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

FEBRUARY 2022

Jim Russell, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

meets: 7910 Greenwood Ave. N. Lodge phone: (206) 623-0261 jimrussell58@frontier.com web: www.seattlemasons.org

CALENDAR



- February 7 (7:30pm): University Lodge 141
- February 7 (7:30pm): Eureka Lodge 20
- February 9 (6pm): Board of Trustees teleconference
- February 10 (6pm): Officers meeting teleconference
- February 11 (7pm): Fellowcraft Degree rehearsal
- February 16 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: <u>St.</u> John's 9 (dinner) Stated
- February 17 (7pm): Fellowcraft degree final rehearsal
- February 19 (10am): Daylight Lodge 232
- February 19 (6pm): Fellowcraft Degree Dinner following
- February 23 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- February 24 (7:30pm): Walter F. Meier Lodge 281
- March 2 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference – guest Megan Quigley Washington Masonic Charities
- March 3 (7:30pm): Lafayette Lodge 241
- March 9 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- March 10 (6pm): Officers Meeting teleconference
- March 16 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: <u>St.</u> John's 9 (dinner) Stated
- March 18 20: Lodge Leadership Retreat (Wenatchee)
- March 30: District 5 Reception with Grand Master *over Zoom*
- April 6 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- April 13 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- April 20 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: <u>St.</u> <u>John's 9 (dinner) Stated</u>
- April 27 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- April 30: Final Day to Apply for Student Scholarship









Blair Neumann, Master

including Worshipful Brothers Johnson, Koteles, Lamb, and Brother Woo, and I hope that you look forward to our upcoming programs with as much excitement as I do.

Freemasonry consists of a course of moral and philosophical instruction, and our last stated meeting wa

Brethren, our stated meeting last month featured

excellent content from our Education Committee,

philosophical instruction, and our last stated meeting was led with reminders of various symbols and emblems of the Entered Apprentice degree. It is hoped that by reintroducing us to some of the arts, parts, and points of our Craft, we're reminded what it means to be a Mason.

We were then offered a peek into the Chamber of Reflection, a Masonic tradition perhaps more common overseas but which various American lodges, including our own, have incorporated to the benefit of those who have experienced it. Brother Kemal shared some of his experience and insight into the Chamber including some of its themes of death and rebirth, providing candidates with an opportunity to reflect upon their lives to date and their upcoming transitions, including their transitions into and through each of the Masonic degrees.

In a Zoom meeting the following Wednesday, our mother lodge, Steilacoom No. 2, provided VWB Jeremy Yielding who presented on the Morgan Affair and how this moment of Masonic history some 200 years ago helped shape our fledgling democracy and reverberates even now. For me, this was a reminder that the privileges of Freemasonry come with responsibilities on how we conduct ourselves outside of the Lodge room as well as inside. We ask that the public trust us to conduct our business privately in peace and we should deserve that trust.

Looking forward to next stated meeting, we'll be reminded of a topic near and dear to my heart, the Preparatory Lecture that all candidates receive before being prepared to be made a Mason. We will also have an opportunity to shrink the Lodge with Bro. Louis Turner, who is duly and truly prepared to be passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft. We hope that you'll join us in bringing Brother Louis to more light in Masonry, evening of February 19, festive board included.

I feel like this is a good time to be a part of St. John's. The focus of our stated meetings has shifted from Lodge business to Masonic education; we have more Education and Fellowship provided via Zoom, and we have at least one Brother passing through the degrees. I regret that we were unable to Fellowship as usual last month, and I look forward to returning to our customary ways soon, Peace and Harmony prevailing.

MORAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL INSTRUCTION: ARE WE THERE YET?

While the Chamber of Reflection, which Bro. Kemal Alaeddinoğlu explored more fully last month, is not technically a part of the initiatory degree, we find that it forces the candidate to reflect on his previous life experience and prepares him for his next step on his journey. This month we'll examine that next step.

