

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

Trestleboard

DECEMBER 2020

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FROM THE EAST

[Blair Neumann, Master](#)



Brethren, my year in the East is almost through. Were this a normal year, our incoming Worshipful Master would be planning his installation, and we would be meeting for that august event this month, with all the pomp and ritual that goes with it.

This year has been anything but normal, and I believe that our Lodge is weathering the storm by working together, for the good of Masonry and for all Mankind, in ways that we would have never considered under ordinary circumstances, and of

which we can all be proud.

Masonry works when we work together toward a common purpose, and St. John's Lodge No. 9 never stopped working together in 2020. If anything, we've worked better together this year than in years before! We can each feel good about that, and we should.

We worked together to take care of each other, checking in with all our Brothers, active and otherwise, and their widows, and made sure that each knows that their Lodge is here for themselves and their families.

Blessed with good fortune, we've shared our blessings with our Brothers and others facing extreme financial hardship. While I always feel that we can do more, we should feel good knowing that we have helped keep people warm and well-fed, and we continue to do so.

We've discovered together, as have so many others around the world, what work can be done online, as we've been forced to re-consider the ways in which we do business and re-connect in fellowship through weeks and months and seasons of hardship and struggle. Our Brothers have had our fellowship to look forward to each week, and the re-assurance that our sacred Craft may bring.

Of course, loss is a part of life, this year more so than many others, and while the Brothers of our Lodge may be thankfully spared, we know that some Brothers have lost loved ones, and our hearts break for those Brothers and their families, even as the bonds that we form through fellowship help to remind our Brothers that life goes on, and our life's work continues.

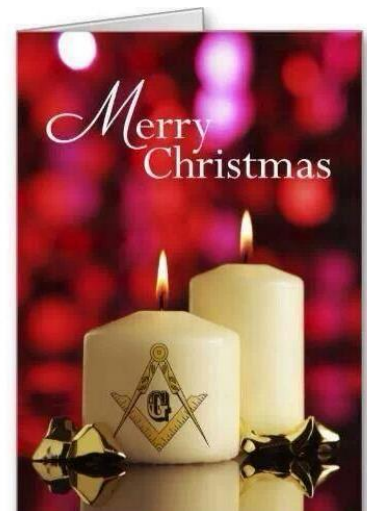
My Brothers, this has been an extraordinary year, and one that I hope we can each put behind us without too much more suffering. We know that there is light at the end of this tunnel, but we have a long winter ahead before life returns to normal and our Lodge resumes its regular work.

Let's continue to work together, supporting each other and our communities, and fulfilling our promises to each other and to all Mankind.

CALENDAR



- **December 9 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference**
- **December 10 (7pm): Officers meeting**
- *December 10-19: Happy Chanukah*
- **December 16 (7pm): St. John's 9 Fellowship teleconference**
- **December 18 – 23: Brockway Operation Kid Smile food and gift distribution**
- **December 23 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference**
- *December 25: Merry Christmas*
- **December 30 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference**
- **December 31: Deadline for payment of 2021 Lodge dues!**
- **January 6 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference**
- **January 13 (7pm) St. John's 9 Fellowship teleconference**
- **January 20 (7pm): St. John's 9 Fellowship teleconference**
- *January 20: Martin Luther King Day*
- **January 27 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference**
- **January 30 (10am): Past Masters Brunch**



ST. JOHN'S BROTHERS WELCOME THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Like families all over the earth, St. John's brothers observed Thanksgiving a little differently this pandemic-filled year. The fatter turkeys on the farm probably gave a little thanks-giving of their own as large family gatherings for the most part were avoided and more made use of the new Zoom craze to say hello to family members.

As we head for the Christmas season, our traditional St. John's (Brockway) Operation Kid Smile takes on a new look, as well. Instead of our holiday Christmas party where several military family members are invited for gifts and the fixins' for Christmas dinner, members of the Lodge have been invited to "adopt" the families and enable them to have Christmas at home. Names were provided by Veteran Affairs enabling six of our members to become Santas for the season.



Volunteers this year are Master WBro. Blair Neumann, Bro. Kemal Alaeddinoğlu, VWBro. Ashley Brinkley, VWBro. Chuck Brockway, and WBro. Seann Maria, led by team leader WBro. John Louderback. Santa's elves, our lovely Ladies, also will be assisting.

The seven families consist of twenty-two children who range in age toddler to teen.

