

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

## Trestleboard

MAY 2020

*Jim Russell, editor*



Serving Seattle since 1860

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<https://seattlemasons.org/>

## FROM THE EAST

[Blair Neumann](#), *Master*



My Brothers, these are extraordinary times, testing many of us to the extremes of what we've known ourselves to be capable of. It can feel comforting to take refuge in some extreme responses to some of the extraordinary circumstances that we find ourselves in, but I think that Masonry teaches us that the extremes are rarely if ever where the answers to life's most difficult questions should be found.

Moderation strikes me as a kind of meta-message in Masonry, and I think that moderation serves us well now, as it has at all previous points in the collective Masonic journey, which has included times every bit as trying as these that we find ourselves in today.

Adam Smith's "Invisible Hand" helps illustrate what I mean. "What is the right price for some good or service?" is a truly difficult question to answer, and one that we might otherwise be tempted to answer in extreme or arbitrary ways, but the Invisible Hand teaches us a better way: that Supply alone is not the answer, nor is Demand, but rather some ever-shifting balance between those two principles is where the answer to that vexing question of price can reliably be found.

So it is in Masonry. We are admonished to be Charitable, but also not to exceed the length of our Cable Tow. Charity to the extreme of self-sacrifice is no Masonic virtue! Rather, we give of ourselves to the extents that we're able, which are in ever-shifting balance that only each of our personal circumstances can determine in each moment.

We're taught to be temperate without mention of abstinence; to be discrete while laying out specific guidelines for when discretion may be broken. Even among our secret modes of recognition, which we are thoroughly instructed to maintain with the strictest confidence, there exists a secret which may be given openly, under extreme circumstances, in hope that a true Brother might hear it and come to our aid.

At no point in Masonry is there an absolute and unqualified, "This is the way." At all points, we are encouraged to find some ever-shifting balance within ourselves, given parameters taught us by our beloved Craft, but which only we as individuals can apply to the myriad circumstances of our daily lives.

Masonry provides us no silver bullets, no one-size-fits-all solution to any of life's quandaries. And since the principles of Masonry should guide our interactions with all mankind, so too must there be no silver bullets for many of the most difficult questions that we face as a society, even in circumstances as extreme as today's.



***"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."***

***—R. Buckminster Fuller***

## CALENDAR



- **May 13 (6pm): Board of Trustees teleconference**
- **May 14 (7pm): Officers meeting teleconference**
- **May 20 (7pm): St. John's 9 Fellowship teleconference only (stated communication canceled)**
- *May 25: Memorial Day*
- **May 27 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference**
- **June 11 (7pm): Officers meeting teleconference**
- **June 13: 163<sup>rd</sup> Annual Communication Grand Lodge (regional meetings – see page 5)**
- **June 17 (6:15pm): St. John's 9 Stated**
- *June 24: Feast Day of St. John the Baptist*
- **June 27 (6pm): family night Everett AquaSox baseball ????**
- *July 4: Independence Day*
- **July 9 (7pm): Officers meeting teleconference**
- **July 15 (6:15pm): St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated; – Scholarship Night**
- **July 25 (10am): Past Masters Brunch Jimmy's on Broadway**
- **August 2 (1pm – 6pm): family outing to Emerald Downs**
- **August 12 (6pm): Board of Trustees**
- **August 13 (7pm): Officers meeting teleconference**
- **August 19 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated (casual dress)**
- **August 29 (5pm social hour): 159<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Ivar's Salmon House**
- *September 4: Happy Birthday to us!*
- *September 7: Labor Day*
- **September 10 (7pm): Officers meeting teleconference**
- **September 16 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated**
- *September 27 – 28: Rosh Hashanah*
- **October 4 (10am): FABulous Family Brunch Columbia Tower**

# **PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND ITS IMPACT ON OUR FRATERNITY**

By RW Ken Meyer Euclid Lodge No.158

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus late last year in China few of us could hardly imagine where we would be today and the severity of the impact it has had on us all. The whole world has changed with physical distancing and how we go about our daily lives. As we know now the world is going to be much different going forward and like a new novel we don't know where or what will happen next. It is unwritten history which will unfold and change as we progress through this period of time.

