyler	
Musician	Holland Vaughn

Things To Remember

Order out of chaos is the famous motto of the Freemasons. It means the occasion of rising beyond one's aimless animal nature and attaining a higher plane of existence. To learn the way to that plane, to follow the proper paths, and to continue the journey and complete the wondrous voyage to a higher self and the unity of the whole, are the ultimate goals of a Freemason.

Be kind to everyone.

The soul is immortal.

Open the door for someone.

Smile instead of frowning.

Fortune is like a Lady she favors the bold.

Tell the people you care about that you love them.

To be a mason ask one!



Gainesville Lodge No. 41
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Gainesville , FL 32614-2577

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