

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

Trestleboard

JANUARY 2021

Jim Russell, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

meets: 7910 Greenwood Ave. N.

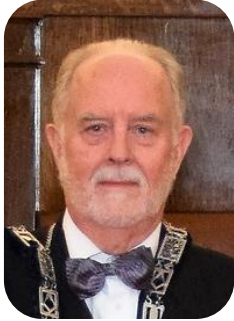
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Look to the East

[S. Ashley Brinkley](#), Senior Warden



S. Ashley Brinkley
Senior Warden

What a year we have had! I think we will always remember 2020 and I, for one, am glad it is over. We need to keep looking forward, keeping positive and learning to go with the flow. I know no matter what happens in 2021 it is going to be better than 2020.

We need to start looking forward to the activities we have planned for this year. We have planned our normal St. John's outings like the Family Appreciation Brunch, Anniversary Dinner, Corgi Races and Baseball Game and have added some new fun things like a family camp out and lunch at the Masonic Park in Granite

Falls. There is also an educational trip to Boston in the early fall that will be open to everyone. Our trip committee is hard at work on this trip and hopefully will have some pre-details by our next trestleboard. We are planning all these activities in hopes that COVID 19 will be abated and we can get back to life as we once knew – meeting in person with all our fellowship and brotherhood.

We will continue Zoom meetings each Wednesday at 7pm until further notice. The meeting starts at 7 pm and lasts about an hour. If you need the ZOOM access code, our secretary would be happy to send it to you as it is the same each week. No password is required.

On our regular 3rd Wednesday, stated meeting nights, we are calling this a “special meeting” and are planning on a speaker. On January 20th MWBro. Santy Lascano will be presenting and I am sure he will have an outstanding message for all of us. Please be sure to join us for this event so we have a good turnout for our special guest.

On a personal note, I think most of you know I had a heart attack during the Christmas Season. Fortunately, it was not a major event and I am on the mend. I want to thank everyone for reaching out during my time of need with email, texts, and phone calls. It really did help in my recovery and made me feel a lot better knowing that the Brothers really do care.

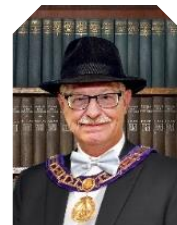
Happy New Year to everyone and here's to fresh start in 2021!

CALENDAR



- **December 31: Deadline for payment of 2021 Lodge dues!**
- **January 6 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference**
- **January 12 (7pm): Grand Master's Open Forum teleconference** (refer to Grand View site for access)
- **January 13 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference**
- **Jan. 20 (7pm) St. John's 9 Fellowship teleconference PGM**
Santy Lascano will join us with some Words of Wisdom
- **January 25 (10am): Past Masters Brunch**
- **February 3 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference**
- **February 10 (6pm): Board of Trustees Zoom**
- **February 10 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference**
- **February 11 (7pm): Officers meeting**
- **February 17 (7pm): St. John's 9 Fellowship teleconference**
- **February 24 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference**

Districts 4&5 meet via Zoom



Grand Master
MW Chris Coffman

On February 27, at 5pm - Districts 4 & 5 will meet with Grand Master MWBro. Chris Coffman on Zoom teleconference.

Links to the meeting are on the

Seminar page on Grand View. Catch up on the latest news or ask a few questions of the Grand Lodge team! If you're not already keeping up with opportunities and offers for seminars on Grand View, you can sign up on the [Grand Lodge website](#).

Red Bow Tie Guys: This year we want to be known as the Red Bow Tie Guys. For now, let's wear one at each of our Wednesday Zoom meetings; especially we're encouraged to wear them for our 3rd Wednesday (stated evening) meetings. Contact VWBro. Ashley Brinkley or the Secretary for your free tie.



IS THIS THE YEAR YOU BEGIN WORKING ON YOU?

by Midnight Freemasons Founder **Todd E. Creason, 33°**

I got a nice card from the Grand Lodge of Illinois last week. I get one every year acknowledging another anniversary. I've been a Mason for (15) years this month! All I can really say about that is that I'm a better man than I was, but not nearly the man I'd like to be. I have more work to do.

