



NIPPON LODGE No. 9



GAZETTE



Free and Accepted Masons



MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF JAPAN

The Official Trestle Board of The Brethren of Nippon Lodge No. 9, Sasebo, Japan

Jan 29, 2021



Be safe

Be Well

Masonic Obligation of Paying Annual Dues

First of all, the entire brethren of our Lodge shall be forever thankful to our Lodge Secretary and Treasure for their due diligence in fulfilling their duties to notify and collect the annual membership dues from amongst us. It was a long and arduous process to update and ensure the accuracy of our membership database as well as the timely collection and delivery of all dues cards. We will continue to improve this fete while we humbly ask for your patience and understanding as we commit to better the notification and accounting of all our members. WB Henry Staggs (SEC) spent a lot of his personal time to glean and update our records particularly the email addresses to ensure better contact to our brothers in different parts of the world. Collaborative efforts of HWB Bill Cloonan (TREAS) partnered with WB Henry Staggs guaranteed the timely and flawless transfer of funds from our brethren to our bank account.

Our masonic obligation in paying our dues is key to sustaining and supporting our Lodge. It is merely charity from within.

In this first of edition of our Gazette for MY2021, let us look into the stipulations of the Constitution of our jurisdiction. It is our direct reference in addition to the details delineated in our Lodge By-laws as it was the basis of our basic guidance of being a Lodge. Having said that, let us discuss the important articles of our Constitution that pertain to the payment of dues.

Articles 104 and 104A of the Constitution elaborates the technicalities around the payment and non-payment of dues. As follows verbatim:

Art. 104. All dues to Constituent Lodges shall be payable annually in advance on December 31 of each year. It is plain and simple that we are obligated to pay on or before the end of each Masonic year in order to be current and receive your dues card.

Art. 104a. (Amended Annual communication – 1974) No Lodge shall expel a member for non-payment of dues; but in case any member shall have failed to pay his dues during the entire year for which they were due, he shall before the end of the sixth month of the next succeeding year be notified by the Secretary of his arrearages and current dues. If, at the end of three additional months, his dues and arrearages still not be paid, he shall be notified by the Secretary, either by registered letter deposited in a Post Office in Japan addressed to him at his last known address, or by actual service of notice duly certified by the Tiler, that, unless on or before the Stated Meeting of December, either his dues be paid or sickness or inability to pay be shown as the cause of such refusal or neglect, he shall be suspended from all rights and privileges of Masonry. If neither of these things be done; he shall, at the Stated Meeting of December of the second consecutive year for which his dues are not paid, be declared by the Master

to be suspended effective on the last day of the year, unless, for special reasons shown, the Lodge shall remit his dues or grant him further time for their payment; but any Mason thus suspended, who shall at any time pay the arrearages due at the time of his suspension, or who shall have had such arrearages and dues remitted by his Lodge, shall by either of these acts be restored: **PROVIDED**, that should any member suspended for non-payment of dues, neglect for a period of two (2) years after his suspension to pay said dues, or have the same remitted by his Lodge, said member shall not be restored except by a three-fourths (3/4) vote by secret written ballot of all the members present at the next Stated Meeting after the petition for reinstatement is presented. Any Secretary failing or neglecting to comply with the requirements of this section relative to notifying delinquents shall be subject to discipline by his Lodge for neglect of duty. The Secretary shall further cause to be read and recorded in the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the following January, the names of all members suspended under the provisions of this Article.

It is cut and dry that nobody can be expelled, but anybody can be suspended due to non-payment of dues (NPD). The Lodge will communicate this to the Grand Lodge, and in a nutshell, your NPD status gets communicated to your Lodges of affiliation. Vote for restoration is required after 3 years of suspension. Let us fulfill our Masonic duty by paying our annual dues.

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Worshipful Master's Corner



WB Ace R. Asuncion

Greetings to everyone! It seems like it was just yesterday when we did our Lodge installation ceremony.

Then the pandemic made it more exciting to survive the test of time and patience for us to conduct our usual Masonic rituals, fellowships and charity work. It just proves that we do have both time and patience to await the next opportunity break bread and dwell together in unity as Masons. With the pandemic still lingering in our midst, definitely more patience and understanding are what we need while awaiting the total elimination of this virus. Even though the vaccine is now available, it still remains a question if it will be a total protection or just a deterrent for now.