Our Fraternity is going to change in ways we have yet to define and the impact of this virus for good or bad will write a new chapter for the annals of history. It begs the question of "How will we as a Fraternity meet again"? Will things return to normal? Or are we about to make a substantial change in meeting again given a new requirement for physical distancing? One thing is for sure, physical distancing has and will change the structure of our Fraternity forever. If anything, it's going to make us a stronger unified brotherhood as we move forward. This has forced us to think outside the box and create "virtual Lodge meetings" and keep us connected in ways that were unheard of just a decade ago. Our "Outreach" committees are better connected to the brethren of our respective Lodges, and for those that didn't have one those Lodges will eventually be forced to create one. It is hoped that the brethren who have been contacted and have indicated that they should require assistance of some form or another, we have helped them with that request. I have not heard of anyone asking for financial assistance, but I do hope that they know that we are there to assist them should it be required.

For the time being, all activities within our craft have been halted. There are no more meetings, social events, degrees and this includes our Annual Convocation of Grand Lodge. Will this be the beginning of the end or

the end to a new beginning? Will this force our Grand Lodge to create a new beginning for our Lodges, where physical distancing is the new normal? How will this impact our Lodges with initiations? Will Virtual tyled Lodges be a new concept? It has already happened in the Province of Manitoba where a Lodge has been formed and is called Castle Island Virtual Lodge No. 190 and they meet using Zoom. I am sure that here in the Grand Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon our Grand Master and his Officers are discussing what our new future could be, should this become the new normal.

Is this our future? Hopefully not, but we should be prepared for changes in order for us to move forward, as without progress we are doomed and this would be a sad ending to our fraternity after 300 years of Freemasonry. Some might say we just can't do that because it would involve change. Change! Change! We can't do that, because that's the way we've all done it before. Brethren, if we don't adapt and change we will become another institution in the annals of history, and I for one don't feel like becoming a member of another organization should one even exist after the dust settles from the fallout of this pandemic.

This virus has reminded us of some of the basic tenets of our fraternity which is looking after our family, friends and the brethren of our Lodges. The importance of family life and how this can strengthen our values of looking after one another during times of need. It casts aside material items and egos, since this virus can bring anyone to their knees and make the world stop in its tracks.

It also reminds us that some in society can become needless hoarders who become greedy and selfish and they forget that the young, the weak and the old are overrun by their senseless acts of selfishness. Some panic and see this as the end of the world which causes more harm than good and what we really need is for people to be calm, to cooperate, share,

and support one another. It is in these times of difficulty that bring out the true colors in ourselves and in our fraternity. If society sees and hears we have done a good deed we will be rewarded by the wages of a Freemason.

And finally, if we as a fraternity are to advance without harming the principles and tenants of our brotherhood the time we have to reflect, to learn and educate ourselves is now and it will give us a new meaning and understanding in developing a different approach in meeting and overcoming this virus.

Nature is beautiful in all its glory, but she can also become the harbinger of famine, flood and pestilence. It is a cycle of life and reminds us that we are only human and our existence on this planet is but a blink of an eye in the period of time. So, let us not forget the important teachings of our gentle craft and let's work together to reunite in a form we have yet to imagine.

**Happy to meet, sorry to part,  
Happy to meet again.**

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For comments or questions please email: [wanderson25@cogeco.ca](mailto:wanderson25@cogeco.ca). Our mailing address is: Sunday Masonic Paper 828 Milford Drive Kingston, On K7P 1A8 Canada

**Join us  
Teleconferencing Fellowship  
every Wednesday**

**at 7pm**

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

If using your computer or smartphone:

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

If you are using your telephone:

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

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

## Senior Warden Message

VWBro. Ashley Brinkley



Adaptability is the new normal. As times change, we must change too. We go into survival mode. Stay home, wear a mask, wash your hands stay safe. We do all those things now to ensure our physical safety and wellbeing.

What about our mental wellbeing? We, as humans, are social animals. We go out of the house to be around people. We used to go to restaurants in the company of our friends, but not now. We used to go to Lodge meetings, but not now.

So how do we stay connected? How do we fulfil our social needs? Well, St John's and many of the other Lodges have taken to be resourceful to keep our members connected. We host weekly Zoom meetings on Wednesday at 7 pm, where in the comfort of our own home, we meet face to face via technology. No, we do not have meetings where we do actual ritual work, but we do have a great time catching up, and we have rousing discussions on some Masonic and some non-masonic topics. We even have speakers.

