

W:. Phillip W. Weiss – A Masonic Autobiography

by Brother Phillip W. Weiss

I am the current Master of Arcana Lodge Number 246. I am also a playwright, having authored thirty-one full-length plays. I also wrote a history of Arcana Lodge Number 246. This history was published in 2002 in the Lodge's 150th Anniversary Journal. I have been a Freemason since 1996. In that year I was raised a Master Mason. During my travels to the East, I have served in most of the chairs in the Lodge. When I was raised as Master Mason, the Lodge was part of the Third Manhattan District. In about 1999, Arcana Lodge combined with another Lodge and moved from the Third Manhattan District to the Seventh Manhattan District where it is today.

My father, the late Worshipful Sam Weiss, was Master of Arcana Lodge in 1955. As a child, I met many of the Freemasons who today are legends of Arcana Lodge Number 246. Those brothers include R:. W:. Ben Chassid and W:. Max Rauch. They were but two of the many great Freemasons who were members of Arcana Lodge. Arcana Lodge has an incredibly rich history extending back to its founding in March 1852.

Since its founding, Arcana Lodge Number 246 has compiled an unbroken string of meetings. The Lodge has continuously met and functioned through times of peace and war. The Lodge functioned during the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War One, World War Two, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Great Depression, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Freemasons have come and gone but Arcana Lodge has remained intact, firm as the Rock of Gibraltar and steadfast in its mission to transform worthy men in Freemasons.

Since my election to the East, Arcana Lodge has raised two Fellowcrafts to the sublime Degree of Master Mason, has passed an Entered Apprentice to Fellowcraft, and has new candidates on the trestle board awaiting initiation. The current line of officers serving the Lodge are all outstanding representatives of the Craft and are fully committed to the Lodge and to Freemasonry. The quality of the brothers currently active in the Lodge and their ability to work together to achieve positive results is evidence of the credibility of Freemasonry as a method to bring men of diverse backgrounds together, united by fraternal bonds of friendship that sets an example for the world to follow.