



THE SECRET VAULT NEWSLETTER



Living Legacy "FROM WHENCE WE COME"

- MIGTIM GREETINGS
- CRYPTIC RITE ACADEMY
- PODCAST



ISSUE 1, JANUARY 2023

Welcome to



THE
SECRET VAULT

NEWSLETTER



Living Legacy
"FROM WHENCE WE COME"

We honor you

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CRYPTIC MASONRY

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Most Illustrious Grand **THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER LETTER**



Since 1998, the Most Illustrious Union Grand Council has worked to ensure acute awareness, sound training, and wholesome knowledge transfer to our members and those who have an interest in our engagements.

As we stand guard, we must continue to advance our knowledge, we must honor our stewardship, and through servant leadership, we must continue to grow in our Jurisdiction. The experience and vitality we have in our Grand Council will allow us to show “Honor, Respect, & Humility” to all members of our Masonic Fraternity worldwide.

The Secret Vault fulfills our purpose of covering the great news, sharing intriguing insight, and providing pertinent information related to the Cryptic Rite, Leadership, and Life Lessons. Along with other relevant topics to educate the mind, mannerisms, customary practices, and more. Our goal is to provide our readers with an experience worth the quality of their time.

We will distribute on a regular interval, just know it will be a useful resource for keeping up to date with what's new and exciting with the Cryptic Rite.

We believe in you!
Most Illustrious Reginald Hardee,
Grand Thrice Illustrious Master

Past Grand

RUSSELL A. EARL BIOGRAPHY



On August 13, 1952 Russell Alexander Earl, Sr. was born to Mr. and Mrs. William A. Earl in Jacksonville, Florida. His education began in the Duval County Public Schools graduating from Matthew William Gilbert High School Class of 1970.

He continued his education at Bethune-Cookman University and Massey Business College receiving an Associate Degree in Automation Accounting.

He and his wife Gwendolyn Dolores Earl of 50 years have three children; Russell Alexander Earl, II, Rhonda Alicia Earl and William Leroy Russell Earl. He is also the proud grandfather of five grandchildren, Quintin II, Russell III, Quincy, Tiara, and Willian, Jr.

As a dedicated member of St. Stephen A.M.E. Church he serves in the following capacities: Usher Board #1, Class Leader, Class #26, Chairman of Trustee Boards, St. Stephen Men's Ministry, Past President of Lay Organization, Past Member of the Steward Board, The Sons of Allen and The Male Usher Board.

General Conference of Grand Councils - Royal & Select Masters, U.S.A Bahamas, P.H.A:

1. General Conference Past Grand Thrice III. Master, Sept 2012 - May 2015
2. Initiated the Jurisdictional Flag Presentation
3. Initiated the first Ritual and Syllabus for the General Grand Conference
4. General Conference of Grand Chapters Holy Royal Arch Masons, U.S.A., Bahamas, P.H.A.

Foreign Jurisdiction Membership:

Most III. Prince Hall Grand Council Royal & Select Master.. Ohio Bernal Ford Grand Court L.O.C.O. New Jersey

Past Grand

RUSSELL A. EARL INTERVIEW



Most Illustrious Past Grand Thrice Illustrious Master

1. What year were you raised a Master Mason and where (city, state)? Any notable local or world event that transpired at the time of your raising?

I was raised a Master Mason in May 1972 in Jacksonville, FL. Some events in 1972 were the SALT Agreement, Congressman Gerald Ford was sworn in as Vice President, the Watergate scandal, the Munich Olympic terrorist attack, a gallon of gas was 55 cent, a pound of ground beef was 98 cent, and the epic movie The Godfather was released.

2. What was the sentiment during the early years in you becoming a York Rite Mason? And do you have more of an attraction to York or Scottish? If you fancy one over the other provide insight as to why.

It was normal for Grand Masters to serve until death, our jurisdiction was not a destination for national Masonic meetings of any house, common practice was that a brother had to be both a York Rite Mason as well as a Scottish Rite Mason to join the A.E.A.O.N.M.S.

3. What year and where (city, state) were you exalted to the holy degree of a Royal Arch Mason?

I was exalted a Royal Arch Mason in 1973 in Jacksonville FL.

Past Grand

EARL A. RUSSELL INTERVIEW CON'T



4. After being exalted what enticed your journey to seek cryptic degrees in the state of Florida? Was it a mentor, fellow journeymen, an inner compelling or perhaps a combination of all three factors?