If you have not tried the Zoom meetings reach out to any of the officers and we would be happy to connect you with all the information.

We also have set up a phone tree where the officers are checking in on all the members and widows to make sure everyone is well and just to chat a bit. If you know anyone who could use some cheer or has an unmet need, please reach out to any of our Lodge Officers and we will make a connection with the Brother or Widow. St John's Lodge is always committed to our members and in times like these it is even more important we stay connected. Stay well, stay connected!

### **“To pay the Craft their wages, if aught be due....”**

Masonic wages are those which are paid in love and brotherhood and mutual help and information and inspiration and charity and assistance and being pals. They are worth much more than money. Take the Masonic wages out of a Lodge and you would need to revise the whole fraternity. The payment Masons make to Masons is the most valuable which a man can receive.

**FABulous Family Appreciation Brunch re-scheduled for Sunday, October 4**

### **“Master’s wages”: What are they?**

Today, the Free and Accepted Mason is concerned only with moral work. His reward, therefore, is found within himself. The spiritual wages go well beyond these and have countless worth. The very heart of being a Freemason and the joy received is a much more meaningful wage.

The intangibles of love, friendship, respect, opportunity, happy labor and associations are the wages of a Master who earns them. Not all earn them, hence, the phrase “to pay the Craft their wages *if ought be due.* . . .”

A member may earn as much as he desires, and the more one puts into the Craft, the more one receives.

## Junior Warden Message

WBro. John Murray Louderback



When I first came into Masonry, I was filled in my heart with the pursuit of nobler ideals.

I found other men that were dedicated to the same nobler pursuit. There is a sharp contrast from Masonry verses the world outside the doors of the Lodge. I wanted to change myself for the better and in some way be an example for others to follow.

I have wrestled with the idea that Masonry should be more outspoken and influential in changing the lawlessness, conflict, dissension and negativism in society – to speak out, to have the discussion.

I have recently come to the understanding that this conflict, this dissension, these negative issues are exactly what Masons are seeking refuge from – an escape. The Lodge should remain a safe place where men of all religious and political views could leave the crazy world outside. A sanctuary from the profane.

Brothers, society needs an escape, relief from the distress of our contentious world. Masons come seeking friendship, morality, brotherly love, peace, harmony and equilibrium.

With the conflict and negativism that is the contentious world we live in – we need to remind ourselves to be civil and respectful of all we come in contact with. We need to continue to be leaders that are a positive influence of civility and respect. Our Lodges need to continue to be a “Sacred Retreat”.

I understand now more than ever that we need to leave the divisiveness, the dissension and craziness outside the walls of the Lodge. The peace and harmony we gain from within these walls gives us support as individuals to take our stand without. Peace and harmony prevailing.

Be well my Brothers and remain loyal to your Masonic virtues.

### **MASTER MASONS RAISED IN MAY**

#### ***Date Raised:***

5/3/1955	Morton B. Blager
5/31/1956	Harry L. Arthur
5/16/1962	Eugene V. Kashpureff
5/26/1965	Morrey Eskenazi
55/29/1971	Alex A. Skistimas
5/29/1971	J. Michael Wilderman
55/10/1973	Vincent Di Giulio
55/29/1974	George S. Serpanos
5/29/1974	Charles S. Tine
5/8/1978	Darrel R. Schrader
5/19/1978	Serco S. Tokatlian
55/26/1979	Edgar H. Carthell, Jr.
5/23/1983	John R. Adamson
5/17/1984	Bryan E. Hopkins
5/13/1987	Helmuth
5/29/1993	J. Joseph Duwors
5/11/2002	Kenneth D. Wehl
5/22/2012	Jeffrey L. Pullen
5/22/2012	Paul N. Bernal
5/22/2012	David J. Holdsworth
5/20/2013	Kenton J. Curtis



## THE OLD BLACK SHOES

RW Roger Pemberton PGM Province Shropshire, England

*The old black shoes are looking glum  
As I pass the lobby door,  
"What's wrong with you?" they seem to say,  
"We're going out no more.*

