

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

Trestleboard

October 2022

Jim Russell, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

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FROM THE EAST

Blair Neumann, Master



Blair Neumann,
Master

Brethren,

I'll miss our October stated meeting as I travel Masonically through Scotland with at least three Brothers of our Lodge.

Our Senior Deacon, WBro. Tom Lamb, has organized what promises to be an enlightening tour of our Masonic heritage in his home country including several Masonic visits.

I'm excited that our Senior Warden will be with us. I've heard WBro. John speak about his personal connections with Freemasonry in Scotland for as long as he's been my Brother.

And we'll be traveling with our own Traveling Man of the Year, as VWBro. Ashley was so distinguished at Grand Lodge this year. We'll be with distinguished Brothers and their ladies, twenty-two in all, and hope to see our own Musician, WBro. Adam, in Edinburgh, who is also our Grand Musician.

We'll visit Kilwinning #0 and Edinburgh #1, as well as the Grand Lodge of Scotland where we'll present Masonic gifts, including a fine gavel which you may have seen at our last stated meeting. We'll have an opportunity to visit an operative lodge of Masons where, with any luck, we'll resume our labor.

I'll bring Masonic tidings from our Lodge, the oldest in our city, and regale them with tales (if I must) of our 162-year history. I might tell them how our founding Master would canoe to Lodge to be with his pioneering Brethren, or how our early Brothers were instrumental in preparing a foundation for our local University which thrives today. Or how we produced the Seattle Teachers Autism Symposium in a University lecture hall that bears the name of our early Brother, Edmond Meany.

I might talk in private, perhaps over whisky, about some of the struggles that we face as a Lodge, as I'm sure our Scottish Brethren can relate, and about my optimism for our future. Many Lodges have struggled, and some have succumbed, but many others have overcome adversity and found their way again in the spirit of Harmony and Brotherhood, among whom no contention should ever exist but that noble contention of who best can work and best agree.

I'm most excited about the opportunity to be with my Brothers, to experience Masonry in new ways, and to share our reflections upon the Fellowship that we'll have experienced together.

So, while I'll miss you all at our stated meeting this month, I know that you'll be in good hands with WBro. Eric in the East, and I look forward to sharing with you more about our Masonic trip and how I hope it will have helped me and our Brothers become better men.

CALENDAR



- October 9-18: Tour of Scotland
- October 13 (6pm): Officers meeting teleconference
- **October 19 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated**
- November 2 (7pm): Zoom "Our trip to Scotland" Sharing our Scotland tour
- November 9 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- November 10 (6pm): Officers meet
- **November 16 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated** Past Masters Night; Election of Officers; adoption of 2023 annual budget
- November 24: Thanksgiving Day
- **December 21 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated** Installation of Officers (7pm)
- December 18-26: Happy Chanukah
- December 25: Merry Christmas
- December 27: Feast Day of St. John the Evangelist
- **December 31: Deadline for payment of 2023 Lodge dues**
- **March 25th, 2023 (1pm): Reception of the Grand Master in Districts 4 & 5 at Greenwood Masonic Center.**
- **February 17- 21, 2024: Conference of Grand Masters in North America (Westin Hotel) about 200 volunteers needed. Contact MW Jim Mendoza.**

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 ½ block west of Greenwood Ave. N. on southside of N. 80th Street.
- Dinner 6:15pm
- Stated Communication 7:30pm
- Refreshments and fellowship following

WHILE THE CAT'S AWAY.....

Among our Brothers who will be part of the entourage touring Scotland this month will be our Master and Senior Warden, Worshipful Brothers Blair Neumann, and John Louderback. Leading the tour will be our Senior Deacon and Scottish-born-and-raised Senior Deacon WBro. Ton Lamb.

So, with the Master and Senior Warden away, Junior Warden WBro. Eric Koteles will be in the East and perhaps "making mischief" during our October 19th Stated Communication.

