

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

Trestleboard

NOVEMBER 2019

Jim Russell, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

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FROM THE EAST

Seann Maria, Master



Brethren,

This month marks the second to last month of my two years in the East and I have taken a lot from the office. I've learned more in my second year than in my first. Experience is a quality of leadership that's often understated because it doesn't carry with it the romantic notion that we're "born with it". I can say that the times in my life of holding a status of leadership has allowed me to become a better leader and respectively, I would recommend that anyone who wants to become a leader should aspire to take on more responsibility while remaining humble and aware of the opportunity to grow more than to direct.



As Freemasons commit themselves to improving themselves it's important for us to stay ever focused on the fact that we should be seeking positive change. This expresses itself in many ways throughout our lives, but I would suggest we remind ourselves to constantly ask why we are doing things the way they were done before. Even when things worked better in a previous state, that doesn't mean the limitations that existed then still exist now.

Be kind to people you don't understand and spend more time listening than forming your opinion of why you don't understand them. In these last two years I've experienced many of my own perceptions of generational, cultural, and Masonic differences dissolve as I was able to reconsider how it is I can best support my community through balancing the request for labor and offering the relief of fellowship and charity. I've been able to learn through watching the rest of brethren confront and handle their own differences and although some of these may resolve in better harmony and some may not, I don't believe that Harmony is a more Masonic ideal than Charity. It may be heard often but it's always worth revisiting that Charity is defined by the Oxford dictionary as "kindness and tolerance in judging others."

Seek to learn through each other. That one act is the gift of community like our brotherhood and it is best on display when you act as a leader of a community.

CALENDAR



- November 13 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- November 14 (7pm): Officers meeting
- November 18 (6:30pm): Eureka Lodge Installation of Officers (Kent Curtis Master) *Scottish Rite Center*
- November 20 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated 50-, 60-Year Pin Ceremony; Memorial Services; adoption of 2020 budget
- November 23 (10am): *Memorial Service for PGM Charles McQuery (Bothell)*
- November 28: *Thanksgiving Day*
- December 14 (9am) 1pm: *Operation Kids Smile (set-up) Party time for families*
- December 18 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated Installation of Officers (7pm)
- December 22-30: *Happy Chanukah*
- December 25: *Merry Christmas*
- December 27: *Feast Day of St. John the Evangelist*
- December 31: *Deadline for payment of 2020 Lodge dues -2020-*
- January 2 (5pm): *Lafayette 241 installation of officers dinner following*
- January 6 (7:30pm): *University Lodge 141 communication*
- January 6 (7:30pm): *Eureka Lodge 20 communication*
- January 8 (7:30pm): *Greenwood Lodge 253 communication*
- January 9 (7pm): *Officers meeting*
- January 9 (7:30pm): *Queen Anne Lodge 242*
- January 10 (7:30pm): *Rainier Lodge 189*
- January 15 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated
- January 20 (7pm): *Fellowship Night at Greenwood*
- January 25 (10am): *Past Masters Brunch Jimmy's on Broadway*

SANTA RIDES AGAIN



WBro. John Louderback will again be leading a team of St. John's brothers and their ladies for this year's annual Operation Kid Smile. We expect 20 or so children will be on Santa's list. We will visit their families at the Tacoma

Scottish Rite and Santa Claus will distribute toys and other gifts to the children.

Santa and his elves will be working much of the morning Saturday, December 14, preparing the Scottish Rite "North Pole," breaking for pizza and lunch before the 1pm party for the kids.

A TIME TO APPRECIATE AND REMEMBER OUR BROTHERS

This month marks Veterans Day, a day to take the time to remember the men and women who have proudly served this country. Our military means so much more than protection and service. They're the ambassadors for the U.S. in foreign countries to represent us all as they fight for peace and justice. The people who are a part of the U.S. military have given those of us in this country a great amount of pride in knowing that we stand for freedom. Let us give thanks to our brave men and women who choose to spend their lives protecting us and our loved ones.

And let us honor the many members of our Craft and of this Lodge who have fought and bled for us!

This month is also a time when we recognize in a small way, two brothers who have served our fraternity well for many years: WBro. Fred Hutchinson and WBro. Hans Wehl, who mark their 50th and 60th year respectively as contributing Freemasons.

