

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

Trestleboard

SEPTEMBER 2021

Jim Russell, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

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FROM THE EAST

S. Ashley Brinkley, Master



S. Ashley Brinkley
Master

As a Mason, what is your favorite part of the fellowship? Is it our Lodge meetings, an Installation, community service event, welcoming new brothers, visiting other Lodges around the state or any of the educational opportunities? For me, it's returning to the brotherhood after being on a break.

Every summer, as we slow down with our monthly meetings and events, it brings me back to when I was younger and out of school for the summer! I loved the last few weeks of Summer Break, the excitement of returning to school and starting something new. Being apart from friends and reconnecting after being away. The overall excitement!

This summer we have had the opportunities to bond and get to know each other outside of our typical Lodge events. The St. John's Lodge campout was one of my personal favorites. We had the opportunity to relax in nature and to bond. We sat around the "campfire" (unfortunately, it had to be propane, as real fires were not allowed) and roasted marshmallows and hotdogs. Whole families were there and had the best time. I felt like I got to know more of my Lodge brothers on a deeper level that I had not experienced before. And now, just like heading back to school, we are going to be starting back to our Lodge meetings.

I want us to not forget the summer gatherings and bring a bit of that to each season. We can do that by focusing on education. Education of the history of our Lodge, the personal biographies of each member, both past and present and connecting with each member both in and out of the Lodge settings.

During a recent St. John's Zoom meeting WB Pekka Granroth – a member of one of the Finnish Lodges and a somewhat regular participant in our get-togethers – posed a challenging question who's answer was "light." Our brother Dennis Archambault was the first to answer correctly, upon which WBro. Granroth awarded him a Finnish kuksa.



What is a Kuksa? Traditionally made from the knot of a birch tree, each kuksa cup is uniquely personal, and meant to fit comfortably in one's (the maker's) hands. The kuksa by design is a thoughtfully humble and practical vessel. It is multifunctional, simultaneously acting as a bowl, a cup, a spoon, or a ladle. It

stands for warmth, nourishment, and salvation - all of which are essential to survival but also in building and maintaining a community or fellowship.

The kuksa can be passed from one person to the next. An exchange, if you will, of its nourishing contents, which strengthens relationships and bonds of human connection.

CALENDAR



- September 8 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- September 9 (7pm): Officers meeting teleconference
- Sept. 15 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated
- September 17 (7pm): EA degree rehearsal
- September 21-27: St. John's Boston Tour
- September 22 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- September 29 (7pm): EA degree rehearsal
- October 2 (6pm): Entered Apprentice Degree
- October 6 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- October 13 (6pm): Board of Trustees 2022 Budget preparation
- October 14 (7pm): Officers meeting teleconference
- Oct. 20 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated
- October 22-23-24: District 5 Leadership Retreat Masonic Park Dream Camp
- October 30 (10am): Past Masters Brunch Jimmy's on Broadway
- November 10 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- Nov. 17 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated Past Masters Night; Election of Officers
- November 10 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- November 11 (7pm): Officers meeting
- November 17 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated Past Masters Night; Election of Officers
- November 25: Thanksgiving Day

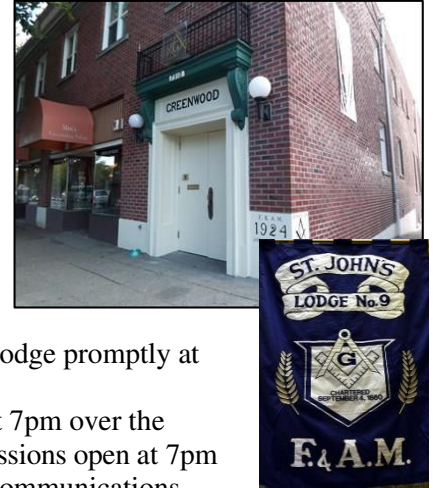
ST. JOHN'S BRETHREN RETURN TO GREENWOOD

Greenwood Temple welcomes St. John's Lodge brethren back to our home in September. Familiar surroundings? Not if you have a short memory! We haven't met in person at Greenwood Temple since February of 2020. And falling snow and icy roads persuaded the Worshipful Master Blair Neumann to cancel the stated communication in January of that year.

