

## 2011 OFFICERS

W.M.	Rodney Gnoinsky	307-3996
S.W.	Brad Partridge	731-3993
J.W..	Brian Work	305-7459
Treasr	Robert Mandell,PM	793-7308
Sec	John Karroum, PM	843-1219
Chap	Tom Wotherspoon	274-0626
Marshall	James Wooster	540-6271
S.D.	Michael Gambarrotti	2678377
JD	Scott Schwartzberg	414-5023
SS	Enrique Diz	801-2537
JS	Alan Cohen	373-3099
JS	Justin Cherry	954-254-7996
JS	Joseppe Nocero	374-2525
JS	Fidel Watlington	932-6442
JS	Pedro Merlo	305-763-3313
JS	Joseph Ciardullo	649-2694
JS	William Pierre	713-9574
JS	Farren Kahan	470-3492
JS	Mike Kenner	441-8158
Music	Ziggy Friedman	735-9933
Tyler	Robert Hess	843-2970

### **District Deputy Grand Master**

32nd Masonic District  
R.W. Wayne A. Hansen  
Phone: 561-436-5688  
email: [whansen@bellsouth.net](mailto:whansen@bellsouth.net)

### **District Instructor**

R.H. Gerald I. Strohacker  
Phone : (561) 329-2399  
email: [strohacker@bellsouth.net](mailto:strohacker@bellsouth.net)

## MAY 2011

### **THE TRESTLEBOARD**

Published Monthly

#### **Boynton Lodge #236 F&AM**

2701 Quantum Blvd  
Boynton Beach, FL 33426-8616  
**561-734-3727**

Regular Communication 2nd and 4th  
Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M.  
Except November and December  
when it shall be the 2nd and 3rd Thursday.

Visit Our Website

[www.boyntonlodge236.com](http://www.boyntonlodge236.com)

#### Called Communication Thursday

##### **MM DEGREE**

May 12th, 2011 at 7:00PM

#### Stated Communication Thursday

May 26th, 2011 at 7:30PM.

#### Grand Lodge Communication

May 29- June 1st, 2011

#### Master Masons Association 32

NO MEETING

MEETING THIS MONTH

#### DRESS CODE

**Brothers are required to  
dress in coat and tie.  
Officers dress is dark suit  
for regular meeting and  
white tuxedo for degrees  
and official visitations.**

## 2011 COMMITTEES

#### **Finance**

Brad Partridge, *Chairman*  
Brian Work, John Jelilian, W. Bob Mandell,  
W. Ross Cooper, Marty Kay, Justin Cherry

#### **Vigilance**

Brian Work, *Chairman*  
R.W. Dick Philpot. Mike Gambarrotti

#### **Petitions**

Michael Gambarrotti, *Chairman*  
Thomas Wotherspoon, Enrique Diz,  
Alan Cohen, Scott Schwartzberg

#### **Education and Primary Schools**

Brad Partridge, *Chairman*  
Bill Graham, RW Dick Philpott, Tavit Smith

#### **Board Of Relief / Charity**

Rodney Gnoinsky, *Chairman*  
Brad Partridge & Brian Work

#### **Lodge Property**

Tim Napier, *Chairman*  
Robert Hess, William Eckert,  
James Wooster, Enrique Diz,

#### **Scholarship**

R.W. Wayne A. Hansen, *Chairman*  
Robert Kenny, Brad Partridge,  
James Kirkpatrick, Scott Schwartzberg

#### **Ritual / Lodge instructors**

R.H. John Karroum, PDI  
W. Everett Tarter

#### **Masonic Youth**

R.W. Wayne Hansen, *Chairman*  
Brad Partridge, John Morris,  
James Bowman, Marc Fareau

#### **Masonic Funeral**

Ziggy Friedman, *Chairman*  
R.W. Sheldon ALtenhaus, *Co-Chairman*  
Bro. Lenny Tishberg, W. Carl Lipton,  
W. Irwin Ettlinger, RW Murray Gold,

## INVESTIGATION

Paul Bredner Jean  
Warren Phillips

AWAITING E.A.

AWAITING F.C.

Nixon Jacquet

Marc Cholet Bien-Aime

Jean Edwin Salomon

George Jason Morales

Kevin C. Boden

AWAITING M.M.

