

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

Trestleboard



Serving Seattle since 1860

October 2023

Jim Russell, editor

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FROM THE EAST

[Eric Koteles](#), *Master*



Eric Koteles
Master

Brethren,
As we welcome the arrival of the fall season, we observe the days growing shorter, the skies turning wet, and the trees shedding their leaves. In this natural transformation, we bear witness to the profound miracle of nature, which continues to adapt and change not merely for the sake of change, but out of necessity. It runs contrary to nature's essence to resist change and adaptability.

This entire process has been profoundly enlightening for me, for I have come to understand that change can be a challenging concept for some. I have come to realize that change for the mere sake of change is both irresponsible and counterproductive. However, as Freemasons, we comprehend that everything adheres to a natural cycle, and change is an essential aspect of evolution. The alterations we have made and will continue to introduce within our Lodge are imperative for our growth and development, preventing us from becoming stagnant, outdated, or irrelevant.

Indeed, it is true that we must preserve and safeguard our cherished traditions. Nevertheless, we must also remain vigilant, recognizing that if we are not careful, detrimental habits (akin to the Cowan) may creep in unnoticed. These habits often persist without anyone recalling their origin, hidden beneath the excuse, "We've always done it this way."

As we persist in our evolution, I would be deluding myself if I believed that the changes we implement today will remain untouched in 15 or 20 years. Of course, that would be a regrettable outcome, suggesting that we have grown complacent and indolent. It is our duty to consistently evaluate our processes, discarding inefficiencies and preserving and renewing what works effectively, ensuring the engagement of every member. Each Brother's perspective is invaluable.

Without active involvement in our Lodge, progress, evolution, and growth would be unattainable. We would stagnate, lose relevance, and become obsolete. As I have stressed before and will continue to emphasize, each one of us bears the responsibility for our progress, and we do not undertake this journey alone.

As Robin Sharma stated: "Change is hard at first, messy in the middle and gorgeous in the future."

Fraternally,

WB K. Eric Koteles.

CALENDAR



- 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*
- October 28 (10am): Memorial Service for VW Don G. Lyman
- November 1 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom – Kilwinning Lodge
- November 15: St. John's 9 Stated meeting and Installation of Officers
- November 18 (6pm): Master Mason degree team rehearsal [Saturday]
- November 23: Thanksgiving Day
- December 1 (6pm): Master Mason Rehearsal [Friday]
- December 8 (6pm): Master Mason Degree
- December 20 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated
- December 27: Feast Day of St. John the Evangelist
- January 1: *Happy New Year!*

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

Grand Lodge Masonic Tribune – Fall edition – can be found [HERE](#)

ST. JOHN'S FETES PAST MASTERS, ELECTS OFFICERS THIS MONTH



Past Masters of St. John's are encouraged to be present at this, our October stated communication. While many continue to reside outside of the Seattle area, 29 are well within our fifty-mile attendance area.

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

WBro. Eric Koteles, hoping to continue his efforts for positive change in our

Lodge, has agreed to make himself available to serve in the East. WBro. John Louderback continues to offer his support in the West.

It's believed that WBro. David Flood will be available to return to the South. Trustee VWBro. Chuck Brockway is again open to serve a three-year term as a Trustee.

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

St. John's brothers extend a sincere "thank you" for the leadership shown by our Master of this year, WBro. Koteles. He has shown skills much-needed by any Lodge. The fulfillment of the duties of a Master requires much personal inconvenience, and some sacrifice of time. The interests of a Lodge, alike with its immediate welfare and ultimate prosperity, depend upon the skill and understanding of the Master; while the general peace and harmony of its members take their tone from his conciliating courtesy, or suffer from his want of so vital an attribute.

Copies of the proposed 2024 budget will be distributed for brief discussion at this communication before final action in November.



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, October 13. 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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EUREKA LODGE MARKS 150 YEARS

St. John's is not the only Lodge in Seattle to celebrate receiving its charter on September 4. Freemasonry in Seattle began with St. John's Lodge No. 9, chartered in 1860. Eureka No. 20 was chartered on September 4, 1873. Eureka met in several locations before the Main Masonic Temple was completed in 1916 at Harvard and East Pine streets in Seattle, which became the home for Eureka for the next 53 years. Eureka then moved to the Green Lake Masonic Temple in 1969. Last year (2022) the Lodge moved to the Scottish Rite Center in Shoreline.



