University Lodge 141
Trestleboard
January 2026

FROM THE EAST

Greetings, and a Happy New Year from the East. I hope you all enjoyed a restful holiday season and are feeling rejuvenated as we enter 2026.

As the calendar turns, we resume our labors this coming Monday evening with our annual Lodge of Sorrow. The team has prepared a thoughtful ceremony to commemorate those brethren who have slipped their mortal ties to join the Celestial Lodge Above. While the holidays can be exhausting, I hope many of you will join us to pay your respects to those who are no longer with us.

To sustain us, WB Rhys Nunnelee and I will be serving a dinner of steak, smoked chicken, mashed potatoes, and roasted vegetables. Afterward—as a lighthearted counterpoint to the evening's solemnity—I will share a story titled, "Get to Know Your Worshipful Master." It is a coming-of-age tale involving the earliest days of the internet, unsupervised adolescence, and several tons of commercial-grade fireworks. (I am still working on the Masonic connection!)

Looking ahead, I am focused on filling our 2026 calendar with fresh opportunities for fellowship to keep our momentum going after a busy December. If you have ideas on how we can continue to breathe life into our Lodge, please reach out.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Fraternally,
WM John Bryan

University Lodge 141 Stated Meeting

Monday, January 5th

Doors open at 6:00pm

Dinner served at 6:30pm
** steak, smoked chicken, mashed potatoes, and roasted vegetables*

Lodge starts at 7:30pm

Congratulations to Brother Travis Keeler on receiving his 60-year Masonic service pin!

Lodge of Sorrow

Each January, we hold our Annual Lodge of Sorrow, where we acknowledge the names of all the brethren that we lost during the previous year. In the spirit of this ritual and tradition, here are the names of the brethren we lost in 2025. *B=Born, R=Raised, D=Died*

Daniel Rabinowitz Fisher	B: 11/25/1959	R: 04/07/1986	D: 05/05/2025
Raymond Goodwin	B: 06/15/1924	R: 12/07/1962	D: 11/03/2025
Julian Thorne Hilts	B: 11/26/1928	R: 11/10/1953	D: 02/25/2025
Harold Andrews Kusulos	B: 07/01/1924	R: 08/20/1957	D: 11/26/2024
Raymond Frank Murrell	B: 07/23/1938	R: 03/10/1977	D: 03/18/2025
William Arnold Niklos	B: 03/14/1931	R: 06/02/1967	D: 04/25/2025
Peter Alexander Sellen	B: 11/09/1938	R: 05/20/1960	D: 04/24/2025

Last month, University Lodge 141 held its 12th Annual Toys for Tots drive. We donated over 95 toys and over $500 to Toys for Tots! We dropped the toys off at the local Seattle Fire Station. Great job brethren, we are making a difference in the community!!!

CHAPTER 23 – FUNERAL SERVICES

Sec. 23.01 B.L. General Provisions.

A. A Masonic burial service may be requested by a Brother in his lifetime or by a near relative after his death. It is a privilege, not an absolute right. It is for the Lodge or the Master to determine,
B. The service may be extended to Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Masons who have not taken their proficiency on the Third Degree; as well as to non-affiliated Masons in good standing and to members of the Lodge at the discretion of the Worshipful Master,
C. The Brethren shall be properly clothed, and none but Masons in good standing shall assume our funeral habiliments,
D. A Lodge shall not attend a funeral in Masonic clothing unless properly requested. If it is desired and so requested by near relatives, the Lodge may attend a funeral service in a Body and clothed as Masons, without having any part in the service whatsoever,
E. The Master shall officiate in a Masonic funeral ceremony or, in his absence, a Warden or a competent Brother called by him to preside, during all of which the Lodge shall remain open on the Third Degree or as a Lodge of Sorrow; and
F. The Master may, for the purpose of holding a Masonic funeral service, open his Lodge in the Lodge room of another Constituent Lodge in this Jurisdiction, or in any convenient, safe place.

Sec. 23.02 B.L. Lodge of Sorrow.

The Master, on vote of a Lodge, may open a Lodge of Sorrow, which will remain open only during his term of office, for the purpose of conducting Masonic funeral rites.

