

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

Trestleboard

July 2023

Jim Russell, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

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FROM THE EAST

[Eric Koteles](#), Master



Eric Koteles
Master

Dear Brethren,

During our recent trip to the Tenino stone quarry, one of our Lodge's Past Masters approached the quarry master, who is also a Brother Master Mason, to inquire about the process of transporting one of those massive boulders over a long distance. The brother master of the quarry kindly explained that it is not as difficult as it may seem, sharing a quick and inspiring insight that resonated with many of us on the trip. Another esteemed and active Past Master suggested that we should communicate this message to all our Brothers,

as it holds valuable wisdom for our Lodge.

The master of the quarry stated, "If you can move it an inch, you can move it miles." These words, spoken with conviction, have significant implications for our journey as we find ourselves at the midpoint of this year. We are striving to ensure that our Lodge continues to thrive for another 163 years, despite the diverse challenges posed by the world we live in, ranging from the influence of the media to the evolving generational shifts within society. During this time, we have reflected on our self-improvement as Brothers of this Lodge and identified areas in which our Lodge can grow even stronger.

Based on my observations and experiences with my Brothers over the past six months, I have every confidence that we will continue to propel forward as the illustrious vessel that is St. John's Lodge No.9, albeit with a few bumps and bruises. We are a united force, steadfast in our commitment to progress. As we enter the second half of this year and move ahead, we will actively implement the solutions that will be discussed in our upcoming meetings.

"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!" This sentiment holds true for us, like precious oil flowing down the head, beard, and collar of Aaron's robes. It is akin to the refreshing dew of Hermon descending upon Mount Zion. In this unity, the Lord bestows His blessings, granting us abundant life now and forevermore.

Yes, we can! ¡Sí, se puede!

Fraternally,
WB K. Eric Koteles

Calling for Volunteers! We expect to be presenting a Master Mason Degree this fall. Please contact WBro. Russ Johnson to volunteer to accept a speaking or non-speaking role in this third-degree presentation. Rajco20@me.com

CALENDAR



- July 7 – 11: MLB All Star Week
- July 11: All Star Game!
- July 13 (6pm): Officers meeting
- July 19 (6:15pm dinner) **7:30pm: St. John's 9 Stated** dress "neat casual"
- August 2 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom
- August 5 (10am): Open Air MM Degree, Masonic Park
- August 9 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- August 16 (6:15pm dinner) **7:30pm: St. John's 9** (dress "neat casual")
- August 19 (6pm): Everett AquaSox
- September 4: Happy Birthday to us!
- Sept. 6: (7pm): Fellowship Zoom
- Sept. 14 (6pm): Officers meeting
- September 15-17: Rosh Hashanah
- September 16 (6pm social hour, 7pm dinner): 163rd Anniversary Celebration Ivar's Salmon House
- September 20 (6:15pm) **7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated**
- October 6 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom
- October 11 (6pm): Board of Trustees 2024 Budget preparation
- October 12 (6pm): Officers Meeting
- October 18 (6:15pm) **7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated** Past Masters Night; Election of Officers
- November 15: **St. John's 9 Stated meeting and Installation of Officers**

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

- Social "hour" 5:30pm
- Free parking available after 6pm on the St. John Catholic Church playground. Located ½ block west of Greenwood Ave. N. on southside of N. 80th Street.
- Dinner 6:15pm
- Stated Communication 7:30pm
- Refreshments & fellowship following

PAST MASTER RUSS JOHNSON TO PREVIEW CANDIDATE EDUCATION; CHALLENGES BROTHERS TO BECOME "BETTER VERSIONS OF OURSELVES"

Masonic initiation rites include the reenactment of a scene set on the Temple Mount while it was under construction. Every Masonic Lodge, therefore, is symbolically the Temple for the duration of the degree and possesses ritual objects representing the architecture of the Temple. What we teach at St. John's is the heart and soul of our Fraternity. All our tenets, philosophies, and myths reside here. Without it, we would simply be another club like Rotary, American Legion, or the Chamber of Commerce.



Our ritual sets us apart. It binds us with each other and with every Mason throughout time. WB Russ Johnson has been working diligently behind the scenes to fine tune our Masonic education for all members. St John's No. 9 arguably, has the best education program in Washington for our candidates and their mentors thanks to WB Russ. It goes beyond just rote memory and explains the how's and why's even long-time brothers will find interesting or fascinating.

Our Lodge is the vessel in which we individually and collectively share common knowledge, common understanding to become better.

