

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

## Trestleboard

FEBRUARY 2019

*Jim Russell, editor*



Serving Seattle since 1860

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## FROM THE EAST

Seann Maria, Master



Last meeting was filled with heavy hearts as we honored our departed brethren and concluded with complex discussion on “Why should we join Masonry?” and “Why should we join St. John’s?”

Our topic spiraled into several sensitive subjects for many of the brethren in attendance. The difference in opinions revolved around the definition of what Freemasonry means to each of us and the perception of how that is being fulfilled. If we boil down the goal of making good men better into the three major efforts of

Freemasonry they could be labeled as Fellowship, Charity, and Moral Instruction. Keeping these in mind, I would propose we dive deeper into each to understand how this Lodge in particular expresses or “observes” those efforts.

**Fellowship.** Of these three efforts, there are more opportunities to conduct fellowship than any other. We perform fellowship by coming together for all of our meetings, by sharing meals together, by attending special events throughout the year, and by building bonds with each other through the efforts we cooperatively engage in. Despite these opportunities, we can’t build fellowship with all of our brethren if we haven’t taken the time to get to know all of our fellow brethren. Perhaps we should ask ourselves if we know about everyone in the Lodge or if there’s someone in particular we should get to know better. Would you be willing to participate in activities that require you to engage with brothers whom you have the least interaction with?

**Charity.** Charity is an effort to give relief to others. There are and have been some examples of charity in this Lodge that present every aspect of what the word means. Operation Kid Smile, the Scholarship Program, and the Seattle Teachers Autism Symposium all are or were events that allowed a large group of brothers to work together to offer relief to a community we’re connected to. What separates these efforts from most of our financial donations is that they not only go beyond offering some financial assistance, but they also require that the brothers show a united interest in what others need most. These specific events bring us together, build a trusted bond between brothers, and build a sense of hope in others. Perhaps we should ask ourselves if we’re engaging in enough of these specific aspects of charity? Would you be willing to commit to at least one event a year that required most of the brethren working together?

**Moral Instruction.** This effort is promised in the obligation to a brother upon joining Freemasonry, yet it seems to have lost its place in many Lodges. That is no one’s fault but that of time, however it’s within our responsibility to fulfill that obligation to the best of our ability. This begins with finding good men, then offering them the tools to become better. We aren’t obligated to make them learn but we’re obligated to provide them the opportunity to learn. It’s therefore our obligation to volunteer to investigate, to mentor, to coach, to study the ritual, to practice the ritual, and to discuss the meaning of the ritual. Perhaps we should ask ourselves if we’ve volunteered for any of these observances of moral instruction in

the past few years at St. John’s? Would you be willing to volunteer to conduct or lead one of these efforts every year?

This concentrated list is my effort to say that it’s time that we make a larger effort to get to know each other, find common interests, and most of all make a commitment to perform some form of every one of these efforts above. It’s of equal importance to recognize that although many of us perform these for other Masonic bodies, that this Lodge, St. John’s Lodge, needs your efforts now. If we want good men to carry on the efforts of our best moment, we need to show them what our best moments look like now, in the present. Please commit to several St. John’s efforts that involve all the brothers sharing Fellowship, Charity, and Moral Instruction.

## CALENDAR



- Feb. 13 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- February 14 (7pm): Officers meeting
- February 20 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John’s 9 (dinner) Stated
- February 21 (6:30pm): EA degree practice
- February 22 (6pm): Entered Apprentice degree
- February 26 (7pm): Master Mason Study Group
- March 2 (6pm): Dist. 4&5 Reception for the Grand Master
- March 9 (10am-4:30pm): Grand Masonic Day *Vancouver BC*
- March 14 (6:15pm): Evening with author Andrew Hammer
- March 15 – 17 Lodge Leadership Retreat (Pasco)
- March 20 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John’s 9 (dinner) Stated *Table Lodge moved to June*
- March 26 (7pm): Master Masons Study Group

