



PTF United Lodge

Trestle Board News

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PTF United Lodge Trestle Board



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Front Cover: Douglas Fairbanks

Douglas Fairbanks was born Douglas Elton Thomas Ullman in Denver, Colorado, to Ella Adelaide (nee Marsh) and Hezekiah Charles Ullman, an attorney and native of Pennsylvania, who was a captain for the Union forces during the Civil War. Fairbanks' paternal grandparents were German Jewish immigrants, while his mother, a Southerner with roots in Louisiana and Georgia, was of British Isles descent. From the age of five he was raised by his mother due to her husband's abandonment. She changed her sons' surnames to Fairbanks (her former husband's surname) and covered up their paternal Jewish ancestry.

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Master's Information



Brethren,



I hope this reaches everyone in good times. I'd like to start by expressing our sorrow for the unexpected passing of our MW Donald Cowart. Keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

We have a few new prospective members attending dinners at the Lodge so we are knocking the dust off of our E.A. Degree. We are traveling to other Lodges a lot this year and when we aren't we usually have something going on at our Lodge every Tuesday evening so come and participate if you're cable- tow permits. Every 3rd Saturday of the month is our free pancake breakfast. Come out and enjoy some pancakes, bacon, coffee and juice. A huge thanks to the Brothers that help out every time. We would love the neighbors of the community to join us so get the word out.

The heat is vicious this year my Brothers so stay cool and hydrated. I wish every one of you, your family and friends a safe and enjoyable summer.

Y.I.T.F.

W.:M.: **Jamie Vaccaro**



See if you can find
"Super Welder"
in the Trestle Board



Officer's Remarks

Words from the West



Brethren,



The 2025 Grand Communication is now behind us, and with it, a new Masonic year begins. We are proud to share that our own R.:.W.:. Jeremy Tabak has been installed as the District Deputy Grand Master for the 19th Masonic District. Please join me in congratulating him on this well-deserved honor!

It is with heavy hearts that we also acknowledge the passing of M.:.W.:. Don Cowart, shortly after Grand Communication. Alas, my Brother.

Our monthly Pancake Breakfasts continue to be a bright spot, drawing Brothers and guests from various lodges for a warm meal and even warmer fellowship. These moments remind us of the strength found in breaking bread together.

Recently, the Worshipful Master and I attended the Education Summit hosted by Hillsborough Lodge No. 25. That event inspired us to secure W.:. Hunter Adak as our guest speaker for our 3rd Quarter Education series—something we're all looking forward to.

We've also stepped up our lodge visitations, including a strong turnout from our own members at Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 for their DDGM visit. A special moment was witnessing R.:.W.:. Steve Jacobson in the East, celebrating the 50th anniversary of his first EA Degree—an inspiring milestone.

As we enter the third quarter of 2025, it's hard to believe how swiftly time has passed. I hope each of you is finding time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the company of family and loved ones. Let's all take a moment to reflect on the many blessings we share.

**Fraternally,
Bro. Rich Corson, SW**



Words from the South



Greetings from the South Brothers,



We have had a great 2nd Qtr., and we continue to grow and attract more current and future Brothers to our meetings! Brothers, through our continued hard work and dedication to our Lodge, we can continue to experience these great turnouts for our Stated Meetings and dinners, which enables us to realize great fellowship and Brotherhood, strengthening our fraternity and Lodge. Additionally, during the third quarter and the summer slowdown, we can visit and fellowship in force, meaning all members and not just elected and appointed officers, with our Fellow Lodges both within and external to the District. We should continue to increase the numbers on our visiting teams to show our dedication to the fraternity.

The Membership committee continues to work hard to attract the right and qualified young men to continue to build our membership base. Please reach out to the committee and offer any assistance you can provide for our membership efforts. Remember that you Brothers are the best-selling point of membership in our Lodge and fraternity, so continue to spread the word and identify qualified men to visit, enjoy a meal, and hear why and how we exist! Please continue to talk about freemasonry with those you meet on your daily journeys!

