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**April, 2026 e-Bulletin - Richmond Randolph Lodge No. 19**

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**Richmond Randolph Lodge No. 19** <no\_reply@grandview.systems>  
Reply-To: secretaryrr19@gmail.com  
To: secretaryrr19@gmail.com

Sat, Mar 28, 2026 at 7:08 PM

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**RICHMOND RANDOLPH LODGE NO. 19**

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**APRIL, 2026 BULLETIN**



## FROM THE EAST - APRIL FOOLS & MASONIC TRUTH



Brethren,

In April, we think of April Fools: good-natured practical jokes and playful deceit among friends. In fellowship, this is to be expected. But talk of deceit also calls to mind one of the great "Tenets of our Profession" from the Entered Apprentice Lecture: Truth.

*"Truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue; to be good men and true is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry. On this theme contemplate and endeavor to regulate our conduct by its dictates. Hence, when influenced by this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us, sincerity and plain dealing characterize us, and heart and tongue join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity."*

That is a powerful statement and sometimes a very hard one to live up to.

Sincerity and plain dealing ask more of us than simply avoiding lies. They ask us to speak honestly, to give good counsel directly, and to resist the temptation to hide behind politeness when frankness is needed. Rejoicing in another's prosperity asks us to suppress jealousy and take genuine pleasure in the good fortune of a brother.

Most of us can probably think of times when we have fallen short of this standard. That is why this teaching is worth revisiting. Not to condemn ourselves or one another, but so that we may better regulate our conduct by its dictates.

To that end, we have a full month ahead in which you can exercise that virtue..

Our April Stated Communication, on April 11, will feature guest speaker Right Worshipful Mike Czech, Past Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, who will present on his book *Vile and Impious Wretches*, which imagines a backstory for the characters at the center of the Hiram Legend in the second section of the Master Mason degree. I read his novel and found it a genuinely thought-provoking way to reflect on that section of the degree. We will also have our usual philosophical discussion - this month on "The Entrance" in the Entered Apprentice Degree.

The night before, we will be taking Brother Czech for dinner and refreshments. He's bringing a guest who is the founder of Hiram and Solomon Cigars, so let me know if you would like to join us.

On Friday, April 3, come enjoy food and fellowship at First Fridays at Mama Cucina's at 6:30 p.m.

Please also come to ritual practice on Wednesdays. We may have a good deal of degree work coming up, and it will be all hands on deck.

See you around the lodge!

Matthew Maggy, P.M.  
2026 Worshipful Master

## FROM THE WEST

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The spring equinox came and went not long ago, on Friday March 20th, and the sun has made its decision even if Richmond hasn't fully gotten the memo. The sunrise is creeping about a minute earlier every morning and sunset a minute later every evening, and you can feel it. That stretch of light at the end of the day that makes you want to stay outside just a little longer. The weather is still doing that thing where it's 72 on Tuesday and 45 on Thursday, but the sun doesn't lie. Longer strings of beautiful days are right around the corner.

The light doesn't wait for conditions to be perfect before it starts showing up. It just keeps arriving a little more each day, steady and patient, and eventually everything else catches up. That's not a bad model for most things worth doing.

Spring is a good time to get outside with brothers. If you haven't walked the river in a while, or if you've been meaning to check out Belle Isle or the trails at Pony Pasture, grab somebody and go. Some of the best conversations I've had in this lodge weren't in the lodge room — they were just walking around with a friend on a nice evening. We've got a few months of good weather ahead of us before August does what August does. Let's not waste them.

Brother David Allen  
Senior Warden

## FROM THE TREASURER

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Last month we went over the process of "stepping off" as an investor. We covered starting a new investment account or investing additional money into a tax deferred account like an IRA or a 401k. Once the first step has been made, and the retirement or investment account has been opened, what should the process be for choosing an investment with the money that I've put into the account?

If you speak with your advisor, you are likely to get industry jargon like risk tolerance, diversification, and hedging. There is a simpler way to convey this message, "don't put all your eggs in one basket."

The process of avoiding overinvestment in one option is easily done by buying groups of stocks often called funds or indexes. A fund, like the S&P 500 tracking fund that I mentioned last month (ticker SPY) simply buys shares of stock from all of the largest 500 companies in America, it then slices up the pool of stocks and sells shares of the fund at a much more affordable price. For example, Berkshire Hathaway stock (ticker BRK/A) is on the market for \$757,890 per share, and that's obviously not a good starting point for an investor. However, a small slice of Berkshire Hathaway stock is included in the S&P 500 tracking fund, and that fund can be bought for \$686 per share. Buying into a fund like SPY inherently divides your money into the biggest companies in America, and it kicks off a quarterly dividend to boot.

There are many other themes that are similar to the SPY. If an investor were to choose the fund that tracks the NASDAQ (ticker QQQ) it would be exposed mostly to tech companies like Nvidia, Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, and many more. The Schwab Dividend Tracker Fund (ticker SCHD) is a fund that exposes the investor to older companies that offer higher dividends and the tradeoff is that the companies tend to be slower growing companies because they're in more mature industries like medical supplies and oil companies.