After visiting many jurisdictions for their annual meetings I noticed that their guest always included the Royal & Select Masters. This was normal for the northern jurisdictions, but never in the southern jurisdictions. I approached a friend of mine, Sir Knight Ray Robinson of Ohio and he introduced me to G.T.I.M. Howard Massey of Ohio 1996. I was made a member in Ohio and appointed Special Deputy to FL in order to generate enough Royal Arch Masons to form at least 3 Councils with 27 Companions in each Council. We got 129 Companions. Enough to form 4 Councils. The journey would include a combination of all three factors.

5. Explain the process in establishing a Council in Florida. What type of logistics were involved? Who were the key people and institutions responsible??

Each Council had to have at least 27 members. We had to use the "Coded Ritual" for opening, closing and degree work. Each U.D. Council had to satisfy the Ohio Grand Council that we were able to do these things without their help. After receiving our Charters we translated the coded ritual to English which we are now using. This body would never have come to FL without the blessings of M.W. Grand Master Robert Terrell and the 4 Councils, North FL #1, West FL #2, Central FL #3, and South FL #4. Each of the 129 members are considered as key people.

Past Grand

EARL A. RUSSELL INTERVIEW CON'T



6. As being the visionary for Purple Masonry in Florida do you consider yourself a Founder? If not, why?

Yes, I believe that I was the founder of Royal & Select Masters here in FL as well as the founder of The Ladies of The Circle Of Perfection and one of the 8 brothers who brought the Priory K.Y.C.H. to FL. My great uncle, Alexander Darnes was the founding father for bringing the Holy Royal Arch Masons to FL in the 1880s leading me to believe that my family has been on the front lines bringing 3 York Rite Masonic Orders to FL as well as 1 female auxiliary.

7. Upon being Greeted a Royal & Select Master what impressed you specifically about the cryptic degrees compared to previous degrees received?

We were made aware who and why the Manuscript was placed were the Royal Arch Masons found it. We began to understand that there were indeed 3 Ancient Grand Masters. We were introduced to many wonderful lessons that were unheard of here in FL,. Finally the brothers here in FL could say that we are truly "All House Masons.", Something our northern brothers were but not here in the south.

8. What were the highlights and pitfalls of the starting years of the Council?

During our infancy the joy of creating a Constitution & By Laws for this jurisdiction. The help we gave other Southern & Western Jurisdictions as well as The Bahamas to get their own charters. These bodies are products of the knowledge and brotherhood that we shared with them thus giving FL a place in the Masonic history of those jurisdictions. charters. I have only one pitfall to mention that being an administration's use of a credit card that broke our treasure, nothing else to say.

Past Grand

EARL A. RUSSELL INTERVIEW CON'T



9. What are your hopes for this grand body and what you like to see it implement?

My prayer is that the Grand Council here in FL would establish a system for education of our youth using the HBCUs. Also, that we support some type of medical research such as Alzheimer's Disease or Prostate Cancer that affect an alarming number of us. My prayer would include that our Grand Council would grow to 500 members before I see my last day on earth.

10. What would you like your legacy to be? If it had to be described in one sentence what would that sentence read?

I would love for my legacy to be, Russell Alexander Earl, Sr. was a builder of Masons not only here in FL but throughout the U.S.A. & Foreign jurisdictions and he did it by using his love for our Masonic Order.



Most Illustrious Union Grand Council

Royal & Select Masons | Prince Hall Affiliated
 State of Florida & Jurisdictions
 410 N. Broad St. Jacksonville, FL 32202
 miugcfl.gtim@gmail.com | www.miugc.org

YORK RITE WORKSHOP AGENDA

January 5 – 6, 2023

Most Ill. Reginald Hardee, KYCH
 Grand Thrice Illustrious Master

Rt. Ill. Frank Barnes
 Grand Deputy Master
 miugcfl.dm@gmail.com

Rt. Ill. Flemon Lewis, KYCH
 Grand PCOW
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Rt. Ill. Chad Brooks
 Grand Capt. of the Guard
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RT. Ill. Jessie L. Randle Jr.
 Grand Conductor of Council
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Rt. Ill. Lynwood Loper, PGTIM
 Grand Treasurer
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Rt. Ill. Wesner Pierre
 Grand Recorder
 miugcfl.recorder@gmail.com

