

St. John's Lodge No. 9, F. & A. M.

Trestleboard

JULY 2020

Jim Russell, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

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FROM THE EAST

[Blair Neumann, Master](#)



My Brothers,

This has been an historic month within an historic year in Seattle and in our country. We make sense of times like these in part through our shared and individual morality, and what better teacher on morals do we have than Freemasonry.

None of us has perfected our rough ashlar, but we chisel at it when we apply the lessons of Freemasonry to our day-to-day lives.

Masonry guides us extensively on how to conduct ourselves with our fellow man: We are to treat all people as brothers to the extent that we are able. We might reserve a little extra for our Brothers, but all our brothers and sisters have our love.

Including you. We love you for who you are, as you are. You should feel proud of the good work that you do, as you may be willing to keep working toward that more perfect ashlar.

St. John's Lodge No. 9 is the oldest corporation founded in Seattle, and our membership famously includes many Seattle luminaries. Whether you consider yourself a luminary or not, you can count yourself as on the level among them. We are each members of that privileged club. We've each faced difficult life experiences, and not to diminish your own, but our earliest Brethren had it much worse than we do. We're privileged now in ways that our earlier Brothers were not.

Having privilege is great! You should never feel ashamed of having privilege. It's good that we have it. Somebody has to! And we're good people to have it. But what do we do with it?

Not to diminish anybody's difficult life experiences, but less-privileged black Americans have it much worse than even less privileged white Americans do today. They live in fear for their lives in ways that we as white Americans simply do not. Their lives matter every bit as much as our own.

We're reminded of this every decade or so, and then we return to "normal." We tell black Americans that change will come, then we tell ourselves that change has come, that we're post-racial now. For those of us who are white Americans, the only people that we're fooling are ourselves. Our black brothers and sisters know how they're treated and can tell us.

We just need to listen, which is our privilege as Freemasons to be practiced at.

Listen, my Brothers, to your American brothers and sisters who are black. Listen as if they were your Brother. You may become a more perfect ashlar when you do.

St. John's 160th Anniversary Celebration Dinner coming Saturday, August 29th, Ivar's Salmon House. Due to the uncertainty of the CORONA-19 virus separation policy, cancellation of the event is a possibility. However, with a glass half-full attitude, we hope to carry this off. We will, however, need to have a count of heads to provide to Ivar's by mid-August. Please let the [Secretary](#) know if you hope to join us.

CALENDAR



- July 4: Independence Day
- July 8 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- July 9 (7pm): Officers meeting teleconference
- July 15 (7pm): St. John's 9 Fellowship teleconference
- July 22 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- July 25 (10am): Past Masters Brunch Jimmy's on Broadway
- August 1: Open Air Degree, Masonic Park **cancelled**
- August 2 (1pm – 6pm): Lodge outing to Emerald Downs **cancelled**
- Aug. 12 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- August 13 (7pm): Officers meeting teleconference
- August 19 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated** (casual dress)
- August 29 (5pm social hour): 160th Anniversary Celebration Ivar's Salmon House
- September 4: Happy Birthday to us!
- September 7: Labor Day
- September 10 (7pm): Officers meeting teleconference
- September 16 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated**
- September 27 – 28: Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)
- October 4 (10am): **FABulous Family Brunch** Columbia Tower
- October 9-10: Yom Kippur
- October 14 (6pm): Board of Trustees 2021 Budget preparation
- October 15 (7pm): Officers meeting teleconference
- October 21 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated**
- October 31 (10am): Past Masters Brunch Jimmy's on Broadway
- October 31 (10am): Masonic Service Bureau
- Nov. 11 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- November 18 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated** Past Masters Night; Election of Officers

THE LAST TIME I SAW PARIS (ER, MAKE THAT OUR LODGE ROOM)

From all walks of life we come. We donate our time to an age-honored tradition. We donate our money to help those who cannot help themselves. We gather in fellowship and part in peace. For a while we can lay aside our differences and worries to bask in our shared experiences. We can talk with men who are our equals, men who work to better themselves. This night is Lodge night and I'm glad I am a Mason.

I ponder these things at least once a month – the third Wednesday, for sure – yet once again I'm staying at home. Not because I want to stay home, but because for the fifth consecutive month, this COVID-19 thing dictates where I can go or who I can see.