Join us for dinner at 6:15pm. and Lodge at 7:30 for an interesting evening. **Dress will be "neat casual" for July-August, including officers.**



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, July 14. 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.

163rd Anniversary Dinner to Feature Taproot Theatre Improv Players

WBro. Eric Koteles has arranged for our 163rd Anniversary Dinner to be held Saturday, September 16, at Ivar's Salmon House. Social hour will open at 6pm followed by dinner at 7pm.

The Taproot Theatre Improv Ensemble will entertain our members and their Ladies following dinner. Everyone (that's EVERYONE) will have the opportunity to share in the improvisation performance.



Choice of beef, salmon or vegetarian. Contact the Secretary to reserve your entrée selection and that of one guest.

St. John's Members Vote to Adjust Dues; Await Grand Master's Approval of Bylaw Change

Resolutions were approved last month to amend Article III (Dues) and Article V (Charity of St. John's bylaws. If approved by Grand Master MWBro. Steve Martin, Article III, will result in the following:

Initiation Fee (plus GL fees)	\$400	+\$50
Dues for Past Masters of St. John's	\$0	
Dues for 50-year and Life members	\$0	
Dues for residents 50+ miles from Lodge	\$75	+\$28
Dues for age 65+	\$75	+\$28
Dues for all others	\$200	+\$28
Certificates of Labor (credits)	\$20	

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

St. John's Masons and families will once again head to the Everett AquaSox baseball game Saturday, August 19.

"Pre- admission" opens at 6pm into the Pepsi Food Pavilion offering hot dogs, hamburgers, salad, baked beans, soft drinks, and your reserved seat. Free parking on site.



Here's a look at our future Seattle Mariners vs. the Hillsboro Hops (Arizona Diamondbacks farm club).

Our thirty (30) game seats will be in the upper rows on the 3rd base side of the diamond (between home plate and the pitcher's mound). First pitch will be thrown at 7:05pm - fireworks following the game (around 9:30 or 10pm).

Organizer for this event WBro. Terry Grove reports that all but five tickets have been sold. Go get 'em AquaSox!

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FROM THE WEST

[WBro. John Murray Louderback](#)



Freemasons are builders of domain. Freemasons process a specific knowledge and practice a specific ritual activity. This specific activity and knowledge are only known and practiced by Freemasons. Freemasons have established a specific domain known as Freemasonry.

Freemasons are dominionists in the sense that they try first to control themselves, then their environment. In doing so they make themselves better men. Not that other Freemasons will make them better men, but that each man will make himself a better man by the study of Freemasonry and by doing good deeds. Remember the old wise saying, “you can lead a horse to water but you can’t make him drink.” Wisdom and knowledge are there for those that wish to apply themselves and study. If not – nothing is gained.

Freemasons have and will always be builders. Building first in the knowledge of the Three Degrees. Building first in their own spiritual temple, then builders of other exterior temples. Freemasons are men who try to control their environment by building infrastructure. Buildings that protect them from the environment. Creating an environment for the public good.

Freemasons are in service to humanity, not just for their own personal enrichment. Masons are men that try to create and build a better society and environment. As Freemasons we need to leave this earth a better place than when we got here.

Harmony – Stronger Together! Do something my Brother that others will say that you made this world a better place. What will be your legacy?

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

- New Meeting ID **826 6692 5984** to join our 7pm Zoom Fellowships each first Wednesday of the month
 - Enter passcode **1860**

*** July 19 Stated: Becoming Better Versions of Ourselves – Russ Johnson**

*** August 2 Zoom: Masonic Service Association – M. Ferland**

FROM THE SOUTH

[WBro. David Flood](#)



CALL TO ACTION

This message is a **Call to Action**, not a prediction of decline or demise. Now that the impediments of the pandemic era have ended, I think it is healthy and useful to take a close look at where the Lodge stands.

Our membership is aging as well as declining in numbers. The chart below compares the age composition of all US males as reported in the 2020 US Census to the ages of St John's Master Masons.

US CENSUS MALES	ST JOHN'S MASTER MASONS
Age	June: we have 138 Master Masons
80 and older 4%	30% St. John's
65 to 79 25%	52%
21 to 64 57%	18%

So, 82% of our members are 65 or older but only 29% of US men are 65 or older.

We have just 3 Master Masons under the age of 40 but only one lives locally.

Among our older brothers 2 are over 100, 13 are in their 90s and 26 are in their 80s.

