

The Florida

Vol. 2 Issue 4

York Rite Mason

Official Quarterly E-Publication of the Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida

Mt. Rainier
75 miles SE from Tacoma, Washington

Let York Rite Shine in '09

Let York Rite Shine in '09



The New Year is in. Joy and good tidings to all. Our best wishes and may God give each one blessings for a year of health, happiness and abundance. As York Rite Masons, lets put all our efforts to make 2009 the best year for our bodies, families, friends and community.

In 2009, each one of us can make a difference in promoting York Rite. But in order to do so, we first need to educate ourselves on York Rite in every aspect. Second, we need to make our presence felt in our Lodges by helping and assisting them. Aren't we all Master Masons? Third, membership not only depends on petitions but also on our actions as York Rite Masons. Our actions reflect who and what we are. Our actions can speak louder, before our Blue Lodge brethren, than words. Let us reflect light not darkness. Fourth, our North should be quality not quantity. Quality will attract quantity. Fifth, show pride to be a York Rite Mason from the E. A. degree through the Order of the Temple. What ever we do as York Rite Masons, in our Blue Lodge and York Rite Bodies, do it with pride. We attract more members by what we do positively as a group.

We are all in the crossroad of major decisions and projects. The road of success will take us to our destination if we are still motivated and focused in getting there. May our decisions enhance and better Freemasonry, in general, and York Rite, in particular. That's why we said:

Let us all make York Rite Shine in 2009.

The **deadline for our next issue is March 15th.** Please submit your articles, pictures, and events timely.

Fraternally

S. K. David A. Aponte, Chairman

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Article(s), Event(s), News, Announcements , etc, to be published in our next issue, need to be forwarded to the following Companions, on or before the next deadline: David A. Aponte - daponte1@tampabay.rr.com ; Charles "Chic" Cicero - Ciceros@tampabay.rr.com or Ron Blaisdell - ron@Blaisdell.com

Words from the Grand Asylum



Right Eminent Grand Commander
Sir Knight Charles Perez



Capitular Masonic Education

Use your Chapter ritual to answer the following questions:

In the Mark Master degree, to what book is the Bible open to?

In the Mark Master degree, what is the importance of the penny?

In the Mark Master degree, what is the title of the Brother that presides in the East?

In the Mark Master degree, what two working tools are emphasized?

In the Mark Master degree, what completed the Temple?

(Answers in our next issue)

Promote York Rite

I wish each and every Sir Knight and his family a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I sincerely hope that all your plans and dreams come to fruition this coming year. More especially I pray that you and your families enjoy good health in 2009. I also pray that you make a new years resolution to attend Commandery meetings regularly and make every effort to fulfill your resolution.

I urge all the Sir Knights to attend Lodge and promote York Rite. Ask the Worshipful Master for permission to speak about the York Right and explain how the Royal Arch is a continuation of the Blue Lodge and the completion of the Third Degree. Your Recorder should have literature to help you prepare your talk.

S.K. Henry Adams, our Membership Committee Chairman can also help. He can be contacted 321 795 8316 or by E-mail hadams1@aol.com

Before a man can receive the Knights Templar Orders, he must first be Master Mason, a member of the Chapter and of the Council. Therefore, when we recruit we must recruit for the York Rite as a whole. Always have a petition with you and also make sure the Lodge Secretary has a supply of current petitions in his office. Our Goal this year is to increase our membership by 10%. We can do it if we all pull together.

EVERY CHRISTIAN KNIGHT SHOULD BE A KNIGHT TEMPLAR.

Cordially and fraternally

Charles Perez

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Let York Rite Shine in '09



Words from the Grand Ninth Arch

M. III. Grand Master
M. III. Dencel Smith

Grand Master's Ramblings

Didn't I just write the Grand Master's ramblings a short while ago? I can't believe it is time for another episode. I trust everyone had a safe holiday period. I have not had any reports to the contrary. Lady Ann and I chose to stay at home and continue our resting period. We enjoyed a tremendous get together with our local family on Christmas Eve and then enjoyed a day of quiet solitude on Christmas Day. I truly hope you enjoyed your holidays as much as we did ours. But now the holidays are past and it is time to get back to work. I was installed as the Worshipful Master of Havana Lodge No. 167 on January 3, 2009, so I started 2009 with another job. Actually it is not a job but an opportunity to further serve the craft. When you accept for yourself the motto, "Masonry, a way of Life" and try to live up to your motto, then whatever you do to serve the craft cannot be a job, but merely another way to serve.

As I wrote in the last episode, the District Meetings are over and now it is time for visitations and a bit more travel. We have traveled from Pensacola to Naples to Mi-

ami to St. Augustine and all points in between and wherever we traveled in this great state, we found the Companions and their wives very friendly, helpful and willing to do whatever was asked of them. This is such a great fraternity, especially the York Rite, and again it cannot be a job but just another opportunity to serve.

Wherever I have visited, one of the things that I talked the most about is our Charity, the Cryptic Mason Medical Research Foundation and the great work they are doing. I know some of you have gotten tired of hearing me talk about it, but my companions and friends this is something I truly believe in and I find it hard not to be verbal about it. I think you will be pleased to know that the amount of money we have raised in Florida this year will be close to the most we have ever raised. I would like to believe that this is because of my talking about it and the untiring work of MIPGM Paul Friend. I will not disclose the amount right now, I feel reasonably sure that you will be

pleasantly surprised. But we cannot stop here for we are already in a new year and it is time to start all over again. I know that Deputy Grand Master Carl will be expecting the same great participation for his year.

Companions, it is time to get you reservations in for the Grand Assembly which will be at Lake Mary, the same place as last year and the dates will be April 5-8, 2009. The Grand Assembly will convene on Tuesday the 7th. It will take everyone doing their part to make this another successful Grand Assembly, the Grand Officers, the District Deputies, the District Instructors, our wonderful Ladies and most of all of you who come to see and hear what is going on and help to make the correct decisions on matters of interest. So check out the website and get the forms for registration, get them filled out and mailed in so you won't be left out.

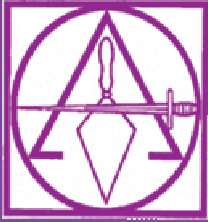
Our Grand Sentinel, Ill. Companion Rich Filippi, had to resign and I have appointed an old friend of the Council as the Grand Sentinel, none other than H. Warren Almand from the Marianna York Rite Bodies. So when you see him congratulate him and thank him for taking this appointment.

Please keep Lady Ann and I in your thoughts and prayers as we will be traveling to Alabama in February for their Grand Assembly and to North and South Carolina in March for their Grand Sessions. Companions, thank you for putting up with my ramblings and I look forward to seeing all of you in Lake Mary in April. Thank you and may God Bless each one of you.

Denny Smith

M. III. Grand Master

Remember, You are the Image of York Rite, in particular, and Freemasonry, in general.



SEMINOLE COUNCIL No. 30
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU AND YOUR LADY TO ATTEND
THE HOMECOMING HONORING THE



**MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER
OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASONS
OF FLORIDA**

DENCEL R. SMITH

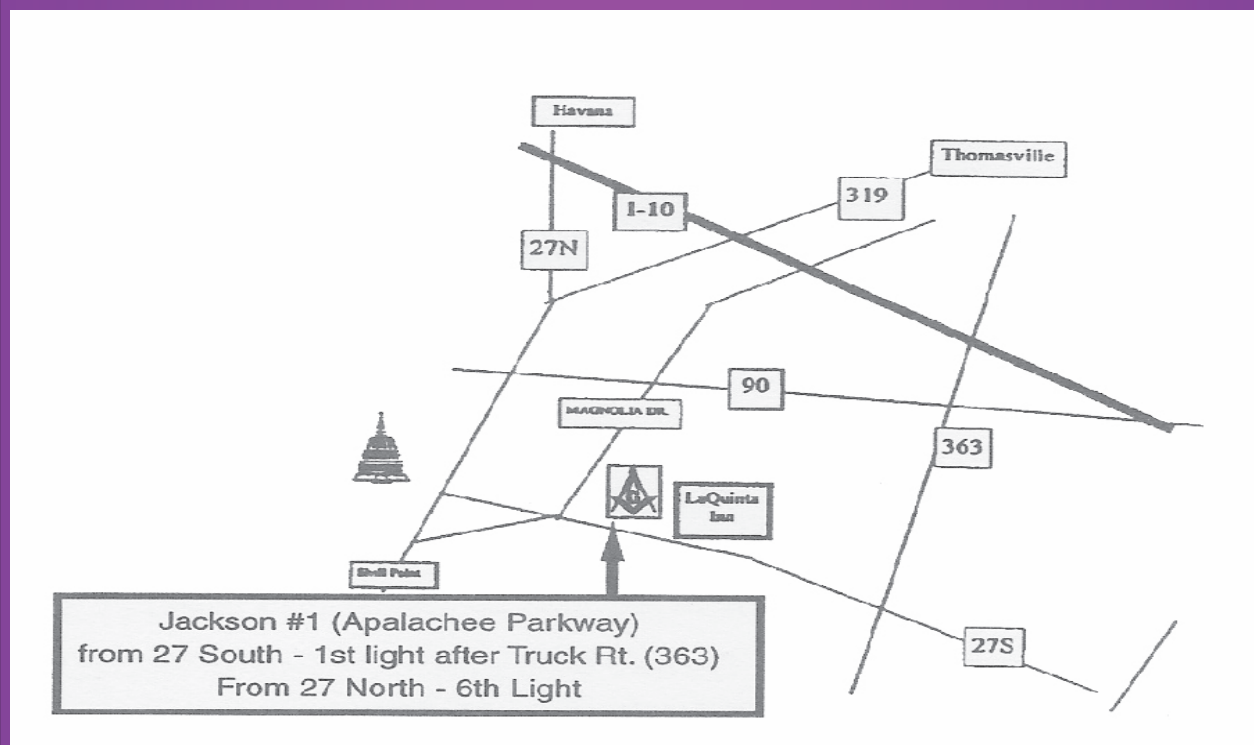
SATURDAY, FEBURARY 7TH, 2009
JACKSON LODGE # 1, F. & A. M.
2818 Apalachee Parkway - Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Registration: 4:00 P.M./ Dinner: 5:00P.M./ Meeting: 6:00P.M.
\$15.00 per person / \$25.00 per couple

