

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

Trestleboard

MARCH 2021

Jim Russell, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

meets: 7910 Greenwood Ave. N.

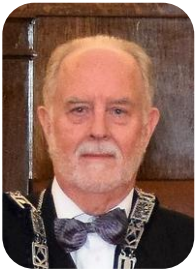
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Look to the East

S. Ashley Brinkley, Senior Warden



S. Ashley Brinkley
Senior Warden

We can all agree that 2020 was full of changes and the way we used to do things was different. Moving into 2021, I think we can say the same thing; it is going to be full of changes and we will be doing things that we have not done before. If you think about it, we are part of history that the world will remember, talk about and study about for a long time. Have you ever thought about the change that happened during the building of King Solomon's Temple? I can only imagine that the people thought it was a real change for their city. I wonder if they ever imagined that we would still be talking about it in the year 2021. I think this would be a good discussion topic for one of our future Masonic meetings.

How big was King Solomon's Temple? Most agree it was sixty cubits long, twenty wide, and thirty high. It was built around 970 BC. King Solomon was said to have financed the construction from his own wealth and it was built by seventy thousand carriers and eighty thousand stonecutters. In 1 Kings it says the Temple was completed in the eleventh year after the construction began. There is no solid evidence about the location of the Temple, but most agree that it was first built on Mount Moriah. Whatever the facts are believed to be, the building must have had a major impact on the people and the area. Some questions that come to mind, how did the area provide for food and lodging? Was there enough food? Did the Temple workman bring their families or leave them back home wherever that may have been? Where did all the workmen come from?

Just as we are going through changes in our time these people had to have major changes to their life. We will get through the difficult times and be better for it just like our ancient brothers did so many years ago at the building of King Solomon's Temple.



artist's conception -- Temple of Solomon

CALENDAR



- **March 10 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom** *teleconference*
- **March 11 (7pm): Officers meeting**
- **March 17 (7pm) St. John's 9**
Fellowship *teleconference* **Grand Master MWBro. Chris Coffman** will join us with *some Words of Wisdom*
- **March 24 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom** *teleconference*
- **March 31(7pm): Fellowship Zoom** *teleconference*
- **April 7 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom** *teleconference*
- **April 14 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom** *teleconference*
- **April 15 (7pm): Officers meeting**
- **April 21 (7pm) St. John's 9 stated**
communication *Zoom session will open at 7pm and Lodge will officially open exactly at 7:30pm to elect and install officers!!*
- **April 28 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom** *teleconference*
- **May 5 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom** *teleconference*

Rubicon Masonic Society Offers Book Reviews of Worthy Works

In our technology-driven world, we find untold multiple thousands of documents, papers, books, essays, commentaries, and articles about Freemasonry. Distinguishing the worthy from their opposite is difficult, especially for men new to the fraternity. This work is not intended to be an exhaustive collection, but one that offers interested and serious-minded members a reference, or at least a starting point, that may assist them in finding materials and information to constructively supplement their journey.

For 60+ reviews to extend your Masonic Education:



GRAND MASTER MW CHRIS COFFMAN TO VISIT

"No presiding officer, president or chairman of any secular body possesses the powers of a Grand Master. But it is a mistake to consider this high office as altogether without limitations. In the (51) Grand Jurisdictions in the Union the powers of the Grand East widely differ, albeit all have certain powers in common. All Grand Masters preside over their Grand Lodges; all can preside over any particular Lodge; all can call Special Communications; all can issue certain dispensations; all can arrest Charters of Lodges for cause. But in many details the powers of the Grand East differ almost as much as their longitudes." (SHORT TALK BULLETIN - Vol. XIII October, 1935 No. 10)

All Jurisdictions agree in the inviolability of the Ancient Landmarks. Those Jurisdictions which have adopted compilations of Ancient Landmarks thus regard them as the foundation stone of all Masonic law. And Grand Masters are limited in their powers by these Landmarks.

