

March 2020

**438 Skyline Vista Drive
Front Royal, VA 22630**

www.Unity146.org

Unity Lodge No. 146

Chartered March 1870

Trestleboard



*Behold how good and pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in Unity!
- Psalms 133.1 -*

UPCOMING DATES

03/04 – Unity Stated Communication, Dinner @ 630p followed by Meeting @ 730p.

03/11, 3/18 & 03/24 – Blue Lodge Ritual Practice @ 630p

03/28 – Unity Lodge Breakfast @ 8a

03/03 – Luray Commandry No. 19 @ 730p

03/06 – Order of the Eastern Star #6 @ 7p

03/10 & 03/24 – Shenandoah Valley DeMolay @ 630p

03/20 – RAC Hiram #45 @ 730p

03/28 – Sojourners Meeting @ 8a

03/20 – DLC in Warrenton @ 630p

03/21 – DLC in Alexandria @ 9a

03/31 – Masters & Wardens in Winchester @ 730p

04/25 – SLOT @ Unity—830a

05/09 – Mother's Day BBQ Event

05/15 – GM OV for Districts 2/3

TRAVELING MAN

03/02 – Spurmont No. 98

03/05 – Hunter No. 135

03/16 – Lafayette No. 137

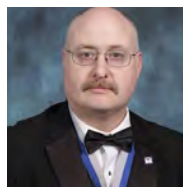
**Join me in Traveling
this month**

Message from the Master

Brethren,

I have conversed with many of you over the years and several of you have spoken of that special “moment” that you had in Masonry. Some when you raised a son, a close friend and once I spoke to a Brother that raised his father. I had always been envious of these Brothers and looked forward to having my “moment.” I have two sons, one of which is a DeMolay, so I thought that I may eventually have that “moment” if I was patient. Well Brethren, it has happened sooner than I thought, but to my surprise, the “moment” wasn’t mine alone.

My father is a Mason out of the State of Iowa; however, he now presides in Gainesville. The Grand Lodge of Iowa recently contacted our Grand Lodge with a request to present my father with his 50-year pin and certificate. Our Grand Lodge reached out to Hay Market Lodge No. 313 to present the award since they were the closest Lodge to his home. My father informed Hay Market Lodge that I was the Worshipful Master here at



Unity and asked to have the presentation made by me. The Brothers at Hay Market were happy to facilitate his request and even traveled to Unity to be in attendance.

I was informed that I would be presenting this award to my father five days prior to our February stated communication so I hit the Presentation Manual hard in an effort to learn the Presentation of Fifty-Year Masonic Veterans' Emblem. Of course, I became ill and was in no condition to retain anything let alone wanting to get out of bed. But I made my notes

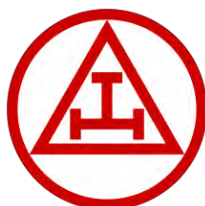
and arrived at Lodge with a hoarse voice and nagging cough determined to provide my father with the best that I was capable.

The Lodge room was packed with more Brothers than I have ever seen at one of our meetings. We had Fraternal visits from five different Lodges and had over 40+ in attendance. That night was to be the official visit of our District Deputy Grand Master, so no pressure being in the East, or as we like to refer to it as the “hot seat,” under those circumstances.

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Hiram Royal Arch Chapter
No. 45



Order of the Eastern Star
No. 6



Unity Lodge No. 146
AF & AM

Shenandoah Valley Chapter
of the DeMolay



Luray Commandry
No. 19



March 2020

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Royal Arch Chapter Hiram No. 45

Ho Companions,

It is hard to believe we are entering the Month of March. I trust this message finds you and your family well. With the Coronavirus Disease spreading in the United States, 15 confirmed cases as of this message, I want to encourage you to take care of and educate yourself and family. Coughing, shortness of breath, and fever, please seek medical attention as this is not the time to play Doctor for yourself. Here is a link to the Center for Disease Control for the Coronavirus Disease Symptoms; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/about/symptoms.htm>

So far this year your Chapter has raised over \$400 towards our local Project Life-saver. All proceeds collected this year for our meals will go to this worthwhile charity. All meals are either prepared or furnished by my wife, Laura. We will be attending an Alzheimer's fundraiser on Saturday, February 29th from 3 - 7 PM at the Long Ridge Cigars located at 141 Featherbed Lane in Winchester. For a \$50 donation you will have a 5 shot flight of bourbon and a Nat Sherman cigar. Come out for the fun and fellowship. Long Ridge Cigars will donate all proceeds to the Alzheimer Association.