**Fraternally,
Bro. Rob W. Nelson, JW**





Words from the Secretary

Brothers,



As we enter into the dog days of summer, I wish to extend greetings from the Secretary's desk. As I transitioned from Treasurer to Secretary this year, I realized that we are moving along at a fast pace and I now have the task of contacting Brothers that might be a little late in paying their 2025 dues to the lodge. Per the digest, June is the month when Notice of Delinquent Dues should be sent out, and if not paid by September then a Final Notice and Summons must be issued. This is never a fun task, but one that is necessary nonetheless. One of the problems that arise is that contact information may not be updated when one moves, gets a new phone or has an email address that is no longer in service. It would be greatly appreciated if everyone receiving this Trestle Board would give an update if one is warranted. Please and Thank You.

Our Masonic Year is nearly half over and great things are on the horizon. Your elected and appointed officers are doing outstanding work and will endeavor to continue to do so. New Grand Lodge Officers have been elected, new DDGM's and DI's have been appointed for the Districts and the Official Visits for the 19th Masonic District have begun. PTF United's Past Master Jeremy Tabak has the honor of being appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the 19th Masonic District and has hit the ground running. He made his Official Visit to PTF United as his first visit and the Craft showed up to honor the auspicious occasion. He is now in the process of preparing for the Grand Masters Official Visit to the 19th Masonic District on July 19th. Although the dinner at 6:00 pm is

sold out, Brothers are welcome to join the Tyled meeting at 7:30 pm.

I urge all the Brothers of PTF United No. 153 to maintain their passion for this lodge. If you haven't been to lodge in a while, know this... Great things are happening and will continue to happen through the dedication and fortitude of your fine Brothers. On a personal note, I am appreciative of all that have guided me through my journey, especially my Mentor RH Mark Hoke and look forward to the rest of this year with WM Jamie Vaccaro at the helm. Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

Fraternally,

R:.W:. Steven Fortier—Secretary 





Pancake Breakfast

Help spread the word for folks to come out and join us at our **FREE Monthly Pancake Breakfast.**

These FREE Pancake Breakfasts are held each month on the 3rd SAT of the month.



Free Pancake Breakfast
3rd Saturday of
Every Month!
8am – 10am



Where; PTF United Lodge No.153,
4712 W. Commerce St. Tampa, FL.

Open to the public. Please come out and join us.

Follow @ptfunitd    



Famous Masons

Douglas Fairbanks

The First King of Hollywood.

Douglas Fairbanks, born Douglas Elton Thomas Ullman in 1883 in Denver, Colorado, rose from a turbulent childhood to become one of the most iconic figures of early American cinema. His father, Charles Ullman, a Jewish lawyer from Pennsylvania, left the family when Douglas was five, after discovering his wife's infidelities. Douglas and his brother Robert were raised by their mother, who restored the family name "Fairbanks" from her first marriage.

Fairbanks began acting in Denver's amateur theater scene and joined Frederick Warde's touring troupe at age 15. He eventually made his way to Broadway, gaining success with roles like A Gentleman from Mississippi. In 1907, he married Anna Beth Sully, with whom he had a son, Douglas Fairbanks Jr., also a future film star. The family moved to Los Angeles in 1915, where Fairbanks entered silent films with Triangle Pictures and quickly captivated audiences with his charm and athleticism.



D. W. Griffith, Mary Pickford, Charlie Chaplin (seated) and Fairbanks at the signing of the contract establishing

His career skyrocketed with a string of romantic comedies and later, swashbuckling costume adventures. He co-founded United Artists in 1919 alongside Mary Pickford, Charlie Chaplin, and D.W. Griffith, seeking creative control and independence from major studios. Fairbanks and Pickford became Hollywood royalty, known for their estate "Pickfair" and global fame.

Fairbanks redefined the adventure film genre with classics like The Mark of Zorro (1920), The Three



Musketeers (1921), Robin Hood (1922), and The Thief of Bagdad (1924), setting a standard for action films. He also co-founded the Motion Picture Academy and served as its first president, presenting the inaugural Academy Awards in 1929.



Despite his enormous silent film success, Fairbanks struggled with the transition to sound films and retired after The Private Life of Don Juan (1934). He and Pickford divorced in 1936. Fairbanks died of a heart attack in 1939 at age 56. His legacy lives on through his pioneering contributions to cinema, his role in founding major film institutions, and his enduring influence on film and performance.

Fairbanks was a Freemason, having been initiated at Beverly Hills Lodge No. 528.