Military family budgets, which are often already stretched to their limits, do not contain a lot of money for buying Christmas presents. However, military families are also some of the most deserving people during the holiday season. To help thank military families for the sacrifices they make year-round, St. John's helps to make Christmas possible, especially for those with children who deserve to have a joy-filled Christmas. Our Santa volunteers will have \$7,000 to make this Season special for our military families.



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Join us on Zoom
Teleconferencing Fellowship
 every Wednesday

at 7pm

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

Coming dates:

December 9, 2020

December 16, 2020 (stated meeting night)

December 23, 2020

December 30, 2020

Sessions open promptly at 7pm

* Fellowship

* Check on our brothers and widows

* Masonic Enlightenment & Education

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

Boston Educational Tour

Presumed-to-be Master of St. John's Lodge next year VWBro. Ashley Brinkley is arranging for brothers of the Lodge to tour the Boston area next fall for an educational visit to the birthplace of American Freemasonry. \$7,500 has been budgeted to help defray the cost for those making the trip.

Senior Warden Message

[VWBro. Ashley Brinkley](#)



By the time you read this article we will have had our election and our December Installation of Officers for the 2021 year. All of our new St. John's Officers will be in their stations and places.....Whoops! Brain Freeze! I almost forgot we still are unable to have in-person meetings!

Do not fear Brothers! St John's Lodge has a plan!

The plan for 2021 is that all our current officers will stay in their stations and places until we can meet in person and have an election and installation. At that time, everyone will remain in their stations and places for the remainder of the term EXCEPT Blair and me. If I am elected, I will move to Master and Blair will move to Sr. Warden. In 2022, if elected, Blair will move back to Master and the remainder of the line will advance. I want to make it crystal clear so that everyone understands, our current Master, Blair, is the Master and will remain the Master until our official installation. What we have worked out, however, is that I will act as "Virtual Master" starting in January 2021.

We will continue to have our weekly Zoom enjoying a time of fun, fellowship, and Masonic education. Worshipful Master Blair will be the moderator for our meetings EXCEPT our 3rd Wednesday meeting, which is our Stated Meeting. We will call our Stated Meeting night a Special Meeting and I will be the moderator on that night. On our Stated Meeting night we will have a program or Masonic education as well as fellowship. WM Blair and I will work closely together to make sure this all works out for our Lodge.

The first quarter of 2021 line-up for St John's Lodge is as follows:

Our January Stated Meeting PGM Santy Lascano will join us with some Words of Wisdom with plenty of time for Q&A afterwards. February will be Shrine night and our speaker will be Rory Johnson from the Portland Shrine Hospital Board of Directors. We have also invited Megan Johnson, our own local past Shrine Kid to speak as well. It is tentative that Megan will be able to join us as she is a new nurse and has just started her first nursing job. March will bring our Grand Master, MWBro. Chris Coffman as our featured speaker. Be sure to have those questions ready for MW Chris. 😊

MASTER MASONS RAISED IN DECEMBER

Date Raised:

12/29/1961	Joseph W. Ackermann
12/30/1964	Paul A. Smith
12/30/1972	David J. Stanford
12/21/1979	Paul T. St. Clair
12/8/1984	Daryl E. Anguish
12/10/1987	Kurt W. Lavrinc
12/6/1997	Steven L. Specht
12/8/2001	Thomas G. Eastman
12/8/2001	Frederick A. Eastman



Junior Warden Message

[WBro. John Murray Louderback](#)



What a year this has been. Covid has certainly changed things.

I believe it better that people focus on similarities or why we are the same versus what makes us different.

I am very much looking forward to next year with the hope that we can get back to Lodge.

Please continue social distancing and wearing your mask when you must be in public.

Hopefully, we will see an end to Covid soon.

May you and your family have a very happy holiday season and new year.

Dr. Irl Hirsch Guest at December 16 Zoom Meet

Dr. Irl Hirsch has been invited to join our Zoom session on Wednesday, December 16, to tell us about the latest in research at the UW Diabetes Institute.



Dr. Hirsch guest Zoom speaker Dec. 16

The University of Washington Diabetes Institute is the first of its kind in the Pacific Northwest, integrating superb care for patients with diabetes, obesity and their complications with a comprehensive program for translating basic research discoveries into improved strategies for the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of these disorders. Housed in the new, state-of-the-art UW Medicine South Lake Union 3.2 facility, the Institute brings together basic research, clinical care and translational research under one roof, creating a synergistic environment for advancing new breakthroughs "from bench to bedside."