## **ST. JOHN'S HOSTS NOTED AUTHOR OF OBSERVANT MASONRY**

St. John's Lodge No. 9 invites brothers of all degrees and Lodges to join us for an evening with Andrew Hammer, Thursday, March 14th, at 7pm at the Greenwood Masonic Center. We will provide refreshments and hors d'oeuvres prior to (6:15pm) and following the event, but we suggest those needing a full meal to make other necessary arrangements. The format for the evening will involve an introduction to the subject of *The Pursuit of Excellence* within a Lodge, before we move into a question and answer format where brothers will be invited to raise topics relevant to Freemasonry within their lives. This is a Mason-only event and the suggested attire is business casual such as suits and ties. This event is free, but there is limited space. **Reservations must be made with WBro. Russ Johnson prior to March 8th.** You can reach him for reservations and other questions at [rajco20@me.com](mailto:rajco20@me.com)



St. John's will hold its February stated communication on Wednesday, February 20. Masons of any degree are cordially invited to attend and share in the evening's agenda which will include dinner, business and another opportunity for fellowship mixed with further Masonic enlightenment. **Please make your dinner reservations with the secretary at 206 623-0261 by Friday, February 14,** prior to the meeting. If you need a ride, the secretary will be happy to find one for you. Do you know of a brother who has not attended Lodge in a while? Call him and ask if you can pick him up and bring him to Lodge.

Worshipful Master Seann Maria reminds everyone that the **Master Mason Study Group** is now on a new day and time beginning last month. WBro. Russ Johnson has assumed the leadership role previously held by our very able and capable Bro. Paul Doak. The sessions now start at **7pm** on the **last Tuesday** of each month.



(Intender sessions will be scheduled according to individual candidate needs and availability.)

## **District 4&5 Annual Meeting**

The District 4&5 Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 2, beginning with dinner at 6pm at the Greenwood Masonic Center. So why should you attend? Well, this meeting offers an informal session in a small localized environment providing:



MW Jim Kendall

Masters detailing what their Lodges are doing, including special community and education programs, degrees, and fellowship and fraternalism opportunities.

- Social interaction with other brethren within our own District **and** District 4..
- Dinner followed by a forum to meet and converse with the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge team.
- Presentations of awards and recognition to well-deserving Masons in our District.
- District 4 & 5 Worshipful Masters detailing what their Lodges are doing, including special community and education programs, degrees, and fellowship and fraternalism opportunities.
- An opportunity to meet the candidates for next year's Junior Grand Warden.
- Grand Lodge committee reports to educate all.
- Ample parking at St. John School, only a half-block away.

All brothers **and their ladies** are invited to meet our Grand Master, MWBro. James H. Kendall. Dress is business casual (collared shirts, tie, etc.) Dinner provided at no cost.

## **ENTERED APPRENTICE TO BE INITIATED**

In January we were pleased to welcome a new Entered Apprentice, (now Bro.) Sylvain Nyles. All Brothers of St. John's are again invited to come witness the initiation of (and welcome) Mr. Louis Turner. Mr. Turner will be initiated Friday, February 22.



Worshipful Master Seann Maria will open Lodge at 6pm. A Festive Board and fellowship will be held following the degree – around 8:30pm. With your attendance and participation, we can make this entry to Freemasonry memorable!



VW Russell presents Master's Tracing Board Lecture to EA Sylvain Nyles

**Tracing Board** Tracing Boards are a symbolic visual medium depicting various portions, emblems and symbols of Freemasonry and the initiatic process. Often they are used as teaching aids during the lectures that follow each of the Masonic Degrees. In this process, they are used as visual representations of the various concepts surrounding Freemasonry. In early Lodge practice, these boards were drawn with impermanent chalk so that they could be wiped away at the completion of a ceremony. Today they come in many formats including painted, printed and digitally.



## Senior Warden Message

Bro. Blair Neumann



(Message not received)

### A Whole Lot to Cheer For . . .

You've seen her around the dining hall for many of our Lodge dinners on a given month. She's vivacious (darned cute), and very polite. When she's through with her dinner, she may go off to a corner and color pictures, look through a book, and patiently wait for grandma Lisa and grandpa to finish their own meal.

She's also a talented young lady!

St John's Junior Warden VWBro. Ashley Brinkley's 7 year old granddaughter Ava Glassburn and the Panther Elite Youth Cheer Squad took First Place in the JAMZ State Cheer Leading Championship in December. Last month the team traveled to Las Vegas to compete in the JAMZ Nationals and took home 5<sup>th</sup> place over-all in the Youth 15 Division.

See the photos; Ava's the one at the top. She's tops with us!