*We've taken not a single step,  
Not third or even first,  
And ne'er a sign we've seen you give,  
Has Masonry been cursed?"*

*"It has", I said, "by virus vile,  
We have to stay at home  
Until such time the plague has passed,  
Then once more we can roam.*

*The Masons' Halls are empty,  
Regalia put away,  
Gavels now stay silent,  
DCs hold no sway.*

*Volumes of the Sacred Law  
On pedestals redundant,  
Now Brother Jim contacts his friends  
By social posts abundant.*

*No handshake, word or secret sign,  
No friendly Festive Board  
No Tyler's song to say Goodnight,  
No organ's well-loved chord.*

*"Black shoes," I said, "do not despair,  
Our Chain is firm and strong  
Our flag of love remains unfurled  
We'll sing again our song.*

*And though our Brethren may have passed  
To Grandeur Lodge Above,  
We'll look upon their memories  
With everlasting Love;*

*And in their name, we'll offer help  
And soothe the burdened heart;  
We'll comfort those who are distressed,  
Thus Masons play their part.*

*And when this crisis is resolved We'll sing the  
old refrain,  
Happy to Meet, Sorry to Part,  
Happy to meet again."*

If all goes well.....

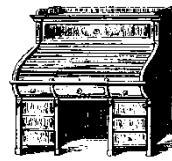
## St. John's Off to the Races



St. John's families will again spend a day at the races in August – Seafair Sunday, August 2. Last year Emerald Downs provided a full day of horse racing, Corgi dog racing and offered a full lunch buffet to 42 members and guests of the Lodge.

For the mere cost of \$10 per person, the Lodge will host each couple (a \$120 value); guests will also be \$10 each, the price of general admission! **Reservations are a must**, with your money collected at the event. Contact the secretary at 206 623-0261.

## This Thing Called Social Distancing



From  
The  
Secretary's  
Desk

Let's call it what it is. Physical distancing is what we have – or should be having. Social Distancing is a whole different matter.

As our government officials rightfully issue orders across many cities for residents to "shelter in place," people are having to quickly adjust to our new (thankfully temporary) normal. No more gatherings, picnics, playdates or dinners out for the time being. No Mariners, no Sounders, and shortly no Storm basketball.

But physically sheltering is a far cry from social distancing! Now is an opportunity to make contact by phone, Zoom, Skype, Facebook, et al with our family and friends and Brothers in Lodge. Now is the time to make certain all are safe and healthy. Now is the time to take the time to say – "I love you, man!"

No social distancing for me! I'm looking forward to meeting so many of my Lodge Brothers each Wednesday evening. I can't wait to 'Zoom' on in there!

## Financial Stress? Masonic Service Bureau a Resource

The response to KOVID-19 is not only a medical one but also social distancing has caused a significant economic downturn,

So those brothers who are going through reduced work or loss of work, finances are an issue. Each of us took an obligation, reaffirmed at nearly every meeting, to assist

distressed brother Masons, their widows and children. Each of us took the obligation – not the Lodge. If one of your Lodge brothers needs help what can you do? To paraphrase JFK: ask not what your Lodge can do for you. Ask rather, what you can do for your Lodge brothers. Be willing to reach into your own pocket and quietly bless them. Doing that within your Lodge will help many.

But should that not be enough....

The Puget Sound Masonic Service Bureau can assist financially after a Lodge Worshipful Master of Secretary determines that a Brother's needs are beyond his internal ability to assist. Our process is simple. The Worshipful Master or Secretary vets the request and then contacts us (PS-MSB). We take their word for the vetting. We can help very quickly with a check or store gift card for up to \$500. If the need has to be repeated, we can do so usually one more time, (Sorry, but our assistance is short-term, not long-term.) Additionally, Washington Masonic Charities and the Grand Lodge Charity Committee have financial resources. Washington Masonic charities can also assist with a sound financial plan and provide access to other resources including medical. Our three groups have operated for many years to better assist Masons.

To contact Puget Sound Masonic Service Bureau, please visit our website at [www.seattlemsb.org](http://www.seattlemsb.org) or call 425 894-4410.