One side of Eureka's commemorative coin

At our September communication, VWBro. Tom Eastman presented the Eureka Challenge Coin to Worshipful Master Koteles in appreciation of St. John's role in sponsoring the birth of Eureka Lodge No. 20 and hoped that it would be properly displayed in our beautiful display case,

Scholarship Committee Completes Work for 2023

The Master expresses his appreciation for the work performed by those on the scholarship committee this year. He said the scholarships over the last few years have been awarded to those not only attending colleges and universities but also to those participating in the trades. Over \$35,000 was granted to twelve applicants of all ages.



WBro. Koteles, VWBro. Ashley Brinkly, and WBro. John Louderback served on this year's committee.

FROM THE WEST

[WBro. John Murray Louderback](#)



“These are the times that try men’s souls,” from the war in Ukraine to destabilizing conflict throughout the world perpetrated by authoritarian dictators. The United States is not immune from those that would destroy our country’s democracy by establishing an authoritarian form of government. We must protect and defend the Constitution - lest we find Masonry outlawed. World history can confirm this as happening before. The principles of Freemasonry are not compatible with and would be a threat to a dictator. The Constitution of the United States is for all Americans to live by, not just for one emperor’s benefit. A person who disparages and makes fun of others is not a leader but a bully.

We are witnessing an assault on lady liberty like never before. There are those that say your justice system is not blind but politically motivated and corrupt. The law pertains to everyone including the rich and famous. If you break the law, you should be held accountable. There is a deliberate attempt to have us question the credibility of our judiciary, to get us to question the very core principles of our democracy. There are those that would destroy our democracy and establish an authoritarian dictatorship for their personal wealth, power, and benefit. The principles of Freemasonry are the principles that we Americans live by. We must continue to support those that would protect our Constitution and perhaps the very existence of our Fraternity. Vote so you can maintain the freedom to do so.

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**

*** October Stated: “Rite of Investiture” – Russ Johnson**

Be prepared to participate in discussion

*** November 1 Zoom: Kilwinning Lodge – Tom Lamb**

FROM THE SOUTH

WBro. David Flood taking a “time-out,” this month

St. John's Past Masters Honor Night



Dinner 6:15pm
Wednesday, October 18

Reservations Requested

206 623-0261

Master Mason Degree Rescheduled for December 8

A previously announced Master Mason Degree has been rescheduled for Friday, December 8, due to a Greenwood Temple calendar conflict. Rehearsal dates for the degree have also been changed. Each starting at 6pm, they are

Saturday, November 18

Friday, December 1

Every active member of St. John's is expected to take a role in performance of this degree. Those who have not yet volunteered for a part in the degree should contact WBro. Russ Johnson, Master of Ceremonies.

Currently, there are still eight available roles, ranging from significant to minor parts.

Bro. Louis Turner has dedicated a substantial effort to his Masonic studies, and it's only fitting that we put forth the same level of commitment to make his degree ceremony truly special.

CANDIDATES FOR JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN ANNOUNCED

Four brothers have announced their availability for election to the Grand South next June. They are William A. Clark (Lincoln Park 80), William R. Hubbard, Sr. (member of Lodges 3, 5, 107, 311), Jerald (Jerry) Parton (member of Lodges 141, 232, 248), Jeremy B. Yielding (member of Lodges 1, 2, 3, 190). All have served as Deputies of Grand Masters.

2024 Annual Membership Fees Due

Notices for annual dues will be mailed to all dues-owing members of St. John's this month. Don't forget that we will no longer be issuing physical dues cards unless you request one specifically. The electronic dues cards will not work unless you have paid your dues for the current year.



You can access your own dues card on Grand View to print or use electronically on your phone. A quick scan by the Tyler of your printed QR Code will show whether or not you are current for the year.