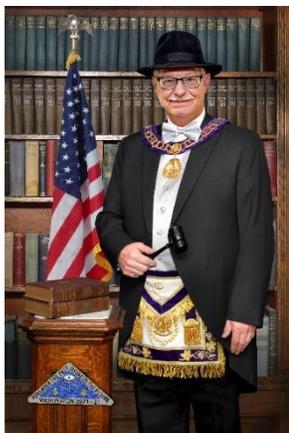
But wait! It can't stop me from seeing and *virtually* shaking hands with my Brothers who get together on Zoom teleconference! That's a good thing, and even allows my Brothers who are scattered across the globe to share some truly Masonic fellowship, enlightenment, and family news.

It's almost like being there! Except we're not listening to a re-hash of the routine business like Minutes, committee reports, payment of bills, etc. We're experiencing the purpose of the Craft – to make good men better by constantly working to improve ourselves.

For the time being, all activities within our craft are halted. There are no more meetings, social events, or degrees. And this includes our great dinners before our stated communications. The officers of the Lodge have been Zooming, as well, so the routine business is well under control.

The real business of Freemasonry continues. Fellowship, Education, Caring, making ourselves – good men – better! So, if you aren't one of the 20-25 who get together each week, please join the fun.

MW Chris Coffman Leads New Grand Lodge Team



MW Chris Coffman

Delegates throughout Washington met from the sanctuary of their homes and elsewhere to elect a new Grand Lodge officer team last month.

One resolution was passed to amend Masonic Code Chapter 7 to agree with the bylaw modification of the charitable purposes of the Home Fund and Masonic Home Endowment Fund to be consistent with the agreement reached with the Washington State Office of the

Attorney General. All other resolution initially proposed and not ruled "out of order" will be acted upon at the 2021 annual communication in Wenatchee.

Most delegates to the annual communication were participants via Zoom and heard the annual messages from outgoing Grand Master MWBro. Charles E. Wood and Grand Secretary RWBro. Clint Brown, Jr.

Elected for this 2020-21 year were:

Grand Master	MWBro.	Chris J. Coffman
Deputy Grand Master	RWBro.	Cameron M. Bailey
Senior Grand Warden	RWBro.	Edward C. Woods
Junior Grand Warden	RWBro.	Steve C. Martin
Grand Secretary	RWBro.	Clinton M. Brown, Jr.
Trustee, WM Charities	VWBro.	Larry D. Foley
Trustee, Kane Cemetery	WBro.	Jonathon E. Caverly



St. John's Lodge room stands empty since February



Join us
Teleconferencing Fellowship
every Wednesday
at 7pm

We're having a great time exchanging ideas and Masonic enlightenment

If using your computer or smartphone:

- Download the Zoom app from <https://zoom.us/download>
- Use that app with Meeting ID **981 655 9198** to join our Fellowships

If you are using your telephone:

- Dial **(253) 215-8782** to reach Zoom
- Use Meeting ID **981 655 9198** to join our Fellowships

Here's more information about how to use Zoom Meetings: <https://www.context.org/help/zoom-quickguide/>

Scholarships Applicants to Interview July 11

In accordance with our Masonic values, the Brothers of St. John's Lodge like to support hard working individuals of good character and high moral standards who are involved in their community with scholastic grants. Furthermore, we encourage students with clearly defined career paths.

WBro. Eric Koteles has announced that our St. John's Scholarship Committee will interview applicants via teleconference for student grants on Saturday, July 11. Students have been notified for their interview schedule.



Senior Warden Message

VWBro. Ashley Brinkley



Things have sure changed in my short lifetime and we have all seen things change in the last several months.

As many of you know, I grew up in Boise Idaho. I belong to a Facebook group where we share stories about Boise from the early times around 1850 to today. It is interesting reading all the stories about people and what they did. Seeing the old photos of buildings and remembering what they looked like from when I lived there.

This group is administered by everyday people like you and me and the photos and stories are supplied by us too. Many of the articles start out with where a person was born, like England or Scotland, and how they immigrated to America, came out West on a wagon train, got married and started a business in a place like Boise City. They had the fortitude to overcome the challenges of a new life in a new country. They became a leader in the community, eventually died and were buried in Pioneer Cemetery.

