

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

## Trestleboard

February 2024

*Jim Russell*, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

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## FROM THE EAST

[Eric Koteles](#), Master



WBro. Eric Koteles  
Master

*"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!  
It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard; that went down to the skirts of his garments;  
As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life forevermore.*

Dear Brethren,

I write this message filled with immense pride and boundless optimism. Our recent Third Degree ceremony was not just a ritual; it was a profound demonstration of our collective dedication, adaptability, and the strength of our fraternity.

Together, we embarked on a journey to embrace a new way of delivering the degree, a challenge that could only be met with the unity and commitment you all showed. Each brother played a pivotal role, and through this shared experience, we have not only upheld but elevated the traditions that are the foundation of our order.

This ceremony was a testament to our Lodge's ability to grow and adapt while maintaining the core values that bind us. The excellence we achieved is a beacon of what we are capable of when we come together, support one another, and strive towards a common goal.

Looking to the future, let this moment be a cornerstone upon which we build. Let it remind us that our potential is limitless, our bonds unbreakable, and our future bright. We stand on the threshold of a new era for our Lodge, an era marked by growth, harmony, and the pursuit of wisdom.

May we carry forward the spirit of this achievement, not just in our rituals, but in all our endeavors. Let us continue to support each other, to learn, and to grow, always remembering that our strength lies in our brotherhood.

As we move forward, let us do so with hope in our hearts and an unwavering commitment to our principles and to each other. The path ahead is ours to shape, and together, we will forge a future filled with light, knowledge, and fraternal love.

Fraternally,  
WM Eric Koteles

## CALENDAR



- February 8 (7:30pm): Queen Anne Lodge 242
- February 10 (10am): Wardens Competition Occidental Temple
- February 11: Super Bowl LVIII
- February 14 (6pm): Board of Trustees teleconference
- February 15 (6pm): Officers meeting teleconference
- February 16 – 21: Conference of Grand Masters of North America
- February 21 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated Robert Cooper: Knights Templar, Rosslyn Chapel & Freemasonry
- February 22 (7:30pm): Walter F. Meier Lodge 281
- February 24 (10am): Quarterly Meeting Masonic Service Bureau
- March 14 (6pm): Officers Meeting teleconference
- March 15 - 17: Lodge Leadership Retreat (Wenatchee)
- March 20 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated
- March 31: Easter Sunday
- April 11 (6pm): Officers meeting teleconference
- April 17 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated

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

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

# KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, ROSSLYN CHAPEL & FREEMASONRY

## Robert Cooper Brings Further Enlightenment in February

The Knights Templar is so interwoven with Freemasonry that it's nearly impossible to separate fact from fiction – reality from wishful thinking – legend from assumption. Suffice it to say that, despite the earnest proclamations of many throughout the ages, there is no provable connection between today's Freemasonry and the Knights Templar organization of the Middle Ages.

As the Knights Templar were the only group (even to this day) to have excavated the Temple of Solomon, it is probable that they could be a link between the Order and the genesis of Freemasonry.

The need for secrecy, to avoid being burned as a heretic, would have been a strong motivation for going underground.

If one reads Sanford Holst's book "Sworn in Secret," and to a lesser extent "Born in Blood" by John Robinson, it's apparent that this is indeed the case, and that the argument that has raged since Chevalier Ramsey's emotive Templar claim in 1739 was now effectively settled.

Was the fall of the Templars the birth of Freemasonry?

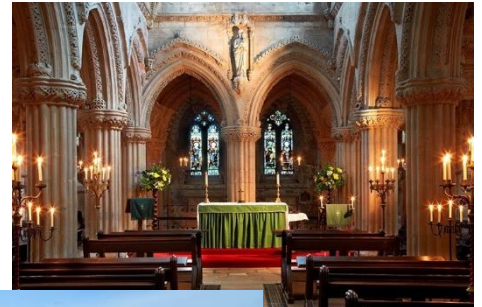
Both the Regius Manuscript and the Cooke Manuscript show that Freemasonry was alive and well as far back as 1390. Records from

the Peasants Revolt in 1381 show that a "Great Society" was clearly in existence then, and this was verified by numerous independent sources. Realistically, that "Great Society" could only have been the Freemasons.

