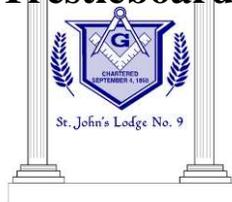


St. John's Lodge No. 9, F. & A. M.

Trestleboard

SEPTEMBER 2022

Jim Russell, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

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FROM THE EAST

[Blair Neumann](#), *Master*



Blair Neumann,
Master

My Brothers, I recently had an opportunity to enjoy a brief scenic flight over Seattle. I sat in a small propellor-driven airplane, gazing in wonder across all that the founding Brethren of our Lodge helped set in motion to create.

I saw Elliott Bay and Pioneer Square, where Doc Maynard and a few others first started clearing land for the settlement that would become our city, then gazed along our waterfront to Smith Cove, where Dr. Henry Smith lived and worked among the native people, after whose Chief Seattle our city would, by those two, be named.

I marveled at the size and splendor of the University of Washington, which many of our early Brothers were instrumental in establishing and whose ongoing stewardship helped build into the world-class institution that we have today.

I gazed down upon Capitol Hill, Beacon Hill, Phinney Ridge, and Northlake, each of which were developed, in whole or in part, by Brethren of our Lodge, and noticed Lake View Cemetery atop Capitol Hill which was founded as a Masonic cemetery, where many of our early Brothers now rest following their lifetimes of labor building the city that we call home.

I looked South toward Georgetown and Renton, East across Bellevue, and North over Ballard, each of which were founded as cities in their own right by Brethren of our Lodge.

As I took all this in, my Brothers, I wondered, does that same spirit of industry still exist within our Lodge? Are we still stewards of our communities and builders of institutions that will survive for centuries? After which of us will be named streets, and schools, and landmarks, and neighborhoods? I could name some Brothers who might be well on their way to deserving such honors, whether or not they will be so received.

Surely, we could do nothing, and our city, the legacy of our Lodge, would endure. We could continue to claim that legacy, riding the coattails of Brothers whom we never met, basking in their bygone glory, reveling in the history which they created and which we now enjoy. Or we can do our own work, build our own temples, and promote those traditions of labor and industry which have been a hallmark of our city and of our Lodge for 162 years and counting.

Brethren, let us choose the latter, to be the men who deserve to have our stories told, and to have monuments built to our legacies. Or if not physical monuments, then let us leave landmarks in the hearts of our loved ones; enduring memories of our kindness and forbearance, as testament to the work that we've done as Masons to improve ourselves and our communities.

CALENDAR



- Sept. 14 (6pm): Board of Trustees
2023 Budget preparation
- September 10 (7pm): Officers meet
- September 17 (12:30pm): **Tour Underground Seattle family event**
- September 21 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated official visit of Deputy of the Grand Master**
- Sept. 23 (6pm): **162nd Anniversary Celebration Ivar's Salmon House**
- October 5 (7pm): **Zoom Fellowship**
- October 9-18: **Tour of Scotland**
- October 13 (7pm): Officers meeting *teleconference*
- October 19 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated**
- November 2 (7pm): **Zoom Fellowship "My Trip to Scotland"**
- November 9 (6pm): **Board of Trustees**
- November 10 (7pm): **Officers meet**
- November 16 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated Past Masters Night; Election of Officers**
- November 24: *Thanksgiving Day*
- December 21 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated Installation of Officers (7pm)**
- December 27: *Feast Day of St. John the Evangelist*
- December 31: **Deadline for payment of 2023 Lodge dues**

St. John's Lodge No. 9 meets every 3rd Wednesday at 7910 Greenwood Ave. N., Seattle

- Social "hour" 5:30pm
- Free parking available after 6pm on the St. John Catholic Church playground Located 1/2 block west of Greenwood Ave. N. on southside of N. 80th Street.
- Dinner 6:15pm
- Stated Communication 7:30pm
- Refreshments and fellowship following

ST. JOHN'S MARKS 162 YEARS OF FREEMASONRY IN SEATTLE

St. John's Lodge will celebrate 162 years of Freemasonry in Seattle with dinner at Ivar's Salmon House, Friday evening, September 23. Our special day has arrived! Social hour begins at 6pm. So if you haven't done so already, make your reservations with the Secretary for an evening of good food, a bit of entertainment, and just plain fun.