Most of these historical articles end with something like "he was a prominent citizen," or a "pillar in the community." They talk about how much they contributed and helped the community. Many said, "he was a Master Mason or belonged to a Masonic Lodge." One said that the man was the Master of the Lodge and one was even a Grand Master.

So, in reflecting on history, have things really changed that much? Today our Lodge members are faced with different challenges yet are still prominent citizens in the community. We make our communities better for everyone. We work in every vocation and run businesses. Some of us have even been Masters of our Lodge and even some have been Grand Master. Yes, many things do change over time, but we as Masons do not.

Past Masters Brunch July 25

Subject to Grand Master Chris Coffman's proclamation, all Past Masters of St. John's are invited to attend our quarterly brunches not only for a good time but also to keep up with how things are going at St. John's. Brunches start at 10am and close shortly after noon at Jimmy's On Broadway – just north of Madison at the Silver Cloud Hotel. See you Saturday, July 25. *Free parking.*

It's coming!!
St. John's
160th Anniversary Celebration
Ivar's Salmon House
Potlatch Room
Social hour – 5pm Dinner 6pm
Saturday, August 29
Make your reservations, today

Junior Warden Message

WBro. John Murray Louderback



With all the civil unrest that is currently happening in America, I feel it incumbent to take this opportunity to re-educate the Masonic principles which were established by our founding fathers.

The Declaration Of Independence states: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

The Preamble to the United States Constitution states:

"We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect union, establish Justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution of The United States of America."

These principles were meant to apply for all Americans.

These Masonic principles were meant to be our country's guiding principles. These guiding principles are sacrosanct. To do otherwise is to disavow the Constitution. Those that act, not according to the Constitution, and break these principles and the law, need to be held accountable.

Our founding fathers - who were mostly Freemasons - established these principles as guides for Congress to establish law. We Masons do not make laws nor do we enforce the law. We hold these truths to be self evident. Congress and those that enforce our Constitution and laws, need to do a much better job.

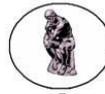
Our country, which is far from perfect, needs to continue to form a more perfect union. To insure for the domestic tranquillity, that all are equal under the law – indivisible with Liberty, and Justice for all.

We believe in the Brotherhood of all mankind. Masonry needs to continue to be the example by which all men should live by.

WHAT MASONIC PENALTIES ARE ENFORCED?

The only penalties known to Freemasonry are reprimand: definite suspension from membership; indefinite suspension from membership; and expulsion from the Fraternity. To these must be added that intangible penalty which comes to anyone who loses all or part of his reputation. Other penalties, suggested in the ritual, are wholly symbolic and not now and never have been enforced. They were legal punishments in the middle ages, designed with special reference to the religious beliefs of the time that an incomplete body could not "rise from the dead;" that a body buried in unconsecrated ground (as between high and low water mark) could not ascend into heaven. Some Grand Lodges offer an interpretation of the ritualistic penalties, in order to be sure the initiate understands the symbolic character of these otherwise difficult phrases.

(Source: MSA Digest 101 Questions About Freemasonry)



Emerald Downs Event Canceled

(Coronavirus phase 4 not in cards)



Sunday, August 2

Emerald Downs **will not be opening** live racing with public / group events. If we do hit phase 4 this season it is still unlikely regulations would be in place for our social gathering / food service.

Another Cancellation: Based on the directive that has been issued by the Grand Master and out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of the Brethren, M.:W.: Brother Douglas E. Tucker, Worshipful Master of **Grand Mound Historical Lodge, No. 3**, announces the cancellation of the 2020 Annual Stated Communication scheduled for Saturday, July 18, 2020. The current elected and appointed officers of Grand Mound Historical Lodge, No. 3 will remain in place for the ensuing year.

Dogs look up to you, cats look down on you. Give me a pig! He looks you in the eye and treats you as an equal.
—Winston Churchill



Congratulations to newly elected Grand Lodge officer team: (l-r) JGW RW Steve Martin, Deputy GM RW Cameron Bailey, Grand Master MW Chris Coffman, SGW RW Edward Woods, and Grand Secretary RW Clinton Brown.

Letter from our Little League Teams

Hello Sponsors,

As you may have heard, in a difficult but necessary decision, the NWSLL Board voted unanimously to officially cancel the “Spring” season and may attempt some “sandlot” style scrimmages and workouts this summer if it is safe to do so. I want to personally thank all of the sponsors for your support this year and hope to continue to receive your support in the future.

