

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,

We're at that wonderful part of the year when the snow melts, trees are a bit greener, flowers are beginning to bloom, and the winter cold gives way to the warmer and more welcoming winds of springtime. As life begins to re-blossom in our part of the world, it reminds me of what we have accomplished as a lodge so far this year and all we hope to accomplish in the near future.

As in the past, our annual Irish Night was started by the wonderful display of talent by students of the Golden Harp Irish Dance Company. This was followed by a delicious homemade, corned beef, cabbage, and potato dinner. The night also included door prizes that a few attendees were lucky enough to take home that night. I would like to say thank you to our Junior Deacon, Brother Rick Balboni, and his family for all their hard work and help in creating another great event for our lodge. Everyone had a wonderful time!

This year was our 54th Annual Pancake Festival. Thank you to all that came and those that helped. I would also like to give a big thank you to our Senior Deacon, Brother Brad Young. He and his team were tireless in their efforts to ensure that everything went off without a hitch. It was another successful event for our lodge this year.

Once a month, a group of brothers has been meeting at the lodge to have Masonic Esoteric Discussions. These meetings are very interesting and delve into the deeper meanings of masonry, symbols, and other themes that correlate. I would recommend any and all brothers to attend. These discussions are enlightening and perhaps give the brothers a chance to discuss subjects of masonry not typically discussed in our regular meetings. I will keep everyone posted as to when these meetings happen throughout the year.

Looking at the calendar for the upcoming months, you will see that there are many more opportunities to spend time with your Brothers at a variety of functions.

Our next Lodge of Fun will be on Friday, May 10th, 6pm at Plaza Azteca in Manchester. As always, it should be a nice night of food, drinks, and fellowship.

For our first meeting in June (the 6th) we will perform a Fellowcraft Degree for which our Senior Warden, Brother Marcos Garcia, will be sitting in the East.

Our annual lodge trip is scheduled for September 13–15 in Salem, MA. The cost is \$500 per person. Please RSVP with your first deposit for the trip (\$100) with our Treasurer, Russell L. Scull II.

Additionally, for later in the year, I would like everyone to save a date. On November 16th at the Manchester Country Club, the lodge will be throwing a Roaring 20s Party. Get your wing tips, bow ties, and flapper apparel out for a fun night of eating, drinking, music and dancing. Family and friends are invited! An official flyer will go out the closer we get to the date.

Don't forget to forward your updated contact information to the secretary of the lodge and we are looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

From the Secretary's Desk

By Anderson H. Zeidler Jr.



For many years, this has been my favorite time of the year. All things are endowed with new life and the worn out and expired trappings of the old year are swept away. Or they will be when I finally get outside to remove them. We have a place, next to our house, where leaves collect over the winter. No matter how often we try to clean up in the fall, by spring time there are three or four bags of leaves in this one spot that are always there. No matter how often I work at it, that project is always there. But for now, when I look out my new kitchen window, I can't see that project; all I see are the new buds on the trees that are just starting to come out and which will eventually form the basis for my ongoing yearly project.

Speaking of my new kitchen window, we had all new windows installed in our house last year. As it happens, my youngest daughter is approaching the half century mark in age and she has never known us in any other home. That just gives you an idea of how old our house is. Anyway, we had thought about getting new windows quite often but had decided that we would never get our money back on that investment, so we never had them installed. Last year we realized that we were not going to do this for an investment but for our own pleasure and so we had it done. I just can't begin to tell you what a difference it has made to us. We never thought our old windows were drafty, but they were. We never thought much about the difficulty we had in opening them or cleaning them, but they were difficult on both counts. But most of all, it dramatically changed our kitchen. It's like we put a picture window in the kitchen instead of having just a little peep hole to look out of. Now there are times when we will just go and sit in the kitchen to enjoy the view. A good Brother and his crew did all of this work for us and I've wondered since why I hadn't listened to his good council before.

I can look out of this window and see all of the projects that I need to get done. Or I can look out of this window and see all of the new growth that is just starting to happen. One can cause me a lot of pain and heartache as I just don't have the mobility and stamina that I once had to accomplish those projects. I remember times when I would have welcomed all of these projects with open arms and waded into vigorously. Now, not so much. Or, I can look at those buds and see the possibility of the beauty that will be right outside my window in just a few weeks. Sure, it is going to cost me some work and effort to enjoy this beauty but isn't anything worth having worth working and waiting for?

In last month's issue of the Connecticut Freemason, Bro. Francis G. Way wrote about "Losing in Masonry by Playing the Numbers Game", an article that I found very interesting. I agree with him that there is nothing to be gained for our fraternity by making great and sweeping changes. Yes, our membership has declined, but, as he points out, that seems to be a natural reaction to all of the unexpected influx of members after the World War.

The unfortunate part of large membership was that we built large buildings. The fraternity had the money and the membership to support these wonderful edifices. Now, our memberships have declined, and in many cases, we are saddled with these oversized buildings and can no longer support them. We seem to be headed back to smaller and more intimate Lodges, a place that I expect that we came from. If you belong to a lodge with a membership of fifty, are you any less of a Mason than if you belonged to a Lodge of a thousand? I guess it is all a matter of perspective. When I look out my kitchen window, do I see the possibility of new growth or do I see just another project that needs to be done?

Lodge Calendar

Date	Event
May 2	Business Meeting (C)
May 3	District Deputy Presentation <i>6:30 pm, Washington Lodge #70</i>
May 10	Lodge of Fun <i>Check website for details</i>
May 16	Business Meeting (C)
May 19	Rentschler Field Concession <i>10:00 am arrival</i>
May 29	Blue Lodge Council
May 30	Esoteric Discussion <i>7:00 pm, 24 Golway St.</i>
Jun 6	FC Degree (F)
Jun 8	Grand Masters' Day <i>Masonicare - Wallingford</i>
Jun 15	Lodge of Fun <i>Check website for details</i>
Jun 20	Annual Awards Night and Dinner
Jun 27	Esoteric Discussion <i>7:00 pm, 24 Golway St.</i>

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