• Choose your selection of entrée options from Alder Grilled New York Steak or Wild Salmon Sampler or Penne Pasta Pomodoro (followed by assorted mini cheesecakes for dessert) when you make your reservation.

A hosted beverage bar will be available, as well as an assortment of wines for each table. Dress is evening attire for the ladies, suit and tie for the gentlemen.

In 1860 the Territory of Washington had a population of less than 12,000 and had been created by Act of Congress of March 2, 1853, only seven years before, by dividing Oregon. The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Territory had been created in 1858 by four Lodges chartered by the Grand Lodge of Oregon.

In 1859, Lodges number 5, 6, and 7 had a total membership of 158 Master Masons. They were Port Gamble, Port Townsend, and Walla Walla. Except where a clearing of a few acres in the forest was made on the shoreline for a town-site, practically the whole of the Puget Sound country was heavily timbered with dense forests, and without roads, and the travel from one settlement to another was, of necessity, by water.

In such a sparsely settled and inaccessible country rose the little hamlet of Seattle, the population of which, according to the census of that year (1860) was 250, including twenty families. There were no railroads within fifteen hundred miles or more, and sailing vessels and an occasional steamer operated between San Francisco and Puget Sound, and were the only means of communication with the outside world except by pony express and ox-team.

In those days, there was no television, no radio, no facebook or twitter. If anyone wanted to associate or meet with anybody, or to discuss the issues of the day, this was about it – get together as a fraternity.

St. John's brothers will get together "as a fraternity" a couple of days before the anniversary celebration when we meet for our monthly stated communication, Wednesday, September 21.

All Brothers are encouraged to join us for our 6:15 dinner preceding our stated communication. Please make your dinner [reservations](#) with the secretary at 206 623-0261 by Friday, September 16.

Doors open at 5:30. 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 and an enjoyable dinner!



Deputy of the Grand Master to Visit this Month

VWBro. Dean Willard, DDGM5, will be making his "official visit" to St. John's Lodge this month.

Deputies are valuable to the Grand Master and to the Grand Lodge in general. The Deputy of the Grand Master in a District can be of great service to the Lodge. He can assist in finding answers to questions concerning protocol and the Washington Masonic Code. By checking with the Deputy it is possible to keep abreast of the schedule of events being planned in the District. This may prevent conflicts between Lodges regarding dates for important programs and meetings.



Ivar's Salmon House views downtown Seattle from Lake Union

AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

St. John's Education Committee

An exchange of 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 and self-improvement. Our purpose is to learn more about Freemasonry and ourselves.

* **September 21 Stated: Wisdom from Deputy of the Grand Master VWBro. Dean Willard**

* **October 5 Zoom: TBA**

* **October 19 Stated: The Plum**

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Seattle Underground Tour

With the assistance of chairman WBro. Dennis Archambault, the Master has arranged for a family outing of the Seattle Underground Tour, Saturday, September 17 – six days before our anniversary dinner. Attempts will be made to focus a part of the tour on a little bit of St. John's history, such as Seattle pioneer and member Bro. David "Doc" Maynard.



Bill Speidel's Underground Tour may be Seattle's most unusual attraction, a humorous stroll through intriguing subterranean storefronts and sidewalks entombed when the city rebuilt on top of itself following the Great Fire of 1889.

The 75-minute guided walking tour begins beneath Doc Maynard's Public House, then spills into historic Pioneer Square, Seattle's birthplace, before plunging underground for an exclusive, time-capsule view of the buried city.

All the while, tour guides regale you with sidesplitting stories our pioneers didn't want you to hear. It's history with punch lines!

The tour opens at their ticket counter at 614 First Avenue, in Pioneer Place Park, Pioneer Square.



The tour ends in Rogues Gallery and the Underground Gift Shop, where you'll find displays depicting the past and Northwest memorabilia. *Sons of the Profits*, the book by Bill Speidel upon which the tour is based, is a most popular souvenir.

Doc Maynard's Public House, suitable for the entire family, offers affordable snacks, breakfast, lunch and dinner, including fresh Northwest seasonal fare, and a full bar. The tour starts with a 15-minute seated introduction, convenient for a quick bite before heading underground.)

Covid protocol is in place so masks are mandatory. Comfortable walking shoes are advised.