Of course, they are limited by the civil laws of each jurisdiction. That is why our Grand Master MWBro. Chris Coffman has declared that all Masons and Masonic Lodges must conform to Gov. Jay Inslee's guidelines for holding public meetings during this COVID epidemic.

For this reason, our Grand Master will be meeting with members of St. John's via Zoom this month and not in a stated meeting at our Greenwood Masonic Temple.

We look forward to welcoming MWBro. Coffman on Wednesday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day), with all the pomp and circumstances feasible in a Zoom setting. Brothers are encouraged to dress accordingly, including the adornment of your red bow tie (if you possess one).

Haven't joined us on Zoom? Don't know HOW to join us on Zoom? Call the Secretary at 206 623-0261 for instructions or check out the Zoom website.



Grand Master
Chris Coffman

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MASONIC TRIBUNE SPRING ISSUE

You can access the Spring issue of the Grand Lodge of Washington's Masonic Tribune by



ST. JOHN'S NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS Elections and Installation of Officers in April

All members (Master Masons) of St. John's are called to our April 21 stated communication – *via Zoom* – when Lodge will be open in Ample Form on the third degree and we hold elections and install our 2021 officers.

Under protocol announced by the Grand Master, we will be permitted to conduct our usual business except balloting on petitions for the degrees or for affiliation or plural membership; conferring of degrees; recitation of the posting lecture or other portions of the Standard Work or any other esoteric work.

VWBro. Ashley Brinkley has made it known that he is prepared to move to the East; WBro. Blair Neuman has agreed to serve in the West. Master Masons and members of St. John's who desire to make themselves available for the South are encouraged to notify these brethren or the Secretary.



St. John's 2021 Scholarships

Again St. John's will be awarding scholarships to assist those who will be attending college or trade school. This year we have set aside \$30,000 to be distributed.

Chairman WBro. Eric Koteles asks for brethren to recommend worthy student applicants.

The last day to submit an application form is April 30th. Applications should be submitted to our scholarship email address sjl9scholarship@gmail.com. If applicants don't hear back within 48 hours, please contact chairman Eric Koteles directly. eric.koteles@gmail.com.

Other members of the scholarship committee this year are WBro. Blair Neumann, Brother Kemal Alaeddinoğlu, and Brother Louis Turner.



Master's Message

WBro. Blair Neumann



My Brothers, you know that I've been thinking about the Truth a lot recently, that Truth is the foundation of every virtue; without Truth, our Temples crumble and fall.

So I've considered due bounds and concluded them expansive but not universal. There are things that the profane might say or do that a Brother Mason should not, or there would be no circles for our points to be within. Gross infidelity with Truth must be among those outer passions to be subdued, and so it must be of great concern of every Mason to faithfully approximate Truth in his own dealings and to adhere to Truth in matters of consequence.

Where Truth is unknown, it may be discovered. When individuals' truths compete, especially among Brothers, the Truth should be investigated for each other's benefit. We do not criticize each other's perceived misunderstandings of Truth but use the jewels of a Fellowcraft to clarify, to comfort, and to correct.

Some Truths may be unknowable in their specifics, but even among these the bounds of Truth may be explored. We might not know the Master's Word but we can reason about it and seek diligently to agree about its possibilities.

Simply put, my Brothers, the Truth is of great consequence to each of us. It is a base for our life's work! We cannot content ourselves with falsehoods in matters of importance, and we must not cast aside our own Truths -- nor our Brother's -- for reasons as simple as personal convenience.

Live in Truth with others, my Brothers, and may others live in Truth with you.

It Isn't About You!

One of the obligations Masons vow to uphold is to serve and support the widows of their fraternal brothers. Many wives have been proud supporters of their husbands' Masonic traditions. They, too, have devoted their time and talents to enrich the bonds formed within the Fraternity. It has always been the custom, nay, even responsibility of our brothers to make certain that a widow of our departed brother is not forgotten.

