



Letters from Whatcom Lodge No. 151

Free and Accepted Masons of Washington

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December 2021

Happy Winter Solstice Holidays

Whatcom Lodge Report

Stated Communication: We held our November Stated on the 18th and 19th Whatcom members were in attendance. We also had two visiting Brothers and one guest for dinner. This evening was the Official Visit of VW Kurt Gazow, the D of MG for Dist. Ten. He met with WM Craig Bruner, Trea, Ted Schuman and Sec'y John Browne in the Scottish Rite Board room prior to the meeting. VW Kurt went over some basic records which the Grand Lodge desired to had inspected. All was in order.

Business of the Lodge: The Sec'y gave his financial report noting the checking balance and a snapshot of our current Investment Portfolio balance. The bills were enumerated and authorized for payment.

Petitions: There were two petitions Read in Loge this evening. The first was a Petition for Affiliation from Bro. Alan Smith and the second was from the Degrees of Masonry. Both petitions had investigation committees appointed and it is expected the petitions will be balloted on at our December 16th Stated Communication.

Committee Reports: WB Ted Schuman report that we have 4 or 5 men who are in the stages of our 6-step program. A couple may be close to requesting petitions.

Feast of St. John: VW Don Higgerson reported that the dinner is set, the cost is \$40 per plate, choice of Prime Rib or Salmon. The attire is formal and the location is the Larimont Manor.

Cherokee Degree Team: WB Claude Weedon advised he has attempted to contact Grand Lodge with no success. There seems to not interest, perhaps due issue around the pandemic. The project is set aside for now.

Outreach Committee: Bro. Alex Bruner said he and WB ted Schuman have worked up a survey and will be contacting brother soon. VW Don Higgerson suggested sending Christmas Card to our shut in Brethren.

Masonic Education: WB Craig showed a very informative video about Masonry and the development of our National Flag. VW Terrel Goertz added to the information recounting his visit to some American Battlefields and famous Masons at those locations.

DDGM Address: VW Kurt Gazow gave his thoughts on the Grand Master's Motto "Living the Legend". VW Kurt noted, in his mind there were three Masonic areas we can develop the motto very well. One, encompasses the phrase "Brothers Dwelling together in Unity". This applies to our lodge room activity as well as in our community. Two, in doing our Ritual and realizing it's impact, not only on candidates but each of us as perform our rites. Three, Masonic Leadership. Too often we only focus offices and there duties to be done in conjunction to them. But leadership is also demonstrated by properly doing our basic tasks with focus, care and willingness. Leadership through example. VW Kurt's address was inspiring to me.

Secretary - 'Country' John Browne, contact info on page 4



Whatcom Lodge 151 meets on the 1st (special) and 3rd (stated-business) Thursdays of each month.

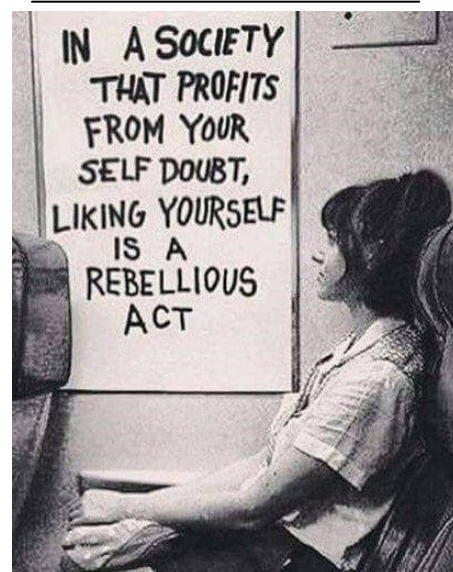
Whatcom Lodge emphasizes Masonic heritage and ritual proficiency. We are proud to support our Masonic Youth organizations and encourage members to practice charity outside the lodge. It is our intention to promote individuals to build their own strong moral and spiritual temples.

Stated Meeting Dates of the District Ten Lodges

Dec 3rd Bellingham Bay - 7 pm

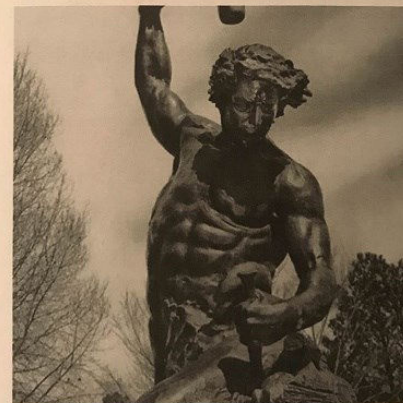
Dec 9th Lynden/Ferndale Int. Lodge
opens at 7 pm.