Fairbanks as Zorro in The Mark of Zorro (1920)



Masonic Tidbits



The first permanent Masonic Lodges as we know them today (before the United Grand Lodge of England in 1717) started appearing in the 1600s. These were operative masonic lodges that eventually became solely speculative.

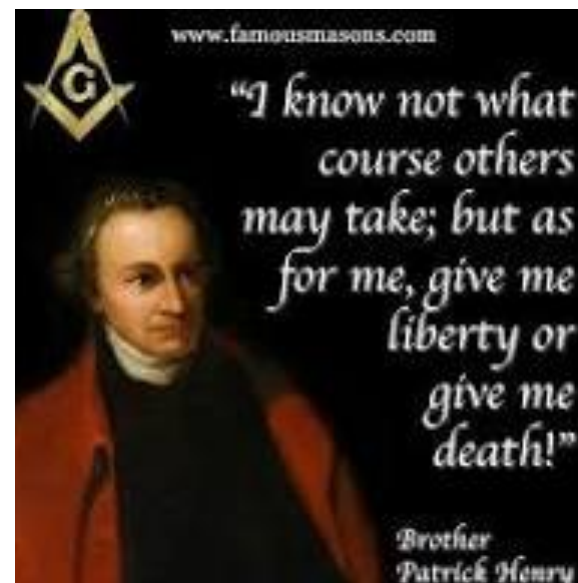
100MasonicFacts.com



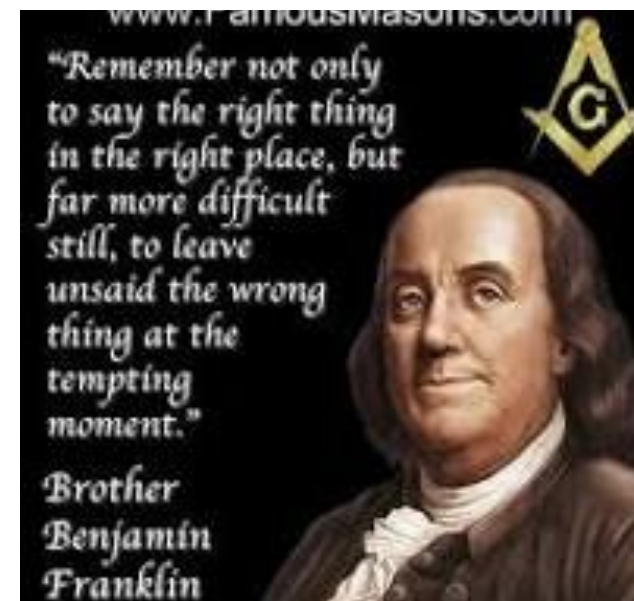
The now infamous term "A Beautiful System of Morality, Veiled in Allegory and Illustrated by Symbols" was coined by Samuel Hemming, the first Senior Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of England.

100MasonicFacts.com

Masonic Quotes of Famous Freemasons



Brother
Patrick Henry



Brother
Benjamin
Franklin



"Without Form, and Void"



"Without Form, and Void" is taken from verse 2 of the Book of Genesis.

It should come as no surprise to any Freemason, whether you have had your first degree or your third degree, that there are many biblical references throughout our ritual. Although the references may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction many use a portion of the first few verses from the Book of Genesis. Recently, I and some fellow Freemasons found ourselves sitting around a table discussing the meaning of some of those words and specifically, how they translate to Freemasonry.

Specifically, we were discussing the first few words of verse 2 of the Book of Genesis which says, "And the Earth was without Form, and Void." We began with a breakdown of the words "without form, and void."

"Without Form" in a literal translation means something in a moment before it coalesced into something with structure. Looking into the more spiritual sense, it may be someone who is looking for a moral structure, something that they can

begin to apply a greater purpose to, something that they can build upon.

"And Void," as our discussion went on, seemed to contradict the "Without Form." "Without Form" seems to imply there is something there, a void is something that contains nothing, an empty space. In the biblical verse, this more than likely refers to the state of the newly formed Earth, that Earth is void, unoccupied by anything living. On the surface this doesn't seem to fit the concepts of Freemasonry.