DECLINE

Master Masons 2013	226
Master Masons 2023	138
Loss	88
39% decline in Master Masons	

The Challenge

To maintain our membership around the 130-member level we need to initiate and retain at least five new Master Masons each year over the next ten years. This is because, due to age or death, we can expect a loss of 50 or more current members in the coming decade.

There is no reason we cannot be of one mind in striving to keep our Lodge vital and healthy. We have the pleasant task of identifying worthy men and interesting them in our fraternity. Our challenge is to work together to strengthen the Lodge and to reach out to bring in qualified new candidates.

JULY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

- Day
- 3 Bernard G. Yperman
 - 6 Aaron D. Holt
 - 7 James R. Odom
 - 15 Edgar H. Carthell, Jr.
 - 22 Kurt W. Lavrinc
 - 22 Allan B. Pinch
 - 23 Kenneth C. Marable
 - 24 Thomas R. Everts
 - 29 George S. Serpanos



Let's LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER

There are Grand Lodges which do not use the expression "Holy Bible" in their rituals, but they speak of the "Volume of the Sacred Law." This is acceptable to, and welcome by, those who do not use the Bible, but another book. The "VSL" can be any writing accepted by the brethren as their rule and guide.



ABOUT THE KING JAMES BIBLE AND FREEMASONRY

From the Sidelines by P. Liberty

On the altar of Washington Lodges, Bibles with impressive covers, faceplates, frontispieces and bindings are displayed. Some Lodges give a special Bible to each candidate as a memorial of his degrees. It is a lovely gesture. In all instances the Writer has witnessed, that Bible has been the "King James Version." Why? Is it Freemasonry's "official Bible?"

No, there is no official or officially designated Bible in Washington Freemasonry. Freemasonry has no set or central religious belief. The Ritual speaks to a Holy Bible being laid out in the Lodge room. The Bible can be fancy, humble, large, small, bound, or loose leaf, one volume or several, with and without artwork, footnotes, and indices, of any color, language or combination of languages. The majority of Brethren in Washington Lodges have voted to speak and read the English language, presumably are of a Christian religion and therefore voted for, or accepted a gift of, a Bible in English. The Brothers will want a Bible of the contents which the Jewish and Christian faiths accept. Neither the Bible translation nor the Altar Bible need be certified by a religious, Masonic, or other authority. As a practical matter, that Bible has been the King James Bible which has been sold in America's Masonic supply and in department stores, at Walmart, Amazon, and other vendors.



It is well known today that the Bible's parts have been translated from Hebrew and Greek into Latin and many other languages. But in 1610, a new English translation was being finished for King James I of England and Ireland (1603-25). He had commissioned it, and 47-54 scholars and clergy were enlisted in this work. This massive undertaking was overseen by Richard Bancroft, archbishop of Canterbury. The product of these efforts is the "KING JAMES BIBLE." It was a great success in England and highly regarded for its scholarship and poetic, rich, majestic and rhythmic language, a masterpiece of the art of translation.

The following year, it was published in England as "Authorized Version" which means that King James I permitted its printing, distribution, and sale to the public without his claim of copyright. This was a godsend to the

trade: no royalties were to be paid to the king. The Bible greatly improved literacy and in particular the King James translation in the English-speaking world. In the American Colonies, it was called "King James Version." Its foremost printer was one Benjamin Franklin, a man of great wealth who held many civic, educational, business, scientific and government jobs and honors, America's first Postmaster General, Minister to France (nowadays called ambassador) and Grand Master of Freemasons of Pennsylvania. In England and Colonies, the King James Bible was adopted by individuals, groups and denominations as the story at the heart of English life, and America's Puritans liked to deduce from it immediate messianic expectations.

Through the centuries, publishers and printers have packaged the same King James translation in many editions, sizes, formats, and typefaces as "Bishop's Bible," "Family Bible," "Collector's Bible," "Study Edition," "Travel Bible," "Gift Edition," "Special Gift Edition," "Sailor's," "Soldier's," "Officer's Bible" and what not, with or without artwork, annotations, explanations, essays, quotes of principles and wisdom, historical time lines, pedigrees, pronunciation guides, indices etc. At a time when there were many bookstores in this country, the King James Bible was a steady seller for them.

Some Brothers like the notion of a "Masonic Bible." But there is no 'Masonic Bible Authority' which might publish such a book or approve of it. "Masonic Bibles" contain a Bible, often in the King James Version, and additionally a few pages on Masonic history, quotes related to the Masonic Ritual, a blue box. In the book trade, add-ons make an ordinary Bible into a Specialty Bible. Today the 400+ years old King James Version is called "KJV" and still popular in America, although some words and portions may be difficult to understand. Translations into contemporary English with revisions of the context are available.