Rt. Ill. Fletcher Williams Jr.
 Grand CCFC
 miugcfl.ccfc@gmail.com

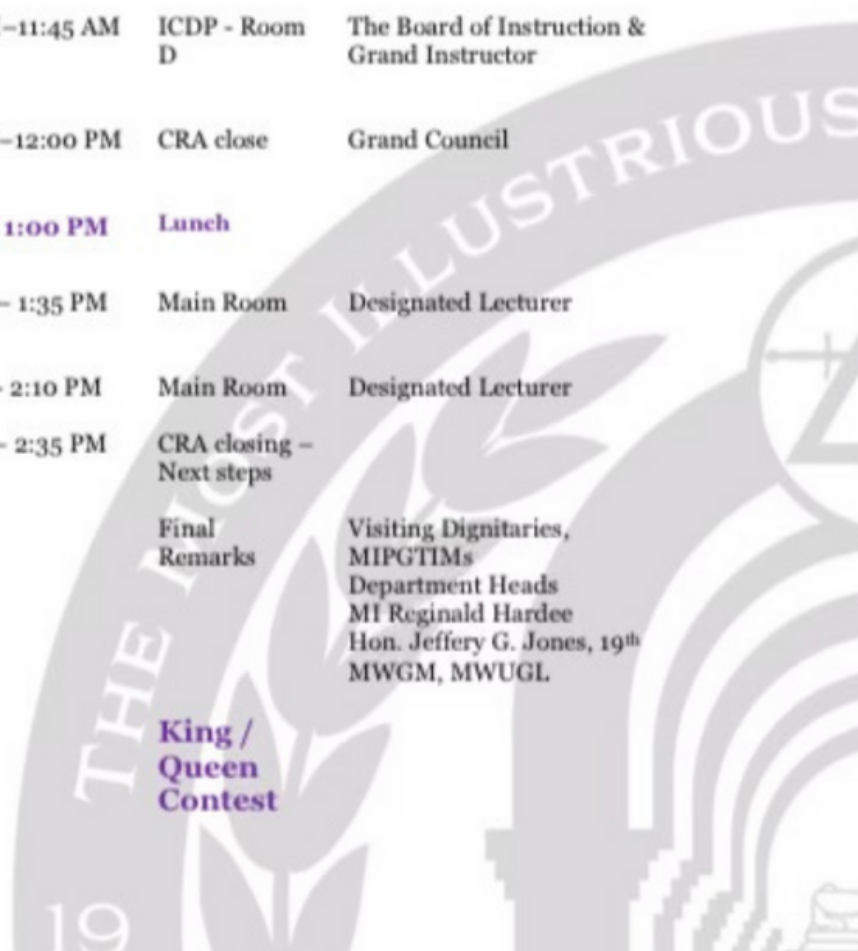
Rt. Ill. Willie Wilson, Jr.
 Grand Trustee

Rt. Ill. Alonzo Wilson, III
 Royal Grand Chief Advisor
 miugcfl.chief@gmail.com

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	
Thursday, January 5	8:00 PM	Registration Opens	
Thursday, January 5	9:00 PM	Occasional Opening	
Friday, January 6	6:30 AM	Silver Trowel	Rt. Ill Frank Barnes, GDM, MIPGTIM Doyle, & Degree Team
Friday, January 6	7:30 AM – 7:55 AM	Registration	Grand Recorder
Friday, January 6	8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	Illustrious Companion Development Program – Room A	The Board of Instruction & Grand Instructor
Friday, January 6	9:00 AM – 9:45 AM	ICDP - Room B	The Board of Instruction & Grand Instructor
Friday, January 6	10:00 AM–10:45 AM	ICDP - Room C	The Board of Instruction & Grand Instructor
Friday, January 6	11:00 AM–11:45 AM	ICDP - Room D	The Board of Instruction & Grand Instructor
Friday, January 6	11:45 AM–12:00 PM	CRA close	Grand Council
Lunch	Noon to 1:00 PM	Lunch	
Friday, January 6	1:00 PM – 1:35 PM	Main Room	Designated Lecturer
Friday, January 6	1:40 PM - 2:10 PM	Main Room	Designated Lecturer
Friday, January 6	2:15 PM – 2:35 PM	CRA closing – Next steps	
Friday, January 6	2:35 PM	Final Remarks	Visiting Dignitaries, MIPGTIMs Department Heads MI Reginald Hardee Hon. Jeffery G. Jones, 19 th MWGM, MWUGL

**Friday,
January 6**

**King /
Queen
Contest**



Editor's INVITATION



The secret is out and the vault is ready. I invite you to turnkey each letter, word, sentence, and paragraph of this most informative newsletter. Issues to come promise to glorify the GAOTU - Grand Architect of the Universe, increase your masonic aptitude, promote community service, esteem health and financial care, and ignite a fire for participation throughout the jurisdiction.