What a lot of people don't understand about Freemasonry is that it's a journey, not a destination. It's not a magic wand. You don't walk out of the Lodge after receiving the Master Mason degree a better man. You have to become a better man. You have to work at it. You have to read and apply Freemasonry to your life. You have to learn from the good examples set by those mentors you'll undoubtedly meet along the way. It's a lifelong commitment. The way I view it, being a Freemason is a goal that we never quite reach in the same way. We never perfect that ashlar during our lifetimes because there's always a little here or there that needs to be chipped away or ground down. If you're not a Mason that's willing to do the work, then you're just a dude with a nice ring and a dues card in his wallet.

There are Masons that "get it" and there are Masons that don't (too many). For those that are willing to do the work, the rewards are tremendous. I started by learning what the degrees meant and studying and trying to apply the concepts presented within. When you begin to do that, you begin to realize just how imperfect you are.

I was under the misguided impression that I was a pretty good guy when I joined, but after beginning my journey I realized there were a lot of areas for improvement – a lot more than I thought. I don't think there's anything more difficult than improving your personality and your character. I took the Benjamin Franklin approach and listed out all the areas that I needed serious work on, and each week, I focused on one area, and I've repeated this exercise over and over again for (15) years – if you look in my bullet journal today you'll see what I'm working on this week. There's a few bad character flaws I feel I've mastered over the years – my exercises over the years have made those positive traits second nature. There's other areas . . . well, I'm working on them still. It's not the attainment of perfection that's important, it's the continued pursuit. And every Mason should go about it in the way that works best for him.

Once a Mason begins that process of getting his house in order and improving himself, it becomes his duty to help other Masons do the same thing. That's what many Masons find to be the most rewarding aspect of Freemasonry – mentoring others. Showing other Masons that this isn't a club. It's not about attaining titles and wearing aprons. Freemasonry is a way of life. It's shared values and shared experience. It's tradition. It's about reaching and maintaining a higher standard for yourself than those in the profane world do. And when given the choice, it's about always striving to do the right thing rather than the easy thing.

There's nothing easy about Freemasonry. And improving your character is only the first step. You're going to discover fears that are holding you back that you'll have to confront on this journey – I've been outside my comfort zone so many times over the last (15) years that I wouldn't even be able to count them. The next challenge is when you become aware that the values you've begun to develop don't match the lifestyle you're living. There may be adjustments needed in your personal habits, your recreational pursuits, your job, and perhaps even some of the people you spend time with. When you begin making changes to who you are as a person, every aspect of your life will be impacted. Most of those changes will be extremely positive, but know that if you're serious about the journey and the destination you seek, some things may just have to go.



I got a message over the holidays from a Mason in Tennessee. He's forty-four years old and has been a Mason for eight years. He put it perfectly when he said, "I know Masonry is working in my life when I see the long list of things I've accomplished in the last eight years since I've been a Mason both personally and professionally compared to the short list of accomplishments I achieved in the 36 years I wasn't a Mason."

Freemasonry starts with personal improvement and change. It's hard work, but through the process, you'll find the person you were meant to be. And it's never too late to begin.

Is this the year you begin working on you?

Todd E. Creason, 33° is the Founder of the *Midnight Freemasons* blog, and an award winning author of several books and novels, including the *Famous American Freemasons* series. You can contact him at: webmaster@toddcreason.org

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Master's Message

WBro. Blair Neumann



Brethren, as Entered Apprentice Masons, we learn about the three principal tenets of Masonry: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

We learn that we are all one family, here to aid, support, and protect one another, more especially a Brother Mason, but we are reminded that our Brotherly Love should extend to all Mankind, for every human being has a claim upon our kind offices.

Our Brothers are here for each other, not just in word but in deed. The length of each Cable Tow means that relieving a Brother need never be a burden. Indeed, it should be an act of true friendship, not a duty but an honor and a privilege.