Please RSVP by January 30th, 2009
Denny R. Smith

2913 Joyce Drive, Tallahassee, FL. 32303-2247

Phone: (850) 562-2678 Email: dr.smith2@comcast.net



Words from the Grand Royal Arch



Most Excellent Grand High Priest
M. Ex. James P. Rudman



Capitular Masonic Education

Use the Grand Chapter's General By-laws and your Chapter's By-laws to answer the following questions:

The Grand Chapter Essential is to be in the possession of only three people. Who are they?

How much does a District Deputy Grand High Priest receive for his services?

What do the By-Laws of your Chapter say concerning conflicts arising from your Stated Convocations falling on certain special days.

What officers are appointed by the High Priest of your Chapter?

What is the penalty for conferring our degrees in any manner or form other than that prescribed in the Ritual and Regulations of this Grand Chapter?

What are the duties of the Grand Historian?

If a Charter is refused to a Chapter Under Dispensation, what happens to its members in relation to their former Chapter?

Who has exclusive jurisdiction of Capitular Masonry in Florida?

Answers in our next issue

STAYING ON THE LINE IN 08 AND 09

Wow!!! 09 is here already. As the old saying goes, time sure passes fast when you are having fun and I certainly am.

All the District Meetings have been completed and a tip of the hat to the District Deputy Grand High Priests and those who assisted them to ensure that our District Meetings were such a success. The District Deputy Grand High Priests has already started to make their second round of official visits and the District Instructors are planning their schools of instruction.

My homecoming has come and gone and I was so pleased with the great turnout we had. I was thankful that the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida along with several of his Grand Officers were in attendance and I certainly appreciate the beautiful silver belt buckle that was presented to me and thank all of those that were responsible for it.

The Grand High Priest Cruise in October was a huge success and everyone had a great time and I understand through the grapevine that a cruise for next year may already be in the works. Your Grand High Priest had the opportunity to fish on the reefs in Belize and was fortunate enough to catch the biggest fish on the boat (not

that I am bragging).

Most of the installation of officers should have been accomplished. The next big date is Saturday, February 7, 2009, the Grand Master of the Council's homecoming at Jackson Lodge No. 1 in Tallahassee. Please try to make this event to show support for MIGM Denny Smith.

I have my hotel and flight reservations for Masonic Week from 12 to 15 February and am looking forward to the Grand Chapter Convention in Alabama, South Carolina and North Carolina where I will represent the Grand Chapter of Florida.

In the meantime I am preparing for our own convention in April. I hope as many of you as possible may attend.

Please do not forget Executive Order No. 1 which grants immunity for those dropped for NPD in the last 5 years. They may be reinstated in your chapter by just paying the current years dues and Executive Order No. 2 concerning religious affirmation which requires each chapter to complete this program by February 15, 2009 after which to submit a report to the Grand Scribe

Grand High Priest's Charity Cruise

By Rt. Ex. C. Alan Walls, Grand Chaplain



The Grand High Priest M. Ex. James P. Rudman, M. III. Dencel R. Smith, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Florida, Right Ex. Grand Commander, Charles Perez, Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Florida along with many Companions and their Ladies spent eight nights sailing the Southern Caribbean, October 2008.

The Grand High Priest's charity this Masonic Year is to support the Medical Research Laboratory, Utica, N.Y. and a donation on behalf of all guests who attended and supported the cruise will be made at our Grand Convention in 2009.

Some hi-lights of the cruise, a degree team conferred, "The Royal Arch Widow" degree upon our Ladies in attendance. Certificates and membership cards were presented. However, one item drew the most interest. The presentation of nose rings. (You had to be there.) I will not tell you about the nose rings, your lady must experience for herself. At the completion of the degree all were invited to a "THANK YOU" cocktail party hosted by the Grand High Priest.

Some of the days activities included, a great train trip across Panama, with a stop at the Miraflores Locks. In Belize several Companions took a day fishing trip, with our Grand High Priest catching the largest fish. And - they didn't even have a pot going for the biggest fish.



Pictures:

Picture above the article shows the attendees of the Grand High Priest's Charity Cruise. Front row: M.I. Denny Smith and Lady Ann, S.K. Charles Perez and Lady Ida, M. Ex. James P. Rudman and Lady Maryann, and Exc. Fred Piasecki and Lady Sonja. Pictures below: The two pictures show our Grand High Priest on his fishing trip.

Let York Rite Shine in '09

MY TRIP TO THE NORTHWEST

By S.K. David A. Aponte, Grand Captain General

Washington state was my 2008 Christmas vacation spot. I can imagine many asking what made me go up to the northwest during winter. Just one reason: my daughter, Sharlyn. I haven't seen her for almost two years. She living in Tacoma working and studying. I also wanted to see snow again. Prior to reaching the boundaries of Washington State, I prayed for snow. My prayers were answered as we were landing. You could see a white blanket below and snow falling while we were still in flight. Friday morning I found out a snow storm was in the area. All I wanted was snow not a snow storm, who said prayers are never answered?



Some facts about the State of Washington. It occupies the far northwest corner of the contiguous 48 United States. 66,582 square miles between the Pacific Ocean on the west, Idaho on the east, Canada (British Columbia) on the north and Oregon on the south along the Columbia River. It became the 42nd state of the Union on November 11, 1889. Its capital is Olympia which is a half-hour drive south from Tacoma.



On Tuesday morning, we visited Seattle. Its diversity is truly marvelous. From the Space Needle to Pike's Public Market. From the diverse cuisine to musicians playing in the streets. Seattle is full of color, vitality, and energy. No trip to Seattle is complete if you don't see the fish flying in the Pike's Market or have an espresso at the first Starbuck's store. The next day, we visited Tacoma (in particular Point Defiance Park) and Gig Harbor. On Thursday, we visited the Puyallup and Nisqually tribes. Even though we saw progress everywhere, there is still the quality of life that invites you to enjoy it with your family.



Which brings me back to the purpose of my trip: to spend time with my daughter and family.

FAMILY is the bottom-line of our personal existence. Who can argue against Christmas not being one of the best time to spend with Family. Being with your family is a constant message throughout the Holy Bible. Passover, Israel's



Pictures:

Top left, Seattle's Space Needle; Top right, S.K. David Aponte & Lady Lucy close to the top of the Space Needle; 2nd on the right: Pike's Market Sign; 2nd on the left: Fish Market & their flying fish act; 3rd on the right: First Starbuck's store; 3rd on the left: Musician at Pike's Market; 4th on the right: Cheese Factory near Pike's Market; 4th on the left: Colorful display of vegetables; 4th on the right: display of Italian cuisine; Bottom Center: my daughter Sharlyn with one of our nephew's newborn.



foundational ritual, was essentially a family celebration. Besides our immediate family, we also have our “extended family”. This is truly a blessing to have the time to spend with all your family, immediate and extended. How fortunate and blessed we were to enjoy Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year’s Eve and New Years with family. It’s an emotional memory and tie, as spoken in our Most Excellent Master, that can’t be broken. The photo you see in the background of this story and on the magazine cover is Mount Rainier. It’s a volcano situated 75 miles southeast of Tacoma. I took several photos of this mountain/volcano due to its beauty and majesty. This mountain reminds of how strong a family can be as long as its foundation is on solid rock. That foundation can continue to grow and solidify if the family principles, values and traditions are handed to the newborns. This volcano also reminds me of my other family, Freemasonry.