We try to reach out and keep our ladies in our thoughts and also to make certain they don't go in need or lack emotional support.

That's difficult to do if we aren't made aware of your lady's name and how to keep in touch. St. John's asks that its members make certain that we have her name and contact information and even her birthday on record. (Year of birth is unnecessary.) Help the Lodge Secretary keep in touch.



This Masonic Widow's Pin was created with the hope that it would be worn by the widow of a Master Mason on all appropriate occasions, especially when traveling, so that she may be recognized, greeted, and assisted when necessary by Masonic friends throughout the world.

Junior Warden's Message

WBro. John Murray Louderback



There once was a merchant, a widower, who left his young son home alone by himself.

While the man was away, raiders came into the village, plundered and burnt his house and the whole village down.

When the merchant came home he found his house in ashes. Nearby were the charred remains of a small body. The very distraught man dropped to his knees crying in agony, "My son, my only son."

Having already lost his wife, he felt his son was his only reason for living.

Filled with sorrow, the man had the body cremated the next day, and he put the ashes in a beautiful velvet bag that he had sewn.

His son, actually having been kidnapped by the raiders, escaped some months later and headed home.

Early in the morning he arrived at the new house his father had built. Inside, his father was weeping holding on to the bag of ashes. As the boy knocked at the door, the man shouted out, "Who's there?"

"Daddy, it's me, your son!" The man cried out, "That's not possible, my son is dead, go away, stop bothering me."

The young boy knocked and pounded on the door to no avail. The man would not open the door and the boy eventually went away, the father losing son forever.

The moral being, that if you adopt an idea or perception as absolute, you close off your mind. This is the end to seeking the truth. And not only do you no longer seek the truth, even if the truth comes knocking at your door, it remains forever closed.

St. John's Lodge #9

Educational Tour

Journey to Where it all Began – Boston

TUESDAY, September 21 thru MONDAY, September 27, 2021

St. John's Lodge has set aside \$7,500 to share among our members who make this educational trip to the Boston area. To better plan for our trip, we need to know how many will attend and how much each brother is willing to spend. Whether we stay downtown Boston or a suburb depends on how many \$\$\$ we have to work with.

Please respond to WBro. Fred Hutchinson at pialley@jps.net. Are you (and spouse?)

able to travel to Boston and are you willing to spend \$3000, \$4000, \$5000 per person for the week including airfare, hotels, activities and livery?



The Mark Twain House & Museum

The Clemens family moved into the home in 1874. The top floor was Twain's study where he would write late at night; the room was strictly off limits to all, Twain said. There ought to be a room in this house to serve as a museum to have to represent an emotion like that.

Mark Twain House (Connecticut) possible stop on the tour

Join us on Zoom
Teleconferencing Fellowship
every Wednesday

at 7pm

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

Coming dates:

March 10, 2021

March 17, 2021 (stated meeting night)

March 24, 2021

March 31, 2021

Sessions open promptly at 7pm

*** Fellowship**

*** Check on our brothers and widows**

*** Masonic Enlightenment & Education**

- Use Meeting ID **981 655 9198** to join our Fellowships
- If asked, use passcode **1776**

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



**March: St. Patrick's Day – Ides – National If
Pets Had Thumbs Day – Earth Day**



**From
The
Secretary's
Desk**

Maybe you missed it.
World Compliment Day
(March 1), or I Want You to
be Happy Day (March 3).
None of us dare miss St.
Patrick's Day to wear the
green (also the day of our March stated meeting). I bet
you weren't aware that March 10th will be International
Find a Pay Phone Booth Day.

Me neither.

I think I'm going to remind my wife (when the time
is right and I find the nerve) that March 10 is Everything
You Do is Right Day! It doesn't happen very often, you
know. She does observe Corned Beef and Cabbage Day
on the 17th. I love Corned Beef and Cabbage.

I try to observe National Goof Off Day on the 22nd.
Seems like that should go hand in hand with Weed
Appreciation Day (March 28).