### MASTER MASONS RAISED IN FEBRUARY

#### *Date Raised:*

2/10/1945	Percill E. Overby
2/7/1962	Egil J. Pedersen
2/24/1979	Douglas L. Knight
2/23/1980	James R. Gaston
2/15/1983	Charlie A. Barnard
2/22/1983	Paul A. Cox
2/25/1989	John J. Jorgensen
2/13/1990	George H. Wohlleben
2/9/1994	David C. Flood
2/21/2006	John O. Nance
2/28/2006	Scott M. Yerger
2/23/2012	Paul K. Doak



## Junior Warden Message

VWBro. Ashley Brinkley



In my last writing I had some questions about our long-ago Brother George Washington. Our friend, and next candidate for his first degree, Louis Turner went beyond the question with the correct answer plus information that our Brother George Washington paid 2 pounds 3 schillings to join the Lodge. So...the question for this month is **"How much was 2 pounds and 3 schillings equivalent to in today's world?"** I think this will probably take someone much smarter than me to figure this out. The Brother that correctly answers the question can have his choice this month of either the JW or the WM Dessert at the next stated meeting! I really hope you don't choose the JW dessert because I have a big sweet tooth!

Now on to the actual Lodge news.

If you missed the last First Degree, we had in January I must tell you that it was really the best First Degree I have witnessed in all my many years of Masonry. It was given with great emotion and our New Brother was so lucky to be part of this. This shows you when the Lodge, and it starts with the Master and Officers, and the Brothers work together to perform a task it is possible to produce something that is great. Everyone put in a lot of work and it was really seen. Our new Brother deserve the best and that night we delivered that to him!

I was also impressed with the turnout at our brother Darrell's funeral service from St. John's Lodge. This shows the Lodge really cared about our Brother and his family. At the service I had the opportunity to talk with two of our Widows from St. John's Lodge who had lost their soulmates. One told me how much they enjoyed doing activities with St. John's Lodge, but they were unable to go now because they had a hard time getting out and they were living in assisted living. One told me she was so lost without the guy she didn't know what to do. She told me how much she enjoyed reading the Trestleboard and that the Lodge keeps in touch with her. She felt like she was still a part of the Lodge. I encouraged her to come to activities and she said she would like to do that. I know friends have told me that they lost their spouse/partner and it's hard for them to attend activities they both enjoyed attending together. Hearing this from these Widows make me proud I am a member of our Lodge.

### Visit Our District Brethren

District 5 Lodges	Next Meeting	Time
St. John's 9	Wednesday, February 20, 2019	7:30pm
Eureka 20	Monday, March 4, 2019	7:30pm
University 141	Monday, March 4, 2019	7:30pm
Daylight 232	Saturday, February 16, 2019	10am
Lafayette 241	Thursday, March 7, 2019	7pm
Queen Anne 242	Thursday, February 14, 2019	7:30pm
Esoterika 316	Tuesday, April 23, 2019	7:30pm

# LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER



*The Ashlars are not just two pieces of stone. They represent what we have been and what we hope to be. It is up to each individual Mason to pass his own judgment on himself and to adjust his jewels accordingly, so that when the time comes and he lays down his tools and makes the final journey to the Grand Lodge above, he may leave behind a reputation as a wise counselor, a pillar of strength and stability, a Perfect Ashlar on which younger Masons may test the correctness and value of their own contribution to the Masonic order.*

We are told that the Ashlars lie open in the Lodge for the brethren to moralize on. Did you ever see a brother contemplating the Ashlars and trying to derive some moral benefit from them? For the most part they are quickly referred to and just as quickly forgotten. The Ashlar is the freestone as it comes from the quarry. The Rough Ashlar is the stone in its rude and natural state and is emblematic of man in his natural state – ignorant, uncultivated and vicious. But when education has exerted its wholesome influence in expanding his intellect, restraining his passions and purifying his life, he then is represented by the Perfect Ashlar which, under the skillful hands of workman, has been smoothed and squared and fitted for its place in the building.

