



NIPPON LODGE NO. 9 / MASONIC
PSC 476 BOX 135 FPO AP 96322-0001

February, 2015

"WE LEARN TO SUBDUCE THE PASSIONS, ACT UPON THE SQUARE, KEEP A TONGUE OF GOOD REPORT, MAINTAIN SECRECY AND PRACTICE CHARITY."

Moving On For MY 6015

In This Edition:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Moving On For MY 6015 | 1 |
| Message From The Worshipful Master | 1 |
| Message From The Senior Warden | 2 |
| Message From The Junior Warden | 2 |
| The MWGL of Japan | 3 |
| Nippon Lodge #9 Contact Infor- | 3 |
| Masonic Educa- | 4 |
| Nippon Lodge #9 2015 Officers | 5 |

If you are looking for something to do at 6 PM on Mondays and Wednesdays, the lodge is always open on those times and days as the new set of officers as well as the other brethren are practicing and honing their proficiency for degree work and floor work expected of us being Masons to perform whenever the need arises. The new set of Nippon Lodge #9 started the year with a bang by religiously meeting on a weekly basis to practice as well as discuss matters about how we can improve our lodge and plan for the labors of the lodge. Moving on with this new Masonic Year, the Pillars are soliciting for your inputs about how we can keep the Light of the Lodge

profusely glowing and reach out to the community through our charity work and affiliations.

WB Mike Velarmino successfully held his first Stated Meeting attended by our brothers from Sasebo and Fukuo-ka. While our new BJW Ervey Amoyan is already working on the charity work for the rest of the year.

One of the most significant event ahead of us is the MWGLJ Annual Communication slated to be held on 13-14 March. Before then, we are surely holding our annual charitable commitment with the Seifuen Orphanage when we hold the Valentine's Day celebration with the underprivileged kids of Seifuen. More tails will follow from the

Lodge once the dates are firmed up.

The success of our pillars and the entire Lodge needs strength and support to enable us keep the light of our craft lit. If you have any suggestions, feel free to contact the pillars. We need to think initiatives that will improve our fraternal relationship from within as well as with the community around us.

Again, appreciate everyone's share in the labors of the lodge. Please let the pillars know if you have any suggestions as we move along with the new year while supporting our newly installed set of officers. May the GAOTU be with you and yours!

Highlights of The Month:

- * CY-2014 Financial Audit
- * Seifuen Valentine's Day Charity Event

Message from the Worshipful Master

I would like to thank the Brethren who attended our first Stated Meeting. Reminder that we will be conducting Lodge of Instruction every Mondays and Wednesdays (except on Holidays). Our goal is to conduct cross-training so we can support having alternates in every position.

Brother Paco, Great to see you back!

Looking forward on seeing everyone at our Charity event.

For those who need to pay their dues, please contact our Secretary, Bro. Earl Epperson.

We are also in need of brethren to participate in the committees that we are setting up to take charge in our labors and upcoming events. So far, we have four committees set up.

And lastly, please send your most current or additional contact information in order for us to ensure that you are getting our Lodge correspondence. Please pass this along to other brethren.

See you all at our first Charity event for MY 2015, the Seifuen Valentine's Day Charity Event on 13 Feb 2015. Announcements will be made on separate correspondence from the pillars.



**Sincerely and Fraternally,
WB Mike Velarmino**

Message From The Senior Warden

First of all, CONGRATULATIONS again to our new set of officers! Looking forward to working with you all!

Please forward us your contact information as we have noticed that not all brethren are receiving our monthly trestle board. Your information is very much needed in order to keep you informed. If you know of any brother that is not receiving our correspondence, please send this note to them.

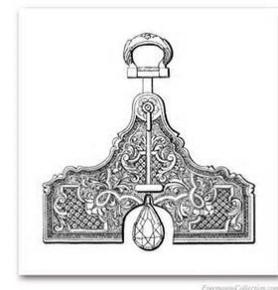
For Bro. Rey Giron, deep condolences for the passing of his father. May the GAOTU be with you and yours

during this time of bereavement.

To our deployed brethren, safe and light travel ahead during your deployment. Please use your emails to reach back and let us know if you or your families need a cable tow while you are away. Take care out there!!!

In closing, our new set of officer for 2015 will be needing your cable tow to keep our Lodge as strong as it can be. Your participation in Lodge events is very much needed.

See you all at the Seifuen Valentine's Day Charity Event!!!



**Fraternally,
Bro. Ace R. Asuncion**

Message From The Junior Warden

I would like to take this moment to congratulate Bro. Steve Irvine and Bro Mike Vagle after being passed to the degree of Fellow Craft in Sasebo, and also to say thank you to all the Brethren who always show up in our Stated Meetings, Degree Conferrals and especially in Lodge of Instruction (LOI). With your dedicated time, patience and perseverance, it had accomplished all things.



**Fraternally,
Bro. Ervey Amoyan**

The **MMGL** of Japan Annual Communication 2015

If you want to see a lot of finely dressed group of people participating in a big Masonic event, join us when we gather together with the rest of the brethren in the entire Japan. It is an annual gathering that celebrates the election of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Japan in Tokyo. It is a very historic and an eye-opening event due to the significance of witnessing the installation of our Grand Lodge officers. What makes it even more exciting is seeing and meeting our brethren from other Lodges not only in Japan, but other countries. The diversity and extent of our brotherhood is far-fetched.