Furthermore, there may be Brethren who think of the King James Bible as the official Bible of the Church of England and/or of the Episcopal Church in US. In 2007, upon the Writer's inquiries, the Anglican Communion withdrew from its website a statement possibly implying such status. A possible source of confusion may be that, in Great Britain, there has been the tradition of the "Great Bible," i.e.. Myles Coverdale's 1539 English translation, the first authorized version of the Bible in English in England. King Henry VIII (1491-1547) had mandated this Bible displayed "in a commodious place" and "opened ... in every church and

monastery in England” and “to be read aloud” in the church services of the Church of England. Because books were very expensive then and should not be allowed to walk out of buildings or be taken apart, Bibles were tied to a stand or lectern by means of a chain or bar with a lock. This gave rise to expressions and images of a “jailed Bible” or “chained Bible.” However, it was common medieval practice to store and secure books this way. For example, Hereford Cathedral, which has been used continuously for some 1,300 years near the border of England and Wales, has a library room with about 1,800 “books in chains”, dating from the early Middle Ages to the 18th century and covering many subjects. People come to the library to read, study, and copy by hand the old books. The chains, rods, padlocks and other devices which secure the books to the library may be old but are in good working order and doing their job, it seems, and they attract visitors.

The Freemasons, on the other hand, have neither fixed nor fettered their Altar Bibles, but rather have displayed them open during Lodge meetings so that all present may see and use the Bible and know in what form the Lodge is in session.

Occasionally a belief is expressed that William Shakespeare (1564-1616) helped with the translation. Bro. Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) may have had a hand in it. He loved literary spoofs. “Proof of Holy Writ” has a translator of the Bible discreetly consult with Shakespeare and Ben Jonson, a lyrical poet. In 1970, Anthony Burgess, a Shakespeare scholar, pointed out that the King James Bible was finished in Shakespeare’s 46th year, and that the 46th word from the beginning of Psalm 46 is “shake,” and that the 46th word from the end of that Psalm is “spear,” if one does not count “selah,” an uncertain term as to both pronunciation and meaning, at the very end. To his credit, Burgess did not make much of his discovery. There you have it.

In the past, a question has been why the Freemasons have a Bible or other religious book(s) in their Lodges although, as Lodges, they do not pursue a religious doctrine nor a practice. We have been told that similar questions led to the schism between Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Orient of France in 1773 and what was called the “liberal” or “continental Freemasonry.” One answer will be that the Freemasons adhere to and honor their history. But do historical precedents and procedures speak to the Brothers nowadays?

There are Grand Lodges which do not use the expression “Holy Bible” in their rituals, but they speak of the “Volume of the Sacred Law.” This is acceptable to, and welcome by, those who do not use the Bible, but another book. The “VSL” can be any writing accepted by the Brethren as their guide and reference for inspiration. It need not be the KJV and has an equal claim to our respect. The Writer feels that this is the way it should be.

Education Trip Yields Bluestone Candle Holders

Ten members of the Lodge enjoyed a visit to the Tenino Stone Quarry Saturday, June 24, where they observed the art of stone carving, learned a little about the local history, browsed through a street fair, and lunched with the



local stone carver Keith Phillips. They returned with three carved candle (taper) holders for our altar made of bluestone.

Note: These beautiful bluestones, resembling the night sky due to their decorative patterns and spots, have some very powerful attributes as well.



Quarry Master Keith Phillips

“If you do not possess strong willpower and wish to rectify that, use Bluestone Rock to achieve more determination as this stone activates the solar plexus chakra, which encourages you to take control and take responsibility for your own



View of Tenino Quarry Wall

life. It enhances or improves your intellect and mental abilities. Likewise, this very ability of Bluestone Rock can also help you become more courageous by overcoming fears that have been controlling your life and actions. Next, Bluestone Rock is very useful for you if you are very timid and rarely come out of your comfort zone, as it can give you enhanced confidence. Use Bluestone Rock when you are unable to move past a major challenge in life because this stone can help resolve difficult problems. Also, under tumultuous circumstances, Bluestone Rock will help you deal with problems in a very serene manner.”



July 19 (our next meeting date) On this day, in 1865 born at Rochester, MN was the **American surgeon, Bro. Charles Horace Mayo** later to become one of the Mayo Brothers who co- founded the world-famous Mayo Clinic and Mayo Foundation. The Clinic began at Rochester’s Masonic Temple Building. Bro. Mayo was a member of Rochester Lodge No. 21. He was also a member of Halcyon Chapter No. 8, Royal Arch Masons, and Home Commandery No. 5, Knights Templar, both of Rochester. Bro. Mayo also won the 32°-degree AASR (SJ) at Winona, MN, and the 33° in October, 1935. He died May 26, 1939 in Chicago, Il.