So, it's back to coat and tie (make that red, bow) for all, with officers back in their official tuxedo attire.

One of the first things we'll be doing (following the stated communication of September 15) will be to initiate Mr. Phil Halverson as an Entered Apprentice. All brothers are encouraged to help welcome Mr. Halverson into our Fraternal Craft. Degree team members and visitors are asked to arrive by 5:30pm so we can open the Lodge promptly at 6pm.

St. John's members, and all Masons, are encouraged to join us each Wednesday at 7pm over the Zoom platform as we continue to share knowledge of Masonic Enlightenment. These sessions open at 7pm and generally last about an hour. They're a wonderful addition to our monthly stated communications.



St. John's will again offer dinner to all comers including guests and visitors at this month's stated communication September 15.

Please make your dinner reservations with the secretary at 206 623-0261 by Friday, September 9, prior to the meeting. If you need a ride, the secretary will be happy to find one for you. Do you know of a brother who has not attended Lodge in a while? Call him and ask if you can pick him up and bring him to Lodge.



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ST. JOHN'S BROTHERS HEAD TO BOSTON

to tour cradle of Democracy, American Freemasonry

St. John's Lodge Boston Tour is scheduled from 21 Sept till Sunday, 26 September. We are flying into Boston on Tuesday, 21 September. We have tours scheduled at the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Scottish Rite (Northern Jurisdiction), JFK Presidential Library, Freedom Trail, Lexington and Concord and the Minuteman National Park, and Plymouth Plantation (an historic re-creation of the Plymouth Bay Colony and Mayflower).

Those participating are: John R. Adamson and his daughter, Michelle Heeb and granddaughter McKenzie Heeb; Ashley Brinkley and his daughter Sarah Brinkley; Blair Newmann; Kent and Jamie Curtis; Jerry, Delores and Denise Schuh.

It will be a great tour of the historic sites in and around Boston.

ARE WE ALL CONNECTED IN SOME WAY?

MWBro. Jim Mendoza notes that one of the recipients of our scholarships for this year is Chloe Gammon, the great-great granddaughter of our Past Master and Past Grand Master Mattheew Hill. He also reports that MWBro. Hill for years was the "keynote speaker" for the King Solomon Lodge No. 60 strawberry dinners. MWBro. Hill, who did not drive following a previous motor accident, was a State Supreme Court Justice who would ride with a state patrolman from Olympia, transfer in Tacoma to another state patrol vehicle to arrive in Auburn for these strawberry dinner events. The reverse procedure was used to arrive back home in Olympia.

MWBro. Hill, who was a strict moralist, probably couldn't get away with that perk today!



MW Matthew W. Hill
St. John's Master 1933
Grand Master 1940-41

Senior Warden Message

WBro. Blair Neumann



Brethren, Harmony is the strength and support of all institutions, more especially this of ours, but what is Harmony and how do we know when it prevails?

Harmony exists when many voices sing together as one, but not when all voices sing in unison (though some of them may). Rather, Harmony requires different voices singing different parts that work together to create a pleasing sound, greater than the sum of its parts.

So it should be with Harmony in our Lodge. We work together in Harmony not because we're the same but because we're different. We each sing with different voices, we hit different notes, and some of us may even sing quiet or loud, but so long as we each sing in key (that is, within due bounds) then we cannot help but sing in glorious Harmony.

Calling All Worshipful Masters

Are you looking for new ways to bring the Brethren of your Lodge or District together while focusing on Masonic values and doing good for both Masons and the community?

Look no further than Washington Masonic Charities. We have two offerings that can help your Lodge or District assist our older Brethren, Masonic widows, and help struggling students succeed in school. We seek your partnership to help make our Jurisdiction's charitable effort successful.