This month we'll adopt our budget for 2020, and also take time to remember a few of our brothers who passed to that distant shore in 2019.

Worshipful Master Seann Maria invites all Masons to join us for our stated communication on Wednesday, November 20th. Dinner will be served at 6:15. Please

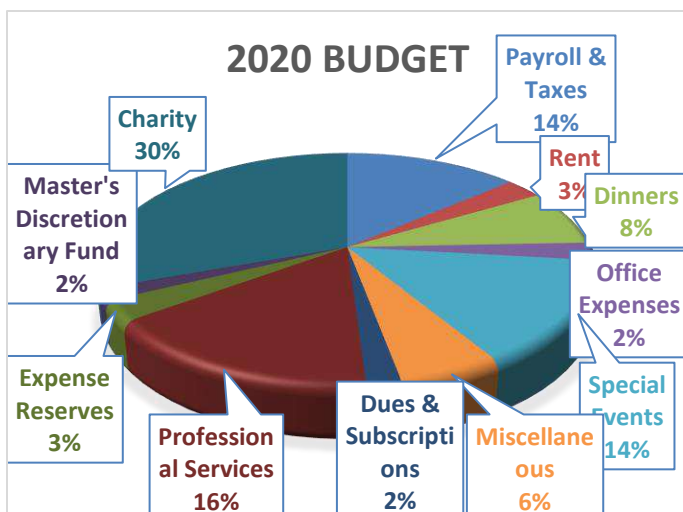


make your [dinner reservations](#) with the secretary at 206 623-0261 by Friday, November 15, prior to the meeting. Do you know of a brother who has not attended Lodge in a while? Call him and ask if you can pick him up and bring him to Lodge.

Proposed 2020 Budget Introduced

The proposed St. John's Lodge 2020 budget was distributed at the October Stated Communication. Senior Warden Bro. Blair Neumann highlighted and explained those line items which have significant changes from this year's budget. The brothers were afforded an opportunity to question any of the line items with the understanding that action will not be taken until the November communication.

The budget reflects Bro. Neumann's hope to invite four dynamic speakers on a subject of Masonic interest this coming year. It also anticipates a \$1,000 increase in the per capita tax as approved by the delegates to last June's annual communication of Grand Lodge. Our outreach (charity) program expects an increase of \$6,000.



2020 Annual Membership Dues

Notices to all who are required to pay 2020 dues were mailed to members of St. John's last month. Dues are payable no later than December 31st of each year; beginning January 1 they **increase by \$5** each month.

Support Continues for Reading Programs

St. John's continues to give support to two elementary schools in the Seattle Public Schools system.

John Rogers Elementary and Sacajawea Elementary have been receiving money for their reading programs since the early 2000's. During Worshipful Master Charles Tupper's term we also provided bicycles to top readers in the lower grades.



John Rogers Principal Brent Ostbye accepts portrait and check from WB Louderback

This year WBro. John Louderback presented our cash assistance and Lansdowne portraits of George Washington. The brethren of St. John's Lodge purchased the two portraits to support last year's Grand Master MW Jim Kendall's initiative to fund our efforts

with the Honor Flight program, to assist members of our youth groups in the area of leadership development, and to reintroduce Bro. Washington in our schools. Baily Gatzert (Seattle) and Cedar Way Elementary (Mountlake Terrace) have also been served in the past by St. John's gifts to benefit student reading.



Sacajawea Principal Rachel Friesen receives Washington portrait and check from St. John's



Sacajawea Elementary serves children in the northeast sector of Seattle

Senior Warden Message

Bro. Blair Neumann



My Brothers, I am both honored and humbled to be elected your Worshipful Master for the coming year. Our Lodge is unique among Seattle Lodges both in our history and in our character. I look forward to continuing our legacy of good for our Brethren, our families, our Craft, and for our communities.

“Do Good Unto All” is a phrase that’s stuck with me recently. I feel like it captures much of the essence of Freemasonry for me. As speculative Masons we learn how best to conduct ourselves so that we may work together to achieve great things. Our distinguishing characteristic, our love of humanity, inspires us to deeds which reward us with the greatest pleasure man can possibly enjoy. Like an engine of virtue, we look out for ourselves and for those around us, building temples of our lives.