Did you know Type II Diabetes causes these problems?

1. Low Energy	4. Kidney Failure	7. Heart Disease
2. Stress	5. Nerve Disease	8. Depression
3. Anxiety	6. Alzheimer's	

St. John's Lodge has included the UW Diabetes Research and Clinic in our annual giving since 2006.

Reminder: If anyone has any financial problems raised by the coronavirus, help is available from Grand Lodge Masonic Charities.

Conference of Grand Masters of North America

As many of you know, the Grand Lodge of Washington was scheduled to host the Conference of Grand Masters of North America in Seattle in February, 2021. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions placed on meeting space and size, the Conference will not be held in Seattle in 2021. We are working with the Conference to host a future meeting. Thanks to all those who volunteered to help.

Clinton M. Brown, Jr.
Grand Secretary

Now Streaming....



Tickets available at Taproottheatre.org

How safe will a COVID-19 vaccine be?

While developing a vaccine at pandemic speed has required compressing traditional clinical research timelines and pauses for data evaluation, it has not changed proper clinical trial protocols or safety evaluations that have proven to be effective for decades. Every step of this process is still subject to the same rigorous regulatory evaluations as any other traditional vaccine candidate. The top vaccines that emerge from this effort will be the safest, most extensively studied and most effective preventive strategy to combat COVID-19.

Louisiana, Mississippi Grand Lodges Cry for Help Following Natural Disasters

Louisiana has experienced a tremendous amount of damage and destruction due to the multiple hurricanes that went through the state. There are areas that have no food, water or electricity. While food, drinking water and supplies are needed, the best way to assist them now is through your monetary donation.

Mississippi has also experienced a tremendous amount of damage and destruction due to hurricane Zeta. There are three large buildings housing four Lodges that are damaged. These Lodges are home to 461 Master Masons and many had damage to their homes.

Please make your checks payable to [MSA Disaster Relief Appeal](#) and send to:

Masonic Service Association
813 – 1st Ave, SE, Suite 357
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Brothers Called to Celestial Lodge

We mourn the loss of nine of our brethren who have been called to distant shores in the past twelve months to continue their work in the Celestial Lodge.

Bro. **Forest Johnson** was a San Francisco Bar Pilot, safely and efficiently navigating the world's largest ships through 160 miles of North America's most challenging waterways. His 2018 death was reported this year.

WBro. **Mac Fingerroot** and his wife Natalie raised five children. He was an electrician by trade. Word of our brother's passing in 2019 was received this year.

Bro. **Larry J. Canaan** died at the age of 89. He and his Lady Marilyn often attended St. John's family events such as brunches, picnics, and anniversary dinners. He was a member of the Craft for 68 years.

VWBro. **David Campbell** was a pillar in our Lodge. After a brief stint in the US Navy as WWII ended, he joined the Moral Re-Armament organization, spreading the message of faith and peace throughout the world. He served as our Master in 1992 and later was Deputy of the Grand Master. He served two terms as Master of Eureka Lodge.

WBro. **James (Jim) Gaston** was a sheet metal mechanic who worked for Todd Pacific Shipyards. He served as Master of the Lodge in 1986.

VWBro. **Charles "Charlie" Tupper** served as Master of Thomas M. Reed Lodge 225 in 1995 and 1996. He was Master of St. John's Lodge in 2007. He became webmaster for St. John's Lodge in December of 2001 and served in that capacity for thirteen years. He served in a variety of positions for the Grand Lodge of Washington, including Deputy of the Grand Master in 2010-12. He served as Musician for a number of Lodges in this area.

Bro. **Morton Blager** was a college student when he joined St. John's in 1948. He lived most of his years outside the state of Washington before his passing.

Bro. **Raymond E. Lundy** served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, was a partner in an automotive speed shop, and retired from Peoples Bank.

Word has come that our Bro. **Eugene Foster** passed this fall. He was a member and Past Master Councilor of the Edmonds Chapter, Order of DeMolay as a boy and a member of the Scottish Rite and El-Zaribah Shrine (AZ).

2021 Annual Dues in St. John's Lodge

Notices for annual dues were mailed to members of St. John's in October. Dues are payable no later than December 31st of each year; beginning January 1 they **increase by \$5** each month.



The Secretary brings "the heat" to late dues payers!!