The Master volunteered that the Lodge would cover the expenses for the Seattle Underground Tour including tickets (\$18 adults), lunch, and parking.

HERE AND ABOUT



WBro. Hans Wehl is mending from heart surgery....Bro. David Holdsworth has been in kidney dialysis and could use a little TLC and personal contact...WBro. Nick Mitchell has taken a new position at Hasbro as Vice President and Chief of Staff to the CEO.

A MASONIC STORY IN TWO STAMPS

Our Senior Deacon WBro. Tom Lamb introduced the brethren to a couple of British 1946 postage stamps approved by King George VI. King George was then Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England. The Victory stamp designs issued on 11 June 1946 were as follows: 2½d - bright ultra - symbols of reconstruction and industry; ship, factory, tractor and house; designed by H. L. Palmer; 2,700,000 copies of the 2½d were printed, and 2,565,271 were sold. 3d - violet, dove of peace and symbols of construction; designed by Reynolds Stone; 375,000 copies of the 3d were printed, and 359,881 were sold.

While not technically promoting Freemasonry (there never has been a postage stamp for that purpose although there have been anti-Masonry stamps), WBro. Lamb pointed out the many Masonic inferences in the two stamps. They show the trowel, the square and compasses, the acacia, the cable tow, as well as other more esoteric inferences.



Look for Company Store Clearance in October

Socks for the Homeless

With Bro Fred Hutchinson's (The Christmas People) assistance, St. John's Lodge has sent 1,000 pairs of warm socks to the Seattle police department in care of Capt. Davis. These are arriving per our request in memory of WBro. Bill Collison.

The North Precinct Advisory Council annually gathers socks and partners with the Seattle Police Department to distribute them to people in need.

Arriving this Month!!

St. John's 162nd Anniversary Celebration

Ivar's Salmon House
Potlatch Room

Social hour – 6pm Dinner 7:30pm
Friday, September 23

Make your reservations, today

Specify entrée choice: NY Steak, Salmon, Pasta

206 623-0261

Senior Warden's Message

[WBro. John Murray Louderback](#)



Masonic principles were very much the foundation which the American Constitution was fashioned upon.

America was designed to be a Democratic Republic. Masons are obligated to abide by the Constitution and established laws. Freemasons are enjoined to speak the truth based on reality, truth – not some delusional conspiracy theory proven repeatedly to be false.

Yes – man has gone to the moon – climate change is real – and yes, there was an armed insurrection on the United States Capital designed to prevent the certification of the 2020 presidential election. These actions were and are treasonous and an attempted coup. Unlike Germany in 1933, the rioters were not successful because of the heroic actions and sacrifices of the Capital Police.

Some say that our way of life – that Democracy itself – is threatened and that others are trying to move America from a Democratic Republic to something other.

Freemasons support law enforcement, government, and the Constitution regardless of opinion.

Freemasons are enjoined to stand up and loudly speak our continued support of the American Constitution as we continue to pledge our allegiance. Liberty and justice for ALL! – not just for a special few. It is extremely irresponsible for anyone to suggest it is acceptable to “riot in the streets” if you disagree with law enforcement and you don’t get your own way. Totally reprehensible! Civility is required and must be maintained. The hypocrisy of “support the blue” – unless they’re after you – is destructive. Obstruction of justice and democracy is not supported by Masonic Principle including equality under the law. The rule of law governs society and must be maintained.

News is not “The News” if it is full of disinformation, deliberate misleading counterintelligence for Corporate or special interest greed, shielded by claiming to be “entertainment,” and therefore not to be taken literally ... instead of truthful unbiased news for the people. This “fake news” is a divisive disservice and threat to our country. Truth from responsible news media is vitally important to America and to our freedom. The People and we as Masons must be confident and diligent that the news we receive is truthful.

Brethren, our Democratic Republic – our freedom and democracy – must be preserved!

The United States Constitution establishes three separate but equal branches of government as a shield for our Democracy - with the people holding ultimate power. We prevail together or we fail together!

Do your civic duty and vote for our Democracy that Freemasons and others have fought so hard for and sacrificed so much to create and preserve.