Welcome to the, 'Secret Place' where Royal & Select Masters dwell in the shadow of Light dressed to the nine. Offering of thanks to MIGTIM and RI Grand Instructor entrusting me with these pages. I am humbled.

Illustrious Companions, friends, and inquisitors ENJOY!

In the Cryptic Rite,

RI Craig Stafford
Past Grand Lecturer

Craig Stafford



CRYPTIC RITE ACADEMY

Instructors

Superintendent EXPLANATORY



The MIUGC Cryptic Rite Academy (CRA)

The CRA is a curriculum of instruction and experiential learning established for understanding the lessons, symbolism, and esoteric meaning of the Mysteries of The Secret Vault.

At each stage of learning, Illustrious Companions are tested for knowledge retention, proficiency, and experiential application, combined with Council service requirements to advance in the Arches.

Learning begins at the 1st Arch and continues in culmination at the 9th Arch to receive the Order of Giblemites.

As directed by our MIGTIM Reginald Hardee, CRA provides an opportunity for Illustrious Companions to learn Knowledge for Preservation.

As a part of the Illustrious Companion Development Program, the CRA is a significant part of our endeavor to "Inform. Educate. & Inspire."

Yours In The Cryptic Rite,

RI Thomas Gilchrist
Grand Lecturer
Superintendent
Cryptic Rite Academy



Cryptic Rite Academy (CRA)

Courses To Complete 9.0 Credits Required → Arch 1: Royal Master Degree Courses (A1001 series)
 Arch 2: Select Master Degree Courses (A2001 series)
 Arch 3: Super Excellent Master Degree Courses (A3001 series)
Council Service: All Illustrious Companions Eligible: Receive 3rd Arch Pin

← Classes Offered at York Rite Workshop

Courses To Complete → Arch 4: 18.0 Credits
 Arch 5: Required (9.0 additional)
 Arch 6:
Council Service: Serve in any elected Council office: Receive 6th Arch Pin, Sword

Courses To Complete → Arch 7: 24.0 Credits
 Arch 8: Required (6.0 additional)
Council Service: Serve as PCOW or DM 1+ years: Receive 8th Arch Pin, Trowel

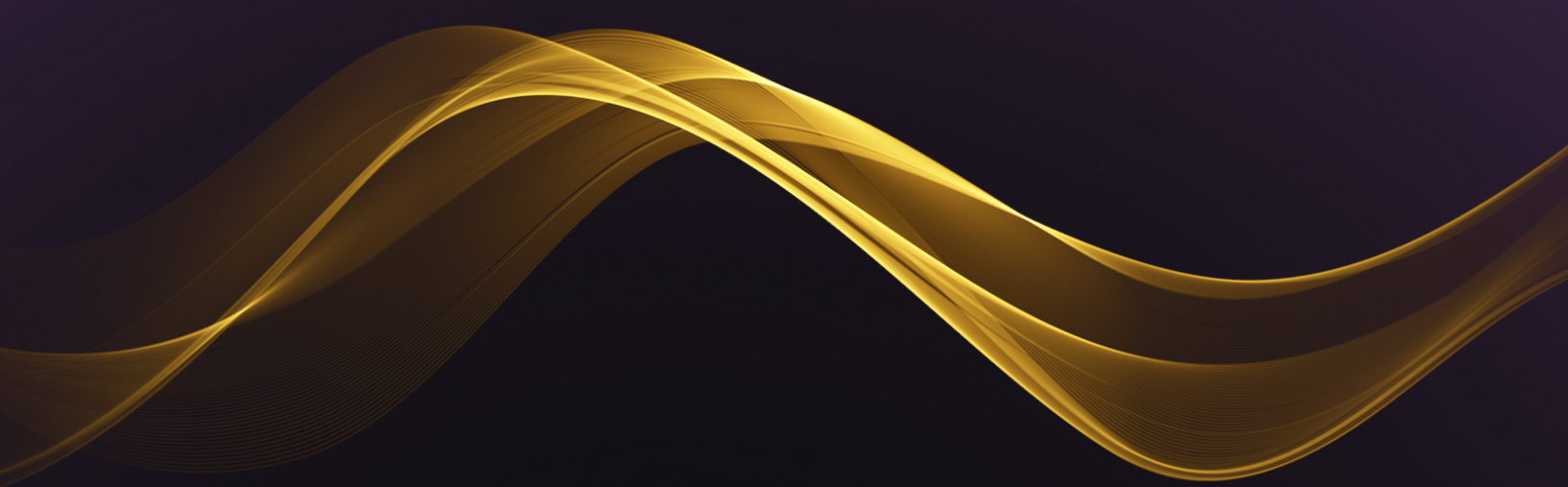
Courses To Complete → Arch 9: 27.0 Credits
Council Service: Serve as TIM for 1+ year(s) and WM for 1+ year(s) : Required (3.0 additional)
 Received into The Order of Giblemites.



