

If you would like to receive your Trestle Board electronically,

email Garon Young at [wmaster@OL310.org](mailto:wmaster@OL310.org) or Robert Bartruff at [secretary@OL310.org](mailto:secretary@OL310.org).



The website for Occoquan Lodge #310 can be found at: [www.occoquanlodge310.org](http://www.occoquanlodge310.org)

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 8

# OCCOQUAN LODGE #310

## AUGUST 2009 TRESTLE BOARD

OCCOQUAN LODGE #310  
13315 WOODBRIDGE ST.  
WOODBRIDGE, VA 22192  
(703) 494-4074

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Date	Event	Speaker
August 10	Occoquan Stated Communication Dinner at 6:30pm	
15 August	Occoquan Called Communication Breakfast will be served at 8am	Conferral of EA Degrees
22 August	Blue Lodge Visitation Program Alexandria Valley Scottish Rite 1430 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22302 5pm	Conferral of MM Degree
<b>All Stated and Called Communications are open at 7:30pm</b>		
<b>William F. Haley, Jr. School of Ritual, every Thursday at 7pm</b>		

### Did You Know???

In Hammer v State, 173 Indiana, 199 (1909), the Supreme Court ruled that it was a criminal offense to wear the emblem of any society or organization of which one is not a member. The court based its decision on the fact that the membership in such societies is the result of fitness and selection and that the wearing of such emblems by non-members is a deceit and false pretense.



### August Masonic Profile

Harry Houdini was Initiated in St. Cecile Lodge, N.Y., July 17, 1923, he was Passed and Raised July 31 and August 21, and in 1924 he entered the Consistory. Immensely proud of his Masonic affiliation, he gave a benefit performance for the Valley of New York, filling the 4,000 seat Scottish Rite Cathedral and raising thousands of dollars for needy Masons. In October 1926, just weeks prior to his untimely death, he became a Shriner in New York's Mecca Temple.

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**MASTERS MESSAGE: GARON YOUNG, WORSHIPFUL MASTER**

With summer in full swing, there are still plenty of things to do. At our Stated Communication on 10 August, we will have a little business to conduct, and then our program will be presented by Right Worshipful John Shroeder on Freemasonry during the Civil War. As usual, we will be serving dinner before Lodge at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting commencing at 7:30 p.m., and dessert will be served after the Stated Communication. Please make plans to be there and enjoy the evening; the Lodge needs your participation.

Also, do not forget that we have Lodge ritual school every Thursday beginning at 7:00 p.m. and we need your participation.

On 22 August, there will be the annual Blue Lodge Night at the Alexandria Scottish Rite. This is an excellent opportunity for you to see an excellent Master Mason Degree performed in full cast complete with period costume. Dinner will be served and there is no cost for the dinner. However, reservations are required for dinner as they need to get a proper headcount.

Finally, I am happy to announce the newest member to our Masonic family. On July 25th, Brother Robert Krolikiewicz's wife, Erin, gave birth to their baby boy Maximus Robert. Both mother and son are doing exceptionally well.



Very Respectfully & Fraternaly,

Garon



“I am happy to announce the newest member to our Masonic family. On July 25th, Brother Robert Krolikiewicz's wife, Erin, gave birth to their baby boy Maximus Robert. Both mother and son are doing exceptionally well.”

-Garon Young



THE EXAMINER: DO YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE IN GOD TO BE A MASON

A widely accepted assumption regarding Freemasons, revealed clearly in Masonic websites, literature, and membership petition forms, is that one must believe in God or a Supreme Being in order to be initiated into the fraternity. Certainly, despite the appeal to Judeo-Christian Masons, and in sincere interest in the brotherhood, good will, charity, liberty, equality, and other honorable humanitarian virtues, this requirement has discouraged many atheists, agnostics, and freethinkers from pursuing an interest in the fraternity. No doubt, once they start searching the web, they may ultimately decide that Freemasonry is only for "God fearing" Christians or mystics. There are varying instantiations of this "God requirement" in Masonic literature, but the following passages from various Masonic sources (Lodge websites and Masonic literature) convey the gist:

- "MONOTHEISM is the sole dogma of Freemasonry. Belief in one God is required of every initiate..." (1)
- "By definition, Freemasonry is a fraternal organization, religious in character, based on the principle of the Fatherhood of God..." (2)
- "The essential qualification for membership is a belief in a Supreme Being" (2)
- "Freemasonry is not a religion, nor is it a substitute for religion. It demands of its members a belief in a Supreme Being but provides no system of faith of its own" (2) (3)

However, when we dig deeper into this so-called "God" requirement, there arises a more interesting point, namely that Freemasons do not require a potential candidate to explain or clarify what he means by "Supreme Being," "God," or what we eventually see referred to as "The Grand Architect of the Universe" (G.A.O.T.U) by Freemasons. This is often explained to new candidates in person when they are interviewed by an investigative committee, typically consisting of three Master Masons. The committee asks the new candidate whether he believes in a Supreme Being, but before he answers the question they explain that he does not have to define or elaborate on that belief. In other words, the meaning of "Supreme Being" is to be kept personal and private to the new candidate of Freemasonry. In fact, discussion of religion in most U.S. lodges is forbidden. This qualification, or what we can consider the "escape clause" for the freethinker, is also evident in Masonic literature, again, from the following passages of one particular Monitor:

- "...but his conception of the Supreme Being is left to his own interpretation. Freemasonry is not concerned with theological distinctions" (1)

So the question that comes to mind for those who do not believe in the traditional Judeo-Christian or Islamic concept of God is: **How can a new candidate of Freemasonry honestly reject the belief in a Supreme Being, yet still satisfy the "God requirement"?** After all, the Masonic literature states clearly that no atheist can become a Mason. One of the most authoritative documents in Masonry is Anderson's Constitutions of 1723, in which he goes as far to say:

- "A Mason is Oblig'd, by his Tenure, to obey the moral Law; and if he rightly understands the Art, he will never be a stupid ATHEIST..." (4)

The basis for the freethinker to address the "God requirement" has to do with semantics and is also hidden in the second point above, namely that Freemasons do not require new candidates to explain what they mean by "Supreme Being". There are many differ-

ent meanings of this phrase, aligned to radically diverse worldviews. Certainly, some have defined "God" or "Supreme Being" as the forces of nature, the energy of the universe, or even the universe itself, which is pantheism and arguably atheism in disguise. Einstein used to use the term "God" in his writings, yet he also said in one letter that he was an atheist, relative to the Christian doctrine (Albert Einstein, letter to Guy H. Raner Jr, July 2, 1945, responding to a rumor that a Jesuit priest had caused Einstein to convert from atheism; quoted by Michael R. Gilmore in Skeptic, Vol. 5, No. 2), and in another letter that [he believed in the god of Spinoza](#), which is a form of pantheism.

Additionally, we must not underestimate how little we know about the history and meaning of Freemasonry, especially prior to 1717. No one truly knows what Anderson meant by the phrase "stupid atheist," which leads to the possibility that he may have been differentiating between types of atheists. In fact, we do know that there were many agnostics, deists, pantheists, and atheists, who were Freemasons during the Age of Enlightenment and during the formative years of the fraternity. These Masons were members of official and "regular" lodges, which sheds doubt on the assumption that Anderson had intended non-believers to be prohibited from becoming Masons.

The second explanation to why non-believers can be Freemasons has to do with the history of Freemasonry and the fact that there are two forms of Freemasonry alive and well today. Most people, and even many Masons, are not aware of the history behind this split in Freemasonry. After the Grand Lodge of England was created in 1717, a schism occurred among Masons. Those who were aligned to the original Grand Lodge of England called themselves the "Moderns", and in 1751 a group of more conservative Masons decided to create a new Grand Lodge and call themselves the "Antients" (5).

Between 1717 and 1751 many lodges were constructed all over Europe and the United States. Among those in Europe, was the [Grand Orient of France](#), which was established in 1733 (6)(7) and was more aligned to the "Moderns." In 1813 the "Moderns" and "Antients" in England reconciled their differences and unified into one Grand Lodge of England, but after this point, one can argue that the Grand Lodge and many of its chartered lodges dispersed throughout the world were firmly rooted in Judeo-Christian principles and rigidly enforced the "God requirement."

The second schism of Freemasonry occurred in 1877, when the Grand Orient of France broke free from "Antient" Masonry and established its principle of "Laïcité," which implied freedom of thought and expression, the elimination of the "God requirement," the acceptance of Women Freemasons, the true secularization of Modern Masonry, as well as other modern worldviews and values. At this point, the "Antients" claimed that the Grand Orient of France was an "irregular" form of Freemasonry and refused to recognize them as part of the Fraternity (6). But this did not stop the Moderns. Despite the fact that the Antients or Anglo-based Masons have dominated the fraternity around the world, this more conservative form of Masonry is experiencing radical decline of members, and Modern Masonry is building momentum. As of 2008, a Treaty of Amity was signed between the Grand Orient of France and a set of Modern Lodges in the United States, resulting in the [Grand Orient of the United States](#) (GOUSA). Since then over 14 Modern Masonic lodges has been created, with many more on the way. These Modern Masons intend to rebuild the way Freemasonry was practiced and construed during the Age of Enlightenment, as primarily not a Gentlemen's or "good ol' boys" club, but men and women who value reason, science, education, freedom of thought, separation of state and church, natural philosophy, and above all liberty, equality, and fraternity. More importantly, and related to the question posed by this article, Modern Masonic lodges, just as the Grand Orient of France, do not require that new candidates believe in any form of Supreme Being or God.

August Masonic Birthdays

Edward Hope	22/1966
Jack N. Roach	29/1967
William H. Lowery	4/1969
Warren S. Perdue	25/1975
Phillip C. Clarke, Jr.	6/1979
Kenneth F. Whitmer	20/1984
Donald G. Phillips	21/1990
Garrett H. Garner	26/1991
Donald L. Epperson	12/1993
Douglas Perry	21/1995
Marcial P. Vicedo	28/1995
John A. Rogers	20/2001
Gregory L. Porch, Sr.	27/2005
Robert B. Reese	27/2005
Tracy D. Roach	27/2005
William T. Eisenhauer	27/2005
Charles S. Cooper	27/2005
Rodger L. Brooks	27/2005
Steven B. Baker	27/2005
Donald S. Mitchem II	27/2005
Thomas J. Mulvey	27/2005
Daniel P. Johnstone, Sr.	16/2008
Gordon W. Lindgren	16/2008
Shawn R. Matz	16/2008
Larry Mazur	16/2008
Daniel J. Phillips	16/2008
Jeffrey G. Phillips	16/2008
John C. Swift	16/2008

**COMMITTEES**

Go to [www.OL310.org](http://www.OL310.org) for contact information

**Masonic Home:**

Bro Bradley Rees

**L.I.W. and Asst:**

WB Roland Bailey and

WB Russell Thompson

**L.E.O.:**

RW Carl Gagliardi

**Blood Coordinator:**

WB Larry Alexander

**Funeral Coordinator:**

WB Larry Alexander

**Temple and Grounds:**

Bro Raymond Lambert

Bro James Scott, Sr

Bro Daniel Johnstone

**Trustees:**

WB Robert Rife

WB Charles Bosworth

**Lodge Scheduling:**

Bro James D. Spurlock

(703) 491-3700

**OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

Occoquan Chapter Order of Eastern Star	4th Fri, 8 pm
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Bethel #55 International Order of Jobs Daughters	1st & 3rd Tue 7:15 pm
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Occoquan Chapter International Order of DeMolay	1st & 3rd Wed, 7:30 pm
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**Occoquan Lodge #310**

Chartered February 10, 1910

Garon Eugene Young, Worshipful Master

<b>Senior</b>	<b>James Robert Scott Jr., PM</b>	<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Walter Roland Peterman, PM</b>
<b>Warden</b>	<b>(703) 550-0099</b>		<b>(703) 494-2556</b>
<b>Junior</b>	<b>Daniel Todd Andrews</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Robert Thomas Boland</b>
<b>Warden</b>	<b>(703) 922-8624</b>	<b>Steward</b>	<b>(703) 919-9269</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Thomas A. Reese, PDDGM</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Robert Anthony Krolkiewicz</b>
		<b>Steward</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Robert John Bartruff, PM</b>	<b>Marshal</b>	<b>Raymond Lee Lambert</b>
<b>Senior</b>	<b>Ryan Daniel Pittman</b>	<b>Tiler</b>	<b>Charles Glenn Bosworth, PM</b>
<b>Deacon</b>	<b>(310) 601-7291</b>		<b>(703) 494-9806</b>
<b>Junior</b>	<b>James Dale Spurlock</b>		
<b>Deacon</b>	<b>(703) 491-3700</b>		

**Living Past Masters**

Mark M. Shepherd	1953	Jack N. Roach	1986
Lawrence E. Nail	1954	Kenneth Touloumes	1987
James G. Alls	1960	Jay R. Waldman	1988
Lovic McElroy	1962	Ralph L. Bennett	1989
Charles W. Dean	1966	Wayne K. Simpson	1990
Marvin L. Perry	1968	Walter R. Peterman	1991
William R. Johnson	1973	Joel R. Johnston	1992
Roland Bailey	1974	Walter J. Schwenger	1996
Robert L. Hausafus	1976	William E. Schwenger	1997
Robert L. Riffe	1977	James R. Scott Jr.	1998
John H. Oravec Jr.	1978	William L. Alexander	1999/05
Russell E. Thompson	1979	Charles G. Bosworth	2000
Herbert A. McClain	1980	Larry E. Buckner	2001
Robert L. Phillips	1983	Charles L. Cooper	2003
Thomas A. Reese	1984/95	Joel D. Klimoski	2004
Joseph O. McCourt	1985	Henry Garvey Jr.	2006
		Donald G. Phillips	2007
		Michael J. King	2008

**Honorary, Fifty Year and Life****Honorary Members**

Roland Bailey	Charles Bosworth
Leonard J. Fischer	Russell E. Thompson
Joel R. Johnston	Harold H. Mattice
Lawrence E. Nail	Frellsen Reese
Marvin L. Perry	Robert L. Riffe
Thomas A. Reese	Milton L. Sholley
Mark M. Shepherd	Norman W. King

**Fifty Year Members**

Wilbert L. Fronk	Leonard J. Fischer
Charles Holbrook	Alexander Krasich
Lawrence E. Nail	Harold H. Mattice
Frellsen Reese	Paul S. Jacobson
Mark M. Shepherd	James Robert Scott
Emery B. Trott	Milton L. Sholley
Louis Lang	Zachary Ruiz
Norman W. King	Federick D. Jenkins
Russell E. Thompson	James A. Buckner

**Life Members**

William L. Alexander	Roland Bailey
Nathan D. Bozarth	Larry E. Buckner
Larry E. Buckner, Jr.	John M. Carria, Jr.
Phillip C. Clarke, Jr.	Phillip C. Clarke, Sr.
Dale R. Cyr	Loyd E. Davis
Richard E. Dudley	Joseph M. Dunivan
Donald L. Dyer, Jr.	John S. Giltner
Charles A. Harrover	Joel R. Johnston
Kyle Keen	Herbert A. McClain
Walter J. Schwenger	William E. Schwenger
James R. Scott	Thomas M. Sessions
Thomas P. Winn	Donald L. Epperson
Lawrence E. Nail	Robert V. Reese
Russell E. Thompson	Daniel T. Andrews
Leonard D. Jackson	Robert Bartruff
Michael J. King	Jeremy M. King