The **Mark Master degree emphasizes the lessons of regularity, discipline, and integrity.** It is a most impressive Degree centered on the story of the Fellowcraft of the quarry and their role in the building of the Temple. The Mark Master Mason degree teaches a Mason how to earn those wages, how to prove his work is his own, and what the penalty for fraud was during the building of the Temple. The Keystone is a symbol of the Mark Mason. It is the final piece placed during construction and locks all the stones into position, allowing the arch or vault to bear weight. As I do in many of my mes-

sages, I ask that you examine yourself, thoroughly, examine the several apartments of the Temple, what do you see and can you find? What can you do better, or more of? Is your cable tow slack or taught? Always remember what induced you to become a Mason.....then, a Royal Arch Mason. Have you learned the lessons taught in the degrees and do you put them to practice? We are a fraternity of friends and brothers, where no contention should ever exist. Who of you can best work and best agree? Everyday our Lord and Savior gives to us is a day we should make better than the previous.

Our March 20th stated convocation (3rd Friday of the month) is quickly approaching. Please make every effort to come out and attend your chapter meeting. We have a prepared meal at 6:30 PM and we open at 7:30 PM, we have an educational program at each meeting and honestly we need your support. As a reminder, and in compliance with our Chapter by-laws, in order to open a Chapter, we need 9 Companions present. We have fallen short many times by only having 8. Your attendance is critical in keeping our chapter active and growing. We will have at least 1 petition to ballot on, maybe more.

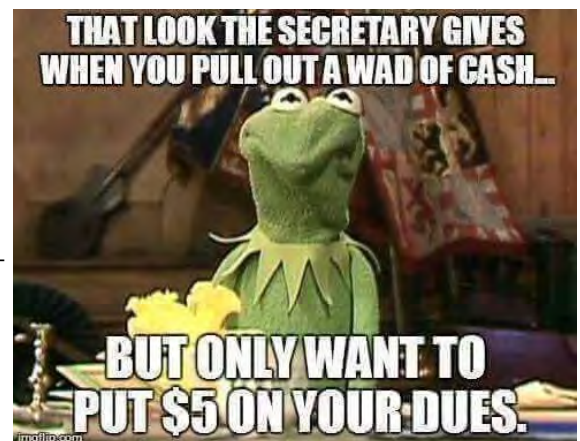
In His Name, I am

RE Dennis M. Haas
High Priest, Hiram RAC No. 45
Front Royal, VA
540-539-8917

Shenandoah Valley Chapter of DeMolay

The young men of the Shenandoah Valley of the DeMolay continue to meet in our Lodge twice a month to continue their journey. I implore you if you have any available time for these young men please consider becoming an Advisor. What this growing chapter needs is young men to join in their ranks, but also good men to guide them.

POC - Brother Bob Nickols
(443) 926-1773 or Rnickols@yahoo.com



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Luray Commandery No. 19

Sir Knights,

I hope this month's message finds you and your family well. Luray Commandery No. 19 is now opening our stated conclaves at the Front Royal Masonic Temple located at 438 Skyline Vista Drive in Front Royal on the first Tuesday of the month. Since relocating to Front Royal, we have lost our support from SK Glenn Mayes and Lady Brenda to prepare and furnish our meals. We will need to discuss how we want to recover from this. One of the most favorite times we have for fellowship is during the meal. More to follow on that topic. For now, we will meet at the 7:30 PM time to open.

Our weekly rehearsals have greatly improved and are well attended. I encourage each of you to come out to the Temple on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 - 4:00 PM to join us. All instruction is provided by our District Instructor, SK J. D. Davis. We will continue to meet weekly until March 22nd. Don't worry about equipment or ritual, we provide it all. This training is strictly volunteer, as obtaining a Certificate is not a requirement to be elected and installed as a dais officer, it is however the first requirement to qualify for the Pat Myers Award. Anyway, would you want a dais officer that didn't know the ritual or how to conduct such business of the Commandery? I thought not.

We have our Annual Easter Sunrise Service at the Bell Tower in Luray on Sunday, April 12th at 7:00 AM. All Sir Knights including all Masons are invited to attend along with the Luray community residents. Please wear warm clothing as it can be chilly watching the sun rise over the Blue Ridge Mountains. As Christian Sir Knights, we have certain activities that are required and encouraged to attend, Easter Sunday is one of them. Why do Christians celebrate Easter Sunday? Easter, also called Resurrection Sunday, is a festival and holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the new testament as having occurred on the third day after his burial following his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary c. 30 AD. It is the culmination of the Passion of Jesus, preceded by Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance.

