



UNIVERSITY LODGE 141
TRESTLEBOARD
 FEBRUARY 2026

 **FROM THE EAST**

Gather ye round for another installment of musings from the East. This month our meeting will fall on February 2nd, or Groundhog Day. This peculiar and light-hearted day—when the presence or absence of the shadow of an anthropomorphized marmot in a sleepy Pennsylvania town augurs how much winter remains—was unexpectedly memorialized in the 1993 movie starring Bill Murray as the toxically narcissistic Phil Connors, a weatherman sent to cover once again what he considers a banal and idiotic celebration. Phil, of course, is condemned to repeat that day over and over until he can extract true meaning from what he learns of his own self-serving existence.

Among the many lessons one can take from this movie, one is recognizing the latent and malign insanity of repeating the same behaviors or falling prey to the passions that beget those behaviors while expecting different results. As our every day becomes more engineered to keep us prisoners on a hamster wheel of distorted impulses and aspirational vortices, it takes effort to simply remain acquainted with our own consciousness. This is why we call what we do “work.” I encourage you all to redouble your commitment to knowing your own consciousness, questioning your premises, engaging with one another and being unafraid to ask the uncomfortable questions, even if they might lead to even more uncomfortable answers.

On a lighter note, looking forward to February, we will be initiating two Entered Apprentices on the morning of February 21 with brunch to follow. We will also begin planning a Fellowcraft degree for our newest member. I have been heartened to see strong turnout at our last couple of meetings and hope this trend continues. Our February dinner will be pulled pork sandwiches and smoked chicken with traditional sides of macaroni and cheese, coleslaw and cornbread. I hope to see you there.

Fraternally,
 WM John Bryan



Next Stated Meeting
Monday, February 2nd
 Doors open at 6:00pm
 Dinner served at 6:30pm
 Lodge opens at 7:30pm



**University
 District
 Food Bank**

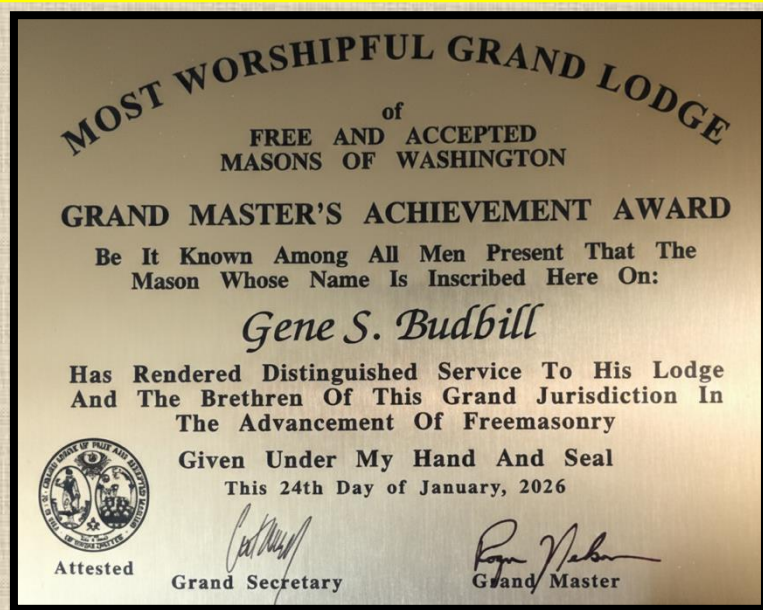
On January 10, brothers and friends got together at the University Food Bank and did our monthly service. We had a good time helping the Food Bank prepare to serve their clients in the next week.

Mark your calendar on February 14 at 12:00pm to join us for the next episode of Food Bank adventures.



In attendance were Scott Bohart, Ben Reynolds, Sean Lindsey, Evan Lobenstein, Glenn Campbell, John Bryan, Reese and Matt Livingston

WB Gene Budbill Receives Grand Master's Achievement Award



University Lodge's very own WB Gene Budbill was recently honored by receiving the Grand Master's Achievement Award! During the ceremony, these remarks were shared:

"This brother has demonstrated longstanding commitment to both the Masonic family and the broader community. Throughout his many years of involvement, he has contributed significantly to organizations such as DeMolay and Job's Daughters. He is the son of a Master Mason and was himself active in DeMolay during his youth, later serving as a DeMolay Ritual Advisor, Dad Advisor, and Regional DeMolay for DeMolay in Washington. Additionally, he has served on the Executive Council for Job's Daughters.