Lastly, I think someone was thinking right when they
declared March 26 as Make Up Your Own Holiday Day.

“Another Day Older and Deeper in Debt??”

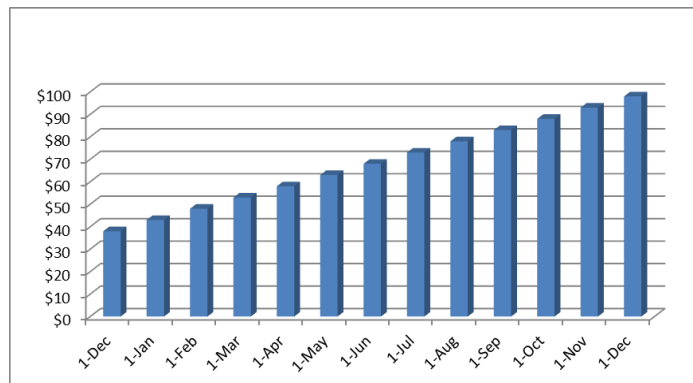
That dues card in your wallet may
be current or it may not. Only
the “QR” code on the back
or the Tyler knows for sure.
If you've been receiving
timely reminders to pay your
dues, believe me its w-a-a-y
past time to send that check! Or – if you receive a printed
copy of this Trestleboard – check your address label to see
if there's a small \$ sign reminder following your name.



**This year's dues for those who were members prior
to June 2014 were only \$38, but if you missed the
December 31 deadline, they've gone up three times
already to \$53.** Want to miss again in March? Sorry,
that'll be \$58 in April! Mail your check today to PO Box
30069, Seattle 98113.

St. John's bylaws: Section 4. The annual dues of
members of the Lodge shall be payable in advance of the
first day of January of each year for the calendar year.

a) Any member who has not paid his dues by the
first day of January shall be assessed an additional \$5 for
each month beyond that date. (6/18/14)



Having a Septaquinquecentennial Good Time: Masonic Lodge Celebrates 175 Years

Though no one was quite sure how to pronounce
septaquinquecentennial, that did not stop those
attending the Marshall Masonic Lodge No. 22's 175th
anniversary commemoration from enjoying themselves;
or celebrating a legacy of history, honor and dedication
to others.

The Lodge, founded officially in 1845, is one of only
25 Lodges chartered by the Grand Lodge of the Republic
of Texas, which were formed before Texas received its
statehood. The Lodge was officially formed Jan. 18, 1845.

Though the Lodge officially turned 175 in 2020, they
were unable to celebrate due to the COVID-19 pandemic
and safety concerns. On Friday, Feb. 26, a socially
distanced banquet was held at Cumberland Presbyterian
Church with individually catered meals of chicken and
steak with salad, dessert and beverages.

SYSO is an organization long assisted by St. John's funding:

Seattle Youth Symphony: What Building Back Better Sounds Like

By Mike James

February 20, 2021 (*listen to virtual concert at end of story*)



Seattle Youth Symphony concert, March, 2020

Last March the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra – one of the country's leading training grounds for young musicians – was rehearsing for a spring concert. Kathleen Allen, SYSO's executive director, remembers the rumbling backstage with news of the first Covid-19 death in the state. "And then it just came to a screeching halt when the governor issued the quarantine mandate," she says.

That sudden quarantine meant no more live rehearsals or performances, no audience, a reduction in enrollment fees and a future unknown. Allen cut her staff of nine to seven, with four working part-time, cancelled the summer camp program, saw tuition earnings fall by two-thirds, and eventually cut SYSO's overall budget from \$2.1 million to \$800,000.

But the conversation within SYSO focused less on money than on how to re-engage students. Unlike the Seattle Symphony, SYSO is primarily a learning institution, one facing a very different challenge. With the shutdown, it could no longer gather hundreds of young musicians for in-person teaching and rehearsals.