There are endless possibilities when it comes to stock funds, so the wise investor looks for the stocks or funds that have made money over a period of time. For example, SPY has made its investors an average of 14.48% per year for 5 years and has made an average of 14.8% per year over the last 10 years. For the beginning investor, we want to look at how much money is being returned over the long run.

These principles can be applied to the investor's 401k account as well. In your 401k you will find a fact sheet that shows the rates of return for the different investment options and the investor can choose which options they would like. For example, one could choose to put 50% of their money into an S&P 500 index fund, which is large companies, 25% into mid-sized company funds, called Mid Caps, and 25% into small company funds, called Small Caps.

While this isn't investing advice, (because every situation is different) you should speak with a professional. Doing so should help understand the process of spreading out investments to increase the investor's odds of long-term prosperity.

This month's reading recommendation, "Where Are All the Customers' Yachts."

Brother Richard Meador  
Treasurer

## FROM THE SECRETARY

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Thank you for again electing me as your Secretary. Our e-Bulletin has a new look! We will be sending the newsletter to you through the Grandview system.

Please [log into the portal](#) and update your contact information if anything changes. If you have not yet logged into the member portal, use this link: [https://va.grandview.systems/membership\\_registration](https://va.grandview.systems/membership_registration)

I am excited that this year's Philosophical Society will be "back to basics" as we study from Allen Roberts book, *The Craft and Its Symbols*. For the April meeting, we will study the forms and ceremonies of the EA Degree as explained by Brother Roberts. See The Trestleboard for Zoom details.

Lodge dues of \$344 were due by December 31, 2025 but you have until December 31, 2026 to pay them. The easiest way to pay them is on our website at [www.richmondrandolph19.com/store](http://www.richmondrandolph19.com/store).

Donald Moro, P.M.  
Secretary

## THE TRESTLEBOARD - APRIL, 2026

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### April 3, 2026, 6:30 PM

First Friday

Mama Cucina's Italian Restaurant

[4026 Cox Rd., Glen Allen, VA](#)

[More information and Reservations](#)

### April 11, 2026

Stated Meeting - Speaker: Michael Czech

Masons' Hall

Breakfast Served at 8:00 AM

Attire: Dark Suit

### April 26, 2026, 7:30 PM

RR19 Philosophical Society Discussion

"The Craft and Its Symbols" - Topic: EA Forms & Ceremonies

[Zoom - More Information Here](#)

### May 3, 2026, 7:30 PM

First Friday

Big Bamboo Asian Kitchen

[412 E. Grace St., Richmond, VA](#)

[More information and Reservations](#)

## RECENT LODGE ACTIVITY

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**Most Worshipful Donald Strehle - Speaker**

At the March 14, 2026 Stated Meeting, Most Worshipful Donald Strehle gave a presentation on Aristotle and how his philosophy related to why we were in the lodge and how we could help it succeed.



**Members and Guests Enjoying Conviviality**

On Wednesday evenings, the lodge holds a catechism and ritual practice starting at 6:30. Following the practice, we retire to a nearby pub for refreshments and fellowship. All Masons and prospective masons are welcome to join us at Rosy Connolly's Irish Pub, 1548-A East Main Street in Richmond...right around the corner from Masons' Hall. We usually start the festivities at around 8:00 PM

## **MASONIC EDUCATION**

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**The Five Times Masonry Should Have Died** - by Brother David Allen

Across much of the Western world, lodge memberships are aging. Buildings raised for a different scale of fraternity now feel oversized, and in many jurisdictions, the mood swings between worry and denial: worry that the institution is shrinking beyond repair, and denial that anything fundamental has changed.

It's time for another ride on the merry-go-round of history, that moves in big circles, each rhyming with the last.

[To Read This Article, Click Here.....](#)

## **PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE APRIL STATED MEETING**

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RICHMOND RANDOLPH LODGE NO. 19 PRESENTS

# Ruffian: the Making of a Murderer

A TALE OF THE MASTER MASON DEGREE

How did the three Ruffians become the most reviled men in Israel? What is the backstory that led to their crimes? Who were the craftsmen involved in the fate of the first recognized Grand Master of Masons? Join R.W. Michael Czech in his fantastic version of history that provides the basis for the Hiramic legend and Master Mason Degree, an overview of his novel: *Vile and Impious Wretches*

R.W. BRO. MICHAEL CZECH  
ATLAS PYTHAGORAS LODGE NO. 10  
DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER  
PAST GRAND HISTORIAN  
GRAND LODGE OF NEW JERSEY



