

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

## Trestleboard

September 2023

*Jim Russell*, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

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 SOUTH

WBro. David Flood, *Junior Warden*

### GOOD NEWS



WB David Flood  
Junior Warden

The good news is that we need to change. Why is that good news? Because we have the opportunity to be leaders. Leaders not only in creating a vital future for St John's Lodge but by showing other struggling Lodges in our jurisdiction a way forward. A review of statewide membership numbers published in the annual Grand Lodge Proceedings shows that for every two newly initiated Master Masons a shocking five Master Masons demit or NPD from their Lodges. Clearly expectations and

needs are not being met. By implementing the many features of the Renaissance Plan we can lead the way in demonstrating to other Lodges in the state how to thrive and turn those ugly numbers around.

The Renaissance Plan - presented to us by WBro. Russ Johnson over the past two months - identifies many fronts on which we can innovate and advance in enhancing the personal growth of our brothers in an atmosphere of fun and fellowship. Our wholehearted labors will enhance the Lodge experience of our brothers and hopefully energize other Lodges to make beneficial changes.

There is much to be done. It cannot be accomplished only by the labors of a few. Nor can all that is needed be done in a few months. As brothers we will work together to move forward the most urgently needed tasks. We don't have enough brothers to do everything immediately. We shall council together in the coming weeks and become of one mind about the changes and enhancements to which we decide to give priority. Then it is my hope that as a band of friends and brothers we shall work together for the benefit of all.

### SEPTEMBER MEET IN SHORELINE

St. John's brothers will get together as a "fraternity of Brothers" when we meet for our monthly stated communication, Wednesday, September 20. We'll be meeting again this month at the Scottish Rite in Shoreline. 1207 N 152nd St, Shoreline, WA 98133. We return to suit and tie and tuxedos for officers in September.

## CALENDAR



- Sept. 14 (6pm): Officers meeting
- September 15-17: Rosh Hashanah
- September 16 (6pm social hour, 7pm dinner): **163<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Celebration** Ivar's Salmon House
- September 20 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated Meet at Seattle Scottish Rite, Shoreline, in September!**
- September 30 (6pm): Masonic Charities Dinner and Auction
- October 4 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom – *Inventing the Future of Freemasonry: The 1723 Constitutions*
- 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 1 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom – *Kirkwall Scroll*
- November 15: **St. John's 9 Stated meeting and Installation of Officers**
- November 23: *Thanksgiving Day*
- December 20 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: **St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated**
- December 27: **Feast Day of St. John the Evangelist**

St. John's Lodge No. 9 meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (Scottish Rite Center in Shoreline)

- Social "hour" 5:30pm
- Free parking available after 6pm on the St. John Catholic Church playground. Located 1/2 block west of Greenwood Ave. N. on southside of N. 80<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Dinner 6:15pm
- Stated Communication 7:30pm
- Refreshments & fellowship following

# ST. JOHN'S MARKS 163 YEARS OF FREEMASONRY IN SEATTLE

St. John's Lodge will celebrate 163 years of Freemasonry in Seattle with dinner at Ivar's Salmon House, Saturday evening, September 16. Our special day has arrived! Social hour begins at 6pm. So, *if* there's still room available and you haven't done it already, make your reservations with the Secretary for an evening of good food, a bit of entertainment, and just plain fun.

☛ *Choose your selection of entrée options from Steak Oscar (fillet mignon) or Wild Salmon Sampler or Penne Pasta Pomodoro (followed by vanilla bean burnt cream for dessert) when you make your reservation.*

A beverage bar will be available, as well as an assortment of wines for each table. Dress is evening attire for the ladies, suit and tie for the gentlemen.



Ivar's Salmon House views downtown Seattle from Lake Union



Back to the entertainment! 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. The Taproot Theatre is a "home grown" theatre that began with a few students who had just graduated from Seattle Pacific University some forty-five years ago. They provide great plays for the public. In addition, a touring company visits schools with plays that include themes of bullying prevention, forming alliances, healthy choices, substance abuse, and addiction education.

St. John's assists with the funding of these school programs.

St. John's brothers will get together "as a fraternity of Brothers" a few days following when we meet for our monthly stated communication, Wednesday, September 20. *We'll be meeting again this month at the Scottish Rite in Shoreline. 1207 N 152nd St., Shoreline, WA 98133.* We return to suit and tie and tuxedos for officers in September.



