

Electronic Trestleboard

Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, A. F. & A. M.



Stated Communications

First and Third Thursday - 7:30 P.M.
24 Golway Street Manchester, CT 06042
<https://lodge145.ctfreemasons.net/>

Gabriel A. Garmendia
Worshipful Master

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Message from the East

By Gabriel A. Garmendia



Greetings Brothers, Families, and Friends of Friendship Tuscan Lodge #145. The all so familiar winter chill is upon us again. Though it may seem like a scene from a Robert Frost poem every time we look out of our windows, it warms the heart to see brothers working towards the continued success of our lodge. Whether it's with degree work, lending a helping hand, or simply trying to make ourselves better men, we always strive to improve, and this, among many other reasons, makes me proud to be a member of Friendship Tuscan Lodge #145. Of course, I would be remiss to not include our families and friends in that equation. Without their constant love, help, and support we wouldn't be half of what we are today, and I think I speak

for all the brothers in saying we greatly appreciate you all!

One of my goals this year is community outreach. I have recently reached out to some local schools to see if we could assist them in any way. There are many under privileged kids that are in need of school supplies and warm clothing, among many other things. The schools only have so much to give out and are always accepting donations to help. I have met with the principal of the Verplanck Elementary School which is currently located at the Robertson School right up the street from our lodge. He gave me a list of school supplies that kids are always in need of. Throughout the year we will do a school supply drive for them. The flyer for this drive and items needed will be sent out to the craft via email and also located on the website. Donations will be accepted at the lodge in marked boxes. All help is appreciated. The youth of today are the future of our communities tomorrow and I feel that if we could help in any way, we should. Additionally, if there are any Brothers that have ideas of their own in helping our community, I'm open to any and all suggestions.

Recently we portrayed our first degree of the year. It is always amazing to see the Brothers work together to make a memorable experience for the candidates being initiated. I would like to congratulate our Junior Warden, Bro. Jordan Porcher, and his degree team for all their efforts in making a superb degree. I have scheduled another EA degree for our first meeting in April. Hope to see you brothers there.

In January a group of us gathered together for the first Lodge of Fun to enjoy a night of hibachi, where the name "Sake Super Man" was dubbed to a Past Master of Friendship Tuscan Lodge #145. I won't mention any names. You know who you are! On February 16th, the Brothers and Ladies again enjoyed another lodge of fun Valentine's dinner at Portofino's Restaurant in Berlin, CT where we enjoyed some drinks and a delicious Italian meal. I hope to see many more of you joining us at the upcoming Lodge of Fun nights for a great night of community and fellowship. If anyone has a suggestion for a night out, please let me know. I am always open for ideas.

The next few months are going to be very busy. During our first business meeting in March, the 7th, Brother Gary Arseneau, RW Past Grand Master, will be hosting Masonic Jeopardy. The last time this game was played at our lodge all the brothers had a great time. Every time I have played it I always learned something new. I would recommend to any and all brothers to join us if you're able. It's always a fun night.

Also in March, we have our Annual Irish Night event on the 14th with the Golden Harp dancers. This event is being run by our Junior Deacon, Brother Rick Balboni. On Palm Sunday (April 14th), the Annual Pancake Festival will be run by our Senior Deacon, Brother Brad Young. Look for the flyers for these events in the mail.

Each of these Brothers will be looking for volunteers to help with them as well. I hope to see you there.

This year, another goal of mine is to continue with Masonic education. I hope to bring to light different aspects of masonry that some brothers might not be familiar with. Our first meeting in January, Right Worshipful Bro. Brian Beals and Dominic Rowland, current State Junior Councilor, gave the lodge a presentation on DeMolay. It was very insightful and wonderful to see a part of one their rituals.

Our second meeting in January we had another presentation by Bro. Justin Duffy explaining the significance of the Chamber of Reflection. This was also very informative and great to learn about yet another aspect of masonry that many might not know about. I would like to thank all of these gentlemen for taking the time to talk to our lodge. I know all the brothers enjoyed it as much as I did and we greatly appreciate it. Continuing on this theme, I hope to include other presentations throughout the year at our meetings with the idea of educating and introducing different elements under the Masonic spectrum that some brothers might like to learn about or perhaps be involved in.

The Annual Lodge Trip date is currently set for September 13th thru the 15th. We will be traveling to Salem, Massachusetts. More info on the trip will be provided as soon as last-minute details are ironed out and a total cost for the trip per person is established.

From the Secretary's Desk

By Anderson H. Zeidler Jr.



A few nights ago, I had the honor and privilege of sharing an evening meal with three highly respected and honored Masons. As you would expect, the nature of the conversation quickly turned to the state of Masonry in our state and the future of our fraternity. As you would expect, we all recognized our problems pretty easily but left the discussions with no solid answers but a lot of hopes.

I started remembering back to when I was first finding out about Masonry. Of course, times were much different, then, and the world seemed a much safer place even though we were still worrying about someone, somewhere, hitting the wrong switch and blowing up the world. Still, it was

a time when you left your car unlocked, kids walked safely to school and churches were open twenty-four hours a day. It was in that atmosphere that I started on my Masonic journey.

At the time, I only knew one person who was a Mason and, fortunately for me, he signed my petition when I finally got around to asking about Masonry. It wasn't until after I took my three degrees that I found out that my Grandfather was a Knights Templar and that I also had uncles who were active Masons.

