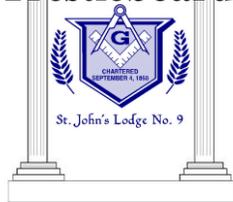


# St. John's Lodge No. 9, F. & A. M.

## Trestleboard



Serving Seattle since 1860

February 2023

*Jim Russell, editor*

meets: 7910 Greenwood Ave. N.

Lodge phone: (206) 623-0261

[jimrussell58@frontier.com](mailto:jimrussell58@frontier.com)

[web: www.seattleMasons.org](http://www.seattleMasons.org)

## FROM THE EAST



[Eric Koteles](#), *Master*



Eric Koteles  
Master

Brethren,  
We launched our Lodge 2023-year last month, and with all the technical difficulties the launch and the landing were successful, especially with watchful Brothers that care about our Lodge. I personally thank the Brothers that helped and big thanks to MWBro. Gayle Kenney for an impromptu smooth installation of the Junior Warden.

I absolutely thank the brothers that helped cover the officer's places that were vacant due to illness or vacation.

Also, please attend February stated meeting; it will be very important.

And never forget –  
**133 Psalm**

<sup>1</sup> “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

<sup>2</sup> It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

<sup>3</sup> As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.”

With all my fraternal love,  
Brother Eric

## CALENDAR



- February 6 (7:30pm): University 141
- February 6 (7:30pm): Eureka 20
- February 8 (6pm): Board of Trustees *teleconference*
- February 9 (6pm): Officers meeting *teleconference*
- **February 15 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated *no visitors – members only this meeting***
- February 18 (10am): Daylight 232
- February 23 (7:30pm): Walter F. Meier Lodge 281
- Feb. 25 (10am): Quarterly Meet Masonic Service Bureau *on Zoom*
- March 1 (7pm): Zoom *fellowship topic “Marching March”*
- March 9 (7pm): Officers Meeting *teleconference*
- **March 15 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated *WB Pekka Granroth visits from Finland***
- March 17 – 19: Lodge Leadership Retreat (*Wenatchee*)
- **March 25 (1-3pm): District 4&5 Reception for the Grand Master (*at Greenwood*)**
- April 5 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom *teleconference **The Seven Habits of Highly Successful Lodges.***
- April 9: *Easter Sunday*
- April 13 (7pm): Officers meeting *teleconference*
- **April 19 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated *Ill. Robert Davis, guest speaker***
- April 29: Final Day to Apply for Student Scholarship
- April 29 (10am): Masonic Service Bureau *on Zoom*
- **April 29: Grand Masonic Day *Vancouver Masonic Centre***
- *May 3 (7pm): Fellowship: topic TBA*
- **May 20 (11am): FABulous Family Appreciation Brunch *Columbia Tower***
- **May 27: Visit to Tenino Stone Quarry lunch with Tenino Brothers**



## No Visitors This Month, Please!

Due to the nature of our intended Heart-to-Heart discussion among our St. John's Lodge members, we ask our visitors to recognize our desire for “private” self-examination this month. We invite all to re-join us for dinner and our stated meeting in March.

# BEHIND CLOSED DOORS – MEMBERS TO EXAMINE TRUST

In Whom do you put your Trust? That question was asked of and answer given by all who entered our Lodge to be made Entered Apprentice Masons. Did we expect the answer or even action and interaction to end there? Our ritual doesn't say much about "trust." The nearest may be our reference among operative masons to the level. The level is an instrument to lay levels and prove horizontals. Among Free and Accepted Masons the level symbolizes equality. We meet upon the level. Masons are taught that we all come from the same place, are working towards similar goals, and share the same hope. By interacting on the level, we establish trust.



Why does building trust matter so much? And what can we do to increase trust within our Lodge?

Trust can be a frustrating action to analyze, in that it tends to be a gut feeling for us instead of a concrete choice. This makes it difficult to pinpoint the reasons why we trust one person more than another — and easy to believe there is little we can do to change that. But when we assume that trust is dependent entirely on the behavior of others, as opposed to our own responses and interactions with those behaviors, we end up falling short as brothers.