Junior Warden's Message

[WBro. Eric Koteles](#)



Brothers,

As we are traveling farther from the light and into the darkness of the winter season, I like to meditate on every change of season and see what aspects of myself I’ve improved or are in need of improvement, so I don’t fall in a vicious circle – or spiralling downward. To make myself clear about what I mean about a vicious circle, spiralling down and even spiralling up (ascending!), I would like to share an excerpt of the speech I gave at one of the scholarships awards:

“Our lives also are nonlinear, but cyclical, and as the world evolves and changes through every cycle, we change, we get older, but we don’t necessarily evolve unless an internal or external force intervenes, creating a bump or a step in our progress, marking the beginning of the ascendant spiral. But also, in worst cases, if we are not careful, a descending one.

“As we travel through our life cycles, we could just ... continue with our routine, undisturbed and with only modest changes, until it’s time for us to discard our (corporeal) equipment and disappear, departing unnoticed.

“But we are not an empty shell, we have an internal force that when ignited and guided with the higher and purest ideals and principles, will help propel that spiral to incredible heights; the sky is the limit, leaving a positive long-lasting mark.

“And what happens when that internal fuel is not ignited with the purest and highest ideals? We spiral downward, most likely to make poor choices until we hit rock bottom; and that will also leave a long-lasting mark, not the kind to be proud of.

“The true beauty rests on the simple fact that the spiral is not out there, we don’t have to look for it, it’s not out of sight, it is right here, is within us, and is up to each and every one of us to make the best or worst of it. It all depends on the ideals of our character and the choices we make.”

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Day

- 4 Michael R. Pimentel
- 4 St. John’s Lodge No. 9
- 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



LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER



There are a great many within our fraternity who have joined because their fathers, uncles, or some other familial connection had a tie to Freemasonry. What state would our fraternity be in today if we only let those in who asked? We hear tales of our older members, and how their family members never talked about Freemasonry. Imagine a world that exists where becoming a Freemason is like a dream, where in communities, it's revered, somewhat secretive, but everybody knows that the Freemasons are here and that they have an invisible hand in uplifting the community and ensuring liberty and equality for everyone.

Free Will & Accord: Did We Lie? - A Thought Experiment

by Midnight Freemason Contributor

Robert H. Johnson



The title of this article is, of course, reminiscent of one of the first questions we are asked upon arriving at the threshold of Freemasonry. "Is it of your own free will and accord?" The answer? "Yes."

Have we ever heard someone answer this question with a "No."? I haven't. And I bet you haven't either. For many of us, the question doesn't even seem to be relevant. It's just one of those antiquated pieces of ritual, which may have meant something in the past but is no longer truly applicable to the world of the 21st century.

Let's ask ourselves what the question really means. Did we come to Freemasonry through our own drive? Our own want? Did we have our own inklings about this ancient Craft that just wouldn't leave us alone until we contacted a Masonic Lodge, or perhaps a Grand Lodge? Or, were we told about Freemasonry? Were we urged to join?

Think about a concept such as the "Masonic Lewis." This term is defined in the following manner: "A 'lewis' is a Freemason's son, who has not yet been initiated into Freemasonry." It is supposed that such a person, a son of a Freemason who is yet to be initiated, possesses all of the requisite qualifications to become a Freemason. But was he influenced? Where do we draw the line on free will and accord?

One of my friends, Brother Drew, has regaled me with the following tale more than once.

"You see, Robert, I had been going to Masonic meetings since I was five years old. When I turned 18, my father and both my uncles approached me while I was sitting at the kitchen table. They pushed an application in front of me. It was all filled out. They

said, "Just sign your name, son." So I've often asked myself, did I join of my own free will and accord?"

So my Brothers, what do you think? There are many concepts within our lives that are more "holistic" in nature than things that are supposed to be taken literally. I'm often reminded of the "spirit of the law versus the letter of the law." Is "free will and accord" one of them?

We often take so many elements from our ritual as literalism. To be "freeborn,"— that is, not born into indentured slavery. "Of good report"— to have a reputation of goodwill that precedes you. Or perhaps even a clear background check in the 21st century. To be "well recommended"— that your peers put their reputations at stake in their recommending you for the great honor of becoming a Freemason.