MEET THE NEW JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

Christopher C. Haynes

Greetings from the Grand South, Brethren! I am greatly humbled and honored to have been elected as your Junior Grand Warden and look forward to serving you, supporting our concordant bodies, and helping our



Junior Grand Warden
Christopher Haynes

We have an amazing daughter, Ella, who is attending North Seattle College.

Currently, I help clients as an active residential and commercial real estate managing broker and serve on the Board of Governors for Shriners Children's Portland. As a teacher for Seattle Public Schools, Debra fully supports the work we do as Masons throughout this Grand Jurisdiction while I travelled this past year meeting many of you and learning about all our Lodges, our members, our districts and how we can best serve our craft's needs.

The beacon of Masonic Light is being sought by men of all ages, backgrounds, and faiths in a time when the need to work together and seeking to be part of something bigger than ourselves is more relevant than ever before. Masonry, through Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, celebrates our common humanity and inspires us to practice out of the Lodge those duties which are taught in it.

I am definitely all in and excited to serve our craft through a collaborative style bringing together diverse opinions and skills to ensure Masonry remains the cornerstone of our society for generations to come. Thank you for your trust and I look forward to working with you and our Lodges every step of the way.

Fraternally, R.: W.: Chris C. Haynes
Junior Grand Warden chrishaynes206@gmail.com

MASTER MASONS RAISED IN JULY

Date Raised:

7/27/1957	Charles B. Claus, Jr.
7/30/1983	Jarrold 'Jerry' Schuh
7/24/1999	Jason R. Moore
7/15/2010	K. Eric Koteles
7/15/2010	Ronald A. Woodall, Jr.



ANNUAL GRAND LODGE LEGISLATION

Few pieces of proposed legislation passed at last month's annual communication, but two that did pass deserve our focused attention.

One amends Sec. 18.09 B.L of the Masonic Code to **require background checks** for all Lodge Petitioners, including those for initiation AND affiliation. These background checks are to be **furnished by the petitioner** to the investigating committee and returned to the candidate.

One other passed legislation addresses several sections of the Code and implement the Grand Master's recommendation **to limit voting in a Lodge to Members in Good Standing** and adds a definition of "good standing" to the Glossary of the Washington Masonic Code. The Glossary as amended reads: a member of a Lodge is in good standing if he has paid the current year's dues and assessments and is not suspended or expelled. This is now interpreted that in order to vote, a member must have paid his dues, for example, by January of 2023 to vote in Lodge at any time following January 1, 2023. He no longer has the privilege to wait throughout the year in order to vote.

Grand Lodge 2023 Resolutions Results

A quick summary of the results of the resolutions at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication:

- 2022-02 Require Lodges to be named in Temple Board insurance policies: Passed
- 2022-03 Eliminate exemption for Research Lodge members paying per capita: Failed
- 2022-04 Require background checks for all Lodge Petitioners: Passed
- 2023-03 Remove Masonic Development Program as alternate proficiency: Carry-Over
- 2023-04 Codify a ceremony for presentation of PM and PDGM aprons: Failed
- 2023-05 Clarify purpose and form of Research Lodges: Passed as amended
- 2023-06 Framework for virtual Lodge attendance: Carry-Over
- 2023-07 To increase per capita: Carry-Over
- 2023-08 To increase the minimum cost of life memberships: Failed
- 2023-09 To automatically expel any Mason convicted of a felony: Failed
- 2023-10 To limit voting in Lodge to members of "good standing": Passed
- 2023-11 To limit voting on by-laws changes in Lodge to members of "good standing": Carry-Over

FROM THE MIND OF STEVEN WRIGHT

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.

“Suited up for Charity” Dinner and Auction

Grand Master MWBro. Steve Martin announces there will be a “Suited up for Charity” dinner and auction on Saturday evening, September 30, 2023. Sponsored by our Masonic Charities, the evening will offer a fabulous steak dinner, silent auction, live auction, wine pull, dessert dash, 50/50 raffle, heads or tails, and many other fun things.

This will be our Jurisdiction’s biggest fundraiser of the year and we (St. John’s Lodge) hope to see you there. If you have any items you would like to donate for auction like timeshares, air miles, hand crafted items, etc. please let MWBro. Martin or the Grand Lodge staff know.

