



# TRESTLEBOARD

UNIVERSITY LODGE 141

SEPTEMBER 2023



Brethren,

Time to come back to the light of Freemasonry! The lodge enjoyed a pretty eventful summer and we were able to get together all throughout it and enjoy some fellowship while being dark. I want to thank all the brothers who were able to attend any of the events we had going on.

We kicked off with the Mariners game at the end of June and had 26 brothers and guests in attendance which was a fantastic turnout. The night ended in defeat for the M's but it was a great night overall. Due to its success, we are planning on turning this into an annual event.

We then had the annual BBQ/picnic at the end of July. Big shout out to WB Ben Stagner and his lovely partner, Tara, for hosting at their house in Renton. A great day was made even better when Darios brought his family who were visiting from Togo, Africa. They were able to get a little taste of American summer fare and entertainment (i.e. backyard Battleship with water balloons!) and I hope they enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed having them there.

Last month we enjoyed the 5th Annual Ron Gage Memorial Table Lodge. This was a more intimate affair held up in the library on the 3rd floor and the surroundings made it feel very cozy. WB Bryan Baldwin emceed the evening (with a little assistance from WB Richard Kovak) to roaring success as we all got toasty and toasted. Special thanks to our JD Evan Lobenstein, for organizing and setting up the library to host.

Now it's time to get back to business. Looking forward to seeing everyone back in lodge and catching up on all things Masonic!

-- WM Michael Champion



## University Lodge 141 Stated Meeting

**Friday, September 8, 2023**

*Doors open at 6:00pm*

*Dinner served at 6:30pm*

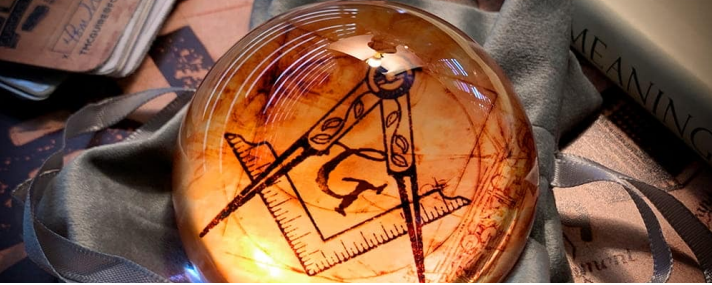
*Lodge starts at 7:30pm*

***Per our By-Laws, when the first Monday of the month is a holiday, then our Stated Meeting is held on the following Friday. Since September 4<sup>th</sup> is Labor Day, our meeting will be held on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.***

## Jersey Night!

In the spirit of kicking off football season, our September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be Jersey Night! Feel free to wear any jersey from any sport!





## JOHN LOUIS LARSON

Born: August 2, 1924

Initiated: January 29, 1981

Passed: February 28, 1981

Raised: April 9, 1981

Died: June 6, 2023



## Brethren Raised in September

Donald Spreine	1964
William Crockett	1969
Steve Ellis	1982
Walter Buscher	1984
Peter Anderson	1988
Steven Anderson	1988
Robert Riley	1990
Richard Kovak	1992
Richard Pedersen	1994
Rhys Nunnelee	2014
Benjamin Stagner	2014
Bryan Baldwin	2014
Nana Gyesie	2016



## Upcoming Meetings

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Elections and Philanthropy Budget