2024 dues structure for membership in St. John's:

1. Past Masters, Life Members, 50-year members = \$0
2. Age 65+ = \$75 + \$28 = \$103*
3. Residence 50+ miles from Lodge = \$75 + \$28 = \$103*

4. Other Raised Master Masons = \$200+\$28=\$228*

5. Future Plural Members (local residence) *prorated quarterly at joining:*

- a. Jan. – March 2024 = \$228
- b. Apr. – June = \$171
- c. July – Sept. = \$114
- d. Oct. – Dec. = \$57

**These fees increase by \$5 each month for overdue payment beginning January, 2022.*

Members may pay their dues by cash, check, Certificates of Masonic Labor, or a combination of these. Certificates of Labor (now valued at \$30 each) are issued at each stated or special communication (degree or officer installation).

Payment by PayPal is available, though not encouraged. St. John's does not have a PayPal account. If you can pay no other way, you can do so through our Treasurer's personal account (his email is jrmaher@comcast.net).

For PayPal:

From your computer, here's how to send money:

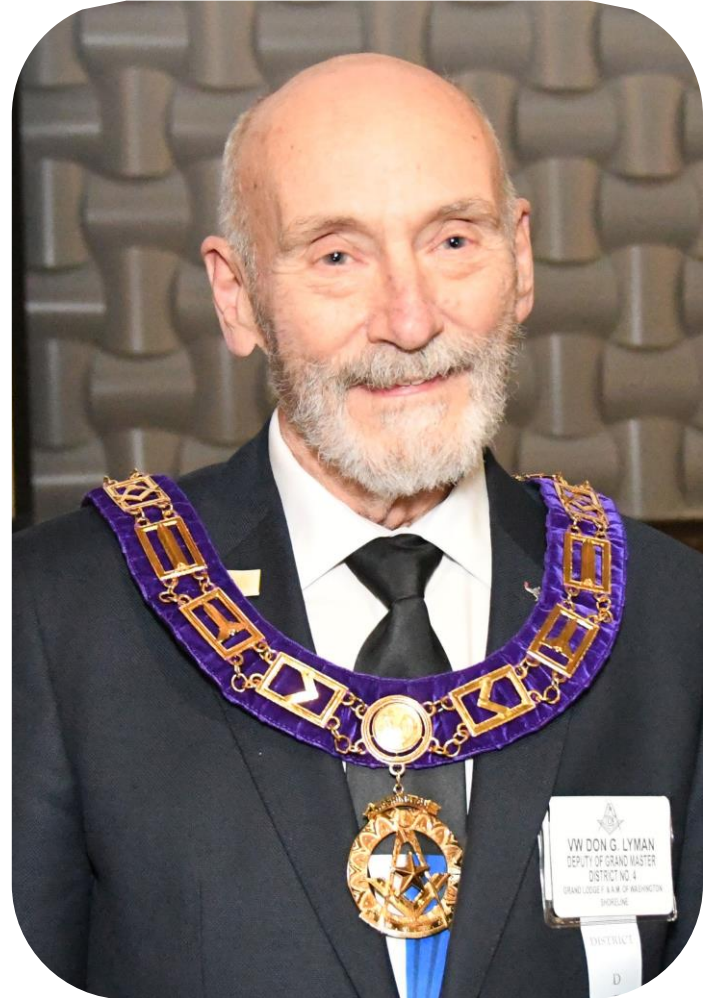
1. Click [Send & Request](#) at the top of the page.
2. Enter Jim Maher's email address and click **Next**.
3. Enter the amount, choose the currency, add a note (if needed) and click **Continue**.
4. Select either "Paying for an item or service" or "Sending to a friend."
5. Select how you want to pay and click **Next**.
6. Review the information and click **Send Payment Now**.

OCTOBER: Back to Greenwood

St. John's brothers will get together as a "fraternity of Brothers" when we meet for our monthly stated communication, Wednesday, October 18. We'll be returning to our regular meeting place, Greenwood Masonic Center. 7910 Greenwood Ave. N., Seattle, WA.

