

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

Trestleboard

FEBRUARY 2020

Jim Russell, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

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FROM THE EAST

[Blair Neumann](#), *Master*



Cynicism is the belief that people are or should be motivated purely by self-interest. It is an opposite of Charity, one's love for all mankind, and can therefore be thought of as an opposite to Masonry, for as Masons we are taught that our Charity should be universally extensive. And while the self is most certainly a part of God's universal creation, only a true cynic, and a solipsistic one at that, would think themselves as even remotely co-extensive to all that a charitable man should love.

A true cynic may believe that not only should he himself be motivated by self-interest, but that others must naturally be motivated purely by self-interest as well. He cannot recognize Charity for he mistakes good deeds as self-serving rather than being borne from that generosity of spirit that good men aspire to. Conversely, a charitable man may assume the best of others, even others who serve only themselves in their hearts while outwardly professing something greater than what's truly within. That unrequited Charity should be honored while self-aggrandizement may be recognized and pitied.

While it's true that self-interest may serve others, and that Charity does also serve the self, a good Mason must not confuse the two. Nor should these be easily confused as one nourishes the soul while the other, perhaps paradoxically, depletes it. A good Mason will have felt true Charity in his heart and must therefore know the difference, even as we sometimes slip and must catch ourselves, or be gently reminded by our Brothers. The feelings themselves are as different as are darkness and light.

There simply is no room in Masonry for abject cynicism. Put simply, if you're doing Masonry out of pure self-interest then you're doing Masonry wrong. And if you cannot fathom how others might be motivated by nobler purposes than their own selfish ends, then you must not have lived a charitable life to yet know the difference, and your Brothers' charitable hearts feel for you and want to help you to fulfill your greater purpose.

Good people do good things out of the goodness of their hearts. They don't do them for fame or fortune, though fame and fortune may follow. They do them out of love. Not self-love, though self-love may follow, but of that pure love for all of God's creation that comes from self-mastery, often through long years of dedicated physical and emotional labor. Good men are not casually made, nor do bad men miraculously redeem themselves as good. We must recognize good men from bad. The alternative is to cherish that which should be pitied and to honor the cynic whose reformation we should steadfastly encourage.



CALENDAR



- February 12 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- February 13 (7pm): Officers meeting *teleconference*
- February 14 (7:30pm): Rainier 189
- February 15 (10am): Daylight 232
- February 15 (2pm): Wardens Competition *University Temple*
- February 19 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated
- February 27 (7:30pm): Walter F. Meier Lodge 281
- February 29 (10am): Quarterly Meeting Masonic Service Bureau
- March 5 (7:30pm): Lafayette 241
- March 9 (7-9pm) Fellowcraft Degree read-through
- March 12 (7pm): Officers Meeting *teleconference*
- March 18 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated
- March 20 – 22: Lodge Leadership Retreat (Wenatchee)
- April 9 (7pm): Officers meeting *teleconference*
- April 9 (7:30pm): Queen Anne 242
- April 12: Easter Sunday
- April 13 (7-9pm): Fellowcraft Degree practice
- April 15 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated
- April 20 (7-9pm): Fellowcraft Degree practice (final)
- April 24 (6-10pm): Fellowcraft Degree
- April 25 (10am): Masonic Service Bureau *Kirkland Lodge 150*
- April 25 (10am): Past Masters Brunch *Jimmy's on Broadway*
- May 3 (10am): FABulous Family Brunch *Columbia Tower*
- May 13 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- May 14 (7pm): Officers meeting *teleconference*
- May 10 – Mother's Day
- May 20 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated
- May 25: Memorial Day

SNOW LIE!!! WE'LL TRY AGAIN IN FEBRUARY

Snow and ice did us in last month, as caution seemed the better part of valor. Worshipful Master Blair Neumann canceled our January stated communication rather than encourage brothers to risk life and property to make it to our meeting. Those who did arrive enjoyed the opportunity to take home some fish intended for the evening's dinner. (Can you believe our chef traveled all the way from Olympia to feed the would-be masses?)

This month we'll need to catch up on some business we missed: AquaSox family outing, setting the value of our Certificates of Labor, and asking for volunteers for our website overview. Also available will be copies of our revised bylaws for you to take back home.