How much do I trust my brother to represent me and St. John's? Once a decision has been reached on an issue, as a Trustee, an Officer, or a Member of that body, do I go behind our brother's back and

grumble to whomever will listen? Or am I supportive – or at least remain silent – and move on?

Can my brothers trust in me as I should trust in them? Am I honest with myself and to my Brother?

These are questions we should be prepared to ask of ourselves as we meet upon the level each month.

Our February 15 communication offers an opportunity to share our thoughts on this subject, to open up to what we need to overcome apparent mis-trust in our leadership and recommendations from our investigating committees. Or any other concerns about our future.

Please make your dinner [reservations](#) with the secretary at 206 623-0261 by Friday, February 9. 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.



*Members only this month, please.*

## INSTALLATION OF JUNIOR WARDEN

In January, the Master called the Lodge "off session" to enable our Fellowcraft and visiting ladies to witness the installation of WBro. David Flood as Junior Warden of St. John's Lodge, (WBro. Flood was ill in December and unable to be present for the December 29 public ceremony.) MWBro. Gale Kenney administered the oath of office to WBro. Flood and installed him into the South. The Marshall declared WBro. Flood duly and truly installed. The Master presented our newly installed Junior Warden with his Junior Warden lapel pin at the altar.



## GRAND MASTER RECEPTION MARCH 25

Most Worshipful Grand Master Edward C. Woods will be meeting with brothers of Districts 4 and 5 Saturday afternoon, March 25, at the Greenwood Masonic Center. Refreshments will be available before and after the 1 – 3pm meet. Conversations and reports from members of the Grand Lodge Team and the two Deputies of the districts. The Grand Master Achievement Awards for a representative of each district will likely be announced



GM Edward C. Woods

St. John's brothers are encouraged to participate, meet, and greet our other brothers in the districts and share thoughts with our Grand Master.

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## Senior Warden's Message

[WBro. John Murray Louderback](#)



When I first became an Entered Apprentice, MWBro. Al Jorgensen was Master of St. John's Lodge.

He stepped in as Master because many in the Lodge "leadership" had left the Lodge. At that time he too was writing a Message every month for the Trestleboard. He evidently felt that few Brothers actually read his messages or for that matter the Trestleboard. He asked for all that had actually read his messages to tell him. I ask the same.

This morning I was thinking about video camera lenses. Have you ever noticed that with some, the foreground may be in focus yet the background is blurry? Imagine your shooting a scene in the Tetons and the mountains in the background are out of focus. What is the loss in perspective?

What is your focus? Do you have a narrow focus and loss of perspective? Do you have bias or are you truly on the level with all mankind? Are you truly doing good unto all?

Does your perspective continue to include study of the liberal arts? Are you daily following your Masonic Charges? Does your perspective need to be refocused?

Time for some introspection.

*A beehive consists of a group of insects tirelessly working together to achieve a common goal. Similarly, the beehive in Freemasonry represents the importance of Masons coming together and mobilizing all efforts for one purpose.*

*The concept behind the hive is to gather people with similar interests who can cooperate.*

Return to

### **AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT**

**St. John's Education Committee**

Again this year we're exchanging ideas and Masonic Enlightenment at our stated communications and on Zoom

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

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

**\* February 15 Stated: LODGE SPECIAL MEETING MEMBERS ONLY**

**\* March 1 Zoom: Marching March**

## Junior Warden's Message

[WBro. David Flood](#)



### **BE PRUDENT**

To be prudent is to use practical judgement to do what is suitable. At every Lodge meeting the closing charge reminds us of this imperative. Our word comes directly from the Latin *prudencia* which embodies the idea of foreseeing, foresight, and practical judgement.

Prudence is practical judgement developed through experience. It is distinct from Wisdom (*sophia*) which, as Aristotle noted, is the ability to discern reality.