And so I hope to do good unto all of you this year, my Brothers, and to serve you well as your Worshipful Master. While I’m sure not all of you will always feel good about my tenure, I can assure you that my intention is to serve each of you well, as your necessities require and my abilities permit.

Visit Our District 5 Brethren

District 5 Lodges	Next Meeting	Time
St. John’s 9	Wednesday, November 20, 2019	7:30pm
Eureka 20	Monday, January 6, 2020	7:30pm
University 141	Monday, December 2, 2019	7:30pm
Daylight 232	Saturday, November 16, 2019	10am
Lafayette 241	Thursday, December 5, 2019	7pm
Queen Anne 242	Thursday, November 14, 2019	7:30pm
Esoterika 316	Tuesday, January 28, 2020	7:30pm

Junior Warden Message

VWBro. Ashley Brinkley



Thank you for the opportunity to serve St. John’s as your Jr. Warden this past year. The year will be starting over and I am looking forward to the new Lodge year. It’s very exciting.

I was talking to my little granddaughter and asking her what she wanted for Christmas. Her eyes lit up and she knew just exactly what she wanted. She wanted a Tweety Bird. I was not sure what that was. I was telling one Brother about this and the first thing he said was she wants an airplane. He said he used to fly a plane that they called a Tweety Bird. My granddaughter said it was a bird in a cage who repeated things. I figured out it repeats words. If only we, as a Lodge, could be seen through the eyes of a child at Christmas each year, being excited to have our new officers and new year staring as we travel down our Masonic path for the new year.

I am truly honored to be elected to the West for St. John’s Lodge. I will do my best to fill the shoes of the Sr. Wardens who have come before me and I am looking forward to the new Lodge year.

Welcome New Brothers

Brethren of our Lodge welcome two new members to St. John’s No. 9. WBro. Tom Lamb (Master of Walter F. Meier 281, Secretary and Past Master of Edmonds 165)



VW Don Lyman

and VWBro. Don Lyman (Secretary Walter F. Meier, Past Master Maritime 239, Past Deputy of the Grand Master for District 4) were elected to plural membership last month.



WB Tom Lamb

Public invitation to

St. John’s Lodge No. 9

Installation of Officers

For the year 2020

Wednesday evening, 6:15pm, December 18, 2019

**Invite your
Family & Friends**

***Dinner Followed by Installation Ceremony
RSVP please!***

Greenwood Masonic Center

Bro. Blair Neumann elected to the East; Open Officers' Installation Wednesday, December 18

Officers for 2020 were elected at our November stated communication:

Bro.	Blair Neumann	W.M.
VWBro.	S. Ashley Brinkley	S.W.
WBro.	John Murray Louderback	J.W.
VWBro.	Jim Maher	Treasurer
VWBro.	Jim Russell	Secretary
WBro.	K. Eric Koteles	Trustee 2022

Each graciously accepted the responsibility and honor entrusted to him. Installation of officers will be the evening of our December 18 stated communication, preceded by dinner. At the request of Bro. Neumann, the brethren voted that the installation of 2020 officers be open to the general public. So brothers, *invite your ladies, families, friends and prospective Masons to join us* on Wednesday evening, December 18.

A time for officers to assemble for a photo session will be announced.

Past Grand Master McQuery Memorial

A Celebration of Life for MW Bro. Charles McQuery will be held at the Bothell United Methodist Church located at 18515 92nd Ave. NE, Bothell, WA on Saturday, November 23, 2019. The service will start at 10am with a reception to follow. Masons are encouraged to wear their Masonic Apron.

The family has requested that donations be made to the Masonic Youth Travel Fund in memory of MW Charles McQuery. Donations can be sent to Washington Masonic Charities, 4970 Bridgeport Way W., University Place, WA 98467 or can be made [online](#). Please make sure that you note on your check that the donation is for the "Masonic Youth Travel Fund."

St. John's Past Masters Feted in October



Twelve Past Masters of St. John's were honored in October (l to r): Seann Maria (2018, 2019), Jeffrey Pullen (2017), John Louderback (2016), Eric Koteles (2014), David Flood (2013), Al Jorgensen (2012), Terry Grove (2003), Charles Brockway (1996), Jim Russell (1991), Jerry Schuh (1988), Mike Wilderman (1978), and Hans Wehl (1968).