Freemasonry, in general, and York Rite Freemasonry, in particular, has a solid foundation through its ritual, principles, and philosophy. It complements our family values, our religious faith and our belief in our nation and community. It has a rich history. But sometimes I wonder, if we are truly handing down our Masonic principles, values and traditions to our newest members. Have we change any of these principles, values and traditions just to accommodate our Masonic Bodies to increase membership? Have we been laxed in the west gate and allow non-quality individuals to become Masons? Much have been discussed about the decline of Masonic membership. Perhaps, we have changed accommodating to the times. And what attracted many individuals to our Masonic institutions no longer exist. Like Mount Rainier, we truly have a solid foundation to rebuild our family.

We need to reclaim our values and traditions, and emphasize quality over quantity. We need to fortify our ties as fraters, to strengthen our fellowship and relationship as brethren. In essence, we need to return to our roots. God has given us the privilege to belong to one of the oldest and greatest fraternal families on Earth: Freemasonry. Let become vigilant of the West Gate and teachers of its principles, values and traditions.



Pictures:

Top left: Statue honoring Fishermen in Gig Harbor; Top right: Lumber Camp Museum in Point Defiance Park; Bottom Left: Statue of King Solomon at the Tacoma Scottish Center; Bottom Right: Seattle’s Baseball and Football fields with Mr. Rainier in the background.



2009 Grand York Rite Convention

Make your reservations early to have a room

The 2009 Grand York Rite Convention will be from Sunday, April 5th through Wednesday, April 8th at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary Hotel.

The Grand Banquet will be held on Sunday evening, April 5th. The Annual Grand Conclave will be on April 6th, the Annual Grand Assembly on April 7th, and the Annual Grand Convocation on April 8th.

Please make your hotel reservations directly with The Orlando Marriott Lake Mary. Deadline for Reservations is March 4, 2009. Room Rate is \$ 84.00 plus taxes. No guarantee of availability after this date. 1-800-380-7724. Inform them that you are with the Grand York Rite.

The Grand Convention's Schedule is below. Also on the



next two pages you have the Registration Form which you can make a copy, print, fill out and return to the Grand Secretary with the appropriate fees.

Grand York Rite Convention Schedule—Saturday, 4/04/09— Wednesday, 4/08/09

Saturday, April 4, 2009		
Start Time	End Time	Function
1:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	Miami RCC Meeting
2:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	Miami Priory KYCH Annual Meeting
7:00 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	Miami KYCH Banquet and Installation
Sunday, April 5, 2009		
9:00 a.m.	9:30	Commandery By-Laws Committee
9:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	Commandery Jurisprudence Committee
11:00 a.m.	Noon	Chapter Jurisprudence Committee
Noon	4:00 p.m.	Office Open
Noon	5:00 p.m.	Registration
12:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	Council Jurisprudence Committee
2:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	Meeting MSRICF
4:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.	Commandery Devine Services
6:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	Social Hour
7:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	Banquet
Monday, April 6, 2009		
7:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	Purple Cross Breakfast
7:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	Breakfast (<i>Open to all</i>)
7:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open
7:30 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	Registration
7:45 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	Local Commandery Opens
8:00 a.m.	Noon	Grand Commandery
9:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	Office Open
Noon	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Noon	1:00 p.m.	Ladies' Lunch
1:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	Grand Commandery & Installation
4:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	Knight Crusader of the Cross
7:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	Silver Trowel Dressing Room
7:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	Order of the Silver Trowel

Tuesday, April 7, 2009		
Start Time	End Time	Function
7:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast (<i>Open to all</i>)
7:00 a.m.	3:00 p.m.	Registration
7:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open
7:45 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	Local Council Opens
8:00 a.m.	Noon	Grand Council
9:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	Office Open
9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	Ladies' Breakfast
11:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	Ladies' SOOB Degree
10:30 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	SOOB Dressing Room
Noon.	1:00 p.m.	Lunch (<i>Open to all</i>)
1:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	Grand Council & Installation
5:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	Order of the High Priesthood
Wednesday, April 8, 2009		
7:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	Breakfast on your own
7:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	Registration
7:45 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	Local Chapter Opens
8:00 a.m.	Noon	Grand Chapter
9:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	Office Open
Noon	1:00 p.m..	Lunch on your own
1:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	Grand Chapter & Installation

All times are subject to change. Please check the day of the event.

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

2009 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

The Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, 1501 International Parkway, Lake Mary, FL 32746 1-800-350-7724 April 5-8, 2009

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name		Lady's Name	
Address			
City/State/Zip			
Telephone:	()	e-mail address	
I am a member of:			
Chapter	No.	Located in	
High Priest	Past High Priest	DDGHP	Past DDGHP
Other:			
Council	No.	Located in	
III Master	Past III Master	DDGIM	Past DDGIM
Other:			
Commandery	No.	Located in:	
Commander	Past Commander	DDGC	Past DDGC
Other:			
Grand Line Office			Grand Body

MEN'S REGISTRATION FEE	\$30.00			\$	30.00
				\$	
Grand Banquet (Sunday)	\$40.00	Number of tickets	X \$40.00 =	\$	
Breakfast – Open to all (Monday)	\$15.00	Number of tickets	X \$15.00 =	\$	
Lunch – Men's (Monday)	\$18.00	Number of tickets	X \$18.00 =	\$	
Lunch – Ladies (Monday)	\$18.00	Number of tickets	X \$18.00 =	\$	
Breakfast – Open to all (Tuesday)	\$17.00	Number of tickets	X \$17.00 =	\$	
Ladies' Breakfast (Tuesday)	\$15.00	Number of tickets	X \$15.00 =	\$	
Lunch (Open to all) (Tuesday)	\$18.00	Number of tickets	X \$18.00 =	\$	
TOTAL				\$	

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: GRAND YORK RITE CONVENTION FUND

Mail to: *Grand York Rite of Florida, P. O. Box 2740, Lake Placid, FL 33862-2740*

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder	(Date)		
Amount Enclosed: \$		Check No	

HOUSING

☆ CONVENTION HOTEL

Please make your hotel reservations directly with The Orlando Marriott Lake Mary. **Deadline for Reservations is March 4, 2009.** Room Rate is \$ 84.00 plus taxes. No guarantee of availability after this date. 1-800-380-7724. Inform them that you are with the Grand York Rite.

NOTE: The Orlando Marriott Hotel is a Non-smoking hotel – only non-smoking rooms are available. A \$275.00 charge will be added to the hotel room charge if this rule is abused. There are designated smoking areas on the hotel grounds.

GENERAL INFORMATION

There will be separate tables each of the following:

☆ HONORARY DEGREES

- Order of High Priesthood (*Current or Past Excellent High Priest*) – Tuesday, April 7
- Order of the Silver Trowel (*Current or Past Illustrious Master*) – Monday, April 6
- Knight Crusader of the Cross (*Current or Past Eminent Commander*) – Monday, April 6

There is a fee involved for each of these degrees.

☆ PRE-REGISTRATION

- For those “pre-registered” for the convention.

☆ RETURNS AND CREDENTIALS

- For voting delegates to the convention.

☆ NEW REGISTRATIONS

- Registration is available at the Convention; however, meal tickets may not be available due to seating limitations. Pre-registration is encouraged. **\$30 registration fee required.**

LADIES ACTIVITIES

- ☆ Ladies’ Lunch – Monday, April 6
- ☆ Social Order of the Beauceant – Tuesday, April 7
- ☆ Ladies’ Breakfast – Tuesday April 7
- ☆ ** Other activities TBA as confirmed

MEALS:

BREAKFAST:	Buffet style - Standard breakfast items
LUNCHEON:	Chicken and Tuna Salad
BANQUET:	Sliced Roast Beef with Gravy

The Number 3

3

In Masonry the number three has a special significance. The Lodge has three principal officers: the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden. Three are the jewels these three officers have upon their person: the Worshipful Master has the Square, the Senior Warden the Level, and the Junior Warden the Plumb. There are Columns before the Senior and Junior Warden which indicates their responsibility for the lodge. The Senior Warden is responsible when the lodge is at labor. When the lodge is at labor, his column is erect and the Junior Warden's column is down. During the hour of refreshment the Junior Warden is in charge of the craft. His column is erect and the Senior Warden's column is down. It should be noted that each of these officers are acting under the direction of the Worshipful Master.

The station of each officer forms a three sided object (triangle) within the lodge. In similar thought as the trinity concept, it reminds us that there are three principal officers within a lodge but only one that has the legal authority over the Lodge, the Worshipful Master.

The raps of the gavel eludes to the number three. The Worshipful Master uses his gavel to control his lodge. One rap of the gavel calls the craft to order, two raps calls up the officers, and three raps calls up the entire craft. One rap of the gavel also seats the lodge when the brethren are standing.