Courses in CRA may be one of three categories:

- Class Virtual 2.0
- Class Face to Face 3.0
- Lecture Face to Face 2.5

(Set Maat – The Place of Truth)





Right Illustrious Grand Lecturer and Instructor Thomas Gilchrist, Jr.

Cryptic Rite Academy (CRA) Superintendent

RI Thomas Gilchrist is a married 'empty nester', military veteran, whose hobbies include writing, reading, and music. He is a member of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church and Central Florida Blacks in Government (BIG). Masonry and Masonic education is a passion and 'way of life' in The Search for Divine Truth for Thomas.

Thomas is a member of the Quality Management staff at Orlando VA Medical Center in Lake Nona and serves as data analyst and project manager. He leads the development of the VISN 8 Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence in VISN 8 (Florida) (VA National Artificial Intelligence Institute (NAII)) and simulation modeling. As a Certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, he has a personal passion for data analytics and applying artificial intelligence (deep learning and natural language processing) in healthcare.

He is a member of Central Florida HIMSS, ASQ, and ACHE and has earned a B.S. in Chemistry, Master of Business Administration, and PhD (ABD) in Healthcare Knowledge Management.



Past Right Illustrious Grand Lecturer Craig Stafford

Right Illustrious Past Grand Lecturer Craig Napoleon Stafford is a 21st Century Thought Leader with a portfolio as an internationally recognized Author, Ordained Minister, Master Life Coach and Motivational Speaker with over 20 years of experience. 32° Scottish Rite Mason and Ifa Priest of the Orunmila Sect specializing in esoteric thought fusing aspects of theology, numerology and various spiritual disciplines. Stafford is also a Certified Bio-energy Healer, Aroma Therapist and Japanese Reiki Master.

Published Book: Think Happy: Nine Thought Paths to Happiness (released 2011)

Published Lecture: The Royal Work of the Royal Master



Right Illustrious DDGTIM Kenaz A. Dyer Sr. is a happily married, proud father of seven children who believes that 'every day your life should make a positive impact on someone's life.' He loves music; playing a variety of instruments, previously a Limousine company owner and a manager for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in the Virgin Islands. He worked 45 years in the retail industry and is now a 'stay at home' dad.



Right Illustrious Reverend Donald Woods served honorably in the United States Air Force and earned a B.S. degree in Engineering from University of South Carolina while on active duty. He has earned a second B.S. in Project Management and currently pursuing a Master's degree. Reverend Woods is a Business Operations Director for a DoD aircraft maintenance contractor.



Tabitha Gadson, MSN, RN has earned a Master of Science in Nursing Leadership and Management degree and is a certified CPR instructor, aligned with the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, and American Safety and Health Institute. With a diverse Registered Nursing background including critical care and emergency medicine, she takes pride in educating individuals on life-saving skills to bring public awareness to cardiac resuscitation training and the causes of cardiovascular disease.



Illustrious Companion Juan R. Vega is an Information Systems leader delivering world class solutions in telecommunications, data networks, and technology infrastructure management. He is a U.S. Army Veteran, earned degrees in Information Systems & Business Management and currently employed 19 years by Citibank NA Inc. He and his wife ~~Ketava~~ **Ketava** M. Vega have been married for 26 years, and have twin 23 year old boys, Jesse and Javon Vega.



Right Illustrious Grand Chaplain Maurice Wilson

Rev. Maurice D. Wilson, Sr. was born the eldest child of Revs. Terrence and the late Charlene Wilson. At the tender age of 7, he began his musical life. After taking 6 months of lessons, he stopped and continued on his own. At the age of 14, he accepted his call to the ministry. He was licensed to preach May 14, 2000 at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church of Plant City, Florida under Reverend Douglas C. Graham. He attended Liberty University earning Arts Degrees in Religious Studies and International Theological Seminary earning Theology Degrees. He is currently an Associate Minister for his church, Greater St. Luke M.B. Church. He is a member of the National Association of Black Musicians, American Choral Directors Association, National Notary Association, and Assistant Branch Secretary of the Hillsborough County NAACP. He is married to the best wife that God ever created, Nicole, and together they have 3 children: Jaliyah, Maurice, Jr. and Lauren.