But the real object of Freemasonry is said to be our search for Truth: the divine attribute and foundation of every virtue. We are reminded of the prominence of Truth in matters of sincerity, honesty, and plain dealing, and of its connections with God.

These three principal tenets are further said to be represented by the Columns of Strength, Beauty, and Wisdom, respectively. Strength which binds us as one family; Beauty, which include tears of joy and gratitude, and Wisdom, whose rays enlighten the inmost recesses of our minds.

PGM Lascano Guest at January 20 Zoom Meet

VWBro. Ashley Brinkley is proud to announce that Past Grand Master MWBro. G. Santy Lascano will be our guest at our January 20th 7pm Zoom telecommunication. MWBro. Santy served our Grand Jurisdiction as Grand Master in 2010-11.

We know him for his many Masonic accomplishments, but did you know that "G. Santy" at one time was rhythm guitarist for his rock band, jamming songs popularized by the Beatles? Or that he once started a small-scale furniture manufacturing business? After many varied career paths, he joined a Boeing Graphic Art software development group as a Software Functional Analyst. He retired from Boeing in June of 2010 while working for the Flight Operations Support and Training as an IT Systems Analyst.



MW Santy Lascano

Dr. Irl Hirsch of the University of Washington Diabetes Institute was our featured guest speaker in December. He spoke about the research and teaching programs offered by the Institute.

Dr. Hirsch has authored more than 200 research papers. He has written editorials, commentaries for The Journal of the AMA, and six books for patients and physicians. He has appeared at least twice before to speak to us about research and care for those who seek help with their affliction with Type I and Type 2 Diabetes.

Junior Warden's Message

WBro. John Murray Louderback



I am very pleased to report, that for the sixteenth year, Brockway Operation Kids Smile was again a huge success this holiday season. In December of 2020, St. John's Lodge No. 9 provided presents for 22 children complete with holiday meals for seven homeless or recently homeless U.S. Veteran families.

St. John's has been working with the Veterans Administration, which provides contact information for V.A. families in need through a program that is administered in conjunction with H.U.D.

The veterans in this program have service related disabilities. According to a V.A. Supervisor in Seattle, there are over 3,000 homeless veterans in Puget Sound.

This year St. John's had six volunteer Santas: WM Blair Neumann, VWBro. Ashley Brinkley, VWBro. and Founder Chuck Brockway, WB Seann Maria, Brother Kemal Alaeddinoğlu, as well as myself.

All Brothers reported that the veterans and families were very appreciative, and for the Brothers; the experience as very enriching.

A very special shoutout must go to the wives that participated. I must say that my wife Mary was instrumental in the success of the program. Thank you Mary!

Join us on Zoom

Teleconferencing Fellowship
every Wednesday

at 7pm

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

Coming dates:

January 13, 2021

January 20, 2021 (stated meeting night)

January 27, 2021

February 3, 2021

Sessions open promptly at 7pm

*** Fellowship**

*** Check on our brothers and widows**

*** Masonic Enlightenment & Education**

- 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/>

It's a new year, but it's the same virus - - Mask Up!

Landmark on the Sound Nearing Demolition?

By Melissa Hellmann *Seattle Times staff reporter*

DES MOINES — A palatial building overlooking the water in Des Moines, the Landmark on the Sound served for decades as a retirement home for Freemasons. In its final years of use, the Masonic building became an event venue where couples exchanged vows under ornate chandeliers.

Now, the structure that resembles a stately old hotel awaits demolition: While specific plans remain unclear, the property was sold last year **and demolition permits have been filed**.

Built in 1926, the 1,319,850-square-foot campus on Marine View Drive South needed upgrades to its electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems, as well as renovations for seismic safety, all of which were cost-prohibitive for the Freemasons. Necessary upgrades were estimated to cost about \$40 million.

Today, graffiti is plastered on the entrance pillars, and a security fence wrapped in ivy prevents visitors from entering the grounds.