We tell the candidate that "Freemasonry consists of a course of moral and philosophical instruction illustrated by hieroglyphics, and taught, according to ancient usage, by types, emblems and allegorical figures. (His) gaining admission within these walls is emblematical of an event which every man must sooner or later experience—the transition from this to a better life."

How well have we kept that promise? Have we been taught moral and philosophical instruction in our Lodges? This month Bro. Louis Turner will ask us to answer the question – each of us – how we have been able to implement Freemasonry into our daily life. Have we "received a course of moral and philosophical instruction, and how has it made a difference?

It's the goal of this year's Master and our officers to place a greater emphasis on Masonic and Moral instruction and spend less energy on the nitty-gritty of routine business. We ask your help to reach that goal and join with us in bringing Enlightenment to our monthly sessions.

All Brothers are encouraged to join us for our 6:15 dinner preceding our stated communication. Please make



your dinner <u>reservations</u> with the secretary at 206 623-0261 by Friday, February 11. 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.

We Want You to Arrive Home Safely!

Worried about the end of a late-night bus trip? Use Uber or a Taxi. To avoid any after-dark "shenanigans," brothers of the Lodge have authorized the Master of this Lodge, on a case-by-case basis, to approve the reimbursement of a brother's expense to return home following a St. John's event. Request and approval, not to exceed \$100, must be made prior to the event. A receipt of the expense must be submitted before reimbursement.

Return to

AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

St. John's Education Committee Introduces another Chapter

This year we'll be exchanging ideas and Masonic Enlightenment at our stated communications and on Zoom

Masonic education is the study of Masonic values, history, symbols and myths. It also encompasses lessons in leadership, self-improvement and community building. Our purpose is to help members learn more about Freemasonry and themselves.

* Feb. 16 Stated: Shrink the Lodge – group sharing

* February Zoom: TBD

THE HOLY SAINTS JOHN

Freemasonry honors two Saints John – the Baptist and the Evangelist. The time when either of these Saints was adopted by Freemasons cannot be fixed with any certainty or precision nor is there much more success in determining the reason. Considering one or the other as a patron, or the two as patron saints seems to have been the practice for a time beyond memory.

Adoption of the Saints by Freemasonry far antedates the first Grand Lodge of 1717. Various of the Operative Lodges had been dedicated to the Baptist and a few to the Evangelist. The Baptist seems to have come into the mainstream well in advance of the Evangelist. It may be significant that the first Grand Lodge was formed at a meeting held on the festival of Saint John the Baptist.

American Lodge continue to be dedicated to the two Saints John.

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Senior Warden's Message

WBro. John Murray Louderback

It was not that long ago when man thought the earth was the center of the universe. We have made great strides in our understanding. Scientists believe that the universe is approximately 13.8 billion years old. I personally believe that this time is based on the fact that our current technology can only see that far. With the new Webb telescope I believe we will be able to see much further back in time.

It has been recently discovered that some galaxies are billions of years older than our Milky Way.

With all the trillions of galaxies, many could have a planet that is in the so called "Goldilocks Zone" where life could exist? This means that there could be extraterrestrial life in the universe that is billions of years more technologically advanced than ours.

St. John's Keeps Bunny Wilburn Women's Shelter from being "All Washed Up!"

Bunny Wilburn Shelter, 1055 S. Lane, Seattle, was one of the first shelters Bro. Fred Hutchinson and his Lady Ruth (The Christmas People) began serving meals to 24 years ago. Back then it was called Women's Referral Center and was located at the Women's YWCA on 2nd Street in Seattle. Last year, the group of 60 women and



It may not be fancy, but it's home to 60 women and their children

their children moved into an old day care center on S. Lane. It wasn't perfect, but they had a home.

A month ago, Bro. Fred and Ruth were delivering their first meals and realized that there was a problem. The shelter could not receive all the

food they needed...could take only one day at a time...because their commercial freezer had worn out. Three weeks ago, their refrigerator became unrepairable. And finally, on Martin Luther King Day, it took five hours to wash and dry two towels. The hand-me-downs finally gave way. Bro. Hutchinson found a sale at Lowe's. The trouble was that the 25% - 30% off sale was ending on January 18th and 19th. Discounted, the full size upright freezer was available for \$1,071.66. A full size refrigerator freezer, a Maytag full size washer, a Maytag full size dryer together with plugs, attachments, etc. all installed was \$3,171.69.