•Freemasonry once had traveling "lodges on wheels."
Military lodges followed regiments during the 18th and 19th centuries, allowing soldiers to be initiated even while on campaign.

Lodges helped create the modern concept of merit-based advancement.
Advancement by demonstrated knowledge and character—rather than birth or wealth—was unusual in the 1700s.

•Some early lodges met in taverns, not buildings.
Many famous lodges began above pubs or inns, which explains why early lodge records sometimes list menu items alongside minutes.

•Masonic aprons predate modern uniforms.
The apron is one of the oldest continuously worn ceremonial garments in Western society.

•Freemasonry influenced how meetings are run today.
Parliamentary procedure, motions, voting, and officer roles used by clubs and civic groups echo lodge structure.

Freemasonry helped spread public education.
In several countries, Masons were instrumental in founding public schools and libraries during the Enlightenment.

Freemasonry inspired early self-help philosophy.
The idea of improving oneself through reflection, discipline, and moral instruction predates modern self-help movements by centuries.

•Early Masonic dues were sometimes paid in food.
Records show bread, wine, candles, or firewood accepted in place of money.

Freemasons were among the first to keep formal membership records.
Lodge rolls are now invaluable to historians and genealogists.

•Freemasonry is older than the United States—but younger than coffeehouses.
Early modern lodges developed alongside the rise of coffeehouse culture and Enlightenment discussion.

University District Food Bank

Brethren,
With the new year, we will once again start labor at the Food Bank on the second Saturday of each month. The Food Bank loves having us every time we show up, and I know that we are making a difference there.

Also, I have found in the last year that interested candidates like the idea of doing work with the Lodge. It's not glamorous, but it is some kind of service and gives them a sense of what we stand for. I'm really happy that we are still doing physical charity. It is one of the reasons why I joined Masonry.

Our next scheduled shift at the Food Bank is January 10 from 12 to 2-ish PM at 5017 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105. Please mark your calendars and let me know if you'd like to join us.

Thanks and I hope that 2026 is a year of joy and success for all of our brothers and their loved ones.

JW Scott Bohart
crowscall@gmail.com

Brethren Raised in January

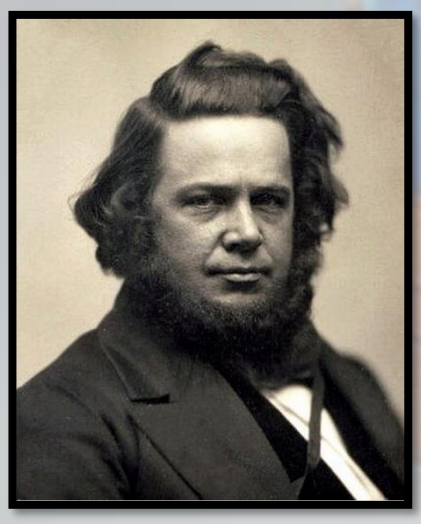
Robert O'Brien	1959
Henry Herrmann	1960
Armand Charbonneau	1988
William Vaughn	1988
James Maher	1989
Richard Sommers	1992
Loren Ruud	1999
Anthony Monaco	1999
Terry Nicholas	2001
Samuel Kent	2013
Fillip Kitsak	2013

Sewing the Stitches of Masonry

Elias Howe Jr. was the inventor of the **lockstitch sewing machine**, a 19th-century innovation that revolutionized clothing and textile production. Patented in 1846, Howe's design used a needle with an eye at its point and a shuttle carrying a second thread beneath the fabric, creating a strong, consistent stitch. This breakthrough dramatically reduced the time and labor required to sew garments and helped make ready-made clothing affordable and widely available.

Despite the importance of his invention, Howe initially struggled to profit from it. Manufacturers freely copied his mechanism, forcing him into lengthy patent disputes. After years of litigation, Howe ultimately secured his rights and earned licensing fees that brought financial stability. His experience reflects a common reality of the Industrial Revolution: innovation demanded not only ingenuity, but persistence and conviction in the value of one's work.