“The building, although in disrepair, is an iconic architectural symbol in our City and region,” said Susan Cezar, Chief Strategic Officer of the City of Des Moines.

The Landmark on the Sound was unique. While most of the state’s Masonic buildings were designed as Lodges, the Des Moines structure was the second-oldest retirement home for Freemasons in Washington, following the first one constructed in Puyallup. There are currently 157 Masonic Lodges in Washington, and over 100 of those are still owned by Masons. Some buildings host multiple Lodges, or Masonic groups.

At the Landmark on the Sound, residents of the retirement home would assign all of their property to the Freemasons in exchange for lifelong care. The last person on such a plan was cared for until her death several weeks ago, said MWBro. Chris Coffman, Grand Master of Masons in Washington. Another option for residents included monthly rental payments. When the retirement home was closed in 2006 because of its outdated facilities — for example, the main elevator could not fit a stretcher if medical assistance was needed — the remaining residents were placed in other housing.

“A lot of people had close emotional ties [to it],” said MWBro. Coffman. He recently received a letter from the daughter of two residents of the retirement home who shared how much she enjoyed visiting the building. After the last resident left the retirement home, it served as an event center for several years, and has sat vacant for around a decade. “One of the hardest things we had to do was to sell it,” Coffman added.

The Freemasons sold the property in August 2019 to EPC Holdings LLC for \$11.5 million, and it’s now owned by Zenith Properties LLC. The building is not currently listed as a King County, state or national landmark, according to Cezar from the City of Des Moines, and it was sold without any pushback from local residents.

The Masons submitted an application for a demolition permit in July 2019 as part of the sale. The city is currently waiting for additional materials from the current owners after they resubmitted the demolition permit application in September 2020.

A next step of the process will include an environmental review by the city under the State Environmental Policy Act. “This property is important in the Des Moines community,” said Cezar, adding that government agencies and local residents will have an opportunity to share public comments as part of the review process.



Landmark on the Sound, once known as The Masonic Home, or the Masonic Retirement Center, is facing demolition

While many Masonic buildings are being transformed throughout the country — some even turning into movie theaters, such as the SIFF Cinema Egyptian Theatre in Seattle’s Capitol Hill and the Ark Lodge Cinemas in Seattle’s Columbia City neighborhood — Coffman said that most of Washington’s structures remain in good condition. Many of the Masonic buildings continue to serve their original purpose as meeting places for the organization, and some parts of the buildings are rented out to churches or retailers to help defray costs.

While they have not finalized the details of their plans, the current property owners have expressed interest in continuing its legacy as a place for people to come together.



Illustration reprinted from "Superman Adventures 34." Fighting Fate. August, 1999. DC Comics New York, NY. [Mark Millar, writer; Mike McAvennie, editor; Frank Berris, Asst. editor.] p. 21. 4 colour, 24 page plus gloss cover.

OPERATION KID SMILE

Operation Kid Smile went well again this year, although Santa took a different approach because of his physical distancing. The season was made a little brighter as we provided clothes and toys to over twenty children (I lost count) and Christmas dinners to seven military families.

At least one family expressed an opinion that “if it were not for this (event), our children probably wouldn’t experience Christmas this year.”

Santa’s helpers this year were 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 pitched in.



WB John Louderback waiting for the Veteran in lobby of motel with Covid protocols

VWBro. Brinkley reported “Santa and the Reindeer have finished our final delivery for the season.

“The veteran and his family were so thankful and the kids were jumping around

joyfully. They invited us in but we delivered to the doorstep. We could see a tree but these are the only gifts this family will have this year.”

Ashley adds, “Operation Kid Smile is complete for this Santa. It has been my privilege to serve this year.”

Past Master Seann Maria made a full day of it. “I drove and ferried through the storm yesterday to drop off all the presents to Michael, father of three, in Kingston. We’ve continued to talk over the phone and text for the past few days. He’s confident that because we were able to satisfy all of his kid’s requests, including tablet computers for each child, that this will be the best Christmas they’ve ever had.”