Today, a little more than 55% of our dues-paying members are paid up through Dec. 31, 2021. For the first time in years **no brother is delinquent** for the current year (2020).

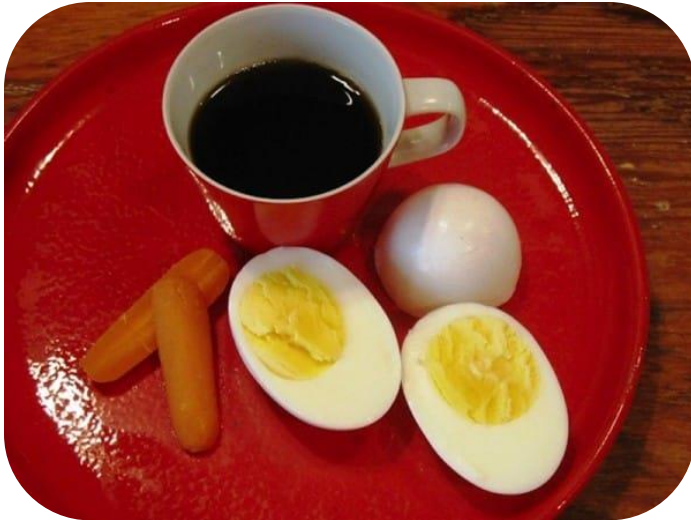
LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER

Much like a fingerprint or a snowflake each Masonic Lodge is different. They each have their own personality, history, and traditions. In good times most all Lodges will thrive and prosper, but when tough times begin to arrive on a Lodge's doorstep, you will begin to see how a Lodge will react.



Is Your Lodge A Carrot, Egg or Coffee?

by *Midnight Freemason Contributor Bill Hosler, PM*



A few weeks ago, I attended a class and the class leader read a piece entitled "Are You a Carrot, Egg, or Coffee Bean?". The piece was meant for personal reflection, but I began to wonder if this same premise could be used to gauge the condition of a Lodge?

The essay is about a young girl who feels her life is hopeless and confides in her mother on how she feels that she can't go on with life. Her mother takes her to the kitchen and boils three pots of water. In each pot, the mother places carrots, eggs, and ground coffee beans. Once each one has finished boiling the mother places each into a bowl.

She told her daughter to touch the carrots. The daughter noticed that the once hard vegetable was now soft. The mother then told her to reach into the other bowl and begin to peel the egg. The daughter noticed how the once liquid center of the egg which had been protected by its hard shell was now hardened. Her mother told her to pick up the third bowl and smell the coffee. The girl smiled when she picked up the bowl and smelled the aroma of the now freshly brewed coffee.

After looking at each bowl, the daughter, confused, asked her mother what the point of this display was.

Her mother told her daughter, "...no one knows how they will react until tested by adversity and difficult situations." She continued, "Some people, like the once hard carrot, will turn soft when troubles come. Others who seem to be fragile will toughen when things get difficult. Some people are like the coffee, when the tough times come, they change the boiling water into something pleasant."

Much like a fingerprint or a snowflake each Masonic Lodge is different. They each have their own personality, history, and traditions. In good times most all Lodges will

thrive and prosper, but when tough times begin to arrive on a Lodge's doorstep, you will begin to see how a Lodge will react.

A Lodge with weak leadership and with no direction will see its membership begin to decline; their building will become derelict and sadly, in some cases, the Lodge may survive for a while, but without a change in direction the Lodge will become soft like the carrot and cease to exist.

Another Lodge may be just as strong in good times but if something happens to disrupt the harmony of the Lodge or if they experience a crisis, they may react in a totally different way. Unlike the Lodge we compared to as a carrot in the example above, the members of a Lodge may, in a stressful situation throw a Lodge's harmony to the sideline and instead of working together, the members may begin to argue and start blaming each other for the hard times the Lodge has to endure.

Many times the membership, if they don't drop out due to the arguing and finger pointing, will begin to form factions and instead of working together, they will work on their own solution or do their best to destroy the opposing faction's attempts to run the Lodge or curb the adversity. After a while, the angry words and finger pointing lead to hurt feelings and much like the boiled egg, the membership will begin to harden and not attend meetings which leads to suspensions of non-payment of dues because his view of the Fraternity has hardened. After a while the egg Lodge, much like that of the soft carrot will cease to exist and will soon become just another footnote in a Grand Lodge proceedings book sitting on a shelf, while their once proud building becomes another empty building the inhabiting city has to decide the fate of.