St. John's brothers covered the bill for a little more than \$4,200 – *installed*.

Thank you Brothers for paying your annual dues – they help to make our giving possible

Junior Warden's Message

WBro. Eric Koteles



Dear Brothers.

One of the noble aspects of freemasonry and something that we look forward to when we meet in person is Fellowship. How many times I have heard that word! I look forward for fellowship with my Brothers and why not with other very good friends that are not even Masons. But think for a moment, do we individually really understand what is the meaning of fellowship? How is it conducted if there is a way to put in words? How fellowship feels like for each of us, because let's be real, we are all different and truly that is the strength of Freemasonry, we are not a cult, and we have our own mind and opinion and trust me I know that from my Brothers.

At school, I learned from a great linguistics teacher that the best way to understand a concept is to understand the origin of the word. This trick has help me many times when I try to understand a concept to be able to explain it, so here I go. I went and searched for the root of the word "Fellowship."

The word is Fellowship, Koinonia (/ˌkɔɪnoʊˈniːə/) is a transliterated form of the Greek **word** κοινωνία, which refers to concepts such as communion or **fellowship**, joint participation, the share which one has in anything, a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution.

Fellowship - an association of people who share common beliefs or activities.

Also, in Latin **consociate** is not merely a verb; it also functions as an adjective ("united in fellowship, intimately associated") and as a noun ("one who is united with another"). It has the Latin word for "companion" (socius) in its origins

And of course, the English origin - c. 1200, *feolahschipe*" companionship," from <u>fellow</u> + <u>-ship</u>. Sense of "a body of companions" is from late 13c. Meaning "spirit of comradeship, friendliness" is from late 14c.

To fellowship with is to hold communion with; to unite with in doctrine and discipline.

So, as you can see my Brothers, in all its different origins the word has the same spirit, we know is to unite, to be together in communion and please do not think I'm inserting religion here because I'm not. It means harmony, to contribute to what brought us together, it is a gathering of happy hearts and spirits but with a noble purpose.

So, I ask you my Brothers, let's do our best when we are practicing fellowship, whatever our personal interpretation is, now at least we know the origin and meaning of the word. Of course, what it means to each of us in our hearts, spirits and minds, that is the true secret of Masonry, which can't be taking away from us, and every single one of us must find by our own efforts.

To me, Fellowship is comprised of many things, in my travels as a Mason through the years I came to learn and paraphrasing the author Wendy Mass: "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about" That is one the very important aspects of fellowship at least to me.



Scholarship Announcement 2022

We are very happy to be able to help you in your educational endeavors. You are receiving this letter to invite you to apply for a St. John's Scholarship award.

In accordance with Masonic values, we would like to support hard working individuals of good character and high moral standards, who are involved in their community. Furthermore, we encourage students with clearly defined career paths.

To apply for a scholarship, email the following documents to St. John's Lodge Scholarship Committee at sjl9scholarship@gmail.com:

- 1. Letter of interest, including your contact information (name, address, telephone number, etc.)
- 2. Answers to questions below in two pages or less.
- 3. A copy of the official transcript of your last semester's grades.

Last day to apply is April, 30, 2022.

Selected candidates will be contacted for interviews. Approved candidates will be expected to meet with the Scholarship Committee once a year for consideration of continuing scholarships. They will be required to submit current transcripts in order to evaluate their renewal.

QUESTIONS FOR NEW POTENTIAL SCHOLARS

- 1. How did this year of study affect your preconceived career projection? i.e., did it strengthen your resolve to persist in the direction you originally thought you would take? Or have you decided to change course? Why?
- 2. Describe your biggest challenge this past year at school, how it affected your ability to succeed, and what steps you took to overcome it.
- 3. Which groups/clubs/societies did you become a member of this year? To what extent did you actively participate? What did you learn by your association? If you did not join a club, why not?
- 4. Specifically, how would the St. John's award make a difference this next year at school? What will the money go towards?

LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER

February 5 (1846) three Masons took action to establish the first Lodge in Oregon. Two and a half years later (September 11, 1846) their efforts culminated in the establishment of a chartered Lodge in Oregon City. From that point in time Lodges sprang up throughout the Oregon Territory soon-to-be Oregon State. Eventually the Grand Lodge of Oregon established the Grand Lodge of Washington and from there Steilacoom Lodge No. 2 became the Mother Lodge of St. John's No. 9, the first chartered Lodge in Seattle.



The Whiskey Barrel

by Midnight Freemason Contributor

Bro. Steven L. Harrison 33°, FMLR



In today's bustling twenty-first century world, millions of people travel across the country quickly, comfortably, and without giving it a second thought. During the mid-19th century, people's desire to make that crossing was no less enthusiastic, but the trip was anything but pleasant. Such was the experience of three men who had made their way across the treacherous plains to the west coast town of Oregon City.

These men, Joseph Hull, P.G. Stewart, and William P. Dougherty, Freemasons, hoped to establish a Masonic Lodge in the area. On February 5, 1846, they placed an ad in the Oregon City newspaper calling for members of the Masonic fraternity to meet on February 21, "to adopt some measures to obtain a charter for a Lodge."

On that date, seven Brothers met and crafted a request for a charter from the closest Grand Lodge which, at that time, was in St. Louis, Missouri, over 2,000 miles away. They found a Brother, Joel Palmer, who was headed back east, instructing him to deliver it to the closest Masonic Lodge, Platte City No. 56, in St. Joseph Missouri.

Brother Palmer made that Journey during the summer of 1846. Platte City Lodge then delivered the request to the Grand Lodge of Missouri, which granted the charter for Multnomah Lodge 84 on October 19.

The Grand Lodge sent the charter back to Platte City Lodge but it became difficult to find a suitable person to

deliver it back to Oregon. Finally, they entrusted the precious document to Pierre Barlow Cornwall, who began the westward journey on April 1, 1848, over two years after the Oregon Brothers made the request.

When Cornwall reached Fort Hall, Idaho, in August 1848, he heard about the discovery of gold in California and abandoned any thought of going to Oregon. ,He entrusted the charter to two Masons he had met along the way, Joseph and Orrin Kellog, then headed out in an attempt to make his fortune. The Kelloggs finally delivered the charter on September 11, 1848, two years and seven months after the initial request.

After all that time with little or no news of its whereabouts, we can only imagine the thrill the Oregon Brothers must have felt receiving that document. Joseph Hull, who became the first Master, was so excited he called a meeting on that very day! The Brothers met at noon on the second floor of a building owned by Dougherty. The improvised Warden's podiums consisted of a barrel of flour in the East, a barrel of whiskey in the West and a barrel of salt pork in the South, symbolically representing corn, wine and oil.

During the next several hours, the Brothers consecrated the Lodge, elected officers, held three Entered Apprentice, three Fellowcraft, and two Master Mason degrees, wrapping things up sixteen hours later.

One cannot help but wonder if, at the end of such an epic journey capped by that auspicious day, those Brothers didn't break open that barrel of whiskey at the Senior Warden's station and toast the establishment of the first Masonic Lodge in the untamed American West.

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

Masonic Symbols Quiz Answers: 1b, 2c, 3d, 4c, 5d, 6a, 7d.

Step Aside Col. Sanders, We've Got "Colonel" Louderback

At our January communication, VWBro. Tom Eastman was directed to read a citation issued by Governor Andy Bashear designating WBro. John Murray Louderback a "Kentucky Colonel." The name Kentucky Colonel has become synonymous with strength of character, leadership and dedication to the welfare of others. WBro. "Kentucky Colonel" Louderback was accorded the public Grand Honors by his Lodge brothers.