St. John's will meet at the Seattle Scottish Rite Center, Shoreline, in September

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, September 15.



Doors open at 5:30. Do you know of a brother who has not attended Lodge in a while? Call him and ask if you can pick him up and bring him to Lodge and an enjoyable dinner!

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## MASTER MASON'S RAISED IN SEPTEMBER

- Date Raised:**
- 9/15/1965 Bernard B. Gordon
  - 9/17/1969 Marcos J. Policar
  - 9/24/1969 Petros N. Farmasonis
  - 9/19/1973 Brad D. Wolford
  - 9/13/1976 Richard L. Waldo
  - 9/10/2008 Phillip J. See



## FROM THE WEST

[WBro. John Murray Louderback](#)



In the continental rites of Masonry, as practiced in France, in Germany, and in other countries of Europe, I'm told it is an invariable custom to present the newly-initiated candidate not only, as we do, with a white leather apron, but also with two pairs of white kid gloves, one a man's pair for himself, and the other a woman's, to be presented by him in turn to his wife or his betrothed, according to the custom of the German Masons, or, according to the French, to the female whom he most esteems.

The symbolism of the gloves, it will be admitted, is, in fact, only a modification of that of the apron. They both signify the same thing; both are allusive to a purification of life. "Who shall ascend," says the Psalmist, "into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart." The apron may be said to refer to the "pure heart," the gloves to the "clean hands." Both are significant of purification – of that purification which was always symbolized by the ablution or cleansing which preceded the ancient initiations into the sacred Mysteries. But while our American and English Masons have adhered only to the apron, and rejected the gloves as a Masonic symbol, the latter appear to be far more important in symbolic science, because the allusions to pure or clean hands are abundant in all the ancient writers.

## 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.

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

**\* September 20 Stated: "Time" – Louis Turner**  
*Be prepared to participate in discussion*

**\* October 4 Zoom: Inventing the Future of  
Freemasonry: The 1723 Constitutions – Ken  
Woo**

Bro. Louis Turner will present our Masonic education program this month. The topic is "Time." Do your homework and be prepared to engage in conversation.

## FROM THE SOUTH

Found on page one, this month

*It's here!!*

## St. John's 163<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Celebration Ivar's Salmon House Potlatch Room

Social hour – 6pm     Dinner 7pm  
Saturday, September 16

**Deadline for reservations: Monday, 9/11/23**

**Specify entrée choice: filet mignon, salmon, pasta**

206 623-0261

### "Suited up for Charity" Dinner and Auction

A "Suited up for Charity" dinner and auction is coming 6pm Saturday evening, September 30. Sponsored by our Grand Lodge 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.



The event will be held at Seattle Police Athletic Association Pavilion, 11030 E Marginal Way S, Tukwila.

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 contact Rozalynne Weinberg ([rozalynne@comcast.net](mailto:rozalynne@comcast.net)) or 206-661-8214 or Steve Dinkins ([steve.dinkins@outlook.com](mailto:steve.dinkins@outlook.com)).

St. John's has established a table for ten, with five brothers and their five guests attending. Due to a cancellation, two seats are open. **Dress Code: formal**

### McKinney-Vento Homeless Students

Last year St. John's gifted the Seattle Public Schools \$12,000 to assist the SPS McKinney-Vento homeless student program. This program ensures students have access to education and can fully participate in school. It encourage student's education by removing barriers that would limit their ability to fully engage and participate in school activities and events.

The federal McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

This month during our dinner hour we will hear from Jeanea Proctor-Mills, McKinney-Vento District Liaison, accompanied by director Ms. Natalie Long, who will tell us how the program is working in Seattle.

## Nile Temple Experiences Limited Fire Damage



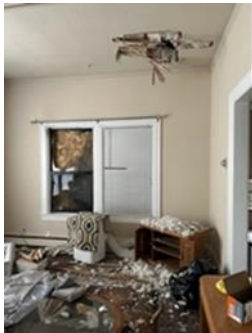
Saturday afternoon, August 26, fire damaged a small portion of the Nile Shrine building in Mountlake Terrace. The fortunate news is no one was injured. The site of the fire damage is limited to the exterior of the building. The news report as heard on the radio estimated about \$60,000 damage.