The third Lodge is just like the other two. In good times the Brethren meet in peace and harmony, they have a steady stream of new candidates who become engaged and really are an integral part of the workings of the Lodge.

Some men love ritual, so they endeavor to become ritualists and help the Lodge with degree work. Others love to cook, so they spend their time preparing nutritious and delicious meals for members and guests who visit their Lodge. Other men are good with their hands and gravitate to the building committee to help keep the roof over their Brethren's heads.

While each man leads with his strength, they all gather together for such things as Masonic charity, helping their elderly membership or their Lodge's widows or helping to provide a joyous Christmas morning to the children of a Brother who just lost his job and needed a little help during hard times. Since each man is happy

...serving in his own way, there is less arguing about how things are done in the Lodge and really, they work together for the common good.

Since they all work together, the membership of this Lodge, like the coffee beans, will be able to convert what one sees as adversity into a challenge, and when the bubbling waters calm, what is left is a stronger and more pleasant liquid that everyone can enjoy.

Brethren, I am sure each of us who have circled the Masonic altar a few times have seen examples of each of these types of Lodges. All of these Lodges have the same chance of surviving hard times. It's how they decide to react to the boiling water which determines their fate.

It's just my opinion but a Lodge that embraces Masonic doctrine partially or completely, disregards the doctrine in its entirety. They tend to do this in order to recruit new members which makes these Lodges equitable to a house of cards. When will it fail? But if a Lodge builds a sound foundation on Masonic teachings, values every member and their talents, then uses those member's talents to their fullest potential (not just sticking him in an officer line and move him up until he is Master or worse yet just quits attending), a Lodge can not only weather any storm but much like the coffee beans in boiling water will become savory.

WB Bill Hosler was made a Master Mason in 2002 in Three Rivers Lodge No. 733 in Indiana. He served as Worshipful Master in 2007 and became a member of the internet committee for Indiana's Grand Lodge. Bill is currently a member of Roff Lodge No. 169 in Roff Oklahoma and Lebanon Lodge No. 837 in Frisco, Texas. Bill is also a member of the Valley of Fort Wayne Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in Indiana. A typical active Freemason, Bill also served as the High Priest of Fort Wayne's Chapter of the York Rite No. 19 and was commander of the Fort Wayne Commandery No. 4 of the Knight Templar. During all this he also served as the webmaster and magazine editor for the Mizpah Shrine in Fort Wayne Indiana.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Day

- 5 Albert K. Gustafson
- 9 Dennis J. Archambault
- 11 Gilbert N. Hain
- 11 Mark A. Gfeller
- 11 Ryan D. Carter
- 13 Ian S. Webb
- 13 Matthew D. Vasey
- 14 James R. Maher
- 14 Paul T. St. Clair
- 22 David P. Fagerlie
- 23 Joseph H. Oates, Jr.
- 24 Bradley E. Stubblefield
- 24 Timothy W, McLean
- 24 William A. Feldner
- 25 Scott M. Yerger
- 26 Don G. Lyman
- 28 Serco S. Tokatlian
- 28 Kenneth D. Wehl
- 30 Phillip J. See
- 31 Joseph L. Bennett
- 31 James C. Shields



My Religion

Unknown Author

When talk turns to religion
I have notions of my own
Have my versions of the Bible
And things I think alone.

And I find them satisfying,
Find them comforting to me,
Though I wouldn't lose my temper
If you chose to disagree.

For religion as I see it
Is a pathway to the goal,
And it's something to be settled
Between each man and his soul.

Now I'm not a Roman Catholic,
But I wouldn't go so far
As to fling away the friendship
Of the ones I know that are.

I've lived and neighbored with them
Come to love them through and through
I've respect and admiration
For the kindly things they do.

I've known Methodists, Baptists,
Scientists and Jews,
Whose friendship is a treasure
That I wouldn't want to lose.

So when the people talk religion,
I just settle back and see
Every helpful, loyal friend
Each Church has given me.

St. John's members celebtate the season through many faiths. The following are three most common:

Christians Celebrate Birth of Christ

Christians celebrate the religious holiday of Christmas in many ways, including Nativity plays, special church services, singing Christmas carols and exchanging gifts. Families often have many personal traditions since the holiday is commonly defined as a time of family gathering.