Our Masonic altar also alludes to the number three. Upon the altar we have the three Great Lights in Masonry; the Holy Bible, Square and Compasses, and around the altar, the three Lesser Lights; the sun, the moon and the Master of the Lodge, of which the three burning tapers are their representative.

3 The number three also alludes to the three jewels of a Fellowcraft; the attentive ear, the instructive tongue, and the faithful breast. **3**

FLORIDA YORK RITE MAGAZINE

MASON OF THE YEAR

Our next issue will present those selected by their local York Rite Bodies as their York Rite Mason of the Year. We have received many selections, For those local York Rite Bodies that are a bit behind in sending their selection, the Florida Grand York Rite Magazine has extended the deadline to March 1, 2009. Please submit your selection on or before March 1st.

Jacksonville York Rite Bodies Install 2009 Officers



JACKSONVILLE NO. 12

The new officers for Jacksonville Chapter No. 12, R.A.M. were installed at the Combined Installation of York Rite Bodies' officers in Jacksonville on January 8, 2009.

The Installing Officer was M. E. Companion Glenn E. Chandler, MEPGHP. The Installing Chaplain was M.E. Companion Richard I. Lanier, MEPGHP; and the Installing Marshal was R.E. Companion Darryl A. D'Angina, R. E. Grand King of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Florida.

Pictured here were the new officers of Jacksonville Chapter No. 12, with the Installing Officers after the installation. Shown, from left to right in the first row were: Ted Roycraft, Sentinel; Frank E. Kleese, Sr., Master of 3rd Veil; Darryl R. Griffith, Captain of the Host; Lewis E. Duffey, Principal Sojourner; Rudin J. Boatright, Excellent High Priest; Clifton H. Estes, Jr., Chaplain; Charles Robert Cooper, PDDGHP, Secretary; and Darryl A. D'Angina, KYCH, R.E. Grand King of the Grand Chapter R.A.M. of Florida, Installing Marshal.

Seen, from left to right, in the back rows were: D. J. "Gunny" Wilkerson, Corey D. Kosciuszko, Master of 2nd Veil; John A. Palumbo, Jr., King; John A. Block, Master of 1st Veil; Richard I. Lanier, MEPGHP, Installing Chaplain; Glenn E. Chandler, MEPGHP, Installing Officer; and Michael Pete Trent, Scribe of Jacksonville Chapter No. 12, RAM.



HALLMARK NO. 3

The new officers for 2009 for Hallmark Council No. 3, Royal & Select Masters, were installed at the Combined Installation of York Rite Officers in Jacksonville on January 8, 2009.

The Installing Officer was R. I. Wilmer T. Atwell, PDDGM. The Installing Chaplain was Charles Robert Cooper, PIM; and the Installing Marshal was Darryl A. D'Angina, KYCH, PDDGM, R.E. Grand King of the Grand Chapter, RAM of Florida.

Pictured are the new officers and Installing Officers after the installation. Shown, from left to right, in the first row were: Paul H. Gegenheimer, Steward; William F. Ellis, Flag Bearer; Samuel D. Hope, Captain of the Guard; Charles Robert Cooper, PIM, Recorder, Installing Chaplain; Charles E. Middleton, Illustrious Master; Wilmer T. Atwell, PDDGM, Installing Officer; D. J. "Gunny" Wilkerson, Sentinel; and Darryl A. D'Angina, KYCH, R.E. Grand King of the Grand Chapter, RAM of Florida, Installing Marshal.

Seen in the back row, from left, were: John A. Palumbo, Jr., Deputy Master; Michael Pete Trent, Principal Conductor of Work; and Corey D. Kosciuszko, Chaplain.



DAMASCUS NO. 2

Damascus Commandery No. 2, K. T. of Jacksonville installed its new officers for 2009 on Thursday, January 8th.

The Installing Officer was Sir Knight Charles Robert Cooper, PD-DGC, E. Grand Sword Bearer of the Grand Commandery, K. T. of Florida. He was assisted by S.K. Richard I. Lanier, KYGCH, MEPGHP, Installing Prelate; and S.K. Darryl A. D'Angina, PDDGC, R. E. Grand King of the Grand Chapter R.A.M. of Florida, Installing Marshal.

Pictured were the new Damascus Commandery officers and Installing Officers after the ceremony. Shown, left to right, in the first row were: Paul H. Gegenheimer, Junior Warden; Alton B. Johnson, Sword Bearer; D. J. "Gunny" Wilkerson, Warder; William F. Ellis, Senior Warden; Samuel D. Hope, Eminent Commander; Wilmer T. Atwell, Captain General; and Darryl A. D'Angina, PDDGC, Installing Marshal.

Seen, from left, in the back row were: William H. McClean, PC, Prelate; Lewis E. Duffey, Generalissimo; Charles Robert Cooper, PDDGC, E. Grand Sword Bearer; Corey D. Kosciuszko, Sentinel; and Michael Pete Trent, PC

Article by Rt. Exc. Corbin Elliot

Semper Fi Council No. 95 UD Knight Masons Instituted

Article from The Knightly News



Shortly after receiving a dispensation to form Semper Fi Council in Belleview, Florida, Sir Knight James P. Rudman was installed as the Grand High Priest of the Grand RAC of Florida. Thus it was appropriate that M.E. Harvey L. Ward, a Past Grand High Priest served as the Acting Great Chief for the institution of the Council. He was assisted by Darryl A. D'Angina, PEC as Grand Director of Ceremonies and Robert Cooper as Grand Priest – all members of Gateway Council No. 51 in Jacksonville.

The team joined with the prospective officers and members of Semper Fi Council officers and members of Semper Fi Council for dinner at Belleview Masonic Temple on September 17, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Following the usual Masonic fellowship, they adjourned to the Lodge Room where an occasional meeting of the Grand

Council was opened in ample form. The Council was instituted, the Officers installed and the new members obligated. Following the Proclamation by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, Excellent Chief Rudman knelt at the Altar and offered an eloquent prayer from his heart for strength, guidance and the blessings of The Almighty on himself and the Council. After prayer he assumed his Station where the Acting Great Chief was pleased to present him the Chair and trowel and express congratulations and best wishes for the future of the council.

The above picture are of the officers and members of Semper Fi Council.

Back Row: Excellent Chief James P. Rudman, Act. Great Chief Harvey L. Ward, Senior Knight Fred Piasecki, Scribe/Treasurer David Aponte; Middle Row: Steward William Wagner, Jr., Sentinel Larry D. Duff; Front Row: Priest Wayne Sessa, Director of Ceremonies Randall R. Jesmok, Senior Warden James Hughey, Junior Warden C. Alan Walls

2009 WILBUR W. MASTERS, JR. COUNCIL NO. 322, A.M.D. OFFICERS INSTALLED

Article by Rt. Exc. Corbin Elliot

On November 8, 2008, R.W. Wilmer T. Atwell, PDDGM. was installed as Sovereign Master, and R.E. Charles Robert Cooper, PDDGHP, was installed as Secretary of Wilbur W. Masters, Jr. Council No. 322, Allied Masonic Degrees in Jacksonville, Florida. The remainder of the new officers, several of whom were attending other Masonic functions, will be installed at a future date.

The installing officers were: W. Ronald Taylor, REPGC, KYGCH, Installing Officer; Wendell D. Harrington, MEPGHP, MIPGM, KYGCH, Installing Secretary; Harvey L. Ward, Sr., MEPGHP, KYGCH, Installing Grand Marshall; and Loren Lee, KYCH, Installing Chaplain.



Pictured were the Installed officers and Installing Team after the Installation. Shown, left to right, were: Wendell D. Harrington, MEPGHP, MIPGM, KYGCH; Wm. Ronald Taylor, REPGC, KYGCH; Wilmer T. Atwell, PDDGM, new Sovereign Master of Wilbur W. Masters, Jr. Council No. 322, A.M.D.; C. Robert Cooper, REPCG, new Secretary of Wilbur W. Masters, Jr., Council No. 322, A.M.D.; Harvey L. Ward, Sr., MEPGHP, KYGCH; and Loren Lee, KYCH.

2009 Officers of Gateway Council No. 51, Knight Masons Installed

Article by Rt. Exc. Corbin Elliot

New officers were elected and installed at Gateway Council No. 51 of Knight Masons in Jacksonville, Florida on November 8, 2008. The Installing Officer for the ceremony was Most Excellent Companion Harvey L. Ward, Sr., MEPGHP, assisted by Most Excellent and Illustrious Companion Wendell D. Harrington, MEPGHP, MIPGM.