- Operation Masonic Relief helps older Brethren and Masonic widows successfully age in place, or obtain long term care when they need assistance.
- On the Level Student Success helps homeless students succeed in school by supporting basic and education needs.

For more information, please contact Masonic Outreach Services Director, Byron Cregeur at (253) 267-8625 or byron@masonscare.org or Kirsten Putman, Youth and Scholarships Director at (253) 267-8251 or kirsten@masonscare.org.

Everett AquaSox 2022



Chairman WBro. Terry Grove reports that brothers and their guests who attended the Everett AquaSox baseball game this year were pleasantly surprised when they were invited to watch the infield warm-ups up close.

Our group was invited to share in the pre-game food court located at the bullpen level instead of high above the stands because the bullpen area was not otherwise occupied this year. This permitted close-up observation of the team's warmup actions.

By a show of hands last month, it was recommended to purchase tickets next year that include the closer food court positioning. Tickets will be a little more expensive, but the pre-game seating is more entertaining.

Junior Warden's Message

WBro. John Murray Louderback



We are all very social creatures. We all need interpersonal connections for our wellbeing and happiness.

Yet I am reminded of one of my favorite childhood stories - "The Little Engine That Could." Similarly to this story, of a little train engine that is getting bigger and stronger as time goes on. He understood that as friends and family are important, he would not be fully recognized as an accomplished train engine until he proved to himself that he could accomplish the highest most difficult of obstacles. When we begin very difficult tasks, we may wonder if we've set the bar too high. But if we never have the courage to try, we will never know what we may accomplish. You may be an accomplished old engine having conquered many mountains, but no matter how many you have climbed, you can still accomplish more and also be recognized by others of having done so. Being the little engine is having the understanding that if you try your very best, and keep faith in yourself during difficult times, you too can accomplish what you have set in your heart and mind. Keep striving today for an even better tomorrow.

You can do it!

ENTERED APPRENTICE TO BE INITIATED

All Brothers of St. John's are asked to come witness the initiation of (and welcome) Mr. Phil Halverson. Mr. Halverson's petition was received February 2020 and was awaiting action for seventeen months (!) while we were unable to meet during the pandemic shut-down.



Freemasonry is at its core an initiatory experience. Its primary purpose is to provide initiation through ritual, then to give mentoring to all Master Masons. Indeed, mentoring is an essential component to becoming a fully realized Mason.

Worshipful Master Ashley Brinkley will open Lodge at **6pm, Saturday, October 2**. Dinner and fellowship will be held following the degree. With your attendance and participation, we can make this entry to Freemasonry memorable!



HOW DO YOU KNOW YOURSELF TO BE A MASON?

I was made a Mason on the 22nd of February 2019. It was for me, as I assume it was for all those who went through the EA Degree, one of the single most memorable, confusing, exciting and maybe disappointing days of my life. I only say disappointing in that I was ready to ride 'the goat' and there was no goat, anywhere, I even checked under the secretary's desk and behind the pianist...no goat. (Little did I know, I was already riding the goat, I'd had him by the horns for a while now, but that's for another Tressel board)...I digress.

Afterwards, I was handed a copy of what was called the 'PL' or Posting Lecture and told that amongst other requirements, I was to 'learn this and recite the answers in open Lodge'. Well I took the little red book, and opened it to see mumble jumble, bible babble. They were letters, but not words and none of which I could discern on my own.

I thought 'well, I'm already nervous about a recital of this lengthy string of questions and answers in front of the equivalent of several hundred years' worth of memorization and Masonic knowledge, now I have to get a decoder ring, to somehow decipher this gibberish. Well I am trying to make myself a better man, so how hard could this be?'

It was not too hard, here are a few reasons why:

Over the intervening period, I've worked with several Masons, of my Lodge and from other Lodges that I've come to know in my travels. They all echoed the same thing...and continuity I like. They said, "practice makes perfect," "practice until you can do it in your sleep." And I did, like I mentioned with lots of Brothers, but at first it was just a regurgitation of words that had little meaning. The more observant man may have caught on sooner, but like I said earlier about my Degree, this too was confusing, exciting yes, but seemingly meaningless...or so it seemed.

