

"THE CHALK"

HARMONIA LODGE NO. 138

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

CHARTERED 1894

DISTRICT 25 - ZONE 7

M.:W.: GRAND LODGE OF FLORIDA

126 Years of Masonry in West Palm Beach



August 2020

All Harmonia Masonic Meetings, Activities, Events and Functions continue to be cancelled until further notice due to the COVID-19 Crisis. We will keep you updated.

Stay Safe Brothers!



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www.harmoniamasoniclodge.com



From the East

Greetings Brethren,

Brethren, we are now in August and the temperature is getting much hotter. Having said that I hope and pray that you are all staying well and taking care of your family and loved ones during this COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic life threatening and unprecedented challenging times. Wash your hands a lot and do not touch your face, eyes, mouth, and nose which is the easiest way that the Coronavirus will enter the body and contaminate you and your family and friends. The Grand Master has cancelled his visit and asks that all Brothers and their families should be the priority and to use common sense and be safe. Congratulations to our Brother David Jones for being Mason of the Month for August 2020. Kudos go out to Brother Robert Gibbons, PM for working in and out of the office tirelessly toward improving our Lodge property. Much Kudos go out to Brother TJ Comert and his team for renovating our kitchen. They did an amazing job in beautifying and improving our kitchen so it will be ready when we return to Lodge in the future.

Hurricane season is here now so don't wait for the last minute to prepare for whatever is coming our way and be ready. My Brethren continue to keep yourself and family safe and if you think you have COVID-19 (Coronavirus) symptoms, seek medical help immediately at your nearest medical facility. Let's keep our social distancing and if at all possible please stay home and away from large crowds and stay safe. As Masons we must always look after our Brothers! Happy Birthday to all the Brothers and family members for the month of August.

In closing, remember Masonry is not just a Fraternity of good men; it's a way of life. May the Grand Architect of the Universe grant all the Brothers, Families, and Friends all the blessings now and forever.

Make It Happen!
Ray Rios
Worshipful Master



From the West

Greetings Brethren,

Wow! Not only have we been dealing with the Coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak, but now we get to add hurricane season to the list! Harmonia Lodge continues to remain closed until further notice as a result of the pandemic. The downtime has allowed for work to be done improving the Lodge and the property. The kitchen refurbishing has been completed, new Lodge and tenant mailboxes installed, as well as painting, cleaning and Lodge sanitization. We will forward information related to the future opening of Lodge as soon as it is determined safe to reopen.

In the meantime, if you have the ability please check on your Brothers and stay in touch. A phone call, email or text will go a long way in these stressful times. Let us all commit to caring for one another and showing our Brotherly Love. If any Brothers are in need of ANYTHING as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak or hurricane preparedness, please reach out to the officers or the Secretary in the Lodge Office and we will make sure you get what you need.

Hang in there. Stay safe, continue to follow all protocols, and see you on the backside of this COVID outbreak.

Miss you all Brothers and miss our fellowship in Lodge!
Fraternally,
Brian Price, Senior Warden

From the South



Greetings Brethren!

Hope this message finds you and your family safe and in good health and spirits. It's hard to believe that we are already in August and still no relief in sight. The Grand Lodge still has no tentative date for the re-opening of the Lodges due to this pandemic. We are still experiencing increases in Covid cases so I strongly urge each and every one to continue to practice social distancing and take every precaution not to get infected.

On a positive note, the kitchen renovation is completed. New floors and paint and minor changes were implemented in preparation for our opening which at this point is still a question mark. Many thanks to Brothers TJ Comert, Rob Gibbons, Worshipful Ray Rios and all the brothers who helped make this happen. I'm sure all of us are anxious to get back to the Lodge, and rest assured we will open in grand style.

In the meantime, please continue to reach out to the brothers if you need help with anything and with regards to the business of the lodge, don't hesitate to call WM Ray Rios, WM David Reilly or myself for any questions.

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless us always!

Fraternally,

Sotelo Cruz, Junior Warden



Secretary Sez

Office Hours

Monday 1st & 3rd, 9 AM – 12 Noon

Monday 2nd & 4th, 1 PM- 9:00 PM (Meetings)

Wednesdays 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Thursdays 1:00–8:30 PM (Lodge of Instruction)

Brethren,

I have sent a Letter of Outstanding dues. A total of 35 to date have not paid. That is a total of \$5,335.00 of uncollected dues. Plus, another \$19.25 cost of postage. Brothers please remember your obligation and pay your dues on time. The Lodge is moving forward. We continue to make the Lodge CDC compliant, and we have cleaned and sanitized the lodge room and office. The Kitchen floor has been completed and the walls painted. Rob Gibbons continues to utilize the Lodge downtime to update cleaning and painting. We continue to keep the grounds as clean as possible. The Tenants' Businesses are open again and their business is slow but building. We have had Officer Meetings online and are planning to try an online meeting to the craft. The planned opening of September 28, 2020 has been cancelled due to our area being a hot spot for the Virus. We will keep you informed as to the future Lodge Opening, so watch the Trestle Board. **DUES ARE DUE FROM YOU KNOW WHO!** Brothers remember your obligation and pay your dues. Be sure to update your E-Mail so we can remain current. If you have moved recently, please let the Lodge know your new address.