NWSLL invested tens [of] thousands of dollars in December through March on team uniforms, team and league equipment, and coach/player training. Beyond that, the league incurs annual expenses for league storage, league insurance, and LL team charter fees (we expect some partial refunds on insurance and charter fees). We also paid Seattle Parks for field slots used in February [and] in March by our kid-pitch teams. We thus need your financial support to the extent you have the means to do so. While we can use the uniforms and equipment in 2021, we have limited financial resources to float the cost of those items for almost a year until the 2021 sponsorship period arrives.

For those of you in fortunate circumstances during these challenging times, we ask that you consider donating your 2020 sponsorship

fees. Your donations will help us bridge the league into 2021 and help us ensure we can continue to provide Little League ball to NW Seattle kids for years to come. We’ve been here since 1959, and we want to see decades more of community-building, friendships formed, and kids playing ball together outside. These tax-deductible donations will be followed up with a donation receipt.

If a 2020 donation is not the right fit for your company, please consider applying your sponsorship toward the 2021 season. This would help us avoid a cash crunch due to the large 2020 expenditures made on uniforms and equipment. We will follow up next Spring to ensure you’re still able to provide sponsorship support and can certainly provide a refund should your situation change.

We also understand that many companies are in difficult situations with the current Stay-At-Home regulations. And still other companies would prefer to close the books on 2020, receive a refund, and start fresh in 2021. We respect that choice as well, and we will provide full or partial refunds to those sponsors who ask.

Thank you once again for helping to make it possible for 100’s of kids to enjoy baseball in our neighborhood and please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Chris Pierard
Sponsorship Coordinator, NWSLL



(2012) Worshipful Master Joseph Oates with St. John’s Little League team members expressing appreciation of our support.

MEET THE NEW JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN – Steve C. Martin

Greetings Brethren! I am honored and humbled to be serving the Grand Lodge of Washington as your Junior Grand Warden.

I was born in Seattle, WA at Northwest Hospital. I moved with my family from Seattle to Anchorage, AK in 1970 at the age of 4. My family lived in Anchorage until we moved back to the Pacific Northwest to Bellevue, WA when I was in the 5th Grade. During this time of my life, my family moved quite frequently. I did not spend more than one and a half school years in the same school for the rest of my public education. I have resided in, and proudly called home, Washington (Bellevue, Seattle), Alaska (Anchorage, Ketchikan, Juneau), California (Moorpark), and Montana (Belgrade).

After High School while living in Juneau, AK, I started working for the Humane Society, the local bowling alley, and then started my Federal Career with the Forest Service as a Clerk Typist.

While working at the bowling alley, I met my future wife, Robin. We started dating and then were married in Juneau, AK on August 3rd, 1991. In January 1992 we had our first child, Alexander, and then welcomed our second child, Logan, in May 1994.

My career path changed when I exhibited a strength in Information Technology during a time when this field was greatly expanding. With the Forest Service I began IT support and programming, developing a database of log scaling information that was used for many years in the Alaska Region.

I joined the National Marine Fisheries Service in 1998 as an IT Specialist where I worked until 2005 when I returned to Washington, relocating to Seattle in the same position. I am now an IT Supervisor and the IT coordinator for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at the Western Regional Center.

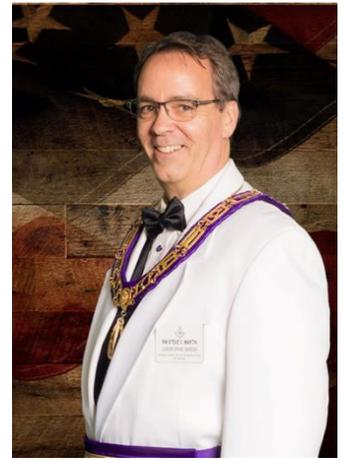
In May 2007 I petitioned Genesis Lodge No. 305 and was raised a Master Mason on February 1, 2008. I was installed Worshipful Master of Sultan-Monroe Lodge No. 160 for the first time on December 10, 2011. I have held just about every office in Lodge and have been Master of Sultan-Monroe twice and Master of Everett Lodge No. 137. I have served as the chairman of Leadership Training from 2013-2015, Deputy of the Grand Master 2017-2019, and Grand Lecturer 2019-2020.