One day I was talking with a Brother and we were going over some questions and EA specific topics, those 'other requirements' mentioned earlier, and it hit me, 'the PL is my initiation and my initiation is contained within the PL.' I felt like a dope. All that time, I was just reciting what I was told those ciphered words were supposed to mean. From then on, it wasn't just an empty recital, but something that I could actually feel...which now I'll explain (none of which shall reveal anything to those who aren't 'in the know').

It mentions: my dress, the obstacles I had to pass, how I was able to pass them, how I know myself to be a Mason and how, through select movements, symbols and other modes of communication, others may know me to be a Mason and also how I may know them to be Masons as well. It references the instruments and accoutrements of my Degree. It recalls my being escorted hither and thither. Although I felt disoriented (thither) there was a beautiful symmetry by my conductor(s) which the PL also mentions if one pays close attention, there was a gifting of sorts, there was a 'light' cast upon myself that had a radiance I've never felt and won't feel again until I meet the G.A.O.T.U, there was a warmth felt by myself, emanating from my Brothers, as they may have seen, in my initiation, their own Masonic baptism, if you will, saw in me their own youthful exuberance for 'Masonry.' It taught me about geometry, about the elements, the shape in which I am trying to emulate and some of the tools (instruments) in which I may use to make that process happen as well as many more things not mentioned here.

All of which I could feel as I traced the steps, angles and setting in my mind. It became tangible, induced many fond and ever present feelings...a sense of pride being one of the most present.

If it wasn't clear through the last few paragraphs, Masonry became something I could actually feel, not just something which is devoid of feeling and substance, that which was just a requirement to advance to the next Degree.

It's much, much more than that. Be well.

Louis Leandro Turner
EA, St John's Lodge #9
Seattle, WA 8/25/2021

Visit Our District Brethren

District 5 Lodges	Next Meeting	Time
St. John's 9	Wednesday, September 15, 2021	7:30pm
Eureka 20*	Monday, September 13, 2021	7:30pm
University 141	Friday, September 10, 2021	7:30pm
Daylight 232	Saturday, September 18, 2021	10am
Lafayette 241	Thursday, December 2, 2021	7pm
Queen Anne 242*	Thursday, September 9, 2021	7:30pm
Esoterika 316*	Tuesday, October 26, 2021	7:30pm

*Recent changes find Eureka Lodge now meeting at the Seattle Scottish Rite in Shoreline, Queen Anne Lodge at Greenwood, and Esoterika at Occidental in Ballard.

Join us on Zoom

Teleconferencing Fellowship
Wednesdays

at 7pm

*We're having a wonderful time exchanging ideas and
Masonic Enlightenment*

Coming dates:

September 8, 2021

September 15, 2021 (stated meeting night – no Zoom)

September 22, 2021

September 29, 2021 (EA degree practice – no Zoom)

October 6, 2021

Sessions open promptly at 7pm

*** Fellowship**

*** Check on our brothers and widows**

*** Masonic Enlightenment & Education**

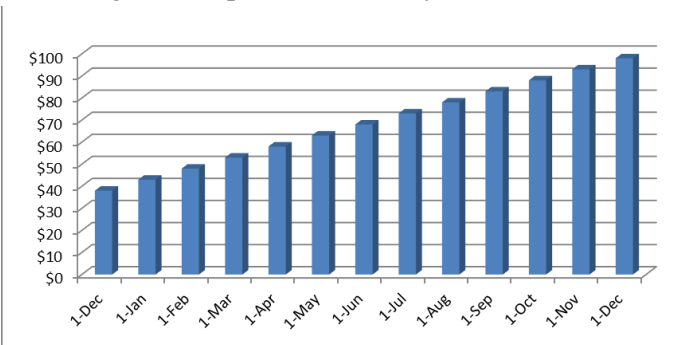
- Use Meeting ID **981 655 9198** to join our Fellowships
- Enter passcode **1776**

Here's more about how to use Zoom Meetings:
https://zoom.us/download#client_4meeting

2021 MEMBER DUES (\$38) NOW \$83!

Here's a toast to all those Brothers who paid their 2021 membership dues on time – you've saved yourselves a good deal of money. To those five Brothers who are still procrastinating, what in the world are you waiting for?