Last month the Master had hoped to "shrink the Lodge" for discussion on "what do we want the Lodge to do this year?" Your input would be most appreciated.

WBro. Neumann invites all brothers to our monthly stated communication. **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.

Missing supportive friendship?

Every month 25-30 brothers of St. John's (and visiting brethren, too) get together for a really good dinner and



endearing friendship and banter at the Greenwood Masonic Center. The "excuse" is our stated communication on the 3rd Wednesday evening of the month, but really its more to enjoy our friends, catch

up on what's happening, and often to relieve the pressure from the daily grind of work or life's perpetual struggles.

Feeling alone? A little down? Maybe what you need is a group of brothers who take your hand, listen to you – really listen – and have your back. We look out for one another; look past the strained smiles and handshakes and self-deprecating jokes.



Come to dinner. Say hi! to a bunch of really great guys. (You don't even *have* to stay for the meeting, but if you're a Mason, we'll help you get past the Tyler.)

Visit Our District Brethren

District 5 Lodges	Next Meeting	Time
St. John's 9	Wednesday, February 19, 2020	7:30pm
Eureka 20	Monday, March 2, 2020	7:30pm
University 141	Monday, March 2, 2020	7:30pm
Daylight 232	Saturday, February 15, 2020	10am
Lafayette 241	Thursday, March 5, 2020	7pm
Queen Anne 242	Thursday, February 13, 2020	7:30pm
Esoterika 316	Tuesday, April 28, 2020	7:30pm



Start Earning your 2021 Wages Now!

If you haven't paid your 2020 annual dues (\$44 for most members) by now, they've already increased by \$10. **Payments postmarked after December 31 are assessed an additional \$5 per month.**



Members may pay their dues by cash, check, Certificates of Masonic Labor, or a combination of these. Certificates of Labor (value to be established at this month's communication) are issued at each stated or special communication (degree or officer installation). So – come to Lodge and receive your Certificate of Masonic Labor good toward the payment of **next year's** (2021) dues.

"The genius of Freemasonry is not our Masonic buildings and temples or the trappings of our organizations. It is not our great charities or community activities. It is not our beautiful rituals or their teachings! It is the 'practice of Freemasonry' by the Freemasons. Yet we cannot practice that which we do not know or understand. Thus, Masonic education is the foundation for our Fraternity."

Brother Carl H. Claudy

St. John's Officers Continue Leadership Training

Wardens VWBro. Ashley Brinkley and WBro. John Louderback, and Junior Deacon Kemal Alaeddinoğlu will join Worshipful Master Blair Neumann for further leadership training in Wenatchee next month. These annual sessions provided by the Grand Lodge of Washington have proved to be quite helpful for those officers participating in the variety of leadership workshops.

St. John's covers most of the fees, including registration, meals, and lodging. The sessions are designed primarily for new senior officers, but any Master Mason is welcome, with Wardens and Deacons receiving priority space-available consideration.

Senior Warden Message

[VWBro. Ashley Brinkley](#)



Junior Warden Message

[WBro. John Murray Louderback](#)



What's up with the Masters of several of the Lodges in our area?? Last month we had some not so nice weather a.k.a. that dirty little four-letter word "SNOW" and more than one Master decided not to hold his Lodge Meeting or in some cases their Installation. I heard it was hazardous driving conditions, extreme cold weather and the safety of our Brothers slipping or falling on icy sidewalks. My first thought was that the Lodge should be like the Post Office...neither snow, sleet nor rain etc. However, in my opinion, our Master made the right decision. He felt the safety of the Brothers was of utmost importance. I applaud his decision with only one caveat.... He IS the Master, why didn't he order nicer weather! 😊

Moving on to more Masonic things.

Last weekend my granddaughters had dance competition and following the event we all went out to dinner. I was seated by one of the girl's Great Aunt from a small town in Oregon. She saw my Masonic ring and told me she had been a Jobie as a girl. In fact, she was proud she had been Honored Queen of her Bethel. She said she was really looking forward to her granddaughter becoming Honored Queen of the same Bethel, but unfortunately that didn't happen as it had to close because there were not enough girls to keep it going. She had really lost interest in Eastern Star but was still a member. She also commented that the Masonic Lodge in her community was struggling, too, and wasn't sure how long they would survive, either. Her take was that younger people were not interested in fraternal organizations and the Masonic Fraternity was becoming a thing of the past.

