



# Freedom Lodge No. 118

*The Southern Least Lodge in Virginia*  
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia  
<http://FreedomLodge118.org>

Stated Communication – Aug 5, 2016  
Dinner at 7p, Lodge at 8p

AUGUST 2016

VOLUME 2016, NUMBER 8

## 2016 Officers

### **Worshipful Master**

J. David King  
20355 Snowpoint Pl.  
Ashburn, VA 20147  
703-509-4905  
[wm-freedom118@outlook.com](mailto:wm-freedom118@outlook.com)

### **Senior Warden**

Chuck Wyant

### **Junior Warden**

Wes Hirschhorn

### **Treasurer**

George Facer

### **Secretary**

George Shoemaker, Jr.

### **Senior Deacon**

Mark Shapiro

### **Junior Deacon**

Mark Canter

### **Senior Steward**

Brad Westerman

### **Junior Steward**

Mariano D'Aguiar

### **Chaplain**

Ray Mauk

### **Marshal**

David Kirk

### **Tiler**

Dick Bond

### **LIW**

R. Harris McGarrah Jr.

### **LGO**

Dick Phillips

## From the East

### **Salute to a Magical Mason**

Greetings Brethren:

In last month's Trestleboard, our Mason of note was Benjamin Franklin, famed diplomat, philosopher, statesman, scientist, and American. This month's exemplary Brother has many things in common with Ben. For example, while both men were great Americans, neither was born in the United States. Erik Weisz, was born in Budapest, Hungary. Both men were great men of science, with Brother Franklin counting among his accomplishments many great discoveries and with Brother Weisz acting as one of the early 20th century's first great men of reason, setting about revealing the tricks and illusions of the snake-oil salesmen and mystics that defrauded the public in his time. Both men were also consummate performers who enraptured the public with their talents, Ben Franklin moving crowds with his literary and oratory skills, and Erik Weisz thrilling them with his physical skill a flair for showmanship.

Erik and his family immigrated to Appleton, Wisconsin, where his father served as the local Rabbi. A few years later, the family relocated to the metropolis of New York City, where a young Erik worked odd jobs, eventually becoming a sensational trapeze artist at the age of nine. At the same time, Erik was gaining notoriety as an accomplished cross country runner. Soon after that, Erik discovered in himself a love for magic, performing tenaciously in America before his hard work and tenacity got him off the ground and capable of financing a European tour, where he performed all over, from Spain, to Russia, to London, eventually amassing a small fortune, enough to purchase himself a large home in Harlem, as well as to purchase a dress made for the Queen of England for his mother. Upon returning to the States, Weisz continued to perfect his craft, taking on more and more incredible illusions and death-defying stunts. Of course, as most great performers, Erik did not operate under his given name, instead choosing a stage name borrowed from great heroes of his, Harry Kellar and Jean Robert-Houdin. Weisz was a Brother at St. Cecile Lodge #568 in New York, as well as serving as founding member and president of the Society of American Magicians in 1902, the oldest fraternal society of magic in the world.

I look forward to seeing you for dinner at 7 PM on Friday on August 5, 2016. The planned meal will be followed by Freedom Lodge No. 118 Stated at 8 PM with coat and tie.

-David

P.S. – [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry\\_Houdini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Houdini)

## THE INVISIBLE LODGE

The following is excerpt from the short talk bulletin prepared by Worshipful Brother Walter J. Harmon, Past Master of Richmond Lodge No. 10, Richmond, Virginia, a magician for more than 28 years, and an active member of "The Invisible Lodge.

In the strictest sense of the word, Lodge, "the Invisible Lodge" is not a Lodge. It is an international organization of Freemasons who also have as their vocation or avocation - MAGIC.

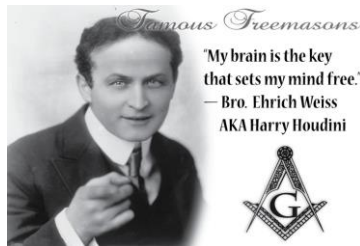
The Invisible Lodge was formed in 1953 by Sir Felix Korim of England, who served as the organization's first President. Member-ship in The Invisible Lodge has been more than 800 selected Masons throughout the world, including such notable and well-known figures in the world of magic as Harry Houdini, Alexander Hermann, Harry Kellar, Howard Thurston, Dante, Lee Grable, John Calvert, Harry Blackstone Sr., Peter Reveen, Sid Radner, and Professor J.K.

Just as the roots of Freemasonry are entrenched in antiquity, so are those of Magic. The magi were the priests of the ancient Medes and Persians. The ancient Greeks and Hebrews knew them as

Astrologers, Interpreters of Dreams, and givers of Omens. It is alleged that these priests (the magi) predicted the birth of the Christ Child and were the ones who brought him the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. As ruling monarchs, the priests were referred to as "Kings of the Orient" and "the wise men."

There are certain similarities between the order of the Magi and Freemasonry which should be noted. The word, "Dao" is Persian in origin. It signifies Light and Wisdom and is the forerunner of the word Deity (Bright One). Fire or light was used in the rituals of the magi to symbolize intelligence, knowledge and wisdom

It is the hypothesis of some historians that the Magi even possessed knowledge that has since been lost to man and that they possessed powers that would seem awesome to us even today.



## August Masonic Birthdays

Lester C. Bond  
Clifford S. Free  
Lionel Wesley Hirschhorn, Jr.  
Robert Samuel Miller, II  
Carroll Eugene Ridgeway

## Living Past Masters

Larry D. Frye,	1983,2005-2007
Franklin C. Lamm,	1985
Roy Harris McGarrarh, Jr.	1992-1995, 2011
Clifford S. Free,	1996-1999
Richard A. Phillips,	2000-2003
Gary R. Ing,	2004
George M. Shoemaker, Jr.,	2008-2010
Philip B. Brooks,	2012,2014
Thomas W. Brierton,	2013
Loyd Davis	2015

## Mark Your September Calendar

Sep 2 – Freedom Lodge Stated  
Sep 21 - Freedom Lodge Meet-Up  
Nov 9 - 13 - Grand Lodge, Richmond, VA

## Most Worshipful

James Edward Litten  
Grand Master  
Grand Lodge  
of Virginia, A.F. & A.M.

<https://grandlodgeofvirginia.org>



## August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 8p Olive Branch #114 Stated	2	3	4	5 Freedom Stated Dinner 7p, Lodge 8p	6 Called Communication EA Degree
7	8	9 7:30p Ashburn Sterling #288 Stated	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Freedom Meet-Up Fellowship 6:30p, Practice 7:30p	18 Hamilton-Thompson # 37 Stated	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2 Freedom Stated Dinner 7p, Lodge 8p	3