Local Lodge Officer Installation Dates

Friday, 11/8 – Rainier No. 189 – Tyled Installation @ 7:30 – Greenwood Masonic Hall – dinner 6:30

Saturday, 11/9 – University No. 141 - 4:00 p.m. with dinner to follow @ University Masonic Hall

Monday, 11/18 – Eureka No. 20 - 6:30 p.m. with dinner to follow @ Scottish Rite Center, **St. John's member Bro. Kent Curtis to be installed as Master**

Thursday, 12/5 – Green Lake No. 149 - 7:30 p.m. following brief Stated meeting @ Green Lake Masonic Hall - dinner about 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, 12/7 – Occidental No. 72 - 7:30 p.m. at Ballard Masonic Hall

Wednesday, 12/18 – St. John's No. 9 - 7:30 p.m. following brief Stated meeting @ Greenwood Masonic Hall - dinner 6:15 p.m. **Bro. Blair Neumann to be installed as Master**

Friday, 12/20 – Walter F. Meier No. 281 - 7:30 p.m. at Greenwood Masonic Hall

Thursday, 1/2/20 – Lafayette No. 241 - 7:00 p.m. at Greenwood Masonic Hall

Youth Symphony Orchestra Opens Season November 17

One of the many youth groups St. John's assists financially is the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra, an amazingly talented assembly of dedicated young people.

Come hear SYSO in an exciting concert on Sunday afternoon November 17 in Benaroya Hall at 3pm.



A tribute to the *Russian Masters*, this will be their first concert under new conductor, Juan Felipe Molano. You can buy tickets at the door, or in advance at <https://syso.org/concerts-tickets/>.

The program:

Alexander Borodin: Polovtsian Dances from Prince Igor

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Horn Concerto No. 3 in E-flat, K. 447 – Movement 1 – Hugo Bliss, horn

Joaquín Rodrigo: Concierto pastoral for flute – Movement 1 – Julin Cheung, flute

Dmitri Shostakovich: Symphony No. 9 in E-flat major, Op. 70

Possessing "genuine lyricism and profound sorrow," Shostakovich's Symphony No. 9 captures the spirit of Russia in 1945, a fascinating mix of defiance and beauty. See and hear some of the best musicians in the PNW bring this epic composition to life this November!

Didjknow? Founded in 1942, Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra is the largest youth orchestra training program in the United States.

On the Origin, History and Meaning of America's Thanksgiving Day

Submitted by St. John's member and author H.S.

In 1621, William Bradford, the first governor of Plymouth Plantation, wrote in his diary that, after the harvest, he sent four settlers "fouling" (bird hunting) to add to the winter stores. He did not give a date. In a letter dated 11 Dec. 1621, Edward Winslow tells a friend in England that the men brought back plentiful ducks, geese and turkeys, and then that nearby the Indians held their annual harvest festival, that King Massasoit and some ninety Indians visited with the Pilgrims, brought five deer, corn, beans and fish to the communal table, that they all feasted for three days, and that the bird hunt still "served the company almost a week." Come to us, Edward's letter implies, there is plenty to go around, bring your friends, what are you doing in old England?

The two sources report separate stories which seem to converge at about the same time. A smarmy editor of Bradford's diary combined them as "The First Thanksgiving". Often re-told in schoolbooks and greeting cards, the two stories are not a thanksgiving. No thanksgiving was held in 1621 or later. In the Plymouth community, thanksgiving was not a regular event. Thanksgiving was fasting, hymn singing and church prayer after a favorable event when local or state officials called for giving thanks, as did, e.g., Gen. Washington after defeating the British at Saratoga in December, 1777. There is no record of a thanksgiving having been held at Plymouth Plantation in 1621 or later, with or without Wampanoag or other Indians of Narragansett.