Michael Arnold Duseberg



Passed to The Celestial  
Lodge - 2011

#### **David Kimmel (236)**

DOB:08-13-1928  
Raised:02-28-1952  
Died: 01/01/20

#### **W. James Martin Rhoden (236)**

DOB: 3-18-1931  
Raised: 4-28-1960  
Died: 02-19-2011

#### **John Henry Rickens (236)**

DOB:10-13-1919  
Raised: 05-23-1991  
Died: 02-23-2011

#### **Bro Cyrus DeLong (236)**

DOB: 10/26/1926  
Raised: 09/07/1956  
Died: 03/23/2011

#### **Donald Aron (236)**

DOB: 2-7-1929  
Raised: 4-10-1972  
Died: 4/18/2011

## Hiram Abiff, Noah, and Gilgamesh. Mythology “Repurposed”

As a young college student, I was fortunate enough to spend a semester studying in Puebla, Mexico at the University Of The Americas. I lived nearby in a small village called San Andres, which sat at the base of a mountain that had been excavated to reveal a buried pyramid, the great Cholula Pyramid. This pyramid “is, in fact, the largest pyramid...ever constructed anywhere in the world.”

Sitting atop of the yet unexcavated part of this temple sits a Catholic church, the Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de los Remedios, built by Spaniards in 1594. When I asked a professor at the University why the church was built upon a pyramid, I was told that the church simply built where the people were already coming to worship – that it was an easy way to convert the indigenous population to a new and unfamiliar religion. I later learned that this is called “repurposing” a religious site. Since then, I have learned that the idea of “repurposing” is not only done with religious sites, but also with religious myths. An example of this would be the many myths, which have been passed along from the Babylonians to the Egyptians to the Jews, and finally to the Christians. Interestingly enough, a more specific example of repurposing can be found in the stories that form the basis of one of our own Freemasonry rituals.

Many brothers may be surprised to learn that the Hiram Abiff legend was not always a part of Masonic lore. Prior to 1730, our masonic brothers were taught that “the secret word” that they sought was buried with the Old Testament biblical character, Noah. According to the original story, Noah’s sons were in search of the “word” that they believed God had given to Noah that would enable him to start a new civilization after the flood. After a failed attempt by his sons to raise him from his grave, the sons chose a substitute word. The original word was never revealed, and remains lost to this day. While there are differences between the Hiram Abiff story and the story of Noah and his sons, the general outline remains the same – a great builder is in possession of a word (or words), which will allow the building to continue. However, the word(s) are lost, and mankind continues to this day to search.

Let us now jump ahead to 1844 when a British researcher, named Austen Henry Layard was traveling in Northern Iraq around the town of Mosul. Excavating the ruined palaces of Nineveh, the ancient capital of Assyria, he discovered of a hoard of stone tablets inscribed with cuneiform script. At the time, it was considered to be an interesting, but minor find. These tablets remained undeciphered until 1872 when a young British museum curator named George Smith translated the writing. Reportedly, when he deciphered one particular section of the tablets, he became so excited that he tore off his clothes and began running around the laboratory. You see, the tablet he deciphered told the story of a Babylonian who survived a great flood. The similarities between what was written on these stone tablets more than five thousand years ago, and the Old Testament flood story were remarkable.

These stone tablets tell a story about a man named Gilgamesh who sets off on a journey with a friend. During the journey the friend dies and Gilgamesh, having never known death, is filled with fear and grief, crying out...

“Must I die too? Must I be as lifeless? How can I bear this sorrow that gnaws at my belly, this fear of death that drives me onward? If only I could find the one man whom the gods made immortal, I would ask him how to overcome death.”

Here then, in one of the earliest written stories that civilization has yet uncovered, we hear of man’s greatest fear – the fear of death, and we hear of man’s first search for the secret of everlasting life – immortality. Written in stone, over five thousand years ago.

Could the story of Gilgamesh have been “repurposed”? Is the story of Hiram Abiff’s assailants, and Noah’s sons search for the secret word actually a “repurposing” of Gilgamesh’s search for everlasting life? Is the search for the lost words – so that we may continue building the temple, an allegorical story of man’s search to find the one thing that will allow us to continue to build our own allegorical temples -- our lives? In all three stories the content centers on a search -- a search for the greatest of secrets. In the Hiram Abiff story, Hiram is a supervisor of builders, Noah is the builder of the ark, and Gilgamesh is the builder of a great city.