VW Tom Eastman (I) delivers citation on behalf of Kentucky Governor designating WB John Louderback (r) "Kentucky Colonel"

The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels has a long history of charity relief with unique fund-raising solutions. Kentucky Colonels come from every corner of the world.

A Kentucky Colonel is an individual who has received the honorary title of "Kentucky Colonel" only when nominated by another Colonel and awarded by the current governor of the state of Kentucky.

Receiving no pay or benefits other than the title with membership in the "Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels," recipients become part of a larger-than-life membership with other famous and the not-so-famous Colonels.

Some famous Colonels include:

- President Bill Clinton
- President George H. W. Bush
- President Lyndon B. Johnson
- Bob Hope
- Pope John Paul II
- Muhammad Ali
- Sarah Palin
- Elvis Presley
- Marie Osmond
- Jerry Lewis
- Phyllis Diller

Most Colonels will tell you, it all boils down to one simple truth; Kentucky Colonels care about helping others and actively demonstrate that good will.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Date

- 5 Morrey Eskenazi
- 9 Daryl E. Anguish
- 10 Brian P. West
- 15 Jason R. Moore
- 16 Kenton J. Curtis
- 17 Hans U. Wehl
- 19 Charles R. "Dick" Grimm
- 19 Seann P. Maria
- 25 Mathew S. La Croix
- 26 Richard "Dick" Loeb
- 26 Jerome N. Alhadeff

Lodge Leadership Retreat-March 18th - 20th

Throughout our Jurisdiction, Lodges have been or are selecting members into leadership roles. These Brethren, elected and appointed, are being looked upon for their leadership and guidance in setting the direction of their Lodge and its members. Our Grand Lodge is committed to providing quality education to Lodge leaders to assist them in their success.

While the primary focus of the Lodge Leadership Retreat is for Lodge Wardens and Deacons, any Master Mason, including Current Masters or Past Masters, may attend based on first come and space available basis. The Lodge Leadership Retreat Committee has been hard at work reviewing classes in order to meet the current needs of our Grand Jurisdiction. A variety of courses will be offered, including; Six Steps to Initiation, Long Range Planning for Lodges, Lodge and Temple Board finances, and others. Ladies are invited and encouraged to attend, with Ladies programs and co-ed courses being provided.

This year's retreat will take place in beautiful Wenatchee, Washington a location that is known to be equally inconvenient for all of us to drive to. The price structure allows for choice of single (\$525), double shared (\$425 per Mason), double with spouse (\$850), or single with spouse (\$775). All options include the cost of the room, meals and retreat materials.

Online registration opened January 1st, and the deadline for online registering will be February 25th. Online registration is located on the Grand Lodge website: www.freemason-wa.org/leadership-retreat/

If you have any questions, please reach out to RW Edward C. Woods at rw edwardcw00ds@comcast.net



The St. John's Finance Committee reviews the month's expenses to recommend approval (or not) to the brethren. Pictured are Chuck Brockway, Al Jorgensen, Hans Wehl, Jim Maher, and Jim Russell



Who should we welcome?

by Midnight Freemason Emeritus Contributor Brian L. Pettice, 33°

Surfing through the World Wide Web recently, I came across this quote by the Stoic philosopher Seneca, "Associate with people who are likely to improve you. Welcome those whom you are capable of improving. The process is a mutual one. People learn as they teach."

I immediately thought of my association with Masons and Masonry. I thought, isn't this what we seek to do? Isn't this what we mean when we say, "Freemasonry takes good men and makes them better"? Isn't it this association of men learning from and teaching each other how that improvement in Freemasonry happens— how we help each other to be better?

My thoughts hadn't traveled very far down this track when I started thinking about the long and ongoing discussion among Masons about "guarding the west gate" or how Freemasonry evaluates those who would seek admission into the fraternity—how we decide with whom we will associate. The dominant themes of this discussion have been that Freemasonry has emphasized the quantity rather than the quality of candidates that have been admitted into the fraternity, that we have failed to properly vet those seeking admission, and that men that shouldn't have gained admission have been allowed to become Freemasons to the detriment of the Fraternity as a whole.