I want to reiterate my appreciate for all the support that you have given our Lodge in the last Masonic year. It was a tumultuous year plagued by trials and tribulations that tested the strength and will of everyone of us, but your commitment to uphold the virtues of Masonry made us stand strong and let brotherly prevail. Indeed, thank you very much! To those who have paid their yearly dues, your magnanimous support makes a big difference in the sustaining our Lodge. Please let us continue to do so to keep the light of our Lodge inexhaustibly radiant. It does not only guide us to commit to memory that we are Masons, but continue to spread the tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth.

Shout out to our newly pinned brethren as Chiefs in the greatest Navy. It is a distinguished achievement to be bestowed with the anchor of a Chief. Congratulations again more particularly to our Junior Warden Bro. Caloy Caluya who is also getting ready to execute his transfer orders to Okinawa.

Please spare some time to read the articles contributed by our Senior Warden (WB Manny Manipula) and Treasurer (HWB Bill Cloonan). The articles are very assertive and its contents will stimulate your minds about the deeper meaning of being a Mason. One passage that struck me, and give meaning to what I always tell our aspiring petitioner and progressing brethren was from a prominent Brother, Albert Pike when he said, and I quote—"The true Mason loves not only his kindred and his country, but all mankind; not only the good, but also the evil, among his brethren." His dedication to Masonry made him one of the most prominent member of our Brotherhood, and he simply means that from within our Craft exists the less informed brethren who unfortunately acts below the distinguished level of a true Mason, but he asserted that us true Masons, we still love and care of them because that is the spirit of being a true Mason.

In closing, please continue to support our Lodge. If you have not paid your dues, you are always welcome to do so. Always be ready to go back to the Lodge, so that if we are given the golden opportunity to return to the "normal" life we used to enjoy, we will surely exercise the usual events and rituals that we do in and out of the Lodge. We'll continue to monitor and abide by the local and military policies that dictates our ability to meet as a group in the Lodge. I will also keep you posted on the status of the ANCOM that was rescheduled in June at the Grand Lodge.

Lastly, continue to be vigilant. Each and everyone of us has an obligation to keep ourselves while keeping others healthy and safe during this time of pandemic. Let us continue to pray to the GAOTU that we and our families be granted good health and safety.

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Senior Warden's Corner



WBro Manny Manipula
Past Master NL #9

Why Does Freemasonry Conceal Its Secrets From Even Its Own Members?

By: Hank Kraychir

As mentioned in my previous article Spiritual Anarchy and Freemasonry, "Upon reflection, our declining numbers is nothing but the symptom of a disease that we allowed to infiltrate the Craft, i.e. Postmodernism." Our Masonic forefathers warned us to be on guard against the Profane, but we have not listened. Instead, we have allowed profane thinking into the Craft; nevertheless, this was to be expected, as it has throughout the history of mankind.

You see, the Craft is a pathway to elevated levels of learning, which requires a depth of study in order to understand its teachings. No, I am not talking about someone who earned a position within the Craft because of his association and length of service. As honorable as a Mason's service to the Craft is, in the end, his service to the Craft often has little to do with one's Masonic knowledge. Case in point, Albert Pike wrote in his book *Morals and Dogma* (1871), "As all the great Mysteries of God and the Universe are thus hidden in the Ternary, it everywhere appears in Masonry and in the Hermetic Philosophy under its mask of Alchemy. It even appears where Masons do not suspect it". Wait a minute, is Pike suggesting that Freemasonry does not reveal all its secrets to the newly initiated? Yes, of course. Pike confirmed this concealment when he wrote:

"If you have been disappointed in the first three Degrees, as you have received them, and if it has seemed to you that the performance has not come up to the promise, that the lessons of morality are not new, and the scientific instruction is but rudimentary, and the symbols are imperfectly explained, remember that the ceremonies and lessons of those Degrees have been for ages more and more accommodating themselves, by curtailment and sinking into commonplace, to the often limited memory and capacity of the Master and Instructor, and to the intellect and needs of the Pupil and Initiate; that they have come to us from an age when symbols were used, not to reveal but to conceal; when the commonest learning was confined to a select few, and the simplest principles of morality seemed newly discovered truths; and that these antique and simple Degrees now stand like the broken columns of a roofless Druidic temple, in their rude and mutilated greatness; in many parts, also, corrupted by time, and disfigured by modern additions and absurd interpretations. They are but the entrance to the great Masonic Temple, the triple columns of the portico."

