

# The Cable Tow

The newsletter of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21  
Summer 2015



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The newsletter of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21, Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska.

Published quarterly.

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No. 21.

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**Cover image:** W. Bro. John Barnett leads members of DeMolay into the site of the rising Juneau Masonic Center for the laying of its cornerstone on April 4, 2015. Photograph by Michael Penn.

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The deadline for submissions for the Fall 2015 edition is October 15, 2015.



# Places, everyone!



Photo by Don Hale, 32°, KCCH

Members of the Juneau Chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew get ready to put on the drama of the 29th Degree, Knight of St. Andrew, at the 2015 Reunion held by the Juneau Valley bodies of the Scottish Rite on April 25, 2015. Knights are, from left, Ken Vaughan, Doug Harris, Michael Franks and Charles Ward. This was the first time in recent memory a Juneau Reunion featured the drama. The Juneau KSA held their annual meeting that evening, and reelected Franks as Chieftain. For more on the Reunion, please see page 6.



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# Be the light in your Lodge

By W. Bro. Paul Moran

It's said, when fighting writers block, it is apropos to start with a lame joke, so here goes: How many Masons does it take to change the lightbulb in the gentlemen's necessary? Twenty.

- Two to complain the light doesn't work.
- One to suggest a committee to study the bulb and why it doesn't work.
- Three to serve on the committee.
- Two to check out the types of bulbs the Elks and Moose use.
- Three to argue about the findings of the committee.
- Five to plan a fund-raising dinner to raise money for the bulb.
- Two to complain that "that's not the way we did it before."
- One to borrow a ladder, buy the bulb and install it.
- One to order the brass memorial plate and have it inscribed.

Now. All who think that's a really lame joke, vote by the usual sign of a Mason. Yup. Me too.

But, it does make a good point. There are many well-meaning Masons who are able to point out problems who either fall victim to analysis by paralysis or resist change simply because it is change, but few Masons who are able to solve problems through thought and action. After all, it's

one of our chief pleasures these days for Brothers to wring their hands, sigh deeply, and say something about how things used to be, and how membership just isn't what it was.

If an outsider were to hear these conversations, he would be forced to conclude that American Freemasonry is an institution that has appeared, strutted and fretted its time upon the stage, and is about to be heard no more. That, however, is one of the problems: outsiders ARE listening in on these conversations!

So maybe we, as Freemasons, need to change our conversations, so we can change those of outsiders.

Now, to be sure, we DO have a crisis when it comes to membership. I'm just not sure we're looking in the right places to identify the problem. And if we don't define the problem accurately, I'll guaran-dang-te we won't be very effective in addressing it, let alone in solving it.

Let's start by looking about the "common knowledge" about this Masonic Membership Mess in which we supposedly are enmeshed: Good, honest men don't want to join the Masons like they did back when we had so many petitioners we had to do three and four Degrees a night for five nights EVERY WEEK!

Well, I'm not sure it was ever that rosy back in the good ol' days, but enrollment numbers don't lie. However, the answer lies in insight from the great philosopher Pogo when he said: "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

I think we've lost sight of what Freemasonry is all about.

Here's a heresy for you: Masonry is NOT ritual, nor is ritual Masonry! Sure, our ritual is precious. Sure, our ritual is a supremely important teaching tool. Sure, it's beautiful, and profound, and meaningful, and all of that. BUT IT IS NOT MASONRY!

But, you protest, memorizing our ritual teaches us about Masonry. Sure, and that's an important part of it. What it really teaches us for certain is that those people who can memorize ritual can, in fact, memorize ritual. And that I occasionally interpose the wrong word in an embarrassing manner. But ritual is simply a means to an end. It is an important introduction to what Freemasonry is all about. There's a lot more.

Freemasonry is, before it is anything else, a fraternity. In its very structure it is social. And it is not intended for initiates alone, but for their families and friends as well.

In their zeal to create more

See *Light* on page 12



# Juneau's Masonic community celebrates cementing of cornerstone

By Bro. Charles Ward

An uncharacteristic bright and clear April 4 day served as the backdrop for the laying of the cornerstone of the new Juneau Masonic Center.

The ceremony marks the near-completion of an almost decade-long quest for a permanent building for Juneau's Masonic community, and also marks the beginning of the process to turn that structure into a home.