One of our newer brothers came up with an interesting view of this verse as it pertains to Freemasonry. His idea was that we, as men seeking to better ourselves are perhaps the formless, void that is referred to in the verse. Then we recognize that the Form we seek is to be better men and masons it becomes our job to fill the Void with good works. It is not until later in verse when "God, said Let there be light" that we understand the good in the world and the universe is ours to pursue.

Now this is an interpretation that a group of masons, sitting around a table in a corner of the world came up with to explain a deeper meaning. Overall, it brings up a good point. Much of our Masonic ritual is not meant to be taken literally. As Freemasons we deal in symbols, which are opened to interpretation which can easily mean 10 different things to 5 different people. It brings to mind what some use as a definition of Freemasonry which is "a peculiar system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols."



Did You Know?



Charles Lindbergh, an American aviator, military officer, author, and inventor always wore a Square & Compasses on his jacket "for good luck"

100MasonicFacts.com



Contrary to popular belief, the Great Seal of The United States has no Masonic significance.

100MasonicFacts.com



The name of the stonemasons who worked on King Solomon's Temple were called "Sons of Light".

100MasonicFacts.com



Most of the participants of the Boston Tea Party were actually Freemasons. It is believed they had been secretly planning the raid for many months inside Masonic Lodges.

100MasonicFacts.com



From the Peanut Gallery



"Can you believe that that Brother was on his phone all during the DDGM visit?"

"No!

"...and he was even on it while waiting in line to ballot!!!"

A Masonic End - Gallows Humor

As a man was standing on the gallows, his executioner asked if he had any last words.

"Yes," the man replied "I hate Masons."

The executioner was surprised by this and asked **"Why do you hate Masons? They do much good in our world."**

The condemned man said, not hiding his anger, **"They are killing me. The man who turned me in is a Mason; the cop that arrested me is a Mason; the prosecuting attorney that tried me is a Mason' the jury that convicted me were all Masons; and the judge that sentenced me to hang is a Mason."**

"That is why I hate Masons!"

"I see." said the executioner. **"Are you ready to proceed?"**

"Yes." said the man with sadness in his voice.

"O.K. Then you will advance one regular step with the left foot...."

Birthdays *Happy Birthday to all of our Brothers this Quarter!*

JULY

Buchman	Jacob
Buckalew	Charles
Cooper	David
Courter III	Albert
Courtney	Paul
Curry Jr	Clifton
Decelle	William
Donalson	Ronald
Elston	Scott
Glass	Marshall
Guyton	Joseph
Hall Jr	Spain
Kennedy	James
Lucas	Gilbert
McClelland	Albert
Noland Jr	Edward
Osborne	Charles
Pearce Jr	John
Ray	John
Tucker II	James
Welch	James

AUGUST

Bounds	Sidney
Brett	Michael
Brigham	David
Clarke	Christopher
Coyle	Daniel
Fernandez	Henry
Gleckler	Kenrick
Golden	James
Grace	James
Harder	George
Lynn Jr	John
McCaffrey	Lewis
McCormack	Robert
Parker	Charles
Tabak	Jeremy
Thorp	Matthew
Vazquez Jr	Arturo
Vega	Edward
Wolfberg	William

SEPTEMBER

Agster	Richard
Balsley	Kenneth
Benitez	Richard
Conner	James
Coyle	Joseph
Cubero	Christopher
Everett	Johnny
Forbes	Roger
Fowler	Jimmy
Hoedebeck	Ronald
Hoffman	Louis
Hosmanek	Robin
Howell	John
Johnson	Tommy
Kela	Adren
Kurtzeborn	Edwin
Lauten	Rodney

Louden	Charles
Nenos	Vasilios
Redkey II	Chester
Revels Sr	Jerry
Roberts	Eric
Sabo	William
Williams	Tracy



Body of Work

PTF United Lodge No. 153 Jamie Vaccaro Worshipful Master



**December 28, 2024
January 14, 2025**



**2025 Officers
Jeffery Michael**



**Installation
MM Degree**



We were honored to host the Deputy District Grand Master, R:.W:. Jeremy Tabak to PTF United Lodge No.153 for his first DDGM visit for District 19.