On Oct. 3rd, 1789, the U.S. Congress, then in session, learned that the required number of colonies had ratified the Constitution. Congress resolved:

"...to recommend to the People of the United States a day of Publick Thanksgiving and Prayer" to be observed "Thursday, the twenty-sixth of November next ... for ... conclusion of the late war; for the great tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enable (sic) to establish Constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and for the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favours which He has been pleased to confer upon us." (Massachusetts Centinel, Oct. 14, 1789)

Congress asked President Washington to sign its proclamation, which he did. It has been known since as "Washington's Thanksgiving Day Proclamation," which it is not. It was the first national thanksgiving in the New World.

A thanksgiving was held in 1795. Pres. James Madison had another one in 1814 at the close of the War of 1812. Southern states objected to such days as examples of Puritan bigotry. In 1862, during the War Between the States, Pres. Lincoln invited all citizens to pause and give thanks for the

Union on the last Thursday of November, as was done back in 1789. In 1863, he renewed the call "in the midst of a civil war of unequaled magnitude and severity." Since then, Thanksgivings have been held annually in a few places. In 1939, President F.D. Roosevelt asked that these events be set to the fourth Thursday in November to lengthen the pre-Christmas shopping season.

In the Colonies and then in the states, special days were a matter of local customs as well as of state law. In 1941, Congress made Thanksgiving a holiday for federal employees, i.e. a day free of work while being paid for a full day. This upset many people, but to no avail. In 1944, Pres. Roosevelt asked the nation to thank "for the preservation of our way of life." In 1968, Congress passed a federal Uniform Holiday Act which included Thanksgiving. The several states adopted bills which synchronized their and local holidays with the federal government's. As a result, since 1971, all Americans have enjoyed the same six holidays. Freemasons had nothing to do with it.

America's Thanksgiving Day did not originate from an Indian tribe's harvest potluck with the Pilgrims. America's Thanksgiving is not a religious, folkloric or agricultural observance.

In 1789, Congress listed seven reasons for it. Thanks be for America's genius of forming rationally and peaceably a new nation and of the Union continuing. We are grateful today and into tomorrow. Never mind the buttery greeting cards, absurd TV productions, politicians' ignorant speeches.

Not Just Black Friday Eve!

Tom Hendrickson PGM, MN

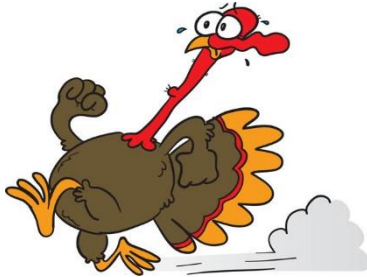
Thanksgiving should celebrate the ideals which make our country flourish: religious and personal freedom, family values, shared prosperity, stability, bounty, safe harbor and most importantly, gratitude to God for all our blessings.

Thanksgiving should be a day when we share a meal with our loved ones that nourishes our bodies. We spend time together strengthening our spiritual bonds and together we are thankful for God's presence and blessing in our daily lives.

Now, not every Thanksgiving has been over the river and thru the woods to Grandma's house. Some of us ate Thanksgiving dinner from a Mermite food container dropped out of a chopper at a Firebase overseas. Some of us ate crackers at a hospital while a loved one was in Intensive Care, or we ate at a Police Station, at a Truck Stop or at the Salvation Army.

Sometimes we must look beyond our daily struggles and examine our lives to count and focus on our blessings. This lesson was driven home hard for me one day just recently. I was at a local restaurant and at the table next to mine was a young man in a wheelchair. He had lost both legs and his right arm as a Marine in Iraq. We had a nice talk, then he said something that moves me to this day. He said that he was really thankful that he still had his eyesight and he thanks God every day he is still alive.

Let us all remember the spirit of Thanksgiving and make our prayers and thanks be heartfelt every day.



LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER



Participation matters. If we want to impress upon our candidates the importance of being active Freemasons, then we need to stop telling them that “you get out of Freemasonry what you put into it.” We can’t keep setting a low bar for the members we’re bringing into the fraternity. We’re only contributing to the population of those that will go through the degrees and never attend a meeting. We need to start stressing the importance of involvement, not only for our continued success, but our growth as Masons.