Brothers of St. John's and our guests will be thoroughly entertained with the research WBro. Robert Cooper brings from Scotland this month as he addresses "Knights Templar, Rosslyn Chapel & Freemasonry." He is the author of numerous articles on all aspects of Freemasonry and lectures widely on Freemasonry, the Knights Templar, Rosslyn Chapel, the St. Clair family etc.

**Please make your dinner reservations with the secretary at 206 623-0261 by Friday, February 16,** prior to the meeting. If you

need a ride, the secretary will be happy to find one for you. 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.



Interior and exterior views of Edinburg's Rosslyn Chapel

## Let Freemasonry be our Guide

Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth should guide our actions not only in the Lodge but also in our lives AND even our digital presence.

The internet is undoubtedly a great tool for learning and connecting. However, it's also a place where our Masonic principles are put to the test.

When we're online, it's all too easy to overlook there's a real person on the other side of the screen. This is where Brotherly Love comes into play.

**Let's lead by example, showing the same respect and courtesy online as we would in person. Every comment and message should reflect this fundamental Masonic value.**



Each kind word or supportive message we share is an embodiment of Relief.

And in a time where misinformation is rampant, our adherence to Truth is more important than ever. We must share information responsibly and honestly, ensuring our online actions mirror the integrity we value in our Lodges.

Our digital conduct should be a beacon of the high standards we uphold as Freemasons.

Every post, comment, or interaction we make not only reflects our character but also casts a light on the values and principles of the Craft. What we say and do sets the tone for what Freemasonry represents to those who may not be familiar with its tenets and traditions.

Stay connected, stay respectful, and let common decency guide your digital journey.

~ Masonic Find

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## FROM THE WEST

[WBro. John Murray Louderback](#)



As we know from the animal kingdom, if a specie of animal doesn't adapt to environmental changes the animal will die and the specie disappears. The same can be found in business. If a business doesn't respond and adapt to change, the business will not survive. The same holds true for Masonry and our Lodge. If a Lodge, including St. John's thinks that the same old ways of doing things is all that needs to be done - then that Lodge will disappear also. It is sad to see Lodges that continue to believe that all that is necessary is the same old same without noticing declining membership and not realizing that they must adapt to change or at some point turn in their Charter, savings, turn off the lights and close the door.

It doesn't make a whole lot of sense having thousands or millions of unused funds that would make a difference, only to see that Lodge close and those funds be given to Grand Lodge because of the lack of funding for development and innovation.

Members need to know that the Lodge either uses the funds for development and innovation or in time lose it for lack of members.

Thankfully, St. John's officers understand that changes need to be made. That the same old same with declining membership is just not sustainable. Thankfully changes are being made and the revival is coming. The Brethren are the Lodge and it will take every member to be fully engaged if our beloved Lodge is to adapt, evolve and survive. We must do this; we will do this!

The Lodge must not fail on our watch! Stronger Together In Harmony!

### *The Third Degree*

Prior to the early eighteenth century, two degrees were worked, the Entered Apprentice Degree and the Fellowcraft Degree. We can only speculate as to the sequence of events in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, that led up to the establishment of the three degree system in our Order.

According to the Graham Manuscript the Third Degree Legend was known in some form in the 17th Century. The phrase "Sublime Degree of a Master Mason" was used on a Grand Lodge Certificate of Ireland in 1754. There is also record that it was used in 1767 by the Lodge of Friendship No. 6. But it does not seem to have been in general use until the end of the seventeenth century. The earliest known reference to the degree in Lodge Minutes in London occurred in 1727. So, taking a broad view of the confusing material available, and the reasonable assumptions made due to the lack of historical evidence, it would be, again, reasonable to assume that the Third-Degree System grew up by a gradual process between 1717 and 1730.

## FROM THE SOUTH

[WBro. David Flood](#)



### FINLAND

The brothers of St John's have an invitation from VWB Pekka Granroth to visit Finland in September 2024. Details of the proposed visit are in St John's Trestleboard for December 2023. You can find a copy of the Trestleboard at our website <https://seattlemasons.org/blog/>

Whether you would just like to know a little more about the homeland of our distinguished Finnish friend and brother; or if you are thinking about joining our adventure to Finland here are a few suggestions to gain a bit of background.