Yes my friends, Pike wrote that Masonry would be "corrupted by time, and disfigured by modern additions," and that our symbols were meant to conceal, not reveal deeper meanings to everyone. Now, keep in mind, Pike was not merely talking about the first three degrees of Freemasonry; no, he was alluding to all the degrees within the Craft. He firmly believed that Masonic symbols and ceremonies had more than one meaning; that they were intended to be hidden; not fully disclosed. Why? Simply stated, he, like others before him, knew the Craft would be infiltrated; but more on that a little later. Here we read Pike discussing the secrets:

"These Degrees are also intended to teach more than morals. The symbols and ceremonies of Masonry have more than one meaning. They rather conceal than disclose the Truth. They hint it only, at least; and their varied meanings are only to be discovered by reflection and study. Truth is not only symbolized by Light, but as the ray of light is separable into rays of different colors, so is truth separable into kinds."

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Senior Warden's Corner



WBro Manny Manipula
Past Master NL #9

Why Does Freemasonry Conceal Its Secrets From Even Its Own Members?

By: Hank Kraychir (continued)

Think about it for a moment, history is replete with examples of good ideas that eventually become corrupted; which Pike confirmed, "Unfortunately, as Truths always become perverted into falsehoods, and are falsehoods when misapplied, this Truth became the Gospel of Anarchy, soon after it was first preached. Masonry early comprehended this Truth, and recognized its own enlarged duties..." and "felt that this Truth had the Omnipotence of God on its side."

I know, I know, there is that pesky word again, God. You see, so many within the Craft today have been taught that Freemasonry has nothing to do with religion; therefore, they dismiss any relationship to the word God. Nevertheless, "God and truth are inseparable; a knowledge of God is possession of the saving oracles of truth." This infiltration in thinking was to be expected, for you see, men of all ages act the same, which Pike confirmed:

"A man may be a good sort of man in general, and yet a very bad man in particular: good in the Lodge and bad in the world; good in public, and bad in his family; good at home, and bad on a journey or in a strange city. Many a man earnestly desires to be a good Mason. He says so, and is sincere. But if you require him to resist a certain passion, to sacrifice a certain indulgence, to control his appetite at a particular feast, or to keep his temper in a dispute, you will find that he does not wish to be a good Mason, in that particular case; or, wishing, is not able to resist his worse impulses."

*I know, I know, Masons don't like to discuss the fact that evil may have in fact infiltrated our distinguished institutions; or that we are supposed to be on guard against the evil Mason. But honestly, one only needs to look at our writings to discover the fact that we were forewarned, as Pike wrote, "The true Mason loves not only his kindred and his country, but all mankind; not only the good, but also the evil, among his brethren." I could easily go on and on with regard to the topic of the evil Mason, but I won't. I will however mention that I wrote a four hundred page book called **Masonry and the Three Little Pigs (2015)** that covered this topic in length. Therefore, I am very familiar with the topic of evil infiltration within the Craft.*

In conclusion, this was the fourth article written this year on the topic of Postmodernism and its negative effect on the Craft; and it will not be my last. In the article, I discussed why we have to keep our most valued secrets within elevated levels of learning. In short, to keep them from the profane. Honestly, until one understands the importance of these true secrets, he will continue to wonder and ponder like the postmodern thinkers of destruction and ruin. Here are a few departing words from Eliphas Levi, the man who most influenced Pike:

The man who is enslaved by his passions or worldly prejudices can in no wise be initiated; he must alter or he will never attain; hence he cannot be an adept, for the word signifies a person who has attained by will and by work. The man who loves his own opinions and fears to part with them, who suspects new truths, who is unprepared to doubt everything rather than admit anything on chance, should close this book; for him it is useless and dangerous; he will fail to understand it, and it will trouble him, while if he should divine its meaning, it will be a still greater source of disquietude. If you hold by anything in the world more than by reason, truth and justice; if your will be uncertain and vacillating, either in good or evil; if logic alarm you, or the naked truth make you blush; if you are hurt when accepted errors are assailed; condemn this work straight away; do not read it; let it cease to exist for you; but at the same time do not cry it down as dangerous. The secrets which it records will be understood by an elect few, and will be held back by those who understand them. (Eliphas Levi, Transcendental Magic, 1854 p. 28-29).

So Mote It Be!