Howe was also a confirmed Freemason, initiated in **Mount Vernon Lodge No. 4 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1854**. Freemasonry's emphasis on craftsmanship, discipline, and the moral dignity of labor closely mirrors Howe's life and achievements. His sewing machine stands as more than a mechanical success—it represents the practical application of skill and knowledge to improve everyday life, a principle central to the Masonic tradition.



Elias Howe Jr.

In the years following his initiation, Howe's professional success coincided with the rapid expansion of American industry and the growing prominence of fraternal organizations such as Freemasonry. Lodges in mid-19th-century New England often served as centers of civic life, bringing together inventors, manufacturers, and skilled tradesmen. Howe's association with Mount Vernon Lodge No. 4 placed him within this network at a time when his patent victories were reshaping the sewing trade, linking his personal advancement to a broader culture that valued technical skill, ethical conduct, and mutual support among working professionals.

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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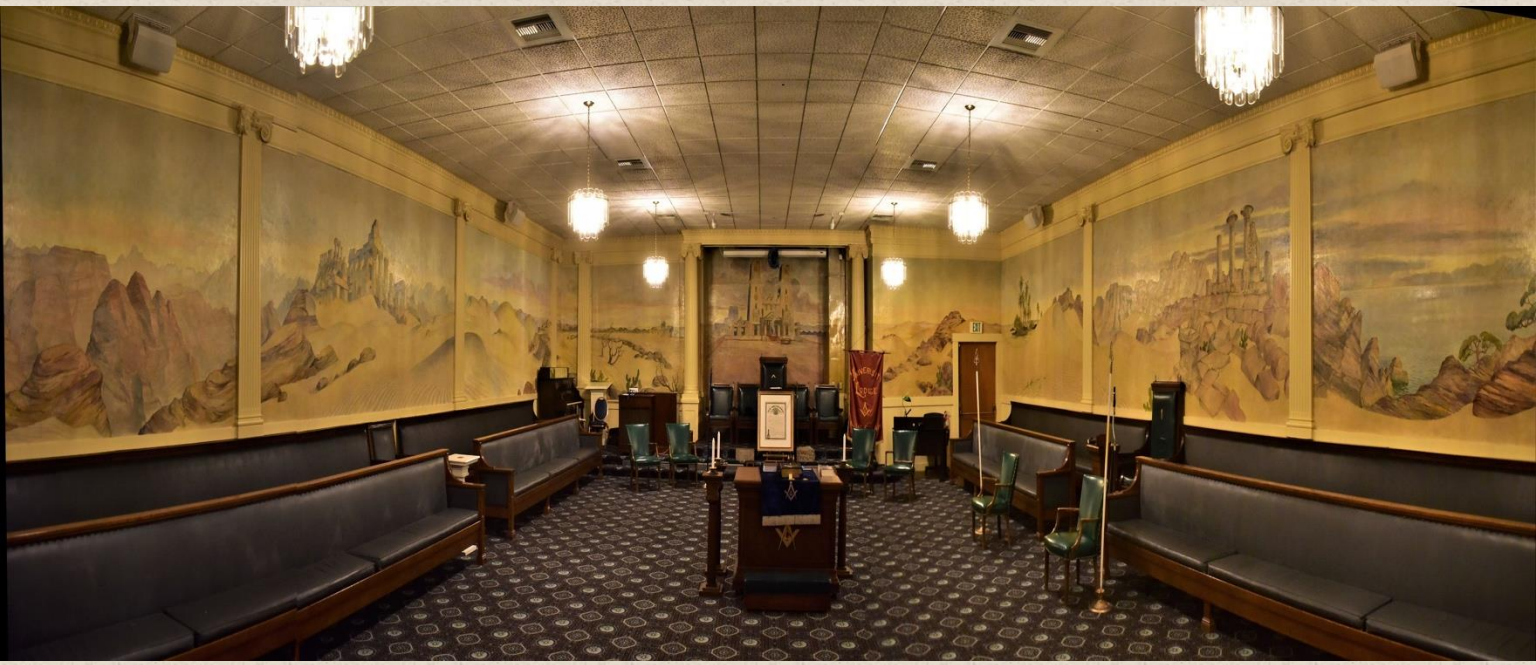

2026 Officers

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Junior Warden	Scott Bohart	206-992-7224	crowscall@gmail.com
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