At the top of the agenda (as we do every meeting) we'll have an open educational discussion – this month on "The Plumb."

During this communication Brothers will have the opportunity to see the proposed budget for next year which, thanks to the dip in the Market, will be a little more austere than our current budget. Not to worry, however, the only significant cuts have been to the unused areas of "fat" for this year. We expect to enjoy a well-planned year of education mixed with our usual good times of fellowship.

We also look forward to *next* month when we will be holding election of officers and honoring our Past Masters. November will also mark the month when we will adopt the proposed budget following a month to digest the proposal.

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, October 14.

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!

Proposed 2023 Budget for Review this Month

Copies of the proposed Lodge budget as prepared by the Board of Trustees will be distributed in October. The brothers will have an opportunity to question any of the line items with the understanding that action will be taken in November.

Budgeting is necessary to attain our desired goals and to keep our planning within the realm of reality. It requires a systematic evaluation of estimated income and expenditures to ensure that funding is available for programs, activities, rentals, and our beloved charities.

Table of Contents [linked](#)

From the East, Master's Message	page 1
Calendar of Events	1
Junior Warden to Preside in October	2
St. John's Enjoys Seattle Underground Tour	2
Wardens' Messages	3
Sprig of Acacia	3
Grand Master to Lead Wash. DC Tour in 2023	4
October Birthday Celebrants	4
St. John's Leaders – Step Forward	4
2023 Annual Dues in St. John's Lodge	5
Master Masons Raised in October	5
Video Conferencing During Stated.....	5
Why We Meet	5
The Mason's Character	5
Freemasonry: Finding Our Future In Our Past	6
Blue. Just Blue. (Essay by Svoboda)	7
Casting The Black CUBE	8
Mother Kilwinning Lodge No. 0	8



St. John's Enjoys Seattle Underground Tour



St. John's Brothers and their families assemble in preparation of a tour of underground Seattle. The underground is the result of the debris-filled barrier to create the Seattle waterfront soon after the 1889 Great Fire, raising the street levels a full floor. (photo by Woo)

St. John's Brothers and families enjoyed the underground tour of Seattle, Saturday, September 17. Approximately 30 participants from St. John's toured the underground followed by lunch. The Master expressed his appreciation at the following communication for WBro. Archambault's organization of the family outing.

Visit Our District 5 Brethren

District 5 Lodges	Next Meeting	Time
St. John's 9	Wednesday, October 19, 2022	7:30pm
Eureka 20*	Monday, November 7, 2022	7:30pm
University 141	Monday, November 7, 2022	7:30pm
Daylight 232	Saturday, October 15, 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 meets at the Seattle Scottish Rite in Shoreline, Queen Anne Lodge meets 2nd Thursday in February, May, October, and December at Greenwood, and Esoterika at Occidental in Ballard.

Senior Warden's Message

WBro. John Murray Louderback



During 17th century Europe, there was much religious persecution. When the King was of a particular religion, those that worshipped differently were often persecuted, tortured, or murdered.

This would change quickly when a new ruler would come to power. Those that were persecuting were now the persecuted. This civil unrest was a major reason why the Pilgrims emigrated to America and the major reason for the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

America was formed in the 17th century by men and women who in the face of European religious persecution, refused to compromise passionately held religious beliefs, and fled Europe for America.

The Constitution of the United States implies that anyone has the right to practice his or her religion or no religion at all. The First Amendment guarantees the separation of church and state. This fundamental principle is one of the major reasons why our country has been able to avoid many religious conflicts that have plagued so many other countries.

The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment prohibits government from encouraging or promoting religion in any way.

As I mentioned in last month's Message - we need to continue to zealously guard our Constitution and any efforts that would change principles that we so deeply and so passionately cherish.

Junior Warden's Message

WBro. Eric Koteles



Brethren,

As the world looks dark and even darker let's please remember this, we come from hundreds of years tradition of hard-working Brothers from all over the world, we have the responsibility and obligation of honoring their hard work and legacy. Currently, as we find ignorance, anger, discrimination, intolerance and fanaticism are more and more common in our daily language, that is when we are most needed.