An active participant in the Masonic family, I have been very involved in the International Order of the Rainbow for girls and the Order of the Eastern Star. Serving as State Rainbow Dad in 2015, and Worthy Patron several times.

Robin and I love to travel, have a passion for photography, and continuously try to improve ourselves mentally and physically. When we get the opportunity to mix our love for photography with our love for travel, we are instantly in our happy place.

I firmly believe we need to get back to basics and focus on what makes Masonry strong: our ritual and our in-Lodge

participation. Without a solid foundation inside our Lodge room, we are destined to continue to slowly crumble around the edges. The Masonic family is our “pocket aces”; we should be all in!



**Junior Grand Warden
RWBro. Steve Martin**

DO WE MEET HIM ON THE LEVEL?

**To meet upon the level
is an easy thing to say,
but when it comes to practice,
do we do it every day?
Do we meet him on the level,
if the Brother chance to be
just a little out at elbow
or baggy at the knee?**

**When we meet him in the workshop,
do we greet him with the grip
that we do the noted statesman
on a European trip?**

**Do we meet him on the level
and give him just the chance
that we do the dashing fellow
with the creases in his pants?**

**If fortune does not smile on him
in sunshine and repose,
do we meet him on the level
in his second-handed clothes?
Do we invite him to our church,
and seat him in our pew,
and warm our hearts by clasping hands
as Brothers ought to do?**

**Yes, we meet him on the level,
on the broad Masonic plan,
whenever we know him to be
a Mason and a man.**

**We'll meet him on the level,
and part upon the square,
and then perhaps he'll vouch for us
when we meet him over there**

author unknown

LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER

White Fragility – “White people in the U.S. live in a racially insular social environment. This insulation builds our expectations for racial comfort while at the same time lowering our stamina for enduring racial stress. I term this lack of racial stamina “White Fragility.” White Fragility is a state in which even a minimal challenge to the white position becomes intolerable, triggering a range of defensive responses. These responses function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and maintain white control. Those who see themselves as “the choir” can be particularly challenging, for we tend to focus on “evidence of our advancement” rather than reach for humility and continually grapple with how to engage in intentional action.” – Robin DiAngelo, PHD Multicultural Education



How to Stop Being Racist

Co-authored by [90 contributors](#)

Community of editors, researchers, and specialists

Racism is the hatred of one person by another, based on the belief that that person is inferior because of their skin color, language, customs, place of birth, or other similar traits. Racism has existed throughout human history, often providing justification for one group's dominance over another. Most people, even if they do not approve of overt racism, nonetheless have some kind of prejudice against another group of people, and these prejudices can lead to hurt, anger, and even violence at both the personal and societal levels. Overcoming your own racism requires a personal long journey, and this article will provide some insights to help you find your path.

Working on Your Own

Self-assess. An important first step in your personal journey to overcome racial prejudice is to take stock of yourself. Which groups of people might you be prejudiced against? What are your thoughts about these groups? Where do your negative feelings arise from?

- Many people have prejudices that they aren't even conscious of, but can be detected using a psychological test called an Implicit Association Test (IAT). [You can take the IAT yourself online.](#)
- People are frequently shocked by the results of their IAT, because they assume they are free of racism. Taking this test is a good way to examine your own prejudice, and getting unpleasant results is, for many people, a motivation to work on changing their attitudes.
- Think about the source of your racism. The cause of racism can be anything, but it's usually growing up in a racist environment, surrounding ourselves with peers who have racist attitudes, or looking for someone else to blame for our problems. Some also point to messages we get through the media or culture more broadly. Understanding where your own racist tendencies may have come from is an important step in unlearning them.
- Monitor your thinking and practice empathy. Be aware of your thoughts when confronted with



situations that trigger your prejudice, and try to put yourself in the other person's position. In other words, try to be mindful of how people different from yourself might feel in a given situation, and how your actions might be affecting them.

Research the topic. Start informing yourself about the scientific realities of race, the minority experience in your nation, and the struggles confronted by people who are victims of prejudice. Often, an understanding of these issues helps bring about greater sympathy for minority groups.

- A good place to start is by learning what race really is. Primarily, racial differences are socially constructed: that is, they are the product of society. Science tells us there is very little genetic difference between people of different races, and that racial categories aren't actually biologically distinct from one another.
- There are many books, both fiction and non-fiction, which can help you through the next step: starting

to understand the difficulties confronted by minority or disenfranchised groups. Novels like Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* can be an enjoyable place to begin.