Prudence, in the sense of choosing the good, depends on moral virtues. To assist the new Entered Apprentice in developing prudent behavior the degree presents the candidate with much to ponder and many qualities to nourish. The degree speaks of the jewels of morality, equality and rectitude of conduct; the gavel of fidelity; and the tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth.

Our duty toward the new Entered Apprentice is to teach and mentor him in developing this practical judgement through his involvement in the life of the Lodge. The lecture of the first degree admonishes all of us that prudence should characterize our conduct in Lodge as well as in the world.

### **MASTER MASONS RAISED IN FEBRUARY**

#### **Date Raised:**

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



### **Get ready for the visit of Ill. Bob Davis**

MWBro. Robert G. Davis, author of "The Mason's Word," will be guest speaker at our April 19<sup>th</sup> stated meeting. On his visit, he will also speak at the Seattle Scottish Rite.

MWBro. Davis is one of the finest thinkers and important leaders in American freemasonry. He is the author of numerous essays and several well received books. It will be time well spent to read some of his brief essays at <https://robertgdavis.net/>

He was Grand Master of Oklahoma in 2021 and recently retired as Secretary of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Center. Bro. Davis is well known both in the areas of Masonic Research and Masonic Renewal.



.... to read a short biography and an overview of two of his outstanding books.

# Let's LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER



*The risk of the single story, the one perspective, is that it can lead us to default assumptions, conclusions and decisions that may be incomplete, and may lead to misunderstanding. There are many who operate out of a closed mind as a coping mechanism for a deep-seated fear that they cannot even access, because to explore their own minds might be too frightening. Being wrong is simply not safe. Being right at all times about all that matters is the way to feel safe. Even if one must resort to illusion or delusion in order to hold on to the belief that one is right and thereby safe.*

## The True Contents of the Hourglass

by Midnight Freemason Contributor

Robert E. Jackson, PM

There is a story I've heard a couple of times recently about a great leader seeking enlightenment from the local sage. Now, I'm going to paraphrase it here, so please don't flog me if I miss something. However, the gist is, the sage was sought after by many, as he was known to provide great truths and guidance to people on their path. The visitor, puffed up with his own knowledge and leadership positions, approached the sage and demanded to know the way (no, I don't believe the teacher in this story is a Mandalorian). The sage kindly invited the man inside for tea, and while pouring the tea for his visitor, the tea started overflowing. The cup was full and could hold no more. The new visitor exclaimed to the sage, "dude, stop pouring the tea, the cup is full, and the tea is running everywhere." The sage, calmly and coolly, looked at his new student and simply said, "Come back to me when your cup is empty."



If we flip this story, it reminds me of a concept taught to many young people (at least, many young people I've known). The concept is, when somebody is sad, their bucket is empty. They need a drop in their bucket to cheer them up. Now, that drop could be anything...it could be monetary, but a simple smile, or the comfortable feeling of a friend's handshake (man, it's been too long), might have a greater and longer-lasting impact. You could argue, and I did this with myself, that these stories have nothing in common. However, with the overlap of one of our working tools, a thought came to me. Based on the title, I imagine you can guess the Hourglass.

For Freemasons, the Hourglass is a symbol of time. Certainly, the hourglass was and remains to be a timekeeper. Carefully crafted with two bulbous ends (or vessels) filled with the exact amount of sand necessary for the calculated duration. When vertically positioned, the sands from the top vessel slowly drop. When the last grain has fallen, so have we. However, if we balance that hourglass equally on both sides, perhaps peace can be found. Removing ourselves from time, we just might be able to escape the depression of our historical stories or the anxiety of our imaginative future.



At this very unique time, the vessels of the hourglass are neither empty nor full. That moment where time stops may be an incredible panacea, but we know from Heraclitus that the only thing constant is change. Therefore, even if we were able to hold the hourglass in perfect balance, life events would disrupt that balance, and the sands of time would start flowing again.

Perhaps, instead of seeking that stasis, we need to contemplate the fluidity of the hourglass. As the instrument leans to one side or the other, the 'bottom' vessel begins to fill. Eventually, the vessel will become so full that it will be difficult to shift the balance and allow the vessel to empty. In that more heavily weighted end of the hourglass, I see our most concrete and closely held beliefs, the things that weigh us down in life. The heavier that end of the hourglass becomes, the more difficult it can be to loosen the grasp on those tightly held beliefs, and eventually, our teacup will begin to overflow.

Confirmation bias, and the quest for more evidence to reaffirm our existing thoughts, only throw more weight into this side of the hourglass, more tea into the cup. So how do we let go of the weight in this vessel? I propose that we share those beliefs, display and bestow those ideas with others, not in an effort to convince, but to learn. The result can be a beautiful mixture of those grains of sand, enhancing our own beliefs and ideas with others' beliefs and ideas, to be received and enhance the contents of your own cup.



Returning to the childhood lesson with a drop in the bucket, I personally see these as acts of Love and Kindness. When you share your Love with others, when you share your Kindness, you're taking the Love within your own cup and sharing it with others. If you're unwilling to share that Love, your ability to receive love will be impacted. After all, if your cup is full of your own Love, how can anybody else offer a drop in that bucket? Furthermore, it seems all too often these days we are looking for mineral or metallic ways to satisfy that Love. It could be money, drugs, video games, etc. Those passions which we may find so difficult to subdue. Additionally, perhaps we can Love ourselves so much, filled with the illusion of superiority, along with the materialistic desires, that the cup has been filled and unwilling to receive the Love of others. (continued on page 7 Hourglass)

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## ***Finnish Brother Pekka Granroth to visit St. John's Lodge in March***

In the spring of 2016, WBro. Pekka Granroth of Savo 14 Lodge (Finland) was supposed to competitively sail across the Pacific and ultimately planned to visit St. John's Lodge in Seattle. A shoulder injury prevented his sailing and we never met in person as brothers. However, WBro. Granroth's name and e-mail contact 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 the news of the brothers here.

In the spring of 2020, as the corona pandemic threatened 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 Zoom "sessions" a total of five times. The timing was a bit challenging as our Wednesday night at 7pm necessitated 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 20<sup>th</sup>.

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 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. St. John's Bothers are welcome to meet our Finnish guest at Stevens as well as do a little skiing.

The days of March 13th-15th he will be staying with WBro. John Louderback in Hoquiam 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."

At 11:30am on Friday March 17<sup>th</sup> Pekka will have **lunch with a few of our brothers at Ivar's Salmon House**. A couple of seats are still open. If any brothers would like to share lunch with us, please let us know no later than **February 17**. (Each is responsible for picking up his own tab.)

Also, ***if anyone knows of any degrees during the 16th, 17th, or 18th of March, please let us know, as WBro. Pekka would be pleased to attend.***



**WB Pekka wearing VWB Brinkley's signature red bow tie during a Zoom meet**

## ***The Tenino Stone Carvers***

Story by Eric Johnson, KOMO News Reporter

TENINO, Wash. - Sandstone. It's seemingly everywhere in the small town of Tenino, a population of less than 2,000, tucked between Olympia and Centralia, Washington.

They discovered a sandstone quarry in 1888 on a hill outside of town. The Tenino Stone Company was founded.

Hard-boiled men carved the stone from the earth and business boomed.

Train car after train car, filled with slabs of malleable, carve-able, durable Tenino sandstone snaked its way out into the world to help build America. By 1920, concrete replaced stone, for the most part, as a building material. It was cheaper. Business dried up and the quarries eventually closed.

And what of the people whose lives had been spent perfecting the craft of working the stone? Well, the craft died out with them. Almost.

Today there are throwbacks in Tenino. Keepers of a flame.

Keith Phillips, who has been sculpting and shaping sandstone with his hands in these parts since the 80s, almost singlehandedly preserved the art form in Tenino.

Keith says, "Your life gets into this. You work on these stones day in and day out for hours and hours and hours and it really becomes a part of you. It's like a child you care for, that you love and you put your whole self into it."

The power of one man's love of his craft.

Keith says, "It's my life. It gave me an identity. It gave me the ability to show my expression. I am a journeyman stonecutter. I work with a mallet and a chisel and a square and a compass."

His heartfelt devotion has attracted others.

They toil in a rough-looking building on the edge of town. It is known as The Shed, and on the right day, you will hear a gentle drumbeat from within.

Keith insists that they wear period attire at the shed and it sets a tone of timelessness.

They call themselves the Tenino stone carvers.

They use rounded mallets and chisels. Tapping with precision. Bending the stone to their creative wills.

You can visit The Shed and watch the artists.

You can purchase some of their work if you want.

Keith says, "It's honoring the hard work and the passion of the professionals in the old days. Of all the beauty and the buildings. It's recognizing."

They help restore buildings. They put on workshops. They create pieces of art, and teach the area's stone carving heritage.

Dan Miller says, "It's like that's why we do it. It's inspiring future generations. And, why can't you have something beautiful in a town that's just there for beauty? You know, that's how I feel."

Beauty for the sake of beauty. Maybe that's a concept worth re-visiting.

Just look at what they can do with Tenino sandstone!

St. John's will be traveling to Tenino May 27<sup>th</sup> to learn what stone masons and carvers can do, as well as try their hand at a little stone-work themselves!

# Grand Masonic Day

Vancouver Masonic Centre 1464 West 7th Avenue #Second Floor Vancouver, BC V6H 4H2 Canada

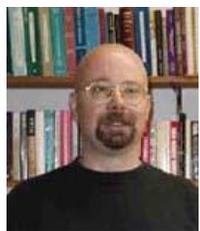
It appears St. John's Lodge will be represented by nearly a dozen brothers on Grand Masonic Day in Vancouver, Canada, Saturday, April 29. Any brother *not* on the list of attendees should contact Lodge Secretary VWBro. Jim Russell.

Taking place at the beautiful new Vancouver Masonic Centre, the 2023 Grand Masonic Day program brings a diverse set of speakers and workshops offering practical knowledge to help newer brethren build a strong foundation, with content to inspire and challenge more advanced leaders in the Craft.

Grand Masonic Day 2023 features one of the most influential thought leaders in North American Freemasonry, Bro. Andrew Hammer, whose 2010 book *Observing the Craft* sent shockwaves through Freemasonry. Twelve years have passed since the publishing of this landmark book and more than twenty since the Traditional Observance or Observant Lodge movement in North America began. But these 20 odd years have not been without tension, debate, controversy, and even conflict over the stated aims of bodies like the Masonic Restoration Foundation and the 'Best Practices' of so-called Traditional Observance Lodges.



Andrew Hammer



Scott Kenney

In addition to Bro. Andrew Hammer, Professor (Bro.) Scott Kenney of Memorial University will be providing the morning keynote. Bro Kenney has devoted much of his academic career to examining Freemasonry as a social phenomenon as detailed in his several published academic papers and his 2016 book *"Brought to Light, Contemporary Freemasonry, Meaning, and Society."* His talk will focus on Lodge Retention, with a breakout workshop exploring case studies of life transformation through Masonic involvement.

In addition to the two keynote speakers there will be breakout workshops, seminars, and debates exploring such things as the use of Hebrew language in Masonic ritual (including proper pronunciation, historic importance and symbolic meaning), the importance of Masonic record keeping, minute taking, and archiving which will be of particular use to current and future Lodge Secretaries, Directors of Masonic Education, and Historians, and an open house of the newly redeveloped Vancouver Masonic Centre which will house the beautiful Grand Lodge archives and library.

**St. John's will cover the cost of admission for our members.** Admission tickets include lunch along with

refreshments and snacks available throughout the day. For \$45 you will receive a copy of the newly published book of the most noteworthy Masonic papers and presentations given over the past 75 years of labor by the Vancouver Lodge of Education & Research.

In 2022 the Vancouver Lodge of Education & Research celebrated its 75th anniversary and with it the 40th Annual occurrence of Grand Masonic Day, BC's Grand Jurisdiction's premier Masonic Education event, which it has organized since 1982. Masonic education is consistently identified by newer brethren as something of great value, keeping them engaged and interested in Freemasonry and committed to the business of the Lodge.

Here is additional information for those considering attending Grand Masonic Day in Vancouver, BC Saturday April 29: "Americans driving to Vancouver, BC, or taking a ferry to Victoria **must have one of these designated documents:** a passport, passport card, Washington State enhanced driver's license or a "trusted traveler" document such as the Nexus card." We are advised to dress business casual, no aprons or collars, but carry your name badge in case you find others are wearing their's.

If you know where your membership card is, that might help to identify you as a Mason if challenged when checking in. Masons only, no women or children will be permitted to attend the sessions. If your Lady is with you, make other arrangements for her comfort and safety.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Date

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



## St. John's Will Again Be Awarding Scholarships

With over \$35,000 available, St. John's Lodge will be awarding scholarships to graduating high school students and college returnees later this spring for the 2023-2024 school year. To apply for a scholarship, reach out to the St. John's Lodge Scholarship Committee now at [sjl9scholarship@gmail.com](mailto:sjl9scholarship@gmail.com).

Deadline for applications will be the end of April.

Selected candidates will be contacted for interviews.



## FROM THE QUARRIES

# 1723 TO 2023: 300 YEARS OF “THE OLD CHARGES”

By Helmuth



300 years ago, Dr. James Anderson put together the important Masonic principles in the “Constitutions of the Freemasons. Containing the History, Charges, Regulations, &c. of the most Ancient and Right Worshipful

FRATERNITY. For the Use of the Lodges.”

He had them printed at London and sold his booklets to the Fraternity and to any buyer. They became known as “the Old Charges,” and we use this expression today. They are the statutory forerunner of the 1858 “Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington” and the Constitution. The Old Charges are the foundational text of Masonic thinking and doing. The original text contains things which no longer befall our times. But the nucleus, the center, still applies to all Lodges and members: Humanitarianism, tolerance and the freedoms of conscience, belief, thinking and acting accordingly.

Contained therein is the clear charge that Lodges do not engage in political or religious disputes or in other schisms or preferences. It is not often mentioned that many of Dr. Anderson’s details still do apply, for example our basic organization as Lodges, how they are governed, the responsibilities of officers, the Degrees etc. as well as the behavior of Brothers at Labor and thereafter. Brothers should polish their knowledge and manners.

International Freemasonry will celebrate the event with appropriate festivities: at the end of January 2023 at London, in March at Paris, France, and in June at Washington, D.C. Of prime importance to all will be the application of the Old Charges and their interpretation to today’s world. It is likely that a document will be published to this end.

How will this be done by Washington state Freemasonry? The Writer became sensitized that Lodges and Brothers may favor or are inclined to list, and sometimes to list heavily, toward a political tendency of “all or nothing” or of condemning who and what they do not like in the simplistic style of a former US president. What does this attitude solve and for whom? For 300 years, Freemasonry has fared well with its Old Charges and principles. In reliance thereon, let us stick to NO POLITICS IN LODGE, in Masonic mail and in Masonic exchanges. Let us do so in the name of all the Brothers.

## Contents of the Hourglass (from page 4)

I would like to assert that as we are pushed to extremes, as we tilt that hourglass more into one direction or the other, the more difficult it becomes to live in harmony with our friends, Brothers, and families. The view of balance has always been difficult for me to adhere to, but there is balance if we observe the sun and the earth. For half of the year, one part of the earth sees more light than darkness. For the other half, the hemispheres switch. However, at no point in time is the earth completely enveloped in darkness nor light. One cannot live without the other (there are always two, just like the Sith). The more we are solidified in our conclusions, away from the ‘child’s mind,’ the more difficult it is to share compassion and Love for those who are different. Likewise, the more ‘things’ we Love, the more emotional and physically attached we become, and less open to accepting and understanding opposing views. Now, I’m not saying that there is a quantitative and measurable amount of possible Love or intelligence (oh, wouldn’t that be nice if we just KNEW). But what I am saying relates to a parable that a dear friend once told me... imagine yourself holding a glass (think beliefs or material desires), and we hold that glass so tightly. There is such a fear that if we release that glass, it will fall and shatter. Now, do you really have a hold on that glass, or does the glass have a hold on you?



**Robert Edward Jackson** is a Past Master and recovering Secretary of Montgomery Lodge located in Milford, MA. His Masonic lineage includes his father (Robert Maitland), grandfather (Maitland Garrecht), and great grandfather (Edward Henry Jackson), a founding member of Scarsdale Lodge #1094 in Scarsdale, NY. When not studying ritual, he’s busy being a father to his three kids, a husband, Boy Scout Leader, and a solutions engineer to pay for it all. He can be reached at [info@montgomeryLodge.org](mailto:info@montgomeryLodge.org).

## Visit Our District 5 Brethren

District 5 Lodges	Next Meeting	Time
St. John’s 9	Wednesday, February 15, 2023	7:30pm
Eureka 20	Monday, February 6, 2023	7:30pm
University 141	Monday, February 6, 2023	7:30pm
Daylight 232	Saturday, February 18, 2023	10am
Lafayette 241	Thursday, March 2, 2023	7:30pm
Queen Anne 242	Thursday, February 9, 2023	7:30pm
Esoterika 316	Tuesday, April 25 2023	7:30pm

**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

**GRAND LODGE FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF WASHINGTON**

# **2023 Lodge Leadership Retreat**

**March 17th – 19th, 2023**

**Wenatchee Convention Center**

121 N. Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801

**Register online at [www.freemason-wa.org/leadership-retreat/](http://www.freemason-wa.org/leadership-retreat/)**

To register for the 2023 Lodge Leadership Retreat and to reserve your hotel room & meals in Wenatchee, Washington, please register online at [www.freemason-wa.org/leadership-retreat/](http://www.freemason-wa.org/leadership-retreat/)

**There is a \$100.00 late charge after February 20th, 2023 for all mail-in registration  
(Late registrations will only be accepted on a space available basis)**

**Online registration deadline is February 23rd, 2023**

**The first 100 hotel rooms will be at the Wenatchee Coast Hotel, 201 N. Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee, WA.  
The remaining rooms will be at the Hilton Garden Inn, 25 N. Worthen Street, Wenatchee, WA. Please  
check your email confirmation for hotel assigned at time of registration.**

**PACKAGE PRICES:**

**\$ 425.00 per Mason (shared room)**

**\$ 595.00 single occupancy room**

**\$ 800.00 with spouse**

**(includes: single occupancy room, ladies program & meals)**

**Register online at [www.freemason-wa.org/leadership-retreat/](http://www.freemason-wa.org/leadership-retreat/)**

**or**

Please enclose a personal or Lodge check payable to:

Grand Lodge F&AM of Washington

4970 Bridgeport Way W

University Place, WA 98467

Registration Check-in will open at 3:00 pm in the Red Lobby of the Wenatchee Convention Center on Friday March 17th, 2023. Please check in to get your meal tickets and any class information.

Wenatchee Coast Hotel and Hilton Garden Inn check in time is 4:00 p.m. Please check in at the front desk with the hotels to receive your room keys.

Dinner will begin promptly at 6:00 pm (social hour at 5:00 pm), please allow time to check in and prepare. The Dress code for the entire retreat is Business Casual.

## ***Everett AquaSox Baseball Family Outing***

WBro. Terry Grove has reserved Saturday, August 19, for a family outing to the Everett AquaSox. Brothers from St. John's have enjoyed this evening since it was initially offered by our District 5 Association in 2012. St. John's has sponsored this event since 2014.

The evening will open with a light dinner and refreshments in the food pavilion and end at completion of the game with a firework display. St. John's will re-sell the \$26 tickets to the brothers at \$10 each.