For those who were members when we adopted a bylaw change June of 2014, your dues (payable by December 31, 2020) were \$38. Fees increase by \$5 each month a member delays to pay his annual dues beyond December 31. You can see by the chart that this is becoming more expensive month-by-month!



Annual dues for Brothers who became members after June 16, 2014 were \$392. None of these are delinquent.

Certificates of Masonic Labor (valued at \$30 each) are issued at each stated or special communication (degree or officer installation). That's at least a potential credit of \$360, even if you missed attending a couple of degrees. These or cash or personal check may be used toward the payment of dues in St. John's Lodge.

As we are now well into the second half of our Masonic year, your Secretary is already preparing the ledgers for 2022 when dues under the new structure will remain at \$392. "Grandfathered" members' dues will again be \$38.

Here's something to seriously consider: The purchase price for Endowed *Life* Memberships as defined by the Masonic Code of Washington may be a prudent route to pursue:

- Age 18 to 35,	\$650
- Age 36 to 45,	\$600
- Age 46 to 55,	\$500
- Age 56 to 65,	\$450
- Age 66 and over	\$400 Rev. 2012

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Day

- 4 Michael R. Pimentel
- 10 Harry L. Arthur
- 16 George H. Wohlleben
- 17 George O. "Bob" Smith, Jr.
- 18 Bryan E. Hopkins
- 22 Vincent Di Giulio
- 23 Arthur P. Jentoft
- 28 Sai B. Ruhlen



Who influenced you for the better when you were a child?

Who showed you a new perspective that changed your life?

Who inspired you to rise above challenges and chase your dreams?

Who celebrated your strengths, led you through struggles, or sat with you in sadness?

It's incredible how the kindnesses we are offered in childhood can change us for a lifetime.

Now, as adults, we have the ability to inspire new generations and spark change through our words and actions. In many cases, the gesture doesn't have to be that big.

Five-year-old Harvey Sutton will never forget the transformative experience of hiking all 2,100 miles of the Appalachian Trail with his parents this summer. And we're willing to bet that the memories he carries with him will include those [gestures of kindness from strangers his family met on the trail](#)... including little gifts and homemade treasure hunts.

And while a little girl named Reach will not remember the efforts that gave her a Fresh Start, she will no doubt hear about them in the years to come. Named after the U.S. evacuation aircraft that carried her mother out of Afghanistan, Reach tried to make her entrance into the world mid-flight. Thanks to the quick work of commander and crew (and her resilient mother), [Reach was born safely in the cargo bay](#), a future of endless possibilities before her.

So... who opened a world of possibilities for you when you were a child?

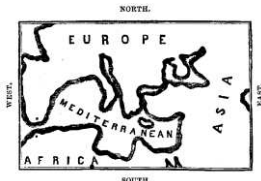
And how can you tap into that sense of wonder, comfort, or inspiration today?

—The Fresh Start Team



FORM OF THE LODGE

The form of a Freemason's Lodge is said to be an oblong square, having its greatest length from east to west, and its greatest breadth from north to south. This oblong form of the Lodge, has, as Brother Mackey thought, a symbolic illusion that has not been alluded to by any other writer. If, on a map of the world, we draw lines which shall circumscribe just that portion which was known and inhabited at the time of the building of Solomon's Temple, these lines, running a short distance north and south of the Mediterranean Sea, and extending from Spain to Asia Minor, will form an oblong square, whose greatest length will be from east to west, and whose greatest breadth will be from north to south.