Pictured here are the new officers and Installing Team after the Installation. Shown, left to right, in the first two rows, on either side of the podium, were: Wendell D. Harrington, MEPGHP, MIPGM, Installing Team, Treasurer; Loren Lee, KYCH., J.W.; Wayne Thigpen, KYCH, S.W.; C. Robert Cooper, PDDGHP, EGSwB, Scribe; and Howard Hudgins, Steward.



Seen left to right, in the back, were: Wilmer T. Atwell, PDDIM, Senior Knight; W. Ronald Taylor, REPGC, Excellent Chief; Samuel D. Reasor, retiring Excellent Chief; Harvey L. Ward, SR., Installing Officer; and John Block, Junior Knight.



River City Forest No. 198, Tall Cedars of Lebanon elected and installed its new officers on November 21, 2008. Wilmer T. Atwell, PD-DGM, was the Installing Officer. R. Ex. Companion Darryl A. D'Angina, R.Ex. Grand King of the Grand Chapter R.A.M. of Florida, was the Installing Marshall. Pictured here were the newly installed Officers.

RIVER CITY FOREST NO. 198, TALL CEDARS INSTALLS OFFICERS

Article by Rt. Exc. Corbin Elliot

Shown, from left to right, in the first row were: Howard Hudgins, PGTC, Treasurer; Floyd C. Fields, Scribe; M. Pete Trent, Preceptor & Chief Sidonian, and Corbin P. Elliott, Chief Ranger. Seen in the back row, left to right were, Ernest Beeman, Guide; John Palumbo, Retiring PGTC, Trustee; R. Gurney Atwell, Sr. Deputy Grand Tall Cedar; Wilmer T. Atwell, Installing Officer; Glenn E. Chandler, PMEGHP, Grand Tall Cedar; C. Robert Cooper, Jr. Deputy Grand Tall Cedar; Mort Wolfson, Chaplain; and John Block, PGTC, Trustee.

Ditty Bags' Presentation to VA

By Rt. Exc. Robert Kirkpatrick, Grand Captain of the Host

Several Companions of the St. Petersburg York Rite Bodies made a presentation of "Ditty Bags" to The Veterans Administration on behalf of the Ladies of the York Rite of Florida. There are now a large number of woman who are serving in the Armed Services defending our great country. As a result of this, a number of them now require the services of the Veterans Administration Hospitals. In recognition of thee service to our country the Ladies of the York Rite of Florida sewed and stocked "Ditty Bags" to be given to those women who are admitted to the VA Hospitals in Florida. The Third York Rite District is the home to two VA hospitals, Bay Pines and James Haley there are many York Rite Masons who participate as Volunteers at both of these facilities.



Presentation made to Mrs. Derenda Mccook , Chief of Voluntary Services at Bay Pines VA Hospital are SK Harry Klaus, DDGC of the Third Chivalric District, Ex. Companion Ralph Vaughan, Companion Danny Robinson, Ex. Companion Robert Kirkpatrick, Grand Captain of The Host, Companion Rodger Web and Ex. Companion Ron Newton. Companion Robinson is the MSA Representative at Bay Pines and is assisted by Companion Webb.

Ex. Companion Kirkpatrick presents Ms. Debbie Gottardi , Chief of Voluntary Services at the James A. Haley VA Hospital with "Ditty Bags".



Let York Rite Shine in '09

by Tom

A man in Scotland calls his son in London the day before Christmas Eve and says, I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough.

'Dad, what are you talking about?' the son screams.

We can't stand the sight of each other any longer,' the father says. 'We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Leeds and tell her.'

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. 'I'll take care of this,' She calls Scotland immediately, and screams at her father, 'You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?' and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. 'Okay,' he says, they're coming for Christmas and they're paying their own way.'



A Campaign Membership Team Is Vital to Success

By S. K. HENRY A. ADAMS, Eminent Grand Junior Warden
Chairman, Membership Committee

The Chairman should possess executive and salesmanship ability and have such standing amongst his peers that he can lead the membership team to success. It should be considered a position of honor to serve as Chairman and he should be willing to give sufficient time to do a good job.. His selection as well as his acceptance should be based upon this single question: Can he lead us to success in this membership campaign?

1. The Commander should make this selection of the Chairman of the membership campaign only after conferring with his officers and past commanders, and it must have Top Priority. The Chairman should be the best equipped man in the whole Commandery for such a job, without reference to Commandery rank, attendance or any other consideration.
2. If his Campaign is large in scale, the Chairman should be authorized to appoint others members to the Campaign to assist him. These Sir Knights should have a sense of drive and dedication to the cause.
3. Next comes the selection of those who are to participate as team members. A small team is often more effective than one which is too large.
4. Every Officer and Past Commander should be willing to make himself available for appointment to any place on the membership team.
5. If a drill corps exists in the Commandery, its members are usually well equipped to serve, and should be considered along with every other member of the Commandery.
6. There should be complete cooperation with other Masonic Bodies, especially Blue Lodges. Regular planned and scheduled visits should be made to each of the Blue Lodges in the District. We must remember that this is where our candidates come from. We should not forget the Scottish Rite and the Shrine, since their membership committees can work hand-in-hand with us on a reciprocal relationship.
7. Before a Campaign begins, a membership team should make a careful survey of every qualified Christian Mason in the community, that might become a candidate for the Chapter, Council degrees or the Orders of Knighthood. Any helpful information about each prospect will assist those who call upon him. This prospect information should be continually updated to be part of a permanent membership solicitation record to be used by succeeding membership committees.
8. The campaign member in charge of a Blue Lodge should always obtain the names of Master Masons as they are raised, either by being in attendance himself or delegating another to be present.

In my travels to various Commanderies around the state, I find a substantial problem in our membership efforts. We cannot hope to build our membership if we cannot provide weekend degree programs within a reasonable time period and distance. One or two Sir Knights should visit the other Commanderies within your District and discuss ways in which this can be accomplished. Each Commandery should provide the teams for two or three different degrees. If this cannot be accomplished within the district, pursue an neighboring district, until all degrees are filled. No candidate should have to drive 100 miles to attend the degrees. This is how we loose candidates. Finally, a set date and location each year should be established well in advance so candi-

dates can properly plan. If Scottish Rite and the Shrine can do it, and they are successful, we should also.

Note: If any York Rite Bodies plan weekend festivals, please let me know, with the date, time, location and contact person, and I will put it in the next newsletter, and on the website. Remember, Membership and Retention is everyone's business.

*Some excerpts from Guidelines for Membership, published by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States and Grand Commandery of Florida. And from the Grand Commanders Handbook to Grand Line Officers.

Note: If any York Rite Bodies plan weekend festivals, please let me know, with the date, time, location and contact person, and I will put it in the next newsletter, and on the website. Remember, Membership and Retention is everyone's business.

2009 York Rite Festivals Update

Orlando York Rite Bodies

Feb 5	Mark Master & Past Master	7:00 PM Eola Lodge
Feb 12	Most Excellent Master	7:00 PM Eola Lodge
Feb 19	Royal Arch	7:00 PM Eola Lodge
Mar 7	Council Degrees	9:00 am Eola Lodge
Mar 28	Commandery Orders	7:00 am Eola Lodge

Tallahassee York Rite Bodies

Feb 14 & 28	Tallahassee York Rite Bodies	8:00 am
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Ocala York Rite Bodies

March 7	Capitular Degrees	9:00 AM Belleview Lodge
March 14	Cryptic Degrees	9:00 AM Belleview Lodge
March 14	Chivalric Orders	

Ft. Pierce York Rite Bodies

March 6-7(Outdoor)	Box Ranch, Stuart	Paul Friend, 772-266-6404
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Tampa York Rite Bodies

March 7	Capitular & Cryptic Degrees	8:00 AM Tampa York Rite Temple
March 14	Chivalric Orders	8:00 AM Tampa York Rite Temple

Pensacola York Rite Bodies

Mar 14 & 28	Pensacola York Rite Bodies	
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Let York Rite Shine in '09



SWOT Analysis

By S.K. David A. Aponte, Grand Captain General

S (trengths) **W**(eaknessess) **O**(ppportunities) **T**(hreats) Analysis is a powerful technique for identifying your Masonic body's strengths and weaknesses, and for examining the opportunities and threats it may face. . This is a powerful tool that, as a leader, will help your Masonic body to uncover opportunities that they are well placed to take advantage of. By understanding your Masonic body's weaknesses, you can manage and eliminate threats that would otherwise catch them unaware.

How to use the tool:

To carry out a SWOT Analysis, use the diagram below and answer the following questions:

Strengths	Weaknesses
Opportunities	Threats

Strengths:

- What advantages does your Masonic Body offer or have that others don't have?
- What does your Masonic Body do better than anyone else?
- What personal resources does your Masonic Body have access to?
- What do members see as your Masonic Body's strengths?

Consider this from your own perspective, and from the point of view of the members around you. And don't be modest; be as objective as you can.