As this Easter approaches, I ask that you contemplate the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Christian religion is coming under attack by the unbelievers. We are mocked, ridiculed, made fun of and bullied. Since its origins, Easter has been a time of celebration and feasting and many traditional Easter games and customs developed, such as egg rolling, egg tapping, pace egg, cascarones or confetti eggs, and egg decorating. Today Easter is commercially important,

seeing wide sales of greeting cards and confectionery such as chocolate Easter eggs as well as other Easter foods. Even many non-Christians celebrate these features of the holiday while ignoring the religious aspects.

What does the resurrection of Jesus mean to you? Jesus suffered an excruciating death. Christ Jesus died on the Cross to redeem mankind, to save us from our sins because of his love for us. As recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in the Holy Bible, Jesus Christ was mocked, scorned, and tortured in the praetorium. He carried his cross up the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem to Calvary, was nailed to the Cross, and hung between two common criminals. He suffered an indescribable end, recalled by the Church on Good Friday of Holy Week. One may meditate on the Passion of Christ by reflecting on his Seven Words on the Cross or by a devotion known as The Way of the Cross. When religious pilgrimages to the Holy Land ended with military occupation of Jerusalem in the Middle Ages, a popular devotion known as The Way of the Cross arose during Lent retracing the Passion, Crucifixion, and Death of Jesus. The fourteen Stations of the Cross are (1) Pilate condemns Jesus to death; (2) Jesus takes up his Cross; (3) He falls the first time; (4) Jesus meets his sorrowful mother Mary; (5) Simon helps carry the cross; (6) Veronica cleans his face; (7) He falls the second time; (8) Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem; (9) He falls the third time; (10) Jesus is stripped of his garments; (11) Jesus is nailed to the cross; (12) Jesus Christ dies on the cross; (13) Our Lord is taken down from the cross; (14) Christ is laid in the tomb.

Here are his **Seven Words**, the last seven expressions of Jesus Christ on the Cross recorded in Scripture:

1st: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." Luke 23:34

2nd: "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Luke 23:43

3rd: "Jesus said to his mother: "Woman, this is your son." Then he said to the disciple: "This is your mother." John 19:26-27

4th: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34

5th: "I thirst." John 19:28

6th: When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished;" and he bowed his head and handed over the spirit. John 19:30

7th: Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

Luke 23:46

Sir Knights, this is why we celebrate Easter. This is what we defend as Christian Soldiers. This is what the world needs to know.

In His Name, I am
SK Dennis M. Haas, KCT
Commander, Luray Commandery No. 19

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2020 Unity Lodge Officers

Message from the Master — Continued from Page 1

However, I can tell you that when Right Worshipful Dennis Haas and Right Worshipful Mike Bible escorted my father to the foot of the East to receive his honor, it was as if it was only the two of us were in attendance. I looked at my father and spoke the words of the presentation through my horse voice and no doubt reeking of honey lemon cough drops and once I was completed with the written words and really spoke of my father, I became quite emotional.

I am told that I spoke quite well as I introduced my father to the Brothers in the Lodge and spoke of what a good man that he was, but I don't quite remember what I said or did.

My father standing beside me. A single tear that ran down his face. His embrace. Him telling me that he loved me. It was the "moment", but it wasn't mine. It was ours. If God permits me to live long enough to receive a Fifty-Year Emblem as my father did, I do not think that I will experience a more memorable night in Masonry, and I hardly remember the night at all. But I can still feel it.

Brethren, it is not about having that one moment that stands out in your memory. It is about sharing your life with the ones that you love. And I am happy that we could share our "moment" with all of you.

With this in mind I say, what a fantastic month February has been for Unity Lodge and for me in particular. Not only has the month seen the official visit of the District Deputy Grand Master and the raising of Brother Eric Broome to the sublime Degree of Master Mason, but it has now also seen the return of the Traveling Gavel to Unity after so many years. It will soon be taken away, but I am confident that we can get it returned this year, but only if you travel with me.

Please join us next month for our Past Master's program. I am excited to see Worshipful Bill Wood, after an absence of 57 years, preside in the East as part of the program. We will be having Past Masters sitting at the various stations performing ritual to open and close our Lodge as well as give us their insight on lessons learned for their time in the East. We will also be voting for the 2022 DDGM for District 3.

God Bless,

Charles

Worshipful Master -	Charles William Taggart
Senior Warden -	William Allen Bryan
Junior Warden -	Robert Fred Nickols, Jr.
Treasurer -	Harry Wesley Hammack, Jr.
Secretary -	Kevin Paul Walek
Senior Deacon -	Raymond Christof Nuhra
Junior Deacon -	George Elbie Money
Chaplain -	Luther William Wheat
Marshal -	Junior Franklin Griffith
Tiler -	Edward Neal Powell, Jr.



Units Collected	% of Membership Strength
100	80%