Continuing with the Gilgamesh epic, we learn that Gilgamesh eventually meets with the Babylonian who survived the great flood, and asks him to intervene on his behalf and to ask the gods to grant him eternal life. The Babylonian refuses, but tells Gilgamesh where to find a magical plant that will give him everlasting life. Gilgamesh finds the plant only to later lose it to a snake that carries it off. [BTW – isn’t it interesting that in the bible in the book of Genesis a snake also keeps man from everlasting life]?

In the Gilgamesh story, we are not told what this magical plant is. Could it have been from the acacia plant? Remember that in masonic lore, the acacia plant is the symbol of everlasting life. It is the sprig of acacia that marks the grave of Hiram Abiff, and the sprig which the three searchers find when they search for Hiram.

Finally, in the Noah legend, and also in the Gilgamesh story, while aboard the ark, we are told that a bird is sent out to search for signs of life. The bird returns after the seventh day with an olive branch in its beak. And although in the Noah story it is an olive branch, doesn’t it make more sense that it would be a branch of acacia? That it would represent what Noah was searching for; the “continuance of life”?

In all three stories, that of Hiram Abiff, Noah, and Gilgamesh, there is a search for the ultimate secret. In all three stories, it is never found and the secret remains forever lost, and forever sought.

Most importantly, in each of the three legends we are reminded that God (or in the case of Gilgamesh, gods) hold the ultimate answer.

In the end, we find ourselves frail, and painfully human, forever seeking solace from the ultimate question of life: death.

Are the legends similar enough in traits to merit our consideration that both the story of Noah and Hiram Abiff were “repurposed” from one of man’s earliest recorded stories? – The story of Gilgamesh?

I believe that they are.

But most importantly, let us forever know that those things that concern every man in this room are simply part of the human condition. Perhaps it is only in a room like this, where we can each turn to the man sitting next to us and know that our concerns, our difficulties, and our struggles – whether now, or 5,000 years ago – are what make us human, and what make us brothers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bro. Tavitt Smith

Note: In my opinion, the best and most complete translation of the tale of Gilgamesh can be found in the book “Gilgamesh” by Stephen Mitchell, Free Press, NY, ©2004. Mitchell tells the tale twice, once with full commentary and background. For additional reading, read “The Buried Book,” by David Damrosch, Henry Holt & Company, © 2006.

**Presented at Boynton Lodge meeting April 28th, 2011 as part of masonic education.**

## F R O M   T H E   E A S T

Brethren,

April was and is a very busy work month for me travel wise. Our S.W. Brad Partridge was able to step in and conduct the first meeting in April. Brother Partridge did an excellent job and for that, I thank him. Boynton held a Masonic ceremony in remembrance of our Brother Cyrus DeLong who passed away March 23, 2011. Brother DeLong will be sorely missed and I would like to thank all the brothers who were able to visit him during his hospital stay. I would also like to thank our J.D. Scott Schwartzberg for his Masonic paper and for J.W. Brian Work delivery of it.

During our second meeting in April, we witnessed a wonderful Master Mason proficiency for 6 brothers. I again congratulate them on their wonderful proficiency and I would like to congratulate S.D. Michael Gambarrotti for his time and instruction. Brother Tavitt Smith presented his wonderfully exciting Masonic paper entitled Hiram Abiff, Noah, and Gilgamesh. We were also proud to present a 55-year pin to Brother Robert Landis.

May is a very big month for Boynton Lodge. Boynton Lodge will be putting on a Master Mason degree on our first meeting, Thursday May 12th starting at 7:00 PM. Please take a note of it.

On Saturday, May 14th we will have the pleasure of hosting a Masonic seminar put on by Worshipful Timothy Hogan from 10am - 3pm. W. Brother Hogan will be discussing the esoteric mysteries of Freemasonry and will be lecturing on three topics with discussions following, lunch will also be served from 12-1. I was also told that the District Deputy Grand Master of the Bahamas S.C. Charles Johnson would be attending this event. I encourage all brothers that can attend to please do so, spread the word and bring a brother. Tickets for this event are \$25 and are still available. Please contact J.W. Brian Work for ticket info at [brian\\_work@yahoo.com](mailto:brian_work@yahoo.com)

May is Grand Lodge communication as well, so any interested brothers please contact our secretary R.H. John Karroum or myself. Basically, we need to know how many brothers are going and for how long.