The ceremony began with DeMolay Chapter Dad John Barnett leading a parade of Masonic youth — DeMolay and Rainbow Girls — onto the site of the new building, bearing the flags of the U.S., Canada, Alaska and the various appendant bodies that will meet at the new site — the aforementioned youth groups, Juneau Chapter No. 7, Order of the Eastern Star, the Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club and the Juneau Valley bodies of the Scottish Rite.

Officers from the Grand Lodge of Alaska and members of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 followed the procession of boys and girls, and then the ceremony began.

The Grand Junior and Senior wardens, along with Deputy Grand Master Carl Lindstrom,



Photos by Michael Penn

Left: Doug Teninty, Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska, symbolically cements the cornerstone of the new Juneau Masonic Center into place on April 4, 2015. Above: Masons pray as the ceremony to lay the cornerstone of the new Juneau Masonic Center begins on April 4, 2015. From left, they are Curtis Hopson, Ibn Bailey, Chris Pace, Jim Robinson, Jeremy Frank and Tom Vallejo.

found the cornerstone square, plumb and level before M.W. Doug Teninty, Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons in Alaska ceremonially cemented the monument in place.

“It gives me and the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska the honor to lay the cornerstone to (Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21's) new home, may it ever prosper,” Teninty said in remarks that followed the ceremony. “Lodge is not just a meeting or an event that you attend. The meaning is so much greater. It is part of an extended family to which you belong. It

is a relationship that connects you to a group of which you are one of many. Take pride in your membership and show it the honor which it deserves. The rewards will be plentiful to you and your family.”

Dennis Egan, the senator representing Juneau in the Alaska Legislature, followed Teninty with remarks of his own, and presented a proclamation from the Legislature honoring the Juneau Masonic Community for its history of service to the community and on the occasion of the new building.

**See Celebrates on page 10**

# Reunion builds on tradition with new elements

By Ill. John Barnett, 33°

The Scottish Rite Valley of Juneau's held its 2015 Reunion April 23-25, with six men earning their 32nd Degree caps.

Two candidates — John O'Daniel and Mark Smith — traveled from Skagway to join Juneau brothers-to-be Martin Peters, Jamison Sanders, Matt Swift and Ken Cassell. Others came into the capital to aid the Juneau Valley in putting on the Reunion's events, including Fairbanks' Ill. David Worel, 33°, Deputy of the Supreme Council for the Orient of Alaska, Sitkans Ill. Ken Creamer, 33°, Edward Phillips, 32°, Allan Bell Jr., 32° and Eric Swanson, 32°. Also joining the festivities in Juneau were Skagway's Ron Ackerman, 32° KCCH and Jerry Hughes, 32° KCCH from Ketchikan.

This year, the Valley divided the degree communications and conferrals into small groups, with a team leader assigned to find communicators and, if a degree was to be presented as a drama, cast members for that play. Team leaders for the 4th through 32nd degree communications and conferrals were Creamer, Hughes, Ken Vaughan, 32°, Ill. John Barnett, 33°, Michael Franks, 32°, Steven Stewart, 32° KCCH, Ill. Dan McCrummen, 33°, Don Hale, 32° KCCH, Ed Kalwara, 32° KCCH, Doug Harris, 32°, Jim

Robinson, 32°, Larry Fanning, 32°, Charles Ward, 32° and Mer'chant Thompson, 32° served as team leaders in 2015.

The Juneau Chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew added another new element this year, with the dramatic presentation of their namesake 29th Degree. This presentation was in addition to the traditional plays for the 4th, 14th, 18th, 30th and 32nd degrees. The casts for these dramas proved to be skilled ensembles of Scottish Rite brothers from around Southeast Alaska. These dedicated Masonic thespians exceeded all expectations by attending weeks of rehearsals that culminated with a series of Reunion performances requiring numerous costume and set changes for a show the candidates would not soon forget.

At the Saturday night banquet, Franks presented a new award

to members for their service to the Scottish Rite. The Knight of the Double Eagle is a progressive award based on a point system for participation in Valley activities and service to the Rite. Vaughan, Franks, Ward, Barnett, Harris, McCrummen, Harris, Robinson, Thompson, Hale and Kalwara received the initial award.

The Reunion also included the annual meeting of the Southeast Alaska Knights of the Royal Order of Scotland on Friday evening. On Saturday evening, the Knights of Saint Andrew held their annual meeting.