Stay Safe and be well.

Remember You Obligation Brothers!

David J. Reilly, Secretary

“Believe... and you're halfway there”

~M.:W.: Harry S. Truman, PGM



Lodge Officers for 2020

W.: M.: Ray Rios 561-578-3281	rayrios@comcast.net
SW Brian Price 561-644-7620	bigdog5841@yahoo.com
JW Sotelo Cruz 561-601-1219	scrudz380sl@yahoo.com
SD Justin Shiver 561-346-6329	justin@justinshiverhypnotherapy.com
JD Mark Higgs 561-671-9194	tactsarge@hotmail.com
SS Fred Waymire 561-722-2251	fwfixit@bellsouth.net
JS Ferdinand Habijan 561-389-6561	flhabbijan@hotmail.com
Tyler Mark Garfinkel 732-742-1190	marksgarfinkel@gmail.com
Chaplain Tanju T.J. Comert 561-809-5115	tcomert@bellsouth.net
Marshall W.: Marco Sevilleja 561-346-7688	mfmsevilleja@yahoo.com
Musician Abner Pedraza 561-502-9843	abnerpedraza@yahoo.com
Secretary W.: David J. Reilly 561-615-7408	reillyharmonia@gmail.com
Treas. W.: Joshua Johnson 561-632-7278	joshelmintz1@gmail.com
Trestleboard W.: Tony Petrides 561-762-7234	meat11ball@aol.com



M.:W.: GRAND MASTER
Thomas L. Turlington, Jr.

M.:W.: GRAND SECRETARY
Richard E. Lynn, PGM

DISTRICT DEPUTY
GRAND MASTER
25th MASONIC DISTRICT

R.: W.: Rex Bradford
elviejorex@aol.com
561-289-9529

DISTRICT INSTRUCTOR
R.: H.: Roy Strohacker
rdstrohacker@bellsouth.net
561-329-2261



Palm Beach York Rite Bodies

Meets at Harmonia Lodge No. 138 F&AM

Chapter No. 24 Royal Arch Masons

Zabud Council No. 17 Royal and Select Masters

Palm Beach Commandry No. 18 Knights Templar

The Mason's Mason

James H. Kirby, Jr. 33° Grand Cross

If Lodge were open and the Pandemic not occurring, Harmonia would have the incredible and rare honor of conducting the Masonic ceremony and bestowing a 70-Year Masonic Service Award upon Illustrious Jim Kirby, Jr., HPM. Jim, who is simultaneously one of the most humble men ever encountered, is also one of the most inspiring, powerful, and impacting human beings Harmonia and Masonry has known. There is not a Brother among us whose life has not been profoundly impacted in a positive way by this man among men. Like a pebble thrown into a still pond, his ripples spiral outward and emanate in all directions in an infinite and ever expanding circle of light, love, and knowledge. When you next see this amazing mentor and ambassador of Freemasonry, take a moment to congratulate him, shake his hand, say “thank you” for all he has done, and let him know how impacting his “ripples” have been on your life.

~Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the single candle will not be shortened and will continue to remain burning ever the same. Light, knowledge, love and happiness never decrease by being shared.

Thank You Jim for sharing your flame and lighting the inspirational candles in so many of us.

Brother Kirby's Masonic record and Biography:

Brother James H. Kirby, Jr. is a Seventy-year Mason. He has served the Fraternity in many capacities, with many Masonic Bodies and with many hats. Brother Jim is 92 years old. (Birth date 08-07-1928). He is as sharp as ever, and contributes every day to Harmonia, our fine Fraternity, and to his fellow Brothers. His service to Masonry began in DeMolay. His Chapter met at the old Harmonia Lodge No.138 on Clematis Street. He worked in degree pageantry. His leadership and service led to him receiving the honors of Chevalier, Legion of Honor, and State Master Counselor. He left DeMolay as an Emeritus member.