Enjoy May my brothers with all the exciting events coming up in your Lodge and have a safe Memorial Day.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,  
Rodney Gnoinsky W.M

# Discover the esoteric mysteries of Freemasonry that few Masons know.

Freemasonry is devoted to seeking light, but it is rare that Masons experience anything quite as enlightening as a seminar by Worshipful Timothy Hogan. The author of several eye-opening books on Freemasonry, W. Bro. Hogan will present his original theories about the esoteric mysteries of the craft, the origin of Masonic symbols, and how Kabbalah directly relates to the Masonic degrees.

Worshipful Master Rodney Gnoinsky, of Boynton Lodge #236 F. &A.M. and the Boynton Lodge Esoteric Research Group, proudly present this thought-provoking event:

**Saturday, May 14, 2011, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

Boynton Lodge #236, F. &A.M., 2701 Quantum Boulevard, Boynton Beach, FL 33426

\$25 per person, includes lunch  
For tickets, visit <http://blerg.eventbrite.com>

or mail check to address above c/o John Karroum, Secretary.

W. Bro. Hogan is a Past Master of both East Denver #160 and AMD Council #425, 32° KCCH in the Scottish Rite, Knight Templar in the York Rite, Fellow of the Masonic Society, member of the Royal Order of Scotland, and former District Lecturer for the Grand Lodge of Colorado, among other distinctions.

## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

10:00 AM — 11 AM

Lecture and discussion of Hogan's "Alchemical Keys to Masonic Ritual."

11 AM — 12:00 PM

Lecture and discussion of Hogan's "The 32 Secret Paths of Solomon: A New Examination of the Kabbalah in Freemasonry."

12:00 PM — 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM — 2:00 PM

Lecture and discussion of Hogan's "Revelation of the Holy Grail," (written under the name Chevalier Emerys).

2:00 PM — 3:00 PM

Open discussion and questions

For brothers that wish to spend the evening, the recommended hotel just minutes from the lodge is: Hampton Inn, Boynton Beach, FL, 1475 West Gateway Boulevard, Boynton Beach, FL, 33426. Contact Lorraine 561-369-0018 (Mention Masonic Meeting) Room Rates are \$89(executive suite) \$79(regular room) Plus tax respectively.

For questions regarding the Timothy Hogan seminar, Please contact Brian Work, Junior Warden, Boynton Lodge #236 F. & A.M.

[brian\\_work@yahoo.com](mailto:brian_work@yahoo.com)

## Trestleboard Booster

Bill Diamond	Nabil karroum
John Karroum	Daniel Cohen
Peter Van Leeuwen	Robert Mandell
John Morris	Sheldon Altenhaus
Mark Bogert	Robert J. Malloy
Ralph Warren	Brian Work
Alan Cohen	Jack Witter
Murry Gold	
Ed & Penny Glass (2y)	

Brethren

I ask you to be a booster member for 2010. Your donation of \$10, \$20, \$50, or \$100 will be most appreciated by your Lodge.

When may we add your name to this growing list? Please send your contribution to our secretary! Thank You!

Rodney W. Gnoinsky, WM

## OPEN BOOKS for District 32

**May 2011, TBA**

Held at  
Harmonia Lodge No 138 F. & A.M.  
1896 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd,  
West Palm Beach, FL  
Phone: (561) 640-9115

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## District School of Instruction for District 32

**LOCATION: Harmonia Lodge No 138**  
Same time as open books



## MAY 2011 HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Vernon Frank Brumbaugh, Sr
William Wolfe Diamond
Michael Lew Winsted
Alan Steven Cohen
Ian Jeremy Goldstein
Rafael Mario George
Roy Cesar Hernandez, Jr
Carlee Jackson Lilly, II
Michael Wade Morrow
Seymour Simpson
George Cohon
Ankit Shah
Harry Cooper Rawlings
Michael Floering
Arnold Harvey Fram
Seymour Friedman
Gerald Midman
Rodney Charles Aton
Joseph Morris Lopin
Rodney Wayne Gnoinsky
Larstin Hand, Jr
Robert B. Slutzkin
Tavit kenneth Smith