Repetition in learning is critical, Allen says, "If you take a year off, you're going to de-motivate, your skills are going to go down, so we found parents wanting to send their students somewhere else." Adds SYSO Music Director Juan Felipe Molano, "We couldn't just keep



Small ensemble rehearsal (May 2020)

cancelling programs, we had to find a way to serve students." The search for a new kind of engagement with students began in late spring, as Molano worked virtually with small groups via Zoom. But the real breakthrough came last summer with a week-long virtual teaching program replacing the usual summer camp. There was doubt at first – how can you take a full orchestral experience and put it online – but it worked.

Allen credits the students. "Kids are so amazing and resilient and adapt to all kinds of environments and by the end of this online week they had made friendships online, they were in chats, made plans to hang out and play video games later. It gave us the confidence to take that format and put it up at the level of our academic year program."

That they did – with virtual coaching, virtual rehearsals, later a full concert all with SYSO musicians



summer music camp (August 2020)

performing in their own homes, connecting digitally, seeing their conductors and other students in tiny boxes on screen. Smaller groups – in Zoom language "breakout rooms" – met on Saturday rehearsal

days to focus on their own instruments – strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion.

Stephen Bleakley-Harris, who plays clarinet, came on screen from a special basement room in his home set up as a teenage hangout. It was perfect, he says, for virtual practices and performances.



Virtual "breakout" room

"In some ways, the pandemic and lockdown have helped with my clarinet practice because me and my family all created a daily and weekly schedule when the lockdown started to make sure that we all stayed productive and kept to a routine. It certainly helped with my practice because practicing my music was one of the main things that I could do every day."

Stephen's father, David Harris, says "one of the biggest challenges to parents over the past year has been finding safe ways to maintain our kid's sense of community and social interaction and SYSO found a way to offer this. It has been a constant in a turbulent, uncertain period and as parents, we are grateful."

That was the goal for Music Director Molano – to not let up on discipline, on expectation, on progress. "You have to go beyond your job responsibilities because you know how much it will impact their lives. We are not doing this to create professional musicians; we are doing this because whatever profession they pick they will be excellent."

Molano, was not only able to conduct, but ultimately discovered how to enhance the experience in ways that would not have been possible in person: showing video of professional orchestras playing sections of the music, bringing in student musicians from other parts of the world, and an unexpected benefit – to sharing full music scores on-screen.

"Having the full context of the music is such an important part of symphonic study, but often in a full

orchestra rehearsal, conductors feel pressed for time and dive right into the playing”, he says. “Over Zoom, however, I can share the score on my screen and highlight important passages, literally circling the measures that I am discussing.”

In a quarterly newsletter to SYSO parents and supporters, Allen and Molano list a number of unexpected benefits from this year in the virtual realm.

- virtual coaching has actually meant more individualized attention
- students have learned to become advocates for themselves, articulating their needs, building self-confidence – important skills they will need in whatever professional path they choose
- a deeper sense of collaboration, essential for making this virtual year work
- mentoring, as advanced SYSO students began modeling techniques, giving guidance and inspiration to younger players.

Virtual, of course, is not live; boxes on screens fall short of personal contact, but digital togetherness has kept learning alive and the mission of the SYSO intact. Stephen Bleakley-Harris says yes, he’s in a room with people, but that room is a computer screen. It all works, but he misses the old norms.



SYSO virtual concert, December 2020

“Would I ever want to repeat it? Absolutely not! But has it been interesting – have I learned from it? Yes. I’ve gained more appreciation for the social contact that comes with being part of the SYSO community. I’ve missed it and am looking forward to when this is all over.”

For both Allen and Molano, these past months count as much more than survival; SYSO stayed intact, but also found a way to keep alive its most important task, the teaching and development of young musicians.

In the end, as everyone connected with SYSO knows, after living with and surviving the impact of Covid, what often saves us in existential moments are those two essentials – resilience, and adaptation.

To watch how it all worked, see SYSO’s virtual December concert here:

<https://youtu.be/eVqI39j-14M>

The orchestra’s [next performance is March 7](#).