As I listened to her story and heard her opinion, I started to think. It's up to ME, not others to do something about membership. I must take responsibility and not rely on others. I cannot rely on a friend or family members since most of them are Masons. This would not give me a very good pool to go fishing for members in. I believe a Lodge becoming active in their community is a good way to expand this pool. Wouldn't it be great if each of us could bring in just one member this year! Just think how our Lodge could grow! The year is new, and we have a lot of time left. Let's each bring in one!

I believe my biggest concern at this time is to know what is the truth. If I'm not mistaken - this must be a concern for others as well.

I believe this is the greatest threat to America. A mis-informed electorate presents a very serious threat to our Republic.

When at this time, when there is no accountability for outright lying, where is one to put their trust in believing?

Now I'm finding it is possible for video computer technologies to make fake videos of people. This technology is also applied to audio profiles of someone's voice to make a fake voice cloning to be overlaid with the video.

This is very scary to me! What am I to believe?

I find myself turning to the news on my phone, on TV, only to find someone else saying that what the other person has said is a lie. What is the truth?

We know this has long been a problem for Masonry.

Who has not heard the bizarre outrageous lies that have been said of Masons? These lies have even been promulgated by TV networks such as History Channel.

Outright lies are the furthest thing from fact - the antithesis of "true" fact and history.

As the Bible is the rule and guide of our faith, I will add this for thought:

Proverbs 4:7 "Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

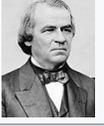
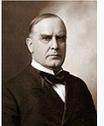
Brethren, be true to the principles you have learned in Masonry and be civil in your conduct. Whenever possible go directly to the source for knowledge and understanding vs. listening to what someone else has to say - seek verification.

May the God of love and peace delight to dwell with you.



Presidents Day falls on Monday, February 17. The following U.S. presidents were Freemasons:

Name	Presidency	Details
 <p>George Washington (1732-1799)</p>	1st • April 30, 1789 – March 4, 1797	Initiated on November 4, 1752 in Fredericksburgh Lodge No. 4, Fredericksburg, Virginia. Elected Worshipful Master on December 20, 1788.
 <p>James Monroe (1758-1831)</p>	5th • March 4, 1817 – March 4, 1825	Initiated on November 9, 1775 in Williamsburg Lodge No. 6, Williamsburg, Virginia at the age of 17 while he studied at the College of William & Mary.

