

# JEPHTHA LODGE 494

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Huntington, New York 11743 ♦ 631.351.8361 ♦ <http://www.jephtha.com>

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## GREETINGS FROM THE EAST



Brethren who are able to attend communications at Jephtha Lodge can once again observe their Worshipful Master, Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer at their stations and Line Officers in their places, for all attending brothers to take in the business of the communication the way it was meant to be, in our Sacred Temple. I would have never imagined banging a chunk of brass on a hunk of granite could be so gratifying! I am grateful to set the craft at work and witness a real ritual being performed. We still have pandemic guidelines to adhere to, and I crave the day when brothers can once again exchange words and certain handshakes which confirm the very essence of whom we are and what we aspire to be. My eyes well up knowing that day is coming. Having jumped right into doing allowable business on Zoom once the pandemic hit, I set aside my emotions and we carried on like craftsmen, doing whatever possible to maintain our ancient craft and continue our charitable endeavors. Now that we can meet in the lodge again, in numbers greater than ten, I am reminded of the social aspect of Freemasonry and how very important it is. It is simply indispensable. There is a benefit to which this pandemic may have contributed. Lodge members reach out around the district, state, country and world using the tools of technology to bring education, information and brotherhood to others, perhaps more so now than ever. While the tenants of our institution remain unchanged, on the face of it all, we are evolving.

February, in the midst of a seemingly never-ending pandemic lockdown and snowstorms, we managed a busy and productive month. Just a short time before our February 8<sup>th</sup> stated communication, the Grand Lodge lifted the "maximum of ten occupants in the lodge room" pandemic restriction, allowing us to meet and celebrate black history month with a beautiful and informative lecture created by Brother Per Dobler and delivered by Brother Bill Freidman. W.: Ron Seifried presented an educational lecture on some of the functions of the Grand Lodge, focusing on the purpose of having a Grand Lodge Session. For the first time this Masonic year, we were able to ballot on four worthy, well qualified candidates, and schedule an Entered Apprentice degree for March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Benevolence is always our point of focus. This time we were able to accomplish a fun and virtual event celebrating Mardi Gras. I would like to thank all those who coordinated and attended virtually, making it a successful fundraiser for our newly created Jephtha Benevolence Fund.

I encourage our brothers to reach out to our members who are not able to attend lodge meetings and let them know we are thinking of them. We have fellow members in good standing who live nearby, as well as out of state, who keep a finger on the pulse of our lodge by reading our monthly newsletter. Some with years of service that extend well past 50. I would like to congratulate service to the craft to Brother Stuart Koenig for his 50 years and Brother Rudolf Weber for his 60 years! The wisdom of our elder brothers is harmoniously matched by the energy of our younger brothers. I am so blessed to be a part of all this. Excelsior!

Cordially and Fraternally,  
Brother Anthony Colonna,  
Worshipful Master

## GREETINGS FROM THE WEST



My brothers, I hope all is well with you and your families. As I view the devastation in Texas with a heavy heart, I would like to focus this message on appreciation. Millions have been without power for over 72 hours, with daily deaths climbing. It takes me back to Hurricane Sandy in which I did not have power for 2 weeks. Sitting in pure darkness every night with no heat, hoping for days to go by faster. It seemed as if I were cemented in time.

My brothers, the usual luxuries we are afforded day to day can sometimes go unnoticed. Modern times, with newer technology, allow us to take for granted basic necessities until we no longer have them. As we face the current pandemic, we also realize life can change in an instant, and that is why we should be grateful for everything.

Every day is a blessing, and trials and tribulations are a part of life. Appreciate the little things. My thoughts are with our brothers and their families in Texas as they recover. Masonry never stops.

Blessings, my brothers.

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
Jeremiah Campbell,  
Senior Warden

## GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH



Greetings Brothers and happy March,

The initial direction of my newsletter submission this month was going to focus on spring cleaning, not of our homes but of our minds. However, I'm going to change it to our personal, spring decluttering and here's why:

In the January 2021 newsletter, I asked you, my Brothers, to try something new, and if so, I hope it was to your pleasing. After reading Brother TenClay's submission (further in this newsletter), I'm now going to ask you to try something old, something you tried when you were younger and didn't like.

With your Masonic knowledge, along with your more mature life experience, you may now find what you once didn't like in a different perspective, and find it knowledgeable, educational or to your liking. Although Brother TenClay stated he didn't agree or like the book's ideas entirely, he still found something to learn and shared with us some of the wisdom he acquired.

With that thought, I attempted to eat beets again, and found out that after revisiting my past experience as a child who hated beets and had to eat everything on his plate, I still hate them and will revisit this again in 30 years! However, I did learn the health factor of beets may be worth it, but I will choose the unhealthy route of ice cream instead.

Nevertheless, I did try learning a new dance for a Tic-Tok video with my daughter. Trust me, if you saw my dance moves you would know why this is a challenge and why I avoided the art of dancing my entire life. Seeing the happiness of my daughter, and she telling me that I'm one of the only Dads who does this, along with the final product, proves true to what I wrote about earlier.

Let's celebrate March the best we can under our current circumstances. Let's welcome the longer days as we spring forward, chase the pesky Leprechaun on Saint Patrick's Day, and hopefully find the pot of gold which, to me, is the spring decluttering where we always strive to not only be better Masons but better men.

To all my Brothers who celebrate Passover, may you enjoy your Passover Seder and may G-d smile upon you.

On a final note, we have a First Degree on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and as Acting Master for the Degree, I cannot wait to raise our soon-to-be brothers. There was no more Masonic joy for me last year then studying and practicing for this degree. I also hope many of the brothers who can attend will do so in great numbers.

Enjoy a great March, my Brothers, and always remember the true King Solomon's Temple is the one built from our hearts.

May God bless you,  
Brother Michael S. Crispino,  
Junior Warden

### FROM THE CORNER DESK



Greetings Brothers,

On the recommendation of a friend of mine, I recently re-read *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz. I remember reading it in the late 90s and, quite honestly, not being terribly impressed. Looking back, I'm sure it was the author's "mystic" and "magical" language that I didn't find compelling.

Today, I am a different person and, while I still don't agree with everything he says (or how he says it), I was struck by the simplicity *and* breadth of his four "agreements" – (1) Be impeccable with your word, (2) Don't take anything personally (good or bad), (3) Don't make assumptions, and (4) Always do your best. (The last three, by his own admission, are extrapolations of the first.)

The Four Agreements, by themselves can be (mis)used (and abused) to support narcissism and to ignore our mutual responsibility to one another and the world around us. They can be twisted and distorted to support a worldview that cares about nothing more than any single individual's desires.

On the other hand, when they are engaged by *Masons* acting as true brothers, such ill-use becomes impossible. We take our responsibilities to one another and the world around us seriously – one cannot be a Mason without it!

Yes, we are to be impeccable with our word – and, as Masons we know, sometimes, "word" is our silence.

We cannot allow ourselves to be controlled by other people's opinions (either criticisms or flattery) – though, as Masons we know to examine both with honesty for whatever wisdom (and potential for transformation) they may reveal.

We must not make assumptions – good advice to anyone, of course. As Masons, we take it a step further by resisting the temptation to assume and replacing it with open, honest communication.

And finally, we must always do our best. None of us are perfect. We all fail, and we are all growing. Masons know better than to expect perfection from anyone else *or ourselves*, but we – nonetheless – *do our best*. To quote Maya Angelou, “When I know better, I must do better.”

Grace and peace,  
Tim TenClay,  
Secretary



### CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2021

Monday	March 1	7:00 PM	Entered Apprentice practice
Wednesday	March 3	7:00 PM	Entered Apprentice practice
Monday	March 8	7:00 PM	Stated Communication
Wednesday	March 10	7:00 PM	Entered Apprentice practice
Monday	March 15	7:00 PM	Entered Apprentice practice
Monday	March 22	7:30 PM	Special Communication: <b>Conferral of the Degree of Entered Apprentice</b>
Wednesday	March 24	7:30 PM	Benevolence Committee Meeting

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Edward J. Grossman  
Daniel E. McDonald  
Josh M. Pierno  
Jonathan E. Poole  
John J. Sammartino  
Gerard Simonelli  
Robert C. Wuestefeld

### MARCH RAISINGS

Richard J. Hajek  
William F. Hren  
Randolph Ivans  
John A. Lentinello  
Raymond C. Mahdesian  
Warren M. Melnick  
Jonathan E. Poole

Robert P. Previto  
Nicholas P. Russotto  
Joseph C. Savaglio  
Michael A. Schenker  
Stephen Schenker  
Ronald J. Seifried

### KEEPING IN TOUCH



BAND (Jephtha): <https://band.us/band/77740271>



FACEBOOK: Jephtha Lodge No. 494



INSTAGRAM: Jephtha 494



MASONS OF JEPHTHA #494: <https://www.jephtha.com>



OUR LODGE PAGE (Jephtha): <https://494-ny.ourlodgepage.com>



GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE  
OF NEW YORK: [nymasons.org/site](http://nymasons.org/site)

## GREETINGS FROM THE JEPHTHA LODGE HISTORIAN

### 34 Masons, a Mason's Son and a Goat Capture Block Island



Over the course of the history of Freemasonry, brothers had the ability to travel to Masonic lodges other than their home lodge to share in fellowship with other recognized lodges. It is possible for several brothers from one lodge to travel as a group to other lodges for degrees, table lodges or special communications. Several brothers of Jephtha Lodge No. 494 not only travelled to another Masonic lodge, but to another Masonic district in a different state.

On June 2, 1922 Right Worshipful Ambrose W. Rose, District Deputy Grand Master of the Suffolk Masonic District and Past Master of Jephtha (1919), led a delegation of 12 Past Masters, 22 Brothers, a son of a Past Master

who was waiting to be of age to join the lodge, and a goat on a trip by sea to Block Island, Rhode Island. The occasion was to meet with Worshipful Lester Littlefield, Master of Atlantic Lodge No. 31 and nephew to Brother Rose for a special travelling lodge.

It was through the kindness of Worshipful Emmett B. Hawkins (1895-98; 1909-10) that a delegation of over 35 Huntingtonians had the opportunity of going on this trip. It was Hawkins, also affectionately known as "Cappy" to his brothers, said, according to contemporary accounts, "Well boys, I will take the old *Isaac Sherwood* and the whole lodge can travel on her."

So, with "Cappy" at the wheel and Brother Henry A. Murphy in charge of the commissary, with some assistance from Worshipful Russel Young (1917), the sendoff party started off at Archer's Dock in Huntington Harbor at 8AM on a Friday morning, with Jack Cushing blowing the fire whistle to start the long trip.

By the time the ship of Masons reached the Huntington lighthouse, a small rowboat was coming up behind the *Isaac Sherwood* with a man in the bow giving a distress sign that only fellow Masons would recognize. The twin engines in the *Isaac Sherwood* were stopped and silence crept aboard the ship, a silence so deafening one could hear a pin drop. A line was shot across the little rowboat which carried dedicated Brother "Uncle" Sam Horn, late for the early morning departure strictly called by "Cappy." Big Ernest Carlsson and Elbert Fleet assisted the unpunctual Uncle Sam aboard the *Isaac Sherwood* and the party continued its long-distance trip. While travelling on Long Island Sound, Worshipful Murphy called out, "Dinner is now being served!" Cappy later stated he "never saw such a well-trained gang of men in all the years he had travelled the water." The crew and brothers were fed a hearty feast, including fruit, pies, cake, sardines, and anything else that might have been in the ship's cupboards. After dinner and coffee, the card tables were rearranged for a night of gambling. It was at this moment it was realized the unnamed committee forgot to bring any prizes, leading the brothers to play for actual peanuts.

The strong headwind and tide the *Isaac Sherwood* faced on this cool Friday evening, Cappy decided to anchor in Gardiner's Bay for the night and expected to weigh anchor at sunrise on Saturday. The sun failed



to be seen through the thick fog the following morning and Brother Clarence Cutting remarked "It had not been seen since yesterday." Because of the thick fog, the party did not set sail for Plum Island until 7:30AM and were unable to find the eastern island for over five hours.

The *Isaac Sherwood* finally reached the Block Island dock by 1:45 PM, with Worshipful Lester Littlefield and his landing crew patiently awaiting the arrival of the visiting brothers from Jephtha Lodge. Littlefield yelled out at the approaching ship that he just received a telegram from Right Worshipful Douglass Conklin, Past Master of Jephtha (1886-87; 1899), that the new District Deputy was on board. The excited brothers from Atlantic Lodge gathered on the dock to shake hands with the new District Deputy affectionately nicknamed "Rosie."

A list of several brothers with a case of "sea sickness blues" was recorded in the archives of Jephtha, with the caveat that "nothing is against a man being seasick." As the brothers from Huntington disembarked the *Isaac Sherwood*, some of the early settlers of Block Island were gathering outside to witness the visiting Masonic brothers.

The Master Mason Degree was conferred in full form at Atlantic Lodge No. 31, Block Island, Rhode Island by Jephtha Lodge No. 494, Huntington, New York. After the degree work was completed, both lodges retired to the banquet room of the Eureka Hotel, where proprietor Ollie Rose prepared an elaborate feast.

At the conclusion of the banquet, "Cappy" Hawkins initiated all the members of Atlantic Lodge into the Order of the Turtles and gave the Block Island lodge the power to confer the order at any time during his absence. The drinking fraternity traces its origins to an English pub in 1943, loosely organized by a group of fighter pilots complete with an initiation ceremony, grip and passwords. The discovery of the Order of the Turtles in 1922 predates the "official" start of the fraternity by 21 years, an interesting revelation that will need further research.

The Jephtha brothers departed from Block Island at 9AM on Sunday morning and arrived at Huntington Harbor at 6AM on Monday morning. Everyone was happy and ready for the next trip to Block Island, which there would be many, except for Brother Tang, who said he would rather "fill up the holes here on dry land than to fill up in Long Island Sound." Senior Warden Kurt J. Galow and Junior Master of Ceremonies Louis Sammis were the men before the mast and nightwatchmen, ensuring that everyone was made comfortable during their watch.



The infamous, yet unnamed goat, of which Jephtha was so proud as their travelling mascot, was presented to the brothers of Atlantic Lodge, which received the high honor as the only goat on Block Island in 1922. The lack of DNA evidence cannot confirm if this goat were a direct descendent to one of the many goats Brother George W. Dowling rode, as reported in an 1886 edition of the Long Islander.

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
W.: Ronald J. Seifried, DSA  
Jephtha Lodge Historian

## MASONIC MOMENT

### The Test

Author Unknown

Several years ago, the story is told of a Mason who always wore his Masonic ring and lapel pin when in public. On some occasions, he rode the bus from his home to the downtown area. On one such trip and when he sat down, he discovered the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount?" Anyway, the transit company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver with a smile replied, "I noticed your Masonic ring and lapel pin. I have been thinking lately about asking a Mason how to join. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. You passed the test. Can you tell me how to become a Mason?"

When the Mason stepped off the bus, he said a silent prayer, "Oh God, Grand Architect of the Universe, I almost sold you and my beloved Masons out for a mere quarter."

Our actions are the only Masonic creed some will ever see. This is a really almost scary example of how people watch us as Masons and may put us to the test even without us realizing it! Always be diligent, whether it be at the theater, restaurant, grocery, service station or just driving in traffic.

Remember, whether it be a lapel pin, a ring, or an emblem on the car, you carry the name of our great fraternity on your shoulders whenever you call yourself a Mason. You never can tell who might be watching!

**Good men search for Freemasonry; Freemasonry makes them better.**

Reprinted from Mindoro Lodge No. 157 F. & A. M.  
San José, Occidental Mindoro, The Philippines

Respectfully submitted,  
Br. Richard Gentile  
Jephtha Lodge #494

## FAMOUS MARCH MASON

### JAMES BOWIE

March 10, 1796, Logan County, Kentucky – March 6, 1836, Alamo Mission, San Antonio, Texas

James ("Jim") Bowie was the ninth of ten children born to Rezin and Elve Ap-Catesby Jones Bowie in Kentucky. He died in the Battle of the Alamo along with Davie Crocket and William Travis. Their bodies were burned where they fell by the conquering Mexicans and are now interred in the Catholic Cathedral of San Fernando in downtown San Antonio, Texas, a few blocks from the Alamo. Another theory is those ashes were buried near the Alamo.

Bowie's father moved the family to Missouri and then Louisiana where they then moved about before finally settling in Opelousas in 1812. Opelousas was a frontier town and Bowie and his siblings learned how to

fish and farm while becoming proficient with pistols, rifles and knives. (The famous Bowie knife was invented by Rezin Bowie, his brother, but it was Jim Bowie who made it famous though his numerous, successful fights.) It was in Opelousas that Jim Bowie became a Master Mason, Loge l'Humble Chaumière No. 19. Later in his life he moved to Texas which was then part of the Mexican Federation.

All the Bowie children were taught to read and write in English, and Jim Bowie was also proficient in French and Spanish which were important in his business dealings: pioneer, militiaman, lumber sawmill owner, slave trader, sugar cane processor, land speculator, and textile manufacturer in Mexico. He married his Mexican, textile partner's daughter, Maria Ursula de Veramendi, 16 years his junior with whom he had two children. At the time of his marriage in 1831 he was worth approximately \$223,000 (\$5,350,000 today) and promised to gift his bride \$15,000 (\$360,000 today) as part of their marriage contract. Unfortunately, in 1833 Bowie became a widower - Maria Ursula, her parents, her brother and their two children died of cholera. He was saved since he was away on business.

Bowie was instrumental in liberating Texas from Mexican rule in several battles – Nacogdoches (1832), Battle of Gonzales (1835) which began the Texas Revolution, Battle of Concepción (1835) and the siege of San Antonio de Bxar (1835). On November 3, 1835 Texas declared itself an independent state, and Bowie enlisted in the newly formed Texan army distinguishing himself on numerous occasions. His last fight was the Battle of the Alamo (February 23-March 6, 1836) in which approximately 200 Texans fought about 1,500 Mexicans. The Texans were defeated but the Alamo became a pivotal event in the Texas Revolution. General Antonio López de Santa Ana, the Mexican commanding general, executed all survivors. He enraged so many Texans (residents of Mexican Texas, and later the Republic of Texas) they joined the Texian Army in their desire for revenge and defeated the Mexican Army in the Battle of San Jacinto (April 21, 1836). The Texian battle cry was, "Remember the Alamo." Although the Republic of Texas was now a sovereign state within North America (March 2, 1836 - February 19, 1846), it was considered by Mexico as a rebellious province during its entire existence; many of its citizens wanted to become part to the United States. It became the 28<sup>th</sup> state in December 1845 when annexed by the United States, with full transfer of power on February 19, 1846. Mexico, still unwilling to accept the loss of Texas, began the Mexican-American War (also known as the Mexican War) which ended in 1848 with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, officially recognizing Mexico's forfeiture of Texas and the Rio Grande as the official border between the two countries. This treaty also ceded Alta California and Santa Fe de Nuevo México to the United States which now includes the states of California (31<sup>st</sup> state, 1850), Nevada (36<sup>th</sup> state, 1864), Colorado (38<sup>th</sup> state, 1876), Wyoming (44<sup>th</sup> state, 1890), Utah (45<sup>th</sup> state, 1896) New Mexico (47<sup>th</sup> state, 1912), Arizona (48<sup>th</sup> state, 1912), and parts of Kansas (34<sup>th</sup> state, 1861) and Oklahoma (46<sup>th</sup> state, 1907). Texas originally claimed most of this land as its own but relinquished it in the Compromise of 1850.

On June 8, 1854 the United States paid Mexico \$10,000,000 for the Gadsden Purchase (known in Mexico as the *Venta de la Mesilla*) which gave the United States 29,670 square miles in present day southern Arizona, which includes the cities of Tucson, Yuma, Sierra Vista, and southwestern New Mexico. This resolved the last border dispute with Mexico.

James Gadsden was appointed by President Franklin Pierce as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Mexico to negotiate buying more land from Mexico to settle the Mesilla controversy. This would also provide land within the United States for a prospective railroad route across the southernmost parts of present-day New Mexico and Arizona. This treaty, known as the Gadsden Treaty, resulted in the Gadsden Purchase.

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Texas Legislature purchased the land and buildings of the Alamo



and designated the Alamo chapel as an official Texas State Shrine. The Daughters of the Republic of Texas are its permanent caretaker.

There are two Masonic plaques on the wall of the Alamo that read as follows:

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The Birthplace of Freemasonry in West Texas

This plaque was dedicated on January 15, 1946, by Alamo Lodge No. 44 A.F. & A.M. commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the chartering of the lodge and honoring those pioneer Masons of that era who founded the lodge upon this site.

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Honoring these Masons

James Bonham

James Bowie

David Crockett

Almaron Dickenson

William Barrett Travis

And those unidentified Masons who gave their lives in the Battle of the Alamo, March 6, 1836.

Erected by The Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M.

March 6, 1976.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Br. Richard Gentile  
Jephtha Lodge #494

*All brothers of Jephtha Lodge are encouraged to contribute articles for Masonic Moments and Famous Mason (the same birth month as the month's publication). Kindly submit articles to the Communications Committee: Br. Bill Fenty III (wfenty@gmail.com) and Br. Richard Gentile (rg.jlnews@aol.com) by the 15th of the month for publication the following month. If you have any questions, kindly contact the two brothers above.*