Every day we build ourselves to be better versions of ourselves, to spread the cement of brotherly love, and do good unto all, because every human being deserves it.

We have hope and faith in all our endeavors and we have learned the true meaning of charity, which for a Freemason is not gifts, contributions or handouts, but the unconditional fraternal love towards humankind under the umbrella of the Grand Architect of the Universe.

Look for Company Store Clearance in November



Sprig of Acacia

Acacia sprigs were planted in Israel to mark the location of a grave, as well as a symbol to demonstrate their belief in immortality. Acacia are hardy evergreen plants that can survive in arid lands such as the Middle East. It has deep roots to gather the necessary water for survival in the dry, dusty soil. Both the Hebrews and the Egyptians believed that because of its hardiness, durability and evergreen nature, that this tree was a symbol of both innocence and immortality.

Freemasons see the sprig of acacia as a symbol of the immortality of the soul. It is used prominently during Masonic funeral rituals. A sprig is presented by the Worshipful Master and placed onto the coffin with the following words: The acacia "is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. By it we are reminded of our high and glorious destiny in the world beyond the shadows; and that there dwelt for a time within this tabernacle of clay, as there abides in each of us, an imperishable spirit over which the grave has no dominion and death no power.

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.

*** October 19 Stated: The Plumb**

*** November 2 Zoom: "Our Trip to Scotland"**

*** November 16 Stated: Past Masters honored and Election of Officers**

- 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

Grand Master to Lead Wash. DC Tour in 2023

MW Edward C. Woods invites Brothers to Washington D.C. from April 15 to April 22, 2023. Many activities are lined up to help make this trip a memorable experience for everyone. If you love history and have an appreciation for spectacular buildings and monuments this trip is for you.

You'll be visiting The George Washington Memorial, Mt. Vernon, House of the Temple – Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and many of the historical monuments on the National Mall, just to name a few. With plenty of time to explore on your own those areas of particular interest. A schedule of events will be coming out later in the year.

This promises to be an educational and memorable experience which for many may be a once in a lifetime journey and an opportunity to enjoy each other's company while in this shared experience.

Here are the details:

Alaska Airlines

- Depart Seattle April 15. 8:35am arrive Wash DC (DCA) 4:50pm
- Depart DCA April 22. 5:25pm arrive Seattle 8:19pm
- Round trip transfers from DCA to the Embassy Suites Alexandria Old Town
- Transfers provided by Go Shuttle. Executive Mini Bus 29 passengers
- All-inclusive rate. Includes tax and gratuity.

Embassy Suites Alexandria Old Town

- 1900 Diagonal Dr.
- Alexandria VA
- *Complimentary Inclusions*
- *Hot buffet breakfast with eggs cooked-to-order*
- *Evening reception with select beer, wine, and rail liquor*

Total package price **\$1775.00** per person double
Total package price **\$2706.00** based on single

Alaska Airlines requires that we confirm or reduce the number of tickets before Feb. 10th. Any tickets held and not issued will result in a \$50.00 fee per ticket. We must have all names and full payment received in our office by March 10th.

Contact:

Lori Lewis

Travel Leaders & Soccer in Sun
1142 Broadway Plaza #100
Tacoma WA 98402
253-617-7212-Direct
253-383-8000-Main
Lori@Travelcenter4u.com

***Starting May 2023, every U.S. air traveler will be required to present Real ID-compliant identification such as an Enhanced Driver's license, passport, or military ID card to board domestic flights

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Day

- 2 Paul A. Cox
- 2 Sylvain Niles
- 8 David C. Flood
- 8 John R. Adamson
- 10 Jarrold "Jerry" Schuh
- 12 James J. Swift
- 12 Alvin W. Jorgensen
- 12 Paul A. Smith
- 13 J. Joseph DuWors
- 14 Robert E. Reed
- 15 James M. Russert
- 15 David J. Stanford
- 17 Paul N. Bernal
- 17 Jeffrey L. Pullen
- 18 Robert F. Sluder
- 20 Russell A. Johnson
- 24 Richard T. Heston
- 25 John J. Jorgensen
- 31 Phillip E. Halverson



Would-be Leaders in St. John's: Please Step Forward

Volunteers give up their time to help their organization move its mission forward. They care about its cause and the impact that their work is having on it. Without volunteers, our Lodges would have disappeared generations ago.

