Trestleboard

University Lodge 141
November 2026

An encore from the East:

The Secretary and incoming Worshipful Master informed me that I am expected to submit one last missive, despite my assurance that October would be my last. So, here we are again.

I have been embracing being Worshipful In Name Only, or WINO for short. I've enjoyed my stewardship of the East and I hope those who attended meetings found your investment of time honored and well spent, or at least not wasted. I am grateful for the many of you who supported efforts to make our Lodge a more welcoming place to visitors and brethren alike. Thank you to those who stepped into new roles and responsibilities. Thank you to those who allowed me to release the accretions of stress and aggravation that come with a year in the East. Thank you to those who offered counsel, sometimes when it was solicited and other times when it was simply necessary. And thank you to those who reminded me where I could do more and, conversely, where I was taking on too much. I am still looking for that balance.

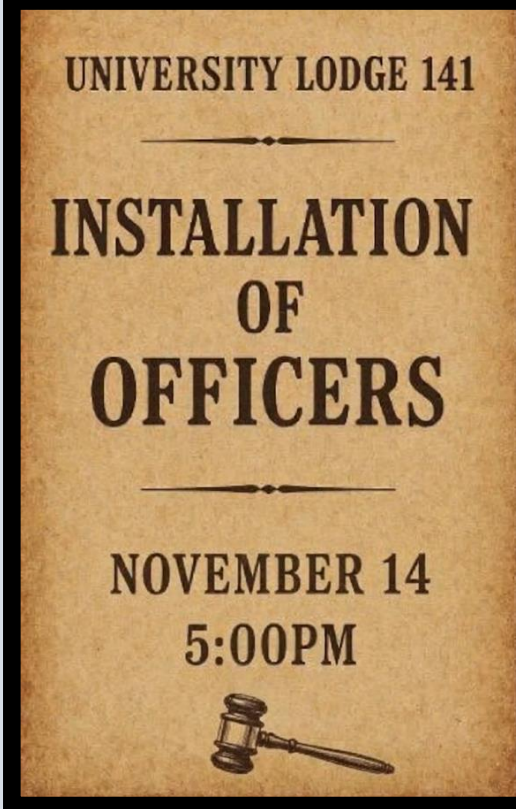
I now look forward to supporting the Lodge and nudging forward initiatives that haven't yet made it across the finish line. I look forward to supporting WM-Elect Scott Bohart and enacting his will and pleasure. I am committed to a peaceful transfer of power and this coming Monday night the gavel will pass for the 118th time or thereabouts. Please join us.

Fraternal Blessings to All,
WB John Bryan

University Lodge 141 Stated Meeting

Monday, November 2!

Doors open at 6:00pm
Dinner served at 6:30pm
Lodge starts at 7:30pm



This will be a tiled installation. All Masons are welcome to attend and show support to the new line of officers.

13th Annual Toys for Tots Drive!

Each year, we collect toys and donate them to Toys for Tots. The toys are then given to local children who would otherwise not receive any presents for the holidays. Please consider contributing to this wonderful charity!

How can you support the cause?

Option #1 – bring a new unwrapped toy(s) to the stated meeting on Monday, December 7th at 6:00pm at University Lodge 141.

Option #2 – Make a monetary donation via Venmo. The lodge Venmo address is **@UniversityLodge141** If Venmo asks for 4 digits, enter **4142**.

Option #3 – write a check to "Toys for Tots" and mail it to Secretary Matt Livingston at 3906 12th Avenue S, Seattle WA 98108.

Thanks for doing your part to make a difference in our community. Even a $5 donation helps.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

The Secretary will collect all donations and make sure Toys for Tots gets the toys and money. Donations need to be received by December 7th.

UNIVERSITY LODGE No. 141

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

Worshipful Master:
SCOTT BOHART

Senior Warden:
WB MICHAEL CHAMPION

Junior Warden:
DANEL SHAPIRO

Treasurer:
WB JOHN BRYAN

Secretary:
WB MATT LIVINGSTON

Building Trustees:
WB REN HAMIL and
WB JOHN BRYAN

University District Food Bank

Thanks to our Worship Brother John Bryan and Brother Scott Bohart for joining us at the Food Bank in October.

Also, we had a surprise visit from Brother Chris Lawler. He is back from Germany and is looking to get back to the Lodge. Great to see you at the Food Bank, Chris! We are glad you're back.