However, you will observe that the Rough Ashlar in a Masonic Lodge is not entirely in its rude or natural state. It has been squared in a fashion, partially smoothed and has apparent strength and solidarity. It possesses all the qualities that could make it a perfect stone for use in the construction of the Temple, but it needs the hands and skill of the perfect Craftsman to bring about that result. It represents the candidate for membership in a Masonic Lodge. Such an applicant is not in his rude or natural state, neither ignorant, uncultivated nor vicious. Masonry does not accept men of such qualifications. The applicant by education and perseverance has fitted himself as a respectable man in his community, assuming full responsibility as a citizen, obedient to God, and a member of his family. There is a vast number of men in every community possessing such qualifications who are not members of a Masonic Lodge, and may never have the desire to associate themselves with the Ancient Craft.

A man judges Masonry by the actions and manner of living of those he knows are members of the Order, but knows little or nothing of its teachings or objectives in the building of character. In that sense, he is in the crude state of the rough Ashlar, possessing all the qualities or perfect material, but lacking the polish that comes from a continued study and practice of the great teachings of Masonry.

Membership in a Lodge does not make a man a Mason. He must apply his abilities to improving all in him that falls short of that high standard set by Masonry in character and citizen building. If he is satisfied with being a Master Mason in name only, he loses the benefits of further advancement and improvement offered by

membership in the Order. In other words, he falls far short of anything that might be termed the Perfect Ashlar.

The Perfect Ashlar is for the more expert Craftsman to try and adjust his jewels on. In ancient times, with crude tools that would not even be used in this age, workmen of great skill and experience produced material for the construction of the Temple having such perfection that each piece fitted perfectly into its place without adjustment or correction. Time was not one of the essential factors; perfection was the goal.

To keep this state of perfection in absolute balance, a standard must have been set whereby the workmen could constantly test their tools to know that continued wear and use had not changed the measurements; even in the slightest degree. Did they have a Perfect Ashlar on which to make such a test?

We are told that the Perfect Ashlar is for the more expert workmen to “try” and adjust their tools on. In Masonry, we are the workmen, whether we be active or inactive, workers or drones. What are our “jewels”, our most prized possession? If we have absorbed any of the teachings Masonry, the building of character and a devotion to Deity are two of the many jewels that should constantly be before us. And in the building of that state of perfection to which we attain, what Perfect Ashlar have we that we might go to and “try” the tools with which we have been working, to know that they are still of fine quality and in perfect condition for the job that lies before us.

In every Masonic Lodge there rests on the Altar in the center of the room the Volume of the Sacred Law. It is the solid foundation upon which Masonry in our lives is built. It never changes. Civilizations may come and go, but the Book of Books remains the same, adaptable to all conditions and manner of men, in good times and bad, in peace or war, a guide for mankind.

How often do we consult this Guide to try and adjust the jewels which are ours and which may need to be altered to get them back to that state of perfection which we as Masons should endeavor at all times to hold as our standard way of life? I am afraid that in this busy world of today, we neglect this practice. Therefore, as we think of the Ashlars and try to do a little moralizing, let us forget, even for a brief period, the material things in our lives, and direct our thoughts to the more important duty of contemplating our own defects and shortcomings, and adjusting our way of life and bringing it more in harmony with that standard given us by the Great Creator in the Volume of the Sacred Law. – Author unknown



***“My brethren, Masonry is Work, hard work, important work, and work needed more than ever in our society today. It is time that we as Freemasons lead the way in making a difference in this world. Every day ask yourself this question: ‘Today am I going to be a Mason or just a member?’ I hope that you will do as I try to do and choose every day to be the best Mason you can possibly be.” – MWBro. Dwight M “Mack” Sigmon, Grand Master North Carolina (2019)***

## Planned Giving Makes a Difference

Washington Masonic Charities work is largely funded from generous bequests and planned gifts from Brethren and their Ladies.

You are encouraged to consider making a planned gift. When you do, your gift will work in perpetuity. Washington Masonic Charities is well governed and a wise steward of resources, making sure that those that need assistance and support have it when they need it.

### How is Washington Masonic Charities Funded?

The vast majority of Washington Masonic Charities support comes from planned gifts and contributions that were made by generous Brethren, their Ladies, and widows.