	<u>Andrew Jackson</u> (1767–1845)	7th • March 4, 1829 – March 4, 1837	Member of St. Tammany (later Harmony) Lodge No. 1, Nashville, Tennessee. Elected Grand Master of Tennessee on October 7, 1822 and served until October 4, 1824.
	<u>James K. Polk</u> (1795–1849)	11th • March 4, 1845 – March 4, 1849	Initiated on June 5, 1820 in Columbia Lodge No. 31, Columbia, Tennessee.
	<u>James Buchanan</u> (1791–1868)	15th • March 4, 1857 – March 4, 1861	Initiated on December 11, 1816 in Lodge No. 43, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Appointed District Deputy Grand Master for the Counties of Lancaster, Lebanon and York in 1824.
	<u>Andrew Johnson</u> (1808–1875)	17th • April 15, 1865 – March 4, 1869	Initiated on May 5, 1851 in Greenville Lodge No. 119, Greenville, Tennessee.
	<u>James A. Garfield</u> (1831–1881)	20th • March 4, 1881 – September 19, 1881	Initiated on November 19, 1861 in Magnolia Lodge No. 20, Columbus, Ohio and raised on November 22, 1864 in Columbus Lodge No. 30. Joined Garrettsville Lodge No. 246, Garrettsville, Ohio in 1866 and was its Chaplain for the years 1868–69. Charter Member of Pentalpha Lodge No. 23, Washington, D.C.
	<u>William McKinley</u> (1843–1901)	25th • March 4, 1897 – September 14, 1901	Initiated on May 1, 1865 in Hiram Lodge No. 21, Winchester, Virginia. Joined Canton Lodge No. 60, Canton, Ohio in 1867. Charter member of Eagle (later William McKinley) Lodge No. 431, also in Canton.
	<u>Theodore Roosevelt</u> (1858–1919)	26th • September 14, 1901 – March 4, 1909	Initiated on January 2, 1901 in Matinecock Lodge No. 806, Oyster Bay, New York.
	<u>William H. Taft</u> (1857–1930)	27th • March 4, 1909 – March 4, 1913	Made a Mason at Sight on February 18, 1909 in Kilwinning Lodge No. 356, Cincinnati, Ohio
	<u>Warren G. Harding</u> (1865–1923)	29th • March 4, 1921 – August 2, 1923	Initiated on June 28, 1901 in Marion Lodge No. 70, Marion, Ohio. Raised on August 27, 1920 in that Lodge.
	<u>Franklin D. Roosevelt</u> (1882–1945)	32nd • March 4, 1933 – April 12, 1945	Initiated on October 11, 1911 in Holland Lodge No. 8, New York City. Made Honorary Grand Master of the <u>Order of DeMolay</u> on April 13, 1934.
	<u>Harry S. Truman</u> (1884–1972)	33rd • April 12, 1945 – January 20, 1953	Initiated on February 9, 1909 in Belton Lodge No. 450, Belton, Missouri. First Worshipful Master of Grandview Lodge No. 618, Grandview, Missouri in 1911. Elected Grand Master of Missouri on September 25, 1940 and served until October 1, 1941. Received the 33rd Degree on October 19, 1945. Made Honorary Grand Master of the Order of DeMolay on May 18, 1959.
	<u>Gerald Ford</u> (1913–2006)	38th • August 9, 1974 – January 20, 1977	Initiated on September 30, 1949 in Malta Lodge No. 465, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Passed on April 20, 1951 and raised on May 18 of that year in Columbia Lodge No. 3, Washington, D.C. Received the 33rd Degree on September 26, 1962. Made Honorary Grand Master of the Order of DeMolay in April 1975.

In addition to the individuals listed above, [Lyndon B. Johnson](#) was initiated into the first degree of Freemasonry – “Entered Apprentice”, October 30, 1937 in Johnson City Lodge No. 561, at Johnson City, Texas, but did not advance any further and did not become a full member of his Lodge. Also, [Ronald Reagan](#) was made an honorary Freemason, and as a youth, [Bill Clinton](#) was a member of the [Order of DeMolay](#).

FABulous Family Appreciation Brunch

Mark your calendar for this year's family brunch, again at the CTC atop the Columbia Tower

Sunday, May 3, 2020
10:00am

Reservations required
206 623-0261

It's Not Just Cold . . . It's Downright Chili!

Oriental Lodge No. 74 (Spokane) is inviting all the Lodges and concordant bodies to enter a chili of their own creation to be judged by the Grand Master himself and the general public. If you have a blue ribbon chili we want you! 50% of the proceeds will be awarded to the Grand Master's charity, and the remaining 50% will be awarded to the winner's charity of choice. Trophies will also be given for second, and third places as well as "public choice."



Cook-off will be held April 11th. Chili must be cooked before arrival and heated on site. Entry deadline is March 27. Call 509 496-0555 for further details.



Come to St. John's and enjoy the fellowship. Here, Bro. Ken Wehl and WBro. Mark Campbell chat with visitor from Daylight Lodge, VWBro. Coe Tug Morgan, before dinner.

January 19 (our meeting day): National Chocolate Mint Day

- **1942:** Executive Order 9066 is signed by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This order allowed the US military to relocate Japanese-Americans to special internment camps.
- **1945:** Approximately thirty thousand U.S. Marines land on Iwo Jima during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

DOTAGE

This is not a very beautiful word but it is interesting. It first came into existence among the early English, Dutch, German, and Scandinavian peoples, generally in the form *dotten*, *dutten*, meaning to nod with drowsiness, to nap. Since it was old people who most frequently sat nodding in their chairs it became associated with old age. "An old man in his dotage" is one who nods or prattles like a sleepy child, and whose faculties have begun to decay through old age. Old age is never a bar to Masonic membership unless it has reached this stage.

- **Source: 100 Words in Masonry**



DOTAGE

The regulations of Freemasonry forbid the initiation of an old man in his dotage; and very properly, because the imbecility of his mind would prevent his comprehension of the truths presented to him.

- **Source: Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry**

St. John's 2020 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.

In accordance with Masonic values, St. John's supports hard working individuals of good character and high moral standards who are involved in their community. Furthermore, we encourage students with clearly defined career paths.

The last day to apply for scholarships 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.

Reach Us Here

- Master Blair Neumann 425 466-8358
blairn@outlook.com
- SW Ashley Brinkley 206 621-5118
- JW John Louderback 206 999-0484



LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER

Freemasonry can mean different things to different brothers. While it is great to have an outlet for social gathering, the performance of charity, and duty through the administration of the fraternity, we should never disregard the teachings our ritual opens to us. This is the Light of Masonry.



Why Freemasonry?

by *Midnight Freemason Contributor* **Mark St. John**

Freemasonry is an excellent fraternity that provides its members an opportunity to meet and become friends with many other like-minded men. It is a chance for men to meet once or twice a month, have a nice meal together, and get to know one another. It is also a means to provide charity to those in need of it. It can be a vehicle for men to learn to exert themselves, achieve goals, become leaders, and grow more comfortable talking to a group. It can be all of these things, but the truth is, there are other organizations out there that provide men with these opportunities. These groups exist without the need for rituals and lectures that have to be memorized in order to be performed, which is even more difficult considering the time period most of this work is from. With this in mind, why do we keep participating in Masonry? Why do we learn these things from Freemasonry if there are other clubs that also make similar offers?

Belief in God is a requirement

Freemasonry does not replace one's religion, but it certainly supplements its teachings for a man. Our principle supports are faith, hope, and charity. The first two deal exclusively with God. We learn to honor God through all things. Everything we do begins and ends with prayer. The Volume of Sacred Law is so essential that we cannot meet without one opened on our altar. The belief in God is a requirement to be considered for membership within regular Freemasonry, and it is also an immutable landmark of the fraternity for its members to continue to believe in. Without that belief, everything we do, all the lessons taught in our degrees, becomes frivolous.

We also believe that there is more to us than flesh, bone, or primal survival instincts. There is a Divine Spark within us that is eternal, and bound for another existence. We are unique creatures in Nature. We have the ability to dream, to contemplate, and to work out complex problems. These traits separate us from the rest of the animal kingdom, but that does not mean that we do not have animalistic instincts. Animals act on these instincts without thinking, or considering the consequences of their actions (for the most part). Man can also act on these instincts, or more precisely, his passions. To overcome this, we tune in to our spiritual side, where we learn to think before we act, to do things for good rather than our own pleasure, and most importantly, to act in a way that attempts to perfect our soul to become worthy of the Kingdom of God. This awareness and improvement of this soul within us, is man operating on his highest form – one that is aware of his spiritual, Divine Spark and that work is needed to return it to its Divine Source.

We also learn how we should interact with one another, and the world at large. We learn that charity extends beyond financial relief or lending a helping hand to those in need. We learn that charity is unconditional brotherly love and affection for all mankind, no matter of one's race, creed, religion, or social and financial standing. We learn that everyone should be treated the same. We can disagree with a person on any number of things, but we should still love them as one of God's children. This is perhaps the single hardest thing for us as Masons, and especially mankind itself, to apply to our daily lives. The symbols, lectures, and teachings are there for us as a constant reminder.

Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice

We learn of virtues in addition to those mentioned above to help us in our daily lives. We learn to have fortitude, or the courage to do the right thing, even though there may be overwhelming pressure to do the opposite, or go with the crowd. Prudence teaches us that we should never act rashly or emotionally, but should react or speak only after careful thought and introspection. Temperance tells us to not overindulge in anything that could lead us down a path of bad behavior. This not only applies to things like alcohol, overeating, or swearing, but perhaps any action that can be overdone. Finally, justice teaches us to reward or punish those based only on their actions or words, not any preconceived notion or prejudice, and that all should be treated equally with these virtues.

