



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

## Trestleboard



St. John's Lodge No. 9

Serving Seattle since 1860

December 2022

*Jim Russell, editor*

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## FROM THE EAST

Blair Neumann, Master



Blair Neumann  
Master

Brethren, it's been nearly three years since I was first installed in the East, and my time in the Oriental Chair is drawing to a close. As I reflect on my time as Master of St. John's, I think about the Work that we've done together, and my hopes for the future of our Lodge.

I feel strangely blessed to have had the opportunity to lead our Lodge through COVID-19. I remember early in the pandemic, seeking advice from my friend and previous Master, Brother Seann, who encouraged me to approach lockdown the way that a caterpillar approaches their cocoon, and to re-emerge transformed by the experience.

I was motivated by fear when the pandemic began, concerned that infrastructure might break down under the strain of early quarantines. We reached out to every Brother and widow of our Lodge, many of whom we hadn't seen in years, to let them know that we stand ready to assist when need arises, and we informed each other which Brethren live closest.

There were long months of solitude punctuated with weekly Zoom meetings. I assumed the role of "Virtual Master," and we organized an hour of online Fellowship and education each week to help keep spirits high despite our quarantines. These Fellowships helped bring us closer with Brothers living outside of Seattle, including our "Zoom Chaplain," Brother Fred, whose thoughtful prayers opened each of our meetings from Yakima, and Brother Pekka, who often joined from his home in Finland, and who we're delighted to host here in Seattle come mid-March. We met with Brothers and friends from around the country and around the world!

This past year was supposed to be my "normal" season in the East (since my first had been interrupted by pandemic), and I'm sure in many ways it has been, but I feel like this year has also been interrupted too often with disharmony. And while the business of the Lodge gets done, I'm too often surprised when capable men decline to serve their Brethren or their Lodge. I hope that Harmony prevails, and that all Brothers conduct themselves with a spirit of service for each other, for the future of our Lodge.

Brethren, my final instruction from the East will be a lyric from a song that I shared with you in one of our Zoom meetings during that long first year. It's not a Masonic song per se but I find it in Harmony with the spirit of Masonry as I know it: Of your Brother, "Always lift him up and never knock him down."

## CALENDAR



- December 15 (6pm): Officers meet
- December 18 – 26: Happy Hanukkah
- 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



*Join your Brethren for our Installation of 2023 Officers, Wednesday, December 21. Dinner at 6:15 followed by installation ceremony at 7pm*

## **ERIC KOTELES INVITES ALL TO PUBLIC INSTALLATION**

St. John's brothers are encouraged to invite their friends and family to our 163<sup>rd</sup> annual installation of officers as we arrive at the end of our Masonic year. Members of our "new" leadership team will be installed into their stations and places at the December 21<sup>st</sup> installation of officers. This grand ceremony will be held on the evening of our stated communication. The ceremony will be "off-session" to permit our ladies and other guests to enjoy the evening.

Past Grand Master MWBro. Alvin Jorgensen will install our Master-elect WBro. Eric Koteles. WBro. Koteles, who presided in the East in 2014 and again in the South this year, will lead an array of talented officers as we continue our efforts to promote Masonic Enlightenment and to encourage friendly and entrusting brotherhood,

***The newly elected and appointed officers may be asked to assemble for pictures before dinner..*** A complimentary meal will be provided for members and guests at 6:15 prior to the ceremony.

Assisting WBro. Koteles in the chairs this year will be WBro. John Murray Louderback as Senior Warden and WBro. David Flood as Junior Warden. VWBros. Jim Russell and Jim Maher will be returning as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Appointed officers are Bro. Kemalcan (*Kenal-san*) Jimmerson, Senior Deacon; VWBro. Don Lyman, Chaplain; VWBro. Chuck Brockway, Marshal; VWBro. John Adamson, Senior Steward; WBro. Terry Grove, Tyler and WBro. Adam Creighton, Musician. Junior Deacon and Junior Steward have yet to be named.

VWBro. Chuck Brockway, WBro. Hans Wehl, and MWBro. Al Jorgensen will serve as elected members of the Board of Trustees, the financial guardians of the St. John's corporation. Senior Warden John Louderback also serves on the Board along with the Worshipful Master and Secretary and Treasurer in their ex-officio capacities.



Ms Allyson Pohl will present two arias from world premier operetta opening this spring

The installation ceremony will open with a couple of operetta arias from composer Bro. Chuck Berry's *21<sup>st</sup> Century Romance* performed by soprano Allyson Pohl. Ms Pohl's vivacious stage presence and spirited singing have inspired enthusiastic responses across three continents. Her work has received positive reviews for her "sparkling voice" and "exuberant" performances.

Please make your dinner [reservations](#) with the secretary at 206 623-0261 by Friday, December 16. 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 invite your non-Mason acquaintances for a taste of Masonic ceremony and instruction.



Eric Koteles Master-elect

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### **(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 Musician. He is an accomplished composer and has written several operas. His latest operetta is entitled *21st Century Romance* and will be performed March 24, 31, and April 1 at the Town Hall, Seattle.... Four people entangled with each other, a wife who wants a menage-a-trois, an astonished husband, as his two favorite women are making-out and inviting him to join them! Lusty Eva who wants to please all three of her lovers..

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

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

## ***Finnish Brother to visit St. John's Lodge March, 2023***

In the spring of 2016, WBro. Pekka Granroth of Savo 14 Lodge (Finland) was supposed to competitively sail across the Pacific Ocean and ultimately visit St. John's Lodge No. 9 in Seattle. A shoulder injury prevented his sailing and we never met in person as brothers. However, WBro. Granroth's name and e-mail remained with the Lodge secretary and he continued to receive our "Trestleboard" every month and kept very aware about what was going on in the Lodge – keeping abreast with interest of the news of the brothers here.

In the spring of 2020, as the corona pandemic conquered the world, Bro. Pekka read that the Lodge was starting to hold weekly Zoom meetings instead of its monthly stated communications.

The Secretary VWBro. Jim Russell remembered WBro. Granroth from years ago and soon came the master's invitation to join in. During the summer, he attended "sessions" a total of five times. The timing was a bit challenging as our Wednesday night at 7pm meant for Bro. Pekka to hop out of bed to attend at 5am Thursday mornings local time.

WBro. Granroth continues to share in our Zoom sessions when he can and our St. John's Lodge brothers who join in Zoom look forward to his participation.

Bro. Pekka now looks forward to seeing his Seattle brothers in person this coming March.

Bro/Veli Pekka will be arriving at SeaTac March 11, 2023, and departing March 20th, 2023.



During his time, he will mainly be staying with Bro. Paul Doak's family in Bothell, with some skiing planned at Stevens Pass on the 12th and 19th. St. John's Brothers are welcome to meet our Finnish guest there as well as do a little skiing.

The days of March 13th-15th he will be staying with WBro. John Louderback and visit the sites of the Olympic Peninsula

On the evening of March 15, WBro. Granroth will attend our Stated Meeting dinner, and during tiled Lodge will present "Freemasonry in Finland."

On the 16th and 17th our brother is **open for lunch gatherings.**

If any brothers would like to visit in a more relaxed setting, he would very much like to have lunch somewhere in the Seattle area with a few brothers. He says he is open to any type of food – just not hamburgers or pizza!

Bro. Paul Doak is happy to coordinate this with those interested on his behalf.

Also, *if anyone knows of any degrees during the 16th, 17th, or 18th of March, please let Bro. Paul know, as this would be of particular interest to Bro. Pekka.* (I will forward this information to Bro. Doak.)



**Bro. Pekka Granroth presents his story to a coffee club of Masons. Note that our Master's Zoom-shot is pictured on the screen**

# **Public invitation to St. John's Lodge No. 9 Installation of Officers**

**For the year 2023**

**Wednesday evening, 6:15pm, December 21, 2022**

**Invite your  
Family & Friends**

***Dinner Followed by Installation Ceremony***

***RSVP please!***

***Greenwood Masonic Center***



## Senior Warden's Message

[WBro. John Murray Louderback](#)



What a year this has been! A lot of good works have been accomplished by St. John's this year. The Lodge has had great leadership through Worshipful Master Blair Neumann.

One of our highlights was the Lodge Masonic Tour of Scotland.

As with any organization, for the organization to be successful it must have Teamwork. Without it the organization will founder and become stagnant. I love watching a good game on television. However a bad game seems frustrating just to watch. It seems quite obvious to me that the difference simply comes down to Teamwork. One team may have an outstanding player or two, but if the whole team is not playing together as a team with each person contributing his best effort, then the team will fail.

I believe that there is a culture within the Lodge believing that only the Master or Officers can do anything. Suggestions are great but that's all they are - just suggestions. Suggestions are at least a starting point. For myself, you do not need my permission to do some research into feasibility and potential ground work. Report to the Master about your operations and outcomes. That means be a self-starter.

I trust you as a Master Mason that you will not embarrass the Lodge. Do not leave the Labor of the Lodge to just a few. St. John's and Masonry needs you as part of the winning team.

Just don't sit there – do something!

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Day

5 Albert K. Gustafson  
9 Dennis J. Archambault  
11 Gilbert N. Hain  
11 Mark A. Gfeller  
13 Ian S. Webb  
13 Matthew D. Vasey  
14 James R. Maher  
14 Paul T. St. Clair  
22 David P. Fagerlie  
23 Joseph H. Oates, Jr.  
24 William A. Feldner  
25 Scott M. Yerger  
26 Don G. Lyman  
28 Serco S. Tokatlian  
28 Kenneth D. Wehl  
30 Phillip J. See  
31 Joseph L. Bennett  
31 James C. Shields



*Didja know? In a recent survey of Masons, 34% said their favorite feature of Freemasonry was comradeship, 57% said it was for self-enlightenment, and 9% said it was for charity.*

## Junior Warden's Message

[WBro. Eric Koteles](#)



Brethren,  
Happy Winter!!!

Let me share portions of an article I found about what we had lost from ancient knowledge on the true meaning of this season in the northern hemisphere.

The light of the Sun begins a new solar cycle at Winter Solstice. The rays shine into the dark and nurture the new-born life there to be cultivated. This is mirrored in nature and the nature of life all around us, and as the seeds are buried in the darkness of the Earth they emerge once again with the life-giving rays of the Sun.

At this time in the Northern Hemisphere, we are experiencing the longest and darkest nights of the year and the shortest days with the least amount of daylight. The dark triumphs over the light, but this signifies a turning point!

In winter everything lies dormant in the silent earth; it is a sacred time of rest and reflection before the awakening and the slow build toward brighter days.

The energy of winter is from within. It's the fruitful darkness and silence out of which our soul's yearnings and new inspirations can eventually emerge. As we consciously link our awareness to nature's cycles, our understanding of our own personal growth cycles begins to deepen.

Winter Solstice is the great stillness before the Sun's strength builds, and days grow longer. It can be a time to rest and reflect.

In Latin, solstice is made of two words: *sol*, meaning "the sun" and *sistere* meaning "to make stand." Winter Solstice is one of the most powerful points of the year as the axis of the Earth pauses, shifts and moves in the opposite direction. For three days around the solstice points we experience the power of the standstill point and the shift of direction. The sun standing still is a powerful metaphor for the energy available to us at the Winter Solstice to change the direction of our lives with intention and build on this energy as we enter the new year. After experiencing the longest night and darkest day, the nights grow shorter and the days grow brighter until the Summer Solstice.

For today, let yourself rest in the peace of darkness, knowing the changing of the season and the return of brighter days is ahead.

Don't pressure yourself to make changes right now or be in action in world ... let the energies of new life and inspiration build slowly within you and by spring you'll be bursting with new energy and ideas. This is the nature of things."



## Masonic Trivia “pursuit”

VWBro. Ashley Brinkley presented the newly-purchased Masonic Trivia game to the Master last meeting, who teased the brethren with a couple of Masonic questions which were easily answered. The game consists of a number of cards printed with six questions on the front and their corresponding correct answers on the back and a dice cube. By a roll of the die, the corresponding numbered question is asked of the player who is then challenged to answer the question. It’s anticipated that this game will be enjoyed during our fellowship hours.

### Visit Our District 5 Brethren

District 5 Lodges	Next Meeting	Time
St. John’s 9	Wednesday, December 21, 2022	7:30pm
Eureka 20	Monday, January 9, 2023	7:30pm
University 141	Friday, January 6, 2023	7:30pm
Daylight 232	Saturday, January 21, 2023	10am
Lafayette 241	Thursday, January 5, 2023	7pm
Queen Anne 242	Thursday, February 9, 2023	7:30pm
Esoterika 316	Tuesday, January 24, 2023	7:30pm

St. John’s, Lafayette, and Queen Anne Lodges meet at Greenwood Temple; Eureka meets at Seattle Scottish Rite; University meets at University Temple; Daylight meets at Green Lake Temple; Esoterika meets at Occidental Temple (Ballard).

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

MWBro. Gale Kenney reminds all brothers that the Scottish Rite has again opened applications for an undergraduate scholarship from the Scottish Rite Foundation of Washington. Among the provisos is the requirement to attend an accredited 4-year college or university in the State of Washington as a full time student for the full academic year, maintaining a 3.0 GPA.



### Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

To apply for an undergraduate scholarship from the Scottish Rite Foundation of Washington you must be able to substantiate the following qualifications:

- U.S. Citizen
- Washington State Resident
- An entering 3rd year (Junior), 4th year (Senior) or if required for degree, 5th year undergraduate
- Attending a Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) Baccalaureate accredited 4-year college or university in the State of Washington as a full time student for the full academic year
- Maintaining an accumulative GPA of at least 3.0
- The Scottish Rite Scholarship Foundation of Washington’s Web Site is: [www.SRSFWA.org](http://www.SRSFWA.org)
- Open enrollment is from November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year until March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year, e.g., November 1, 2022 until March 31, 2023
- Scholarship Award for the 2023-2024 year will be \$3,000

## MASTER MASONS RAISED IN DECEMBER

### Date Raised:

12/29/1961	Joseph W. Ackermann
12/30/1964	Paul A. Smith
12/30/1972	David J. Stanford
12/21/1979	Paul T. St. Clair
12/8/1984	Daryl E. Anguish
12/10/1987	Kurt W. Lavrinc
12/8/2001	Thomas G. Eastman
12/8/2001	Frederick A. Eastman



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

Notices for annual dues were mailed to all dues-owing members of St. John’s in October, with a reminder notice 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)).

# 50 Ways to Become a Better Man (& a Better Freemason)

by [Masonic Find](#)

As you may already know, Freemasonry is all about taking good men and making them better. With that idea in mind, today, we've decided to publish an extensive list of 50 ways you can become a better man (and a better Freemason).

While I can't promise (and I don't expect) for you to agree with everything in this list, this will hopefully help you avoid some of the mistakes I made and put you on the right path to a happy, healthy, successful, and fulfilling life. Here are...50 Ways You Can Become a Better Man (& Better Freemason)

**PS:** You can use [this handy table of contents](#) to jump to the different ideas and suggestions.

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## First Responders Recognized By Burbank Masons

*Burbank Police Officer of the Year and Burbank Firefighter of the Year Announced At Dinner.*

by Rick Assad



(Photo by Ross A Benson)

First responders are heroes, and last week at the Burbank Masonic Temple, they were recognized for their difficult and challenging work.

During the two-hour event, the Burbank Police Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year were announced, and they are Detective John Voorhis and Captain Scott Trowbridge.

Burbank police chief Michael Albanese was present and spoke about what recognition means to the entire police department.

"It is a big deal, and that's one of the great things about working in Burbank is that the community supports the first responders," he said. "Last night, we had a foundation that provided meals for all of our officers. It's not a 'one of,' it happens all the time and for our folks to know they have a community that supports them is so important to them that the gratitude that our folks have to serve the community cannot be overstated."

Kenet Robertson is a Battalion Chief and said it's nice to be recognized by the Masons.

"It's nice when any organization decides to recognize anybody that stands out in the community and provides service to the community," he said.

## Thermal Imaging Camera

In 2001, the Seattle City Council passed an ordinance specifically to allow St. John's to make a contribution for a thermal imaging camera to the Fire Department. Because the cameras were prohibitively expensive (\$15,000 each), the Department had previously been able to purchase only one.



# LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER

Bro. Charles (Chuck) Berry once served as our installed Musician. He is an accomplished composer and has written several operas. His latest operetta is entitled *21st Century Romance* and will be performed this spring in Seattle. Bro. Berry will be bringing soprano, Allison Pohl, to our December 21 Installation of Officers, where she will be performing two arias from the operetta.



## *21st Century Romance* operetta

### Seattle 2023

Bro. Charles Roland Berry

I am a Master Mason, as were Mozart, Sibelius and Sousa before me. The Second Degree of Freemasonry lectures on the five senses, and the three, five and seven steps of learning. Past generations of Masons considered music as important as geometry, astronomy, logic and grammar, and this symphony attempts to associate some aspects of traditional Masonic ritual teaching on the five senses with the stimuli they receive from the world around us.

‘Water – Taste,’ the first movement, presents constant motion and energy. Taste allows people to make a proper distinction in their choice of food, to recognize the clear difference between wholesome and nauseating, to enjoy the taste of fresh, cold water. The strings introduce a melody of graceful motion, with accents among the winds and horns. The second section brings the raging power of water in storms and in crashing waves, introduced by the percussion and brass, followed by a return of the strings and a solo flute and oboe, the calm between storms. The movement closes with the calm motion of the strings, joined by triumphant brass.

The second movement, ‘Earth – Touch,’ brings solemn repose. Touch is the sense which distinguishes essential qualities of physical matter: heat and cold, hardness and softness.

Masonry has a number of stages of initiation which vary from country to country, but the basically accepted framework is that of what are called the ‘Three Degrees’ – the Entered Apprentice, the Fellowcraft and the Master Mason – where the Freemason is granted growing responsibility as his knowledge and understanding of Masonry expand. The initiation ritual for each degree contains symbols and lectures, intended to open the minds of young men to larger perspectives. The aim, put simply, is to make good men better. Softness, roughness and smoothness, shape, and solidity. Children often play in the dirt, and even try to eat fresh-smelling, soft-textured dirt. We also touch the people we love. The oboe and cor anglais sing a lament to loved ones no longer present, no longer available to be kissed or be held in comforting arms.

‘Fire – Smell’ represents the bringer of light, joy, energy and life. Smell allows the detection of odors, the scents which convey a variety of impressions to the mind – the smell of fire being far different from the smell of autumn pears. The brass and percussion light the fires of celebration. The melody is taken up by the strings. The scene changes. A trumpet announces a dance of joy, played by the strings and winds. The movement closes with a romantic waltz melody.

‘Spirit – Sight’ returns, like a repeated melodic idea, and so motifs of the opening movement are heard in the fourth. Human minds often respond in an instant of time: we see a change of place or situation, perhaps armies in

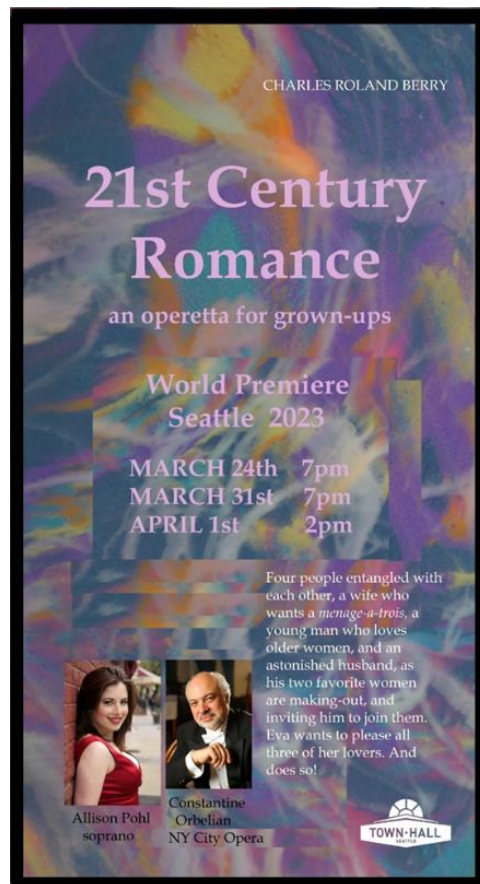
battle array, or ancient temples laid to waste by the ruthless hand of ignorance, as the devastation of war has laid waste and destroyed many valuable monuments of antiquity, on which the utmost exertions of human genius have been employed. Both the agreeable and disagreeable things are noticed in an instant.

Sight refers to physical sight, but also to insight, inspiration and visions coming from elsewhere. Here a string quartet plays in dialogue with the full orchestra. It offers a warm melody, savoring the beauty of life, tenderness and peace.

But the peace is soon disturbed. Chromatic themes enter. All is not well in paradise. There is more work to be done. Sounds of joy do not return until struggles have ceased. A solo cello attempts to rise above the tumult. The herald, the trumpet, leads this movement to a triumphant conclusion. A tempest, a hurricane, opens the final movement, ‘Air – Hearing.’ The melody is a celebration of air. Woodwinds reminisce about

quiet forests, thrushes and warblers – but only for a moment. Air is urgent and restless, relentless and essential, breathing life into human existence. Air makes all things possible: the inflow and outflow of breath, the essential exchange of vapors between all plants and animals.

Hearing is the sense by which we distinguish sounds, and are capable of enjoying all the agreeable charms of music. The air carries music. With hearing, and the attributes of air, humans are able to enjoy the pleasure of society and reciprocally communicate thoughts and intentions, purposes and desires, and thus human reason is capable of exerting its utmost power and energy.



# Seattle's First Christmas

By Dorothea Nordstrand, HistoryLink.org Essay 4138

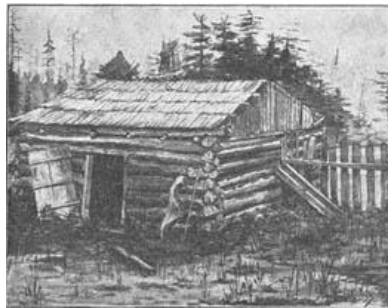
Christmas of 1851 found a great change at New York Alki, the place of the very beginning of our city of Seattle. Only six short weeks had passed since the Arthur Denny party had made their historic landing from the small schooner, *Exact*, in a drenching, pouring-down rain. Dorothea Nordstrand (1916-2011) contributed this story of Seattle's first Christmas. The story is based on her wide reading in Seattle's early history.

## A Small, Young, and Wet Group

Nineteen-year-old David Denny, Arthur's young brother, and John Low had walked from the Willamette Valley in Oregon to select a place for settlement on Puget Sound, finally deciding on the point of land known to the local Indians as "Smaquamox" for their venture. John Low took the long trail back to Oregon to bring the pioneer families, taking with him a note to their leader, Arthur Denny, from David, saying they had found "the place" and to come. The landing of the Denny party, on

November 13, 1851, was in answer to that note.

David, an accomplished woodsman, had expected to build log cabins to house them when they arrived, but had only erected the four walls of the first one, when his axe



First home on Alki Point, built in 1851

slipped and he cut a deep gash in his foot. When the party arrived on the beach, they were dismayed to find David terribly ill and shaking with fever and not even one completed dwelling to move into. There were 24 people to shelter in one small, unroofed building. That was in the middle of November.

On Christmas Day, along with that structure, now snugly roofed, there was another, larger log house, and two homes built of split-cedar boards, patterned after the dwellings of the local Indians. Arthur and Mary Anne Denny and their three children, Arthur's brother David, and Mary Anne's sister Louisa Boren, lived in the larger log house. The smaller log structure housed Carson and Mary Boren and their baby daughter. John and Lydia Low, with their four children, and William and Sarah Anne Bell, with their four, occupied the two split-cedar dwellings. Charles and Lee Terry were sort of revolving guests, first living in one home and then in another. These 24 hardy souls were the entire population of the little village on that first Christmas.

Since Arthur and Mary Anne Denny's house was the largest, Christmas was celebrated there, with each member of the party helping with the preparations. Louisa Boren led the children into the forest to gather cedar boughs to

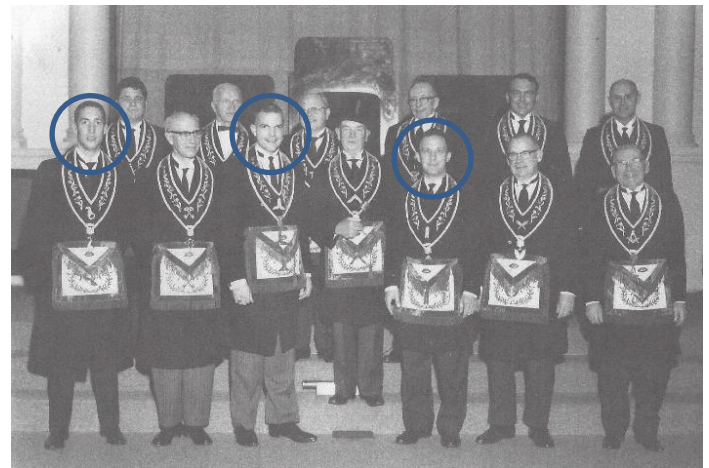
use as decorations. They cut armfuls of Oregon grape branches, that Northwest native shrub whose stickery leaves were like the holly of their earlier home in Cherry Grove, Illinois. They fashioned a wreath for the door from the Oregon grape, and Louisa used her own red hair-ribbon to make a festive bow.

The other women cooked the feast, to which Samuel Maple and Henry Van Asselt, two bachelors from the Collins settlement on the Duwamish, were invited guests. David Denny, now well and strong, provided them with the main course, two wild geese. There were salmon and wild potatoes purchased from the Indians. Pies were made from the few dried apples remaining in their kitchens. There was a small amount of tea for the elders, and the children drank clam juice, though they sorely missed the milk they could no longer have since the settlement had no cow.

There had been a flurry of washing and mending and the whole company was spruce and clean. Even their shoes, which had been worn to the point of having paper or cardboard liners, had been cobbled, so they were well shod. It was a far different-looking group than it had been just a few weeks earlier.

Before they had started their westward journey along the Oregon Trail, Louisa Boren, with her wonderful gift of forethought, remembered that there would be a Christmas to celebrate in their new home. She had secretly tucked in, among her own belongings, small toys and trinkets to surprise and delight the children on the Special Day.

There was good food and family and friends with whom to share it in this new, wilderness home they had come so far, and through so many hardships, to find. It was a truly Joyous Christmas, that December.



St. John's Officers installed 1971. Current members of St. John's are WBros. Jim Shields (far left front) and Joe Ackerman (on Master's left). Late WBro. Bill Collison on Master's right.