- 80% of Washington Masonic Charities operating revenue comes from endowments held by Grand Lodge for charitable benefit, and from trusts funded from bequests and planned gifts
- 13% comes from annual gifts and grants
- 7% comes from other revenue sources

### Doesn't My Grand Lodge Assessment Pay for Washington Masonic Charities?

The short answer is “no”. No portion of a Mason's Grand Lodge Assessment directly funds Washington Masonic Charities. However 25 cents of every Mason's assessment each year is contributed to the Grand Lodge Charity Fund, of which a small portion of the earnings are distributed.

### What About Initiation Fees?

One dollar for each new Mason is contributed by Grand Lodge to Washington Masonic Charities from the initiation fees collected. In 2017-18 this contribution was approximately \$500.

### Your gift Makes a Difference!

In the end, it is your annual gift, and your legacy gift that will help Washington Masonic Charities grow and keep pace with the needs in our communities.

For more information, contact Ken Gibson at 844.288.3531 x 101 or ken@wa-masoniccharities.org

**Pay Dues**

***They get more expensive each month you delay!!!***

## 200-year-old Masonic Lodge in Maine town damaged by thousands of gallons of water

Members of the Masonic Lodge in Lisbon Falls (ME) discovered Monday evening that water flowed freely from a second floor faucet all weekend, flooding the building's downstairs and causing at least \$30,000 in damages.

Members suspect that pipes burst, causing the damage.

The building was built in the early 1800s and Ancient York Lodge No. 155 was chartered in 1870. The building was formerly a hotel, according to Lodge treasurer Tyler Goletti, and Lodge members have been working to have it listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

“Sometime after Friday, we believe the furnace stopped working for a period of time, and the building froze and the pipes in the second-floor bathroom burst,” Goletti said. “The water ran for two-and-a-half days. An estimated 1,500 to 2,000 gallons of water flowed across the billiards room and flooded the downstairs of the building.”

While the Lodge carries liability insurance, it does not have property damage insurance — nor does it have the funds to repair the damage, Goletti said.



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

### Date

- 5 Morrey Eskenazi
- 9 Daryl E. Anguish
- 10 Brian P. West
- 15 Jason R. Moore
- 16 Kenton J. Curtis
- 16 Morgan Owain Morgan-Jones
- 17 Hans U. Wehl
- 19 Charles S. Tine
- 19 Charles R. “Dick” Grimm
- 19 Seann P. Maria
- 24 Tyler W. Urbigkit
- 25 Mathew S. La Croix
- 26 Richard “Dick” Loeb
- 26 Jerome N. Alhadeff



## FEBRUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Here's a look at what's happening at our February stated communication:

### Dinner - guests welcome

- 1 Menu: Caesar salad; Roast beef with mashers; Chocolate cake dessert

(allergies, vegetarian? Let us know a week before.)

2. Welcome & Introductions
3. Announcements & Good of the Order

### Stated Meeting – filed

1. General business – reports and planning
2. Masonic Education – TBA

### Refreshments

Kick back, visit, and enjoy a beverage and dessert



## St. John's Hosts Author Andrew Hammer

Worshipful Master Sean Maria has arranged for WBro. Andrew Hammer, Past Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, to appear for an evening's engagement on Thursday, March 14. WBro. Hammer is one of the leading advocates of esoteric or Observant Freemasonry.

Andrew Hammer is a Royal Arch Mason, a Companion of the Allied Masonic Degrees and a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason. He is a member of the Quatuor Coronati Correspondence Circle, the Philaethes Society, and the Masonic Society. He resides in Alexandria Virginia.

Hammer clearly wants Freemasons and Freemasonry to be better than it is – and thus may experience some disappointment, as it is clear that he feels that the fraternity has already descended into a cheap, disrespectful, social club which attracts far too many men who are disregarding of what Freemasonry was and should be – “those who suggest we take that light out of the temple and into the streets have failed entirely to understand its meaning, its purpose and the manner in which it is to be beheld” (page 145 *Observing the Craft*).

“The debate between Lodges where philosophy and decorum are the order of the day and Lodges where men get together to socialize and drink is not even remotely new. It goes back to the very beginning of speculative Masonry, with men meeting in taverns 300 years ago.”