It Matters

by WBro. Darin A. Lahners

Three weeks ago I was sitting with a candidate about to undertake his Entered Apprentice degree at historic Homer Lodge No. 199 in Homer, Illinois. Something happened that evening that I don’t recall ever happening to me previously in Freemasonry. Granted, I’ve only been a Master Mason since 2011, so my Masonic experience is less than 10 years. However, I was so caught off guard by it, that I felt it necessary to discuss it. The candidate Tyler and I were eating dinner prior to his degree, and he looked around the dining room and asked me: “Are all these guys here for me?” My reply, was: “Yes, they’re all here for your degree tonight.” To which his reply was: “That’s awesome.” It was in this moment, only shared between the two of us, that I realized that it displayed the power of our fraternity. He was the first candidate that I had ever heard recognize the effort that these men, who were for the most part essentially still strangers to him, were putting forth for him and express that he felt gracious for it.

On a grander scale, what the candidate acknowledged was something many of us already know, our strength lies with our active membership. According to the Masonic Service Association of North America, in 2017 the Grand Lodges of the United States of America had a combined 1,076,626 members. Extrapolating this number further, let me argue that 10% of that membership is active. For the purpose of this article, I’m defining active as a member that is attending regular stated meetings and degree work more often than not. That leaves 107,662 members that are responsible for keeping their Lodges going, and participating in degrees, for the whole of the United States as of 2017. I would suspect that the number may be down to around 100,000 members in 2019 as well as close to a million total members given attrition.

Furthermore, I’d be willing to wager that the average age of the active membership is somewhere in the mid 50’s to mid-60’s. What does this mean? Personally I take it as a challenge to step up my game. I turned 46 on Saturday, October 19. While I consider myself a decent ritualist, there is still much that I need to learn. Why? Because at some point, the brothers that are currently doing it won’t be there to do it anymore. I don’t mean to be morbid, but that’s the reality. They’ll either be physically unable to do it, or they will be dead. When that happens, who is going to carry the torch? The answer needs to be the rest of us. Participation matters.

If we want to impress upon our candidates the importance of being active Freemasons, then we need to stop telling them that “you get out of Freemasonry what you put

into it.” We can’t keep setting the bar low for the members we’re bringing into the fraternity. We’re only contributing to the population of those that will go through the degrees and never attend a meeting. Worse yet they might attend a meeting, but we either run them off due to sheer boredom at hearing the minutes read, bills paid, debates over giving the Rainbow Girls an extra five dollars this year, or grumpy Past Masters “helping” them after the meeting since they were forced to be Junior Deacon due to lack of participation of the other members who also don’t want to attend the meeting due to the same experiences. Sound familiar? If we had active membership, then we wouldn’t be in a situation where a new Master Mason would have to sit in a chair with five minutes of instruction prior to a meeting, and then have him humiliated... er...I mean “helped”... by a Past Master that thinks they’re doing the new guy a favor.

Albert Einstein is attributed with saying, “The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results.” Because we keep repeating the same mantras as “You get out of Freemasonry what you put into it,” or worse yet, “We’ve always done it this way,” we are practicing insanity. While we set expectations for how a candidate should act as a Mason during the degrees, we don’t lay out the Lodge’s expectations for them after they progress through them. We need to start stressing the importance of involvement, not only for our continued success, but for their own growth as Masons.

How do we do this? The answer is really quite simple. We need to set the expectations of the candidate from the beginning. We shouldn’t be waiting until a candidate is through all of his degrees to set the expectations that he should be active. We need to indoctrinate him to the idea. We need to set the expectation as part of our investigation process. We need to ask the investigation committee if they set this expectation with the candidate. If they didn’t, then propose delaying the vote on the candidate’s membership until the expectation is discussed. Yes, I know that I’m only human, and yes, I have missed Masonic events due to sickness, family issues, and work. I’m not asking to create an army of automatons that do nothing but attend stated meetings and degree work. The candidate will be human, also. There will surely be times when he will have life happen, and cause him to be absent from a meeting, degree, etc. We still need to make sure that family and work are prioritized over Freemasonry, and that the candidate knows this. Obviously we don’t want to cause someone to have marital problems over Freemasonry, or to lose his job due to his participation in Freemasonry. However, we should be able to set the expectation with him.