Seann adds “He was a bit anxious about trying to cook his first Christmas meal on his own, but since I was able to buy him a cooked turkey and ready-to-heat sides I counseled him on the ease of warming it all up. I was able to stay on budget with everything and left him with a stretch goal for follow-up meals such as baked potatoes and stuffing mix. We have laughed a bit over everything and I have plans to check and see how the meal went on Xmas day.

“He’s a good guy and I think we’ll keep in touch.”

Operation Kids Smile was started in 2004 as a St. John’s Lodge No. 9 charity by VWBro. Charles (Chuck) Brockway Lt. Col. Army Ret. and wife Sherla.

Recently renamed Brockway Operation Kid Smile in his honor, the program works with referrals from the Veterans Affairs to provide Christmas gifts to children of financially impacted veterans.

Washington State Board of Health pessimistic about influenza pandemic in report to Governor January 1, 1919.

On January 1, 1919, the six-member Washington State Board of Health delivered to Governor Ernest Lister (1870-1919) its *Twelfth Biennial Report*, three months later than normal. The delay was due to the flu pandemic, which was killing people in unprecedented numbers around the world and became epidemic throughout Washington. The disease, commonly if inaccurately referred to as “Spanish influenza” or “Spanish flu,” first appeared in the state in late September and early October of 1918, spread rapidly, was exceptionally lethal, and seemed unstoppable. Baffled by a medical catastrophe like no other, the board had little good news for the governor or the public.

The Spanish flu in Washington had taken 4,879 lives in the last three months of 1918, of whom more than half were adults between the ages of 20 and 39. Even so, Washington’s death rate was substantially lower than in most other states. Worldwide the pandemic is believed to have killed at least 50 million people before tapering off and disappearing entirely in late 1919 or early 1920.

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.



What will the side effects of a COVID-19 vaccine be?

Every vaccine carries a small risk of side effects, such as pain or redness at the injection site. Typically, most side effects — both minimal and serious — occur early after inoculation and will be discovered before the vaccine is approved for use in the United States. The risk of this disease is far greater than the risks of side effects from a well-tested vaccine.

Boston Educational Tour

Presumed-to-be Master of St. John’s Lodge later this year VWBro. Ashley Brinkley is arranging for brothers of the Lodge to tour the Boston area this 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.

VWBro. John Adamson, VWBro. Chuck Brockway, and WBro. Fred Hutchinson are working with the tour agency to construct an exciting itinerary to visit the historic Masonic sites in the Boston area. Those with an interest in this educational tour are encouraged to contact one of these Brothers.



LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER

We often complain that the older generation turned the Masonic Lodge into a social club or charity driven organization that turned the fraternity away from the original purpose of Freemasonry. That may be true, but they also kept Freemasonry alive and available to the common man.



They Kept the Lights On WB Christopher Hathaway



Those born between 1928 and 1945 are known as the Silent Generation. The Silent Generation is a generation that does not get much attention. They certainly do not get the credit they deserve in our society or in the Masonic Lodge. As kids, they were taught it was better to be seen than heard. They always flew under the radar but managed to contribute to society by working hard behind the scenes without the need for attention or recognition.

We all know about the Greatest Generation of WWII heroes and the economic prosperity the country enjoyed post-war. We know about the Baby Boomers and their countless internet battles with the Millennial generation (one that I am a member of). The newest Generation Z is all the rave now as writers try to analyze their every move to determine what kind of leaders they will be. So why did the Silent Generation get overlooked? Why do we criticize them in the Lodge instead of praising them for their contributions to the fraternity? The answer is because we do not know much about them and often lump them together with either the Greatest Generation or the Baby Boomers.

They are a sandwich generation that were kids or coming of age during WWII. They were young adults in relatively good economic times. They had good jobs to enter right out of high school. One key contribution that does not get attributed to them is the leaders they produced during the Civil Rights Movement. Although they led that change, they are well known to be traditionalists. The baby boomers brought on cultural change that overshadowed the slow and steady attitude of the Silent Generation. Think of the Silent Generation as the middle child. Even the war they fought has become unnoticed. This generation fought in the Korean War AKA the Forgotten War as it was fought between WWII and the Vietnam War. They also are a generation that was never represented in the White House.