Mike James was a board member of the Seattle Youth Symphony from 2000-2006

Grand Master Declares Lodges Open in Ample Form

MWB Chris J. Coffman, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Washington, recently sent a notice declaring that “Pursuant to the authority granted to me as Grand Master under Sec. 3.01 K Const. of the Washington Masonic Code, that **effective April 1, 2021**, all Chartered Lodges under the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington will be declared open on the First Degree of Masonry in Ample form for their Stated Communications. Simply put, I will declare all Lodges open negating the necessity of performing the opening and closing ritual.”

Given this, St. John’s Lodge No. 9 will be holding our April Stated Meeting on Wednesday, April 21st at 7:30pm on Zoom. As we will be holding elections and installation of officers, we have been granted permission to open on the **third** degree. This meeting is open to all Master Masons. Before the installation ceremony, the Master will declare the Lodge “off session” to permit the public to view the proceedings.

The Zoom meeting information will be provided by the Secretary. Per MWB Coffman’s guidance, only esoteric (cypher) work is prohibited. Memorials, the Closing Charge, installation ceremony and other monitorial work is allowed.

MASTER MASONS RAISED IN MARCH

Date Raised:

3/28/1953	Howard C. Harris, Sr.
3/31/1956	Gus N. Cooper
3/28/1958	Gilbert N. Hain
3/26/1966	David G. Coghill
3/26/1969	Gerald S. Ostroff
3/31/1977	Michael J. Davis
3/27/1981	David L. Bolson
3/8/1984	Kenneth W. Macarthur
3/8/1995	Boe E. Lindgren
3/5/1998	Robert F. Sluder
3/28/1998	D. Joseph Lund
3/27/1999	Mark A. Gfeller
3/22/2003	Morgan Owain Morgan-Jones
3/22/2003	Vaibhav Vijay (Vince) Kodikal
3/23/2006	Brian J. Downie
3/1/2013	Seann P. Maria



MASONS COLLECT 2,000th UNIT OF BLOOD

The Masonic Ossea Lodge No. 317 in Wellsboro, PA, collected its 2,000th unit of blood for the American Red Cross on Feb. 4.

For every unit of blood donated Ossea Lodge gets to give \$10 to a Masonic charity. This money comes from the Masonic Blood & Organ Donor Program.

The Masonic Blood+Organ Donor Program promotes Masonic blood drives throughout Pennsylvania, heightens awareness and provides educational materials on sharing the gift of life through blood and organ donation.

To date, the Ossea Lodge No. 317 has donated more than \$20,000 to Masonic charities.

LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER

"Each of our journeys in Freemasonry is going to be different, and yours won't be like mine most likely. But in order to really get out of Freemasonry what was originally intended, we have to work at it. And at some point, we all find our niche. We all find our mission."



Finding Your Mission In Freemasonry

by Midnight Freemasons Founder
Todd E. Creason, 33°

I get a lot of emails. Too many to answer. There's one type in particular that make me bite my tongue, so I thought I'd take this opportunity to tell you what I really think. I get a seemingly endless stream of complaints from Masons about their Lodges – every conceivable kind of complaint you could possibly imagine I've read over the last dozen years. And when I ask that Mason what they're doing to address that situation, do you know what I get more often than not? They're doing nothing about it – besides writing to the Midnight Freemason like I'm "Dear Abby" or something.

So let me put some perspective on this. When I joined my Lodge, I went through three marvelous degrees (there are few Lodges in this country that do a better job with ritual than the Lodges right here in my own area). I expected that experience to continue after I was raised, but like so many Masons that write me, that's not what I found. I found myself in boring business meetings, and pancake breakfasts, and we had workers clubs where we were instructed in ritual – and let me tell you, the instructors in those sessions weren't polite, they weren't patient, and I was often singled out in a way that sometimes reminded me of my experience in Army basic training.