Brother Jim was Initiated into Blue Lodge as an EA on March 29, 1950, Passed to FC on June 1, 1950 and was Raised a Master Mason on July 12, 1950. He went to the University of Florida and graduated as a Pharmacist. He served in the Army on the medical staff in Germany. When he arrived at his base he was met and taken to the commander where his first assignment was to prepare an officer for his Master Mason Degree. Jim was already a mentor at an early age and taught Masonic Catechism in the Army. The Army allowed Jim to travel in Germany and see many sights. While he traveled by train in the medical corps, to this day he is not fond of train travel. Returning home, Jim would become a Pharmacist for Good Samaritan Hospital. He would retire, but couldn't sit still long and soon a part time job at Jupiter Medical Center Hospital became a full-time position. He eventually retired again after a long and distinguished career as a Pharmacist. (cont'd next pg)

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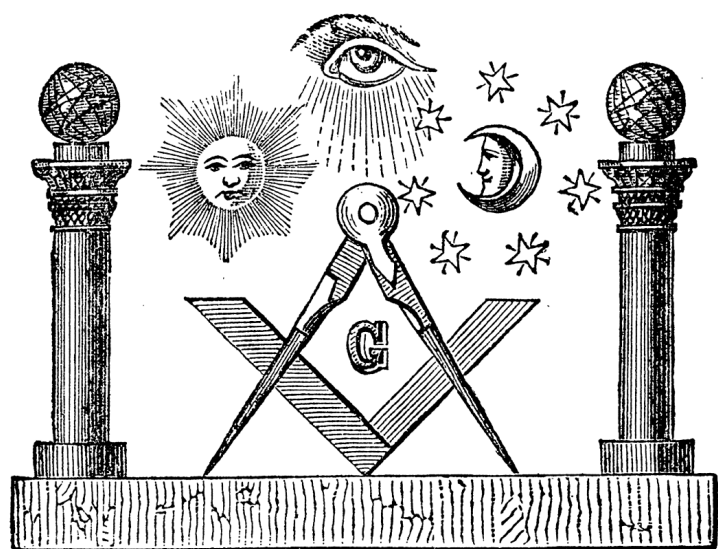
He was highly active in The Scottish Rite. His friends in Scottish Rite are many, and the relationships are extraordinarily strong. He worked in Degrees, and on committees, and like most who served spent countless time in the Kitchen. He met Brother Robert L. Goldsmith and a relationship grew that was strong. Brother Goldsmith would run for the Grand Line and become Grand Master of Florida in 1983-1984. As Grand Master he would appoint Jim Grand Chaplain of the Florida Grand Lodge. Jim explains that this was a very educational position as he traveled around the State with the Grand Master. He would serve on the Jurisprudence Committee from 1992 – 1995, another position he found most rewarding. When M.: W.: Robert L. Goldsmith became Sovereign Grand Inspector General of Scottish Rite, in the Orient of Florida, Jim offered his service with assistance to the S.G.I.G. in many tasks, including the establishment of the Council of 400, a group of Personal Representatives and General Secretaries that when totaled represented 400 years of Freemasonry. This group discussed and brought ideas and solutions to Scottish Rite Freemasonry in Florida. Jim assisted with KCCH Investitures and 33rd Degree Coronations. It would come to pass that Investiture and Coronations would be done in Florida for Florida Scottish Rites and not in Washington D.C. Brother Jim was instrumental in getting teams of members to the Degree Work and to assist in the logistics. Brother Kirby would serve as Personal Representative from 1977 until 1991 at Lake Worth Scottish Rite. The Supreme Council bestowed upon Jim the KCCH Investiture, 33rd Coronation and Grand Cross. Brother Jim was also the recipient of The Certificate of Honor. As Personal Representative he was an integral part of the success of the Lake Worth Scottish Rite. During all he maintained the teachings of Scottish Rite and emphasized the importance of continued learning, growth, education and mentoring. During his time he strengthened degree presentation correctness and insisted on them being well rehearsed. It is exciting to go to State Masonic Meetings, Scottish Rite or Grand Lodge, and see people from all over the state approach Jim and wish him well, listen to a story or tell one. Walking by them one can here, “Do you Remember?.....” as he is treated with reverence and the utmost respect.

Brother Kirby has served Harmonia Lodge No. 138 as a member, Marshall, Secretary Pro-Tem, and Secretary from 2006 – 2009. He was unanimously voted as an Honorary Past Master in 1991. Brother Jim has served on Committees including Finance, Membership, Elections, Petitions, and many others. Jim is a mentor to every Mason and Officer of our Lodge. He has witnessed membership growth, decline, and growth again. During a time of decline in membership, Brother Jim along with several members and Worshipful John Allen met and planned to strengthen the Lodge. Brother Kirby continues and maintains that plan today. He is extremely active in the Lodge to this day, and created “Kirby’s Corner”, a unique initiative that works exclusively with visitors at each meeting to mentor them in knowledge of Freemasonry and exploring possible Membership. (cont’d next pg)