**November 6<sup>th</sup>**

Step Up Night

**December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Toys for Tots and Holiday Dinner





# TEMPLES MADE WITH HANDS

A PRESENTATION ON MASONIC ARCHITECTURE

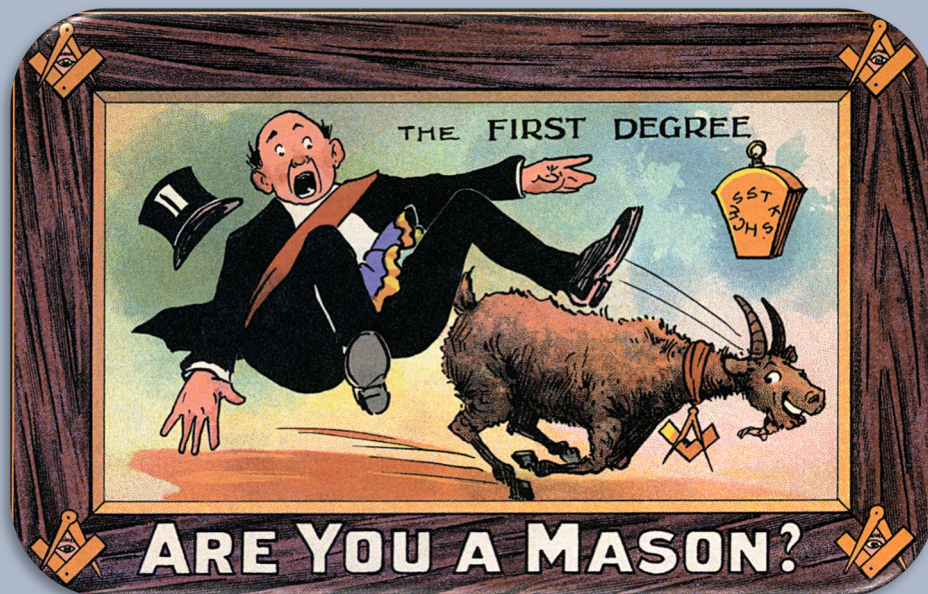
BRO. ADAM S. ALSOBROOK, AIA  
WILLIAM H. UPTON NAVAL AND  
MILITARY LODGE NO. 206  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023



Bro. Adam Alsobrook has been invited to give his presentation on Masonic architecture at William H. Upton Naval and Military Lodge No. 206 on Tuesday, September 19th (third Tuesday), with dinner at 6:30 PM and meeting at 7:30 PM.

**William H. Upton Naval and Military Lodge No. 206** meets at the Victory Memorial Masonic Temple, located at 878 5th Street, Bremerton, WA 98337.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to JW Geiss so they can get a headcount of our visitors so they can plan for dinner. RSVP to JW Geiss at [glenn.geiss@gmail.com](mailto:glenn.geiss@gmail.com)







Brothers hanging out at the lodge picnic in July, at WB Ben Stagner's house. Bro. Darios' family was visiting from Togo. Darios' father is a Mason in the Grand Lodge of Togo!

## Brothers volunteering at the University Food Bank in July!

Last month we again continued our service with the food bank by working a two hour shift on July 8. Thanks to the brothers who showed up. The staff at the food bank really appreciated our help as they tend to have fewer volunteers in the summer months.



I suspect there are brothers who would like to be able to help but are not able to because of either physical or time constraints. If this is you, but you would like to somehow contribute to our efforts at the food bank, there is a way you can contribute. When clients come to the food bank to shop, they often don't have their own bags and are given donated bags. Sometimes the Food Bank has enough bags, sometimes they don't. They are always looking for **clean, usable, and undamaged bags with handles**. If you have a stash of shopping bags you would like to get out of your house, the Food Bank wants them. Paper or plastic, doesn't matter, just as long as they are usable and have handles. No holes, rips or dirty bags please.

Also, they are always in need of **clean and undamaged egg cartons**. Specifically, they need six or 12 egg cartons – not the 18 or larger varieties. If you have some sitting around and would like to donate them, this is your opportunity. Please do not donate dirty/soiled cartons.

**If you would like to donate any bags or egg cartons to the Food Bank, please bring them to the lodge and we will drop them off next time we go.** This will be an ongoing thing, so instead of throwing shopping bags or egg cartons away, you can collect and bring them to the lodge.

