

University Lodge 141 April 2025 Trestleboard



FROM THE EAST

Greetings from the East,

It's nearly April, amid thunderstorms and hail, heat and humidity, we look back on the past of our University Lodge and forward to a bright spring. At our upcoming Stated Dinner we will be having a Past Masters Appreciation Night. Several of our University Lodge Past Masters will be in attendance to share their insights from their year as well as to enjoy some BBQ to celebrate the spring. Please join us as we honor them for their hard work of demonstrating how to make good men better and for upholding our ancient traditions. In the spirit of this, I will be giving a presentation on Mentoring Ideas, Coaching, and Memory Work. Doors open at 6PM.

We're still holding our in-person charity event the weekend after lodge, volunteering at the University Food Bank, Saturday April 12th from 12 to 2 PM. It's a fulfilling amount of light labor and it helps our local community immensely. I know the food bank volunteers greatly appreciate our help, especially since they know we do good efficient work.

Our Fellowship Night will also be held on the third Monday, April 21st, from 7 to 9PM. Meeting up in a less formal setting and "letting our hair down" allows us to experience fellowship and show potential candidates how we meet on the level and share in some merriment. Snacks and Table Tennis defeats will be happily provided.

Additionally, at the end of April, we will be having a Lodge Cleaning Party, this is an all hands on deck situation where many hands can make light work. The Building Association and Lodge Leadership have been working together to form a plan and we will be executing said plan on Saturday, April 26th, starting at 12PM. Let's use our collective skills and give our Lodge Building a fresh new face. Sprucing up and performing some well needed maintenance on our building.

I recently attended the Lodge Leadership Retreat in Wenatchee. There, I was able to take several classes to help me understand my role of leadership better, and I got to share ideas and collaborate with brothers from all over Washington. It was an informative and exhilarating weekend. I'm hoping to implement some of my learnings over the remainder of my year. It's hard to believe my term as Worshipful Master is already halfway done. I'm hoping to accomplish more before the end. I'm showing up, and when you show up, I'll be glad you're there.

Fraternally,
WB Evan Lobenstein

Next Stated Meeting
April 7th

***Past Masters
Appreciation Night!***

**Doors open 6:00pm
Dinner served 6:30pm
Lodge opens 7:30pm**



Upcoming Dates:

April 12 – Food Bank
April 21 – Fellowship Night
May 5 – Stated Meeting
May 10 – Food Bank
May 19 – Fellowship Night





University District Food Bank

Brethren Raised in April

Joel Rindal	1957
Ralph Watson	1962
James A. Smyth	1963
John Parks	1964
William Petrie	1965
William Booth	1979
Daniel Fisher	1986
Stephen Stewart	1992
Remy Valenzuela	1996
Mark Creed	2001
Alex Credgington	2012
Renick Hamil	2012
Adam Alsobrook	2019



Last month, we continued our fruitful partnership with the University District Food Bank by going in and working a 2-hour shift. It was a great time for fellowship as we helped the Food Bank with assorted tasks to prepare them for the following week. There has long been talk about our collective desire to do more in the community and contribute some Masonic charity to people in need so we are very excited for this to evolve and have us be a resource that the food bank can tap for help.


The next opportunity is Saturday, April 12th, from 12:00-2:00pm.

This is open to spouses, partners, friends, and children ages 14-up. For any that are interested in signing up for this shift or one in the future, please contact me by email at crowscall@gmail.com

-Bro. Scott Bohart



Brethren of University Lodge,



University Lodge Building Association

The University Lodge Building Association is hosting a Lodge Cleaning Party on Saturday, April 26th between 12:00-6:00 PM. Please join us to pitch in on various cleaning projects around our building. Refreshments and cleaning supplies will be provided. Thank you for helping the University Lodge Building Association keep our building an inviting place for all Masons to visit.

Questions? Please call/text me at 206-582-9989 or email me at adam.alsobrook@gmail.com.

*Fraternally,
Bro. Adam S. Alsobrook, Trustee
University Lodge Building Association*



John Steinbeck and the Human Experience



American author John Steinbeck was a literary giant. The Nobel Prize winner's books — classics such as *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men* — have captivated readers around the world for nearly a century. At the heart of the writer's unique artistry was his ability to render, in intimate detail, the challenges of everyday life in the mid-20th century. Steinbeck's hopeful perspective on the human condition, in spite of the long odds faced by his characters, was elevated by a clear understanding of the grace and resilience possible in even the most difficult of situations.

The themes of perseverance and transcendence found in much of Steinbeck's work arose naturally from his upbringing and education. Raised in the Episcopal Church, he was steeped in the philosophy of Protestant ethics that centralizes the personal journey of humans from original sin through sacrifice to salvation. Many of his stories follow this very arc, and in so doing explore the deepest questions of human nature. Why do we behave the way we do, caught between our weaknesses and strengths? When we falter, how do we recover our grace? For Steinbeck, this was the very essence of being human: We are challenged by the world, and though we may fail, we all have the capacity to be exceptional.

Steinbeck was initiated into Freemasonry at Salinas Lodge No. 204 in Salinas, California on March 1, 1929, passing through the degrees of the blue lodge, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on May 24, 1929.

Here are some quotes from Steinbeck's books, speeches, and other writings that explore his ideas on life, literature, and hope.

“ Try to understand men. If you understand each other you will be kind to each other. Knowing a man well never leads to hate and almost always leads to love.

~ Journal entry, 1938

“ I am impelled, not to squeak like a grateful and apologetic mouse, but to roar like a lion out of pride in my profession.

~ Nobel Prize acceptance speech, 1962

“ For man, unlike anything organic or inorganic in the universe, grows beyond his work, walks up the stairs of his concepts, emerges ahead of his accomplishments.

~ "The Grapes of Wrath"

“ It seems to me that if you or I must choose between two courses of thought or action, we should remember our dying and try so to live that our death brings no pleasure on the world.

~ "East of Eden"

“ I hold that a writer who does not passionately believe in the perfectibility of man has no dedication nor any membership in literature.

~ Nobel Prize acceptance speech, 1962

“ All war is a symptom of man's failure as a thinking animal.

~ "Once There Was a War"

“ Because I got you to look after me, and you got me to look after you, and that's why.

~ "Of Mice and Men"

University Lodge No. 141, like the institution that is its namesake, holds up the ideals of lifetime learning, self-improvement and service, both for the benefit of its members and the community at large. Nothing less than excellence in ritual is acceptable and jovial fellowship will be its counterbalance.

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