# 2020 GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION ALTERED

Confronted with the limitations that have been put in place by the federal, state and local authorities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and desirous to safeguard the health and well-being of the Brethren of our great Fraternity, the Grand Lodge team has developed a plan that will comply with the *anticipated* meeting restrictions and safety requirements while at the same time safeguard the essential interests of the Grand Lodge of Washington and its constituent Lodges.

In preparing this plan, we have consulted the Grand Lodge of Washington (previous) proceedings to determine if there was a precedent for taking such an action. The plan that we have formulated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic is similar to the plan implemented in 1945 by *M.:W.: Ford Q. Elvidge* in response to the War Mobilization Department's request that meetings requiring more than 50 people to travel to the meeting be canceled to support the war effort. We are fortunate that we can use technology that was not available in 1945. With this in mind, the following plan has been developed by the Grand Lodge team and approved by the Jurisprudence Committee relative to the 2020 Annual Communication:

1. The Annual Communication shall commence at 10 AM on Saturday, June 13, 2020.
2. The Communication shall be limited to one day.
3. Each Lodge shall be represented by its Worshipful Master or his duly appointed proxy (who must be a member of the Lodge and must be a Master Mason in Good Standing).
4. Each District will meet in a predetermined location(s) within the District.
5. No Legislation, except that which is necessary and essential for continuity of operations of the Grand Lodge, shall be voted on at the Annual Communication. (At this time, the only Legislation that will be voted upon is Resolution 2020-15 concerning the re-purposing of the Home Fund and Home Endowment Fund. All other resolutions will be tabled until the 2021 Annual Communication).
6. There shall be an election to fill all elective Grand Lodge offices and Trustee positions.
7. There shall be a vote to approve the proposed Grand Lodge 2020-2021 Budget and Appropriations for Washington Masonic Charities, as well as reports on the Grand Master's Message and Grand Secretary's Report.
8. The Annual Communication shall be conducted via Zoom video conferencing. However, no esoteric portions shall be broadcast.
9. The Installation of Grand Lodge Officers will be abbreviated. Appointed Officers, Deputies of the Grand Master and Committeemen will be installed by proclamation.

Pursuant to the foregoing and acting upon the advice and recommendation of the Elected Grand Lodge Officers, Jurisprudence Committee and the Deputies of the Grand Master, I hereby direct the following:

1. Only the following individuals will be entitled to one vote:
  - The Master, or his duly appointed proxy, of a Chartered and duly constituted Lodge of this Jurisdiction;

- A Past Master of a Charter Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction *who is also*:

- o A Current Elected or Appointed Grand Lodge Officer,
- o A Past Grand Master, or
- o A Current Deputy of the Grand Master.

2. Each Deputy of the Grand Master, in consultation with the Grand Master and/or the Grand Secretary will select a Lodge(s) located in his District that can meet the following criteria:

- Internet connection capability (for example, wi-fi, hotspot or wired connection);
- Capable of hosting up to 10 Brothers while maintaining all meeting restrictions and social distancing protocols; and
- A computer or other device that will allow those present to be able to view and/or hear the Grand Lodge proceedings.

3. The Deputies of the Grand Master shall serve as members of the Credentials committee in order to count and report voting results in their designated location. Credentials committee members may also be assigned to designated locations, as necessary.

4. Every Brother who is entitled to vote *must be present* at their designated location in order to vote.

- Worshipful Masters (or their proxy) and Deputies of the Grand Master will be at the designated location(s) within their District;

- Elected Grand Lodge Officers, Grand Lecturer and Assistant Grand Secretary will be at the designated location chosen to broadcast the proceedings; and

- Past Grand Masters and Appointed Officers will be allowed to choose a designated location on a first come first assigned basis, so that no more than 10 Brothers are assigned to a location. Some Districts, because of the number of Lodges in the District will have two locations within the District in order to ensure social distancing.

5. Each person who is entitled to a vote must register on the Grand Lodge website prior to the Annual Communication. The \$20.00 registration fee (See Sec. 7.03 (D)) shall be waived for this year only. Instructions for registration will be posted on Grand View and on the Grand Lodge website once registration has opened.

6. The election of Grand Lodge officers and trustees shall be by written ballot per the Washington Masonic Code. Ballots will be provided at the designated locations.