Christian Nativity Scene

Nativity scenes are very common during the Christmas season. In these scenes, people, especially children, act out plays that describe the night that baby Jesus was born. Joseph and Mary, unable to find proper lodging in Bethlehem, were forced to have Jesus born in a stable for animals, where they laid him in a manger. Three kings came bearing gifts for the child, along with other visitors, according to Jesus's apostles, Luke and Matthew.

During the Christmas season, churches often have special services to go along with the holiday. On

Christmas eve night, many churches hold a special midnight communion mass to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, many choirs sing traditional carols associated with the holiday.

Exchanging gifts is another popular tradition associated with the holiday. Many people buy Christmas trees, or pine trees, and place presents under the tree to be opened on Christmas morning. This tradition extends past families, as many co-workers and neighbors celebrate the tradition of giving gifts to celebrate the holiday.

Hanukkah Festival Of Lights

Hanukkah (Chanukah), the Festival of Lights, begins Thursday evening, December 10, 2020. It celebrates the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greek regime of Antiochus. The Greeks attempted to Hellenize the Jews and abolish many Jewish practices and many Jews willingly complied. But a small band of the devout, led



Lighting the Hanukkah Tapers

by the Matitياهو the Priest and his son Judah Maccabee, led a successful rebellion against them. When they recaptured the Temple and relit the Menorah, a vial of pure oil sufficient to burn one day

burned for eight days straight – the eight days of Hanukkah.

Our Jewish brothers light the Menorah for the eight days of Hanukkah to commemorate the miracle. A Menorah is lit in every household, and also in the synagogue. Special blessings are recited as the Menorah is lighted.

On Hanukkah, in commemoration of the miracle of the oil, foods are eaten cooked with olive oil.

Muslim Religious Observances

Muslims have two major religious observances each year, Ramadan and the Hajj, and several holidays connected with each one. All Islamic holidays are observed according to the lunar-based [Islamic calendar](#).

Ramadan

Each year, corresponding with the ninth month of the lunar calendar, Muslims spend a month in daytime fasting. This observance is called Ramadan. From dawn to sunset during this month, Muslims abstain from food, liquids, smoking, and



At prayer during Ramadan

sex. This fast is an extremely important aspect of the Muslim faith: in fact, it is one of the [Five Pillars of Islam](#). This year Ramadan was observed April 24 to May 24. In 2021 it will be April 12 to June 11.

Laylat al-Qadr

Toward the end of Ramadan, Muslims observe the “Night of Power” in commemoration of the time when the first verses of the Qur’an were revealed to Muhammad.

Eid al-Fitr

At the end of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate the “Festival of Fast-Breaking.” On the day of Eid, fasting is prohibited. The end of Ramadan is generally celebrated by a ceremonial fast-breaking, as well as the performance of the Eid prayer in an open, outdoor area or mosque.

Hajj

Each year during the 12th month of the Islamic calendar, millions of Muslims make an annual pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Muhammad. This pilgrimage is known as the Hajj.

Day of Arafat

During the ninth day of the Hajj, the holiest day in Islam, pilgrims gather at the Plain of Arafat to seek God’s mercy, and Muslims elsewhere fast for the day. Muslims around the world gather at mosques for a solidarity prayer.

We are privileged to have WBro. Fred Hutchinson open our Wednesday Zoom sessions with a call to prayer. He offered this invocation Thanksgiving week.

Great Architect of the Universe

and guide over all time: past, present and future:

We come once again to ask your blessing upon us this night and reverently invoke your presence among us.

As we open our meeting, we are aware that the holidays

we so much enjoy are with us.

We realize that our celebrations will be different....

And we recognize—that for some— the days ahead will be lonely... and resources will be few.

Help us to remember our blessings and to pass on some of the fruits of our goodness to others as we are able.

Help us to stand tall and be instruments of good in our sphere

So that no one in our midst will suffer in want or be in hunger. May we be kinder, more understanding

And more generous during this season of peace and joy

Thank you for this opportunity to be together...

to work together...

and to make a difference in world in need of peace and

love.

AMEN

Written by Rev. Bro. Fred Hutchinson, M.Div., MSHS, BCC

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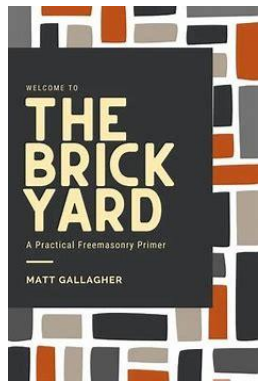
Welcome to *The Brickyard: A Practical Freemasonry Primer* by Matt Gallagher

A Book Review by *Midnight Freemason Emeritus*
Contributor **Adam Thayer**

One of the few positives that has come from quarantine is having more time to read (67 books so far in 2020, not counting comic books and audiobooks), and I've been trying to mix in at least one Masonic book a month. This month, I was asked to read *Welcome To The Brickyard* for review, and I'm always excited to read new Masonic material (sorry Pike!) so I jumped right in.

