

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

## Trestleboard

November 2022

Jim Russell, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

meets: 7910 Greenwood Ave. N.

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## FROM THE EAST

[Blair Neumann](#), Master



Blair Neumann  
Master

Brothers,

I'm back from our trip to Scotland and I am so happy to have received Master's wages on our travels with my Brothers and our friends. WB Tom did great work organizing our tour of his native country. Masonry was a highlight of every day of our trip, with Lodge visits daily and points of Masonic interest along the way.

We visited three of the earliest Lodges in Scotland and probably the world. We toured the oldest purpose-built Lodge room at Lodge Canongate Kilwinning 2, where Robert Burns was Poet Laureate. We were met by the sitting Master and Provincial Grand Master of Lodge Mother Kilwinning 0 who graciously answered

our questions about the rich history and tradition of their Mother Lodge of Scotland. And we were lucky enough to be part of a Master Mason degree at the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel) No. 1, whose Harmony following this degree is already a cherished memory.

We observed tiled degrees and Masonic work at Lodge St Clair 349 in Edinburgh, Lodge Ayr St Paul 204 in Ayr, and Lodge Salfire No. 1505 in Glasgow, in addition to social visits with Brothers and their families at Oban Commercial 180 in Oban, Lodge St Andrew No. 25 in St Andrews, and at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Inverness-shire, where we were hosted by and entertained Brothers from Old Inverness Kilwinning St John's No. 6, St Mary's Caledonian Operative No. 339, St Columba Lodge No. 1295, and Lodge Drum Mossie 1438.

The traditions in these Lodges are each unique, with each Lodge transmitting its own since the dawn of modern Freemasonry. Elements of the ritual of Lodge of Edinburgh No. 1 felt particularly familiar as a Brother of the MW Grand Lodge of Washington. Each enjoyed Harmony following Lodge, similar to our Fellowship or festive board, theirs featuring Scotch pies, homemade soup, sometimes a full meal, and often a full bar.

I found our Scottish Brothers to be kind and welcoming, proud to share their traditions – which I found to be in Harmony with each other and with our own – and show off their Lodge rooms. I met men there who are good and true, who practice Masonry sometimes differently than we do, but within whose traditions ours are descended. A Brother in Inverness told me, "it's nice to be nice," and I felt that spirit throughout our tour.

I'm grateful to my Brothers at St. John's Lodge No. 9 for sponsoring this trip. I can report that we enjoyed the rights and benefits of Masonic travel which are invaluable to a Masonic journey, and I found my journey enriched by this opportunity to work and earn Master's wages, thanks to you.

## CALENDAR



- November 9 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- November 9 (7pm): Zoom "Our trip to Scotland" Sharing our Scotland tour
- 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 31: Deadline for payment of 2023 Lodge dues
- Jan. 4 (7:30pm): Greenwood 253
- January 5 (5pm): Lafayette 241
- January 6 (7:30pm): University 141
- January 9 (7:30pm): Eureka 20
- January 12 (6pm): Officers meeting teleconference
- January 14 (10am): Daylight 232
- January 18 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated**
- March 25 (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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. 80<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Dinner 6:15pm
- Stated Communication 7:30pm
- Refreshments and fellowship following

## ***PAST MASTERS NIGHT, OFFICER ELECTIONS, COMPANY STORE BLOW-OUT***

All of the above **AND** adoption of our 2023 annual budget! What a night to *not* miss.

We have arrived at that time of the year when we elect a new Master and other officers of our Lodge. The offices of Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary will be selected for next year, as well as one representative to the Board of Trustees. Several Brothers have declared their availability for election to office this year.

WBro. Eric Koteles is open to serve as Master for 2023: WBro. John Louderback is available to return to the West. Two candidates have declared for the South – Past Masters WBros. Dennis Archambault and David Flood. VWBro. Ashley Brinkley and WBro. Blair Neumann each have made it known they are available to serve a three-year term on the Board of Trustees.

Any proficient member of the Lodge is eligible to seek these offices. The Master should have demonstrated Proficiency in Lodge Management.

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, November 11. 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!