The reason that I asked for a petition was because I was looking for a group of men who I could identify with and with whom I had something to share. In those days, there was a certain mystery about the organization and what it stood for that excited my interest. I was searching for something called Brotherhood, even though I wouldn't have given it that name, and found that and a whole lot more. Even though I have almost always been involved with my church and my religion, Masonry added something to that which I had not found elsewhere.

Over the years, Masonry has done a good job of removing the "secret" which was associated with our Fraternity. Anyone who cares to can find out about our organization. Most of our ritual is well published and most Lodges are not afraid to let people know who belongs to their Lodge. We now have open houses where the uninitiated are welcome to inspect our buildings and talk to our members. We now have public relations budgets. Every Lodge looks for ways to involve the wives and families of their members. All of this has made our Fraternity a more transparent organization and that is good.

But maybe we've done too good a job. In listening to some of our younger members, it seems that they are looking for something that makes our fraternity a little different from any other organization that they could join. And what is that difference? I'm not sure that I can put a name to it, but it is definitely there. There has been a relatively recent interest in the esoteric side of Masonry which indicates that Brothers are searching for the deeper meaning of our ritual and organization. Learning what is in our ritual book is no longer enough.

In our society, it is no longer easy to find a meaning for life, at least in our part of the world. We have enough food, we have enough clothes, we have unbelievable vehicles for getting us from one place to another and our medical care is allowing us to live longer and longer lives. So, what is missing? There must be a deeper meaning to life than just what I can see in my driveway or on my dinner table. Where can I find that? Perhaps I can find it in the "hidden mysteries of Masonry". Maybe what we're looking at is putting some of the "mystery" back into our fraternity. Or maybe it is just bringing out something that we have always had but have just forgotten to acknowledge.

Are we a secret society? No. Is there some mystery among us? I say yes and that's what makes us different.

Lodge Calendar

Date	Event
March 7	Business Meeting (C) <i>Masonic Jeopardy</i>
March 14	Irish Night
March 21	Business Meeting (C)
March 27	Blue Lodge Council <i>Hosted by Hartford Evergreen #88</i>
March 28	Esoteric Discussion
March 31	Lodge of Fun <i>10:30 am, The Adams Mill, Manchester, CT</i>
April 4	EA Degree (F)
April 8	Grand Lodge Annual Session <i>Red Lion Hotel - Cromwell</i>
April 14	Pancake Festival
April 18	Business Meeting (C)
April 25	Esoteric Discussion

Full Calendar: <https://lodge145.ctfreemasons.net/calendar/>

All Stated & Special Meetings - Dinner 6:30 pm

F = TUX, SF = Suit & Tie, C = Jacket /Tie

2019 Lodge Officers



Worshipful Master
Gabriel A. Garmendia



Sr. Warden
Marcos G. Garcia



Jr. Warden
Jordan B. Porcher



Treasurer
Russell L. Scull, II



Secretary
Anderson H. Zeidler, Jr.



Sr. Deacon
James B. Young (Brad)



Jr. Deacon
Richard M. Balboni, Jr.



Sr. Steward
Jeffrey S. Mayer



Jr. Steward
Charles J. Jenkins, Jr.



Marshal
Peter V. Letteri



Chaplain
Dwight C. Mertens



Tiler
Richard M. Clark



Historian
Donald A. Janelle

Active Past Masters

Richmond G. Shuttleworth	1975
Stephen T. Penny	1979
John DiCioccio, Jr., PAGM	1980, 2007
James H. Wilson, Jr.	1982, 2009
Russell F. Haugh, Jr., 33°	1983
Richard G. Claing, PAGM 6-A	1985
Donald W. Dean, PDD	1987
Dustin C. Wood, Jr.	1989
Carl E. Benson, II, PDD	1990, 1992
Anderson H. Zeidler, Jr., PDD 6-A	1991
Wilbert E. Nead	1992, 1999
Dwight C. Mertens, PDD	1993
Albert J. Reid	1993, 1996, 2000
Michael T. Agnew	1994
Scott T. Reid	1995, 1998, 1999, 2010
Stanley H. Ostrinsky	1997
Stephen K. Kraft	1997
Paul A. Edberg, PDD	2000
Eugene A. Bacon	2001, 2002
John A. Pierce, Jr.	2004
Christopher D. Ramsey	2005
Stephen K. Spencer, PAGM	2006
Jose C. Dias	2008
Andrew S. Warren	2011
Eric H. Hoy, PDD	2012
Russell L. Scull, II	2013
Madhu Renduchintala	2014
Scott D. Pierce	2015
Dennis W. Bellamy, Jr.	2016, 2017
David S. LaFargue	2018



Friendship Tuscan

Lodge No. 145, A.F. & A.M.



Invites you to attend our

Annual Irish Night

With the

Golden Harp Irish Dancers



Thursday, March 14, 2019

6:30—9:30 PM

Masonic Temple

24 Golway Street, Manchester CT

A Traditional Irish Dinner will be served

Corned Beef and Cabbage



Call Rick Balboni at (860) 558-0900 for Reservations or Info.

Email rmbjr1970@gmail.com

RSVP By March 7, 2019— Please return the following with payment.

Name (please print): _____ Title: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Of People Attending (\$20 per person): _____

Make checks payable to: Rick Balboni
23 Debbie Drive
South Windsor, CT 06074