The Masonic Lodges they inherited were largely made up of the Greatest Generation and by the time the Silent Generation was able to step into leadership roles, Masonic membership was on its way down. The Baby Boomers stopped joining anything that was considered part of the establishment. The Silent Generation ran Masonic Lodges just as they ran the rest of their lives: respect for tradition, loyalty, and hard work.

We often complain that the older generation turned the Masonic Lodge into a social club or charity-driven organization that turned the fraternity away from the original purpose of Freemasonry. That may be true, but they also kept Freemasonry alive and available to the common man. Many of us that complain today would not have been high enough on the social ladder to be even considered for the degrees of Freemasonry, let alone able to afford it. We would not be presenting education in our Lodges if the Silent Generation did not step-up big time to maintain Freemasonry during its darkest years. They could have given up, they could have closed the doors, but they did not.

This generation had to work hard to maintain our Lodges. We complain about the pancake breakfast and how "that's all they want to do." That is because they had to. They did not enjoy a membership boom during their tenure. They had to bring in money to support our Lodges. We complain about the green beans at dinner. Chances are, the Junior Warden of your Lodge has been in the position many times due to necessity and they are burnt out. Be thankful the green beans are on the table because that means the Lodge is still open. These men supported Lodges night after night performing degrees to any Lodge within their cable tow. This generation was not really afforded the luxury of focusing on education; they have been maintaining our membership rolls and buildings for years. Even those that do not attend, regularly send in dues payments year after year because they see it as their duty. I see too many non-payment of dues suspensions go out to people that become uninterested in the fraternity. They do not see it as their duty to financially support the Lodge once their self-interests are no longer being met.

Change is slow and takes effort. It is not instantaneous, and we cannot expect it to be. We wonder why the older members will not change. The truth is it has not been in their best interest to change. It worked for them, now we need to find out what will work best for us.

Thank you to the average men of America that kept the doors open for us so that we have a platform to enlighten our members on our principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. We may have our thoughts about what makes a proper Masonic Lodge, but we are only to present these thoughts as Master Masons due to their commitment to keeping the lights on. In my Lodge, it was the Ronnie Vallangeons, the Ronald Tranchants, the Seigel Halls, and countless others that will go down in no other history book besides the hearts of the men they influenced. Master Masons today should be forever grateful to the members of the Silent Generation. Traditions Matter. Progress Matters. It takes all of us from all generations to bring out the best traits in each other to make the Masonic Lodge sustainable for years to come.

WB Christopher J. Hathaway was raised in Catlin Masonic Lodge #285 and is the current Worshipful Master of Bloomington Masonic Lodge #43. He belongs to the Valley of Danville, AASR where he is the Most Wise Master of the George E. Burow Chapter of Rose Croix and Membership Chairman. Other appendant bodies include the Gao Grotto, Mohammed Shriners, and the Illinois Lodge of Research

2020 has been a bad year for many people in America. Some would say it was catastrophic and not just in America. There were a few bright days. One of the best news was that two vaccines against the COVID-19 pandemic were announced.

When I venture into the desolate streets, most people I happen to see, even the colorful Seattle bus riders seem calmer than before, at times even polite. Standing in line at the few open stores is not a fight for quarter inches of breathing space and for being next in line to get out of here, as we tolerate "social distancing," a stroke of verbal genius which harbors a contradiction. Many businesses no longer accept cash because they fear being infected by money. Ahem? Are credit cards sterile? Of course not. In any case, maybe some of these behaviors will become commonplace after the epidemic.