The Valley dedicated the event to recently departed brothers Don Alexander and Joe Winders.

The 2015 event proved to be a grand gathering of Scottish Rite Masons from across Alaska. It was a time of education, of fellowship, and good fun. Thanks to all who participated!

## 2 from Juneau to receive Honors

By Ill. Dan McCrummen, 33°

The Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, 33°, S.J., USA recently announced two brothers from the Valley of Juneau will soon receive Scottish Rite Honors.

The Rite will coronet Al Brookman with the Inspector General Honorary, or 33rd Degree, while Larry Fanning will receive the Knight Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH). The Honors ceremonies will take place in Anchorage on Oct. 3. Congratulations to these deserving brothers for their selection!

## From the West



Photo by Bro. Charles Ward

Noble Ray Rusaw stops to share a laugh with kids along the Douglas Independence Day parade route on July 4, 2015.

# Signs of summer, symbols for a lifetime

By Bro. Ray Rusaw

Juneau has always had a special place in its heart for the month of July, particularly the Fourth of July.

When Juneau began as a gold town, July 4 was one of only two days on the calendar miners were off work (the other being Christmas). This is how the tradition of shooting off fireworks on the night of July 3 in Juneau came to be, as diggers could sleep off the celebration the next day without risking a dock in pay.

Nowadays, the Shriners get

up (somewhat) early on Independence Day to unload the miniature rolling stock and join veterans, police officers, fire fighters, bagpipers, working men and women and folks from all walks of life to take part in the Juneau and Douglas parades. While everyone is decked out in festive garb, the maroon fez with the black tassel is an unmistakable sign a fun time is on the way.

Each time I participate in the parades as a Shriner, I feel a great sense of pride

**See Symbols on page 10**

## From the JMCA Chairman

# Path tough at times, but the long journey is producing results

By W. Bro. Ken Vaughan

It has been about a decade since the Juneau Masonic Community started down the muddy path away from the Scottish Rite Temple. While not of the same scope as some of the epic migrations in history, it has been a significant and challenging change for some. When the building was sold, there was an expectation that a new location would be found, and stability would be re-established. It has been a difficult journey with some sinkholes in the path, and a more than a few bites from the metaphorical deer flies and white-socks.

One of the lingering matters is the two conex containers that were stuffed and hauled away nearly nine years ago. One of the containers failed, with moisture making a mess of its contents. The other one is at risk of failing.

When touring the containers, I learned a lot about the design approach used by those who built the Scottish Rite Temple. They were practical and utilitarian. There was little that was fancy, and the decorative items

**See Produces on page 11**

*Forward to the*

# FUTURE

## Financial security a foundation for our new home

**By Bro. Charles Ward**

On April 4, we began putting the physical foundation of our new home in place, by laying its cornerstone.

On that day, we also began laying the fiscal foundation of that building, a necessary step to turn the ideas and dreams of so many into a tangible and lasting place to gather as family and honor our history.

In just four months, generous members of the Juneau Masonic Community have given or pledged nearly \$44,000 towards securing the financial future of our new center. It's a fantastic start, one that hopefully will build to a fantastic end.

Here's what the end result is

hoped to be:

- An endowment fund with \$400,000 of seed money. While it will be up to us to make sure the light bill gets paid and the toilet paper stays stocked, an endowment fund will keep us from falling into an endless cycle of deferred maintenance and prevent our building from becoming a burden.

- A garage space for Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club vehicles and outdoor maintenance equipment.

- An operational storage unit to house equipment needed on an occasional basis.

- An outdoor kitchen and covered space.

- Cold storage to alleviate the need to rent storage space elsewhere in Juneau.

- Environmentally controlled

storage for historical records.

- Office space for files in active use.

Many of those who have contributed are doing so through incremental giving. Breaking a pledge up into five yearly payments can make a large sum easier to plan for. Deductions on a weekly, monthly or quarterly basis are also an option, allowing a few dollars every so often to build into something very beneficial for the Juneau Masonic Center.

Please consider a giving level you and your family feel comfortable with. To make a pledge, visit [tiny.cc/jmca](http://tiny.cc/jmca) or fill out a pledge card. If you have questions, call (907) 957-3582 or email [jmcacampaign@gmail.com](mailto:jmcacampaign@gmail.com).