### **2023 Budget Proposed for Approval This Month**

Copies of the proposed Lodge budget as prepared by the Board of Trustees were distributed in October. The brothers will again have an opportunity to question any of the line items before a final motion to adopt this month.

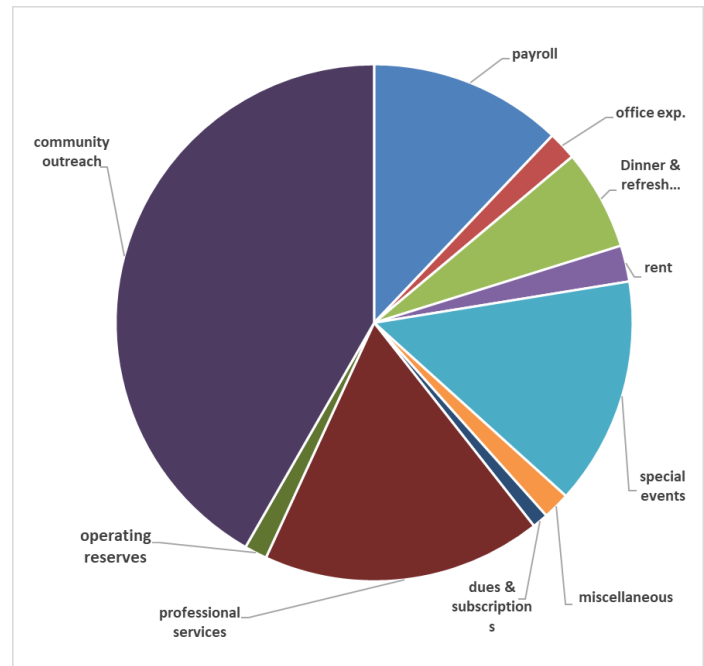
Budgeting is necessary to attain our desired goals and to keep our planning within the realm of reality. It requires a systematic evaluation of estimated income and expenditures to ensure that funding is available for programs, activities, rentals, and our beloved charities.

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### ***St. John's proposed 2023 Budget***



### **PAST MASTERS TO BE HONORED FOR SERVICE TO LODGE**

Master WBro. Blair Neumann will honor our Past Masters at our stated communication on November 16. This month we extend a special invitation to all our Past Masters – and the Past Masters of any Lodge. The presence of these beloved brothers is particularly desired as we recognize their achievements for the year they served this Lodge and the Lodges of Ionic No. 90 and Elliott Bay No. 257. A full house helps to make it extra fun at ceremonies such as this, so we invite our Past Masters and Affiliated Past Masters to please join us.



**IT'S TIME TO RENEW  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

**Worshipful Brother Hans Wehl presents**  
***Company Store Blow-Out!***  
***November 16***

**Sale opens at 5pm (in upstairs library) before our November dinner**

***Bring Your St. John's Bucks***

***Everything*** will be discounted 50% or more - jackets, windbreakers, T-shirts, ties, caps, vests

Here's what you've been waiting for . . . a chance to get rid of your St. John's Bucks and take advantage of deep, deep discounts!

***Beat the Inflation***

**Disclaimer:** "No dogs were harmed during the production of this notice. A cat threw up and somebody shot a duck, but that's it."

**Senior Warden's Message**

[WBro. John Murray Louderback](#)



As a young child I was aware of my ancestral connection to Scotland; through my Grandfather Murray I developed an interest in Scottish history and culture.

Most wonderfully magnificent was our St. John's Lodge Masonic Tour of Scotland. Incredible!

The significance to Masonry was overwhelming. Yes, we visited many Lodges in Scotland. We were witness to a Master Mason Sublime Degree at Edinburgh Lodge Mary's Chapel 1. The tour included the Abbey's and Cathedrals now in ruins built by operative masons in the mid twelfth century. To actually touch the walls of Kilwinning Abbey and see the back wall of Kilwinning Lodge attached to the wall of the ruins of the Abbey was a most profound experience and connection.

This connection to Masonry was an actual physical and spiritual connection to the Abbey's Abbots and Cathedrals built by operative masons and to the very rich history of our Craft. We went to several Lodges in Scotland and in every case we were met with friendly eyes, broad smiles, and firm hands of acceptance. This experience was profoundly significant to me and something that I had only dreamed of doing. Yes, at times very emotional and still for me today.

Thank you Brothers of St. John's for providing this most wonderful experience! Thank you to Brother Tom Lamb for his hard work and leadership and to our Worshipful Master Blair Neumann for making St. John's Masonic Tour of Scotland 2022 a reality.

**Junior Warden's Message**

[WBro. Eric Koteles](#)



Our November meeting will be a busy one. We'll be voting for our 2023 budget and officers. We had bumps in the road during the last couple of years, but I'm confident that our Lodge will respond to the challenges ahead, it seems to me that we are at a point where we are going to need all hands on deck and be very disciplined, the Brothers that preceded us did wonderful things for this city, but their accomplishments in every single way, shape or form are theirs, not ours, we cannot in good conscience claim any of them. What we can do on the other hand is to rise to the challenge, pull together and make sure that this beautiful ship keeps sailing strong no matter how challenging the weather ahead is.

Let's remember that we are not only competing with the idiosyncrasies that life throws in our way, but also against a busier world where social media dictates that immediate satisfaction is the expectation.

We cannot and will not fall behind and if we do, it will be 100% our fault, nobody else.

We are relevant because we are the guardians. We inherit a marvelous and beautiful system, hundreds of years old that prepares its serious students to live a more noble and moral life – a Craft that teaches us that we are the masters of our present *and* our future, and not victims of some obscure destiny. We are charitable not because we like to write checks but because we know that we are brothers of all humankind and we cannot ignore pain or suffering. ***cont. page 4***



# 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.

**\* November 9 Zoom: "Our Trip to Scotland"**

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

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

Here's more about how to use Zoom Meetings:  
[https://zoom.us/download#client\\_4meeting](https://zoom.us/download#client_4meeting)

## (Not That) Chuck Berry Brings Operetta Arias to St. John's Installation of Officers December 21

In 2016, the year WBro. John Louderback was in the East as Master of our Lodge, Bro. Charles (Chuck) Berry served as our installed Musician. He is an accomplished composer and has written several operas. His latest is entitled *21st Century Romance operetta* and will be performed March 24, 31, and April 1 at the Town Hall, Seattle.

Bro. Berry will be bringing soprano, Allison Pohl, to our December 21 Installation of Officers, where she will be performing two opera arias from the operetta.

## Junior Warden's Message cont. from page 3

My Brothers, I learned that a Lodge is not a building or an address or a zip code. The Lodge is every single one of us, coming together to learn, to teach and hopefully better ourselves and by that better our community wherever we go.

Every one of us is a Column of the Temple and only our noble efforts will define how Strong, Beautiful and Virtuous we may be. Remember the beautiful symbol of the beehive, every single one of those bees working so hard to keep it healthy and to make delicious, healthy, good-for-the-body honey and all of them without their own agenda or petty, pedestrian attitudes, because they know they will hurt the other ones and the beehive as a result and that will be the end of them.

I expect a busy, challenging 2023 and I'm ready. I just hope my brothers are also ready, let's remember that it takes every single one of us to help support the effort and be successful.

Together We Stand, Divided We Fall.

## Music an Essential Part of Freemasonry

"Music teaches the art of forming concords, so as to compose delightful harmony, by a proportional arrangement of acute, grave, and mixed sounds. It inquires into the nature of concords and discords, and enables us to find out the proportion between them by numbers."

Music is one of the seven liberal arts and sciences, whose beauties are inculcated in the Fellow Craft's Degree. Music is recommended to the attention of Freemasons, because as the "concord of sweet sounds" elevates the generous sentiments of the soul, so should the concord of good feeling reign among the Brethren, that by the union of friendship and brotherly love the boisterous passions may be lulled and harmony exist throughout the Craft.

The Fellow Craft lecture explains *Music* as that elevated science which affects the passions by sound. There are few who have not felt its charms, and acknowledged its expressions to be intelligible to the heart. It is a language of delightful sensations, far more eloquent than words; it breathes to the ear the clearest intimations; it touches and gently agitates the agreeable and sublime passions; it wraps us in melancholy, and elevates us in joy; it dissolves and inflames; it melts us in tenderness, and excites us to war.

This science is truly congenial to the nature of man; for by its powerful charms the most discordant passions may be harmonized and brought into perfect unison; but it never sounds with such seraphic harmony as when employed in singing hymns of gratitude to the Creator of the universe.

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Day

- 11 Brent A. Braun
- 14 Charles B. Claus, Jr.
- 14 George H. Bechtel, Jr.
- 14 Eugene V. Kashpureff
- 19 Raymond L. Gehrig
- 22 Jeff R. Hawley
- 25 Marcos J. Policar
- 25 Kemal Alaeddinoğlu
- 26 Terry S. Zittlau
- 27 Mark W. Shropshire



## Visit Our District 5 Brethren

District 5 Lodges	Next Meeting	Time
St. John's 9	Wednesday, November 16, 2022	7:30pm
Eureka 20*	Monday, November 7, 2022	7:30pm
University 141	Monday, November 7, 2022	7:30pm
Daylight 232	Saturday, November 19, 2022	10am
Lafayette 241	Thursday, December 1, 2022	7pm
Queen Anne 242*	Thursday, February 9, 2023	7:30pm
Esoterika 316*	Tuesday, January 24, 2023	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.

## 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.

This 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

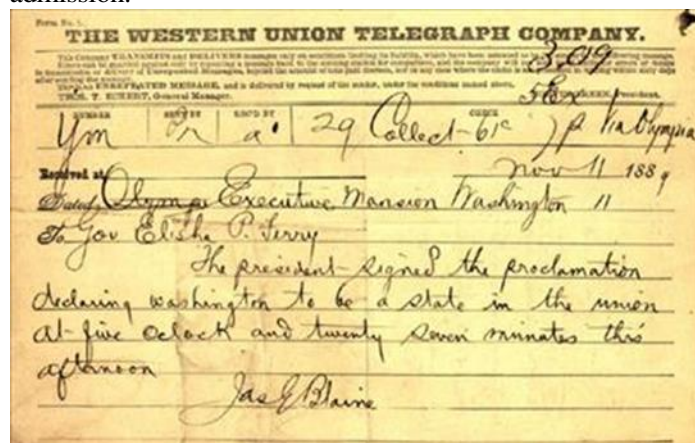
For Junior Warden: Dennis Archambault and David Flood

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

## Washington Achieves Statehood November 1889

By the time it achieved statehood, Washington had spent 36 years as a territory, longer than any of the 41 states admitted before it and more than three times as long as neighboring Oregon.

There are a variety of reasons for the length of time it took Washington to become a state. Especially in the territory's early years many new settlers, focused on establishing homes, communities, and businesses, had little interest in the politics of statehood. At least four times in the late 1860s and early 1870s voters rejected proposals to call a convention to adopt a state constitution. Partisanship also played a role. When a constitutional convention was finally held in 1878 and voters went on to approve the state constitution it drafted, Washington was reliably Republican. The U.S. Congress, then controlled by Democrats who were not eager to admit a state that would give its votes to their opponents, declined to pass an act enabling Washington's admission.



Telegram announcing passage of Statehood Act

## Attracting Masonic Leaders

We know that the mission of Masonry is laudable, that through its teachings good men become even better men. We have also experienced the warm fraternal fellowship which the association with our Brethren and their families affords us. In view of this, interest in Masonry, from both within and without the Fraternity, should be on the increase. Why, then, have we found the opposite to be true?

Perhaps the fault lies in the fact that we have allowed our Lodges in many instances to be run by Brethren who do not have the leadership qualities necessary for the efficient operation of any organization, more especially a Masonic Lodge. We have seen Brethren who would not even have been assigned the chairmanship of a relatively unimportant committee in a going venture of any nature because of their inability to get the job done effectively serving as Masters of Lodges with membership in the hundreds. Yes, in many instances Masonry is using for its leaders Brethren who would not be accepted for leadership anywhere else. This is not to cast aspersions against these Brethren. They are good men and good Masons, but Brethren who simply should not be allowed to become Masters of their Lodges because of their inability to perform the duties of the office in a satisfactory manner.

Find a Lodge whose Master and other officers are leaders in the true sense of the word, and you will find a Lodge in which the Brethren value their membership, participate in the activities of the Lodge, keep their membership active, and through their actions, in and out of the Lodge, attract other good men to petition for the Degrees.

From Short Talk Bulletin October 1978

## HARMONY

It is a duty especially entrusted to the Senior Warden of a Lodge, who is figuratively supposed to preside over the Craft during the hours of labor, so to act that none shall depart from the Lodge dissatisfied or discontented, that harmony may be thus preserved, because, as the instruction expresses it, harmony is the strength and support of all institutions, more especially this of ours.

## MASTER MASONS RAISED IN NOVEMBER

### Date Raised:

11/13/1959	Hans U. Wehl
11/18/1959	Richard "Dick" Loeb
11/18/1959	Jerome N. Alhadeff
11/18/1965	Joseph H. Oates, Jr.
11/7/1970	Martin L. Burgess
11/27/1971	Craig L. Catli
11/19/1976	Robert E. Reed
11/18/1986	Paul-Max B. Jensen
11/18/1986	Joseph L. Bennett
11/10/1988	Richard P. Wellenberger
11/18/1988	Terry S. Zittlau
11/17/1990	Charles R. "Dick" Grimm
11/19/1998	James R. Odom
11/24/2001	Scott A. Pence



## 2023 Annual Dues in St. John's Lodge

Notices for annual dues were mailed to all dues-owing members of St. John's last month. Once the Secretary has entered a record of your payment on the Grand Lodge Grand View dashboard the Tyler can identify whether or not you are current for the year. The dashboard 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 x \$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 [jrmaher1@comcast.net](mailto:jrmaher1@comcast.net)).

## Grand Lodge Communications

Brothers, I encourage you to log on to Grand View periodically and check the latest guidance from the Grand Master and Grand Lodge. There are many interesting communications there regarding meetings, training, the Annual Communication, and the like. I encourage everyone to log on to the site periodically and check under 'Feed' to see the latest from Grand Lodge. To reach [Grand View](#) 

## A Word From the Tyler



[WBro. Terry Grove](#)

What does the word obligation mean? What does it mean to us as Masons? More importantly – what does it mean to us as . . . Master Masons?

The dictionary defines Obligation as an act binding oneself by a legal, social or moral tie. A legal, social or moral requirement, such as duty, contract, or promise that compels one to follow or avoid a particular course of action.

In Freemasonry we view the obligation as a binding agreement, based upon moral and spiritual values between two entities, the individual Man and the Fraternity as a whole.

So when a candidate is placed at the alter to take his obligation what are we asking him to obligate himself to?

**Secrecy** - We are asking the candidate to maintain secrecy. Not about Masonry itself, but simply the modes of recognition. **Fidelity** - We are asking the candidate to maintain his Fidelity to the Constitution, ancient landmarks, laws and regulations of the Craft. **Conduct** - We are asking the candidate to begin to think and act Masonically. To accept the Tenets and Principles of Freemasonry as his rule and guide. To hopefully instill in him the importance of Brotherly Love things like Faith, and Relief.



- Attendance at meeting is privilege; it is membership. We

are obligating ourselves to attend all due signs and summonses sent by a Lodge. Implied within the concept of attendance is P A R T I C I P A T I O N. We owe it to ourselves and the Craft to take an active part in its deliberations. **Responsibility** - We are asking the candidate to make sound and acceptable judgments in all of his actions and to be accountable for his actions. **Dedication** - We are asking the candidate to be dedicated to the principles and tenets of Freemasonry. **Self-Discipline** – Self- Discipline in relation to behavior in Lodge, punctuality, proper etiquette in all his Masonic duties, and most importantly, the discipline to continue his studies of our ancient Craft and truly embrace the moral and spiritual lessons that await him. **Opportunities** - The opportunity to help others less fortunate than yourself. The opportunity to broaden his horizons through study and self-improvement. And of course, the opportunity for friendship, fellowship and brotherly love, perhaps the greatest gift our Fraternity has to offer. **Integrity** - By improving ourselves as men and Masons we will develop that outstanding trait of integrity.

If we take the time and mentor our newly obligated brothers and they embrace the things that they have obligated themselves to, then both parties will have succeeded. The man will have become a better man (whether they realize it or not) and the Fraternity will have an active and participating member who will contribute to the fabric of Freemasonry.



# LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER



*The experience of becoming a member of a Masonic Lodge consists of three ceremonial steps or “degrees,” which have been passed down from generation to generation of Freemasons since medieval times. These ceremonies are intriguing, transforming, and a one-of-a-kind experience in the midst of modern life. For centuries, these rites have been essential components of a lifelong Masonic path to become the best versions of ourselves, as well as our commitment to one another as Brothers. The ceremonies instill knowledge, motivation, and pride in the candidate and Lodge members, creating a shared experience that links men together in the bonds of brotherhood.*

## I Was Second

by Midnight Freemason Contributor  
Steven L. Harrison, 33°, FMLR

Anticipation consumed me as I sat in the large dining area with my father. A voice from a man I did not know came out of the hallway to my right and bellowed, “It’s time, let’s go.” The room, filled with about 40 others, began to clear. Each got up, including Dad, and stood in line in front of a logbook on a counter, and signed in. Within minutes there were only four of us left in that empty room.

I sat in eerie silence with two other guys I didn’t know at the long table where I had eaten breakfast. The fourth guy in the room was, we learned, the Tyler. He introduced himself. He joked, told us stories, and tried to put us at ease. I was not at ease. It wasn’t because I was concerned about what I was going to go through, but because I wanted to get right to it. Time dragged. In fact, it seemed to stop altogether. What were they doing in that Lodge room that was taking so long?

Finally, a guy stuck his head around the corner to my left and called out, “Randy!”

Rats. I wasn’t going to be first. He took Randy away. More joking with the Tyler. More waiting. Eternity came and went. Finally, the same guy appeared at the corner to my left. I said a small prayer: “Make him say my name. Please make him say my name...”

“Steve.”

Prayer answered, I leaped up and followed him into a place that was more a closet than a room. The three guys in there helped me put on a pair of... well... pajamas. They took a gold cross I wore on a chain around my neck, replaced it with a cord of some sort, slipped a sandal on me, and then in their haste apparently forgot to put on the other one. After they blindfolded me, the main guy, followed by the other two, escorted me to a set of double doors, knocked, and announced my presence. After a small wait, I was, for the first time in my life, in an open Masonic Lodge room.

I went through the degree, trying to soak it all in. I learned the lack of a second sandal was not a mistake. I learned why they took the gold chain from me. But it was like drinking from a fire hose. Other things I had experienced... well... I had questions.

They took me back out of the Lodge room, had me put on my street clothes, took me back in and we wrapped things up. It was amazing that the degree that seemed to take so long while I was waiting had passed in a flash. Parts of the degree swirled through my head as I tried to remember everything I had been through.

Then, suddenly, as they sat me on the sidelines, I realized there would be another degree for the poor guy who was still waiting outside, and I would get to see it. I was elated they had called me second, so I could immediately review what I had seen.

There was a knock at the door I had recently passed through. The same three guys walked in with the third candidate. I focused my attention. I hung on every word, every motion, every symbolic allusion. I watched transfixed with my Brothers... my BROTHERS... and tried to absorb it like a dry sponge in water. My Masonic education had begun.

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.

## Washington State Voters

Since Washington became a state in 1889, its citizens have voted in 33 presidential elections, beginning in 1892 when they chose Republican Benjamin Harrison, who lost to Grover Cleveland. In 1896 they chose William Jennings Bryan, who lost to William McKinley. President **McKinley** won again in 1900, and this time he also carried the state.

State voters sided with the national majorities again when they chose Teddy **Roosevelt** in 1904 and William Howard **Taft** in 1908. On November 8, 1910, Washington women won the right to vote. Roosevelt once again got the state nod in 1912, but lost to Woodrow **Wilson**, who won a second term in 1916 with state support. For the next four decades, Washington mirrored the nation by choosing Warren G. **Harding** in 1920; Calvin **Coolidge** in 1924; Herbert **Hoover** in 1928; Franklin D. **Roosevelt** in 1932, 1936, 1940, and 1944; Harry **Truman** in 1948; and Dwight **Eisenhower** in 1952 and 1956.

The winning streak ended in 1960, when Washingtonians opted for Richard Nixon, who lost to John F. Kennedy. State voters won with Lyndon **Johnson** in 1964, but in 1968 they chose Hubert Humphrey, who lost to Nixon. President **Nixon** won the state in 1972, but in 1976 state voters went for Gerald Ford, who lost to Jimmy Carter.

Ronald **Reagan** won state support in 1980 and 1984, which is the last time a Republican carried Washington in a presidential election. Since then, Washingtonians have voted for Michael Dukakis over George H. W. Bush in 1988, Bill **Clinton** in 1992 and 1996, and Al Gore and John Kerry over George W. Bush in 2000 and 2004, respectively. Washington voters supported Barack **Obama** in 2008 and 2012, and Hillary Clinton carried the state in 2016. Joe **Biden** was the choice in 2020. In all, there have been 22 presidential elections in which we sided with the candidate who received the most electoral votes.

## Masonic Temple Purchased to be Used as Mosque



### New home for Islamic Center following damage by arson

It has been more than two years since the Islamic Center of Cape Girardeau was damaged by a fire, allegedly caused by arson April 24, 2020.

However, on Oct. 13, the Islamic Center purchased the Masonic Temple at 2307 Broadway in Cape Girardeau, to be used as a new mosque.

“The Masonic Temple will be used to house the Islamic Center as well as a place of interfaith dialogues and local community events,” said Tahsin Khalid, imam of the Islamic Center and professor of Elementary, Early and Special Education at Southeast Missouri State University.

“Everybody was willing to help, which was very good,” Khalid said. “I mean government officials, city officials, the mayor — they all showed their support for our mosque.”

Khalid said the Masonic Temple building is much bigger than the current Islamic Center, and there is a lot more space for parking. He said they will have plenty of room for parties and events open to the Cape Girardeau community. One event Khalid said he is particularly excited to restart is Interfaith Alliance dinners.

“I think they have some work and some cleaning,” Khalid said. “I think they have some roof work, so after that it may take a month or so I guess.”

In light of the fire that happened at the center, Khalid said members will be making safety precautions at the new mosque. He said they will have security cameras, and they will consult the Cape Girardeau Police Department for input on any additional safety measures that may be necessary.

“We are very thankful to God that we got this building,” Khalid said. “It is a blessing and His mercy that we have this mosque. I was thinking, when we have trust in God, God gives to us for our trust and for our patience. So, I think we got the reward for our patience.”

The values of Freemasonry are based on **integrity, kindness, honesty and fairness**. Freemasons are taught to practice charity and to care, not only for their own, but also for the community as a whole through charitable giving and volunteer efforts. We gather together to help each other become better men and to forge a better world.

## A DAY OF THANKSGIVING

We are traveling East, my Brother,  
Whenever, in gratefulness,  
We think of the things that every day brings Our lives and  
our homes to bless.

We are finding the Path, my Brother,  
Though frugal may be our feast,  
If the good that we knew is the good that we do - Ah, then  
we are traveling East.

We are learning the Work, my Brother,  
Whenever, with kindly aim,  
We lighten the care and our plenty we share With the poor  
and the halt and lame.

We are speaking the Word, my Brother,  
And finding our joys increased,  
When we can bring cheer to replace a child's tear - Ah,  
then we are traveling East.

We are bringing the Light, my Brother,  
Whenever we greet a friend,  
Whenever we lift a poor soul gone adrift, Or one in  
distress defend.

We are making the Way, my Brother,  
When through us has sorrow ceased,  
When something we've said to a lone heart has sped - Ah,  
then we are traveling East.

We are traveling East, my Brother,  
Whenever, in thankful mood,  
We pause for a day to think and to pray, To set forth our  
gratitude.

The Word, the Work, my Brother,  
Through ages have never ceased -  
With the Word that is true and the Word we can do, Ah,  
then we are traveling East.

- Brother Wilbur D. Nesbit



## THREE SENSES

Of the five human senses, the three which are the most important in Masonic symbolism are Seeing, Hearing, and Feeling, because of their respective reference to certain modes of recognition, and because, by their use, Freemasons are enabled to practice that universal language the possession of which is the boast of the Order.