As I considered Seneca's simple statement it occurred to me that the problem with our evaluation system might be that we, as a Fraternity, have forgotten what we hope to give and what we hope to get from a candidate for Masonry. We often think of the transformational effect the Masonic experience can have on a man without considering whether the candidate in front of us is open to it. We think of the "help" the potential brother might offer by taking a chair or helping with a fundraiser without realizing this isn't the help we really need. We haven't thought about what we really have to offer a candidate, nor what we really need from him.

If Freemasonry is truly about men improving themselves by teaching and learning and understanding the lessons and values inculcated by our degrees, shouldn't we assure ourselves that we are associating with those likely to improve us and welcoming those capable of improvement? Shouldn't we explain to a prospective candidate that Freemasonry means many things to many people, but at its heart, it is an association of men who seek to improve themselves and each other by learning from and teaching one another? Shouldn't we then ask him what improvement he seeks in himself and how he thinks he might help his potential brethren to improve? Freemasonry isn't for everyone. If we can't see how an association with a man will help improve the brethren and he doesn't see that he needs to improve, then maybe the Fraternity is not the proper fit for him, nor he for the Fraternity.

Brian L. Pettice, 33° is a Past Master of Anchor Lodge No. 980 and plural member of Olive Branch Lodge No. 38 in Danville, IL and an Honorary Member of a couple of others. He is also an active member of both the York and Scottish Rites. He cherishes the Brothers that have become Friends over the years and is thankful for the opportunities Freemasonry gives and has given him to examine and improve himself, to meet people he might not otherwise have had chance to meet, and to do things he might not otherwise have had a chance to do. He looks forward to sharing the joy the fraternity brings him with others. His email address is aasrmason@gmail.com.

Masonic Symbols Quiz

- 1. What does the "Pot of Incense" symbol represent?
 - a. Innocence of Youth
 - b. Purity of Heart
 - c. Aroma of the Gods
 - d. One of the Six Senses
- 2. What does the "Beehive" symbolize?
 - a. Honey
 - b. Unity
 - c. Industry
 - d. Brotherhood
- 3. What does the "Sword to the Naked Heart" symbolize?
 - a. The duties of the Tiler
 - b. To be reminded of the tenets of Freemasonry
 - c. To be reminded of your obligation
 - d. To never reveal the secrets of Freemasonry
- 4. What does the "Rough Ashlar" represent?
 - a. The cornerstone of the Lodge
 - b. Building of the Temple
 - c. The imperfect, untutored state of man
 - d. A tool used by the craftsmen
- 5. What does the "Anchor" symbolize?
 - a. That early Masons were sailors
 - b. Part of Noah's Ark
 - c. That you should be set in your ways
 - d. The voyage of life
- 6. What does the "Square" represent?
 - a. Fairness, balance, firmness and stability
 - b. Honesty, charity, fairness and balance
 - c. Brotherhood, hope, faith and charity
 - d. The Treasurer's jewel
- 7. What does the "The All Seeing Eye" represent?
 - a. Sanctum Sanctorum
 - b. Holy of Holies
 - c. Lodge of Master Masons
 - d. Deity

How did you do?

The answers, gleaned from University Lodge 141 March Trestleboard, are on the bottom of page 5

Visit Our District Brethren

District 5 Lodges	Next Meeting	Time
St. John's 9	Wednesday, February 16, 2022	7:30pm
Eureka 20	Monday, February 7, 2022	7:30pm
University 141	Monday, February 7, 2022	7:30pm
Daylight 232	Saturday, February 19, 2022	10am
Lafayette 241	Thursday, March 3, 2022	7pm
Queen Anne 242	Thursday, February 10, 2022	7:30pm
Esoterika 316	Tuesday, April 26, 2022	7:30pm

Washington Masonic Charities Megan Quigley to Join in St. John's March 2nd Zoom Discussion

Megan Quigley is the Case Manager for **Washington Masonic Charities** for the Greater Seattle metropolitan area. She has more than 20 years' experience in the social services area specializing in eldercare. Kirsten Putman is the Youth and Scholarship Manager for Washington Masonic Charities. She is also involved with DeMolay and Rainbow and has a long history with Masonic Youth Groups.