Our next service to the Food Bank will be Saturday, September 9 from 12-2PM - and if you plan to join us, let me know so I have a headcount at [crowscall@gmail.com](mailto:crowscall@gmail.com)

-Bro. Scott Bohart



# IN MASONRY AND MAGIC, BLENDING ILLUSION AND WONDER

FOR GENERATIONS, THE WORLD'S GREATEST MAGICIANS HAVE FOUND A SECOND HOME IN MASONRY. A DEEPER LOOK REVEALS WHY THE TWO CRAFTS ARE ABOUT AS INTERTWINED AS TWO BRASS RINGS.



The man in the top hat commands the attention of his audience. He recites a speech that was passed down to him through generations, mouth to ear.

He invokes esoteric wisdom and alludes to its mystical origins in the east. Then he takes his wand, taps the hat twice, and runs through a greatest-hits show of performance magic: the coin behind the ear, the rabbit in the hat, and, the fundamental act for any magician, the cups and balls.

The parallels between Masonry and magic are clear to anyone who's sat in a lodge room during a degree conferral or been astonished at a performer's card trick. Both, of course, cultivate an air of secrecy and mystery. Both rely on sensory experience to make an impression on the mind. And both require a certain showmanship and panache to deliver a truly memorable experience. Perhaps most important, they share some significant membership overlap: virtually every one of the most celebrated magicians of the past 200 years have been Freemasons.

Masonry and magic each feature a long fraternal history. Like Masons, magicians have for generations gathered in clubs and societies of performers around the world. In fact, many of the hallmarks of membership in a Masonic lodge—the initiations, rituals, handshakes, and even funerary rites—can be found in groups like the [International Brotherhood of Magicians](#) and the [Society of American Magicians](#), to which the great Harry Kellar, Howard Thurston, and Harry Houdini all belonged. All three, incidentally, [were proud Freemasons](#).

That magic and Masonry connection was acknowledged by one Masonic publisher with a subtle sense of humor. In the early 20th century, the Allen Publishing Company of New York published ritual ciphers with fake titles meant to throw off curious snoopers, titling one *Magicians' Magic Movements and Ceremonies*. Rediscovered by the [Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library](#) in Massachusetts, the cipher opens with one page describing a fake magic-sword ritual. Then, without explanation, it jumps into the seeming gibberish of a ritual cipher book.

What is it that's so appealing about an act of illusion? Why do normally rational people—especially Masons, whose teachings are grounded in the seven liberal arts and sciences—delight in witnessing feats that fly in the face of the laws of physics?

Gustav Kuhn attempts to answer that question in his book *Experiencing the Impossible: The Science of Magic*. Kuhn is a professor at the University of London and a magician with the Magic Circle there.

He speculates that magic acts might actually serve a role in cognitive function—namely, allowing us to hold contradictory beliefs. Kuhn suggests that “magical thinking” is innate in humans, dazzling us as babies playing peekaboo, and then confounding us as adults gambling at a casino even when we know the odds are stacked against us.

So, beyond their parallel fraternal histories, the similarities in custom, and the many significant figures they share in common, some practitioners speculate that perhaps Masonry and magic share a more spiritual sort of kinship.

That instinct to break down seemingly supernatural acts into replicable components is common to nearly all magicians. In fact, Shelton says, there may be no more determinedly rational, critical thinkers out there than magicians. Call it the credo of an honest liar: Many famous magicians have made it their mission to expose performers who blur the line between illusions and miracles. Houdini, James Randi, and Penn & Teller, for example, have all aggressively exposed performers who claimed divine intervention. Houdini even commissioned an unpublished manuscript by H.P. Lovecraft called *The Cancer of Superstition*.

So, beyond their parallel fraternal histories, the similarities in custom, and the many significant figures they share in common, some practitioners speculate that perhaps Masonry and magic share a more spiritual sort of kinship.



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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## 2023 Officers

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Junior Warden	Evan Lobenstein	818-306-7387	<a href="mailto:evan.lobenstein@gmail.com">evan.lobenstein@gmail.com</a>
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