In Memoriam

Once again a Brother Mason, having completed the designs laid down upon Life's Trestle board has answered the last summons of the Grand Warden of Heaven and entered that Celestial Lodge above over which the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides. Though our beloved and respected Brother has passed through the portals of eternity, his memory remains to inspire us to live respected and die regretted.



Don Gilbert Lyman
December 26, 1940 – September 27, 2023

Our Brother Don G. Lyman has laid down his working tools. VWBro. Don was a PDGM for District 4 and a member of St. John's as well as several other local Lodges. He was Raised a Master Mason in Maritime Lodge 239 October 28, 1971, where he served as Master in 1978, and affiliated with our Lodge October 19, 2019. He was our current Chaplain.

VWBro. Lyman was a member of Walter F. Meier Lodge of Research, Rainier, Greenwood, Doric, Occidental, Grand Mound (Historical), Yancey C. Blalock, and St. John's.

A memorial service for our departed Brother is tentatively scheduled on Saturday, October 28th at 10am in the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

The following St. John's bylaw addresses our current dues structure as adopted at our June 2023 stated communication.

ARTICLE III - Fees and Dues

Section 3. The annual dues for each member shall be Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00 USD) except (6/21/23)

- a) that all members who shall have paid dues to the Fraternity, as verified by the records of the Grand Lodge of Washington, for a period of fifty (50) years shall be relieved from the payment of dues and assessments for life. (6/18/14)
- b) That all Past Masters of the Lodge (except Affiliated Past Masters) shall be relieved from the payment of dues and assessments for life.
- c) That all future assessment increases levied by Grand Lodge will automatically raise our dues by an equivalent amount. (9/29/90)
- d) That those who have attained the age of 65 by January 1 shall pay dues of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75) per year plus any and all assessments levied by Grand Lodge as stated in paragraph (c) of this Section. (6/18/14)
- e) That those who reside over fifty miles from the site of our regular stated communication shall pay dues of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75) per year plus any and all assessments levied by Grand Lodge as stated in paragraph (c) of this Section. (6/18/14)
- f) Members may pay for annual dues using St. John's Certificates of Masonic Labor. Each St John's Certificate of Masonic Labor will have a value that is set annually by the Lodge when applied to the annual dues for payment. Members may use multiple St. John's Certificates of Masonic Labor to pay for annual dues up to the total amount of the annual dues. St. John's Certificates of Masonic Labor must be used in the year that they are valid and may not be carried over for any following year's annual dues payments. (10/16/19)

Section 4. The annual dues of members of the Lodge shall be payable in advance of the first day of January of each year for the calendar year.

- a) Any member who has not paid his dues by the first day of January shall be assessed an additional \$5 for each month beyond that date. (6/18/14)
- b) Any member who has not paid his dues for the current year before December 31 thereof shall cease to be a member of this Lodge and his name must be dropped from the roll, unless on or before that date the Lodge remits his dues or grants him an extension for a definite period in which to pay his dues.

MASTER MASONS RAISED IN OCTOBER

Date Raised:

- 10/25/1948 Donald J. Zuck
- 10/8/1952 Morris R. Capeluto
- 10/31/1964 Gary G. Jentoft
- 10/31/1970 Louis A. Van Der Wel
- 10/24/1985 Dennis J. Archambault
- 10/3/1986 Roger A. Barnstead
- 10/12/1988 Allan B. Pinch
- 10/31/1992 Brian P. West
- 10/30/1993 Paul G. Winter
- 10/12/1996 Storrs L. "Skip" Albertson
- 10/12/1996 James A. Wold
- 10/23/2004 Matthew D. Vasey
- 10/29/2015 Blair J. Neumann



OCTOBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Day

- 2 Paul A. Cox
- 2 Sylvain Niles
- 8 David C. Flood
- 8 John R. Adamson
- 10 Jarrold "Jerry" Schuh
- 12 Alvin W. Jorgensen
- 13 J. Joseph DuWors
- 14 Robert E. Reed
- 17 Paul N. Bernal
- 17 Jeffrey L. Pullen
- 18 Robert F. Sluder
- 20 Russell A. Johnson
- 24 Richard T. Heston
- 25 John J. Jorgensen



Let's LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER



We take great care to “perform” our ritual flawlessly, delivering each word as it is meant to be delivered and received. As Masons become proficient into the “What” aspect of Ritual, are we addressing the ever-present silent screaming question of “Why?” We recite lectures verbatim with no prompting, word for word, from pure memory. Every Mason knows (and will tell you without prompting!) that George Washington was a Mason, some in great detail. What very, very, very few can articulate: Is Why?