Weaknesses:

- What can your Masonic Body improve?
- What should your Masonic Body avoid?
- What things are the members likely to see as weaknesses?

Again, consider this from a personal and external basis: Do other members perceive weaknesses that you do not see? It is best to be realistic now, and face any unpleasant truths as soon as possible.

Opportunities:

- Where are the good opportunities facing your Masonic Body?
- What are the interesting trends your Masonic Body is aware of?

Useful opportunities can come from such things as:

- Changes in technology, on both a broad and narrow scale.
- Changes in government policy related to your Masonic Body.
- Changes in social patterns, population profiles, lifestyle changes, local events, and suchlike.

A useful approach to looking at opportunities is also to look at the Masonic Body's strengths and ask whether these open up any opportunities.

Alternatively, look at the Masonic Body's weaknesses and ask yourself whether it could open up opportunities by eliminating them.

Threats:

- What obstacle(s) does your Lodge faces?
- What are the other Masonic Bodies and other fraternal organizations around you doing?
- Is changing technology threatening your Masonic Body?
- Could any of the Masonic Body's weaknesses seriously threaten it?

Just as the Masonic Body's strengths can often bring opportunities, its weaknesses can often bring threats. Check the weaknesses you've listed, and make sure that you've identified any threats that could come from them.

Take Action

Now that you've answered all four areas, identify your Masonic Body's strengths and possible opportunities, set goals to explore them, with a view to capitalize them. Identify the weaknesses and possible threats, set goals to investigate them, with a view to eliminating, managing or minimizing them. Most of all, develop an action plan taking into account these factors.

Let York Rite Shine in '09

MASONIC PERSPECTIVE

Companions and Sir Knights, I received this article by e-mail. It is reassuring that we have Americans of different Faiths and political views that practice tolerance, charity and harmony in their daily lives. What a coincidence these principals are Masonic values. Our Founding Fathers instilled in our laws and political principles these values. It doesn't matter if it is in the religious, political or social environment, these principles are still present in how we conduct ourselves with each other. Only in America!!!

The following was written by Ben Stein and recited by him on CBS Sunday Morning Commentary.

My Confession:

I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled trees, Christmas trees. I don't feel threatened. I don't feel discriminated against. That's what they are: Christmas trees. It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, 'Merry Christmas' to me. I don't think they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu. If people want a Nativity Scene, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away. I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat. Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God as we understand Him? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to. In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking. Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her 'How could God let something like this happen?' (regarding Katrina) Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said, 'I believe

God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?' In light of recent events... terrorists attack, school shootings, etc. I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body found a few years ago) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. The Bible says "Thou Shalt not Kill, thou Shalt not Steal", and "Love your Neighbor as Yourself." And we said OK. Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said OK. Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves. Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with 'WE REAP WHAT WE SOW.'

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing. Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace.

Are you laughing yet? Funny how when you forward this message, you will not send it to many on your ad-

dress list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they will think of you for sending it. Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us. Pass it on if you think it has merit. If not then just discard it.... no one will know you did. But, if you discard this thought process, don't sit back and complain about what bad shape the world is in.

My Best Regards, Honestly and respectfully,

Ben Stein

THE MEANING OF INITIATION

By Bro. Frank C. Higgins, New York (appeared in the July 1917 issue of The Builder)

(More than once we have called attention, editorially and otherwise, to the admirable work of Brother Frank C. Higgins, of the Magian Society, New York, in his department of Masonic Research in the Masonic Standard. At first it began as a column of inquiry and answer dealing with the Deeper Problems of the meaning of Masonry, but it grew, most happily, into a series of systematic studies, or lessons--Masonry, as Brother Higgins conceives it, being the perpetuation among us, albeit little understood, of the ancient philosophy of Cosmic Harmony which, among the Hebrews, traced everything to the great Jehovah; at once a religious and a scientific pursuit, conducted along mathematical, geometrical and astronomical lines. In this field Brother Higgins is a master, and comes nearer than anyone With whose work we are acquainted, making the treasures of that rich but difficult culture intelligible to the average reader. In order to call attention again to his researches, and also to express the hope that they may be gathered into permanent form, we venture to reproduce two brief sections of his series of studies dealing with the meaning of initiation. This Society keeps an open and responsive heart toward all its fellow-workers, glad and grateful for any one who toils to make our great and many-sided Masonry more intelligible and effective.--The Editor).

In all ancient rites and mysteries the participants in which were received by initiation, the greatest care was always exercised with respect to certain details, which if not properly carried out might mar or invalidate the entire ceremony.

The true significance of all initiation has ever been that of a spiritual rebirth. The sacred Agrouchada

of the Hindus says, "The first birth is merely the advent into material life; the second birth is the entrance to a spiritual life."

The newly initiated into the first degree of Brahmanism was called doudja, which means "twice born." The very word initiate indicates that the candidate is at least symbolically in the same situation as if he had no previous existence. He is to be ushered into an altogether new world.

In ancient initiations the extremity of humility was expressed by the rent garments of contrition for past offenses in the life about to be blotted out, the bosom offered to the executioner's sword, and the attitude of a captive.

PREPARING THE CANDIDATE

The most curious custom perhaps had to do with what might be termed the complete preparation of the candidate against the influences that had affected his previous career. During the multitude of centuries in the course of which astrology was thought to play the strongest part in human affairs, every circumstance affecting the welfare of humanity was deemed to have its rise in one or another of the planets, or perhaps in a lucky or evil combination of several. The science of medicine rose entirely from this curious belief in planetary affinities. The ancient physician diagnosed his patient's malady according to the diseases listed under the latter's unlucky stars and tried to cure it by application of substances designated as governed by those planets favorable to him. The same idea governed the individual with reference to articles carried upon his person. The superstitious carried

MASONIC PERSPECTIVE

various charms and amulets intended to draw favorable planetary influences to his aid, and was just as careful to avoid substance that might produce a contrary effect.

In the ordering of the candidate for initiation into the ancient mysteries this belief played an important part. The candidate might carry upon his person nothing that would invite the attention of occult planetary powers through the mysterious tie that bound them to terrestrial objects.

METALLIC TOKENS

The lists of plants, flowers, minerals, metals, and other things that were subject to these mysterious influences were long and complicated. Gold linked him with the sun which incited to the besetting sin of intellectual pride; silver drew upon him the fickle qualities of the moon; copper, sacred to Venus, provoked lust, and iron, the metal of Mars, quarrelsomeness; tin, tyranny and oppression, the qualities of Jupiter; lead, sloth and indolence, belonging to Saturn; while mercury or quicksilver was responsible for dishonesty and covetousness. Therefore a key or a coin, and above all a sword, was likely to bring confusion upon the whole mysterious operation of regeneration.

Above all were enjoined upon the candidate the three sacred virtues, which by the Jain sects in India are still called "the three jewels," represented by three circles, "right belief," "right knowledge," and "right conduct." In order to reach the spiritual plane, in which the soul is entirely freed from the bonds of matter, these were the chief necessities, and the person who clung to them would certainly go higher until he reached the state of liberation.

THREE REGULAR STEPS

To the ancient candidate were also recommended "the three successive steps which open the soul to free and unobstructed activity and communication on both the psychic and the spiritual planes." The first was to still the ego and empty the mind of every bias and standard of self and sense. The second consisted, when this passive state had

been induced, in fixing and holding the attention upon the specific object about which the truth was desired.

Thirdly, the foregoing two steps having been taken, the individual was to stand firmly and persistently in the receptive and listening attitude for the immediate revelation of the truth, in the full expectation of getting it. This receptive state and expectant attitude opened the consciousness to "the psychic vibrations that write unerringly their story on the receptive mind."

WHOM DOES THE CANDIDATE REPRESENT?

Within the simple and easily formulated problem asked in the heading is contained the sublimest of all secrets, which various of the higher degrees have sought to answer, each in its own way. It involves the intimate application of all the symbolic degrees to the initiate himself, without which they are as empty as air.

In all the ancient mysteries a character was assumed by the candidate, and as the candidates were any and the character depicted always the same, it must have represented something essentially common to all alike. Furthermore, the precise similarity of the experiences to which each individual candidate was subjected argued the identical lesson in all cases.

Examination of all available detail, especially the sacred writings of many races, confirms us in the conviction that this universal character was but an allegorical representation of the ego or "self," engaged in the warfare of which it has been said that the victor is greater than he who taketh a city" and emerging a conqueror in the very instant of apparent defeat. We receive our earliest concrete presentation of such a character in the celebrated document known as the Egyptian Book of the Dead, the Bible of the builders of the Pyramids, fragments of which are found wrapped in the cloths of almost every mummy.