"Have committees forgotten to report whether these (applicants) have sufficient education and intelligence to understand and value the doctrines and tenets of Freemasonry? Was it demanded of them if they came unbiased by improper solicitation and un-influenced by mercenary motives? When they answer the inquiry, did they know that truth is a divine attribute in the foundation of every virtue? Has not bitter experience yet taught us that it is better than no workmen be added to the role than ever one unworthy foot allowed to cross the threshold?"

The above quote comes from a book called *The Master's Lectures*, which was published by Evans Lodge of Evanston, Illinois. It is a collection of essays that are truly remarkable. I chose the above quote because it touched on the idea of who we let into this fraternity. It also touches on the issue of our investigation committees, and that they aren't going far enough. The previous page to this quote above has another quote which can be directly attributed not to the investigation committee's failures, but to the individuals to whom they investigate – our potential members.

"The results of our failure in this respect are manifest. First we have what may be called Masonic illiteracy. There are a great many who have received our degrees who have no clear idea as to what a Freemason actually is. Surely Masonry either stands for something definite – or it does not. If it does mean anything distinctive, then every member of the Lodge should have a clear idea on the subject."

So why is free will and accord so important when considering joining Freemasonry? Can it be said that those who do not join of their own free will and accord, those who join because of influence or bias from friends and family, might never actually have an organic passion

for Freemasonry? Do we want people in our fraternity who have no passion for it?

“Trooping through the doors of our preparation rooms we find an ever-increasing company composed of those from whose faces are missing the stamp of high intelligence, in whose eyes the torch of education has lighted no fires, and whose halting steps are led by friendly suggestion or quickened by the hope of gain.”

The above quote also comes from the same book. Pay attention to that last sentence in the quote. “... whose halting steps are led by friendly suggestion...” Does this not speak of a person who joins not of his own free will and accord?

There are a great many members within our fraternity who have joined because their fathers, uncles, mothers, or some other familial connection had a tie to Freemasonry. It’s impossible to say whether or not the members who join this way have more passion or have less passion. That they should be here, or should not. That they answered the question of their own free will and accord correctly, or not.

I still wonder, however, what state our fraternity would be in today if we only let those in who asked? We always hear tales of our older members, and how their family members never talked about Freemasonry.

Perhaps, Freemasonry should be found by minds ready to see it. What about ad campaigns? What about the fraternity’s larger efforts to appeal to the modern man, through the “*Not Just Man*” campaign? Let’s think even smaller. Signs on your building. Lodges with Facebook pages and websites. Instagram feeds and blogs like this one on Freemasonry. Surely they help men find Freemasonry, but I’m still left wondering if Freemasonry would be better if it’s members and existence were more like legends.

Imagine a world that exists where becoming a Freemason is like a dream. In communities, it’s revered, somewhat secretive, but everybody knows that the Freemasons are here and that they have an invisible hand in uplifting the community and ensuring liberty and equality for everyone.

Imagine walking down the street, and your best friend points to a building with no markings and says, “*I think the Freemasons meet in there.*” Imagine that world where our deeds go noticed but with plausible deniability at every turn. A world where you join because you really want to, not because somebody mentioned it, or you saw an ad or your best friend asks you to go to a festive board.

“But what about all those men who joined because of the aforementioned efforts?” I just don’t have an answer for that. Perhaps Freemasonry would’ve taken a different trajectory. What those trajectories are, is probably not a prudent subject to get into here. But if you’re smart, I think you know what they are.

The point of this short essay was not to cast a shadow or throw shade on anyone. My question in this entire essay was one of self-reflection. What do free will

and accord mean? In the *acute sense* – that is, in the singular instance of joining a Lodge. What does it mean when we are asked “...of our own free will and accord?”

Perhaps, you have an answer already. But if not, ponder on my Brothers and Sisters. The truth lies in our contemplation.

RWB Johnson is the Managing Editor of the Midnight Freemasons blog. He is a Freemason out of the 2nd N.E. District of Illinois. He currently serves as the Secretary of Spes Novum Lodge No. 1183. He is a Past Master of Waukegan Lodge 78 and a Past District Deputy Grand Master for the 1st N.E. District of Illinois. Brother Johnson currently produces and hosts weekly Podcasts **Whence Came You?** and **Masonic Radio Theatre** which focuses on topics relating to Freemasonry. He is also a co-host of **The Masonic Roundtable**, a Masonic talk show. He is a husband and father of four, works full time in the executive medical industry. He is the co-author of “**It’s Business Time - Adapting a Corporate Path for Freemasonry**” and is currently working on a book of Masonic essays and one on Occult Anatomy to be released soon.