No era is born of a vacuum. Every age is influenced, either positively or negatively, by what has come before it. The men who formulated the ideas which would become known as the Enlightenment were directly inspired and essentially motivated by the philosophical studies of the late Renaissance, specifically the notion that man could truly become more than he had been, in both the spiritual and temporal sense. This notion reached its fruition in the concept of the higher man, closer to God and therefore to knowledge itself. This concept of the ‘better man’ was a crucial component of Renaissance thought, and the way to attain that condition was through engaging and challenging our minds, maximizing their potential, seeking a higher level of communion with and understanding of the Supreme Being. The generations that followed after this line of thought produced those men who constructed Freemasonry as we know it, enhancing their newfound awareness by seeking to manifest it outwardly through their actions, be they individual or social. This then led to the philosophical canals which would flow into the Enlightenment. The modern and verifiable origin of Freemasonry in the early 18th century stands perfectly on the cusp of these two significant ages in human development, and finds like-minded men organizing themselves into Lodges in order to create a rarified space to do exactly that

kind of work. To be sure, they celebrated their endeavors with hearty banquets to unwind from the rigor of their intellectual and ritual labor, but in the midst of this, they remained true to the notion that they were engaged in an exercise of personal advancement, for the benefit of self and society.

“By selectively introducing seekers of knowledge into our ranks, we do our part in those places we can, to add to the ranks of thinking beings everywhere, with the intention that they will share the benefit of our teaching by way of the quality of their minds. That being said, if we fail to approach the Craft in this way, we take the path of least resistance, and soon become unable to tell the difference between the Lodge

and any other social club in our community. Absent an interest in observance, that is, in reaching for the light through our study and actions, Lodges risk ceasing to be in any way Masonic. They simply absorb whatever enjoyments and pastimes from the outside world their members enjoy, and mistakenly continue to label such superficial miscellany as Masonry. If Lodge meetings and functions are no different than any other social function one would normally have in life, save the symbols and jargon, then in time brothers will have forgotten what Masonry truly is, and abandoned what makes it the treasure it has been for centuries to the best of men in all stations in life. It will become just like everything else, conforming to everything else, and nothing more. The very thing that makes the Craft special will have been sacrificed to what is easy and comfortable, and

the quarries then become filled with idlers who want the benefits of being called craftsmen, without actually doing or knowing how to do any work. This dilemma is exactly what is confusing so many men who are becoming Masons today. They have sought something in Freemasonry that they have, for whatever reason, been led to believe holds meaning, or stability, or some kind of nobler order of things. In some cases they have read about it, or heard things which have led them to believe that when they express an interest and submit a petition for membership, they are on the path to joining such an organization. What they find however, in more cases than one should like to admit, is an old boys’ club like any other, with nothing distinguishable about it except the fact that it has a legal claim to a name and legacy it has no intention of living up to. We can bring these men into the Craft by whatever means and at whatever pace one wishes; we will have already lost them before they are raised, because we have lost ourselves.”

Join Us for An Evening With

# Andrew Hammer

Presenting

## The Pursuit of Excellence

Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Cocktail hour and Hors D'ouvres starting at 6:15 pm.  
A reception and fellowship will follow the presentation.

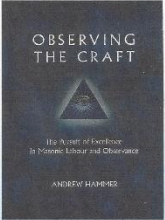
**Greenwood Masonic Center**  
7910 Greenwood Ave. N.  
Seattle Washington

- Author: *Observing the Craft*
- Past Master, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22
- Past Grand Chancellor of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia
- Past Grand Officer of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina
- Executive Committee George Washington Masonic Memorial
- Board of Directors, The Masonic Society

The event is free, but there is limited space.  
You must reserve a place by March 8<sup>th</sup> to attend.  
Send reservation requests to: WB Russ Johnson at [rajco20@me.com](mailto:rajco20@me.com).

This event is for Masons only, Masons of all degrees are welcome.  
No recording devices are allowed during the presentation.

Presented by St. John's Lodge No. 9.



This engagement at 7pm on March 14<sup>th</sup> is open to Freemasons only, with refreshments available (no dinner) beginning 45 minutes before. Advance reservations are a must and may be made with WBro. Russ Johnson at [rajco20@me.com](mailto:rajco20@me.com) no later than March 8<sup>th</sup>.



### Farewell, Viaduct

This month a new chapter of Seattle history (and northerly approach to St. John's) began when the Alaskan Way Viaduct closed permanently, three weeks ahead of the planned opening of its replacement, the SR-99 tunnel. This is the longest major highway closure the Puget Sound region has ever seen and, needless to say, the traffic squeeze is going to be tough during the transition.