Calendar of Events

JUL	AUG	SEP
1st — Stated Communication 2nd— MLT 6pm District School 7pm 19th — Pancake Breakfast 26th — Zone School 9am 28th — Master Mason Assn. 6:30pm	5th — Stated Communication 6th—MLT and District School 16th — Pancake Breakfast 23rd—Zone School 9am 25th—MMA 6:30pm	2nd — Stated Communication 3rd — MLT & District School 20th — Pancake Breakfast 27th—Zone School 9am 29th — Master Mason Assn. 6:30pm



2025 Lodge Officers

PTF United Lodge No. 153

<p><u>Worshipful Master</u> W.: Jamie M. Vaccaro 813-758-9055</p> <p>His Jewel is the Square, which is a stonemason's tool to ascertain true and correct angles of the cut and smoothed stone thus his Jewel symbolizes virtue.</p> <p>The Worshipful Master of a Masonic Lodge is the highest ranking of all Lodge Officers which a Lodge may elect.</p>	<p><u>Senior Warden</u> Br. Richard Corson 813-841-6309</p> <p>His Jewel is the Level, symbolizing that all Masons meet on the level, without regard to social, political or religious beliefs or status.</p> <p>The Senior Warden is the second in command within the Lodge Officers.</p>	<p><u>Junior Warden</u> Br. Robert W. Nelson 813-786-8605</p> <p>His Jewel of Office is the Plumb,... which is a stonemason's instrument used for ascertaining the alignment of a vertical surface. It symbolizes upright behavior among Masons. The Junior Warden of a Masonic Lodge is the third in command of the Lodge.</p>
<p><u>Treasurer</u> W.: Jim Fagan 813-393-9833</p> <p>His Jewel is a Pair of Crossed Keys, signifying he is the Collector and Distributor of all Lodge Monies as he holds the keys to the cashbox.</p> <p>The Treasurer of a Masonic Lodge is the Chief Financial Officer of the Lodge.</p>	<p><u>Secretary</u> R.:W.: Steve Fortier 813-839-4492</p> <p>His Jewel is the Crossed Quill Pens. The Secretary is the Lodge's Recorder.</p> <p>The Lodge Secretary is the backbone of any Masonic Lodge and he holds a position of great responsibility.</p>	<p><u>Senior Deacon</u> Br. Seth Wolfberg 727-825-3131</p> <p>His Jewel is the Square and Compass with the Sun in the middle. The sun signifies that his position is on the lower level, to the right of the Worshipful Master in the east.</p> <p>His duty is as messenger of the Worshipful Master.</p>
<p><u>Junior Deacon</u> Br. Stephan Tabak 813-679-9799</p> <p>Like his senior counterpart, the Senior Deacon, the Jewel of his office is the Square and Compass, however the Junior Deacon's Square and Compass has a moon in the center (rather than a sun), which signifies that he is in the West.</p>	<p><u>Senior Steward</u> Br. Ray Crews 28-200-9578</p> <p>His Jewel is the Cornucopia, which is an exact duplicate of the Junior Stewards Cornucopia. The Cornucopia signifies the "Horn of Plenty". It is a goat horn filled with the fresh fruits and vegetables to denote the "fruits of your labors" and represents a job well done.</p>	<p><u>Junior Steward</u> Br. Jeffery Michael 256-612-4093</p> <p>His Jewel is the Cornucopia, which is an exact duplicate to the Senior Steward's Cornucopia. The Cornucopia signifies the "Horn of Plenty".</p> <p>It is a goat horn filled with the "fruits of your labors" and represents a job well done.</p>
<p><u>Marshall</u> Vacant ###-###-####</p> <p>His Jewel is the Crossed Batons.</p> <p>The Marshal is the Lodge's Conductor or Master of Ceremonies.</p>	<p><u>Tyler</u> Br. David Lemmert 813-263-5171</p> <p>His Jewel is the Sword, by which he symbolically refuses entrance to anyone who is uninitiated in the Craft.</p> <p>The sword has no scabbard, as it is his symbolic duty to always have his sword drawn, ready for the defense of his</p>	<p><u>Chaplain</u> Br. Phil W. Wray 813-493-5862</p> <p>His Jewel of office is an opened book, symbolizing the Volume of Sacred Law (the Christian Bible, Hebrew Torah or Tanach, the Muslim Qur'an, the Hindu Vedas or other Holy Books). The Chaplain is the spiritual leader of the Lodge.</p>