Dec 16th Whatcom Lodge - meeting
opens at 6:30 pm.



STOICISM

Man cannot remake himself
without suffering, for he is both
the marble and the sculptor.



-Alexis Carrel (France 1873 - 1944)

Forest Bathing.....by 'Country' John Browne

It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men's heart's, as for that subtle something, that quality of air, that emanation from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit. - Robert Louis Stevenson

For those of you who regularly attend Lodge or are paying attention to newsletter articles you are aware that I now go by the nickname 'Country' John. This was done to ease confusion with 'City' John. These nicknames do make sense since 'City' John does live in Bellingham and I reside in the country, some 8 miles north of Maple Falls.

My wife Sue, a graduate of Huxley College at WWU, and I have found peace and tranquility residing at our 10 acre homestead, a good 9 acres of which is forest. Not too long ago Sue read an article which described a practice now used in Japan called 'Forest Bathing'. Just a day ago I learned that since the 1990's lots of research has been done to establish the benefits of Forest Bathing.

While in the forest one breaths in *phytoncides* given off by certain mature trees. These phytoncides seem to stimulate our production of "natural killer cells" in our bodies. The benefit is that these cells help us fight viruses, cancer and inflammation. Fortunately access to many forests is free as we are blessed with many forested parks.

Another benefit of spending time in a forest is one gets to tune out extraneous noises and open our senses to the natural world. Paying direct attention to our senses as they draw in the sights, sounds, smells, the touch of leaves and bark, grounds us to the universe we are part of. Simply being in the moment is a great way drop stress, one of the biggest health hazards of humankind.

For further reading on this check out the article in the Autumn 2021 issue of Adventures Northwest: *The Art and Science of Forest Bathing* by Suzanne Rothmeyer.



Degree Work

Third Degree at Bellingham Bay #44:

On Friday, November 19th WB Thom Baughn, ably assisted by brethren of Bellingham Bay #44 and Whatcom #151 conferred the Sublime Degree on Bro. Ridge Brenowsky. This makes Bro. Ridge the newest Master Mason in Bellingham Bay Lodge and in District Ten.

Given the long duration of the pandemic our players were a little rusty but and the degree team had holes to fill right up to the last minute. Still, the talent pool between Bellingham Bay and Whatcom Lodges were up to the task and a very fine degree was put on.

Third Degree coming at Bellingham Bay #44:

On Friday, December 17th Bro. Brad Stirling will be Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.

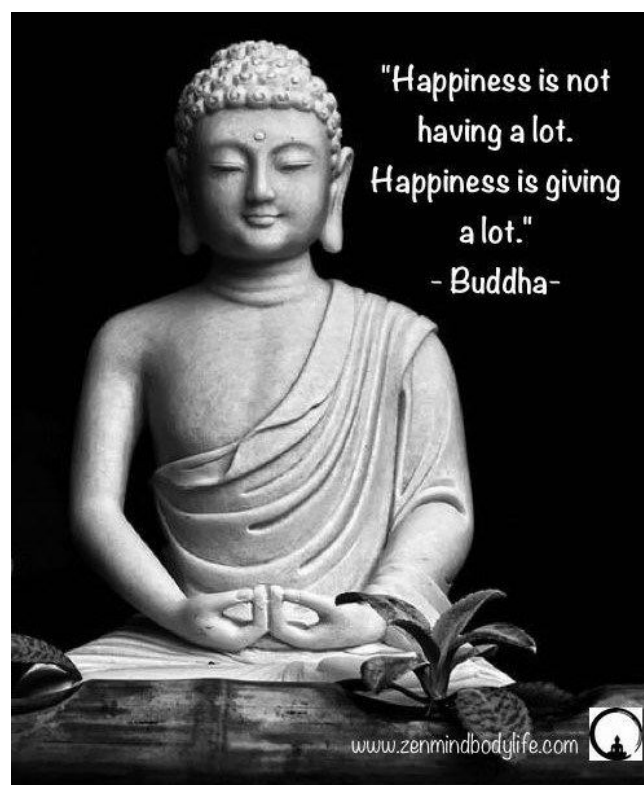
Third Degree coming at Whatcom Lodge #151:

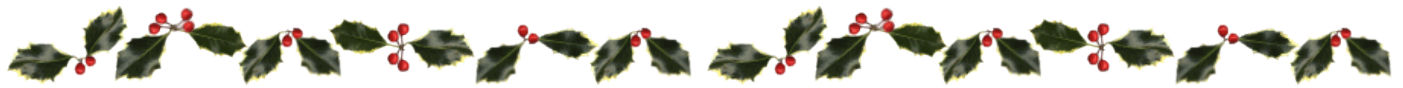
On Thursday, December 16th WM Craig Bruner will confer the Sublime Degree on Bro. Moss Roberts. Master Masons are invited to attend.