For this year, the official events will be held on 13-14 March. The two-day event is full of exciting and memorable activities highlighted by the public installation of the Grandmaster. After the installation, the event will be concluded with a formal dinner that will be held at the New Sanno Hotel.

If you are interested, please contact any of the pillars, so that we can plan and facilitate the travel for the event.



Primary Address:

NIPPON LODGE NO. 9 / MASONIC
PSC 476 BOX 135 FPO AP 96322-0001

Local Address:

Nippon Lodge NO. 9
4-3 Tanigo Cho 2nd Floor., Sasebo-shi

Contact Telephone #s:

WBro. Mike Velarmino: (81) 80-4209-5269
Bro. Ace Asuncion: (81) 80-8367-0788
Bro. Ervey Amoyan (81) 80-4356-2305

| DATE | EVENT*** |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 02 Feb | Dark (Navy Holiday) |
| 04 Feb | Monthly Stated Meeting |
| 09 Feb | LOI |
| 11 Feb | LOI |
| 13 Feb | Seifuen Valentine's Day Charity Event |
| 16 Feb | Dark (US Holiday) |
| 18 Feb | LOI |
| 23 Feb | LOI |

*** Subject to change

**We are on the
WEB!!**



Masonic Education

MASONIC EDUCATION

(A Subject Too Often Overlooked)

Much of what follows is credited to Brother Richard E Fletcher, PGM, Vermont, USA. This lecture was given several years ago but is just as relevant now as it was then. I have also included some of my own thoughts along with Brother Fletcher.

This will be the first of a Three Part Series

It has been observed by many Masons everywhere over the years, “The lack of educational work in the average lodge is the principle reason for the lack of interest and the consequent poor attendance in Masonry over which spokesman have been wringing their hands for at least a century”.

This quote stirs one to think about the importance and value of Masonic education within the Masonic Fraternity. It should further stir us to think about why this important aspect of Freemasonry has been so badly overlooked in many lodges.

This leads to the all important question, “Why has this situation come about”? The problem in trying to answer this question is that there is no easy answer. We, as a Fraternity, have reached the point where far too few of our members have even the faintest idea of why they are Freemasons, let alone, have any real knowledge about our history and heritage.

To those of you who are “ritual purists” please do not let my next statement shock you. But the real truth of the matter is we have come to depend on the ritual as the basis for Masonic Knowledge. The ritual does not make Masons. It only makes members! We cheat, wrong and defraud any candidate who is left hanging at the end of the 3rd Degree, having heard a lot of words and really not knowing what they mean. Until the Degrees are explained to the candidate he has no idea of what he has gone through. To suggest that the explanation is complete with the lectures of each Degree is again burying our head in “Masonic Sand” so to speak.

The ritual has an important place in the life of the person who is becoming a Mason. But, that place is not the “throne from on high” from which there is no more to learn. For some, memorizing the ritual is easy, however does the Mason memorizing and reciting the Ritual understand the history and meaning of Freemasonry? We tend to become far more comfortable in working the Degrees than in working with the candidate to teach him what our beautiful craft is all about.

Has this always been so? Of course the answer is no. But we have drifted so far away from true knowledge within our Fraternity that now it is very difficult to try to turn the tide. However, we can do that very thing through Masonic Education!

Some questions to get us thinking; What are in fact the origins of Freemasonry? Where did it begin? How did it reach the present state in which we find it today?

It would be great if we could answer these questions in ten words or less...that is not possible! We can only surmise what in fact may have happened. Historically, we do know that a Grand Lodge in London was formed in 1717. Although, quite obviously, there had to have been other Lodges formed at that time. So, they must have had some history prior to that date. I ask the question then, “When did it all begin”? Simply stated, we don't know for sure.

One thing has always bothered me with the explanation we are usually given concerning the birth of Freemasonry. That is: Why did the ancient Guilds of Cathedral builders need such an elaborate method of recognition. Why would they have needed signs and words, if in fact our early origins were with tradesman plying their skill in building cathedrals? Why would they wish to keep secret the methods by which they constructed a building? They were in the open, visible to anyone who wished to come near the building and certainly not in any danger from an outside enemy. So why would they need to have methods of recognition that would have not have been known to the casual observer?

This is the question that has always intrigued me. ***I will tell you, that I don't know for sure!*** There are many theories concerning this and I'll delve more deeply into those theories in Part II of this series on Masonic Education.

Masonic Year 2015 Officers of Nippon Lodge #9



| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Worshipful Master | WB Mike Velarmino |
| Senior Warden | Bro. Ace Asuncion |
| Junior Warden | Bro. Ervey Amoyan |
| Treasurer | Bro. Bill Cloonan |
| Secretary | Bro. Earle Epperson |
| Chaplain | Bro. Kiyoteru Abe |
| Marshall | Bro. Masayoshi Okuda |
| Senior Deacon | Bro. Julio Reyes |
| Junior Deacon | Bro. Jim Wheeler |
| Senior Steward | Bro. Jim Harmon |
| Junior Steward | Bro. Yasu Michiwaki |
| Tiler | Bro. Manny Manipula |

