As Worshipful Master, I have continued the tradition of handwriting (as best as I can manage with my monster-fingers) Masonic birthday cards for our Brethren. For those of you who have already received such a card, you can attest to this process, the rest of you will just have to wait for your month to roll around! The process has been very rewarding, helping me understand the depth of our membership and the full scope of our geographic “footprint” on the nation. The most gratifying is when I receive communication back, particularly from Brethren I have never had the opportunity to meet personally.

Each exchange has been different. One exchange was entirely by text message, while others have been through mutually missed “phone-tag” voicemail, and the occasional “olde’ tyme” phone call! With the impact that our individual response to the pandemic has had, these interactions have really helped me see beyond the edge of my trestle board and into the membership of our lodge. Each conversation has included a strong invitation to attend our virtual meetings; an opportunity our geographically distant Brethren should have (and have to great success) been taking advantage of while we are authorized to do so.

In spite of the ease with which a virtual meeting can be held, or perhaps because of the omnipresent nature of virtual meetings during our isolation, I am not seeing as many of you as I would hope. So this month’s message is a personal challenge to you all who have read this far: If you have not attended our virtual communications, please reach out to me and make every effort to attend our next Virtual Stated Communication (Friday, September 4th). If you have been attending (and you have my thanks) please reach out to a fellow Brother and make every effort to open a dialogue and invite them to attend.

The length of our individual cable-tow dictates our involvement in the Lodge, and I will always defend that right for each individual. But with our current virtual meeting process it has never been less of a time commitment then it will be right now. So I ask that you reevaluate your own cable-tow and heed to and abide by this call to action. Impress me with your attendance, and I will do everything in my power to reward you with an entertaining and informative meeting!

To this end, I am pleased to inform you all that during this communication, we will be having a presentation by Worshipful Brother Jacob M. Bressman, Past Master of La France Lodge No. 93 and a representative of the Grand Lodge’s Committee on Education & Service. W.B. Bressman is active in both the York Rite and Scottish Rite, along with various invitational and honorary Masonic side orders. He focuses his Masonic research efforts on the esoteric philosophies, history, rituals, and mysticism of Freemasonry. He will be presenting his paper, originally published under the Grand Lodge of DC’s Pythagoras Lodge of Research I-REAP Awards Program, titled "To Unite in One Union with Oneness: The Path to God as Taught by King Solomon," which promises a deep examination of the Kabbalah and its relationship to the building of King Solomon’s Temple. If you have ever wondered how the Holy Temple is connected to the Universe and the Human Body, or what its role is within the Legends behind Masonic Mysticism, then definitely join us for this exciting presentation!

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Jason Lee
Worshipful Master
Greetings, Brethren,

Baseball is back! As it should be; after all, we’re in the dog days of summer. Although we can’t gather at Nationals Park (much less Yankee Stadium or Wrigley Field or Dodger Stadium or wherever our summer travels might have taken us), it’s still a welcome sight to see the game going on, if only by way of television or the MLB app. It takes but only passing knowledge of the game of baseball to see the similarities between the game and Freemasonry. The shape of the infield is consistent from stadium to stadium for not only major league teams but high school, college and so on. The bases are 90 feet apart; the pitching rubber is 60 feet, six inches from home plate. Yet, the outfield, from stadium to stadium breaks free from the rigor imposed on the infield. Boston has the Green Monster. In the Bronx, they have the “short-porch” in right field. Here, in DC, you’ll notice the outfield wall is irregular in shape – homage to both RFK Stadium and Griffith Stadium. The late afternoon shadows at Dodger Stadium are unique to L.A. Beyond the field of play, things can get downright wacky; just check out Milwaukee’s Bernie Brewer or recall the giant apple rising out of the old Shea Stadium.

We know that, in every Lodge, we’ll find certain things to be where they’re meant to be. And we’ll invariably discover a curiosity that, while it may not fit or make sense in our Lodge, makes perfect sense for the brethren of another Lodge. The same could be said for our ritual work. (I’ll spare you an analogy to “the shift” in baseball; but baseball fans, you know what I’m talking about!) I especially appreciate our visiting brethren from out of the country or out of the area who comment on the subtle differences in the flow of our Lodge, the movement of brothers about the Lodge, the words we use – and, sure, the various ways that we can get downright wacky after business is done.

I, for one, experience Freemasonry as an overlay for much of the other things I enjoy in life – baseball being one of them. If baseball doesn’t do it for you, I hope that you do enjoy the overlay of Freemasonry in your own life; even in places you might not expect it.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Tommy Ripke
Senior Warden
Brethren,

As the year goes by, we witness the changing of the seasons. While winter fades away, the snow begins to melt, the days get longer, and the weather begins to get warmer. The flowers begin to bloom and things come back to life as we enter and progress through the spring. The days continue to lengthen and the weather gets hotter as we move through the summer months. As the calendar turns to September, and we see those hot summer months begin to pass, we experience autumn by watching the leaves change colors and eventually fall to the ground. The temperatures begin to drop again as the nights get longer until it is back where we started the year, in the cold and darkness of winter.