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Junior Warden's Corner



Bro. Carl Caluya

Good Standing Mason

Art. 112. No Lodge shall admit a visitor without due inquiry or examination, nor unless he can and does produce written evidence, under the seal of his Lodge, that he is in good standing therein, and shall prove himself to be a Master Mason, either by private examination under the test oath or by avouchment under the following restrictions. No Mason shall vouch for a visiting Brother unless he shall have sat with him in open Lodge, or has examined him under proper authority, or in case a member of one Lodge has sat in open Lodge with a visiting Brother, such Brother so sitting can vouch for such visiting Brother to a member of any other Lodge, all three being present, and such Brother to whom such avouchment is made can then vouch for such visiting Brother to the Master of his Lodge. Private examination and lecturing a visitor in the work, without authority, are both forbidden. Nor shall a visitor be admitted if there be, in the opinion of the Master, a valid objection made to such admission by a member of the Lodge. Such objection shall be made privately to the Master, stating the reason therefor. The Master's decision thereon shall be final, and he shall not disclose to the visitor, any member, or any other person the name of the Brother objecting, but shall privately inform the visitor that a Brother objects. The right to visit Masonically is not an absolute one, but a favor which any lawful Mason in good standing has the right to ask, but which the Lodge may refuse. No Mason shall visit a Lodge without being satisfied of its lawful authority. All Lodges are required to show a visitor their Charter, if requested to do so. The Master may, at any time, in his discretion, request the visitors to retire, and should do so when the private affairs of the Lodge are under discussion.

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Treasurer's Corner



HWBro. Bill Cloonan
Hon. Past Master NL#9

Freemasonry and Star Trek

I am sure many of you are asking yourselves what does Star Trek have to do with Masonry? When I stumbled onto an article about this subject I also was wondering..." oh, this ought to be good". I myself am a fan of all Science Fiction including all the iterations of Star Trek that have been produced. So, I was drawn to read this article. The late Gene Roddenberry, creator of Star Trek, was thought to be a Freemason. However, this is more than likely a conspiracy theory as no evidence has been found to support this theory. Roddenberry considered himself to be a Humanist. Wikipedia defines Humanism as such: Humanism is a philosophical and ethical stance that emphasizes the value and agency of human beings, individually and collectively, and generally prefers critical thinking and evidence over acceptance of dogma or superstition. That isn't to say Roddenberry was an atheist, he is quoted to have said this before his death: "It's not true that I don't believe in God. I believe in a kind of God. It's just not other people's god. I reject religion. I accept the notion of God." Mr. Roddenberry is also quoted as saying: "Understand that Star Trek is more than just my political philosophy, my racial philosophy, my overview on life and the human condition."

This being said, it's easy to see why there's a belief that Roddenberry might have been a Freemason. The Star Trek Universe parallels many of our teachings in different ways. The United Federation of Planets espouses liberty, equality, justice, peace and universal cooperation. It is described in an episode of the original series, "Whom Gods Destroy" as being an enlightened group of humanitarians and statesman that had a dream which became a reality and spread throughout the stars. We can look at the history of our fraternity and say something very similar. Although we have not spread throughout the stars, Freemasonry has spread to all seven continents and the moon. Antarctica's first Lodge was established on Feb. 5, 1935 by members of Admiral Byrd's Antarctic expedition of 1933-1935. The Lodge on the moon (Tanquility Lodge 2000) was created by Buzz Aldrin with special dispensation given to him by the Grandmaster of Texas.

Freemasonry and Star Trek reflect the cardinal virtues. The virtues of Justice, Prudence, Temperance and Fortitude are represented by the three principle officers on the original series, Kirk, Spock, and Dr. McCoy, but also the three principle officers of the Lodge. Kirk being Captain of the USS Enterprise would represent two of the virtues, namely Justice and Fortitude. Spock, being Vulcan and relying on Logic more than emotion, would represent Prudence. McCoy, whose emotion balances Spock's logic, would represent Temperance. Parallel to this in the Lodge, The Worshipful Master would represent Justice and Fortitude, The Senior Warden Prudence, and the Junior Warden, Temperance.

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Treasurer's Corner



HWBro. Bill Cloonan
Hon. Past Master NL#9

Freemasonry and Star Trek (continued)

The idea of a brotherhood is also prevalent throughout Star Trek. The most striking example from the Original Series is portrayed in the episode, "The Menagerie". In this episode, Spock hijacks the Enterprise to transport his severely disabled former Captain, Captain Pike, to the planet of Talos IV where he would be able to live out the illusion of a normal life. Is this not something that we as Freemasons might do? We promise to aid all poor, worthy distressed Brothers.