His community service includes positions such as Boy Scouts Scout Master, Disaster Committee Chairman for the Snohomish County Red Cross, Communications Lead, Disaster Training Lead, and Chief of Seafair Parade Marshalls. His Masonic leadership roles include multiple terms as Patron of Eastern Star and service as Past Worshipful Master. He has earned his PILM. His memory work is one of the best. He has served on the Youth Committee, and on the medical team.

This individual consistently acts out of a sense of duty rather than obligation. He does not seek recognition and often prefers to avoid the spotlight. He frequently works diligently behind the scenes to ensure that operations proceed smoothly and successfully."

WB Gene was Master of University Lodge 141 in 1984. Congrats Brother Gene!!!





EA Degree
Saturday, February 21st
10:00am
Meal to follow

Come support our new brothers as they begin their Masonic journey!

We are going to be having a first degree on Sat 2/21 at 10am. We will be initiating 2 candidates into our lodge. Your support is always appreciated, and I know the candidates would love to meet all of you!

We are going to have a late brunch following the degree: French Toast, sides and mimosas! Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

-WB Bryan Baldwin

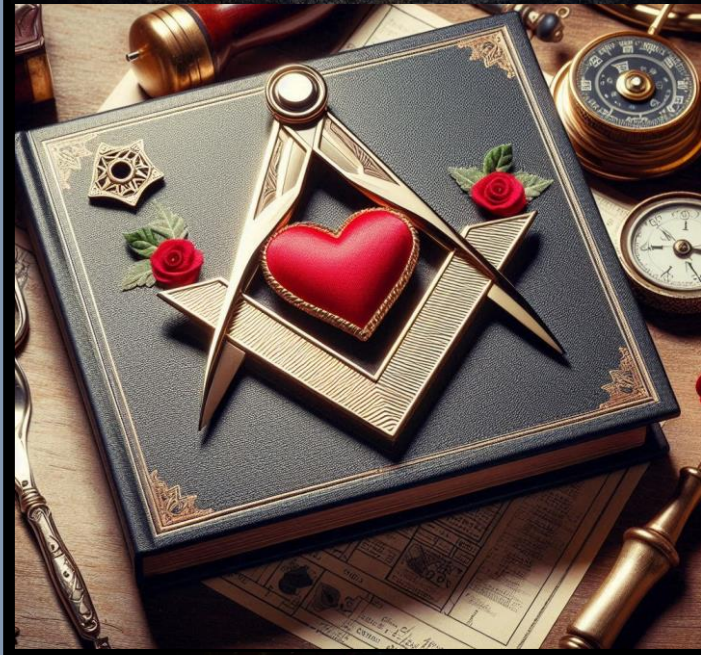
BRETHREN RAISED IN FEBRUARY

- William Lyons 1950
- William Harris 1958
- Verle Blease 1963
- George Alavi 1974
- Lawrence Michelson 1975
- William Cummins 1985
- David Anderson 1992
- Glenn Bailey 1995
- Dean Willard 2008
- K.C. Gates 2008
- Andrew Reynolds 2015
- Harry Mittelholz 2018
- Sergio Sadaba 2018
- Matthew Peck 2020
- Charles Gain 2020



The Building Association is always taking care of things to make our building a welcoming experience for all. We are looking at acquiring a pool table for the Lodge as part of the entertainment equipment improvement program we are currently working on. Stay tuned for more details!

Bro. Adam S. Alsobrook
 Senior Warden



BROTHER WHOSE INVENTIONS SAVED LIVES



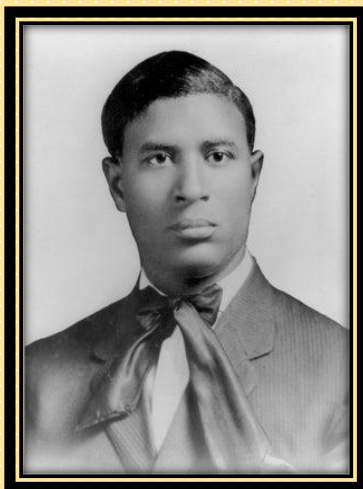
Garrett Augustus Morgan was an inventor, entrepreneur, and civic-minded innovator whose work continues to protect people in everyday life. Born in Kentucky to formerly enslaved parents, Morgan moved north as a young man and educated himself through hands-on experimentation, curiosity, and perseverance rather than formal engineering training.

Morgan is best known for two life-saving inventions. In 1914, he developed the **safety hood**, an early gas mask designed to protect firefighters and rescue workers from smoke and toxic fumes. Its effectiveness was proven in 1916 during a deadly tunnel explosion beneath Lake Erie in Cleveland, Ohio. Morgan and his brother used the device to help rescue trapped workers, saving multiple lives—though public recognition at the time was limited by the racial barriers of the era.