I knew that there was an intention that Freemasonry be more to men than what I found when I joined. I took the responsibility of bringing that "something more" to Freemasonry on myself. I moved up through the chairs. I started a newsletter in my Lodge. I read books and researched

Freemasonry and shared what I was learning with my Lodge (in very short and very interesting pieces). I researched and wrote books. I started a blog and in the beginning wrote and posted three short education pieces every single week – it's the blog you're reading now, and it's become one of the largest and most read Masonic blogs that exist today. Over years and years I've met other Masons in my area interested in the same kind of experience in Masonry that I was interested in. And over time, we've slowly changed the culture in some of the Lodges in my area. Both of the Lodges I belong to now place a focus on member education – teaching our

members old and new about the principles of Masonry and how to apply them to their everyday lives. And we're just getting there now after thirteen years of hard work. And it's a job that I'll keep working on for many, many, many more years. It's a destination I'll never arrive at, but it's been a very rewarding journey – and I'm quite certain when I finally lay down my tools, somebody else WILL pick them up and continue the work I began.

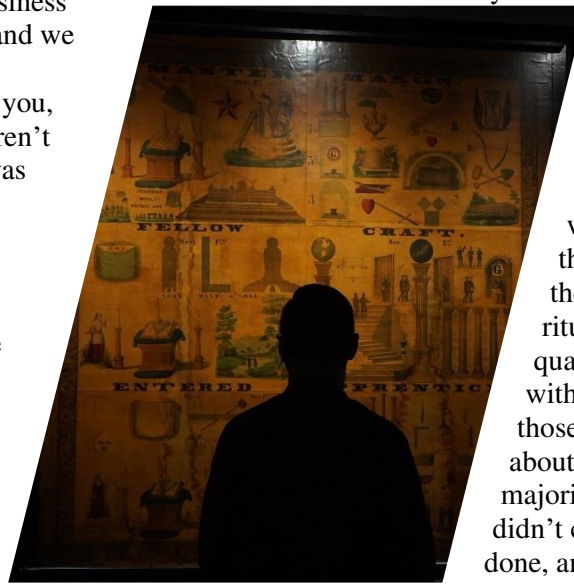
So you can imagine what I'd like to say to people that complain about their Lodges. I've yet to hear a complaint that I haven't had to work through in one way or another myself – from cranky Past Masters to clashes with a Lodge's cultures that were resistant to anything new. The key to the whole thing is connecting with Brothers that share your vision – as you can see from the Midnight Freemasons of today, I'm no longer alone here.

Freemasonry is a call to action. It's a call to labor. It's not here for your pleasure, and if that's why you joined, you're in the wrong place. There's an expectation in Freemasonry that you're going to work. You're going to learn our ways. You're going to learn and apply our values. That you're going to work in your Lodge to

become a leader and an example to others both in your Lodge and outside its walls. You're going to work hard on improving yourself so you can become an example for others to follow. You're going to work in your communities to improve the quality of life for those that live there. There's a reason so much of our ritual has to do with laboring in the quarries, and building a house not made with human hands. What I learned from those Masons I've studied and written about over the years is that the vast majority of them were men of action. They didn't complain, they saw what needed to be done, and they did it even when they failed at

it over and over again as a few of them did.

Each of our journeys in Freemasonry is going to be different, and yours won't be like mine most likely. But in order to really get out of Freemasonry what was originally intended, we have to work at it. And at some point, we all find our niche. We all find our mission. For me it's about member development and Masonic education. For others it's about ritual instruction. For others, they find their mission in everything from flipping pancakes to raise money for charity to driving young children to their doctors' appointments at a Shriner's Hospital. Cont. page 8 **Mission**



Cont. from page 7 **Mission** But Freemasonry isn't here for your pleasure – it's here for your improvement. And sometimes the path to personal growth isn't clearly marked. Many of us have had to cut our own trail. That's what many of us here at the Midnight Freemasons have done. The advantage of blazing your own trail in Freemasonry is when you turn around, you'll find Masons following you because you've established a clear path for them to follow.