We cannot meet in "our" usual way as Freemasons. In a few cases, Brothers seem to communicate more often in bursts via emails, telephone, Zoom. How about by letter? No, that's old fashioned and requires more thinking and more time. My Brothers, friendships do not grow due to frequent meetings, but by doing and experiencing things together. Seems that the pandemic has worked an intensifier in some Freemasons. They are the ones who learn and are willing to share their experiences and insights.

Christmas was kind of quiet and the travel rush modest. There was a real excuse to not spend time with difficult relatives. On New Year's Eve, there were a few drunks, crazies and druggies about. Most stores have been closed for months anyway, but one was vandalized. It was empty. Today, nobody in my block has to wash vomit, excrements, discarded food or containers from the sidewalk. Let's hope that more people of Seattle find such an existence tolerable and worthy of continuance.

The world of work deserves attention. The typical American Business Office with rows of desks has vanished; the cubicle dwellers and file cabinet guardians disappeared, as did supervisors of order and procedures and systems administrators. The dollars spent on office rent and travel expenses were a waste, we are told, and so was my travel time. It is no longer important to be located near a traffic artery. Unknown little country places – with electricity, mind ya, and internet connectivity – raise the line under corporate bottoms. Even my favorite Pharmacy Assistant hightailed to the wonders of Yelm, WA and data centers as far as the eye can see.

The research and product development arms of pharmaceutical giants produced several COVID-19 vaccines in record time. US government regulators opened their facilities and bureaucratic avenues to evaluations, temporary approvals and certifications. Scientific literature caught up with, and manufacturing adapted to, realities. A worthwhile thing was being

produced by different groups of people. We are not there yet, the distribution does not work. We hope that the combined forces averted a catastrophe.

I am quite optimistic about the future. Life's hamster wheel has been stopped, it seems. We can get off and have time to think and taste our success. COVID-19 is only one of the aspects of life on this planet. The Corona virus may pose more dangers to man-kind. There are other problems awaiting attention, such as what to do with plastics. Freemasonry has something to do with my view. I look to order, purpose and the proportional relationships of the parts of a whole system or building. I value substance, content, rational discourse. Some of the Masonic ritual is helpful.

I am curious how the pandemic will alter American society and Freemasonry. This is a time when long overdue but fundamental questions should be asked and answered, not pasted over. This is a time when we need the men and their inputs to solve our enduring challenges. This is a time of great hope that together we can do it. So let's.

Best wishes to all Brethren.

"Paul Liberty" is a member of St. John's Lodge. He chooses to remain anonymous in his writings.

Masonic Outreach Services Helps City of Malden in the Near and Long-term

Kim Maxfield, Masonic Outreach Services case manager, has actively served more than 50 members of Malden affected by the Babb Road Fire since September. That is almost 17% of the total population single handedly!

As a case manager, Kim helps people sort out their challenges and get connected to the best resources to meet their needs. Kim is also able to help with direct financial assistance, because of the generosity of the Fraternity.

WA Masonic Charities is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization registered with the Secretary of State in Olympia, Washington.

Masonic Outreach Services - Upcoming Webinars

Masonic Outreach Services will be offering the following informative webinars designed to help you plan for your future and understand your options.

January 19 7 PM - [Provide and Protect Part 1](#)

If you're a Mason and responsible for ensuring your families well-being, this workshop is for you. Part 1 focuses on Creation of Retirement Accounts and Accumulation of Wealth.

Click on the above link, Meeting ID: 860 2147 6348, Passcode: 113879, Phone: 1-253-215-8782

February 7 PM - [Provide and Protect Part 2](#)

If you're a Mason and responsible for ensuring your families well-being, this workshop is for you. Part 2 progresses from Accumulation of Wealth to Conservation of Funds in preparation for retirement.

Click on the above link, Meeting ID: 845 8797 8703, Passcode: 963536, Phone: 1-253-215-8782

The first recorded initiation in England

At Neucastell the 20 day off May, 1641. The quilk day ane serten number off Mester and others being lafule conveined, doeth admit Mr the Right Honerabell Mr Robert Moray, General quarter Mr to the Armie of Scotlan, and the same bing aproven be the hell Mester off the Mesone of the Log off Edenroth, quherto they heaue set to ther handes or markes. A. Hamilton, R. Moray, Johnne Mylln. James Hamilton.