There is a peculiar fitness in this theory, which is really only making the Masonic Lodge a symbol of the world. It must be remembered that, at the era of the Temple, the earth was supposed to have the form of a parallelogram, or oblong square. Such a figure inscribed upon a map of the world, and including only that part of it which was known in the days of Solomon, would present just such a square, embracing the Mediterranean Sea and the countries lying immediately on its northern, southern, and eastern borders. Beyond, far in the north, would be Cimmerian deserts as a place of darkness, while the pillars of Hercules in the west, on each side of the Straits of Gades now Gibraltar might appropriately be referred to the two pillars that stood at the porch of the Temple. Thus the world itself would be the true Freemason's Lodge, in which he was to live and labor. Again: the solid contents of the earth below, "from the surface to the centre," and the profound expanse above, "from the earth to the highest heavens," would give to this parallelogram definition which says that "the form of the Lodge ought to be a double cube, as an expressive emblem of the powers of light and darkness in the creation."

- Source: Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry

Q. What would you get if you mixed a Fellowcraft and a tiger?

A. A tiger.

MASTER MASONS RAISED IN SEPTEMBER

Date Raised:

9/15/1965 Bernard B. Gordon
9/17/1969 Marcos J. Policar
9/24/1969 Petros N. Farmasonis
9/19/1973 Brad D. Wolford
9/22/1975 Satoru Tashiro
9/13/1976 Richard L. Waldo
9/11/2007 Mathew S. La Croix
9/10/2008 Phillip J. See



Landmarks of the Fraternity

Were it possible for all the Masonic authorities at the present day to unite in a Universal Congress, and with perfect unanimity to adopt any new regulation, it would not be a Landmark. It would have the character of universality, it is true, but it would be wanting in that of antiquity.

Another peculiarity of these Landmarks of Freemasonry is that they are un-repealable. As the above Congress would not have the power to enact a Landmark, so neither would it have the prerogative of abolishing one. The Landmarks of the Order can suffer no change. What they were centuries ago, they still remain and must continue in force until Freemasonry itself shall cease to exist.

Until the year 1858, no attempt had been made by any Masonic writer to distinctly enumerate the Landmarks of Freemasonry, and to give to them a comprehensible form. In October of that year, the author of a work published in the American Quarterly Review of Freemasonry on "The Foundations of Masonic Law," contained a distinct enumeration of the (25) Landmarks which was the first time that such a list had been presented. This enumeration was subsequently incorporated in his Text Book of Masonic Jurisprudence. It has since been very generally adopted by the Fraternity and republished by many writers on Masonic law.

Time for a Little Kindness

WB Gregory J. Knott, *Midnight Freemasons*

Those who are kind benefit themselves, but the cruel bring ruin on themselves. Proverbs 11:17 NIV

One of the fundamental tenets of our fraternity is that of brotherly love. Within this concept, we are taught to treat all others equally with respect and tolerance. Digging down further, we learn that we should use kindness towards others. Kindness is the pathway to getting to know someone else, in a much deeper and meaningful way.

Any quick review of social media will reveal a lack of kindness towards one another. I have long thought that if people were meeting in person, they would never say things or act so rudely towards one another. Hiding behind the computer screen provides an easy opportunity for people to be anything but kind. They are often downright cruel. As Freemasons, we have the amazing opportunity to set an example for others. Here are some easy ideas you might use:

Call your neighbor to check on them and see how they are doing. Volunteer at a local charity. Give blood. Tell a co-worker how much you appreciate them and the work they do. Become a mentor. Hold the door for someone. Smile and say hello. Say "thank you."

The last couple of years have been tough on all of us, but with a little more kindness in the world, we can weather this current storm and soon arrive at a wonderful sun-filled day with the hope of a bright future for all of humanity.

Thank you.

LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER

With the passing of time, the working tools of the operative craft became the symbols of the speculative, and in order that they might be understood and their significance properly related to the living of a life acceptable to God and in a more perfect relationship with one another, it became necessary to devise a means of instruction which gave rise to ritualistic form.



THE MASONIC RITUAL AS AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL

by RW Bro. Aubrey L. Burbank
PGM Maine

This from a thought-provoking paper presented at the Seventh Annual Northeast Conference on Masonic Education and Libraries in 1962 by Past Grand Master, Aubrey L. Burbank of Maine.