Be sure to join us next month at the November Food Bank gathering. We are scheduled to serve the community through our labor on November 7 from 12 - 2 PM. We look forward to seeing you there. 😎👍

University Lodge 141

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

BROTHERHOOD • SERVICE • COMMUNITY

FAITH
HOPE
CHARITY

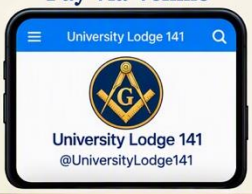
It's Time to Pay Your 2027 Dues!

Your continued support helps keep our Lodge strong and ensures we can carry on our tradition of brotherhood, service, and community involvement.

Thank you for being an essential part of University Lodge 141!

venmo

Pay via Venmo



Pay via Check

Make check payable to **"University Lodge 141"** and mail to the Secretary.

DUES STRUCTURE

Full Paying Member	$152
Full Paying Member Outside of County	$78
Life Member	$37 *to pay Grand Lodge dues*
50 Year Member	No dues
90+ Years of Age	No dues

You can pay your dues via Venmo or by check mailed to the Secretary.
Thank you for your continued commitment to our Lodge!

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

Brethren Raised in November

Clyde Sparks.....	1961
Travis Keeler.....	1965
Wesley Uhlman.....	1965
Donald Gregory.....	1973
Michael Carmel.....	1980
Boyd Hanson.....	1994
Matthew Wingate.....	1994
Michael Cuadra.....	1999
Dale Miller.....	2000
G. Michael Peacore.....	2002
John Bryan.....	2011
Peter Stratiev.....	2011

Baseball's Cy Young was raised a Master Mason the same year he pitched a perfect game.

Cy Young was raised in Mystic Tie Lodge in Uhrichsville, Ohio, in 1904. On May 5 of that year, he pitched the first perfect game of baseball's modern era. Young subsequently joined the Royal Arch and Scottish Rite. The annual Cy Young Award honors his extraordinary pitching career.

President Truman gave pieces of the original White House to Masonic lodges.

During the White House renovation, Truman discovered stones bearing the original stonemasons' marks. Rather than discard them, he arranged for historic stones to be presented to Grand Lodges throughout the United States. Some remain preserved as Masonic historical artifacts.

Upcoming Meetings

November 2nd
Step Up Night

November 7th
Food Bank Volunteering @ 12:00

November 14th
Installation of 2025 Officers @ 5pm

December 7th
Toys for Tots, Holiday Dinner

January 4th
Lodge of Sorrow

Houdini and Sherlock Holmes: The Extraordinary Friendship of Two Freemasons

Two famous Brothers, one mysterious séance, and a friendship that ended in controversy.

On October 31, 1926, the world lost one of its greatest entertainers when Harry Houdini died at age 52. Famous for his seemingly impossible escapes, Houdini was also a Freemason, having been raised in St. Cecile Lodge No. 568 in New York City on August 21, 1923. Less widely known is his remarkable friendship with another famous Freemason, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the British physician and author who created Sherlock Holmes. Doyle had joined the fraternity decades earlier, being initiated in Phoenix Lodge No. 257 in Southsea, England, on January 26, 1887, passed on February 23, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 23, 1887. Doyle resigned from his lodge in 1889, rejoined in 1902, and remained a member until 1911.

Despite their shared Masonic affiliation, the two men held dramatically different beliefs about the supernatural. Doyle, whose fictional detective Sherlock Holmes relied on logic and scientific deduction, was ironically a passionate believer in spiritualism and communication with the dead. Having lost his son Kingsley following World War I, Doyle became increasingly devoted to the belief that spirits could communicate with the living. Houdini, meanwhile, used his expertise in illusion to expose fraudulent mediums who preyed upon grieving families. The two became friends around 1920, exchanging letters, visiting each other's homes, and discussing their opposing views. Doyle even believed that Houdini's extraordinary escapes might involve genuine supernatural powers, despite Houdini's insistence that they were accomplished through skill and deception.

Their friendship began to unravel following an extraordinary séance in Atlantic City in June 1922. Doyle's wife, Jean, who claimed the ability to communicate with spirits through automatic writing, offered to contact Houdini's deceased mother. During the séance, Lady Doyle produced approximately fifteen pages of messages supposedly dictated by Houdini's mother. Although Doyle believed the experience demonstrated genuine communication from beyond the grave, Houdini was unconvinced. His mother, the wife of a Jewish rabbi, had spoken little English during her lifetime, yet the messages appeared in fluent English and even began with a Christian cross. Houdini initially concealed his doubts out of respect for his friends, but eventually publicly challenged the authenticity of the communication.