St. John's has been blessed with a few volunteers. But, so often, we over-burden (burn out) some of our best. For this reason, we need those who have been

"sitting and watching" to step up and lend a hand.

Next month will be our annual election of officers. Some have already announced their "availability." They are:

For Trustee (3-year term): Ashley Brinkley and Blair Neumann

For Master: Eric Koteles

For Senior Warden: John Louderback

For Junior Warden: Dennis Archambault and David Flood

Thank you Brothers for your past, present, and future services.

We have many committees that could use your leadership and assistance. Committees such as scholarship, Masonic Youth, Masonic education, Visits to the ill, Operation Kid Smile, Degrees – the list goes on and on.

Any Master Mason member of the Lodge who is "proficient" (having demonstrated his proficiency in the 3rd degree) is eligible for these offices. Are you willing to serve as an appointive or elected officer? Let us know – we'd love to hear from you!

2023 Annual Dues in St. John's Lodge

Notices for annual dues will be mailed to all dues-owing members of St. John's this month. Your plastic membership card which identifies all Lodges to which a brother is a member will show with a quick scan by the Tyler whether or not you are current for the year. It also identifies if a brother is a Life Member, a 50-year member and a Past Master.



2023 dues structure for membership in St. John's:

Members on record June 18, 2014

1. Past Masters, 50-year members, Life Members = \$0
2. Others = \$10+\$28= \$38*

Members enrolled after June 18, 2014

1. Past Masters, Life Members = \$0
2. Age 65+ = \$75 + \$28 = \$103*
3. Residence 50+ miles from Lodge = \$103*
4. Other Raised Master Masons = \$416+\$28=\$444*
5. Future Plural Members (local residence) *prorated quarterly at joining*:
 - a. Jan. – March 2023 = \$444
 - b. Apr. – June = \$333
 - c. July – Sept. = \$222
 - d. Oct. – Dec. = \$111

***These fees increase by \$5 each month for overdue payment beginning January, 2023.**

From whence comes \$444 in the above calculation? Our bylaws factor 26 x the Washington State minimum wage rounded up to the nearest dollar. The minimum wage, as set by the State of Washington, will be \$15.74 January 1. Rounded up, that will be \$16. Also added is the Grand Lodge per capita assessment of \$28. Thus $(26 \times \$16) + \$28 = \$444$.

Members may pay their dues by cash, check, Certificates of Masonic Labor, or a combination of these. Certificates of Labor (now valued at \$30 each) are issued at each stated or special communication (degree or officer installation).

St. John's Bucks are for use in the Company Store and may not be used toward the payment of annual dues.

Payment by PayPal is available, though not encouraged. St. John's does not have a PayPal account. If you can pay no other way, you can do so through our Treasurer's personal account (his email is jrmaher@comcast.net).

For PayPal:

From your **computer**, here's how to send money:

1. Click [Send & Request](#) at the top of the page.
2. Enter Jim Maher's, email address and click **Next**.
3. Enter the amount, choose the currency, add a note (if needed) and click **Continue**.
4. Select either "Paying for an item or service" or "Sending to a friend."
5. Select how you want to pay and click **Next**.
6. Review the information and click **Send Payment Now**.