**Questions? Call (907) 957.3582 or email [jmcacampaign@gmail.com](mailto:jmcacampaign@gmail.com)**



# Campaign Contributors

**Cornerstone Society**  
 Harley Clough  
 Michael Franks  
 Ken Vaughan  
 Anne & Charles Ward

**Fez Society**  
 Ed Kalwara  
 Otto Wheeler

**Square Society**  
 Thomas Brown

**Compass Society**  
 Russell Anderson  
 Charles Berg  
 Jim Williams

**Friends of the Fraternity**  
 Dan Logan

## How can I help?

Giving Level	One-time Contribution	Yearly Contribution	Quarterly Contribution	Monthly Contribution	Weekly Contribution
Cornerstone Society	\$10,000	\$2,000	\$500	\$167	\$39
Solomon Society	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$250	\$84	\$20
Constellation Society	\$2,500	\$500	\$125	\$42	\$10
Fez Society	\$1,000	\$200	\$50	\$17	\$4
Square Society	\$500	\$100	\$25	\$9	\$2
Compass Society	\$250	\$50	\$13	\$5	\$1
Friends of the Fraternity	\$1-\$249				

**Visit [tiny.cc/jmca](http://tiny.cc/jmca) or fill out a pledge card today!**

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# Symbols

*Continued from page 7*

that reinforces my feelings of brotherhood. The feeling I get when so many strangers yell, cheer and smile when they see the Shriners pull down the street, either because they get great joy in seeing our mini-Vettes zoom up and down Egan Drive or, more importantly, know of our greatest achievement, the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Symbols like the fez are an important part of Masonry and its appendant bodies. Some are so we may know

another Brother outside the light of the Lodge. As many of my Brothers know, I very seldom travel, but I did just that not long ago. Before I left my house, the last thing I did was put on a Masonic pin. I put it back on before making my return trip and as I was coming through security the scanner sounded an alarm and a pat down became necessary and as the officer noticed my lapel pin, he gave me a certain grip and smiled as I passed on.

That experience showed the

value of a Masonic symbol to the external world, but it also showed its worth to me. If I'm to hold myself out as a Mason, such a symbol is also a reminder to me that I am to walk upright before God and my fellow man and stay within my due bounds.

As Masons, we are to be symbols of morality to the outside world, but we can never lose sight of the symbols that remind us to be just and upright when the world is not watching.

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# Celebrates

*Continued from page 5*

The cornerstone laying ceremony provided the highlight for a great weekend of Masonic events. On April 3, Teninty made his official visit to Mt. Ju-

neau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21. A banquet followed the April 4 cornerstone ceremony. At that event, the Juneau Masonic Center Association honored V.W.

Harley Clough for becoming the first member of the Cornerstone Society, the top giving level for JMCA's Forward to the Future fundraising campaign.

## 2 burial plots at Alaskan Memorial Park for sale

The family of W. Bro. Tom Shanley is offering two burial plots to a Mason who may be interested in them.

Shanley, who departed to the Celestial Lodge in 1992, and his widow are both interred in a family plot at Evergreen Cemetery, and his family would like

to see the plots go to a Mason.

The plots at Alaskan Memorial Park are in the Masonic Section, Serenity Garden, Shriners Circle, Lot 410, Spaces 1 and 2A. Further, one additional space next to these plots is available from Alaskan Memorial Park.

The Shanley family is asking

\$3,795 each and includes property, endowment care, interment fee and outer burial containers. All serious offers will be considered.

For more information concerning purchase of the plots, contact Trish Shanley at (425) 736-1441.

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## From the South

# Do you get to go to Lodge, or do you have to?

By Bro. Charles Ward

Do you get to go to Lodge, or do you have to?

When the first and third Tuesday of the month rolls around, are you excited to get to the building early, break bread with your brothers, and enjoy the ritual? Or do you go out of rote, annoyed at the prospect of a couple of hours in a cramped and stuffy room?

If we're honest with ourselves, we've probably answered this question both ways at various times. We may feel badly about being apathetic towards attending Lodge, but when this genuine emotion presents itself, it's time to ask

“Why do I feel this way?”

Would you like to be a bigger part of Lodge leadership? There are always opportunities to take charge of a committee or special project. One doesn't need to be a Master, Warden or Deacon to guide the Lodge to better things.

Or, perhaps you want to serve, but don't want to take on one of the chairs. There are plenty of ways to pitch in. Bring a dish for the meal. Help set up the Lodge room for a meeting. Offer to bring one of our older brothers on Tuesday. Write an article for the Cable Tow (your humble editor would be grateful for that!).