**Groucho:** *Well, I'm sorry the matter even came up. All I know is that it's a viaduct.*

**Chico:** *Listen. I catch on to why a horse, why a chicken, why a this, why a that, but I don't catch on to why a duck*

**Groucho:** *I was only fooling. I was only fooling. They're going to build a tunnel in the morning. Is that clear to you?*

**Chico:** *Yes, everything except for why a duck.*

— *The Marx Brothers, The Cocoanuts*

### Minutes of January 2019 – short form

The Lodge opened on the third degree at 5:15pm and was immediately called “off session,” twenty-four members and nine Masonic visitors in attendance. Brethren and guests assembled in the Lodge room at 7:30pm for a memorial service for James O’Conner, Herbert White, James Lumsden, and Darrel Womack, concluding with the Job’s Daughters performing their ‘closing cross” ceremony. The Lodge was called “on session” at 8:20pm. Jerry Schuh, Kent Curtis, and Vinny DiGiulio were installed respectively as Chaplain, Junior Deacon, and Junior Steward. Labor was suspended on the third degree and a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons opened. Reading of the previous minutes was suspended; expenses of \$13,712.47 were approved; communications were distributed. It was agreed that Bro. Josh Skinner should be considered an active Fellowcraft candidate for one additional year. A motion to authorize \$500 to assist the early efforts to hold an “Esotericism in Freemasonry” conference in Portland failed. It was agreed to pay the annual fee for the basic management of the St. John’s website. Bro. Ryan Stoulil announced his desire to dimitt from the Lodge. It was agreed to waive the 2018 member dues for Felix Ngoussou; and to reimburse Lisa Brinkley \$280.18 to restock supplies and beverages; and for refreshments. Informal discussion on “Why should we join Masonry?” and “Why should we join St. John’s?” was held. The Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons was closed and labor resumed on the Master Mason degree. The Lodge was closed at 10:10pm, peace and harmony prevailing.

## Reaching To The Farthest Points of Light

Oddly enough, the only time I have the “What you get out of Freemasonry” talk is with gentlemen interested in joining a Lodge. I always smile when we get to this part of our conversation, as it is my favorite part, sharing the “secret” of Freemasonry. I love the look on their face when they hear how Masons are not valued for who we are but for what we do. We reach across barriers of division: creed, color, economic status, politics, and religion – differences that often divide men, but as Masons, unite us to work together as one. As the Brothers spoke during the meeting, you heard how each was drawn to Masonry, from diverse backgrounds, perspectives on life, and with different expectations on what they would learn. I highly encourage Masters’ reading this article to consider adding this discussion to an upcoming open meeting program or future Trestleboard opportunity. “The discussion was designed for each Brother to share his individual Masonic journey,” stated WM Chaplin. “By the end, the lesson was how we have influenced each other. “

~M

**Brother Michael Arce** is the Junior Warden of St. George’s #6, Schenectady, NY

## Fear grips Assin Fosu residents over Freemason activities

Residents of Assin Fosu in the Assin Central Municipality of the Central Region have been thrown into a state of fear following the emergence of several banners advertising for new members to join and promote the activities of “secret society”, Freemason in the area.

The Ghana township of Assin Fosu is awash with banners of Freemason advertisement at vantage places and has inscription such as “Join Free Mason Today and Get Rich, Fame, Powers within two days” together with group pictures of some of the Freemasons.

The Abakomahene of Affutuakwa Traditional Council Nana Kutin Amoah stated it has never been possible for a man to become rich in only two days since creation and for that matter won’t allow that to happen on their land.

The Chief has ordered for the removal of the banners from the township of Assin fosu with immediate effect because they suspect doom in their activities.

Nana Kutin finally advised the citizenry to run away from quick ways of making money and further called for a collective effort in dealing with illegal activities such as fraud, weed smoking, robbery among others.

The Municipal Chief Executive for Assin Fosu Central, Nicholas Fiifi Baako reacting to issues of Freemasons said, he has personally seen some of the banners but because of freedom of association, no action can be taken against them unless they commit a crime punishable by law.

He continued that, the only thing that can be done is by educating the public about the dangers associated with such societies and urged parents to be vigilant about the lifestyles of their children.