I also see an interesting connection between Mr. Spock and Freemasonry as well. Mr. Spock being a Vulcan (half human – half Vulcan). As we know Vulcan is the Roman God of fire and metal working. Albert Mackey, a famous Masonic scholar wrote in 1860 about TC stating: "He was the inventor of edge-tools, and introduced many arts into society which tended towards its improvement and civilization. T C is the Vulcan. In after times TC figured as workers in metals and inventors of the mysteries... For these reasons TC has been consecrated among Masons of the present day as an ancient brother."

Quoting from another article about Leonard Nimoy, the actor who portrayed Mr. Spock; "There is a direct parallel to Masonry here, at least to me anyway. It would seem like the Vulcan culture manifested in the universe of Star Trek mirrors the logical thought processes we as Masons are taught to use in our everyday lives. To suppress vice, to break away from the superfluties and obey the dictates of logic. And to self-sacrifice for the good of humanity."

So, in ending Gene Roddenberry said this: "In a very real sense, we are all aliens on a strange planet. We spend most of our lives reaching out and trying to communicate. If during our whole lifetime, we could reach out and really communicate with just two people, we are indeed very fortunate". In summary, we as Freemasons strive to communicate to the world as well as each other the values and principles that we live by. opng that we can live together in oneness as fellow human creatures who hold our values sacred and to be revered.

(Much of this article has been borrowed from WB Darin A. Lahners who writes a blog for "The Midnight Masons")

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Secretary's Corner



WB Henry J. Staggs
Past Master NL#9

A. For those Brethren who desire to pay your annual Lodge dues via NFCU the following information is provided:

1. You must first add Nippon Lodge 9 to your Member to Member account transfers.
 - a) After you have logged onto your account click on the Transfers tab. Follow the instructions provided on how to add a member account.
 - b) After you have added Nippon Lodge no 9 you will be able to make a transfer.
2. The following information will be asked when adding Nippon Lodge No 9 in your Member to Member Account.
 - a) Name of account: Nippon Lodge No 9 (no special characters are to be added)
 - b) Type of account: Association Savings
 - c) Account Number: Contact the Treasurer or Secretary and that number will be provided to you. Please send your emails to:

Secretary email: nipponlodge9sasebo@gmail.com

Treasurer email: imabuku@gmail.com

B. The following information is a step-by-step guide to affect the Transfer (TXFR) to NFCU

1. Once you have signed into your account, Click the Transfers Tab
2. Select an Account in the From Section
3. Select the Account you wish to TXFR funds From
4. Click Select an Account from the To section and select the account the funds will be transferred to from the Member-to-Member Accounts section.
5. Click the calendar icon to display the Frequency drop down menu and select the applicable date.
6. Type the amount to transfer in the Amount field.
7. Click Continue
8. Click Make Transfer
9. Click Done

While I am still working on the personal contact information of all our Lodge members, please feel free to inform me if you know of any brethren that we need to include in our Lodge correspondence. This pandemic significantly improved our opportunities to generate extra funds through our fundraising events. We will double our efforts as soon as the first opportunity knocks to do so.

Please be reminded that our new official Lodge email address is:

nipponlodge9sasebo@gmail.com

You can send any inquiries or matters concerning your membership as well as any correspondence you want the Lodge to address. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

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Points of Contact:

WEB: www.nipponlodge9.com

FB: NL9 Officers and Members

Nippon::9 (Non-Tiled)

EMAIL:

nipponlodge9sasebo@gmail.com

NIPPON LODGE No. 9

MASONIC YEAR 6021 (A.L.) OFFICERS

Worshipful Master	WB Ace R. Asuncion
Senior Warden	WB Manny Manipula (PM Nippon Lodge #9)
Junior Warden	Bro. Carl Caluya
Interim Secretary	WB Henry Staggs (PM Nippon Lodge #9)
Treasurer	HWM Bill Cloonan (Honorary PM Nippon Lodge #9)
Chaplain	WB Ron Deguzman (PM Aomori Lodge #10)
Marshall	WB Mike Velarmino (PM Nippon Lodge #9)
Senior Deacon	Bro. Will Dispolo
Junior Deacon	Bro. Joseph Delacruz
Senior Steward	Bro. Nathan Wade
Junior Steward	Bro. Hero Jambalos
Tiler	Bro. Orlan Blanco

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