We learn the values of patience and perseverance. Just as going through the degrees takes time, so too does improving ourselves. The Staircase Lecture symbolizes our lifelong pursuit of knowledge. We cannot see where we are going, and must be patient as we ascend. The work never truly ends for us until the day we die. We must also persevere. During the course of our travels, we will constantly be meeting obstacles blocking our path – if the path were easy, we would never truly earn improvement through our labor. We must always remain worthy of further light. Perseverance is also taught in the story of the Master Builder, who kept his integrity and moved forward despite the obstacles he faced. Lastly, we learn that despite our best efforts, we will not receive the Divine Word, the Truth, until the light of this life is extinguished, and the light of our next life is lit – if found worthy.

Perfection is a process

Freemasonry stands out from other organizations because of the shared initiate experience of our ritual. It supplements Biblical teachings for a man, and serves as a reminder to ever be working towards perfection. Perfection in this life is not attainable, but it is still a worthwhile endeavor because man improves as he works toward perfection. Practicing our teachings and living by their example makes us more worthy to receive God's

Light. The Ephramite Lecture teaches us that God's Light can be given to us, but we must be worthy to receive or understand it. It is a Spiritual Nourishment of plenty, but we must make ourselves capable of internalizing it. Freemasonry teaches us to ever pursue these labors for our own self-improvement. Freemasonry can mean different things to different brothers. For some, it can mean all of these things. While it is great to have an outlet for social gathering, the performance of charity, and duty through the administration of the fraternity, we should never disregard the teachings our ritual opens to us. This is the Light of Masonry, and for those that can internalize these lessons and make them a part of their daily life and practice, self-improvement is an inevitable consequence. The more we as Masons can do this, the more our Lodges and Grand Lodges can improve, the more we can attract men to the fraternity looking for the same thing, and lastly, the more we can improve our communities and society as a whole. *Fiat Lux*, Brethren.

Bro. Mark St. John was raised April 12, 2018 in Urim Lodge #111 in Calhoun, Louisiana, and is currently serving as Senior Warden. He is also a member of Graham Surghnor Lodge #383 and serves as its Junior Deacon. He serves the Fourth District of Master Masons of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana as its Senior Deacon. Mark is a 32° Master of the Royal Secret of the Valley of Monroe, where he serves as the Knight Warden (Sr. Warden) of the Valley's Chapter of Knights of St. Andrew. He is also a Noble of the Barak Shrine Temple of Monroe, Louisiana.

Revisiting Misconceptions of Trustees Actions

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees, WBro. Eric Koteles expressed concern that several members of the Lodge have a misconception of the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees. There have been times when discussions during the Trustees meetings have also wandered from its purposes. He reminded us to be cautious in how we interact.

Secretary VWBro. Jim Russell expressed his understanding that the Board of Trustees is responsible for the fiduciary assets of the Lodge. We are not responsible for its programs, except in how they may affect the financial health of St. John's. When we ask about or report on the programs, we do so to remind the brethren and ourselves that certain costs need to be justified or to help us remain within the budget. It is the Lodge officers and members responsibilities to plan the programs and directional focus of the Lodge consistent with the purposes of the Fraternity.

If you know of anyone who is ill, in a nursing home or hospital, please contact VWBro. Jim Russell, chair for visitation to the ill or infirm, as soon as possible so we can send them a card or pay them a visit. May God bless each and every one of you. VWBro. Jim can be reached either by phone at 206 623-0261 or email at: jimrussell58@frontier.com.



Everything I Needed to Know About Being a Man

by Midnight Freemason Contributor

WB Darin A. Lahners

In 1986, a minister named Robert Fulghum published a book of short essays which was entitled, "All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten." He broke down sixteen items that he learned which you can find [listed here](#).

It's a simple little list, packed with a lot of wisdom. I had forgotten all about the book, as it sat on a bookshelf until I happened upon it recently. It started to make me think about how some of those things he listed are taught and expounded upon by Freemasonry. It made me think that I wish I had that list in mind (along with some others) when I did wicked things in the past, which were selfish, and I ended up hurting people I love(d). I started thinking what force in my life helped turn it around, and the answer was evident – Freemasonry. Those things were lost to me while doing things that were selfish. I was not a man at that point, I was still acting like a boy, even though I was old enough to be a man. Freemasonry taught me how to be and act like a man.

How did Freemasonry teach me to be a man? It taught me this:

- Never undertake any great undertaking without the blessing of your deity. Always be reverent towards your deity.
- Never be coerced into doing anything. Everything you do must be of your own freewill and accord, and always be prepared in your undertakings.
- An obligation is a tie stronger than human hands can impose. If you violate an obligation, there will be a penalty. Karma exists.
- Make good use of the 24 hours in a day. Make sure you are resting, working, playing and praying daily. Make sure the work and play isn't excessive. Pray for others before praying for yourself. Get plenty of rest.
- Personal change requires work and patience. Work requires tools. Make sure you're always using the right tools. Remember that results take time.
- Love your family, neighbors, and brothers. Aid those that need it. Always speak the truth.
- Be fair in your dealings with others and treat them as you would want to be treated.
- Be a good citizen.
- Square your actions according to the virtues we are taught and you will walk upright.
- Listen always, speak only when you need to, and never betray another's trust.
- Never stop learning new things. Study and practice those things you think you already know.
- Reach out to your brother if you see them falling. Especially if they indicate such. Vindicate your

brother's behavior behind his back, as well as in front of his face. Whisper good council to them when they err.

- Life is short, make good use of your time, and always remember we are born to die.
- Nothing is hidden from deity.
- Live a good life and have hope in the afterlife.

Am I oversimplifying the lessons that Freemasonry teaches? Most definitely. Will you agree with my all of my points? Probably not. One of the beauties of Freemasonry is that every member will have a different definition of what Freemasonry teaches or has taught them. This is only what it has taught me. What has it taught you?

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.

→ **Editor's Note:** In 1984, my wife Billie and I were pleased to have Rev. Robert Fulghum, our pastor at Edmonds Unitarian Church, unite us in marriage. Rev. Fulghum received his ministerial training at Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley, CA. - Jim Russell

Donors turn out for 31st Annual Masonic Community Blood Drive

Richard Lowrance donated blood at the 31st Annual Masonic Community Blood Drive. He has donated at each drive since the event's creation.

The 31st annual Masonic Community Blood Drive was in full swing with chairs full of donors and more



waiting at the Statesville (NC) Civic Center.

Duane Smyth, who organizes the drive, said the group's goal was to collect 525 pints at nine locations

throughout the day.

"It's a team effort," Smyth said. "Some people have been helping since the first drive."

Red Cross account manager Julie Farr said 70 to 80 Red Cross employees were necessary for the drive, but it's important because the drive brings in so many pints.

Smyth said more than 100 Masons were needed to run all nine locations.

Freemasons in Scotland alter centuries-old tradition to embrace vegans

VEGANS will now be allowed to become Freemasons in a move that has seen the Grand Lodge of Scotland change centuries-old traditions.

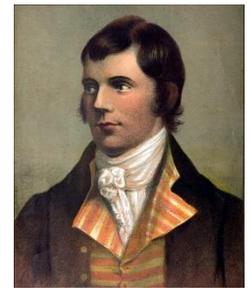


Vegans in Scotland are able to become Freemasons by using lambine rather than lambskin.

Lambine, an artificial fabric that imitates lambskin, is

available for those wishing to join the Lodge without using animal products.

A spokesperson for the Grand Lodge, which once included Robert Burns in its ranks, said there was no reason why vegans could not join the 280-year-old fraternal organization.



Robert Burns

In a social media post seen by The Times, they said: "Many Lodges now use vinyl [aprons]. Please remember that it is symbolic and does not need to be real."

And the Freemasons' sister organization down south, the United Grand Lodge of England, has been allowing vegans and vegetarians to use lambine for decades.



Freemasons have worn decorative aprons for hundreds of years. Credit: United Grand Lodge of England/Steve Blake

More than a third of aprons sold by the UGLE last year use the vegan-friendly material.

"Since the 1960s both vegan and vegetarian Freemasons of the United Grand Lodge of England have been able to use lambine regalia, which is made from a high grade, soft-feel plastic as an alternative to traditional regalia.