In 1923, Morgan introduced his **three-position traffic signal**, adding a cautionary interval between “stop” and “go.” This innovation significantly improved roadway safety and became the foundation of the modern traffic signal system still used throughout the world today.

Garrett Morgan was a **Prince Hall Freemason**, a member of a Masonic tradition founded to provide African American men access to the Craft during a time when mainstream lodges were largely closed to them. He was affiliated with a Prince Hall lodge in Cleveland, Ohio, often identified as **Mount Sinai Lodge No. 19**, and was active in Masonic and civic circles within his community. His involvement reflected Freemasonry’s emphasis on education, moral development, self-reliance, and service to humanity.

Morgan’s life exemplified the practical application of Masonic principles. His inventions were not created merely for profit, but to address real dangers and improve public safety. Through ingenuity, perseverance, and a commitment to the welfare of others, Garrett Augustus Morgan demonstrated how a Brother’s work can extend far beyond the lodge—quietly saving lives and shaping the modern world.



Garrett Augustus Morgan
1877–1963



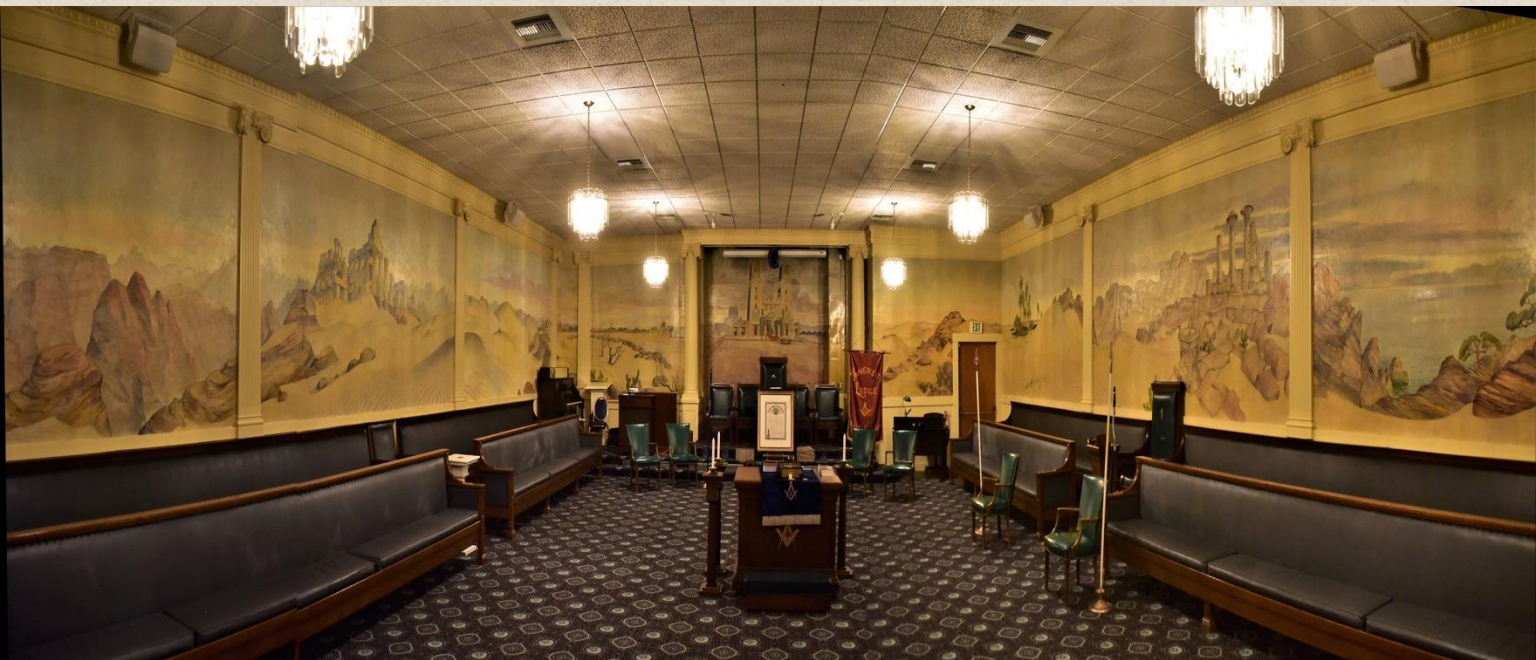
An example of Morgan's traffic signal.
Source: National Museum of American History

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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