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
9/13/1976 Richard L. Waldo
9/11/2007 Mathew S. La Croix
9/10/2008 Phillip J. See



The man who enters the portals of the Masonic Temple, has a right to expect that he is seeking a place where he will be free from the dissensions and the wrangles of life, begotten by uncontrolled passions. Here let him find that freedom, beneath the shelter of an Institution that has been the shadow of rest to many of earth’s noblest minds.

Here let him find a home for the soul free from the factious opposition of the world, where no contention should exist, “but rather that noble contention of who best can work and best agree.”

Visit Our District 5 Brethren

District 5 Lodges	Next Meeting	Time
St. John’s 9	Wednesday, September 21, 2022	7:30pm
Eureka 20*	Monday, September 12, 2022	7:30pm
University 141	Friday, September 9, 2022	7:30pm
Daylight 232	Saturday, September 17, 2022	10am
Lafayette 241	Thursday, December 1, 2022	7pm
Queen Anne 242*	Thursday, October 13, 2022	7:30pm
Esoterika 316*	Tuesday, October 25, 2022	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.

Lodge Meets in Yesler Cook House

According to our history (volume I), Yesler's cook house was one of the venues our early brethren used as a meeting place. Yesler offered his facility to many, as this was one of the few venues large enough to hold a "crowd," such as it was in the late 50's and early 60's.



Yesler's Mill, stores, and taverns on Skid Road ((Mill Street), now Yesler Way)

The Denny Party landed in late 1851, and by 1866 the town had its first historic landmark crisis when Henry Yesler, the man whose steam-powered sawmill brought industry to the city, decided to tear down the mill's modest log cook house.

This structure had become the budding burg's first civic space. It had served as Seattle's hotel, courtroom, church, entertainment venue, restaurant, jail, political gathering spot and coffee house. It was City Hall, Town Hall, the Courthouse, Starbucks and Microsoft rolled into one. In short, everything a frontier village needed, save a brothel. Many settlers lamented its destruction because it embodied the collective memory of Seattle's start-up days.

In its July, 30, 1866 edition the *Puget Sound Weekly* noted that "There was nothing about this cook house very peculiar, except the interest with which old memories had invested it. It was simply a dingy-looking hewed log building, about twenty-five feet square, a little more than one story high, with a shed addition in the rear, and to strangers and newcomers was rather an eye-sore and nuisance in the place – standing as it did in the business part of town, among the more pretentious buildings of modern construction."

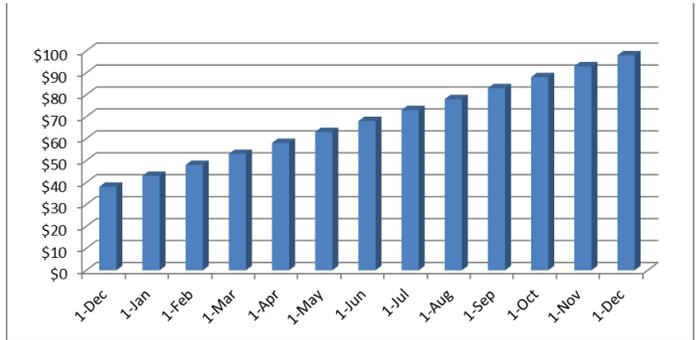


View looking westward to Yesler's Mill at the end of the street (see smokestack) and nearby cookhouse; the tall pole in the road on the right is where Pioneer Square pergola stands today.

2022 MEMBER DUES (\$38) NOW \$83!

Here's a toast to all those Brothers who paid their 2022 membership dues on time – you've saved yourselves a good deal of money. To those 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, 2021) 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 \$418. 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 or PayPal 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 2023 when dues under the new structure will climb to \$470. (Those who live 50+ miles from Lodge remain at \$75.) "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 and adopted by St. John's 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*



The original University of Washington building on Denny's Knoll, c. 1870

The University building was first to be completed and afforded the Lodge a hall for the meetings until the first Lodge Temple was finished.

