



Mandarin Masonic Lodge No. 343 F.&A.M.

February 2026

From the East...

Brethren,

As we move through the month of February, I want to take a moment to commend each of you for the continued dedication you show to Mandarin Lodge. Your strong attendance, participation, and positive spirit are clear reflections of the good work being done within our Lodge. It is encouraging to see such commitment, and it speaks volumes about the strength of our brotherhood.

I encourage all members to continue supporting our Lodge by attending **Open Books and Schools of Instruction**. These opportunities allow us to deepen our understanding of our ritual and Masonic education while strengthening the bonds that unite us as brothers.

To our upcoming appointed officers, I strongly emphasize the importance of attending **MLTs** and completing your **Master Mason examinations** in a timely manner. These steps are vital in preparing you for your future roles and ensuring the Lodge continues to operate with excellence and proficiency.

Thank you all for your ongoing support, effort, and dedication to Mandarin Lodge. Together, we continue to build upon the foundation laid by those who came before us.

As we look ahead to the coming Spring season, I wish each of you and your families good health, renewed energy, and prosperity. May this season of growth inspire us to continue working together in harmony and brotherly love.

Fraternally,

Omar Rivera
Worshipful Master
Mandarin #343



From the West...

Greetings Brothers,

We're already in our second month and the year is off to a great start. Our make shift Beefeaters had a great turnout and fellowship along with it. I'm looking forward to our next dinner out. That should be a great time. Details soon.....wink wink....Our Fellowship degree was fantastic. Everyone put a lot of effort into putting it on and it shows. Soon, we'll have four more Master Masons in the next few months or so. Looking forward to seeing our new Brother in our meetings and continued fellowship. We are doing great with our lodge growth. I hope it continues well into the future. I love how smoothly our lodge has been running, we should all be proud. Everyone is settling into their new chairs and doing great.

Fraternally,

Daniel Breslin– Senior Warden

From the South...

Brethren,

Now that I have had some time to get into the routine of preparing meals for our fellowship time before lodge meetings, hopefully the menu choices have been satisfactory for all who have attended! We'll continue to have Filipino style food occasionally (or by special request) but we'll mix it up with other types to keep things interesting. At WM Omar's direction we also have setup four new ways to make donations for the meals if you choose to use your phone to scan the QR code and contribute that way. Our next meeting we will be serving Beef Stroganoff with grilled beans, veggies and salad. I have a new appreciation for the Junior Warden's charge "the better to observe the time", given that the food has to be ready on time and requires planning to ensure it is ready in the proper amount and temperature. Likewise, it is also important for the craft to prepare for the work required to conduct our regular lodge meetings, our degree ritual work and to complete that preparation sufficiently in advance. We owe it to our new Brethren that are going through their degrees to have as good or better of a ritual experience as we did ourselves and it also strengthens our bonds of fellowship in the process. I'm always available to share what I know, perhaps re-learn some things that I didn't know or somehow forgot, and to break bread with the craft.

Fraternally,

Carl Mankinen– Junio Warden

Calendar

***Subject to minor changes.**

February 2026

4– Open Books @ OP Lodge
6:30PM
5– DDGM Official Visit @ Mandarin
7:30PM
7– York Rite-Capitular Degrees @
Palatka YR 9AM
18– SOI @ Arlington Lodge
19– MM Degree @ Mandarin
7:30PM
21- York Rite-Cryptic Degrees @
Jacksonville YR 9AM
21– Open Books @ Hyde Park
Lodge
21-First Coast Demolay Installation
25– NEFMA @ AJR Lodge

March 2026

4– Open Books @ OP Lodge
5– Stated Communication @ Manda-
rin
13– Mandarin OES Installation
18– SOI @ Solomon Lodge
19– Stated communication @ Man-
darin
21– Day of Research @ Jax York
Rite
21– Pilgrimage Day Masonic Home
of Florida
25– NEFMA @ Barnett Lodge
26– Esoteric Session @ Hyde Park
Lodge
28– 100 Mason 2026