MASTER MASONS RAISED IN OCTOBER

Date Raised:

10/25/1948	Donald J. Zuck
10/3/1951	John R. Lilyengren
10/8/1952	Morris R. Capeluto
10/31/1964	Gary G. Jentoft
10/31/1970	Louis A. Van Der Wel
10/28/1971	Don G. Lyman
10/24/1985	Dennis J. Archambault
10/3/1986	Roger A. Barnstead
10/12/1988	Allan B. Pinch
10/31/1992	Brian P. West
10/30/1993	Paul G. Winter
10/12/1996	Storrs L. "Skip" Albertson
10/12/1996	James A. Wold
10/23/2004	Matthew D. Vasey
10/29/2015	Blair J. Neumann



VIDEO CONFERENCING DURING STATED

Relating to the use of Zoom or other video conference platforms during stated meetings, Zoom may be used for those circumstances for when a Lodge is Off-Session. Off-Session may be used for two purposes as stated in the Lodge Officers handbook and **13.05 B.L.**



1. To permit the Lodge to conduct the Installation of its officers in a public ceremony at which the Great Lights and the Lesser Lights are displayed.

2. To permit the Lodge to invite in non-Masons for a program during a Lodge meeting when it is appropriate for them to be present in a Lodge that is at Labor.

While a Lodge is Off-Session the Esoteric Work will not be used nor is Off-Session to be used in lieu of calling to Refreshment as part of normal business. **No business or esoteric work (e.g. Standard Work) may be conducted over video platforms.** Prior to a Lodge being called back On-Session the Worshipful Master must purge the Lodge and a Zoom platform shut down.

Why We Meet

We meet for the purpose of admitting members to our fellowship, to instruct them in the lessons and principles (of Masonry) and to strengthen each other in adherence thereto, said George W. Speth, in a public lecture in 1892.

We meet to hand down to succeeding generations the knowledge and practice of certain ceremonies, which we have ourselves inherited from our Masonic ancestors, and the analogues of which can be traced in the remotest antiquity... Lastly we meet to practice our three grand principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

The Mason's Character

Freemasonry has always been true to its name, and the real Mason is the builder of the temple of his own character. Its mission is to furnish high ideals for the individual, that may be reflected in his actions towards his fellow men. The Masonic ideal teaches that moral and spiritual attainments are far more important than the material and physical.

LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER

Freemasons aren't looking forward to hearing minutes, or the treasurer's report -- they're looking forward to talking about, and learning about Freemasonry and how to apply it to their lives. How the application of the principles of Freemasonry is what Masonry is all about.



Freemasonry: Finding Our Future In Our Past

by Midnight Freemasons Founder

Todd E. Creason, 33°

I attended a really memorable meeting last week – I enjoyed it, I learned something from it, and I'm still thinking about some of the things that were said a week later.

The meeting was small in numbers, but big in content. It was a regularly stated meeting of Admiration Chapter No. 282 (IL) Royal Arch. We focus our meetings less on business and more on education, and during this meeting, I led a discussion, the topic of which was suggested by fellow Midnight Freemasons contributor Brian Pettice, 33°. The topic of the meeting was what Freemasonry means to us.

I started the discussion by having everyone follow me out of the Lodge (room) and through the Tyler's room and we crowded into the Preparation Room. Nobody knew why. I had the last two members out of the Lodge grab the Steward's rods and once we were all crowded into that small room and had closed the door, I picked one of the members to step forward, the Stewards closed in on either side--flanking him. I repeated those questions we all answer before we enter a Lodge for the first time. We reenacted that very first bit of Masonic ritual we experience at the foot of the path we take in Freemasonry – it most likely varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but here in Illinois we call that the "Secretary Interrogatories." That familiar bit of ritual took everyone back to those moments before we entered the Lodge for the first time.

What did we expect this experience to be like? What brought us there? What did we expect to gain? What was our opinion of the Fraternity then? What was our impression of the Masons that brought us to this place? How did we think we were going to be changed? All those questions we asked ourselves in that moment.

When the Masons in that little room realized what I was doing, it got very quiet as those words came back to them, and those memories they associated with that part of our ritual returned.

