

**November 2021**

**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

**11/03** – Unity 146 Stated Communication @ 730p.

**11/10 & 11/17** – Blue Lodge Ritual Practice @ 630p

**11/27** – Unity Lodge Breakfast @ 8a

**11/02** – RAC Hiram #45 @ 7p

**11/02** – Luray Commandery #19 – @ 8p

**11/05** – Order of the Eastern Star #6 @ 7p

**11/09& 11/23** – Shenandoah Valley DeMolay @ 630p – TBD

**11/27** – Sojourners Meeting @ 8a – TBD

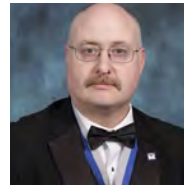
### TRAVELING MAN

**TBD**

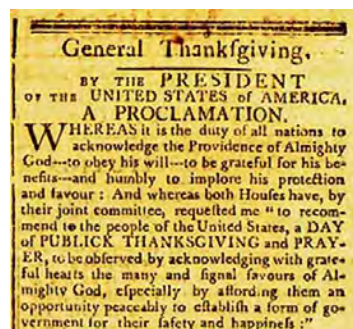
Please join us at our December stated communication for our election of Officers for 2023.

### George Washington's 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation

By: W.B. Gregory Knott



Written by George Washington in 1789, this was the first official Presidential Proclamation made in the United States. Shortly after the Thanksgiving Proclamation was written, it was lost for 130 years. It was probably misplaced when the US Capitol moved from New York to Washington, D.C. It now resides in the Library of Congress. And it reads:



Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me to "recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:"

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday,

the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been able to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted for the civil and religious liberty ———>

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 Commandery

No. 19



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*Trestleboard*



with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the 3d day of October, A.D. 1789.



*G. W. H. P. T. O.*

**THANKSGIVING**



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### Missing Commas

By: Bro. Randy Sanders

As Masons, we may know a phrase much like this one: To learn to subdue my passions and to improve myself in Freemasonry. Some lodges use very similar words in various parts of the ritual, and it is a beautiful phrase. I heard a very similar phrase myself, and it left an impression on me even to this day. I might have said these words, or again, very similar, myself.

Why so vague? The exact phrase and words are meaningless without context, denotation, and connotation combined. In fact, they take on different meanings with the placement of commas. George Steinmetz rightfully points out in his book "The Lost Word: Its Hidden Meaning" that commas weren't used as much in older writing styles, and this tells me we should study the rituals and older poems with a bit of openness. Let's separate out some of the phrases by deconstructing sentences or chopping up long, wordy passages such as written by Albert Pike or other authors of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Steinmetz goes on to examine this particular phrase of interest, and he applies an interesting logic. Freemasonry is a trinary system, so this phrase in context doesn't make sense. The question being essentially: "Why are you here?" The logical response would be either one single answer, or three. If we look at the phrase as written, we see two: Learn to subdue passions, and, improve myself. Here we see Steinmetz at his best, taking a look at what we've seen or experienced for years and giving a different perspective in that we don't know how they phrased this mouth-to-ear a couple of hundred years ago.

With the addition of two commas, this phrase now makes more sense: To learn, to subdue my passions, and to improve myself in Freemasonry. There it is. There is the trinary system in action, and looking a bit more deeply, we see the first phrase might apply to the EA, the second to the FC, and the third section to MM. That is, to learn is the summation of the intent of the Entered Apprentice, to subdue passions is necessary for climbing the winding stairs, and improving your SELF in Freemasonry is synonymous with the lessons of the Third. The phrase also applies to each degree as a complete answer. The lessons of the EA also are to learn, subdue passions, and improve, while the FC

lessons are to expand upon the lessons of the EA. Becoming a MM doesn't mean you are no longer EA or FC, and another excellent lesson is the realization that as a MM, the lessons of the EA and FC continue to be an integral part of your being an MM.

We often hear the same ritual spoken the same way, the same inflections, the same phrasing. Let us challenge that approach. Why not start and stop in different places? Turn words into phrases? Change the inflection on words and syllables to test for different meanings?

This isn't a cited paper so much as an opinion piece, but I pulled the original concept from pp 28-29 "The Lost Word: Its Hidden Meaning" by George Steinmetz. Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Co., Richmond, VA., 1953.

### SO MOTE IT BEEF BBQ AND 5<sup>TH</sup> MASONIC DISTRICT'S HAM AND TURKEY COOK NOVEMBER 13&20, 2021

PRICE: \$40.00 PER HAM WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO ALZHEIMERS ASSOCIATION.

ORDERS: ORDERS SHOULD BE PRE-PAID AND RECEIVED BY YOUR LOCAL MASON OR AT  
[SOMOTEITBEEFBQQ@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SOMOTEITBEEFBQQ@GMAIL.COM) BY NOVEMBER 12&19<sup>th</sup> 2021.

OUR MISSION: To build community and fellowship through faith, hope and charity.



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### 2021 Unity Lodge Officers

#### Teddy Bear Fund

This year we will attempt to implement a Teddy Bear fund for the First Responders in Warren County. This charitable campaign uses our donations to purchase teddy bears which will be given to children in crisis by our Sheriff Deputies, Police and Fire Fighters within our community. This project has been very successful for Winchester-Hiram Lodge as well as other Lodges in the area, and I know that it will do well here with your generosity. We will have a jar dedicated to the fund in Lodge, or you can send a check to our PO Box made out to Unity Lodge No. 146 with "TEDDYBEAR" written in the memo line.

Unity Lodge No. 146 AF&AM  
P.O. Box 1855  
Front Royal, VA 22630



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 -	Alan Scott Truax
Chaplain -	Richard Allen Baker
Marshal -	Junior Franklin Griffith
Tiler -	Edward Neal Powell, Jr.
Senior Steward -	Mark Butler
Junior Steward -	Cole Hasse



Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Virginia  
Masonic Community Blood Program

Units Collected for 2022

**80**

% of Membership Strength

**72.08%**



## Happy Thanksgiving!

A time honored tradition of the modern Thanksgiving holiday is the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The founder of Macy Department Store was Rowland Macy Sr. (pictured). Brother Macy joined Merrimack Lodge in Massachusetts on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1852.