Thinking about this reminds me how much I enjoy the experiences that the different seasons offer, and what I enjoy about them. I love summers for the long days and the warm weather, being able to go outside, and watch baseball games. I love the winters for the cold weather and snow outside along with spending holidays with friends and family. I love the spring for the rebirth of everything, including the flowers that begin to bloom and the refreshing air. And as someone who works in the realm of education, the fall was always one of my favorites because it brought the beginning of the school year and of course, college football.

Like much of 2020, this fall is going to be very different than every other year. I have spent the past 20-30 years looking forward to Saturdays in the fall, watching my alma mater on the gridiron. Even living on the east coast and sometimes staying up until 2-3 in the morning just to see my team lose by double-digits, it was something I always looked forward to. Going into the every season, every game, every quarter, as long as there was time on the clock, there was time to come back. Sports made me an optimist, building my hope for what could be. With the announcement that the PAC-12, Big 10, and other conferences would be suspending their fall sports seasons, I was disappointed. But, I have hope that it means those students will be able to stay healthy and safe during the pandemic. I also hope that those schools and conferences that decide to proceed will not have any setbacks this fall, so that it raises hope that things can return to normal.

Despite the lack of college football this fall, I will be able to take pride in the fact that my first born son will be starting school. As any parent can attest, it can be scary sending your children off to school, and, in the current environment, it could be an even more difficult time to begin kindergarten. However, I am still hopeful that even though he knows “everything,” it is just the beginning of a lifetime of learning and that he will learn that he will always have something else to learn. I am excited for him to start this adventure in his life and to see where it takes him.

I hope that as we pass through the seasons of our lives, you don’t give up hope and always try to find the positives and possibilities that exist in the world. Let’s all hope that the next season will give us another thing to be hopeful about.

Sincerely and Fraternally

D. Scott Heath
Junior Warden
Brethren,

Eleanor Roosevelt once wrote, “The purpose of life is to live it... to reach out eagerly and without fear.” Though sometimes attributed to her husband, and our Masonic Brother, Franklin Delano, these words ring true even more so today. Make the most of the here and now, whatever the challenges before you. It is easy to lose sight of that and with it the grandeur of the world around us, the handiwork of the Grand Architect of the Universe, and the preciousness of life, His Creation, when we get caught up in the stresses of the present situation. This crisis will end, and we will come out of it stronger, but along the way don’t lose sight of how beautiful the little and big things of everyday life are. Seize and appreciate those precious moments. We must work to continue to live a full life.

The irony for me these days is that with all the isolation and social distancing that characterize this new normal, my family and I are actually more connected with our neighbors than at any previous time since we moved into our neighborhood. We now go on multiple, daily walks as a family, something we haven’t done in a long time. During those walks, we get a chance to chat (safely) with neighbors out and about themselves, on walks, gardening, you name it. Even a simple wave and a “hello” from across the way has connected us with some we’ve never met before. Just about all my free time is spent with my wife and sons, playing, watching movies, talking—and as a family we’ve bonded that much more closely. I hope my children look back fondly at this time, for all the stresses of our new everyday. There is a silver lining to this long-hanging cloud.

So, Brothers, don’t lose heart through all this, and keep pushing through. Keep living and seize the day. Wherever you’re walking, metaphorically or not, be sure to stop and smell the roses.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
David de Hosson
Chaplin
Greetings Brethren,

Please recall that member dues are due on the 1st of October each year without notice. Below is the dues structure for the ensuing Masonic year. Remember, that dues vary depending on the Grand Lodge assessment. Last year, the Grand Lodge voted to fix the dues at a $25.00 level, reversing the 2014 decision to have the assessment based on a moving average of previous budgets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE RAISED</th>
<th>2021 DUES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RAISED IN OR AFTER 2010</td>
<td>$149.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAISED BEFORE 2010</td>
<td>$64.50</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please log on to Grandview (https://dc.gvsoftware.com) and make sure your contact info is correct. Specifically, your home address and email address.

There you will also see your current dues balance. This will reflect your dues for the ensuing year. Some of you are going into this year with a positive balance and some with a negative balance. To that end, your dues owed will be reflected in Grandview. I will be reaching out to you if you owe more than the amount listed above.

Due to COVID-19, there are only two ways to pay your dues: by mail or online.

If you are sending dues by check, you can mail your check or money order to the following address:

St. John’s Lodge No. 11
1504 Spring Pl, NW
Washington, DC, 20010

You can now pay at the St. John’s Lodge webpage, http://store.stjohnslodgedc.org. Please add the appropriate item to your cart. Don’t forget you can also donate in blocks for meals there.

Please take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly,

Fraternally,

Anand A. Trivedi P.M.

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**PETITIONS FOR DEGREES**

The petition for the degrees of the below named is eligible for ballot at the June Stated Communication:

Mr. James Andrew Morrissey
Age: 22
Residing: 620 Michigan Ave NE, Washington, DC 20064
Occupation: Student

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**STATED COMMUNICATIONS**

7:30 P.M.