Thus runs the entry of the first ascertained recorded Masonic initiation on English soil into Speculative Freemasonry. It is the record of the initiation of one of the most remarkable men of his time. His name, by writers other than himself - for he always signed his name in bold characters as R. Moray - is spelled variously as Moray, Murray, and Murrey, and a singular mistake occurs in the standard edition of Evelyn's Diary, where the entries occur as Murray, while in the Correspondence, the only letter that appears from Moray is, of course, signed in the correct manner, with the result that both forms appear in the General Index.

Sir Robert Moray was a descendant of an ancient and noble Highland family. He was educated partly at the University of St. Andrew's and partly in France.

WBro. Fred Hutchinson opens our Wednesday Zoom sessions with a call to prayer. He offered this invocation in a previous 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 celebrate the
onset of a new year...
One which offers a better tomorrow
And the promise of vaccine
and the hope
We will be able to meet
together in person soon.

We look back upon a challenging year
Yet are thankful for these
opportunities each week
To share our light with one
another.

Help us to continue to stand tall and be
instruments of good in our sphere
And to be a beacon of hope to all we meet..

Thank you for this opportunity to be
together...
to work together...
and to make a difference
in a world in need of
harmony peace and love.

AMEN

Written by Rev. Bro. Fred Hutchinson, M.Div., MSHS, BCC ©
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Procrastination is Not Rewarded!



Your wallet may contain a membership card, but unless you received a receipt or thank you for promptly paying your 2021 dues, it might not be valid. For the next couple of years or so you'll be using the same plastic card that you now hold. But, if you failed to pay your 2021 dues, it won't "scan" as current if challenged by the Tyler. This year's dues are only \$38, but if you missed the December 31 deadline, they've gone up to \$43. Want to miss again in January? Sorry, that'll be \$48 in February! Mail your check today to PO Box 30069, Seattle 98113

JANUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Day

- 1 Mark A. Lentz
- 2 Scott A. Pence
- 4 Egil J. Pedersen
- 5 Stephen F. Weiss
- 8 Charles R. Brockway
- 11 James F. Russell
- 11 Richard 'Ric' Delarose
- 12 Michael M. Adams
- 14 Storrs L. "Skip" Albertson
- 17 Loudon H. Fraser
- 18 Alex A. Skistimas
- 24 Thomas H. Fredrickson
- 25 Vaibhav Vijay (Vince) Kodikal
- 26 Kenneth M. Lane, Sr.
- 28 Craig R. Messett
- 29 Bernard B. Gordon



LODGE OFFICERS REMAIN IN PLACE – FOR NOW

Sec. 15.11 B.L. Office Tenure Every installed officer is entitled to hold his office until his successor is installed unless he vacates his office by:

1. Death
2. Resignation, but the Master cannot resign
3. Election and installation into a vacant office or Warden, Treasurer or Secretary
4. Suspension for a time extending beyond the next annual election
5. Expulsion
6. Removal from office

Since we cannot meet or hold elections, the following 2020 officers will continue in their stations and places until an election and installation can be held.

WBro.	Blair J. Neumann	W.M.	425 466-8358
VWBro.	S. Ashley Brinkley	S.W.	206 601-5118
WBro.	John Murray Louderback	J.W.	206 999-0484
VWBro.	James R. Maher	Treasurer	253 630-0218
VWBro.	James F. Russell	Secretary	425 778-6823
WBro.	Jarrold A. Schuh	Chaplain	206 261-4602
VWBro.	Neil P. Quinn	Marshal	425 228-5184
WBro.	K. Eric Koteles	S.D.	206 423-5128
Bro.	Kemal Alaeddinoglu	J.D.	206 661-8354
WBro.	Adam J. Creighton	Musician	206 422-5227
WBro.	Terry A. Grove	Tyler	425 610-4561