Friday, September 23
St. John's
162nd Anniversary Celebration
Ivar's Salmon House

Potlatch Room
Social hour – 5pm Dinner – 6pm

Music provided by Adam Creighton Trio

He looked and acted as though he was very important wearing his dark blue apron with gold braid and a gold chain across his shoulders. He paced up and down the black and white squares on the carpet with great confidence in that tired old Masons' temple in one of the south-eastern suburbs. He volunteered that Freemasonry was a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. He went on for some 20 minutes or so... "...brotherly love, relief and truth" and all those other clichés that then were so meaningless to me. He was addressing about 20 friends of Freemasons including me who I suppose were invited as prospective members. But that was as far as he was prepared to go.

When he put down firmly the first question about something in the Lodge room with "...you will learn more about that if you join" there were no more questions. When we went downstairs for a cup of tea he enjoyed being the center of attention among Masons and made no effort to talk to the visitors. Nobody noticed when I and others quietly thanked our hosts and departed. I did not seek to be a member nor did anyone else so I was told – I was later told the new members' day was a failure. It seems to be all about the importance of the speaker. I still cringe today in the company of active Grand Lodge officers like him and they are still around. But the unanswered question then remained – "what is Freemasonry?"

Freemasonry means different things to different brethren. For some it is a way of serving the community, some like the ritual – the theatre, the pomp and ceremony, others like the administrative responsibility, some simply want something to fill their lives each day during the evening. All of these things and other reasons are important to the individual but there is a common thread through all Masonic activities.

You will always be with men with whom you are likely to be comfortable. In a Lodge you will always be wanted and missed when you do not attend. The tasks, whilst not too demanding, will keep your mind active. It is a great "equalizer" – there is always someone there who has been blessed with more fortune than you and always somebody who is worse off. There is always someone to emulate and someone worthy of your assistance or compassion. You will meet people of all

ages, races, cultures, religions and you will be able to improve your understanding of mankind and have the basis for self-examination. You can travel and visit under the banner of Freemasonry, expanding your experience and enjoyment as in no other way. You will be able to lift your head as a Mason, knowing that you are part of a worldwide benevolent fraternity, steeped in history and tradition and of immense standing today. None of these things are Masonic secrets.

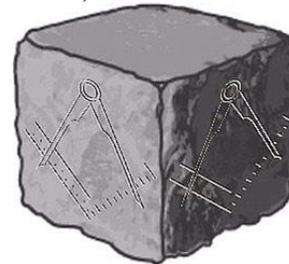
If I, as a friend of a Mason, had been told this all those many years ago in different circumstances I would have tried to join immediately.

Fraternal best wishes to all
Don McLean, "Don's Diary"

Don is a well-respected and experienced Freemason. He is Past Master of the Lodge of Devotion and several other Lodges beside. He is also a member of Grand Lodge Victoria. (For those into such things, he is a "Right Worshipful Brother")

NORTHEAST CORNER

In the Institutes of Menu, the sacred book of the Brahmins, it is said: "If anyone has an incurable disease, let him advance in a straight path towards the invincible northeast point, feeding on water and air till his mortal frame totally decays, and his soul becomes united with the supreme." It is at the same northeast point that those first instructions begin in Freemasonry which enable the true Freemason to commence the erection of that spiritual temple in which, after the decay of his mortal frame, "his soul becomes united with the supreme."



In the important ceremony which refers to the Northeast Corner of the Lodge, the Candidate becomes as one who is, to all outward appearance, a perfect and upright man and Mason, the representative of a spiritual Cornerstone, on which he is to erect his future moral and Masonic edifice. This symbolic reference of the Cornerstone of a material edifice to a Freemason when, at his first initiation, he commences the moral and intellectual task of erecting a spiritual temple in his heart, is beautifully sustained when we look at all the qualities that are required to constitute a "well-trying, true, and trusty" Cornerstone. The squareness of its surface, emblematic of morality its cubical form, emblematic of firmness and stability of character and the peculiar finish and fineness of the material, emblematic of virtue and holiness show that the ceremony of the Northeast Corner of the Lodge was undoubtedly intended to portray, in the consecrated language of symbolism, the necessity of integrity and stability of conduct, of truthfulness and uprightness of character, and of purity and holiness of life, which, just at that time and in that place, the candidate is most impressively charged to maintain.

- Source: Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry