



# Letters from District No. 10

Free & Accepted Masons of Washington

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January 2011

# Happy New Year!!

The secret of happiness is not found in seeking more,  
but in developing the capacity to enjoy less. ~ Socrates

## Whatcom Lodge Report

**Stated Meeting** - Our stated meeting was held on December 16<sup>th</sup> with seventeen brothers attending. In addition to the regular business of the lodge we were treated to an excellent program put together by WM Boyd McEwen.

**Present to the Lodge:** The brethren in attendance were treated to a very fine dinner prepared by Bro. David Brown with assistance from Bro.s Alex Bruner and Tristan Burgess. Brother David put-on the dinner as his Christmas Gift to the Lodge. The brothers were grateful to have such a delicious feast.

**Program:** Whatcom Lodge welcomed two veterans from WWII, Mr. Leo Hymas and Mr. Joe Moser. Many of you may have attended Lynden's program where Mr. Joe Moser spoke about his duty as a pilot during WWII and his subsequent internment at Buchenwald Death Camp. As it turned out WB Boyd is friends with Mr. Leo Hymas who was a machine-gunner in the Sixth Mechanized Division in General George Patton's Third Army. Mr. Hymas was one of two men who discovered the above mentioned camp as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army approached its location, resulting in it's liberation. Both Mr. Moser and Mr. Hymas met each other for the first time this evening. Their stories were fascinating to hear and it was heart-warming that these two fine men survived the travails of WWII.

**Upcoming Degrees:** There are a couple of brothers working on their degree proficiency but we have no specific dates set yet for their next degrees.

**Report:** VW Glenn Hutchings reported on the Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> visit to John Paul Jones Lodge No. 271 where WB Johnathan Ashley is the current Worshipful Master. WB John was indeed surprised to see Bro.s Monte Thompson, Glenn Hutchings and John Browne in lodge. One of the charities which JPJ #271 supports is a local area Food Bank. WM Ashley assessed each brother a dollar, who forgot bring a food donation to the meeting, to go toward the cause. WB John is the manager of an Elder Care Facility in Gig Harbor and his wife Lindsay teaches 7<sup>th</sup> grade math in the University School District.

**Moment in History:** Near the end of our stated meeting Bro. Terrell Goertz rose to point out that this day's date was historic. He observed that it was this night, in 1763, we Americans became coffee drinkers. It was on the evening of Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1763 that the minutes of a local Boston Lodge noted that its members were not present, being away to perform a civic duty. Its just a bit suspicious that on that same evening a band of rather "pale" would-be Mohawk Indians boarded an English vessel and deposited its load of tea into Boston Harbor.

**Next meetings** - Our Special meeting is on January 6<sup>th</sup>, dinner at 5:30 pm. The next Stated meeting is on January 20<sup>th</sup>, dinner at 5:30 pm & lodge at 6 30.

Fraternally, John Browne - Secretary/Treasurer, contact information is at the bottom of page 4.

## Stated Meeting Dates of the District Ten Lodges

Jan 5<sup>th</sup> San Juan Lodge - 7:30

Jan 6<sup>th</sup> Lynden Lodge - 7:30 pm

Jan 7<sup>th</sup> Bellingham Bay - 7:30 p

Jan 10<sup>th</sup> Ferndale Lodge - Dark

Jan 11<sup>th</sup> Fairhaven Lodge - 7 pm

Jan 12<sup>th</sup> Nooksack Valley Ldg - **Dark**

Jan 20<sup>th</sup> Whatcom Lodge - dinner at 5:30; meeting at 6:30 pm.

## Hiram Award Presented

On Friday, Dec., 17<sup>th</sup>, five Whatcom Lodge brothers, WM Boyd McEwen, VW Glenn Hutchings, WB Ted Schuman, Bro. Monte Thompson and VW John Browne gathered at about 5:30 PM, at the Shuksan Care Facility to make a presentation to WB M. H. "Buck" Strickland Jr.

WB Boyd read the citation outlining WB Buck's long and worthy record of labor in the quarry of Whatcom Lodge. In addition to serving as Prompter, Chaplain and J & S Wardens he served two terms as Worshipful Master in 2002 and 2003. At the conclusion of the citation WB Boyd presented to WB Buck a well deserved Hiram Award.

After a round of congratulations and small talk, the five Whatcom Brothers proceeded to the nurses station so they could vote for Buck's door in the Christmas door decorating contest.

The Whatcom Brothers  
send their wishes for  
A Very Happy January Birthday!

To:

Bro. Tony Anton - January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Bro. Steve Schuman - January 4<sup>th</sup>

Bro. Corky Johnson - January 22<sup>nd</sup>

## Notes from Lynden Lodge No. 56

### Consolidation of Kulshan and Lynden Lodges

The members of both Kulshan and Lynden Lodges have voted unanimously to consolidate the two lodges under the name of Lynden and the number of 56 effective December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. The consolidated Lodge will have 65 members. Lynden Lodge members welcome their Kulshan Lodge brothers with open arms!

### Don Aho Raised

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, Bro. Don Aho was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. W. Master Jerry Mason conferred the degree and gave the lecture. Bro. Claude Weadon gave the charge.

### Petition for the Degrees of Masonry

At the upcoming Stated Communication on January 6<sup>th</sup>, the brethren will be voting on a petition for the Degrees of Masonry.

### CHIP

Lynden Lodge received a request to present CHIP at the annual Lummi Nation Christmas party. On December 15<sup>th</sup>, in just 90 minutes, 29 children were processed. W. Master Jerry Mason, Leslie Mason, WB Dick Decima and 4 volunteers from the tribal police department conducted this event.

### Bikes 4 Books

During December bikes were presented to enthusiastic readers at the Irene Reither Primary School in the Meridian School District. The librarian at the school reported that more than 7000 books had been read by the children participating in this program. Bikes also were presented at the Lynden Public Library as part of their 1<sup>st</sup> graders reading program.

### Widows lunch

On Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, the annual lunch for Widows was held at the Raspberry Ridge Grill. All those attending had a very nice time.

WB Jerry the Mason  
*Worshipful Master*

### A comment on the speed of life!

It is the steady and merciless increase of occupations,  
the augmented speed at which we are always trying to live,  
the crowding of each day with more work and amusements  
than it can profitably hold, which has cost us,  
among other good things,  
the undisturbed enjoyment of friends.  
Friendship takes time,  
and we have no time to give it.

~ Agnes Repplier, 1855 - 1950

Here is what **Bellingham Bay**

has going on.

**Friday January 7<sup>th</sup>** Special meeting at 7:30 PM.

**Friday January 21<sup>st</sup>** Stated meeting at 7:30 PM

WM Chris Lyon



## **Scottish Rite – Valley of Bellingham**

At our Stated Meeting on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> we balloted on a petition for Membership from Brother Jim Blaney, of Valley of Des Moines, Des Moines, Iowa. We are very pleased to welcome Bro. Jim Blaney to the Valley of Bellingham.

Bro Tim Johnson has been appointed by Illustrious Bro. Bill Miller, 33° SGIG, to be the representative from the Valley of Bellingham on the board for the Rite Care Clinics in Washington. When you purchase a Masonic license plate, from the State of Washington, the funds that are raised for this charity go to the clinic to help kids speak.

On Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> we had our annual **Christmas Dinner – Rose Croix**. We enjoyed great food and great fellowship, but the highpoint of the evening was Illustrious Brother Wayne J. Deming receiving his Scottish Rite 50-year Certificate and pin from Illustrious Brother Bill Miller, 33° SGIG, as well as a handsome framed portrait painted and presented by Jacquie Quenneville, wife of Bro. Mark Quenneville, 32° KCCH.

Jan, 5<sup>th</sup> - Stated Meeting (Lodge of Perfection). Dinner at 6:30pm (please RSVP), Meeting at 7:30pm.

Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> -Conferral of 30<sup>th</sup> Degree. (dinner? at 6:30pm?) Degree starts at 7:30pm?

Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> -Temple Board at 5:00pm, Dinner at 5:30pm (please RSVP), and Executive Board at 6:00pm.

The Scottish Rite Scholarship Foundation is now accepting applications for funding in the 2011-2012 academic year. Bro Mark Quenneville, 32° KCCH, and Bro Steve Harris have been busy conducting interviews. Anyone interested should go to [www.wascottishrite.org](http://www.wascottishrite.org) and review the requirements by clicking on the “Apply Here” button.

The Valley of Bellingham will soon be starting a new class. Master Masons interested in joining the Scottish Rite should submit their petitions prior to Jan. 5, 2011. Contact: Bro. Ron Fine, 32° KCCH [RonFine2@aol.com](mailto:RonFine2@aol.com)

Have questions about the Scottish Rite? Come join us sometime for dinner.

For info and to RSVP contact: Bro. Chuck Anway, 32° KCCH [woof2804@yahoo.com](mailto:woof2804@yahoo.com)

Excerpts from *The Builders*

by RW Joseph Fort Newton 33°

Prelude to Chapter Four.

The value of a man does not consist in the truth which he possesses, or means to possess, but in the sincere pain which he hath taken to find it out. For his powers do not augment by possessing truth, but by investigating it, wherein consists his only perfectibility. Possession lulls the energy of man, and makes him idle and proud. If God held enclosed in his right hand absolute truth, and in his left only the inward lively impulse toward truth, and if He said to me: Choose! Even at the risk of exposing mankind to continual erring, I most humbly would seize His left hand, and say: Father, give! absolute truth belongs to Thee alone.

By G. E. Lessing, from: *Fragments*



*A view of Masonry*

Of no one age, Masonry belongs to all ages; of no one religion, it finds great truths in all religions. Indeed, it holds that truth which is common to all elevating and benign religions, and is the basis of each; that faith which underlies all sects and overarches all creeds, like the sky above and the river bed below the flow of mortal years. It does not undertake to explain or dogmatically to settle those questions or solve those dark mysteries which out-top human knowledge. Beyond the facts of faith it does not go. Indeed, it has been defined as a "factual religion with a simple creed." For the same reason, we are justified in calling it a Science, since it deals with facts of the moral and spiritual life.<sup>1</sup> With the subtleties of speculation concerning those truths, and the unworldly envies growing out of them, it has not to do. There divisions begin, and Masonry was not made to divide men, but to unite them, leaving each man free to think his own thought and fashion his own system of ultimate truth. All its emphasis rests upon two extremely simple and profound principles—love of God and love of man. Therefore, all through the ages it has been, and is today, a meeting-place of differing minds, and a prophecy of the final union of all reverent and devout souls.

by RW Joseph Fort Newton 33°

1948 edition - pages 244-5

<sup>1</sup> *Builders of Men*, by John C. Gibson

*Masonic Leadership Association*

January 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Whatcom Lodge No. 151 will be the host Lodge for the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting at 2626 W Maplewood Ave at the Bellingham Masonic Center. They will be providing refreshments at 9:45 AM for the pre-meeting social.

The Program for the January meeting will be presented by the Masonic Service Bureau from Seattle. There emphasis will be Masonic Memorial and Funeral Services and other services provided by the Bureau. Remember, that our meetings are open to all Masons and their guests. Does your family know if you want a Masonic Service? Does your family know where your Lambskin apron is? We talk around it. We tend to ignore it. We panic if it happens on our watch. Come – Listen – Learn.

Your MLA has a full year of programs for the information and education of the Masonic Family in Whatcom and San Juan Counties.