THE PILGRIM SOUL

MASONIC PERSPECTIVE

The Book of the Dead presents the wanderings of a departed soul through the underworld to the council of the gods, who were to listen to its accusers, give heed to its defenders, and finally weigh its accumulated good deeds in the scales against the feather symbol of "truth." The name of this character is given as Ani the Scribe. It finally transpired that this name was equivalent to the Latin term ego, meaning the "I Am" or "self" in man. This leads to what was perhaps the greatest and most important of all secret teachings of the ancient world, one that has become so obscured by the confusion of its many dramatic representations with real historical characters,--that most clear and careful labor is required to trace the main ideas from age to age and people to people, in order to show that they are fundamentally everywhere exactly the same.

There is no difficulty whatever in recognizing the self-conscious principle in every man as being an actual spark of the infinite self-consciousness precipitated into material existence, through the labyrinth of which it is compelled to strive in ceaseless search for the Master's Word, the secret of its being and immortal destiny. If this idea of the struggle of a divine and immortal soul, weighed down with the burden of matter and assailed at every turn by foes that symbolize the continual transformations of matter from "life" to "death" and "death" to "life," be taken as the vital principle of every drama of regeneration, from the "Book of the Dead" to John Bunyan's "Pilgrim Progress," we too shall have progressed a long way upon the road to understanding that of Freemasonry.

THE PILOT STAR

The beautiful star that is the chief emblem of the Royal Arch degree, besides being the sacred symbol of Israel, has had no other meaning during the thousands of years from the most ancient Brahmanism to the Temple of today. Even when called "the United Seal of Vishnu and Siva," the "Immortal" and the "Mortal," or "Fire" the symbol of Spirit, and "Water" the symbol of Matter, it represented the same idea, that of the "Self Conqueror," the

Perfect Man, who had learned the subjugation of human passions and perfection in attitude toward God and fellow man. Thus the up pointing triangle stood for the ascent of matter into spirit which is typified by the phrase "resurrection of the body," and the down-pointing triangle the descent of spirit into matter, and the complete star represents the immortal being fitted to dwell in "that house not built with hands, eternal in the heavens."

8th OCALA YORK RITE ROSE CHARITY BALL

The Ocala York Rite Bodies cordially invite you to attend the 8th annual Rose Charity Ball and Valentine's Day Dance, to be held on Saturday, February 14th. The Rose Charity Ball is a fund-raising event for the following York Rite Charities: Royal Arch Research Assistance (RARA), Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF), and the Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF).

This year's festivities will be held at the Ocala Elks Club, which is located at 702 NE 25th Ave in Ocala and will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The menu for the evening will be a choice of Prime Rib or Filet Mignon. Music will be provided by the Cirino Trio. Dress will be Black Tuxedo - White Dinner Jacket.

Tickets will be \$40/person, or \$75/couple. All reservations must be received by January 31st, and should be sent to: OYRB, PO Box 912, Floral City 34436.

For information on hotels, please contact either Companion David Aponte (352-503-3030) (oyrb@tampabay.rr.com) or Alan Walls (352-637-5177) (awalls37@gmail.com).

York Rite Items

Knight Templar Uniforms

Suit City, Sumpter, SC: Ask for Joe. 1-803-773-2262 (not toll free)

Price of uniform is \$110.00 plus shipping Shipping is about \$14.00. Coat is Double Breasted and includes sleeve crosses and FLA # on breast pocket. Tell him the number of your Commandery and give him a credit card number and pants size. Those who have ordered from him say that these are light summer weight uniforms and great.

Universal Chapeau

Boley - Ruyle P.O. Box 130524 Tyler TX 75713-0524 1-800-553-0015 or 1-903-597-9545

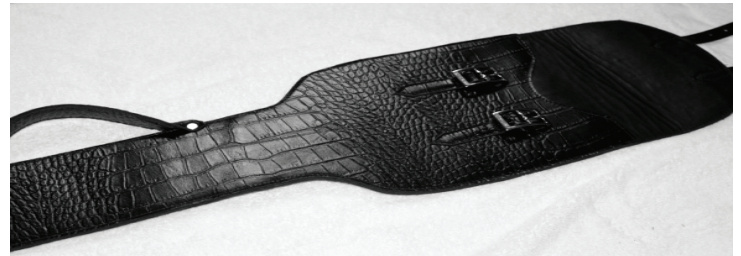
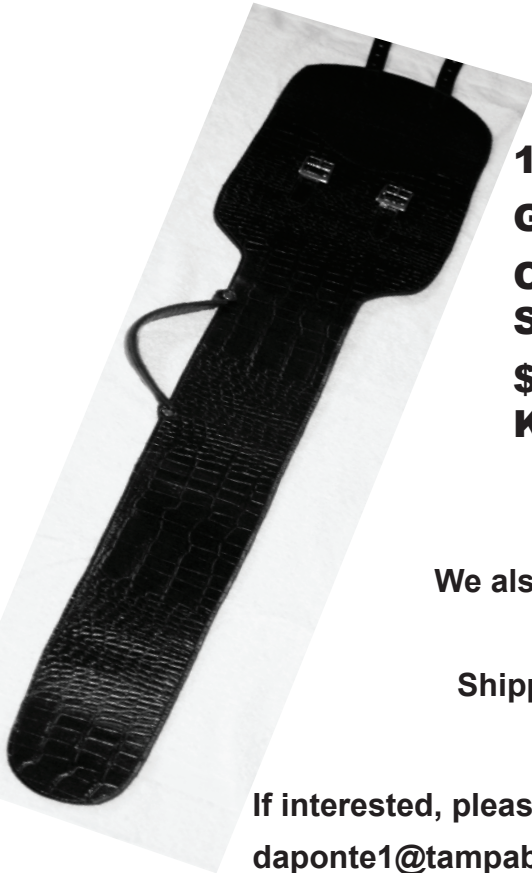
These have an adjustable headband and comes complete with black underplume and 4 ply 8 inch by 22 inch white ostrich plume together with Sir Knight rosette.

Sir Knight Chapeau \$185.00 Mylar Past Commanders \$230.00 Bullion

Grand Officer Rosette add \$95.00 Past Grand Rosette add \$95.00

They also have Chapeau cases, Malta and Red Cross Jewels, swords and belts.

Knights Templar SWORD CASE



100% Leather

Inside Lining

Gator or Lizard Embossed Color: Black

Cost : \$50.00

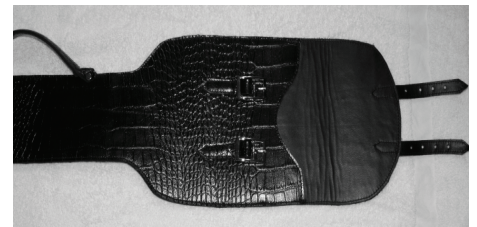
Shipping cost is separate.

**\$5.00 from the sale will be donated to the
Knights Templar Eye Foundation**

We also have Sword Belt hooks:

2 for \$5.00

Shipping & Handling separate



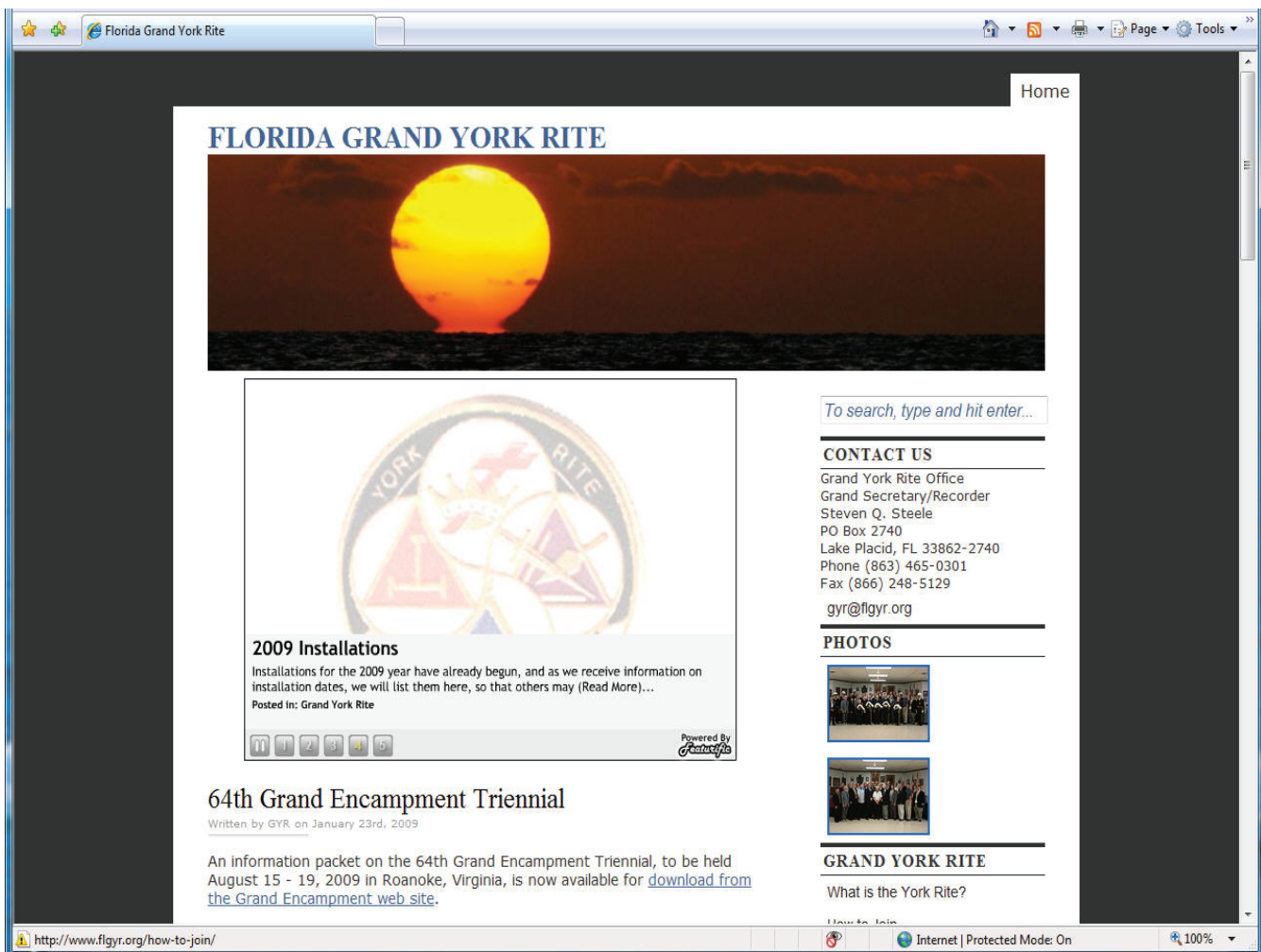
If interested, please contact S.K. David Aponte by e-mail:

daponte1@tampabay.rr.com

or send a letter to:

6620 W. Constitution Lane, Homosassa, Florida 34448

with your name, address, phone number and the size of your sword from tip to tip.
As soon as your case is done you will be notified prior to mailing.



Do you have a computer? Are you connected to the Internet?

If you answered **YES** to the above questions, then....

Have you visited the **Florida Grand York Rite website?**

www.flgyr.org

York Rite Information in Florida

Events in our jurisdiction, News, Festival Dates, etc.

Remember this is your website for York Rite information.

The York Rite of Freemasonry

Fort Pierce York Rite Bodies

Joppa Chapter No. 28, Royal Arch Masons Tyrian Council No. 36, Royal & Select Masters St. Lucie Commandery No. 17, Knights Templar

The Ft. Pierce York Rite Bodies are happy to announce an Outdoor York Rite Degree Class honoring the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Florida, Most Worshipful Brother, Companion, and Sir Knight Joseph Fleites. The class will be held on Friday Evening & Saturday, March 6 & 7, 2008 at Box Ranch, 7150 Kanner Hwy. Indiantown, Florida 34956.

The schedule is as follows:

Friday Night (March 6th)

Roll Call	6:00 p.m.
Mark Master Degree	7:00 p.m.
Past Master Degree	8:15 p.m.
Most Excellent Master Degree	9:00 p.m.

Saturday Morning (March 7th)

Breakfast	8:30 a.m.
Royal Arch Degree	9:30 a.m.
Lunch	
Royal Master Degree	1:00 p.m.
Select Master Degree	1:45 p.m.
Order of Red Cross	2:45 p.m.
Order of Malta	3:45 p.m.
Dinner	5:00 p.m.
Chamber of Reflection	6:00 p.m.
Order of the Temple	6:30 p.m.
Closing	9:30 p.m.



Please post the enclosed flyer on your bulletin board and distribute the petitions to any eligible Brother. Any Master Mason who has passed his Master Mason Proficiency or who was raised prior to September 6, 2008 is eligible. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation and assistance in helping us to make this Class a truly memorable one for our Grand Master.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Friend, KYGCH

Secretary-Recorder



MASONIC WEEK

FEBRUARY 11-14 2009



Hilton, Alexandria Mark Center 5000 Seminary Rd. Alexandria, VA 22311 Hotel Reservations: 800-HILTONS

Meal Reservations: www.yorkrite.com/MasonicWeek/index.html

All Meals Must be Reserved by February 1 All Meals Must be Reserved by February 1 All Meals Must be Reserved by February 1 All Meals Must be Reserved by February 1 Tickets WILL NOT be Available Tickets WILL NOT be Available Tickets WILL NOT be Available Tickets WILL NOT be Available at the HOTEL at the HOTEL at the HOTEL at the HOTEL Brethren living outside of the USA Brethren living outside of the USA Brethren living outside of the USA Brethren living outside of the USA

Contact: Paul Newhall pnewhall@cox.net (703) 598-5077

Ladies Program - Ladies are invited to all breakfasts and banquets

FRIDAY LADIES COFFEE - At 9:00 AM on Friday, Feb. 13, 2008, the Ladies are invited to meet for Coffee in the Capitol View Room overlooking Washington D.C. This is an excellent opportunity to meet new friends in a relaxing and friendly atmosphere.

Entertainment Gathering - Ladies who are interested in attending Friday Night's Entertainment Gathering are to contact Brenda Watson

THURSDAY, Feb. 12, 2009

- 8:00 AM - Trinity Chapel No. 12, St. Thomas of Acon
- 10:00 AM - Marvin E. Fowler Commandery No. 7
- 10:00 AM - Grand Preceptors Council - St. Thomas of Acon
- 12:30 PM - Festive Board - Trinity Chapel
- 2:00 PM - The High Council, SRICF
- 4:30 PM - Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor
- 7:00 PM - The Annual Banquet of the High Council SRICF
Speaker: John R. Paternoster, IX°, Supreme Magus, SRIA

FRIDAY, February 13, 2009

- 7:00 AM - Convent General KYCH Breakfast All Welcome (including Ladies)
- 8:30 AM - Grand Council Knight Masons, USA Great Chief's Council "0"
- 11:00 AM - Society of Blue Friars, (All Masons Welcome)
- 12:00 Noon - Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 PM - Grand College of America HRAKTP Grand Preceptor's Tabernacle "A"
- 3:30 PM - Ceremonies of Installation Installed Sovereign Master
- 5:00 PM - Chevaliers Bienfaisants De La Cite Sainte, (CBCS)
- 6:00 PM - Royal Society of Knights Occidental, All Masons are Welcome!
- 6:00 PM - The Masonic Society First Annual Dinner All Masons are Welcome!
- 9:00 PM - "The Scarlet Cord" (1st Grade) AMD Members Only!
- 10:00 PM - Masonic Order of the Bath

SATURDAY, February 14, 2009

- 7:00 AM - AMD Breakfast Sponsored by: The AASR for the NMJ & SMJ All Welcome (including Ladies)
- 8:30 AM - Grand College of Rites of the USA
- 10:00 AM - Nine Muses Council No. 13 (All Masons Welcome)
- 11:00 AM - Grand Master's Council AMD
- 12:00 Noon - Scottish Rite Research Society Speaker to be Announced (All Masons Welcome)
- 2:00 PM - Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees



"Showcasing the Brotherhood"

"A program filled with history, dinner and fellowship"

Bring all your non Masonic Friends!

Let's build our District together!



Learn more about our Fraternity!

The whole family is invited!

FREE for all Brothers and their Guests!

It is our hope that this evening will provide an environment of opportunity for all the Masonic Lodges in Central Florida! Bring all your friends and loved ones for a great night of fellowship and community involvement!

When: February 21, 2008

Where: The Scottish Rite Center of Orlando

Time: Doors open at 5:00 pm
The "Rose upon the Altar" Play at
5:30pm with dinner and program to follow.
Doors close around 8:45 pm

Reason: To expose qualified men to our craft!



Our Brothers from the 26th District will be performing the "Rose Upon the Altar" one of Masonry's finest plays!



Display tables will be in the lobby showing our guests many historical items from our lodges, Masonic literature, Regalia and other Masonic instruments!
Please join us and bring your own Masonic stories to share!!



The Road to Victory A Military Vehicle Display Event

At the Orlando Scottish Rite Masonic Center
1485 Grand Rd. Winter Park FL.

Saturday April 25th 10:00AM to 6:00PM
USO themed party from 6:00PM to 9:00PM
and
Sunday April 26th 10:00AM to 1:00PM

Sponsored by the Orlando Scottish Rite Masonic Center

For more information call 407-657-4550

Free admission, \$5 parking



Vashon Island to Tacoma Ferry



The Florida York Rite Mason
Grand York Rite Bodies
P. O. Box 2740
Lake Placid, FL 33862-2740



Let York Rite Shine in '09

Official Quarterly E-Publication of the Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida