

JEPHTHA LODGE 494

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

GREETINGS FROM THE EAST



Greetings my Brothers,

May this April message find you and your families well, especially as we all begin to enjoy beautiful, spring weather.

A heartfelt thank you to all my officers for hosting a wonderful St. Patrick's Day event. Many beautiful memories were made that will resonate in our thoughts for years to come. The world is not presently in a great state, but we will continue to bring Light to Darkness. We will continue to enjoy the company of one another and strive for the betterment of mankind. We will continue to do more than other men

because we are Masons.

This month we will welcome new brothers to the Conferral of the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on April 30th, 2022, at Jephtha Lodge. These men have worked diligently to master their Craft while contributing positively to our lodge. I urge you to be a part of this degree if your cable tow permits. It's always a special time when we surround our brothers with love upon completion of their Master Mason Degree.

If you are unable to attend the degree in the morning of April 30th, 2022, please join us at Piccola Bussola for the dinner party at 7 PM. Contact our Secretary, Tim Tenclay, for details (jephthasecretary@gmail.com; 516.710.2406).

Wishing all my brethren and their families a happy Ramadan, a joyous Easter, a delightful Passover, and a day of reflection on Holocaust Remembrance Day (April 28th).

Until we meet again, health and happiness my Brothers.

Sincerely and Fraternally Yours,
W. Jeremiah Campbell

GREETINGS FROM WEST



My dear Brothers,

Justice is the last of the four Cardinal Virtues I'd like to discuss in my monthly articles. Justice can be simply defined as fairness in balancing your decisions utilizing good judgement while acting morally. That is, being in accord with accepted standards of right and good conduct - not to wrong, cheat or defraud anyone. Justice can also be defined as balancing Nature. Confucius defined justice as, "Return good with good, return evil with justice."

Justice overturning evil with its laws and punishments, and level of punishment, isn't always fair. But we, as Masons, must practice the Virtue of Justice with all humanity by always being fair, honest, ethical and impartial. We do this every time we meet, every time we speak, and every time we plan our futures together. This benefits the Lodge, the Craft, Society and our fellow Brothers. By giving with our acts of charity, to which Justice can easily be applied, we can improve the unjust balances of Nature and life with goodness. The most perfect kind of just charity is done anonymously, as the beneficiary enjoys his or her new-found bounty joyfully, without embarrassment.

With April 1st upon us, I wish everyone a happy April Fool's Day. Although we are older and it may mean little to us, it means a lot to our children. If they plan to prank you, fall for it, no matter how obvious it is. Trust me, it means the world to them, and to be honest, as the father of a fourteen old, it's not so obvious to me anymore!

Spring break will soon be here and that means our children are off from school. Please spend as much time as you can with them. It seems like a second ago my fourteen year old daughter was born, so, if possible, coordinate a few days off while your children are home and enjoy their company.

I wish everyone celebrating Ramadan, Passover and Easter, joyous holidays.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next communication on April 11th (7 PM). Enjoy April and its improving spring weather, be safe, and always remember Justice is built on our individual, honest and incorruptible conscience.



Courtesy of the United Grand Lodge of England

GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH



My Brothers, I bring you warm and fraternal greetings from the South.

My greetings begin with a plea for prayers for Ukraine. It's unfortunate some countries still use force to obtain what should be accomplished by diplomatic negotiations and wreak untold horrors on a civilian population that has harmed no one. I'm sure history will judge harshly the actions of those who continue to cause suffering to their fellow man. In addition, if you have it within your means to contribute to a relief effort for the Ukraine, there are several good charitable organizations for assisting in the relief of those in need, including the Grand Lodge

of New York (<https://nymasons.org/site/> - The Grand Lodge charges no fees for sending your donation to Ukraine.)

On a lighter note, March saw many activities around the lodge. We held one of the most successful Saint Patrick's Day parties the lodge has ever seen. With a general relaxing of COVID concerns, people came out in droves to celebrate. I want to thank W.: Rich Harris and W.: Greg Gatto for their preparations for the party, as well as all the help from our brothers and ladies who assisted.

We finished the month of March with a First Degree which was the first time I performed the Master's work. It was a truly, humbling experience to be given the opportunity to not only undertake this great honor, but to be responsible for initiating new brethren.

In April, we start our fundraising efforts for Sunrise Walks. We began our fundraising at our Saint Patrick's Day Party with the selling of our new Quarry shirts generously donated by Br. Luke Loporto. At last tally we had raised more than \$500 for Sunrise walks, which puts our "pre-fundraising" total at \$2,500, well on our way to our goal of \$10,000.

We have been making the rounds of the district with a few District Deputy visitations at Amityville, Alcyone and Antiquity Lodges.

My sincere thanks to all the brothers and friends who have helped me perform my duties as Junior Warden. There have been so many people who have pitched in, helped in the kitchen, gone shopping, and provided emotional support. This experience has also taught me no one can accomplish good, beneficial works alone.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Br. Bill Fenty III, Junior Warden

GREETINGS FROM THE CORNER DESK



I don't have much to say this month other than to note we're about half-way through 2022 and not all our brethren have yet paid their dues. If you have sent yours in with a check, fear not! The turn-around sometimes takes a while. If you haven't, now would be a great time to do it!

Having said that, no one at Jephtha wants dues to be prohibitive. If you are in a situation where paying our annual dues would cause problems for you or your family, please talk to one of the officers. We can find ways to help, and we will be discrete.

Grace and peace,
Tim TenClay, Secretary

GREETINGS FROM THE HISTORIAN

HUNTINGTON NO. 26: LONG ISLAND'S FIRST MASONIC LODGE



In April 1790, Brother George Washington toured Long Island, New York, for five days to show his appreciation for the important role many locals played in the fight for American Independence. The newly elected President visited several towns and met hundreds of people, many of whom were Freemasons in the military lodges that sprouted up throughout the colonies during the war. Brother Washington's reverence for the Craft may have led him into conversation with fellow brothers and future candidates. Two of his brief stops would be influential in the foundation of Long Island Freemasonry.



Blydenburg House, Smithtown, in the late 19th century
Suffolk Masonic Lodge No. 60 F. & A. M. Archives

On April 23, he dined at the home of the “Widow Blidenberg” in Smithtown, later referred to as Blydenburg’s Tavern, which would later be the first meeting place of Suffolk Lodge No. 60 in 1797. On April 24, Washington visited the home and paper mill of Henrick Onderdonk in Roslyn, whose daughter, Sarah, was the wife of David Richard Floyd Jones, charter member and master of Huntington Lodge No. 26 and Morton Lodge No. 63 in Hempstead.

Kings (Brooklyn) and Queens Counties became boroughs during the consolidation of New York City in 1898 but were considered part of Long Island for over 200 years prior. On February 4, 1784, James Gardiner, John L. Hudson, and Joseph Corwin petitioned to form

a lodge in Brooklyn with the name Long Island Lodge. No further records exist of this lodge. On September 5, 1787, a group of brothers residing in Jamaica, Queens, received the charter for Jamaica Lodge from the Grand Lodge of New York. The only recorded activity of Jamaica Lodge was marching in the procession for the anniversary festival of St. John the Baptist in New York on June 24, 1789. By 1793, this lodge had surrendered its charter due to a lack of activity.

A group of Masonic brothers, residing in several towns along the route of Brother Washington’s tour in 1790, desired to form a lodge on Long Island. Led by Moses Blachly (1769-1828), first Postmaster of Huntington, brothers from Setauket in the east to Hempstead in the west petitioned to form a Masonic Lodge. On March 22, 1793, the foundation of organized Long Island Freemasonry was finally created when the warrant for Huntington Lodge No. 26 Ancient York Masons of Oyster Bay, Queens County, was issued. For four years, Huntington No. 26 was the only active Masonic lodge for present day Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Eighteenth Century Travel

In the late eighteenth century, Long Island was mainly rural and agricultural, limited to travel by horse or foot on rocky and dirt paths. The great distances to lodge meetings limited the brothers; they utilized the “ride and tie” method of traveling. Several hours before a lodge meeting, two brothers would begin their long journey with one on horseback and the other on foot. The horse rider would travel to a predetermined location, tie the horse to a tree, and continue to walk on foot. The walker would reach the well-rested horse, ride to the next predetermined location, tie the horse to a tree, and continue to walk on foot. This process would continue to the meeting location, giving the two walkers and one horse needed rest during their long journey. The brothers would attend the lodge meeting, stay overnight nearby, and return home the next day utilizing the same method.

The lodge meetings most likely occurred in the homes of individual members and local taverns, including as far north as Lloyd’s Neck, which borders Long Island Sound. Typically, eighteenth century lodge meetings were held in taverns, with food and spirits prepared for the brothers gathered around a long table. Dues were owed at each meeting, whether a brother was present or not. There are only 30 known members of this lodge, 16 of whom later became charter members of two Masonic lodges that meet to this very day.

By 1802, Huntington Lodge No. 26 was not listed on the Masonic Register, possibly for non-payment of

dues, a common occurrence with early nineteenth century, country lodges. Because of the difficulty in attending regular communications, Huntington Lodge No. 26 met sporadically until 1806. The last known record of Huntington Lodge No. 26 in the Grand Lodge Reports, dated December 2, 1818, stated, "That the warrant of Huntington Lodge No. 26, together with the book of minutes, had been surrendered; from which it appeared that that Lodge had not met since the 2d of August, 1806 (1806), and that, by information derived from the Worshipful Rulef Duryea, the late Master, the funds and property of the same were dispersed and lost."

Masonic Light after Huntington Lodge



Huntington No. 26 A.Y.M Master Mason Certificate of David Harrison,
December 6, 1801
Jephtha Masonic Lodge No. 494 F. & A. M. Archives

On December 7, 1796, an application for a warrant for "a lodge in Suffolk County, Long Island, by the name of Suffolk Lodge" was granted by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. The first meeting was held on March 9, 1797, at the Widow Blydenburgh's in Smithtown, with the installation of officers, including the first Worshipful Master, Moses Blachly, the first Past Master of Huntington Lodge No. 26. Seven brothers from Huntington Lodge No. 26 and a "Brother Fagen from Ireland" attended this first meeting. Within the first year, 19 candidates were initiated, led by the first applicant, Woodhull Smith. Interestingly, Suffolk Lodge was meeting in Dix Hills in present day Town of Huntington in 1802. Suffolk No. 60 currently meets in Port Jefferson Village.

Six months later, on June 23, 1797, Morton Lodge No. 63 was granted a warrant. Requested by eight members of Huntington Lodge No. 26 residing in Hempstead, the petition stated one of the reasons to form a new lodge was "the distance they live from Said place of Meeting and the fatigue and trouble which an attendance Theron creates." Named after Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York,

Jacob Morton, this lodge meets to this day as Wantagh-Morton No. 63 in Baldwin.

These first Long Island Freemasons laid the foundation where the current two local Masonic Districts and 26 lodges continue to thrive today. The son of one of Suffolk 60's charter members would become a founding member of Jephtha No. 494, a lodge that branched out to create four additional lodges including the one where Brother Theodore Roosevelt was raised (Oyster Bay). The branches that sprung from the roots of the first Long Island Lodge can be traced to Brother Washington's brief tour of our Island thanking fellow patriots for their service and sacrifice. The importance of Huntington No. 26 should not be underestimated or underappreciated.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
W.: Br. Ron Seifried DSA, Jephtha Lodge Historian

BIRTHDAYS

Eric P. Bencivenga
James E. Beyer
Chuck A. Brady
Michael R. Denkovich
Michael Eckstein
Eric M. Freedman

Richard Galletti
Robert R. Gaudio
Stuart Koening
Raymond C. Mahdesian
Miguel M. Melgar
John D. Muller Jr.

Russell Penzer
Michael Perri
Michael J. Rittenhouse
Brian S. Schulbaum
Richard H. Schultze

RAISINGS

Scott D. Bloomfield
Christopher J. Camilleri
Michael Carey
William Fenty III
Gregory T. Gatto
Robert R. Gaudio
Kenneth T. Hall

Kirk E. Hall
Wendell M. Hannaford
Robert L. Hylton Jr.
William Kanzler
Joseph E. Malat
Vladimir A. Nelson
Matthew A. Pantoja

Brian C. Rodriguez
Peter M. Rolfe
Christopher Sikes
Timothy J. TenClay
Christopher J. Tilley
Jason L. Van Loan

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>

WIKIPEDIA

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jephtha_Masonic_Lodge_No._494



GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE
OF NEW YORK: nymasons.org/site

TRESTLEBOARD

| | | | | |
|-------|----|----------|-----------------|---|
| April | 1 | Friday | 7:30 PM | Truth Triangle |
| April | 4 | Monday | 7:00 PM | Master Mason Degree Rehearsal |
| April | 11 | Monday | 7:00 PM | Stated Communication with Collation |
| April | 15 | Friday | 7:30 PM | Truth Triangle |
| April | 18 | Monday | 7:00 PM | Officer's Meeting, Master Mason Degree Rehearsal |
| April | 22 | Friday | 6 PM - 11:00 PM | Hold for Polish Hall |
| April | 23 | Saturday | 10 AM - 2:00 PM | Cemetery Cleanup at the Old Burial Ground, |
| | | | 8:00 AM | Hold for Truth Triangle District Convention |
| April | 25 | Monday | 7:00 PM | Special Communication, Master Mason Degree Rehearsal |
| April | 30 | Saturday | 8 AM - 2 PM | Special Communication, Conferral of the Sublime Degree of Master Mason |
| | | | 7 PM - 11:00 PM | Annual Third Degree Celebration Dinner at Piccola Bussola Restaurant, 970 W. Jericho Turnpike, Huntington, NY 11743 |

TRUTH TRIANGLE

On Saturday, April 23rd, the ladies of the Nassau and Suffolk Districts of the Organization of Triangles, NY, will be hosting their biennial combined District Convention at Jephtha Lodge. Truth Triangle's Past Beloved Queen Ariyana, in her capacity as Junior Advisor of Suffolk District, is working closely with Sunrise Triangle's Past Beloved Queen Adriana, Junior Advisor of Nassau District and State Representative, to build an amazing event that is sure to impress! The ladies and advisors will start the day by assisting Jephtha Lodge with an Old Burial Ground cemetery cleanup service project. This will be followed by an informal lunch and closed School of Instruction for the members. The formal open meeting and events will begin at 3:00 PM, and all are invited to attend! We hope to see many of our Brothers there, with family and friends, to witness our ladies' great work.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Schulbaum, Junior Deputy of Truth Triangle #31

W. O. M. *Wives & Women of Masons*

Worshipful Master Jeremiah Campbell and Anita Campbell have invited Wives and Women of Masons to join the Masons at their collations on the second Monday of the month, 7:00 PM, at Jephtha Lodge #494, April 11, 2022, and May 9, 2022.

Worshipful Master Jeremiah Campbell and Anita Campbell have also invited Wives and Women of Masons to attend the following events at Jephtha Lodge:

April 23, 2022: **Cemetery Cleanup** (Jephtha Outreach), 10 AM-12 PM

Fort Golgotha and the Old Burial Ground, 228 Main Street, Huntington, NY 11743

Yard work/cleanup, dress accordingly. OK to bring your own gardening tools, children that can help are encouraged to attend and will receive signed volunteer hours. Let us know at least 3 days in advance so they can receive their certificates.

April 30, 2022: **Third Degree Dinner**, Piccola Bussola Restaurant, 970 W. Jericho Turnpike, Huntington, NY 11743, at 7 PM. Contact our Secretary, Tim Tenclay, for details (jephthasecretary@gmail.com; 516.710.2406).

Please contact Anita Campbell if you have any questions, 516.805.6194.

MASONIC MOMENT

Q & A with Arthur C. Brooks, author of *From Strength to Strength*

Arthur C. Brooks has spent decades studying happiness. But in recent years the social scientist's research turned into what he calls, "me search." He found that those who are unhappiest later in life are often the strivers on a continual quest for money, power, pleasure, and prestige. Mr. Brooks turned his introspection into a bestseller, *From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness, and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life*. Formerly the president of the American Enterprise Institute, Mr. Brooks is now a columnist for *The Atlantic*. He also teaches a class on happiness and leadership at Harvard Business School. Staff writer Stephen Humphries recently spoke with him about his book. Their discussion has been edited for length and clarity.

Q. How did you embark on your quest to understand happiness - and what most surprised you about what you discovered?

My wife read it - these are just my notebooks - and she said, "You've got to publish this as a book." I said, "I don't know if anybody's going to read it." And it opened [shortly after its debut in February] at No. 1 on *The New York Times* bestseller list.

The most important skill that I talk about in this book is to really think about the happiness that's occurring in your life. Why do I have these feelings that I have? What are the feelings that I wished I [had instead]? And when you do that, you can actually make some affirmative and positive decisions in your life.

Q. Like many people, you struggle with spending a lot of time thinking about the future. Why is that problematic?

My mentor, Martin Seligman, at the University of Pennsylvania, believes that we shouldn't be called *Homo sapiens*. He believes we should be called *Homo prospectus*. And the reason is because we're the only species that can spend any significant cognitive energy on the future.

The average person spends, according to Seligman, between 30% and 50% of his or her time thinking about the future. To be thinking about the future, ironically, is basically to take the current present and waste it because you're treating the current moment like drudgery. So you can live in a better future. In a very real way, you're missing your own life.

Q. You went for a long walk in Spain to learn not to constantly chase that state of happiness on the horizon. Tell me about it.

One of the ways that you can fix that is by getting into a rhythmic activity in which your only goal is to be present. I did it on the Camino de Santiago, which is this ancient Roman Catholic walking meditation. One hundred miles. You walk all day and your job is to be fully present and pray a lot. When I notice my mind focusing on scenarios of the future, I'll take it back to the dust on my boots. Flowers on the side of the road. The feel of the rain on my bald head. At first there's screaming inside your head. Then after about 24 hours the screaming starts to get softer and then pretty soon you're just in rhythm. I wouldn't say it's a permanent game changer because you have to keep doing it.

Q. You write about the importance of cultivating a spiritual practice. Why?

The four habits that are most associated with the happiest people are faith, family, friendship, and work that serves others. That's the happiness portfolio. The first of these is faith. By that I don't mean a particular faith. One of the greatest sources of misery in our lives is that we're obsessed with the most boring thing in the world, repetitively thinking about my job, my car, my clothes, my house, my relationships. It's like the same TV show over and over and over again.

I've worked very closely with the Dalai Lama for the last 10 years. He says, "Always remember you are one in 7 billion." Which does not mean I'm an ant or insignificant. It means I need to zoom out to find the majesty of life, to find the adventure in life.

Q. Every year, on your birthday, you compile what you term "a reverse bucket list" Explain that concept.

Satisfaction is not a function of what you have. It's a function of what you have divided by what you want. Most people try to have this kind of fruitless "haves" management strategy. Which puts them on what we

call the hedonic treadmill. ...You go from have, to have, to have, to have. You can defeat that by modeling it in a different way by having a "wants" management strategy. The wants are the denominator of the satisfaction equation. And when you decrease the denominator, the whole number increases. So your satisfaction can go up, paradoxically, by wanting less. Now how do you want less? You have to make a positive affirmative decision to do that, and you absolutely can.

Q. You write that love is the epicenter of happiness. Tell me more.

The world gives you a bogus formula for happiness. No. 1: Use people. No. 2: Love things. No. 3: Worship yourself. And it actually seems right because it's so close to the truth. It just mixes up the nouns and the verbs. The right formula, based on all of the best neuroscience, clinical, [and] social scientific research, is simply: Use things, love people, and worship the divine. You can boil down all of the studies of happiness to five words. Those words are: Happiness is love. Full stop.

Reprinted from *The Christian Science Monitor Weekly*, March 21, 2022 (p. 35)

Brotherly Love - Manifestly it means that we place on another man the highest possible valuation as a friend; a companion, an associate, a neighbor, a fellow. Merely to be with him, merely to spend hours in his company, to have the privilege of working at this side, is all we ask. We do not ask that from our relationship we shall make money, or further our business interests, or achieve some other form of selfish gain. Our relationship with such a one is its own excuse of being, its own justification, its own reward. All of us know that this Brotherly Love is one of the supreme things without which life is a lonely, unhappy, dreary kind of thing. This is not a hope or a dream, but a fact - as real as day and night, or as the law of gravity.

Freemasonry builds on that fact, takes it for granted, provides opportunities for us to have such fellowship, encourages us to understand it and to practice it, and to make it one of the laws of our existence. It is in short, and in literal truth, one of its Principal Tenets.

Excerpted from: <https://freemasonscommunity.life/brotherly-love-relief-and-truth/>

Respectfully submitted,
Br. Richard Gentile

FAMOUS APRIL MASON

DUKE ELLINGTON

April 29, 1899, Washington, DC - May 24, 1974, New York City
Interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, the Bronx.

Originator of big-band jazz, composer, pianist and bandleader for over 50 years.

Duke Ellington, born Edward Kennedy Ellington, was the son of James Edward Ellington and Daisy Kennedy Ellington. Both parents were pianists. His mother played mostly parlor songs. (Music performed in homes, generally by amateur musicians, when sheet music was in style and before the popularity of the phonograph.) His father preferred operatic arias. His father moved from North Carolina with his parents when he was 7 years old. Daisy was born in Washington DC, the daughter of two former American slaves.

When Ellington was 7 years old his piano lessons began, and his mother was instrumental in teaching her son manners and elegance by surrounding him with dignified women. His friends gave him the name



Photo: Bettmann/Getty Images

"Duke" because he was well dressed and had a gracious manner about himself. At 14 he used to sneak into a pool room and listen to the many pianists. He then decided he should take his piano lessons more seriously and truly fell in love with the piano. At 15 he worked for the summer as a soda jerk and composed his first of many compositions, "Soda Jerk Rag," which he adapted as a one-step, two-step, waltz, tango and fox trot. "Listeners never knew it was the same piece. I was established as having my own repertoire." Ellington continued to listen, watch and imitate various pianists in Washington, DC, and when on vacation with his mother, in Philadelphia and Atlantic City. Three months before graduation from high school he dropped out and turned down an art scholarship to Pratt Institute (Brooklyn).

Ellington's early career began as a sign painter, and when he was asked to make a sign for a party or dance, he asked if they needed entertainment. If there were none, he would offer to play at the party. He also made a wide range of contacts as a messenger for the US Navy and State Department. In late 1917 Ellington formed his first group, "The Duke Serenaders," and for his first gig, he earned 75 cents. Soon he was playing in the Washington, DC area and Virginia for embassy parties and private society balls.

Before long Ellington left Washington, DC, and moved to Harlem to become part of the Harlem Renaissance (1920's and 1930's). Competition in Harlem was difficult, and after a few months he and his musical friends moved back to Washington, DC. By 1924 Ellington had recorded 8 records, having composed three of the songs, including "Choo Choo." Before long, Ellington's band grew to 10 players, developing its own style with Ellington's own arrangements which included the street rhythms of Harlem, trombone groans and wah-wahs, squealing trumpets, and saxophone blues licks (short musical phrases used in jazz, blues and rock improvising).

By 1926 Irving Mills, an agent-publisher, made an agreement with Ellington in which Mills would have a 45% interest in Ellington's work. Mills also had among his new talent Hoagy Carmichael, Dorothy Fields and Harold Arlen. Mills was instrumental in having Ellington record on many important labels of the time: Brunswick, Victor, Columbia, Okeh, and Pathé, and their subsidiaries, which gave Ellington wide exposure.

In 1927 Ellington was playing at the Cotton Club which was broadcast and brought in a wealthy clientele. It also gave him national exposure. That year he had his first hit record, "Creole Love Call." In 1929 he appeared on stage with Ziegfeld's Show Girls which included Jimmy Durante, Eddie Foy Jr, Ruby Keeler, with music by George Gershwin and Gus Kahn. In 1930 Ellington and his band appeared in concert with Maurice Chevalier, a French singer, actor and entertainer, which introduced Ellington to a completely different audience. He also appeared at the Roseland Ballroom, "America's foremost ballroom."

Ellington rarely conducted his band with a baton but from the piano, and used his charm, visual cues, and psychology to make his band a cohesive whole. He kept his private life private and used his charm for his personal persona.

During the Depression, the recording industry suffered, but Ellington's radio exposure enabled him to continue with such hits as "Mood Indigo," "Sophisticated Lady," "Solitude," and "In A Sentimental Mood." To keep his band working, Ellington gave concerts in England, Scotland, France and the Netherlands in 1933 where he was well received. The English composer, Constant Lambert, suggested Ellington compose longer works. Heeding his advice, he composed "Creole Rhapsody," "Reminiscing in Tempo," which was a tribute to his recently deceased mother (1935), "A Rhapsody of Negro Life" for the film, *Symphony in Black* (1935), which won the Academy Award for Best Musical Subject. His orchestra also appeared in two other

films, *Murder of the Vanities* and *Belle of the Nineties* (both in 1934).

Ellington was now an international triumph, and for his agent, a publicity triumph. Competition, however, soon appeared with Benny Goodman's swing dancing which was especially popular with college students. Goodman's music filled jukeboxes, which spread quickly nationwide. Ellington's forte was swing.

As Ellington's band grew, he began to compose pieces for specific instruments. After the death of his father when finances were becoming tight, Ellington left Irving Mills as his agent and signed with the William Morris Agency (1898-2009), based in Hollywood. It represented some of the most famous entertainers in music, television and film, and was considered the premier talent agency in the country. During this time, Billy Strayhorn (1915-1967) became a very important collaborator with Ellington. Strayhorn was classically trained and often improved upon Ellington's works. The double bass, saxophone, violin and trumpet came into their own as solo, melodic instruments. The big hit of this time was "Take the "A" Train" (1941), composed by Strayhorn, which eventually became Ellington's signature piece.

With Strayhorn's help as a classical artist, Ellington's was able to extend his jazz form from the standard three minutes to longer works. These included, *Black, Brown and Beige* dedicated to African Americans which told their story of slavery and the importance of the church. This piece debuted in Carnegie Hall (1943) for Ellington's first concert there. Another full-length musical on the theme of African American identity was *Jump for Joy*. A Broadway production of *Beggar's Holiday* featured Ellington's music, but in general, his longer pieces weren't as popular as his shorter works.

Toward the end of World War II popular music was shifting to the crooners, such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr, Nat King Cole, Dean Martin, Bing Crosby and Jo Stafford. Since the cost of hiring big bands had increased in the United States, smaller bands became the norm. For 3 months in 1950 Ellington toured Western Europe giving 74 concerts in 77 days. While in Europe, Ellington composed music for Orson Welles' *Time Runs in Paris*, and *An Evening with Orson Wells* in Frankfurt. Eartha Kitt, as a newly discovered performer, was featured in these shows.

Ellington's popularity began to wane, but he returned to prominence at the Newport Jazz Festival in 1956 which featured his "Diminuendo and Crescendo in Blue." This concert made international headlines, and *Time* featured him on the cover of its magazine, the only jazz musician so featured. This resulted in a collection of work that would become the best-selling album of Ellington's career.

In the late 1950's, Ellington and Strayhorn become involved with film scoring. The first film they worked on together was *Anatomy of a Murder* (directed by Otto Preminger, featuring James Stewart). They also created suites for *Sweet Thursday* (based on John Steinbeck's novel), *Nutcracker Suite* (based on Tchaikovsky's music) and *Peer Gynt* (based on Edvard Greig's music). In the early 1960's Ellington wrote music for *Paris Blues* which featured Paul Newman and Sidney Poitier as jazz musicians, for which he was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Score. As the 1960's progressed, Ellington made recordings with Count Basie, Louis Armstrong, Coleman Hawkins, John Coltrane, Charles Mingus and Max Roach. Overseas tours also became an important part of his music making, especially with Alice Babs (Sweden) and Dollar Brand and Sathima Bea Benjamin (both from South Africa).

In 1965 Ellington premiered his Sacred Concerts using jazz in the Christian liturgy. Although he was proud of this work, they received mixed reviews. Later there were the Second and Third Sacred Concerts with the same result, but Ellington remained steadfast in his belief these were important works. He said, they were "the most important thing I've ever done." (The Steinway piano on which the Sacred Concerts were composed is now in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.)

Although Ellington was now 65, he continued to work as hard as ever. He continued composing and

recording: *The Far East Suite* (1966), *New Orleans Suite* (1970), *The Afro-Eurasian Eclipse* (1971) and the *Latin American Suite* (1972). He also recorded his only album with Frank Sinatra, *Francis A and Edward K* (1967).

Unfortunately, Ellington's personal life was not ideal. He married Edna Thompson, his high school sweetheart, at 19 and the following spring his only son, Mercer Kennedy Ellington, was born. Not long afterwards Ellington separated from his wife; he had two other partners for the remainder of his life whom he supported until he died. Ellington passed away a few weeks after his 75th birthday. His funeral was attended by over 12,000 people at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (Morningside Heights, Manhattan). He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize posthumously (1999) for his contributions to American Music. (He had been awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1966).

Duke Ellington was a member of the Premiere Prince Hall Lodge of the District of Columbia, Washington Social Lodge No. 1, constituted in 1825. The African-American organizers of this lodge "challenged the conscience of the nation to correct the ills of inadequate education, racial and ethnic strife no matter how subtle and to free not only the physical being but the mental and spiritual aspects of a people once enslaved under servitude." (Excerpted from https://about.me/social_lodge#!)

Respectfully submitted,
Br. Richard Gentile

JEPHTHA LODGE 494

OFFICERS

June 2021 - June 2022

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Worshipful Master | W. : Br. Jeremiah Campbell | Jr. Master of Ceremonies | Br. Frank Como |
| Senior Warden | Br. Michael Crispino Jr | Senior Steward | Br. Frankel Junio |
| Junior Warden | Br. William Fenty III | Junior Steward | Br. Paul J. Levy |
| Treasurer | Br. Robert Gaudioso | Steward | Br. Matthew Tomasino |
| Secretary | Br. Timothy J. TenClay | Marshall | Br. Drew MacCallum |
| Assistant to Secretary | Br. Harry R. Burger | Assistant Marshall | Br. William Fenty Jr |
| Chaplain | W. : Br. Anthony Colonna | Tiler | Br. Gary Osarczuk |
| Senior Deacon | Br. John A. Lentinello | Organist | Br. Randolph Ivans |
| Junior Deacon: | Br. Bill Friedman | Ritual Director | W. : Br. Rich Harris |
| Sr. Master of Ceremonies | Br. Luke LoPorto | | |

TRUSTEES

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| W. : Br. Ronald J. Seifried, DSA, Chairman | |
| W. : Br. Daniel Bernzweig | Br. Stephen Schenker |
| Br. John Hurioglo | Br. Walter Willems |

JUNIOR TRUSTEES

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| W. : Br. Anthony Colonna. | Br. John Muller |
| Br. Robert Wedderburn | |

ACTIVE JEPHTHA LODGE COMMITTEES AND FUNDS

Ambassador Calling Committee

To attend to elderly Masons and their needs through frequent phone calls and appropriate action.

Br. Michael Crispino Jr, Administrator

Apparel Committee

To maintain, clean and ready all Masonic apparel for immediate use.

Br. Bill Fenty Jr, Chairman; Br. Chuck Brady, W.: Br. Anthony Colonna, Br. Bill Friedman, Br. Luke LoPorto

Artwork Committee

To design and produce distinctive artwork for Jephtha Lodge.

Br. Chuck Brady, Br. John Hurioglu, Br. Luke Loporto, Br. John Muller, W.: Br. Robert Previto DSA, W.: Br. Ron Seifried DSA

Band App Committee

To keep the *Band* app informative and current.

W.: Br. Jeremiah Campbell, Administrator; W.: Br. Warren Melnick, Co-Administrator

Bar and Libations Committee

To order and stock all drinks and accoutrements and maintain the bar.

Committeemen prepare and serve drinks when appropriate.

Br. Drew MacCallum, Br. Paul Levy, Br. Kenneth J. Siesener

Communications and Newsletter Committee

To ensure Jephtha Lodge communications are correct, timely and promptly disseminated.

To create and publish the monthly *Jephtha Lodge Newsletter*.

Br. William Fenty III, Br. Richard Gentile, Br. Drew MacCallum, W.: Br. Ron Seifried DSA

DJ Entertainment Committee

To organize and provide entertainment at Jephtha Lodge functions.

Br. Geoff Cohen

Education Committee

To hold education classes in the Masonic Degrees, prepare and deliver educational lectures and Masonic moments at stated communications, review and recommend academic scholarships, and provide reasonable assistance in Masonic education or research to the Lodge and its Brothers, or mandates under the Grand Lodge Constitution.

W.: Br. Robert Previto DSA, Chairman; W.: Br. Dan Bernzweig, W.: Br. Jeremiah Campbell, W.: Br. Anthony Colonna, Br. Michael Crispino, Br. Tom Ferrentino, Br. Mitch Goodkin, W.: Br. Rich Harris, Br. John A Lentinello, W.: Br. John B Lentinello DSA, W.: Br. Ron Seifried DSA, Br. Tim TenClay

Finance and Audit Committee

To verify all finances and audits are up-to-date, correct, and certified according to standard accounting procedures.

W.: Br. Jeremiah Campbell, Br. Robert Gaudioso, W.: Br. Richard Harris, Br. Anthony S. Kalabacas, Br. John A Lentinello, W.: Br. John B. Lentinello DSA, W.: Br. Ron Seifried DSA

Historians and Archivists Committee:

To research, verify, record and archive all Jephtha Lodge history.

W.: Br. Ron Seifried DSA, Br. Paul A. Vermeylen III, W.: Br. Robert C. Wuestefeld DSA

Home App and Nest App Committee

To keep *Home* app and *Nest* app up to date and functioning properly.

W.: Br. Warren Melnick, Administrator; W.: Br. Anthony Colonna, W.: Br. Ron Seifried DSA

Investigations Committee:

To receive, record, and investigate submissions from prospective applicants, interview applicants, and report committee findings to the membership.

Br. Frank Como, Br. William Fenty Jr, Br. William Fenty III, W.: Br. Richard Harris, W.: Br. John B. Lentinello DSA, Br. John Muller, W.: Br. Warren Melnick, Br. Mikel Nazarowitz, Br. Gary Osarczuk, Br. Charles J. Williams

InVid Elevate App and Security Cameras Committee

To keep *InVid Elevate* app up-to-date and all security cameras at peak performance.

Br. John Muller, Administrator; Br. Walter Willems

Jephtha Benevolence Fund

To generate funds to support Jephtha Brothers in need.

*Br. Luke LoPorto, Chairman; W.: Br. Jeremiah Campbell, W.: Br. Anthony Colonna, Br. Bill Fenty III,
Br. Bill Friedman, W.: Br. Rich Harris*

Liaison to Widows Committee

To communicate with deceased Brother's widows to ensure their continued well-being,
and share any challenges with the Widows, Sickness and Relief Committee.

Br. Tom Montefusco

Masonic Brotherhood Fund

To raise funds in cooperation with the Grand Lodge of New York to support brothers in need.

Br. Chaz Hudak

NorthStar and Shepherding Committee

To prepare Jephtha Lodge Brothers for their degrees in conformance
with the Grand Lodge of New York guidelines.

*W.: Br. Jeremiah Campbell, Br. William Fenty III, Br. Anthony Kalabacus, Br. John A Lentinello,
Br. Luke LoPorto, Br. Timothy TenClay, Br. Chris Tomasino*

Our Lodge Page Committee

To edit and supply *Our Lodge Page* content for completeness and timeliness.

W.: Br. Warren Melnick, Administrator; W.: Br. Jeremiah Campbell, Co-Administrator

Past Master Liaison Committee

To assist the present Worshipful Master as needed.

W.: Br. Anthony Colonna

Photography Committee

To photograph Jephtha Lodge events.

Br. Drew MacCallum

Ritual Committee

To ensure all ritual is properly executed and performed
in conformance with the Grand Lodge of New York guidelines.

*W.: Br. Jeremiah Campbell, Br. Michael Crispino Jr., Br. William Fenty III, W.: Br. Rich Harris,
Br. Anthony S. Kalabacas, Br. John A. Lentinello, Br. Luke LoPorto, Br. John Muller, W.: Br. Robert Previto DSA*

Travel Committee

To arrange and oversee the safe execution of all Jephtha Lodge travel.

W.: Br. Warren Melnick, W.: Br. Robert Previto DSA

Truth Triangle Liaison Committee

To coordinate Truth Triangle with Jephtha Lodge news and events.

W.: Br. Anthony Colonna, W.: Br. Rich Harris

Veterans Affairs Liaison Committee

To organize Veterans Affairs with Jephtha Lodge information and activities.

W.: Br. John B Lentinello DSA

Website and Tech Support Committee

To oversee the Jephtha Lodge website, provide tech support as needed, and keep the website
up-to-date and running smoothly.

W.: Br. Warren Melnick, Administrator; Br. Drew MacCallum, W.: Br. Ron Seifried DSA

Widows, Sickness and Relief Committee

To remain mindful of and offer appropriate relief to Jephtha Lodge widows, Brothers and their families
who are ill or in distress.

Br. Michael Crispino Jr

***ALL BROTHERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN AT LEAST ONE COMMITTEE
FOR THE SMOOTH AND EFFICIENT RUNNING OF JEPHTHA LODGE.***

KINDLY MAKE YOUR REQUEST KNOWN TO

***TIM TENCLAY, SECRETARY
JEPHTHASECRETARY@GMAIL.COM
516.710.2406***

YOUR NAME WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE PROPER CHAIRMAN.