*First Friday*

(Except July)

**TAKOMA MASONIC CENTER**

115 Carroll Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20012
(202) 829-7790

**Lodge Social Media**

www.stjohnslodgedc.org
facebook.com/stjohns11dc
twitter.com/stjohnslodgedc

**Grand Lodge Web Site**

www.dcgrandlodge.org

**Grand View Self-Serve Portal**

https://dc.gvsoftware.com/users/sign_in
2020 Lodge Officers

September 2020

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2020 Lodge Officers

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P A G E  6

2020 Lodge Officers

S I C K  A N D  S H U T - I N S

Please give if you can. Remember to give the Lodge’s donation number, 004760, when you give blood and call Bro. Ryan Denmark, St. John’s Lodge No. 11 Blood Committee Chairman, at (571) 212-1481, after your donation and let him know where and when you gave blood. If you need an appointment, call him and he can set it up for you. Give the Gift of Life.

S I C K  A N D  S H U T - I N S

Please keep all our brethren in prayer for good health, good spirits and the continued manifold blessings of the Great Architect of the Universe.

"Be not slow to visit the sick: for that shall make thee to be beloved." 

Brothers Please Remember, if any member knows of another Brother who is Sick or Confined, please inform the Worshipful Worshipful Master Jason Lee at 703-389-4571, Senior Warden Tommy Ripke at 202-468-2883, or Junior Warden Scott Heath at 253-732-1334.

TRUSTEES

James Parkhurst, PM (2021)

Brian Burgess (2020)

Sam Chin (2020)

HONORARY MEMBERS

Teko Foly, P.G.M.,

Joseph S. Crociata, P.G.M.

Akram R. Elias, P.G.M.

Christopher K. Mahaney, P.M.,

Grand Lecturer

David Han, P.M.

L I V I N G  P A S T  M A S T E R S

Worshipful Master

Jason Lee

7413 Farnum St. Springfield VA 22151

lee.jason.charles@gmail.com 703.389.4571

Senior Warden

Tommy Ripke

1504 N Potomac St. Arlington, VA 22205

tommyripke@yahoo.com 202.468-2883

Junior Warden

D. Scott Heath

3304 Applegate Ct., Annandale, VA 22003

Heath.dscott@gmail.com 253.732.1334

Secretary

Anand A. Trivedi, P.M.

1504 Spring Place, NW, Washington D.C. 20010

anand@stjohnslodgedc.org 202.253.0528

Treasurer

Carl F. Gruel, Jr. P.M.

4616 Morningwood Dr., Olney, MD 20832

grelu215@yahoo.com 301.570.0108

Senior Deacon

Ryan T. Duddy

7711 Sentry Ter. Severn, MD 21144

rduddy@gmail.com 614.307.7047

Junior Deacon

Stephen Motroni

17801 Claggett Landing Rd., Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

smotroni@gmail.com 916.847.2707

Senior Steward

Kevan Schanberger

8484 16th St, Apt 203, Silver Spring, MD 20910

vanganschan@gmail.com 301.775.7282

Junior Steward

Thomas Lindo

11304 Crescendo Pl, Silver Spring, MD 20901

aoraz113@gmail.com 202.445.1621

Marshall

Wesley Yurgaites

6100 A Essex House Square., Alexandria, VA 22310

yurgaiteswm@gmail.com 202-706-1355

Chaplain

David de Hosson

7875 Trammel Court, Annandale, VA 22003

David.dehosson@gmail.com 703.732.1163

Tiler

Sam Chin, P.M.

7008 Rhythm Rock Way, Columbia, MD 21044

Sam.w.chin@gmail.com 240.604.6364

Asst Secretary

John C. Regner, P.M.

49 Lovall Avenue, Jamestown, NY 14701

john.regner@gmail.com 301.642.0179

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Grand Lecturer

David Han, P.M.

L I V I N G  P A S T  M A S T E R S

Franchot E. White 1978 Justin T. Russell 2012

John C. Regner 1985** Harry Trapp, Jr. 2013


Charles W. Riley 1988 Teko Foly, PGM (Hon.) 2002 - 2003*, 2014*


David Han, RWB (Hon.) 2005*, 2010* Sam Chin 2018


* indicates Master at another lodge

** indicates made Honorary PM of St. John’s No. 11

Sean Parkhurst 2019
St. John’s Lodge No. 11 | 2020 Trestleboard

Friday, September 4th, 2020

Virtual Stated Communication
Meeting at 7:45pm, Gavel drops at 8:00pm

**The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia has set forth that all in-person Masonic events are suspended until further notice**

St. John's Lodge No. 11 will conduct Virtual Stated Communications, in accordance with the guidance provided by Grand Lodge, on the first Friday of each month until further notice.

**MASONIC BIRTHDAYS SEPTEMBER**

Jonathan G. Boksan       6 years
Akanni O. Oyegbola       6 years
Kevan M. Schanberger     6 years
Anand A. Trivedi, P.M., Secretary   11 years

On behalf of the officers and Brethren of St. John's Lodge No. 11, I wish you the very best in your coming Masonic year, and thank you for your service to the craft. Until we can meet again in person, please accept my sincere virtual hand-shake and congratulations." Jason Lee, W.M.