The subject calls for an appraisal of the place of the Ritual in the program of education, and implies that its future is, in some measure at least, dependent upon its growth and development, past and present. The inference, therefore, is that we begin at the beginning, and that while the intent is to think in terms of the speculative craft, we cannot detach ourselves from antiquity. We must necessarily begin with the operative guild which gave us birth.

Masonic ritual, in the broadest sense, incorporates any and all ceremonies or rites from the opening of the Lodge to its closing, including the conferring of degrees. To trace the beginning in either particular would be next to impossible, and it is not our intent to *dwell* in the past. We can be reasonably certain, however, that the first speculative Lodges inherited their modes and customs from the operative guilds and thus began their existence with a ritual sufficient for their needs - a ritual which probably provided for a ceremony of opening and closing and the administering of an oath of allegiance. This is understandable in view of the fact that medieval Lodges opened with prayer, after which each workman had his daily labor assigned him and received the necessary instruction to complete the work in detail. We further learn that in or near that same period, an investiture with Masonic secrets, the building secrets, that is, was, perhaps, originally conferred in one of the abbey rooms near which the Cathedral, or other sacred edifice was being erected, until the superstructure had so far advanced as to cover the church crypt, and offered a safe asylum for the craft to congregate in, for the purpose of working the rites appurtenant to the several Masonic degrees. With the passing of time, the working tools of the operative craft became the symbols of the speculative, and in order that they might be understood and their

significance properly related to the living of a life acceptable to God and in a more perfect relationship with one another, it became necessary to devise a means of instruction which gave rise to ritualistic form. As speculative Masonry grew and spread to other parts of the old world and eventually to America, its ritual became further enriched with allegory and symbols to the point where it became an art in itself, but never losing its original purpose and intent - that of imparting knowledge to the initiate.

There have been times in the history of the craft, however, when ritualism became the whole aim and end of Freemasonry. The effects of war, which made its mark upon society and life in general found no exception in the Masonic Fraternity. Lodges became likened to "6 mills" in turning out Masons (or numbers), and the ritual suffered as a result, due partially to haste, and partly to indifference and ineffectiveness on the part of undedicated officers.

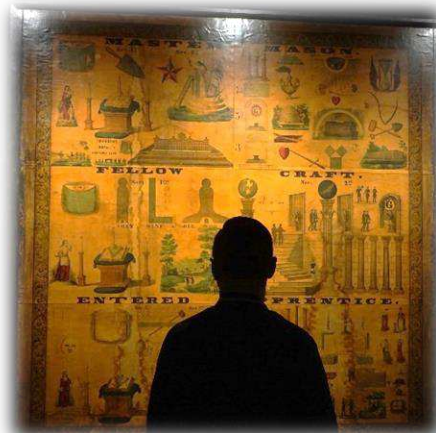
Then, too, in America, there has been a tendency to lengthen the ritual to accommodate the so-called ritualistic orators, and a further tendency to exploit the ritual, for the amusement of the brethren at the sacrifice of the more important task of imparting knowledge.

In more recent years, through various programs of candidate instruction, with the ritual as the foundation and basis of that instruction, there has been a growing tendency to restore the ritual to its proper place in the total program of

Masonic education. Newly-raised Masons today have at their disposal a greater understanding and appreciation of the historically and life-molding significance of the ritual, and the emphasis in rendition is gradually changing from the "I" dotter and the "T" crosser to the more meaningful rendition which causes men to think, to feel, and to act.

This is not to condemn good ritualism. The preservation of ritual in its purest form is most important and imperative. Good ritualism is an honor; poor ritualism is always pernicious. Good ritualism is worth the best efforts and highest aspirations of any Master; poor ritualism is unworthy of any Master. Good ritualism is one of the great assets of a Lodge and a potent advertising medium; poor ritualism is an efficient hypnotic.