Assin Fosu is a small town and is the capital of Assin North Municipal, a Municipal in the Central Region of Ghana.



## Seattle Mayor Corliss P. Stone embezzles \$15,000 and runs on February 23, 1873

On February 23, 1873, Corliss P. Stone, Mayor of Seattle and partner of the firm Stone and Burnett, reportedly embezzles \$15,000 (\$312,500 in 2019 dollars) from his firm and leaves for San Francisco with a woman who is married to another man.

Stone was a businessman and developer who subdivided and platted what are now the Wallingford and Fremont neighborhoods of Seattle. Stone Way and Corliss Avenue in Wallingford are named after him. A Republican, he had been active in local politics for several years before being elected mayor. He was appointed to the Common Council when the Territorial Legislature chartered the city of Seattle in December 1869 and then served two terms as an elected member of the council.



Corliss P. Stone  
Seattle Mayor 1873

John T. Jordan, *Stone's predecessor*, was appointed acting mayor until a special election could be arranged. Republican Moses R. Maddocks was elected to fill the final two months of Stone's term.

Jordan, a stone mason and plasterer, had lived in Seattle at least since 1860, when the census recorded his presence as one of 90 unmarried white men in the town then (out of a total white population of 182). Among his early construction projects was the first building on the campus of the Territorial University (later to become the University of Washington), located on the present-day site of the Fairmont Olympic Hotel at 4th Avenue and University Street. The two-story building, with four hand-

fluted wooden columns and a distinctive cupola, housed most of the university's functions until 1895, when a new campus was developed on Lake Washington. Jordan worked on the building's foundation, brickwork, and plastering.

Jordan served as town marshal in 1869. He was elected to the Common Council (predecessor of the City Council) during Seattle's first municipal election, in 1870. Under the city charter at that time, elections were held on the second Monday in July, and mayors and councilmen both served one-year terms. When Jordan completed his term as mayor in 1872, he was elected to another term on the council.

Jordan was active in St. John's Masonic Lodge, serving as Master in 1870, 1871 and again in 1881. During his first term as Master (1870) he also served as Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Washington. He served as an officer in Seattle Chapter No. 1, Royal Arch Masons for many years. In 1884, he was elected first grand chancellor of the Washington territorial Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, a fraternal organization related to the Masons.



John T. Jordan, Past Master  
Seattle Mayor 1872

Sources: *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* November 14, 1988, p. C-8; Paul Dorpat, "Stone Way Wreck?" *The Seattle Times*, Pacific Northwest Magazine, August 5, 2001 (<http://seattletimes.nwnewsources.com>); Clarence B. Bagley, *History of Seattle From the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time*, Vol. 1-2 (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1916).

Note: This file was expanded on August 31, 2004.



## Grand Masonic Day – Vancouver BC Saturday, March 9

This year's event takes place at UBC Robson Square Campus' Main

Theatre. Doors at 9am. First talk at 9:30am. \$30.00 tickets do not include lunch or parking. Tickets in advance are encouraged. Limited tickets at the door. Plenty of pay parking is available under BC Superior Courts building. Entrance near Howe & Smithe.

### ~PROGRAMME~

9:00 am - Doors open  
9:30 am - Opening – MWBro. Barry W. K. Burch  
9:45 am – "Bro. Jekyll and Bro. Hyde" - RW Bro. Michael H. Cockerell  
10:45 am – "A Philosophical Key to the Philosopher's Stone" – WBro. John Geraghty Secrets  
11:45 am – Lunch

1:00 pm - Junior Grand Warden Address – RWBro. Kenneth M. Overy  
1:15 pm - Formal Debate "Should we hold public installations?"  
2:30 pm – Break  
2:45 pm – "Esoteric & Exoteric Aspects of Freemasonry" – WBro. Joseph S. Topornyky (Seekers/Guests Welcome)  
3:45 pm – "Ten Years a Freemason: Some Modest Suggestions" – WBro. Troy M. Spreeuw (Seekers/Guests Welcome)  
4:30 pm – Closing  
Email [tspreeuw@gmail.com](mailto:tspreeuw@gmail.com) with any questions.

## WHY DON'T YOU CALL ME ANYMORE?



Well, for starters, I don't have your current phone number. You moved out of town and left your old number behind..... I'd love to hear from you!