Some of the Mason in that little room had been a Mason for decades, and others a very short time. By going back in time like that, and putting ourselves back to that moment when we were looking at that door for the first time from the outside prompted a lively discussion after that exercise in which every member in attendance participated.

We talked about the purpose of Masonry. We talked about mentoring. We wondered if those coming into our

Fraternity were having the same quality of experience that we had when we entered. We talked about what we were doing right, and we talked about where we were falling short. We talked about whether Freemasonry was still relevant, and determining unanimously that it was, we talked about how it's more important than ever in today's world. And yes, we talked a little about recruitment and marketing who we are and what we are to a world that sometimes doesn't exactly understand who we are and what we are.

There are so many topics you can discuss. There are so many creative ways you can get these discussions started. So many formats from speakers, to presentations, to discussions, to book clubs. The possibilities are endless when it comes to Lodge education and member development. Or do as we're doing – try a little bit of everything and let your members decide what they enjoy the most.

The members in attendance last week are already looking forward to our next meeting, and our next presentation. They aren't looking forward to hearing minutes, or the treasurer's report – they're looking forward to talking about, and learning about Freemasonry and how to apply it to their lives. How the application of the principles of Freemasonry is what Masonry is all about.

If your Lodge focuses on these basics you'll be amazed at what happens. If you rebuild your Lodge on the foundations of Freemasonry, you'll find these Masonic principles are still relevant, still applicable, and still something men today are interested in talking about, applying, and living.

Tear into that ritual and teach your new members not just how to do it, but what it actually means. Open those dusty books in your Lodge library and teach others the wisdom they contain. Have conversations about what it is to be a Mason. Mentor each other. Advise each other. Learn from each other. Improve each other. Then take that out into the world and serve as examples.

My Brothers, that's Freemasonry!

Todd E. Creason, 33° is the Founder of the *Midnight Freemasons* blog, and an award-winning author of several books and novels, including the *Famous American Freemasons* series. Todd started the *Midnight Freemason* blog in 2006, and in 2012 he opened it up as a contributor blog *The Midnight Freemasons* (plural). Todd has written more than 1,000 pieces for the blog since it began. He is a Past Master of Homer Lodge No. 199 and Ogden Lodge No. 754 (IL) where he currently serves as Secretary. He is a Past Sovereign Master of the Eastern Illinois Council No. 356 Allied Masonic Degrees. He is a Fellow at the Missouri Lodge of Research (FMLR). He is a charter member of a new Illinois Royal Arch Chapter, Admiration Chapter No. 282 and currently serves as EHP. You can contact him at: webmaster@toddcreason.org



BLUE. JUST BLUE.

(Dr.) H. Svoboda, PM, GR (AS)

Blue means truth, the intellect, religious revelation, temporal and eternal wisdom.

Blue stands for loyalty, being true to one's promise and to a steady purpose.

Blue refers to chastity, clear relationships and unblemished reputation.

Blue indicates a generous attitude toward an enemy or rival.

Blue is a person who seeks prudence and peace in contemplative strength.

Blue is the color of the man of good repute and who comes well recommended.

Blue is the color of the deep, the profound and of that which feels cool, of the female principle in the world or of the Mother Goddess, the Queen of the Heavens, Moon Goddess and of the Big Yonder. It is the color of simpleness and of space which seems without end. The Hindu goddess Indra wears a blue coat, as does the Christians' St. Mary, as do some black African medicine women. Blue is the color of Heaven, truth, faithfulness and constancy. Deep blue is St. George, the dragon slayer and patron saint of England. In Chinese schemes, blue is the dragon of the East, of the heavens and of spring time. Buddhists see in blue the calm skies above and the cool waters below as well as wisdom.

In antiquity, the Greeks and Romans attributed blue to their many deities; Venus liked blue, having been born of the light foam of the brilliantly azure sea of the Eastern Mediterranean.