The fire department had to penetrate the roof and some of the inside walls in the apartment



Fire origin limited to kitchen exterior of building

to assure the fire was put out. The roof and windows in the apartment have been covered with plywood. The rest has been untouched waiting for the assessor to come and do their work for the claim. A lot of work to get things back to normal but it is not as bad as it could have been, due to the prompt reaction to the fire by Nile members Ward Beaulaurier, Jim Watson, Bryan Baldwin, and Lionel from Navi's Catering Kitchen.'



Interior of damaged apartment

The cause of the fire is still being investigated. No determination as to its cause has been made yet. There have been a few rumors about electrical as the cause and those have not been confirmed.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Day

- 4 Michael R. Pimentel
- 4 St. John's Lodge No, 9
- 16 George H. Wohlleben
- 17 George O. "Bob" Smith, Jr.
- 18 Bryan E. Hopkins
- 22 Vincent Di Giulio
- 23 Arthur P. Jentoft



## October 4 Zoom

### Inventing the Future of Freemasonry: The 1723 Constitutions

Bro. Ken Woo planned to present an exciting six-hour photo presentation of his summer vacation in Europe. When told that will not work, he buckled down to do some serious research on Anderson's Constitutions.

The 1723 Constitution was the founding document governing Masonic Lodges on behalf of the United Grand Lodge of England and has been revised several times since. But what most people do not know is that the Constitutions served as a foundation document for many modern democracies around the world including that of the American Revolution, Canadian independence, and the Mexican Revolution.

For those interested, you can download a copy of Anderson's Constitutions [here](#) in advance of the Educational presentation.

Bro. Ken Woo is a plural member of St. John's No. 9 and Steilacoom Lodge No. 2, mother Lodge to St. John's. He currently serves on St. John's Education Committee.

## COMING NEXT MONTH

### Don't miss the October Stated Communication

### PAST MASTERS NIGHT

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

## WHO WE WERE AND WHO WE ARE

On August 9, 1860, seven Master Masons joined in signing a petition to the Grand Master of Masons of the Washington Territory for a dispensation to form a Lodge of Masons at Seattle under the name of St. John's Lodge. On Saturday, two days later, August 11, the petition was presented to Steilacoom Lodge No. 2, for approval of that Lodge as required by Grand Lodge law.

The charter was granted by Grand Lodge, September 4, 1860. Eight Master Masons comprised the membership of the newly created and first Lodge in Seattle. Before the end of the year, there were 26 members of the Lodge. By 1903, there were 327 members and our numbers peaked at 1,368 in the years 1925 and 1927. Our membership fell below one thousand for the first time in many years in 1964. Over the 163 years, we have had 144 men serve as Masters of the Lodge, of whom 26 still live today.

## ST. JOHN'S EARLY MEETING PLACE: YESLER MILL



Yesler's Mill, stores, and taverns on Skid Road (Mill Street, now Yesler Way)

The Denny Party landed at Alki (Seattle) in late 1851, and by 1866 the town had its first historic landmark crisis when Henry Yesler, the man whose steam-powered sawmill brought industry to the city, decided to tear down the mill's modest log cook house.

This structure had become the budding burg's first civic space. It had served as Seattle's hotel, courtroom, church, entertainment venue, restaurant, jail, political gathering spot and coffee house. It was City Hall, Town Hall, the Courthouse, Starbucks, and Microsoft rolled into one. In short, everything a frontier village needed, save a brothel. Many settlers lamented its destruction because it embodied the collective memory of Seattle's start-up days.

In its July, 30, 1866 edition the *Puget Sound Weekly* noted that "There was nothing about this cook house very peculiar, except the interest with which old memories had invested it. It was simply a dingy-looking hewed log building, about twenty-five feet square, a little more than one story high, with a shed addition in the rear, and to strangers and newcomers was rather an eye-sore and nuisance in the place – standing as it did in the business part of town, among the more pretentious buildings of modern construction, like a quaint octogenarian, among a band of dandyish sprigs of Young America."



View looking west to Yesler's Mill. At the end of the street (see smokestack) and nearby cookhouse, the tall pole in the road on the right is where the Pioneer Square pergola stands today.

## Here and About



St. John's VV Bro. **John R. Adamson**, of Tacoma Scottish Rite, has been nominated for 32°, KCCH Honor. Investiture (open to the public) at around 1pm on Saturday - October 7th, 2023 at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center located at 1207 N 152nd Street, Shoreline..... Bro. **Louis Turner** passed his proficiency in Lodge last month in excellent form and will soon be Raised to a Master Mason.



St. John's held its July (and August 2021) meetings at the Seattle Scottish Rite in Shoreline coming out of the COVID 19 shutdown. Greenwood Center was unavailable due to decision by the Greenwood Temple Board not to reopen the building until its meeting in September

## SET THE CRAFT TO WORK

The lack of interest in some Lodges may be due to the fact that the Worshipful Master has not "set the Craft to work." It has been said that no man is truly happy unless he is doing constructive work, and Freemasonry must afford opportunities for such work or it will suffer. Men, as a rule, do not like to be simply spectators. Give them something to do; make them responsible for it and you will revive their interest in the Lodge. This does not mean that you should assign tasks indiscriminately. Study your Members, find out what each one likes to do best, and try to give appropriate assignments to as many Members as possible.

There are numerous ways in which this can be done. Three are herein listed:

1. Have Members act as a Welcoming Committee. It will not only give them something to do, but will develop many new friends.
2. Practically all lodges experience poor attendance at meetings. A visit by one or more Members of a Special Committee may cause the chronic non-attende to change his habits.
3. A Committee specially appointed to visit the sick would perform a worthwhile function.

## HONORARY PAST MASTER SENDS MESSAGE

Honorary St. John's Past Master Pekka Granroth of Finland is once again on an extensive sail and sends the following message:

"Brothers

"Just letting you know I will be "away" from social media for the next three months while sailing across the Indian Ocean from Indonesia to South Africa on a Finnish Swan57 sailing boat.

"I will be the first mate with 9 others as the crew.

"I try to send a message to Paul (Doak) every once in a while, it can be sent to more brothers if you wish.

"All set to go, I have everything packed, this time warm (hot) weather expected. Hopefully, no storms...

"Have a nice fall, take care."

--Pekka



**Swan 57**

The Swan 57 is a Finnish sailboat that was designed by Olin Stephens of Sparkman & Stephens as a racer-cruiser and first built in 1977. The boat is Sparkman & Stephens' design #2297 and was their last Swan boat designed.

### **Design**

The Swan 57 is a racing keelboat, built predominantly of glassfibre, with wood trim. It has a masthead sloop rig or optional ketch rig, with a raked stem, a reverse transom, a skeg-mounted rudder controlled by a wheel and a fixed fin keel or optional stub keel and centerboard. The ketch version has a boomkin for the mizzen mainsheet.

The fin keel model displaces 49,500 lb. (22,453 kg) and carries 18,900 lb. (8,573 kg) of lead ballast, while the centerboard version displaces 51,500 lb. (23,360 kg) and carries 20,900 lb. (9,480 kg) of lead ballast

The keel-equipped version of the boat has a draft of 9.10 ft (2.77 m), while the centerboard-equipped version has a draft of 10.20 ft (3.11 m) with the centerboard extended and 6.40 ft (1.95 m) with it retracted, allowing operation in shallow water.[]

The boat is fitted with a British Perkins Engines 4.236 M diesel engine of 73 hp (54 kW) for docking and maneuvering. The fuel tank holds 151 U.S. gallons (570 L; 126 imp gal) and the fresh water tank has a capacity of 264 U.S. gallons (1,000 L; 220 imp gal).

The design has sleeping accommodation for nine people, with a double "V"-berth in the bow cabin, an "U"-shaped settee and a straight settee in the main salon, two bunk beds and a single bed in the forward salon and two aft cabins, one with a double berth on the port side and a single berth on the starboard. The galley is located on the port side, abeam the companionway ladder. The galley is "C"-shaped and is equipped with a three-burner stove, an ice box, and a double sink. A navigation station is opposite the galley, on the starboard side. There are two heads, one just aft of the bow cabin on the starboard side and one on the port side, aft.

For sailing downwind, the design may be equipped with a symmetrical spinnaker of 3,046 sq ft or 2,960 sq ft for the ketch-rigged model.

The design has a hull speed of 9.07 kn (16.80 km/h). The sloop rigged boat with a fixed keel has a PHRF handicap of 21 to 63, the sloop centerboard version 39 to 51, the ketch fixed keel 57 and the ketch with the centerboard 54 to 60.

### **Invitation to St. John's brothers to visit Finland September 2024 in Finnish Freemason Lodges**

Being an honorary member of St. John's 9 Lodge and having such great memories of our hospitality, and as a Master of Savo14 Lodge year 2024, WBro. Pekka Granroth extends an invitation to visit his Lodge and at the same time participate the 100-year festivities of the Finnish Grand Lodge

The program, described in next month's Trestleboard, is just an example for you to understand what your visit might include, so any changes are (and most likely will be) possible

Helsinki – the capital of Finland

Kuopio – Pekka's home town some 250 miles north-east of Helsinki (middle of Lake District)

Turku – south-western Finland, ferries to Sweden

The dates (detailed next month) are based on the centennial program of Finnish Grand Lodge.

-Thursday September 5, 2024; flight Seattle-Helsinki (price typically \$700-900, today even a direct flight operated by Finnair)

More information about the Grand Lodge events can be found [freemasons.fi/100](https://freemasons.fi/100) (password FIN100).

-Saturday September 14 flight Stockholm - Seattle

# Let's LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER

*Generally speaking, the person who is important for one's early upbringing is one's mother or other care giver. Little children need their mothers. Many adults still long for a hug, loving word, cookie from Mom. Fathers are no substitute for mother's appreciation, but they do offer a different path in reality.*



## QUESTIONS FROM YOUR CHILDREN?

by Paul Liberty

This is an unusual article in a Masonic publication. It was sparked in a comment by a PGM who remembered how the men of his youth “splashed on Old Spice before going to Lodge.” The point of this paper is not to use perfume, but to make better the quality of the relationship between child and father.

It can be difficult for a child to ask father something important. A reason may be that the parent does not talk about things or difficult things. Conversely, it can be difficult for a father to connect to his child. Measly “visitation rights,” monitored phone calls, years of separation, anger, acrimony, and silence have deeply alienated fathers from their children, as real difficulties have taken their toll on each of them.

For those who still want to make an effort, to connect to their fathers may bring a treasure trove of information and paternal devotedness. For others there can be a wake-up call: drug use, lying, traffic accident, a dangerous fall, a terminal disease, the unexpected happened, and there is only a short time to put in order things which have been smoldering under the surface for a long, long time. Each item can be a possible starting point of a talk with one's father.

To get things started in the Reader's mind, here are a few suggested questions before it is too late to ask.

### 1. *Of what are you (most) proud in your life?*

It gets the ball rolling. Many fathers will say “my family” or something like it. You may be surprised to hear it. It may be true despite everything that went on, despite what some people think went on, or contrary to how you have evaluated people, places, things, and motives.

Additionally, this question may strengthen the most important quality of a person: honestly listening and believing as well as expressing his thoughts and experiences.

If at other times you get a different answer to the question, it is not inconsistency, but more likely a matter of becoming aware of forgotten facts. It may be that father has thought of a better word or image to express himself. Some people offer a mosaic of considerations, while people who have had but one choice consider themselves consistent.

### 2. *Why did you choose your career? What did you want to do at age 18? At a later age?*

A father's career has phenomenal influence on his son's life: “Like father, like son.” And that is good so. Did your father make a practical choice, such as to provide a stable income to his wife and family? Did he pursue a passion he wanted to master or go to a particular level? Did he follow his family's calling to enter the business? If a young person is at a cross roads in his job or career, father's advice can be more convincing than any job counselor's.

### 3. *Who influenced you most in your life?*

This question is not just about personalities, but about practical matters, principles and characteristics we may want to imitate or develop after listening to Dad's experience.

### 4. *What do you admire most about your father?*

### 5. *What lesson(s) do you give me about life?*

This may be too wide a question. Use segments of life which interest you or your father, such as advice concerning marriage, money, raising kids, playing the piano, movies you like, going fishing, being on time, etc.

### 6. *What are your regrets, Dad?*

It can be a loaded question. Ask for regrets of what he did and what he did not do. This question is about remembrance, making choices and reflecting. Forget the family gossip and moralizing. Dad's answer(s) may surprise. It could give you a good idea about what to do with your life.

Listen with your father to the song “Yesterday When I Was Young.”

### 7. *What did your father think about you, Dad? Now, how do you describe ME?*

### 8. *What did you learn from your mistake(s)?*

### 9. *Where were you when the World Trade Center in NYC went down? In what “negative” or catastrophic events have you been, what have you seen?*

Do not discount such questions: shared tragedy can form a bond between people.

### 10. *Do you enjoy being a father? What did you enjoy most?*

### 11. *What was a hard time for you as a father?*

### 12. *What don't I know about you, Dad?*

*There is no correct answer to such questions.* An adult's answer will change over time as he gains better insight into his self, his life and the curve balls fate threw him. Be as honest as possible with yourself and change your professed views accordingly.

Generally speaking, the person who is important for one's early upbringing is one's mother or other care giver.



Little children need their mothers. Many adults still long for a hug, loving word, cookie from Mom. Fathers are no substitute for mother's appreciation, but they do offer a different path in reality. Women tend to generate tensions and disputes between people that can drag on for a long time, particularly in divorces. Discord is rarely resolved and provides convenient fuel for continued attacks. Mothers will tell you they are innocent and, in any case, "it don't mean a thing", as the song goes, except that it does so substantially and into eternity. Many bureaucratic, energetic or cruel men have been devoted to their mothers and learned from them.

Teenage boys and girls naturally turn their attention to their fathers or other leading male, e.g. a teacher. Boys want to learn and do. One explained: "Dad lets us do stuff and watches and doesn't crowd me." Girls learn from their fathers how to become an adult, but the secrets and fine points are with mom.

For adult males, life has just one (1) background issue: GET TO KNOW YOUR FATHER. Keep him daily in your mind's eye. Can you call him? Then do so. If he is not alive, take the time to look at his photos and to think of him, e.g. when traffic does not move, when you wait for sleep to come and at other empty times. Your memories can heal you.

May the above questions and general remarks help you to make the most of your relationship with your children and of your life while you still can be with, and available to, them.

## Freemasonry IS NOT For Everyone

by *Midnight Freemasons Contributor*

**Todd E. Creason, 33°**



From Washington Monument, Washington, DC photo by Gregg Knott

Believe it or not, I don't carry petitions in my pocket. I don't walk around handing out petitions the same way banks walk around college campuses handing out credit card applications to students. I'm a quality over quantity guy. I'm looking for specific characteristics. I'm looking for men of good character. I'm looking for men with a

desire and a capacity to learn. I'm looking for men who are trustworthy and personable. When I find that guy, that's when I might be inclined to bring up the subject of Freemasonry. I was told recently that makes me an elitist. I disagree. It makes me selective.

Freemasonry has always been selective. Sometimes we forget that. We get all wrapped up in bringing in numbers, we forget there is a larger purpose. We're supposed to make good men better. *Good men*. The Fraternity has always looked for men of good report and well recommended. We're not looking for warm bodies, we're looking for men who want to grow--men who possess certain desirable traits. We want a man that will not only benefit from Freemasonry, but will be a benefit to Freemasonry.

I have an old friend who is angry with me. I've known him for decades--since we were kids. He was angry that a couple of our mutual friends have joined the Fraternity at my suggestion, but that I've never invited him to join. I decided to spare him my full reasoning and focus on the one thing that makes that impossible--he's an atheist. He just laughed and said that was no problem at all--he said he had no problem saying he believed in the existence of God.

And that's exactly why I could never recommend him.

So don't look for warm bodies to fill your rosters--that benefits nobody. What you should be looking for are men who would make good Masons. When you start looking for those men, you might just be surprised at how many you'll find.

**Todd E. Creason, 33°** is the Founder of the Midnight Freemasons blog and continues to be a regular contributor. He is also the author of the [From Labor to Refreshment](#) blog, where he posts on a regular schedule on topics relating to Freemasonry. He is the author of several books and novels, including the [Famous American Freemasons](#) series. He is a Past Master of Ogden Lodge No. 754 (IL), and is also a member of Homer Lodge No. 199. He is a member the Scottish Rite Valley of Danville, the York Rite Bodies of Champaign/Urbana (IL), the Ansar Shrine (IL), Eastern Illinois Council No. 356 Allied Masonic Degrees, Charter President of the Illini High Twelve in Champaign-Urbana (IL), and a Fellow of the Missouri Lodge of Research. He was awarded the 2014 Illinois Secretary of the Year Award by the Illinois Masonic Secretaries Association. You can contact him at: [webmaster@toddcreason.org](mailto:webmaster@toddcreason.org)

*See you in Lodge  
This month  
At  
Scottish Rite Center  
Shoreline*

*1207 N 152nd St*