Improving ritual work is perhaps the greatest way to

make your Lodge better. Grab a brother and help each other learn a small role. Spend a few minutes each day learning a part of a larger lecture — the puzzle pieces of memorization will fall into place faster than you might think. Find an Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or newly raised Master Mason and help him become proficient (you'll be surprised at how much your proficiency will improve at the same time).

If you find lethargy creeping in as you leave work on Tuesday evening, focus on why you feel that way, and find something you can do to make your Lodge a place you get to enjoy, not something you have to endure.

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## Produce

*Continued from page 7*

were mostly for the building's exterior.

Some items from the Scottish Rite Temple that have been stored will be used in the new Juneau Masonic Center. However, many will be rehomed or, if they are in poor shape, disposed of entirely.

There are a few reasons why many items from the Temple will not be used in the new building. The first is cost. Re-

storing all of these items would quickly burn through the money set aside for furnishing the new structure, leaving us unable to acquire new fixtures and other needed items.

Secondly, many of these older items simply will not work in the new structure, regardless of condition. For example, many of the Temple doors do not meet ADA requirements, which were not a factor in

1928.

Finally, choices have to be made when losing nearly 10,000 square feet of space between the Temple and the new Center.

It's been a difficult path to get to this point, but the tree of our labor is starting to bear fruit. More hard work and tough choices remain, but the end result will be worth the effort.

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# Light

*Continued from page 12*

Master Masons, our Brethren of the past century—and some of us as well—have concentrated ONLY on the mechanical processes—the ritual, if you will—of making Master Masons.

And then we have abandoned many of them.

Most certainly we have abandoned their families all too often! Have you ever heard the term “Masonic widow?” Does it describe anybody you know?

And, since not all new Masons have any particular interest in a purely ritualistic organization, and, not learning that there’s more to Masonry than conferring degrees, they leave—and have left—in droves.

While he is becoming a Master Mason, a man is supposed to meet regularly with a more experienced Brother to discuss Masonry. Typically those meetings should comprise several hours. When he becomes a Master Mason, those Masonic discussions should continue in Lodge, and with Brothers outside of Lodge.

But what really happens?

We drag a guy into an unfamiliar place, surround him with strangers, blindfold him and preach at him for a total of perhaps four hours or so. We give him some fancy titles, and tell him he’s now eligible to teach about Masonry himself.

We claim to “make good men better.” How do we do that if we

stop providing Light when we hand out that third cipher?

We’re looking for a fraternity where we can have some social activities with our Brothers—and other social activities that involve our families, including our kids. We’re looking for projects that can benefit our local schools and communities. We’re looking for a fraternity that’s well enough known locally that we can be proud to be members.

But we haven’t devoted enough time to educate ourselves as Masons. We haven’t taken the time to have serious discussions about Masonic matters. I’ve got to think that there are Masons who want to talk about something other than ritual, or paying the bills.

You see, my Brothers, EVERY man reading the Cable Tow has been asked what he wanted. We answered “light,” and we were told we would receive it.

Did you? If you did, how? Have you made a real effort to pass it on? Or do you figure that’s somebody else’s job?

Once we have raised a new Master Mason, our duties have only begun. We owe that new member something. All of us. This is a big assignment. It requires that we live our lives according to the tenets of our Order. It means that each of us will have to learn how to think and to behave like a Mason. And it means we need to start paying attention to our

Lodges.

So here are two things you can do. Today:

- Get to know men who are not Masons, and discuss Masonry with those who are already Masons in character, but not yet in name. Help guide them to the altar if they are ready and willing.
- Talk and learn about Masonry! Do it in Lodge. Do it with your Brothers at the meal break and after Lodge. Spend some time reading about Masonry. Talk about how much Masonry means to you with your non-Masonic friends. Share your thoughts with us!

To sum up, when I was raised, I swore a solemn obligation on a Volume of Sacred Law I consider to be divinely inspired. A part of that volume deals with Jesus of Nazareth’s sermons on the shores of Galilee. It ends with the passage: “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

My Brothers, let YOUR Masonic light so shine! Let OUR Masonic light so shine. We CAN bring light to a world wandering in darkness and in doing so fill our ranks with motivated, inspired Brethren.

So mote it be.