Ritual Without Reverence Is Meaningless

by Midnight Freemason Guest Contributor

Mark St. Cyr

Since my invitation from Bro. Johnson earlier this year to contribute a short series of essays here at the Midnight Freemasons, discussing a succinct topic and application possibilities via my past business acumen, I had wondered if I should write anything further. After all, I continually pondered, “Just who am I, from a Masonic perspective, to speak to the Craft about the Craft?”

Although the Craft is full of Masons that know the finest details of how to deliver Ritual and more. Personally, like I’m guessing many others, when I return to Lodge my rustiness will be as much on full display as that seen on cars within a junkyard. *Ed. Note: To put this into meaningful context this was initially written when we were coming back to Lodge following the COVID-19 isolation.*

I know, you know, precisely what I’m addressing.

Many will be fearful if, or more like when, those in the “whispering section” shake their heads in disbelief, if not outright disgust, that anyone would allow themselves to let the “basics” appear so sloppily applied, if not, forgotten entirely.

And it is here I’m going to make a statement that might skip that, more than likely will send a few into the gnashing of teeth. However, that’s precisely what I’m paid to do when I speak to an audience of businesspeople whose combined sales figures rival most countries GDP. So, this really isn’t something new for me.

This point is not a slyly slid, self-serving detail. There’s a reason for it as I’ll explain. In what I know is a broad brush, I’m going to make a factual statement via my own observance: Everyone tries and does the “What” part of Ritual i.e., do this first, that second, stand here, walk here, recite this, and so forth. We have “Degree teams” to show the excellence of delivery, we award for “Best In Show” type categories. The list goes on and on.

There’s a good reason for it, and I’m not denigrating any part of it. So, do not misconstrue my argument. What I am speaking directly to, and is of my own opinion, no one else’s, is that all of it, yes, all of it is meaningless without reverence to:

The WHY we do it. The reason why the fraternity is struggling is because it has lost the meaning of: “Why.”

It is now, to the extent of all else, laser-focused on getting more and more Masons proficient into the “What” aspect of Ritual, rather, than addressing the ever-present silent screaming question of “Why?” Masons recite lectures verbatim with no prompting, word for word, from pure memory. A feat that is worthy of praise and accolades. Personally, I was floored during my own EA degree when it was delivered to me. However, with that said, I have had that “silent screaming question” reverberating in my head before joining the Craft. It actually was the driving force that made me “Knock...”

I thought I would hear, read, be lectured, _____ (fill in your own here) with precisely that as I went to meeting after meeting, visited other Lodges, attended symposiums put on by governing bodies, et cetera.

Hint: The silence on this topic (e.g., The Why) has been deafening.

Let me try this to provoke your thinking in asking you a very pointed question that I would like you to answer in the privacy of your own mind, regardless of your rank, jurisdiction or affiliation of a concordant body, which is...

Who would you be more comfortable to put your faith in as a Brother, that you can count on when the time demands?:

One that could recite the longest and most complex lecture verbatim, without prompting, and without a mistake, yet cares

little for Masonic traditions except for his involvement in seeking a higher rank or accolade for the sole purpose of title and awards?

Or...

One that can’t remember more than two sentences without needing prompting, shakes with frustration in his inability to be able to perform half as well as he tries to prepare, yet has complete and utter reverence into why he’s doing what he’s doing and has such respect for it, he is madder at himself for messing up than a pew full of Past Masters full of scorn for his ineptness?

I’ll take the latter every time, thank you. And so should you.

And for those that think I’m off base on all this? I’ll ask you to consider the following...

Every Mason knows (and will tell you without prompting!) that George Washington was a Mason, some in great detail.

What very, very, very few can articulate: Is Why? Think about it.

~Mark St. Cyr – Freemason