That's why we're here, and that's what I'd like for people to know who write to me. Don't ever underestimate your ability to make a difference.

Todd E. Creason, 33° is an award winning author of several books and novels, including the Famous American Freemasons series. He is the author of the From Labor To Refreshment blog. He is a Past Master of Homer Lodge No. 199 and Ogden Lodge No. 754 (IL) where he currently serves as Secretary. He is a Past Sovereign Master of the Eastern Illinois Council No. 356 Allied Masonic Degrees. He is a Fellow at the Missouri Lodge of Research (FMLR). He is a charter member of the new Illinois Royal Arch Chapter, Admiration Chapter No. 282 and currently serves as EHP. He is also a member of Tuscola Odd Fellows Lodge No. 316. You can contact him at:

webmaster@toddcreason.org

**Great Architect of the Universe
and Guide over all time: past, present
and future:**

**It has been a year now....
since our Lodge room went dark
and gathered together on Zoom.
We look to the day when we meet face to
face.**



**Yet, once again we come before you, asking a blessing
upon us and all regular Masons, together with
family and friends. We lift up all who are troubled
in body, mind and spirit.**

**We celebrate the principles of brotherly love, relief and
truth,
and gather, again, to gain further light in Masonry
as we continue our search for wisdom and
understanding.**

**Help us to continue to be worthy of our calling as
Masons,even as we seek to be faithful in our
responsibilities to others in the relief of suffering and need.**

**Thank you for this opportunity to be together...
to work together...
and to make a difference
in a world in need of harmony, light, peace
and love.**

AMEN

*Written by Rev. Bro. Fred Hutchinson, M.Div., MSHS, BCC
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long as there is no personal gain.*

MARCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Date

- 1 Paul G. Winter
- 5 John R. Lilyengren
- 5 Jonathon D. Munday
- 10 Douglas L. Knight
- 11 David G. Long
- 13 Karl P. Niedermann
- 14 James A. Wold
- 14 Gus N. Cooper
- 16 Alden F. Adams
- 19 John R. Samudio
- 20 J. Michael Wilderman
- 22 Frederick M. Hutchinson
- 23 Charles C. Hopper
- 23 Gary G. Jentoft
- 23 D. Joseph Lund
- 26 Michael J. Fraser
- 27 Neil P. Quinn
- 27 Daniel C. Wolfenbarger
- 28 David G. Coghill
- 30 Joseph W. Ackermann
- 31 Donald J. Zuck



Washington Masonic Charities: Scholarship Applications Due March 31!

The Fraternity has a long tradition of supporting the efforts of deserving young people to further their education. Washington Masonic Charities is able to provide scholarships for two deserving categories of high school seniors because of the Grand Lodge Scholarship Fund, the Irvine Trust, and many individual donors. Thank you!

Please pass this information along to qualified high school seniors.

Legacy Scholarships are \$3,750 each. There are four, two for students in western Washington and two for students in eastern Washington. These scholarships are for children, grandchildren, dependents and orphans of Washington Masons who are in good standing.

Masonic Youth Order Scholarships - there are three \$3,000 scholarships available, one each for a deserving active Washington resident member of DeMolay, International Order of Rainbow for Girls, and Job's Daughters. Masonic lineage is not a requirement of the Youth Order scholarships.

WHO May apply? High school seniors who are planning on attending college, vocational or trade school and who are a child, grandchild, orphan, or dependent of a Washington Mason in Good Standing OR a current member of one of Washington's Masonic Youth Orders.

WHAT is available? Four \$3,750 Legacy and Three \$3,000 Masonic Youth Order scholarships.

WHEN is the deadline to apply? March 31, 2021.

HOW to apply? Apply online: www.washboard.org

SEARCH for Washington Masonic Charities & select either "Legacy " or "DeMolay, Rainbow or Job's Daughters" application

* Complete the application and upload materials