VWBro. Jim Maher hopes to establish a “St. John’s” table for ten at this worthy affair to raise money for Youth Scholarships. Four tickets at \$100 each have already been committed. Any St. John’s Lodge brother who would like to participate should contact VWBro. Maher.

The Pursuit of Masonic Knowledge is a Lifelong Journey.

The pursuit of Masonic knowledge is a lifelong journey. It requires effort and dedication. It is a continuous process that never truly ends, as there is always more to learn. It requires a commitment to ongoing learning and personal growth.

To embark on this journey, one must have the desire to learn. You must be willing to put in the effort required to acquire said understanding. It may also require stepping outside of one’s comfort zone and challenging one’s own beliefs and assumptions.

Again, the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom is not always easy. There may be obstacles and challenges along the way, and it may take time and effort to overcome them.

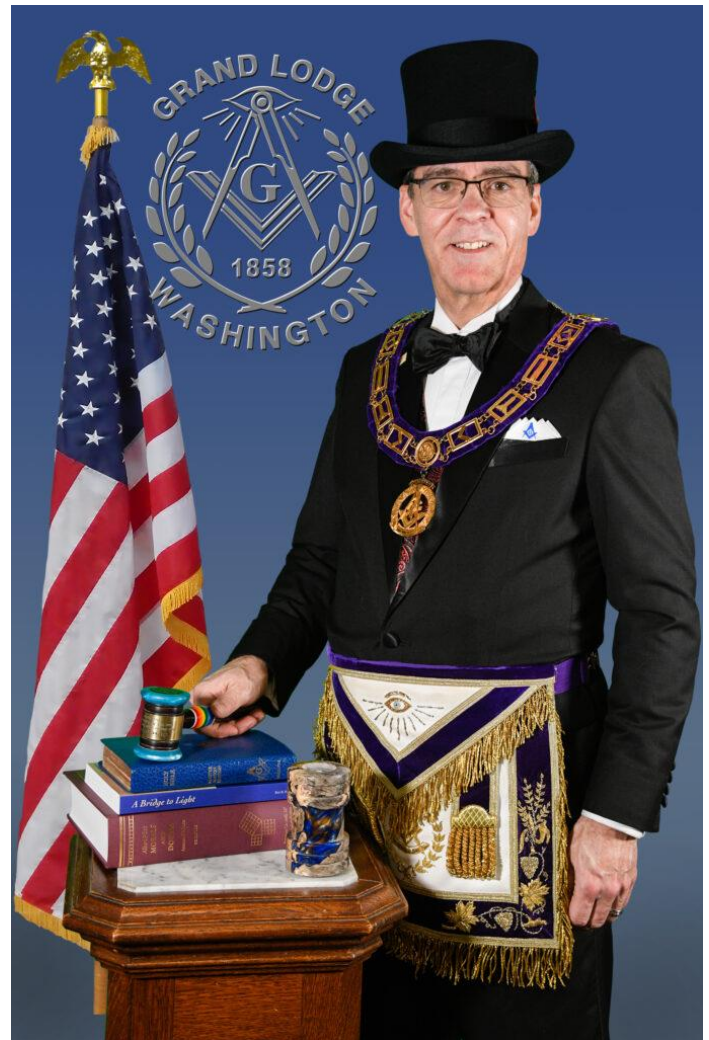
It also requires sacrifice.

But ultimately, pursuing knowledge is a rewarding journey that can lead to personal growth, greater understanding, and a deeper appreciation for the world around you. It’s a hard journey, but the rewards are well worth it.

And nobody knows this better than a Freemason.

July 19 (our next meeting date) On this day 1799, the *Rosetta Stone was discovered* near the Nile River. Made out of black basalt, the odd-shaped stone led to the interpretation and understanding of hieroglyphic writing. The ancient Egyptians believed that it was important to record and communicate information about religion and government. Thus, they invented written scripts that could be used to record this information. The most famous of all ancient Egyptian scripts is hieroglyphic. However, throughout three thousand years of ancient Egyptian civilization, at least three other scripts were used for different purposes. Using these scripts, scribes were able to preserve the beliefs, history, and ideas of ancient Egypt in temple and tomb walls and on papyrus scrolls.

2023-24 Grand Master of Washington



Grand Master MWBro. Steve Martin Says “Get Out and Visit More”

“One of the fundamental rights we have as Masons is to travel. Some of the best opportunities we have to connect with other Masons is when we visit Lodges that we are not members of, when we attend events like the lodge leadership retreat, and annual communications. I have a *traveling gavel* this year to promote travel throughout the Jurisdiction. There is a Facebook page that I ask you to update when the gavel comes to your Lodge, so I know where it is, and so that others do too.