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This membership development program is unique, and has been an integral piece in the resurgence of Harmonia Lodge's growth and member acquisition. Kirby's Corner is full of education, guidance, reflective questions and answers for the man entering our Lodge seeking membership. This program has also resulted in a higher level of participation and active retention of Brothers long after they have been raised a Master Mason because of the deep relationships and connections forged throughout the process. Brother Jim is a strong influence in our Lodge and there has not been a Master of the Lodge that has not benefitted from his mentorship. He keeps his finger on the pulse of Harmonia, even staying up on present-day technology as he has already moved the Kirby's Corner visitor program online to continue meeting with our new visitors during the COVID Lodge shutdown thus keeping them informed and interested. Brother, Mentor, Teacher, Friend, and a Mason's Mason. Illustrious James H. Kirby, Jr. 33° Grand Cross., a living example of the tenets of Freemasonry.

August Masonic Years of Service Recognitions



Glen Mills	25 Years
Gary York	25 Years
James Snelgrove	50 Years
James H. Kirby, Jr.	70 Years

Brethren, these Brothers are a tribute to our fraternity.
Congratulations and thank you Brothers.

Harmonia Lodge Degree Status



Awaiting EA

Joseph Puleo

Awaiting FC

Mitchel Garcia Afon, James Rogers,
Emilio Olan

Awaiting MM

Hikmet Sir





Area Lodges District #25

Boca-Delray #171	4093 NW 4th Avenue, Boca Raton 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Boynton #236	2701 Quantum Blvd, Boynton Beach 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Gulfstream #245	Palmwood Lodge: 845 Bradley St., WPB 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7:30 pm
Palmwood #303	845 Bradley St., West Palm Beach 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Bykota #333	421 Jennings Ave., Greenacres 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7:30 pm
Jupiter Light #340	600 S. Loxahatchee Dr., Jupiter 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7:30 pm
Garden #366	9463 Roan Lane, Palm Beach Gardens 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 pm
Lantana #372	Palmwood Lodge: 845 Bradley St., WPB 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7:30 pm

Harmonia Lodge Dress Code

For regular stated communications, degree conferrals, and lodge visitations, all Brothers are required to wear a suit or a sport coat and tie.



For regular stated communications, all Officers will wear black trousers, black tie, with black tux coat.



Charity for the Month

Grassy Waters Elementary

<https://gwes.palmbeachschools.org>

The Box of Fraternal Relief is located in the Lodgeroom. Please donate what you can to this worthy cause.



2020 Lodge Committees

Finance

SW Brian Price (Chairman), Treas. W.: Joshua Johnson,
W.: Tony Petrides, Lou Babbit HPM, Sec. David Reilly HPM,
Bro. Peter Petrosky, Ed Griffin HPM

Vigilance

JW Sotelo Cruz (Chairman), Bro. Dave Porter,
JD Mark Higgs, W.: Marco Sevilleja

Petitions

Sec. David Reilly HPM(Chairman), Lou Babbit HPM,
Treas. W.: Joshua Johnson, Bro. Dave Porter, W.: Tony Petrides,
SW Brian Price, JD Justin Shiver

Masonic Education

Treas. W.: Joshua Johnson (Chairman), Sec. David Reilly HPM,
Lou Babbit HPM, Mike Hart HPM, W.: Tony Petrides

Board of Relief

W.:M.: Ray Rios (Chairman), SW Brian Price, JW Sotelo Cruz

Charity

SW Brian Brice (Chairman), Treas. W.: Joshua Johnson,
Lou Babbit HPM, Sec. David Reilly HPM

Lodge Property

JW Sotelo Cruz (Chairman), Bro. Scott McGary,
Lou Babbit HPM, Sec. David Reilly HPM, Bro. Dave Porter

Lodge Mentoring

W.: Edmund Rodas (Chair), SD Justin Shiver, W.: Marco Sevilleja

Community, Civic Improvement & Social Activities

JW Sotelo Cruz (Chairman), SD Justin Shiver, JD Mark Higgs

Investigations

Sec. David Reilly HPM (Chairman), Lou Babbit HPM,
Treas. W.: Joshua Johnson, Bro. Dave Porter, W.: Tony Petrides,
SW Brian Price, JD Justin Shiver

Communications, Trestleboard and Website

Greg Tammany(Chair), Sec. David Reilly HPM, W.: Tony Petrides

Visitors

Jim Kirby HPM (Chair), Bro. Greg Tammany, Mike Hart HPM,
Chap. Tanju Comert, Bro. Don Gonzalez, W.: Tony Petrides



Letters to the Editor (An open forum by Brothers, for Brothers)

We welcome any feedback to improve our Trestle Board! If you have any suggestions or input, a pressing issue, flustering problem, or you are just plain curious about any topic whatsoever, submit your comments in an e-mail to the editor at Meat11ball@aol.com. Thanks in advance for your valued input!