Newly Passed Fellow Crafts

Bro. Arjan Bishka
Bro. Taylor Silvey
Bro. Mike Magners

Awaiting MM Degree Bro. Jorge Garcia

Petitions

Wor.: Gerald Patterson–
Dual Membership
Bro. Kenneth Earl
White– Reinstatement

2026 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

Omar Rivera, PM
(904) 864-9440

Senior Warden

Daniel Breslin

Junior Warden

Carl Mankinen

Treasurer

Don Carter, PM

Secretary

Lou Govreau, PM

Marshall

John C. Young, PM

Chaplain

Eric Finkelstein

Senior Deacon

Travis Reynolds

Junior Deacon

Larry Mason

Senior Steward

Hector Mariscal

Junior Steward

TBD

Tyler

Bobby Bethel

2026 COMMITTEES

Finance

Daniel Breslin, SW
Don Carter, PM
Hector Mariscal, SS

Vigilance

Carl Mankinen, JW
Eric Finkelstein, Chaplain
Hector Mariscal, SS

Petitions

Lou Govreau, PM, Sec
Larry Mason, JD
Bobby Bethel, Tyler

Masonic Education

Omar Rivera, PM
Carl Mankinen
Chairman- Ed Mann, PM

Board of Relief

Omar Rivera, WM
Daniel Breslin, SW
Carl Mankinen, JW

Charity

Ed Mann, PM
Don Carter, PM, Treas
Larry Mason, JS

Lodge Property

Daniel Breslin, SW
Carl Mankinen, JW
Travis Reynolds, SD

Community Relations

Jeff Starke , PM
John Young, PM
Travis Reynolds, SD

PAST MASTERS

1962 <i>C. P. Munger</i>	1983 <i>J. R. Knight Jr.</i>	2004 Charles Higgins
1963 <i>C. E. Futch</i>	1984 John Porter Hufman	2005 James C. Ruoff
1964 <i>W. H. Ange</i>	1985 Richard Gale Hornbrook	2006 David M. L. Randall
1965 <i>Walter Wilson Powell</i>	1986 <i>Richard Faye Mauro</i>	2007 William E. Avera III
1966 <i>M. D. Bish</i>	1987 Donald Wyman Carter	2008 George S. Blum
1967 <i>Billy Collier</i>	1988 <i>Joseph J. Frederickson</i>	2009 <i>Eddie E. Bides</i>
1968 <i>T. "Ira" Higginbotham</i>	1989 Christopher C. Ramsayer	2010 Nate Vargo
1969 <i>C. J. Bowden</i>	1990 Anthony "George" Colson	2011 Larry M. Rogers
1970 <i>R. L. Flynn</i>	1991 Henry B. Tucker	2012 Mike Minter
1971 C. R. Bell (PDDGM)	1992 <i>Elva Ray "Pete" Copeland</i>	2013 Larry M. Rogers
1972 John Ammond Peoples Jr.	1993 Walter Manfred Pace	2014 George Sarkees III
1973 <i>Earl Davis Waldrep Sr.</i>	1994 <i>Lenwood Earl Bucks</i>	2015 Angelo Echevarria
1974 <i>Donald E. Bush</i>	1995 <i>Gerald Dean Pugh</i>	2016 Jeff Starke (PDDGM)
1975 <i>Earl Herndon (PDDGM)</i>	1996 Earnest Jackson Strange	2017 David J. Gilpin
1976 <i>M. C. Cassidy</i>	1997 Jimmy J. Pace	2018/2019 Todd Connor
1977 <i>Nicholas Manos</i>	1998 <i>Siegfried Rohrbacher</i>	2020 Lou Govreau
1978 <i>Cecil Lenard Platt</i>	1999 Randy Carter	2021 John C. Young
1979 <i>Cedric Frank Thompson</i>	2000 <i>Paul Johnston</i>	2022 Jeff Starke (PDDGM)
1980 <i>G. Grayson</i>	2001 John Downes	2023 Edward Mann
1981 <i>T. Thompson</i>	2002 Charles Benham	2024 Jan Lindahl
1982 <i>Jerry Johnson</i>	2003 Larry M. Rogers	2025 Omar Rivera



NEFMA COIN FUNDRAISER



\$25.00 A PIECE

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PILGRIMAGE DAY 2026

Join your Grand Master, Tali Atala, and your Masonic Home Residents for our annual Pilgrimage Day, open to the community! There will be a noontime BBQ, kids area with games, and vendor market. If you are interested in checking out the Home, tours will be going on throughout the day!



Saturday
March 21st



Time
10.00 AM - 2.00 PM



Masonic Home of Florida
3201 1st Street



JOIN US

For more information contact the Suncoast Master Mason Association smmasecretary@gmail.com

Approved for Distribution by MW Taleb T. Atala, Grand Master, January 5, 2026

100 MASON 2026

SATURDAY,
MARCH 28, 2026
CALLAHAN
FAIRGROUNDS
45435 EULA B RD.
CALLAHAN, FL 32011



Gates Open 11:00 AM
Lunch Served 12:00 PM
Gavel Down 2:30 PM