First Degree coming to Bellingham Bay #44:

Mr. Tom Cox will be Initiated on Friday, December 17th.

All our District Ten Lodges are active. Both the Lodges in Bellingham have a number petitions and men inquiring about joining. Lynden/Ferndale Int. has some interest in Plural membership from several Canadian Brothers. Now that the border is open, that can happen.





2021 Feast of St. John the Evangelist

Open to the Masonic Community

This is a festive suit & tie affair so our Ladies can dress up

Make your reservation early as we are limited to about 50. Or 25 couples.

Monday, December 27th at the

Lairmont Manor

405 Fieldston Road, Bellingham, WA

*** 6 pm Social time, Dinner served at 6:30 pm ***

Dinners are \$40.50 per plate

Wine/Beverages will be provided

You have a choice between two main entrees

Prime Rib OR Salmon

RSVP's are required Your check with meal choice is your reservation and must be made before Dec 15th

(Once meals have been confirmed to the caterer no refunds are possible for NO Shows)

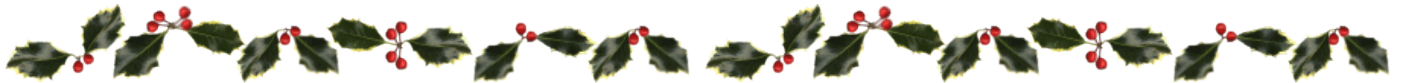
Questions to VW Don Higginson: 605-924-0617 or email: don@higginson.us

"Make Checks payable to **Whatcom Lodge #151**"

Send your **RSVP** + *check and entrée choice to*

Sec'y John Browne

9960 Stardust Lane, Maple Falls, WA 98266



BMC = Bellingham Masonic Center on W. Maplewood ; FMC = Ferndale Masonic Center;
FHMC = Friday Harbor Masonic Center; NMC = Nooksack Masonic Center; SRH = Scottish Rite Hall

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 <i>1st Advent</i>	28	29	1	2 W-151 Special our dinner is at 5:30 pm and lodge opens at 6:30 pm	3 BB #44 Stated at 7 pm	4 San Juan Ldg 175 Installation of Officers
5 <i>2nd Advent</i>	6 <i>St. Nicholas' Day</i> <i>Yea! Santa Claus</i>	7 <i>Pearl Harbor Day</i>	8	9 Lyn/Fern Int 56 Stated at 7 pm	10 BB #44 Hosts a MM Degree	11
12 <i>3rd Advent</i>	13 <i>St. Lucia's Day</i>	14	15 <i>RSVP</i> deadline for Feast of St. John's dinner at Lairmont Manor is today!!	16 W-151 Stated Third Degree for Br. Moss Roberts. Dinner at 5:30, lodge at 6:30 PM	17 BB #44 hosts an EA Degree	18
19 <i>4th Advent</i>	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25  <i>Christmas Day</i> 1st Day of Christmas
26 2nd Day of Christmas	27 Whatcom hosts Feast of St John's at Larimont Manor <i>see page 3 for details</i> 3rd Day of Christmas	28 4th Day of Christmas	29 5th Day of Christmas	30 6th Day of Christmas	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 7th Day of Christmas	1 <i>New Year's Day</i> 8th Day of Christmas
2 9th Day of Christmas	3 10th Day of Christmas	4 11th Day of Christmas	5 12th Day of Christmas	6 <i>Epiphany</i>	7 Whatcom Lodge 151 Like us on Facebook	8

Widows & Orphans Fund for District No. 1

If you would like to know more about the W & O Fund contact one of the officers listed below.

Bro. Ken Peck - *Secretary/Treasurer*
Phone: 360-820-4752,
Email: sectreaswof@gmail.com

WB John Brown - *President,*

WB Jesse Petersen - *Vice President*
360-319-5556



Has your message missed this publication. Don't get left out. Please send your group's article, event information and/or calendar note by the 22nd of each month. In order to promote events occurring at the beginning of each month I try to send out the newsletter on or about the 25th of each month.

To contribute to this newsletter please send your letter, comment, historical fact, poem or calendar announcement, by the 20th day of each month, to:

John F. Browne, 9960 Stardust Lane,
Maple Falls, WA. 98266

Ph. 360-599-3481

e-mail: jbrowne.brf@gmail.com