When you’re interviewing prospective members, it’s important to invite them to non-tyled Lodge events. If they

show up for these, and more importantly show an excitement to be participating; then you should be able to view this as an indication that they will continue this activity after they are raised. You see, sitting down with a man in his own home to investigate him doesn't help you gauge how he interacts with the members of your Lodge. It doesn't allow for a situation where he has to put forth effort to be investigated. If he wants to be a Freemason, he will show desire to be one. He will come to meet you at your Lodge prior to a meeting; or go bowling with your Lodge. My point is that he won't mind putting in the effort to interact with his future brothers. If you have any doubt that they will be an active member, then we need to make sure to throw the black ball. We need to devote our time to bringing in members that are actively participating in Freemasonry, instead of being so desperate for membership that we don't care if they participate or not. To borrow from a popular ad campaign: Just OK is Not OK.

Tyler being awestruck at the display of the men showing up for his 1st degree tells me that he'll be one of them someday. I don't have fears about him being inactive. He's shown up for every dinner before our meetings while he was a candidate, and experienced his first meeting as an Entered Apprentice this past Monday night. I feel confident that I did the right thing by voting for his admission into Homer Lodge. I have volunteered to be his intender as he goes through the degrees. You see, if you want to set an expectation of participation, then you have to be an example of it. Participation matters. It matters.

WB Darin A. Lahners is the Worshipful Master of St. Joseph Lodge No. 970 in St. Joseph and a plural member of Ogden Lodge No. 754 (IL), and Homer Lodge No. 199 (IL). He's a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Danville, a charter member of the new Illinois Royal Arch Chapter, Admiration Chapter No. 282, and is the current Secretary of the Illini High Twelve Club No. 768 in Champaign – Urbana (IL). He is also a member of the Eastern Illinois Council No. 356 Allied Masonic Degrees. You can reach him by email at darin.lahners@gmail.com.

MASTER MASONS RAISED IN NOVEMBER

Date Raised:

11/29/1947	Donald W. Bartholomew
11/29/1958	Raymond E. Lundy
11/13/1959	Hans U. Wehl
11/18/1959	Richard "Dick" Loeb
11/18/1959	Jerome N. Alhadeff
11/18/1965	Joseph H. Oates, Jr.
11/7/1970	Martin L. Burgess
11/27/1971	Craig L. Catli
11/19/1976	Robert E. Reed
11/28/1981	Stanley L. Jones
11/18/1986	Paul-Max B. Jensen
11/18/1986	Joseph L. Bennett
11/30/1987	Alvin A. Taylor
11/10/1988	Richard P. Wellenberger
11/18/1988	Terry S. Zittlau
11/17/1990	Charles R. "Dick" Grimm
11/19/1998	James R. Odom
11/24/2001	Scott A. Pence



Benjamin Albertson

Harp

Past Master (2002) Stores "Skip" Albertson has reason to be a proud parent.

His son, Benjamin Albertson, has performed as a harpist for over ten years throughout the United States and Canada. Benjamin has served under great conductors such as Gerard Schwartz, Giancarlo Guerrero, Christoph Eschenbach, Bramwell Tovey, and Kensho Watanabe, performing in venues from Carnegie Hall in New York to Benaroya Hall in Seattle. Benjamin's recent accomplishments include being the youngest finalist of the Glenn Gould School Concerto



Competition, where he played the vivacious Ginastera Harp Concerto, and winning second prize in the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra Institute at Whistler Concerto Competition.

Benjamin's recent performances include his debut at Toronto's Koerner Hall, where he performed chamber music by Debussy, and his debut as a soloist at the University of British Columbia Chamber Orchestra Festival in Vancouver's Chan Center of the Performing Arts. In Olympia, Benjamin was featured as a soloist with the Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia, playing the Mozart Flute and Harp Concerto in May 2018. Benjamin has performed as an orchestra member with the Royal Conservatory Orchestra, the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America Two, the Seattle Youth Symphony, the All-Northwest Orchestra, and the Olympia Symphony Orchestra, as the Wittgow Family Young Musician Apprentice and Scholarship winner. Benjamin won the Washington Music Educators Association Solo and Ensemble Competition in the harp division for two consecutive years. He attends the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto on a full tuition scholarship.

After graduation, Benjamin hopes to work in a variety of musical ventures including chamber and solo performance, teaching, and hopefully an orchestral appointment.