- Many anti-racism organizations provide lists of recommended reading (primarily non-fiction) on their websites. Anti-racist educator

Tim Wise, for example, has an extensive reading list available on his website.

Stop using racial slurs. If you've been using them for a long time, it may be hard to break the habit, but try to [stop using racial slurs](#) as soon as possible. This may sound obvious, but racial slurs and stereotypes are hurtful to people, even if they are not meant to be serious.

- Sometimes you may not even be aware that your language has a racial meaning. Terms like “Chinese auction,” “Indian giver” or calling a bad deal a “gyp,” a term derived from “gypsy,” which is in itself a racial slur against Romani people, are considered offensive by many people.
- Racist jokes aren't funny. The fact that you don't mean it, or that you are only intending to be humorous, doesn't make it acceptable to use racist language or to stereotype others.

Avoid cultural appropriation. In other words, don't treat other people's ethnic identities as costumes or fashion accessories. (continued page 7)

- Many consider it racist, for example, to dress up like a Native American for Halloween, or to wear feathered head dresses just for fun.
- Think about whether your fashion statement might be devaluing something that is valuable to another culture by treating it as just an amusing trend.

Be vigilant about systemic and invisible

racism. Often times, racist behavior isn't about saying something nasty to another person, it's about less obvious behavior like not interviewing someone for a job because their name sounds foreign, or not sitting by someone on the bus because of their skin color.

- As you go through your day, think carefully about your own behaviors to make sure you aren't engaging in these subtler forms of racism.

Engage in mental exercises. Studies have shown that our attitudes about people different from ourselves can be positively impacted through practicing mental exercises. This includes even the subtle and difficult to detect prejudices that are measured by the IAT.

- For example, if there's a race of people who you consider to be more dangerous than others, practicing saying the word "safe" in your head every time you see someone of that race. Over time, this can begin to change your attitude!

Working with Others

Talk about race. Many people are afraid to talk about race and confront the difficult issues it may present. Research shows, however, that talking about these issues increases racial tolerance, especially among children.

- After you've done some research, it's a good idea to talk to people of races other than your own about their experiences. Listen and ask questions before sharing your views. The idea is to learn, not to teach.
- Remember that when people who have suffered from the effects of racism are sharing their experiences, you should not make the conversation about yourself or your guilt. Remember too that their experiences are not wrong just because they don't comport with your own.
- Remember to treat people of other races as individuals and avoid treating them as representatives of their race. Also remember that people of other races are not teachers of race relations and that they are not obligated to talk to you about racism.
- If you have the opportunity, work on performing some task with people you are prejudiced against. Completing a task at work or school that requires working together toward a common goal can help bridge divides between people.

Seek out culturally diverse experiences. A great way to start appreciating people different from yourself is to respectfully seek out experiences connected with their culture.

- Having experiences with a variety of people, cultures, and environments makes them easier to understand and appreciate.
- Take time to observe (and hopefully appreciate) not only the differences, but also the similarities, between your culture and the one you are experiencing. This has been shown in psychological experiments to decrease prejudice.

Attend a conference or join an anti-racism

group. These venues are a great place to work with others to improve not only your own racial attitudes, but also society at large.

- Two of the larger organizations that work on these issues are the White Privilege Conference and the Anti-Racist Alliance.
- Check to see if there is an anti-racism group where you live. Getting actively involved in the struggle against racism will only increase your resolve to eliminate it within yourself.

Challenge racism in the world. Changing your own attitude is important, but if you truly wish not to contribute to racial inequality, many believe you have a responsibility to actively challenge the racism of others.

- For example, talk to others about their own racist attitudes. If you encounter people who have prejudiced views but are open to change, point them toward the same types of minority perspectives that you sought out in your own research on the issue.
- Challenge racist behavior when you see it. If someone you know uses a racial slur, tell them it is racist, and explain why it is a problem.



COVID-19 - A different take on Socially Isolating – Love

Others have said this but it is worth a reminder:

When you go out and see the empty streets, the empty stadiums, the empty train platforms, don't say to yourself, "It looks like the end of the world."

What you're seeing is love in action.

What you're seeing, in that negative space, is how much we do care for each other, for our grandparents, for our immunocompromised brothers and sisters, for people we will never meet.