No pigment of blue has been found in nature. Man's perception of a shade of blue was achieved by manipulating certain chemicals, for example by applying great heat to a particular clay, grinding it down, mixing more clay, egg whites and black elements. For many centuries, blue was the most expensive color for artists, hence a "royal blue." A new shade of blue was found accidentally at Oregon State University in 2009 when yttrium, indium and manganese ("YInMn") were mixed for an electronics experiment.

Blue invites work in psychophysics which measures sensory thresholds such as to which degree light must increase so that people perceive a change in the color of water. The anthropologist Franz Boas (1858-1942) concluded his extensive research with the famous statement "it depends": our perception of color and therefore of changes in color and lighting is a function of circumstances. It depends on expectations and experiences. The differences are not innate, they are – consciously or not – learned from the larger world we inhabit. Therefore it makes no sense to have a general order of sensory thresholds or to make up rules for general use.

The world of blue covers a wide spectrum of colors from brilliant deep blue ultramarine to the hardly noticeable sky blue. Blue we see in waters and in skies and when swinging up and down between these two elements, as shown in Maxwell Parrish's 1904 painting "Dinky Bird." We experience blue colors differently. Deep blue is nearby and also impenetrable. Light blue or sky blue is being wide open, an inviting light, open to us. The Continental Romantics' "Blue Flower" was found in extensive travels by foot to faraway places. Only the Mayan people, it seems, understood blue as hostile and as the symbolic color of conquering an enemy.

What does modern psychology tell us about the color blue? Colors mean something to people, and there is an order of importance. Colors have a silent effect on people's emotions and attitudes and hence on actions and decisions. To psychologists, blue is a space without strong emotions and actions. When people look at blue, their nervous system calms measurably: pulse and breathing slow down, blood pressure lessens. Blue cools people. The opposite of blue is the color red: "seeing red," as the saying goes, is literally true. With blue, on the other hand, we are more sensitive to our needs and wishes as well as other peoples' desires. We like blue and look for blue because it is calming and induces quietude. Very ill people express their need for respite and recuperation when they want to see something blue or be in a blue

room or blue surroundings. I remember a good friend in hospital asking for the music of Big Blue Yonder; he died peacefully. With blue, there is a satisfaction, contentedness, a stillness that enters life, a feeling of being in harmony within something bigger and more caring.

If you, dear Reader, want to experience the color blue, go to Paris, France, take the train to Chartres, and about 45 minutes later enter the 13th century cathedral of "Notre Dame" where blue and more blue streams from the central Blue Virgin window in

unknown, even palpable intensities even on overcast days, as well as when the light dies over cathedral and town. You will not forget this experience for a long time.

The human taste which correlates to the color blue is sweetness. Sugar and sugared products are often marketed in blue packages or with strong blue lettering. The "blue" attitude is tenderness, and that is felt on one's skin. Hence blue is a symbol of attaining the ideal of a tender sweet union, a connection to the mother archetype and to hope that the influence lasts into timeless eternity.

When someone does not like the color blue, he signals his need for rest and his unfulfilled longing for a trusting relationship and also that he bravely thinks he can do without. Whatever social or professional ties may exist, he is convinced or fears that they will be rejected because they do not correspond to his ideal. Such rejection is expressed as "boring," "confining," "not



Blue is the color of Mother Earth as seen from the moon and outer space. Let us take good care of it ... and our Blue Lodge!

worth" spending more time on what does not work or is experienced primarily as burdensome.

Further, if a person consistently rejects blue, it seems to indicate that he discounts or runs away from relaxedness and serenity because these things are not available to him, that he cannot afford them, won't get them without having to sacrifice something of importance. But a sense of belonging cannot be got via one's intellect. Blue refers to steadiness in work and the grinding sameness which work can bring. Just think of blue overalls, blue jeans or other work clothes. Some people are afraid that absence of tension, fights and concerns might trigger the quiet which actually may be depression, a debilitating condition or "the blues" of which many a man sings. In Central Europe, "making blue" means to skip work because one can't take it, or being idle, unemployed, and "blue" can also mean being inebriated, under the influence and badly hung over. In France, "bleu" can be a greenhorn, a bruise or a very rare beefsteak. In Spain, a "blue" is someone very sad and melancholy.