I should start by explaining that this book really isn't meant for Freemasons, it's meant for people who are considering becoming a Freemason, which makes it really tough for me to say how useful it is for the target audience. If you've been around the quarries for a few years, most everything in here is going to be old knowledge to you, but it may still be worth having around to give to a potential candidate.

The book starts by discussing what Freemasonry is, if you should consider joining or not, and a basic explanation of some of the rules and requirements for



candidates. It then discusses how to research a Lodge, including some very helpful information on clandestine Lodges, and finishes by walking through the process of petitioning, being interviewed, and how a Lodge vote works. This is a very short book (roughly 1 hour long total), which is perfect for new candidates who can easily become overwhelmed.

There are many books that cover the same material as this; it's very likely your Grand Lodge even offers one. This book does distinguish itself slightly by being funny, which is sorely lacking in a lot of Masonic literature, and depending on the candidate that may reach them better than the normal dry, stodgy pamphlets for candidates. Having said that, some of the jokes are really only understandable after you have taken the degrees, so I imagine they'll fly over the head of the target audience.

There is some great information in here that isn't generally covered by this type of book, such as signs to help recognize a clandestine Lodge, and what happens if the vote doesn't go positive for you, and I congratulate the author on including information such as this. It is also written in a conversational style, whereas most candidate books are designed more as lectures or textbooks, and I think that alone makes it useful. Having said that, depending on the individual reading it, that style may be very off-putting, especially when the first two pages cite *Star Wars*, *The Lord Of The Rings*, and *The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy*.

So far, this sounds rather negative, which is a shame because this really is a good book to give to a candidate, and I intend to purchase a handful of copies to give out to individuals who show a high enough interest in Freemasonry to be a petitioner. If you're a Lodge secretary, I would recommend getting a copy to check out for yourself, and see if it would be useful for your Lodge to hand out as well.

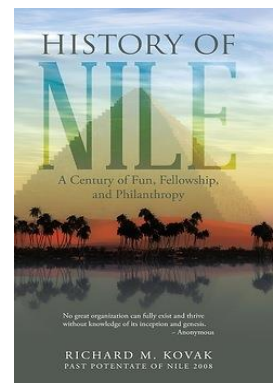
Welcome To The Brickyard can be purchased at www.practicalfreemasonry.com

HISTORY OF NILE BOOK NOW AVAILABLE FROM NILE SHRINE

At long last the transcription of Past Potentate and Historian Richard M. Kovak's series of news articles about the reigns of the various Potentates of Nile Temple are available in a handy book format. Brother and Noble Kovak has put together a year by year and Potentate by Potentate analysis of the many activities and adventures of Nile Temple/Shrine Center. Starting with Nile's early emergence as an affiliated Shrine Club of Afifi temple in Tacoma Washington, Nile launched its own temple in 1908 and quickly arose to become one of the largest and most robust temples in the Shrine system. At one point it was the tenth largest Shrine temple in the world.

The fledgling temple chose as its name "Nile" which name very shortly morphed into one of the most recognizable fraternal slogans anywhere – "Smile with Nile."

Interspersed within VWBro. Kovak's book are related national and international events occurring during each Potentate's year. Many of these events had profound effects on the men and women of Nile as well as on the country and the world. The years are organized



into chapter decades each of which are preceded by a round-up perspective of where the country was at the time of each ensuing decade.

But there is more. Included are sections on the ladies organizations which marched hand-in-hand with the fraternal organization of nobles throughout the years in building and supporting the world's greatest philanthropy, the Shriners Hospitals for Children: the Daughters of the Nile and the Ladies Oriental Shrine.

All in all this book tells the story of the men and women who shaped a great fraternal organization and supported the Shriners Hospitals in the Pacific Northwest (Spokane and Portland) and in so doing contributed immensely to the history of Seattle, the Pacific Northwest and the country.

Books are available in paperback for \$20 and in beautifully bound hardback for \$36. Contact the Nile Shrine Center at 425-774-9