People will lose jobs over this.
Some will lose their businesses.
And some will lose their lives.

All the more reason to take a moment, when you're out on your walk, or on your way to the store, or just watching the news, to look into the emptiness and marvel at all of that love.

Let it fill you and sustain you.

It isn't the end of the world. It is the most remarkable act of global solidarity we may ever witness.

– Author unknown

MWBro. Charles E. Wood, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Washington, and MWBro. Lester L. Dickson, Grand Master of Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F&AM of WA & Jurisdiction, jointly issued the following “statement of Unity,” June 10, 2020:

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Washington and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Washington and Jurisdiction have both long recognized the benefit of mutual respect among all men particularly in the bonds of brotherhood, dating back to 1897, when Most Worshipful William H. Upton, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Washington, a white male, and judge, advanced a resolution recognizing Prince Hall Masons in the State of Washington. This bold move, given race relations of the era, caused withdraw[al] of Masonic recognition from white Grand Lodges in the United States and Canada. Under pressure, the Grand Lodge of Washington reluctantly rescinded the resolution in June 1899.

MWB William H. Upton, died November 3, 1906 and because of his sincere belief in the recognition and acceptance of Prince Hall Masons, his will had a provision that no monument is erected over his grave until “both colored and white Masons could stand over it as Brothers.” During those dark times of non-recognition, the two Grand Lodges did not stop collaborating, albeit in the shadows, they still shared mutual respect.

In June 1990, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington passed Resolution 90-23, a month later, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Washington and Jurisdiction passed Resolution 10-90, both granting Masonic recognition to the other, further extending, the bonds of mutual respect, friendship and brotherly love. A monument was jointly erected over MWB Upton’s grave site in July 1991. We continue to celebrate this union annually with the March of Unity.

Our membership includes men of different races, political views, social backgrounds and financial wherewithal. While we require that each professes a belief in deity, our membership includes Christians, Muslims, Jews and many other faiths. We therefore refer to deity as the Great Architect of the Universe. We are united by the belief that each of us is a valued member of society and our hope that while we may disagree on some matters, we can still be friends and Brothers.

Our Nation is again facing dark times. After enduring the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, we are again facing renewed calls to address the disparity, discrimination, and unequal treatment under the law due to race, color, ethnic background, sex, or national origin. Americans are banding together to peacefully protest to these injustices. We strongly support the right to do so, while we also rebuke those who have succumbed to blind hatred and engage in random acts of violence and property destruction.

We celebrate our diversity and seek to heal the divisions infecting our Nation. We ask every Mason to be a peaceable citizen and to help raise our communities to a place where society does not judge a man by his outward appearance, but by the quality of his heart.

We ask the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe to watch over us and bring us peace..

MW Charles E. Wood
Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Washington

MW Lester L. Dickson
48th Grand Master of Masons
MWPHGL, F&AM of WA & Jurisdiction

Editor’s note: For those of you that aren’t aware, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Washington is the first in the United States to recognize a Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge within mutual jurisdictions.

Book looks at the role of art in Freemasonry practice

Freemasonry and the Visual Arts from the Eighteenth Century Forward, edited by Reva Wolf and Alisa Luxenberg, details the rise of Freemasonry in the 18th century. During this time period, art played a fundamental role in the Freemasonry practice, rhetoric and

global dissemination. This directly influenced the development of art. The book aims to bridge the gap between the subjects and dive into the evolution of the practices.

The book offers approaches and explores the challenges inherent to the subject by presenting case studies. These studies reveal new dimensions of well-known artists such as Francisco de Goya and

John Singleton Copley, and important collectors and entrepreneurs, including Arturo Alfonso Schomburg and Baron Taylor. Individual essays take readers to various countries within Europe and to America, Iran, India and Haiti.

The kinds of art analyzed are wide-ranging porcelain, architecture, posters, prints, photography, painting, sculpture, metalwork and more. They offer a clearer picture of the international scope of the relationships between Freemasonry and art and their significance for the history of modern social life, politics and spiritual practices. In examining this topic broadly yet deeply, the book sets a standard for serious study of the subject and suggests new avenues of investigation in this fascinating emerging field.

Wolf is a professor of art history at the State University of New York in New Paltz, and Luxenberg is a professor of art history in the Lamar Dodd School of Art at the University of Georgia.