However, our subject does not concern itself with ritualistic rendition, but rather the place of the ritual in an educational program. At long last it has become the



tendency on the part of many Grand Jurisdictions to initiate a program of candidate instruction, and it is our opinion that such instruction cannot divorce itself from the ritual as the basis and foundation of that instruction. As for its place in the future, it is our feeling that there are unexplored resources in the symbolism and allegory of our ritual commensurate to, and of about equal magnitude with the space age in which we live, resources which will help mankind to better understand his place in the world as a creature of one Almighty Parent, and endowed with powers beyond his most imaginative dreams. If we are to make men, through our ritualistic teachings, better able to deal with the problems of life in their relations toward the Supreme Architect of the Universe and their fellow man which is our major task in the building of spiritual temples, then we must utilize the resources at hand.

To say that we have exhausted this field would be preposterous and indicative of Masonic ignorance, because, as any one of you sufficiently versed in Masonry very well know, there is no end to the great well of information which lies buried in the antiquity of our Order. The potential in space is limitless – so also is the potential in Masonic research.

Some of these are so obvious that we hesitate to call them to your attention. **WHY CAME YOU HERE?** To seek Good that makes us Men, and the love that makes us Brothers. **WHAT CAME YOU HERE TO DO?** To discover myself, and how to rule and use the strange powers within my nature, that the Rough Ashlar of Youth might be wrought into the Perfect Ashlar of Manhood. **WHAT DO YOU MOST DESIRE?** To walk in the light, to know the Truth, to live in the glory of an illumined world, to ascend the Winding Stair of knowledge, to enter the Court of the Temple of Imagery where the symbols of God hallow our mortal life. **BY WHAT RIGHT OR BENEFIT?** By the Right of a man to know the meaning of life, so brief at its longest, so broken at its best; and by the benefit of a need too deep for tears. **WORDS?** Yes. But meaningful words that can be read into our symbolism and allegory.

And what of the even more obvious teachings left unexplored in our Ritual? The search for the Lost Word - the Rite of Destitution - The Altar - The Great Lights, and the Lesser Lights - the letter “G” - the Hiram Legend. We could go on and on, illustrating where we have but scratched the surface in our program of education. But, behind, before and underneath it all lies the ritual, so rich and abundant in life-building, and soul-building resources as to defy the most searching and scholarly mind.

What of the place of the ritual in any program of education? It is, as always, past, present and future, the foundation stone upon which we not only **MUST** build, but through the grace of an Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent God, we are so privileged as men and as Masons.



About Job's Daughters

Job's Daughters International is a Masonic affiliated youth organization for girls and young women aged 10 to 20. The organization is commonly referred to as simply Job's Daughters or Jobies, and sometimes abbreviated as JDI (or IOJD, referring to its longtime former name, International Order of Job's Daughters). Job's Daughters welcomes many religions and cultures. The only religious prerequisite is a belief in a Supreme being.



Family relationship to a Free and Accepted Mason is no longer a prerequisite for membership.

JDI promotes itself as a sorority “where girls rule,” however, there is a large and multilayered assortment of adult guidance and interaction.

Like Freemasonry, Job's Daughters does not require that its members belong to a particular faith, but candidates for admission to the order must profess a belief in God by whatever name they may know him.

For over 75 years, Job's Daughters has been actively promoting friendship and service. The group takes its name from the Book of Job, and in particular to a reference in the 42nd Chapter that says, “And in all the land were no women found so fair as the Daughters of Job.”

Meetings follow a long tradition of order. The Officers wear traditional Grecian robes, symbols of democracy and equality, provided by the Bethel. Other members wear dresses to the meetings, which are held twice a month. Programs are planned and conducted by the members with the help of adult volunteers.

To become a Job's Daughter does not involve an embarrassing ritual or test of courage. Like Masonic degrees, the initiations are solemn, meaningful ceremonies presented by the Bethel Officers. Parents are welcome at initiations and at all meetings. To be a member of Job's Daughters is to be part of a group that promotes friendship among young women and self-confidence. The member of this order will learn skills that will help them throughout their lives and will become part of an organization that serves the community and is dedicated to having fun.



Southern wall outside Greenwood Temple