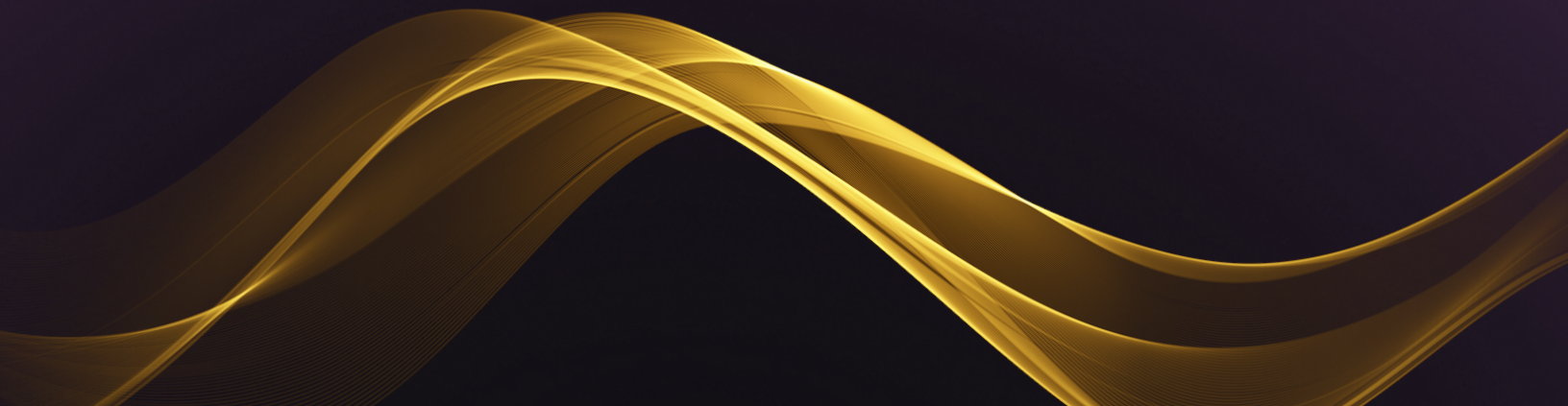
ZABUD AWARD



THE SECRET VAULT PODCAST



THE SECRET VAULT PODCAST



Health & WELLNESS

What is CPR and When should I use it ?

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is an emergency procedure that can help save a person's life if their HEART or breathing stops.

When a person's heart stops beating, they are in cardiac arrest. During cardiac arrest, the heart cannot pump blood to the rest of the body, including the brain and lungs. Death can happen within minutes without CPR or treatment. CPR uses chest compressions to mimic how the heart pumps. These compressions help keep blood flowing throughout the body until help arrives or the person regains consciousness.

Cardiac arrest is NOT the same as a heart attack.

A heart attack happens when blood flow to the heart is blocked. A person having a heart attack is still talking and breathing. This person does not need CPR, but they do need to get to the hospital right away. A Heart attack increases the risk for going into cardiac arrest.

Three Things You May Not Know About CPR

- 1 CPR Saves Lives
- 2 Cardiac Arrests often happen at Home
- 3 You Don't need formal training to perform CPR

One BEAT at a Time,

Tabitha Gadson MSN, RN
Director

Office: 855-463-4683 Mobile: 321-503-8646

Email: info@infinite-hearts.com





CIRCLE OF PERFECTION

Cryptic MASONRY

Is the second part of the York Rite system of Masonic degrees, and the last found within the Rite that deals specifically with the Hiramic Legend. These degrees are the gateway to Temple restoration rituals or the Second Temple Legend. The body itself is known as either the Council of Royal & Select Masters or Council of Cryptic Masons depending on the jurisdiction.



JOIN THE TEAM!

The Secret Vault Newsletter is looking for enthusiastic and dedicated contributors and submissions such as:

Masonic history

Motivational/Inspirational messages

Community events

Professional health care advice

Accredited financial literacy

Certified tech tips

L.O.C.O.P.

Assistant editors

Podcast assistance

[Click here to email us at miugcfl.thesequivault@gmail.com](mailto:miugcfl.thesequivault@gmail.com)