What followed was an increasingly bitter disagreement conducted through personal correspondence, newspaper interviews, and public lectures. By 1923, their friendship was deteriorating rapidly, and by 1924, the relationship had effectively ended. Doyle remained convinced of spiritualism's authenticity, while Houdini continued exposing fraudulent mediums until his death. Interestingly, their famous disagreement began before Houdini became a Mason, and Doyle had already withdrawn from active lodge membership. Nevertheless, both men had embraced the fraternity during their lives, making their story a fascinating connection between two of the most recognizable figures of the early twentieth century.

As we commemorate the 100th anniversary of Houdini's death this Halloween, the story of these two Freemasons offers an intriguing reminder that even brilliant and accomplished men can reach profoundly different conclusions about life's greatest mysteries. Their friendship, and its unfortunate ending, also illustrates the importance of mutual respect, tolerance, and the pursuit of truth—principles that remain central to Freemasonry today.

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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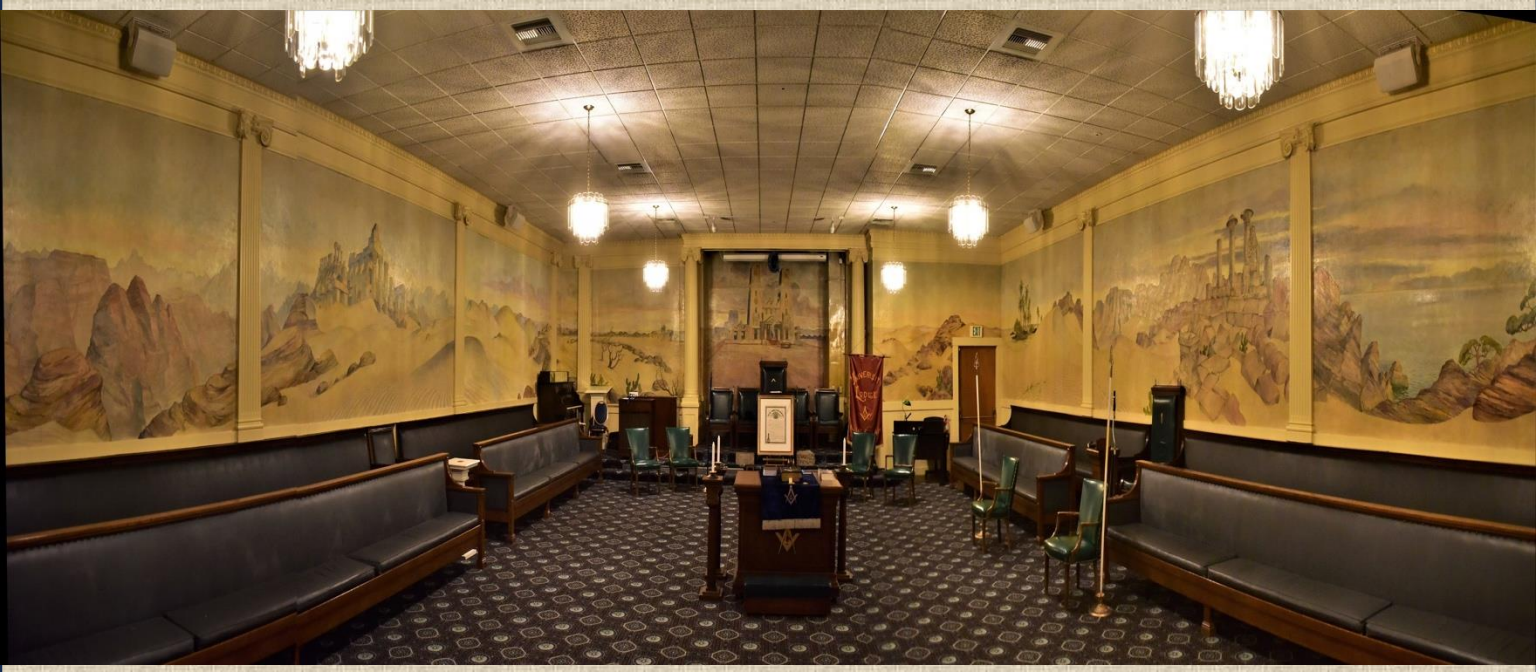

2026 Officers

Worshipful Master John Bryan

Senior Warden	Adam Alsobrook	Junior Deacon	Daniel Shapiro
Junior Warden	Scott Bohart	Chaplain	WB KC Gates
Secretary	WB Matt Livingston	Marshal	Matthew Peck
Treasurer	WB Ren Hamil	Tyler	WB Evan Lobenstein
Senior Deacon	WB Bryan Baldwin	Musician	Jason Frazier