Listen to **Finlandia** - it takes about 8 minutes. It was composed by Brother Jean Sibelius.

#### **Finlandia symphonic version**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mxxRyqBx\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mxxRyqBx_Y)

#### **Finlandia with patriotic chorus**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fE0RbPsC9u>

**Overview of Finland's people, history & geography** - a lighthearted but thorough treatment from Geography Now (3 million+ subscribers)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DxxZOsfslUM>

#### **Finland's complex political history**

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finland>

#### **Want to know a few useful words in Finnish?**

<https://www.naturetravels.co.uk/blog/basic-finnish-phrases/>

**The most essential phrase in Finnish** 'Anteeski, missä on vessa?' – 'Excuse me, where is the toilet?' or just "Missä on vessa?" 'Missä on' can be used to ask where anything is, so it's a nice all-round phrase to have.

### **Diva Espresso Coffee: NOT Our Parking Zone!**

What makes good neighbors?

Characteristics of a good neighbor include being respectful, considerate, and helpful, as well as maintaining good communication and being mindful of noise levels.

Good neighbors are also considerate of each other's property and privacy.

Over the years, St. John's members (and our visitors) occasionally have forgotten how to be good neighbors. Diva Espresso is a private business just around the corner from our Lodge. It tries to offer its customers a few parking spaces – very necessary to stay in

business. Their parking is not designed to provide free and easy parking to our Brothers when we attend Lodge.

Please be respectful and help us to be good neighbors!





*George Washington Masonic Memorial at Night (photo via Daniel Horowitz)*

### **George Washington Masonic Memorial photo honored in Wikipedia photo competition**

A nighttime photo of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Old Town took fifth place in the Wiki Loves Monuments 2023 photo contest.

The annual contest, held by Wikipedia, highlights photographs of historic sites from the National Register of Historic Places.

Photographer Daniel Horowitz, who specializes in nighttime and long-exposure photography, took sixth place in the competition last year with a photo of a British fortress on Lake Champlain. Horowitz's photo of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial won fifth place in the 2023 competition.

### **2024 Annual Member Fees Past Due**

Notices for 2024 annual dues were sent to all dues-owing members of St. John's in October and December. Annual dues in St. John's are \$200, or \$75 for those who have attained the age of 75 or older or who reside beyond fifty miles from our (Greenwood) Lodge Center. To these fees is added the annual Grand Lodge assessment (currently \$28).

***In St. John's, dues increase by \$5 each month for overdue payment beginning January 2024.***

New Masonic Code regulations require all voting in Lodge be restricted to Master Masons who are current in their dues.

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. 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 [jрмаher@comcast.net](mailto:jрмаher@comcast.net)).

## **MASTER MASONS RAISED IN FEBRUARY**

### ***Date Raised:***

- 2/24/1979 Douglas L. Knight
- 2/22/1983 Paul A. Cox
- 2/25/1989 John J. Jorgensen
- 2/13/1990 George H. Wohlleben
- 2/9/1994 David C. Flood
- 2/21/2006 John Oliver Nance
- 2/28/2006 Scott Marlyn Yerger
- 2/23/2012 Paul K. Doak



## **The Ballot Box and Logic**

At our January communication, Worshipful Master Eric Koteles led discussion on the role of balloting and the logic necessary to determine one's decision-making when casting a vote on a petitioner for membership. He emphasized the importance of every member to attempt to get to know the man who may petition our Lodge. Brothers exercised the invitation to express their opinion on getting to know candidates before accepting a petition.

After a petition is accepted, the Master appoints an investigating committee whose members should be made known to our members so that if any have a question or concern about a candidate, he may express that concern through the Master or to a member of the committee. As Masons, we should trust the truthfulness and diligence of our brothers on the committee regarding its report prior to the ballot.

With this attempt to make every effort to know as much as we can about a man who petitions to be a Brother, every ballot cast should be well-informed, just, and logically sound.



## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS**

### **Date**

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



*Why do we work? We work to provide for ourselves and those who rely upon us. Many of us work to gain a sense of success, validation, and fulfillment. But take pause and be cautious. Our purpose for living is not to work – work is to allow us to live - pity the many people who retire with no family and friends around them because they abandoned them for work. A job should be a means to an end - not an end in itself.*

# LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER

*If we're unwilling to share our Love, our ability to receive love will be impacted. After all, if your cup is full of your own Love, how can anybody else offer a drop to our bucket? Furthermore, it seems all too often these days we're looking for mineral or metallic ways to satisfy that Love. It could be money, drugs, video games, etc. Those passions which we may find so difficult to subdue. Additionally, perhaps we can Love ourselves so much, filled with the illusion of superiority, along with the materialistic desires, that the cup has been filled and unwilling to receive the Love of others.*



## The True Contents of the Hourglass

by Midnight Freemason Contributor  
**Robert E. Jackson, PM**

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



no more. The new visitor exclaimed to the sage, "dude, stop pouring the tea, the cup is full, and the tea is running everywhere."

The sage, calmly and coolly, looked at his new student and simply said, "Come back to me when your cup is empty."

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



For Freemasons, the Hourglass is a symbol of time. Certainly, the hourglass was and remains to be a timekeeper. Carefully crafted with two bulbous ends (or vessels) filled with the exact amount of sand necessary for the calculated duration. When vertically positioned, the sands from the top vessel slowly drop. When the last grain has fallen, so have we.

However, if we balance that hourglass equally on both sides, perhaps peace can be found. Removing ourselves from time, we just might be able to escape the



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

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

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

Returning to the childhood lesson with a drop in the bucket, I personally see these as acts of Love and Kindness. When you share your Love with others, when you share your Kindness,



you're taking the Love within your own cup and sharing it with others. If you're unwilling to share that Love, your ability to receive love will be impacted. After all, if your cup is full of your own Love, how can anybody else offer a drop in that bucket? Furthermore, it seems all too often



these days we are looking for mineral or metallic ways to satisfy that Love. It could be money, drugs, video games, etc. Those passions which we may find so difficult to subdue. Additionally, perhaps we can Love ourselves so much, filled

with the illusion of superiority, along with the materialistic desires, that the cup has been filled and unwilling to receive the Love of others.

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



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

## The secret meaning behind the World Tree Hugging Championships

By Laura HallFeatures correspondent

In Finland's Halipuu Forest, a family has developed a novel way to save their fragile forest: by inviting guests in to hug the trees.

Next summer, the fifth-annual World Tree Hugging Championships will take place in Finnish Lapland. Located around 170km north of



the Arctic Circle in the private Halipuu Forest, the event challenges participants to compete in three events: first, to hug as many trees as they can in a minute, with each hug lasting at least five seconds. Second, for a maximum of a minute, to offer their most dedicated hug, showing presence, intention, love and respect to one individual tree. And finally, in the freestyle round, the contestants must give their most creative hug to a tree, however they interpret it, lasting a minute. The judges decide the winner.

Quirky though it undoubtedly is, the story and purpose behind the event has a serious meaning: it was designed to help connect people with nature, and to save a family's forest from being chopped down.

## Lowering Standards in Freemasonry

Clothes do not make the man, that's true.

Yet, the Lodge is one of the last bastions where formal dress is the expected standard.

... WHY? (& why should it remain as such?)

From the beginning of Speculative Freemasonry, we have observed the formality of *dress*.

Some may consider it "old fashioned" but dressing up does give the gathering a sense of occasion.

It's also, in my opinion, an outward gesture of respect for the Craft in general and our Brethren in the Lodge.

Uniformity in dress symbolizes teamwork – unified purpose and concerted action – an indication that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

In sports, the military, the police, and the performing arts, the individual wears a uniform to signify that he is part of a larger group with a common purpose.

Will a relaxation in the formal dress requirements of Freemasonry attract new members to our Lodges? Or will it perhaps encourage present members to attend more regularly?

I doubt it very much.

**The lowering of standards in Freemasonry, whether moral or social, will ultimately destroy us by eliminating the reason for our existence.**

Actions always speak louder than words.

What do you think?

~ MasonicFind.

## So, you're a Master Mason. Now what?

So, you've just been raised a Master Mason. Now what?