It seems that there are a million calamities facing us in this modern day and age and things can be overwhelming, even out of control. From wildfires on the eastside of the state to having difficult conversations with family members, life's challenges tug at us each and every day. The good news here is that we are not alone in trying to navigate the chaos that engulfs all of us. A benefit of being a Mason in our jurisdiction are the resources available to all Masons and their families through Washington Masonic Charities. WAMC has a three-fold mission - as illustrated by its mission statement:

"Washington Masonic Charities, by creating a culture of philanthropy, invests in youth and education, provides comfort and support for seniors and those in need, and preserves and shares the Masonic heritage of Washington State."

Come hear how Washington Masonic Charities can be of service at our March Educational Night on Zoom, Wednesday, March 2, at 7pm. 981 655 9198; passcode 1776

"to that undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns."

Exact wording used in Hamlet, Act 111, Scene 1 by William Shakespeare. (Not a Mason). "Bourn," meaning "boundary" is now an obsolete word except in literature and Masonic ritual.

MASTER MASONS RAISED IN FEBRUARY

Date Raised:

2/10/1945	Percill E. Overby
2/7/1962	Egil J. Pedersen
2/24/1979	Douglas L. Knight
2/22/1983	Paul A. Cox
2/25/1989	John J. Jorgensen
2/13/1990	George H. Wohlleben
2/9/1994	David C. Flood
2/21/2006	John O. Nance
2/28/2006	Scott M. Yerger
2/23/2012	Paul K. Doak



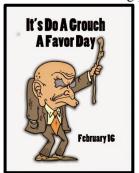
St. John's Stated Communication is Wednesday, February 16; It's Also Do a Grouch a Favor Day

Grouch, grump, cross, irritable. These people go by many adjectives and appear almost everywhere. Most of us have a grouch in our life, whether it is a neighbor, a friend, a colleague, or even that guy you pass at the train station each morning. Many of us are also guilty of being grumps ourselves when the going gets tough.

This persona is so common, various ancient Greek plays feature a 'grump', a character so grouchy that they have no more purpose than to amuse us.

History is also full of such grumpy, grouchy people, as evidenced by all the stories about great visionaries. Newton is said to have held obsessive grudges against people, Beethoven became more recalcitrant upon losing his hearing, and even our own American presidents have had their moments. It's not just the greats, either. We can only assume regular people have been, and continue to be, grouchy. After all, they had ample circumstances to be that way — the Great Depression, the World Wars, and even the financial crash of 2008.

This day comes at a time when the world is putting much stock into being positive. Billion-dollar book sales



attest to the fact that self-help is a booming industry. Happiness experts and mindfulness apps regularly coax new subscribers into seeking inner peace and satisfaction. Even the U.S. Army is training its soldiers in positive psychology. Meanwhile, countries are judged by their 'happiness index', which rivals their G.D.P., if not surpasses it.

While we cannot pinpoint the origins of this day, we rather think this might be the brainchild of someone who is a grouch and secretly wants to be the recipient of nice gestures from people. That or Big Bird from "Sesame Street" is trying to stop Oscar the Grouch from grumbling again.



St. John's officers elected and appointed for 2022 (I-r): Sr. Steward John Adamson, Marshal Neil Quinn, Tyler Terry Grove, Sr. Deacon Tom Lamb, Jr. Warden Eric Koteles, Master Blair Neumann, Sr. Warden John Louderback, Treasurer Jim Maher, Secretary Jim Russell, Chaplain Ken Woo, Jr. Steward Chuck Brockway. (not pictured Jr. Deacon Kemal Alaeddinoğlu .) Photo by Joe Oates