Bylaws Amended

St. John's Awaiting Grand Master's Approval

By unanimous affirmative vote, the brethren of St. John's approved an amendment to our bylaws to set the value of its Certificates of Labor. Article 4, Section 3, (h) was amended to state that the Certificates of Labor will have a value "that is set annually by the Lodge." The original language established the value of each Certificate at \$20. The effect of the change, ***if approved***, is to allow the Lodge to adjust the value of earned Certificates as the state minimum wage increases. St. John's dues are tied to the minimum wage by a factor of 26 x wage per hour. A Certificate is paid to each member at the close of a stated or special communication.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Day

- 3 William A. Collison
- 9 Ian B. Gililland
- 11 Alvin A. Taylor
- 11 Brent A. Braun
- 14 Charles B. Claus, Jr.
- 14 George H. Bechtel, Jr.
- 14 Eugene V. Kashpureff
- 19 Raymond L. Gehrig
- 22 Jeff R. Hawley
- 25 Marcos J. Policar
- 25 Kemal Alaeddinoğlu
- 26 Terry S. Zittlau
- 27 Mark W. Shropshire



WHEN A LODGE IS OPENED "IN DUE FORM"

A Lodge is opened in due form, transitioning from the outer world to the inner harmony that should prevail within. The Opening Ceremony should never be rushed but should allow time for the Craft to set aside the worries of the day and find peace for a time among brothers. At opening the Lodge the Master is reminded of the dignity of his character; and the brethren of the homage and veneration due him. A reverential awe for the Deity is inculcated, and the eye fixed on that object from whose radiant beams only light can be derived. This ceremony teaches us to adore the Great Architect and to supplicate his protection on our well-meant endeavors. The Master assumes his government in due form, and the brethren, with one accord, unite in duty and respect, and the ceremony sets the tone for the business at hand.

NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

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

Dinner - guests welcome

1. Menu: Rosemary crouton Caesar salad; Beef Bourgogne; Tres leches cake dessert
(allergies, vegetarian? Let us know a week before.)
2. Announcements
3. 50, 60 year membership recognition in Lodge room

Stated Meeting – tiled

1. Memorial for departed brethren
2. Adoption of 2020 Budget

Refreshments

Kick back, visit, and enjoy a beverage and dessert

The Grandeur of Old Masonic Temples Also Makes Them Vulnerable to Fires

They're hard to reuse, and can be quick to burn.

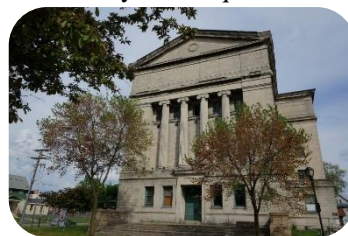
by [Jessica Leigh Hester](#)



The fire broke out around 10pm on October 7, 2019, and burned straight through the night. By the time it was extinguished early the next morning, the nearly century-old Masonic Temple in Aurora, Illinois, had been scorched beyond hope of repair.

Fires that erupt in Masonic buildings can be stubborn, because some architectural hallmarks of the structures make them easy targets for flames, as well as tough places for firefighters to wrangle a blaze. For one thing, the interiors tend to be pretty cloistered. Temple buildings have relatively few windows, and none that open up into the ceremonial anterooms that form the heart of these structures.

"They're not quite like anything else: They're kind of like theaters; they're kind of like church spaces," says William D. Moore, director of the American & New England Studies program at Boston University, who wrote the book *Masonic Temples: Freemasonry, Ritual Architecture, and Masculine Archetypes*.



The Masonic Temple in Aurora sat vacant for about a decade before it went up in flames

Masonic rooms often feature drapery, wood, and upholstered furniture.

Those spaces are also often outfitted with flammable decor, Moore adds. They may be draped with ornamental banners, or stuffed with upholstered wooden chairs and home to grand, ceremonial staircases that fires can easily scale. Aurora Fire Marshal Javan Cross reports that the building's design foiled firefighters' attempts to snuff out the blaze: They had to funnel water from the above, blasting it from the top of the high-ceiling space. "Normally in a fire, we can shoot water through open windows, but there aren't many, when you think of the square footage of the space," Cross said. "Even though some windows were broken, we couldn't get a tremendous volume of water to hit anything that was burning."