**APRIL 11, 2026**

**BREAKFAST 8:00AM**

**STATED MEETING  
9:00AM**

**PRESENTATION TO  
FOLLOW**

**OPEN TO MASTER  
MASONS ONLY**

**RICHMOND RANDOLPH  
LODGE NO. 19  
1807 E. FRANKLIN ST  
RICHMOND, VA**

**DIGITAL AND PRINT COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SITE**

**HAPPY MASONIC BIRTHDAY**

Worshipful Lothar Arthur Bernhard, Sr., 4/29, 60 Years  
Brother Stephen Leslie Bland, 4/15, 50 Years  
Worshipful Chandos Jake Carrow, 4/14, 16 Years  
Rt. Worshipful Jonnie Larry Dixon, 4/5, 49 Years  
Brother Tyler Colby Mathews, 4/24, 2 Years  
Worshipful Anthony Charles Pearce, 4/30, 33 Years  
Worshipful Stewart William Swygert, 4/3, 19 Years  
Brother Stephen Ron White-Berry, 4/27, 4 Years

Total - 233 Masonic Years

## 2026 LODGE OFFICERS

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Worshipful Matthew August Maggy, **Worshipful Master**  
Brother Matthew David Allen, **Senior Warden**  
Worshipful Kyle Douglas Holland Bourne, **Junior Warden**  
Brother Richard Scott Meador, **Treasurer**  
Worshipful Donald Francis Moro, Jr., **Secretary**  
*Mobile: (804) 652-9311, Email: [secretaryrr19@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryrr19@gmail.com)*  
Brother Brian Christopher Barte', **Senior Deacon**  
Brother Bailey Gavin Moro, **Junior Deacon**  
Rt. Worshipful William Robert Heltzel, **Chaplain**  
Brother Tyler Cole Esteppe, **Senior Steward**  
Brother Shane Douglass Phillips, **Junior Steward**  
Brother Jachary Wayne James, **Marshall**  
Brother Tyler Andrew Ayers, **Tiler**

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Rt. Worshipful Donald A. K. Cunningham, Jr.  
Rt. Worshipful William R. Heltzel  
Worshipful Charles W. Hundley  
Worshipful Michael D. Joyner  
Worshipful Lee A. Oppenheim

## MASONIC VETERANS

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### 60 YEARS OR BETTER

Brother Bedros C. Bendazion (63)  
Worshipful Lothar Arthur Bernhard, Sr. (60)  
Mt. Worshipful Stuart Vernon Cook (60)  
Mt. Worshipful Frederick Garrison Martin, III (63)  
Brother John Hjalmar Stenstrom (60)

### 50 - 60 YEARS

Brother Irvin Franklin Beadles  
Worshipful Robert Burney Bedell  
Brother Stephen Leslie Bland  
Worshipful Charles William Hundley  
Brother Waverly Carroll Marshall  
Brother Mark Lewis Perkins  
Brother Earl Anthony Sale, Sr.

## LIVING PAST MASTERS

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1971 Robert B. Bedell  
1988 Lothar A. Bernhard  
1995 J. Larry Dixon, P.D.D.G.M.

1997 Anthony C. Pearce  
1999 Marc D. Graham  
2000 Gordon H. Sprigg, Jr.  
2005 Barrye L. Absher, P.D.D.G.M.  
2006 Thomas E. Breeden  
2010 William R. Heltzel, P.D.D.G.M.  
2011 James H. Duke, Jr. P.D.D.G.M.  
2012, 2013 Paul A. Dierickx  
2014 Lee A. Oppenheim  
2015, 2016 Michael D. Joyner  
2017 Charles W. Hundley  
2018 Preston Chad Vanderpool, D.D.G.M.  
2019 Donald A. K. Cunningham, Jr., P. D.D.G.M.  
2020 Donald F. Moro, Jr.  
2021 Jacob A. Crocker  
2022 Chandos J. Carrow  
2023 Kyle D. H. Bourne  
2024 Shane C. Flansburg  
2025 Matthew A. Maggy

## LEGACY MEMBERS IN PERPETUITY

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Barrye L. Absher, P.D.D.G.M  
Jacob A. Allen  
Tyler A. Ayers  
Benjamin A. Barrett  
James R. Childs  
Paul A. Dierickx, P.M.  
James H. Duke, Jr. P.D.D.G.M.  
Peter Francisco  
William R. Heltzel, P.D.D.G.M.  
William K. Lamp  
Douglas G. Mack  
Ian Nelson  
Anthony C. Pearce  
Francis L. Romero  
Charles S. Sarbaugh, P.D.D.G.M.  
Christopher L. Shuman  
Charles T. Sykes, P.M.  
Curtis L. Thompson

*A Legacy Membership in Perpetuity can be purchased for \$8,600. This exempts the member from paying RR19 dues and contributes an amount perpetually back to the Lodge. For details, see section 5.00 of the Methodical Digest, or contact the Secretary at [secretaryrr19@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryrr19@gmail.com).*

## OUR GRAND MASTER

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**"Living Our Obligations"**



**Matthew Todd Szramoski**  
**180th Grand Master of Masons in Virginia**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 23160, Richmond, VA 23223

**Physical Address:** [1807 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA](#)

**Lodge Website:** [www.richmondrandolph19.com](http://www.richmondrandolph19.com)

**Email:** [secretaryr19@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryr19@gmail.com)

**Masons' Hall Website:** [www.masonshall.org](http://www.masonshall.org)

**Social:** [Facebook](#)



**THE GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA**  
*ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS*

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