People mix, match and choose colors and reasons. Colors are not "just colors." They mean something to people and tell us something of them. The color blue seems to be a good color for Freemasonry. "True blue" is unwavering loyalty to a person or a cause, no matter how small or unimportant. That's what Freemasonry needs. Blue is the color of the beautiful planet Earth, as human eyes see it from the moon and outer space, ever so fragile in various hues of blue and unique in the waterless deserts and unlivable climates of other stars in Outer Space. Let us take good care of Blue Planet and Blue Freemasonry. Let us earn our color.

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CASTING THE BLACK CUBE

The black cube is a thorough test of the Masonic teaching of the cardinal virtue, justice, which "enables us to render to every man his just due without distinction." We are taught of justice that "it should be the invariable practice of every Mason, never to deviate from the minutest principle thereof."

Justice to the Lodge requires us to cast the black cube on an applicant we believe to be unfit. But at the same time it puts to the test the Masonic heart, and the personal honesty of every brother who deliberates on its use.

We are taught to render justice to every man, not merely to Masons. It requires that we think carefully, deliberate slowly, and act cautiously. No man will know what we do; no eye will see, save that All Seeing Eye. Used thoughtlessly, carelessly, without Masonic reason, it crushes not only him at whom it is aimed but also him who casts it.

A well-used black cube goes into the ballot box.

Ill-used, it drops into the heart and blackens it.

Remember: Always vote for the good of the Fraternity.

Mother Kilwinning Lodge No. 0



The history of the Mother Lodge dates back to the year 1140 at the building of the Abbey, the ruins of which lay to the rear of the Lodge. The Lodge was founded in the chapter house within the Abbey and remained there until the reformation in 1560 when the Earl of Glencairn, a blood enemy of the Earls of Eglinton who hold a long tradition with the Lodge, sacked the Abbey. Little is known of the Masons at this point but they still met at various locations including the Abbey in 1598-1599, the house in the Crossbrae in the town centre in 1643 (the "masons howf") and the court house of the Earl of Eglinton. In the mid-1700s the Masons decided to build a new Lodge and in 1779 the old Lodge was built at the entrance to the Abbey. Unfortunately 100 years later due to decay and fear of the building collapsing it was demolished and a new Lodge was built 30 yards from the former site and remains there today. The present Lodge was consecrated in 1893.

Before the forming of Grand Lodge in 1736 Mother Kilwinning was a Grand Lodge in her own right issuing warrants and charters to Lodges wishing to enjoy the privileges of Freemasonry; many Lodges still carry Kilwinning's name today. Scotland being a small country it was undesirable to have two Grand Lodges so Mother Kilwinning gave up this right. However in 1745 Grand Lodge decided to number lodges by seniority and oldest records. Unfortunately Mother Kilwinning's minute books date back to 1642, previous records thought to have been smuggled by the monks to France during the reformation or destroyed in the disastrous fire at nearby Eglinton Castle. Mother Kilwinning was placed second on the roll of the Grand Lodge a position she strongly disagreed with, so withdrew and continued to issue charters as before.

This dispute lasted until 1807 when the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Grand Lodge of Kilwinning met in Glasgow and settled their differences and a new and binding agreement was reached, that being that Mother Kilwinning was placed at the Head of the Roll of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and now has the famous and distinctive Number '0'. The Master of the Lodge would by right of that office become Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire. Mother Kilwinning also gave up the right to issue warrants and charters. In 1860 during a search in Eglinton Castle the now famous Schaw statutes of 1598 and 1599 were found. Had these statutes been available in 1745 there would have been no doubt about Kilwinning's position in Freemasonry. This agreement lasted for 176 years until amended 1983,