Since I will be going to King Solomon Lodge in Auburn on Monday, that is where it will start. You can either take three Lodge members and the gavel to a new Lodge, or you can bring three Lodge members to the lodge and take the gavel home. I will also have a Samsung SmartTag attached to the box to try and keep tabs on it. Who knows, if I see where the gavel is on the Facebook page, or the Samsung app, I might just show up at your lodge.”

Open Air Degrees at the Masonic Park 2023

Summertime is once again upon us. That means many Lodges are Dark. But that does not end the search for Light due to a lack of Masonic events to attend.

There are two (2) events at the Masonic Family Park this summer and both will prove to be a great time to visit with Brothers from around the state.

Master Mason Degree

10:00 AM Saturday, August 5th

On August 5th, the Lodges of District 8 will be hosting the annual Open Air 3rd Degree. On the way to the Park, stop off at Damascus No. 199 for their annual pancake breakfast starting at 8am. The Degree starts at 10am, so arrive with plenty of time to park and check in with the Tyler.

After the Degree, Crystal Lodge No. 122 is bringing their awesome BBQ for lunch.

Torchlight Fellow Craft Degree

9:00 PM, August 19th

Just two weeks later is the biennial Torchlight Fellowcraft Degree. This is a special evening when the Brothers from District 8 and 17 combine forces to present a very memorable Degree that will start after sundown around 9pm. This is a special event since there is no artificial light used. All the light for the Degree comes off torches placed around the outdoor Lodge.

The cost for entry at the Masonic Park is \$7.50 and will be collected at the gate. So, break out your favorite lawn chair and come out to the Masonic Family Park and enjoy a summer day with your Brethren..



Open Air Lodge Room (looking west)

Family, Friends, and Campers of Masonic Family Park – **we need you now more than ever!**

Our dear Brother and park caretaker Chris Bonner is in critical care after a series of serious heart attacks and will be on a long road to recovery.

Our park needs volunteers of all abilities and talents to help with gate operations, facility maintenance, equipment operation and upkeep.

Please find time to volunteer, however you can, to keep our park open and thriving through our busy season and lessen the burden on those with an overwhelming list of duties.

It will take a great number of us but as a true Masonic family we can pull together to make it work. Call the park to inquire. (360) 691-6641

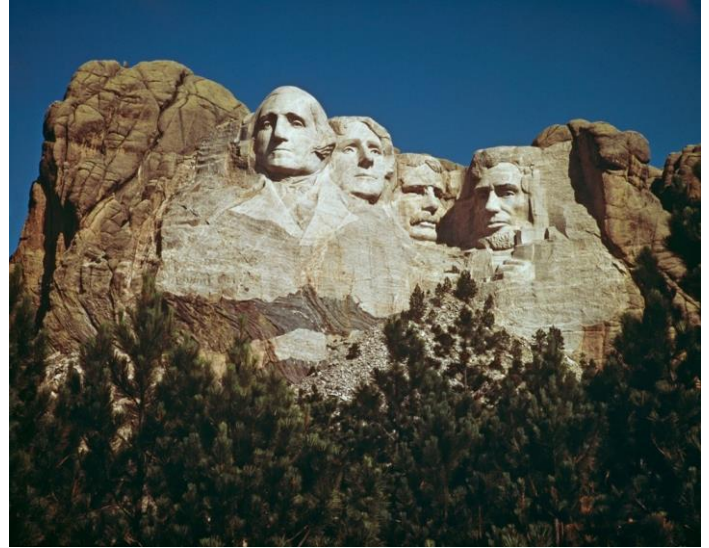
Youth groups looking for community service? This could be a great way to get those hours.

South Dakota state rep calls Mount Rushmore a 'Freemason shrine,' 'demonic portal' for communism & his revelation came from 'The Lord'

By Patrick Reilly

June 28, 2023 A South Dakota state representative bizarrely claimed that the state's Mount Rushmore is a "Freemason shrine," and a demonic portal for communism.

Joe Donnell, who represents South Dakota's District One in the state legislature, said during an appearance on the Now Is The Time podcast that his oddball revelation about the iconic national monument came from "The Lord."



"If you go back and do some history on Mount Rushmore, it actually is a Freemason shrine," Donnell says in a viral video clip of the podcast posted by Right Wing Watch.

"What the Lord has revealed to me is that Mount Rushmore has a direct ley line to Washington, DC."

Donnell then went on to explain the nefarious significance of a "ley line" — which is described as a path of spiritual energy that passes from one place to another.

"In order to understand the spiritual realm of what we're facing, we have to realize that in order for the enemy to do anything, it needs the agreement of human beings. In order to be empowered to do more damage he needs the agreement of human beings and oftentimes that comes in the form of an altar that acts as a portal for demonic things," he continues.

Joe Donnell made the puzzling remarks during an appearance on the Now Is The Time podcast. Twitter / RightWingWatch

The monument's sculptor, Gutzon Borglum, was also a Freemason. The organization has long been a target for conspiracy theorists.

Donnell made the head-scratching remarks during an interview with Now is The Time host Meri Crouley in a podcast episode titled "State Representative Joe Donnell From South Dakota Sharing Vital Info About Heavens Opening."

Frequently Asked Questions re: Grand Lodge of Washington Background Checks

1. How much does it cost? The cost for a Background check through the Grand Lodge vendor (Guarding the West Gate) is \$16.00
2. Who is Exempt? No Petitioner is exempt including Petitioners for Affiliations. NO EXCEPTIONS.
3. Is a Washington State Mason in good standing required to have a Background Check to affiliate with a Washington State Lodge? Yes.
4. Does a Mason from another Grand Lodge Jurisdiction applying for affiliation or wishing to continue his degrees under a waiver of Jurisdiction required to obtain a Background Check? Yes.
5. If a Brother takes a dimit, and petitions another Lodge for membership, is he required to obtain a Background Check? Yes.
6. If a Brother is dropped for non-payment of dues, is he required to obtain a Background Check? Yes, but only if he is NPD for longer than 24 months, then he must obtain a Background check with his Petition for Reinstatement.
7. How long is a Background check good for? One year from the date of completion.
8. How does a Petitioner obtain a Background Report? By going to www.guardingthewestgate.com, clicking on the "continue with the background check" tab, filling out all of the information requested and paying the \$16.00 fee.
9. How will the Background check be delivered? The Background Check will be delivered to the Petitioner's email that he enters on the Guarding the West Gate website.
10. How long does it take for the candidate to receive his background check? Most background checks are completed and emailed to the candidate within 5 business days of completion.
11. Who should we contact if the Petitioner has not received his background report within 5 business days? Call (347-219-0373), text or email tiler@guardingthewestgate.com. The Grand Master and Grand Secretary have no access to the report process or the completed reports. Please do not call the Grand Secretary or the Grand Lodge office.
12. Will the Lodge receive a copy of the Background check? The Petitioner will bring a copy of the background check with him to his meeting with his investigating committee. The investigating committee will review that report and return it to the Petitioner at the end of the meeting. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL THE LODGE OR THE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE RETAIN A COPY OF THE REPORT!** The report is also not to be read or shared in Lodge.

13. How does the Investigation Committee know if the Background Report is authentic? The report will be numbered and will have a watermark on it. Additionally, if there is a red flag on the report, the office of the Grand Secretary will be notified, and the Lodge will be notified that there may be an issue with the Petitioners report.

14. Will a Background Check ever be halted? Yes, If the petitioner is listed on any sex offender data base or convicted of sex related crime or the Petitioner falsifies the petition in any form or manner or provides false information.

15. Who is responsible for determining a Petitioners suitability for Masonry? The Lodge Investigation Committee is responsible for determining if the Petitioner should become a Member of the Lodge by making the determination that the Petitioner is Favorable or Unfavorable.

16. Does the Background Check include Military Records, Health Records or Financial Records? No. Guarding the West Gate does not run credit checks or financial reports on anyone in any form.

17. Is a Petitioner required to enter his Social Security Number as part of the process of obtaining a Background Report? Yes. However, this information is not retained by anyone. Once the report is complete, this information is purged.

18. Does Guarding the West Gate retain Social Security Numbers or Credit Card information? No.

19. Can the Lodge order background checks through the Grand Lodge vendor on individuals who are not petitioning the Lodge? No. The Grand Lodge office will be notified by the owner of Guarding the West Gate of any attempt by the Lodge or an individual to order a Background Report on anyone who is not petitioning a Lodge.

20. Can the Lodge pay for the Background report? The Lodge can either reimburse the Petitioner or reduce the fees the Lodge charges the Petitioner for the Petition if the Lodge votes to do so.



"Hmm...no criminal record. I'm concerned you lack commitment."