The new directories are out. A special thank you to WB Verne Christianson for his efforts. Please contact your Master or Secretary for your copy. In addition to regular items your new directory contains information on the Masonic Education Council and Widows and Orphans for Whatcom County. A must have for all Masons. WB Richard Decima, (RHDECIMA@aol.com) secretary of MLA, has more copies if your Lodge needs them.

What is the difference between the Traveling Light and the Traveling Gavel?

Bring your favorite positive Masonic observation for the conclusion of the Saturday Morning Meeting.

John Sleeth, President MLA



Try not to become a success,  
but rather try to become a man of value.

~ Albert Einstein



Do more than belong, participate.  
Do more than care, help.  
Do more than believe, practice.  
Do more than be fair, be kind.  
Do more than forgive, forget.  
Do more than dream, work.

~ William Arthur Ward



Keep your fears to yourself;  
share your courage with others.

~ Robert Louis Stevenson

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

All the beautiful sentiments of the world weigh less than a single lovely action.

James Russell Lowell

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>26</b> Second Day of Christmas	<b>27</b> Third Day of Christmas	<b>28</b> Fourth Day of Christmas	<b>29</b> Fifth Day of Christmas	<b>30</b> Sixth Day of Christmas	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve Seventh Day of Christmas	<b>1</b> New Year's Day Eight Day of Christmas
<b>2</b> Tenth Day of Christmas	<b>3</b> Hesperus Com-mandery No. 8 - 7:30 F-OES #223 7:30 p. (FMC) Tenth Day of Christmas	<b>4</b> ML-OES # 58 (BMC) 7:30 p. Eleventh Day of Christmas	<b>5</b> SJ # 175 - stated 7:30 p. (FHMC) Twelfth Day of Christmas Twelfth Night begins at Dusk	<b>6</b> L # 56 stated meet-ing 7:30 pm W #151 - Spl. Comm - Epiphany - <i>The Wise Men visit the manger!</i>	<b>7</b> BB # 44 - stated 7:30 pm.	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> F # 264 - Dark Bellingham Council No.16 R&SM - 7:30 p	<b>11</b> F # 73-stated 7 pm. (BMC) Evergreen RB # 17 7 p. (FMC)	<b>12</b> NV # 105 - Dark	<b>13</b> Bethel # 25 at 7 pm.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> MLA hosted by W 151 9:45 am refreshments, mtg at 10 am.
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Bellingham Chp Royal Arch - 7:30 p. F-OES # 223 7:30 p. (FMC)	<b>18</b> ML-OES # 58 7:30 p. (BMC)	<b>19</b> SJ # 175 - Spl. 7:30 p. (FHMC)	<b>20</b> W 151 - stated dinner at 5:30 lodge opens 6:30 pm.	<b>21</b> BB 44 Spl Comm 7:30 p. (SRH)	<b>22</b> Bethel #25 at 7 pm
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> F # 264 - Dark	<b>25</b> F # 73-Spl. 7 pm. Evergreen RB # 17 7 p. (FMC)	<b>26</b> NV # 105 - Dark	<b>27</b> Bellingham Tem-ple Association meeting 7:30 PM	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

**On the Relevance of Symbols**

*By Symbols is man guided and commanded, made happy, made wretched. He everywhere finds himself encom- passed with Symbols, recognized as such or not recog- nized: the Universe is but one vast Symbol of God; nay, if thou wilt have it, what is man himself but a Symbol of God; is not all that he does symbolical; a revelation to Sense of the mystic God-given force that is in him; a Gos- pel of Freedom, which he, the Messiah of Nature, preaches, as he can, by word and act? Not a Hut he builds but bears visible record of invisible things; but is in the transcendental sense, symbolical as well as real.*

THOMAS CARYLE, from: *Sartor Resartus*  
 Philosopher  
 from *The Builders*  
 by RW Joseph Fort Newton 33°

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**John Sleeth (Ext 301)**

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