7. Brothers will be asked to adhere to social distancing recommendations made by public health organizations. This would include recommendations to wear facial covering, practice social distancing of 6 feet or more and frequent washing of hands. If possible, host Lodges should make hand sanitizer available where access to soap and water is not possible. If you are ill, have been exposed to someone who may be ill, have underlying health or immunity issues or do not feel that you can safely attend, you should not attend.

We will be providing additional information as we get closer to the Annual Communication in June.

## **Masonic Temple volunteers hosting online 'radio show' during coronavirus pandemic**

By [Caitlyn French](#)

BAY CITY, MI - A group of volunteers is looking for new ways to restore the over century old, red-brick Masonic Temple building just off Center Avenue in Bay City, Michigan.

Located at 700 N Madison Ave, the Masonic Temple has a dedicated group of volunteers working to bring the building back to life. The Friends of the Historic Masonic Temple group was hosting a variety of events to get people into the building and to help raise funds for restoring the buildings, such as late night monster movie showings and workshops. But the COVID-19 pandemic brought all of their in-person events to a halt.

"Bringing people into the space was one of our strongest tools for recruiting volunteers and donors," said



**Group helps raise funds to restore historic Masonic Temple**

Executive Director of the Friends of the Historic Masonic Temple Adam Gac. "The pandemic has made it impossible to show off one of our coolest resources."

The Friends of the Historic Masonic Temple and the in-house theater group, "The Vanishing Elephant Players," hosted an online radio show for a bit of social-distancing-adhering entertainment that harkens back to the days of families gathered around the radio.

"They're essentially live readings, like what you might have heard on the radio back in the 40s," Artistic Director Erica Tatum explained.

Tatum said that the group is doing a mystery double-feature reading two of the old "[The Shadow](#)" serials: "The Long Arm of Death" from 1954 and "The Ghost Walks Again" from 1935. According to Tatum, The Shadow was akin to an early Batman-type character that solved crimes under the guise of "The Shadow" with his lady detective sidekick, Margot.

"The plots are spooky and fun, and easily wrapped up in 30-minute segments," she said.

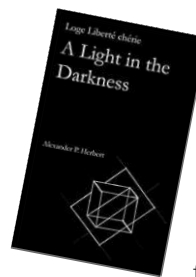
The Midnight Monster Movies are also now being hosted digitally. Social media reminders are posted on the group's page that directs viewers to a virtual server where one can view the chosen movie.

The group's not letting the pandemic stop their efforts in restoring the historic building while emphasizing the arts in the community.

"We are going to continue to expand our youth and adult opportunities to learn and grow through the arts and we'll be right there for our artists providing a space for guilds to gather," Gac said.

## **Loge Liberté chérie: A Light in the Darkness** Paperback – January 17, 2020

by Alexander P. Herbert (Author)



At its height in 1944, the Esterwegen concentration camp housed over two thousand political prisoners from occupied Europe. Among them was a small band of Belgian Freemasons who, by chance or providence, found themselves assigned to the same barrack. In the midst of these terrible conditions, they came together to form the secret Masonic Lodge Liberté chérie.

Years of painstaking research and translation have yielded, for the first time, a comprehensive telling of these events for English readers. It is a story that transcends personal differences and the borders of Masonic jurisdiction. This camaraderie and compassion laid the foundation for the most important work in the history of the world's oldest Fraternity.

### ***St. John's Contributes to Ballard Food Bank***

Never before have there been so many hungry people in our region. Not during the Depression of the 1930s. Not during the regional commercial industry strikes of the 1970s. It is startling how many in our local communities do not have enough food at home, yet it is quite hopeful to know that good people are helping their neighbors in need.

Many local economic factors contribute to this demand on food bank services, and we find that the vast majority of those in need - children and seniors - come from working households or those on fixed incomes.

Today, many families have temporarily or even permanently lost sources of income because of responses to CORONA-19.

Last month Worshipful Master Neumann directed that \$500 of the April Master's Charity funds be forwarded to the Ballard Food Bank.

The Ballard Food Bank serves the Ballard, Magnolia and Queen Anne neighborhoods. They offer many services, including a food pantry, hygiene bar, emergency financial assistance, home delivery, a weekend food for kids program, mail service and sack lunches.

The food pantry can be accessed by clients once per week. They use a grocery store model and also have a no-cook area for clients who may find themselves homeless and/or do not have access to a kitchen.

Typical food items include fresh produce, dairy, meat, canned proteins (beans, chili, tuna), canned vegetables, baby food, bread, rice, pasta, tomato sauce, and cereals. Also available are vegetarian entrée options, gluten-free items, and alternative milks for those who have dietary restrictions.

The Ballard Food Bank is located at 5130 Leary Ave NW, Seattle.

Donations from anyone and everyone are always needed to supply the demand for services.



# LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER



*Freemasonry may well be divided into many phases: Its tenets, history, traditions, landmarks, customs, symbolism and its allegories - even its Constitution and its laws. Whilst it may be accepted that it is an innermost desire, followed by obligations that makes one a member of the Craft, yet in a truer form and better sense, a man is never a Freemason until he truthfully and loyally lives up to his obligations. He cannot do that until he understands them, and eventually, following a Masonic program of education, he learns to know their scope and real meaning. But there is more to Freemasonry than Masonic education – or “enlightenment” – all work and no play can contribute to battle fatigue, as well . . .*

## **BLASPHEMY - We are More than Masonic Education**

*by Midnight Freemason Contributor*

**Steven L. Harrison, 33°, FMLR**

Masonic education is all the rage with the crowd I run with; and this is, by the way, a good thing. I seem to hear more about Masonic education now than ever before (“ever before” being defined as since I joined the Craft 21 years ago).

We may not always stop to think that “Masonic education” is a broad term that can take many forms. It can be a deep, spiritual, esoteric subject that, frankly, sometimes winds up being over my head. Or it can be something lightweight – maybe an account of something a Brother did or even a funny anecdote. Usually the subject falls somewhere in between. Doesn’t matter. Whatever form it takes, Masonic education is the hot topic du jour. Hallelujah. When we are new to the degrees and are asked what it is we want, we respond that we want light, and progressively more of it. In other words, our Masonic journey is a search for enlightenment; and the path for that journey is education. Keep it coming.

However, I hear a lot of dissent about some of the other things we do: “Oh, man, not another bean dinner,” or “what’s with all the service projects, what are we, the Rotary?” (No offense meant to the Rotary, a fine organization, but different than the Freemasons).

See, I like those things, too. The bean dinners, the meals before the meetings and all the social events give me a chance to get together with my Brothers and informally kick things around. Those conversations usually aren’t very heavy but they’re enjoyable. The social interaction we have with our Brothers is an important part of what our fraternity is. We don’t want our organization to be all joking and no substance but I also wouldn’t want to exclude it. All work and no play makes Hiram a dull boy.

Also, there are the service projects. In my area we help with the Child Identification Program (MoCHIP) which, in the past decade has helped return at least eight missing or abducted children to their homes, out of about a quarter million registered. We’ve assisted with disaster recovery and are currently helping my city build a playground for disabled kids. We are, by the way, way over our heads financially on that one, but we’ll figure something out. All of these projects give the Brothers a sense of fulfillment. You know, it’s the old, “it is better to

give than receive” thing. Community service – let’s have more of that, too.

So, recapping, when we get together as Brothers, we’re doing a broad range of things: We have social interaction at our events; we help make our communities better places through our service projects; and we seek enlightenment.

Freemasonry needs all of these. In fact, couldn’t we call our social interaction Brotherly Love, our community service Relief and our quest for enlightenment a search for Truth? Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Where have I heard that before?

We are more than Masonic education, and that is outright blasphemy to some. It shouldn’t be. I suspect the emphasis behind Masonic education derives from the fact we sometimes make it the stepchild of our other activities. We have plenty of bean dinners and service projects but seem to fall short on Masonic education. Still, in a perfect world, we should clamor for social events and service projects just as loudly as for Masonic education. It’s “Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth,” not “Truth and whatever.”

Maybe if our quest for Masonic Education is successful enough we can get to the point where we have to start emphasizing the other tenets: “More bean dinners!” Now that sounds like the ultimate blasphemy, doesn’t it?

***Bro. Steve Harrison, 33°, is Past** Master of Liberty Lodge #31, Liberty, Missouri. He is also a Fellow and Past Master of the Missouri Lodge of Research. Among his other Masonic memberships are the St. Joseph Missouri Valley of the Scottish Rite, Liberty York Rite bodies, and Moila Shrine. He is also a member and Past Dean of the DeMolay Legion of Honor. Brother Steve was Editor of the Missouri Freemason magazine for a decade and is a regular contributor to the Whence Came You podcast. Born in Indiana, he has a Master’s Degree from Indiana University and is retired from a 35 year career in information technology. Steve and his wife Carolyn reside in northwest Missouri. He is the author of dozens of magazine articles and three books: *Freemasonry Crosses the Mississippi*, *Freemasons — Tales From the Craft* and *Freemasons at Oak Island*.*

## **MAY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS**

Day

- 6 Morton B. Blager
- 7 Skott A. Young
- 12 Blair J. Neumann
- 12 Anthony K. Porter
- 21 Nicholas J. Mitchell
- 24 Brian J. Downie
- 26 Donald W. Bartholomew
- 29 John O. Nance



## Lordship title once owned by Henry VIII for sale - for at least £1m



A rare Lordship of Masons title for Norfolk once held by Henry VIII is to be auctioned for £1 million.

Anyone who fancies themselves as a lord or lady of the manor now has their chance to live the dream - if they have their own fortune.



An extract from William Faden's map of Norfolk 1797, showing Walcott.

A rare Lordship of Masons title for Norfolk once held by Henry VIII is to be auctioned with a reserve price of £1m.



The Lordship of Masons shield and emblem

The successful buyer will get four lordships in one – a Lordship of the Manor of Masons for England as well as manorial lordships of Walcott, Easthall and Westhall.

The manorial lordships, which date back to feudal times, do not include any land.

They are being sold by Nobility Titles, owned by Lord Graham Fothergill. But a date for the auction has not yet been set due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Lord Graham said that on the rare occasions they did come up, such titles often attracted the attention of businesspeople looking to boost their profile.

He said: "A lordship title may attract businessmen looking to boost their profile. Other perks include an increased credit rating by banks and an 'extra level of service' received by lords and ladies.

"But yes, most people buy these titles for business use because when you hand somebody a business card and it has got Lord on there, it really does make a difference in sealing the deal."

## You Think We're Kidding?

That dues card in your wallet may be current or it may not. Only the "QR" code on the back or the Tyler knows for sure.

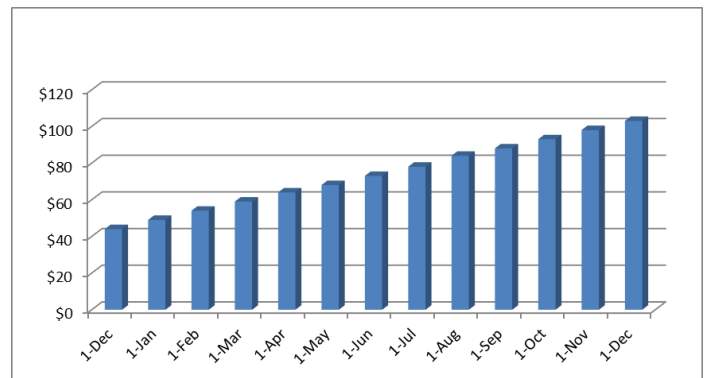
If you've been receiving timely reminders to pay your dues, believe me its w-a-a-y past time to send that check!



**This year's dues for those who were members prior to June 2014 were only \$44, but if you missed the December 31 deadline, they've gone up five times already to \$69.** Want to miss again in May? Sorry, that'll be \$74 in June! Mail your check today to PO Box 30069, Seattle 98113.

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

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



**The Silent Summons** A member of a certain Lodge, who previously attended meetings regularly, stopped going. After a few months, the Worshipful Master decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening, and the Worshipful Master found his brother at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for the Worshipful Master's visit, the brother welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The Worshipful Master made himself comfortable, but said nothing.

In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After several minutes, the Worshipful Master took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth, all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. His host watched all of this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone



ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow, and its fire was no more. Soon, it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The Worshipful Maser glanced at his watch and chose this time to leave. He slowly stood up, pickup up the cold, dead ember, and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately, it began to glow once more, with all the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the Worshipful Master reached the door to leave, his host said, with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your fiery summons, my brother. I'll be back in our Lodge next meeting." —Author Unknown