Having been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, you have reached a level where you're able to vote, hold office, visit other Lodges if found worthy, and benefit from all of the rights and privileges associated with being a Master Mason. You also find yourself faced with many interesting opportunities and challenges. On one hand, you can enjoy the satisfaction of having experienced a unique set of degrees the purpose of which is to provide you with the essential elements of a philosophy of living day to day life. You have bound yourself to an ancient brotherhood based on shared moral values and the aspiration of living an admirable life. The brothers of this Lodge have invested many hours in teaching you basic principles, lectures, and other important material to support this end.

On the other hand, it may seem that the Lodge has just turned their back on you to focus on the next candidate coming through the process you have just finished. You are left with unanswered questions, confusing experiences, and a desire for more with no clear direction. It is as if a young bird has reached a point in its life and is tossed from the nest stand for themselves and the world.

We hear of other opportunities in organized Freemasonry such as the York Rite bodies, the Scottish Rite, and social organizations. We may find people encouraging our involvement and even offering us petitions for membership within minutes of "getting up off the floor."

So which way do you go? What should you do? To whom should you turn for advice and direction? The answers to these questions lie within the lectures and charges you have already heard. Unfortunately, so much information has been presented to you in such a short time that it is difficult to make sense out of even the most basic parts let alone be able to remember and understand specific phrases and their subtle meanings.

It quickly becomes clear that you have discovered the tip of a very large iceberg. We all know the essence of Freemasonry is contained within the lectures and experiences of the first 3° and should remember the lessons of the Fellowcraft degree of monitoring us to approach each challenge as a student of the Liberal Arts and Sciences always endeavoring to study, learn, and grow as a Mason.

It would be wise for you to attend Lodge regularly to again witness the work being presented. You should ask questions of those around you and consult with knowledgeable brothers about the questions you have regarding any aspect of Freemasonry.

The brothers around you have limitations. However, it is the wise brother who will answer a difficult question with "I'm not sure, but we can find out together." It would also be wise for you to begin to expand your

reading list to see what other great minds have said about Freemasonry and be prepared to discuss your readings with those around you to help determine what elements of truth are contained within those writings as well as which writings have been written from a misguided or misinformed view of Freemasonry.

It would be wise for the Lodge to continue to reach out to new Master Masons and invite them to stay involved with Lodge not just in the meetings and not just in the role of "servant," but to support them becoming a lifelong student of Freemasonry.

In operative masonry, the entered apprentice is trained in basic skills eventually moving to the level of journeyman or 'fellow of the craft' to be a productive worker in the shop of the master where he performs tasks assigned to him by the master. During that time, the admirable journeymen will take time on his own to begin to explore his own designs, experiment with various techniques, and improve himself. He will soon come to the point that he is able to produce a work of his own that reflects not only the technical skills that he has been taught and developed through experience but also the ability to innovate, to plan, and to create them his own resources. This piece, if found worthy, is deemed his "masterpiece" and this 'fellow of the craft' becomes a true master of the craft and is given the privilege of training new apprentices. This process requires initiative on the part of the craftsman to explore, pursue, and learn without being directed.

As the newest Master Mason to join our ranks, it becomes your responsibility to demonstrate the initiative to seek more light in Masonry, ask questions, pursue existing knowledge, and begin to think your own thoughts and develop your own understanding of what Freemasonry is and can be in your life. This is, indeed, a lifelong process as you continue to work at improving your personal "Masterpiece" which will be presented to the Great Architect of the Universe when we are called from this Lodge to the Grand Lodge above.

## Invitation to visit Finland September 2024

Our Honorary Past Master VWBro. Pekka Granroth of Finland writes: "Being a member of St. John's 9 Lodge and having such great memories of your hospitality, and as a Master of Savo14 Lodge year 2024, I invite you to visit my Lodge and at the same time participate in the 100-year festivities of the Finnish Grand Lodge."

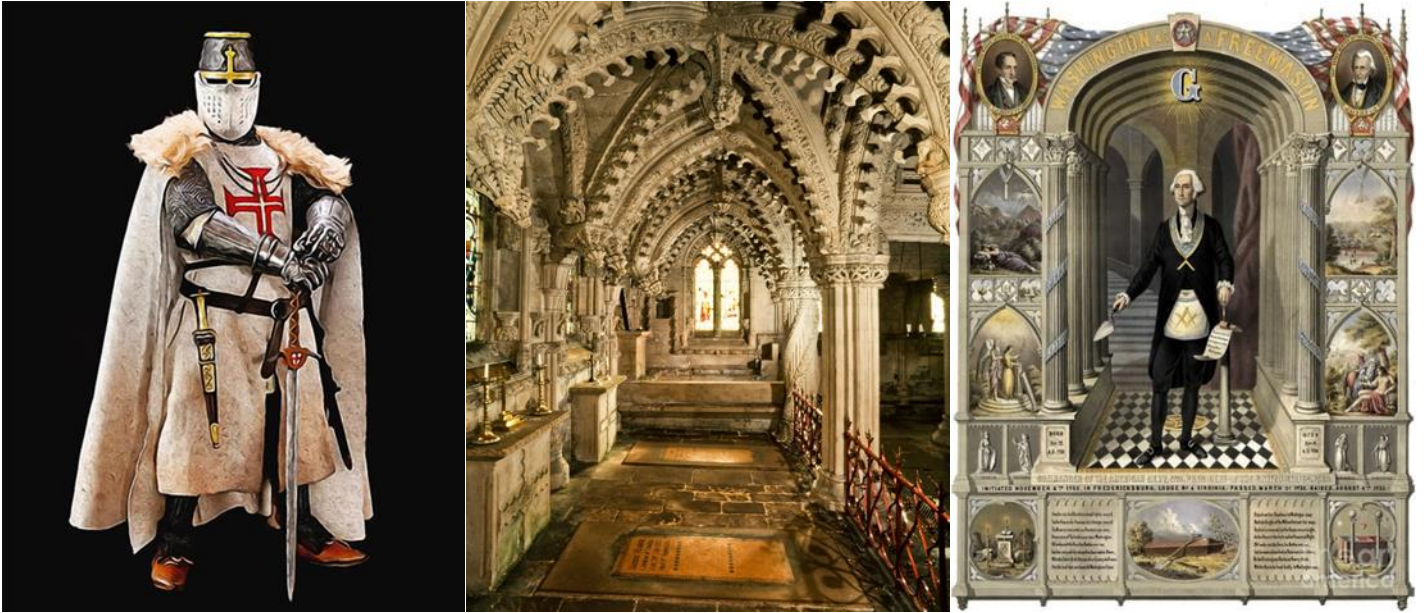


**WB Pekka Granroth,**  
**honorary Past Master of**  
**St. John's Lodge No. 9**

St. John's Brothers are asked to approach WBro. Eric Koteles to make known their interest.

The itinerary (described in last month's Trestleboard, covers a full week of visits and participation in the 100-year festivities of the Finnish Grand Lodge.

# St. John's Lodge No. 9



## KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, ROSSLYN CHAPEL & FREEMASONRY

PRESENTATION BY ROBERT L. D. COOPER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 6:15 PM DINNER, 7:30 PM MEETING

*There are many speculative references to the presence of Knights Templar in Scotland after their dissolution in 1312. including their participation in the Battle of Bannockburn, their connection with the St. Clair's of Rosslyn and their Chapel which is reported to be decorated with Templar and Masonic Symbols and finally the Templars' connect with Freemasonry. The presentation will present a detailed review of these important ancient topics and present a fact-based approach to their authenticity.*



**Robert Cooper** was initiated in The Lodge of Light, No. 1656 and is a Founder Member and Past Master of Lodge Edinburgh Castle, No. 1764 over which he presided in 1998. He served a two-year term as Master of Lodge Sir Robert Moray No. 1641 the premier Scottish Lodge of Research in 2008. He is the author of numerous articles on all aspects of Freemasonry and lectures widely on Freemasonry, the Knights Templar, Rosslyn Chapel, the St. Clair family, etc.

He is a frequent visitor to the USA having given presentations in Arizona, California, Massachusetts, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Washington D.C. Brother Cooper has appeared in several television programmes including, for example, the documentary: 'The Real da Vinci Code.' He has been a frequent guest on Radio not only in the UK but also in Australia, New Zealand, and the USA. He recently presented a podcast for the Scottish Rite of Canada at which there were 700 viewers.

In 2008 he was made an Honorary Member of Walter F. Meier Lodge of Research #281, in Seattle, and joined as a plural member in 2020.