



# 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

Aug 28, 2020



*Be safe*

*Be Well*

### Brief History of Nippon Lodge No. 9

The following is written to introduce the readers to the History behind Nippon Lodge #9 located in Sasebo, Japan. Nippon Lodge #9 is under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Japan, F. & A.M., at The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Tokyo being instituted on May 1, 1957. Nippon Lodge #9 was first formed and fell under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. The first stated meeting of Nippon Lodge U.D. (Under Dispensation) Lodge was opened in due form with Bro. W.Y. Howard presiding as the Worshipful Master on 2 June 1953. These dates are taken from recorded Secretary Minutes of which the Lodge Archives retains digital copies The Tyler's Register revealed that thirty-three Brethren were present at this first meeting.

On May 4, 1954 this Masonic Lodge would open under the name of Nippon Lodge No. 138. All known records indicate that this Lodge would operate under the name of Nippon Lodge No. 138 until December of 1956. The first available records indicating the name of Nippon Lodge No. 9 shows that a meeting was convened on 7 May 1957 as Nippon Lodge No. 9. The original U.D. Lodge had convened their meetings in a building outside the main gate of Commander Fleet Activities, Sasebo,

At that time this building housed the Bank of America and other small administrative offices. Lodge meetings were held in the basement. At some time in the early to mid 1960's Nippon Lodge No. 9 began meeting in a Quonset hut located next to the CPO Club Annex located just outside the main gate of Commander Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan. The exact date is unknown. The Lodge would continue holding their meetings in this building until 1990 at which time the building was to be torn down to make room for a new Military Police Headquarters. The membership was but again required to relocate their Lodge. Nippon Lodge No. 9 was relocated to a building in Hinocho, about a fifteen-minute drive from their last location. They would remain in this location until 2006 at which time the membership would move their Lodge into a freshly renovated floor of the Marubishi Building located in Tanigocho. The Lodge remained in the Marubishi Building until 2017 at which time the Lodge membership determined the building was no longer large enough to accommodate Lodge members, visiting Brethren, petitioners and candidates.

Our first stated meeting in the current location was held in October 2017 Although Nippon Lodge No. 9 has been

required to relocate its' physical presence several times throughout the history of the Lodge, the Lodge Charter has been retained and continued in an active status since the Lodge's inception in June of 1953.

At some points in our history our membership has waned and holding meetings was at times difficult. However, with the help of all the Brethren over the years Nippon Lodge No. 9 has remained an active force in the community by conducting numerous Charity Events, most notably Seifuen Orphanage and the Wakatake-Ryo Children's home. Through the active participation of the membership and Freemasons whithersoever dispersed Nippon Lodge No. 9 has been able to extend the hand of Charity to other areas of Kyushu as well, from completing beach cleanups to assisting earthquake-stricken areas in Kumamoto. Finding ourselves in the COVID-19 era we are unable to accomplish what we would like to do however holding our Zoom meetings keeps us together in spirit! As I browse through our historical records,

I will continue relating the rich history of Nippon Lodge No. 9 in future additions of the Gazette.

(Article was shared by HWB Bill Cloonan of Nippon Lodge No.9 and current Lodge Treasurer)

**BROTHERLY LOVE**



**RELIEF**



**TRUTH**



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## Worshipful Master's Corner



Hailing you all from the East with fraternal embrace! I hope that everyone is safe and well including your families. I am sure that everyone is on their toes in tracking as well as preparing your daily routine in battling this pandemic. With the hope of discovering the vaccine to stop the spread of this virus, we can only pray to get the first dosage sooner in order to bring us back to our normal lives.

I have attended the virtual meeting hosted by our own Most Worshipful Grand Master last 13 Aug 2020, and we have briefed him about how we are operating as a Lodge and keeping our lines of communication with the brethren of Nippon Lodge No. 9. As it appears and with the cognizance of the GM regarding our gazette and bulletins in the past, he lauded our efforts in maintain a close knit contact using emails and the opportunity to meet through ZOOM meetings and periodic publications of our gazette and bulletins. I did mention that our brethren in Sasebo are patiently as well as eagerly participating in every endeavor that we unanimously elect to execute even during these unprecedented times. In essence, that exhibits our true spirit of Masonic brotherhood while keeping the suspended /G\ lit in our hearts and minds. With strict compliance to the directives of our superiors as well as the guidance imposed by the GL, we are still working as one in executing our Lodge activities. That's how Masons shall always meet...ON THE LEVEL with brotherly love, relief and truth.

We have done a lot this warm summer month of August. Special mention to the efforts of our Brother JW Bro Caloy Caluya for setting up the events of the month including the Lodge preparation for the Stated Meeting and the rearrangement of the Lodge with the new furniture we have acquired. With BJW applying his rating expertise in ensuring the sanitation of the Lodge and reminding the brethren about the proper way of personal hygiene during this pandemic ensured the safe execution of our SM. Thanks for the creative minds and generosity of WB Ron Deguzman for helping us for the transfer of the furniture together with those who attended (captured in the pics embedded in this edition) in the installation of the same and lodge cleanup. BZ to everyone as you continue to represent the rest of the brethren to conduct our monthly SM and maintain good housekeeping and order in the Lodge.

Please join me to thank our dedicated HWB Treasurer Bill Cloonan and WB Sec Henry Staggs in exerting extra efforts in sprucing up our recordkeeping. Their steady stride to promote and achieve our goal in maximizing the collection of dues by updating our membership roster and reaching out to the brethren withersoever dispersed slowly but surely gaining traction and getting some positive results through the responses from the brethren. We need those financial collections to sustain the life of our Mother Lodge. For your awareness, WB Sec Henry Staggs sent me the improved spreadsheet of our membership roster, and I was impressed how he gleaned to refine it with a fine toothed comb. Thanks!

Lastly, we still have to sit down with our Tomodachi brothers and iron out the details of the agreement by executing a Memorandum of Agreement on how we will allow the sharing of our Lodge to them. I will call for another ZOOM before the end of this month to finalize our discussion on this matter.

Again, appreciate all your efforts and diligence in participating in our events in the Lodge may it be through ZOOM or being assigned to a task for the Lodge. It personifies one of our ideals of who can best work and best agree to keep the Light of the Lodge to glow brightly while reaching the brethren withersoever dispersed.

Keep it ON THE LEVEL and be the strongest advocate of PEACE AND HARMONY! Be well and be safe.

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### Senior Warden's Corner



**WBro Manny Manipula**  
Past Master NL #9

#### The Spirit of Masonry

OUTSIDE of the home and the house of God there is nothing in this world more beautiful than the Spirit of Masonry. Gentle, gracious, and wise, its mission is to form mankind into a great redemptive brotherhood, a league of noble and free men enlisted in the radiant enterprise of working out in time the love and will of the Eternal. Who is sufficient to describe a spirit so benign? With what words may one ever hope to capture and detain that which belongs of right to the genius of poetry and song, by whose magic those elusive and impalpable realities find embodiment and voice? With picture, parable, and stately drama, Masonry appeals to lovers of beauty, bringing poetry and symbol to the aid of philosophy, and art to the service of character. Broad and tolerant in its teaching, it appeals to men of intellect, equally by the depth of its faith and its plea for liberty of thought – helping them to think things through to a more satisfying and hopeful vision of the meaning of life and the mystery of the world. But its profoundest appeal, more eloquent than all others, is to the deep heart of man, out of which are the issues of life and destiny. When all is said, it is as a man thinketh in his heart whether life be worthwhile or not, and whether he is a help or a curse to his race.

Masonry is Friendship – friendship, first, with the great Companion, of whom our own hearts tell us, who is always nearer to us than we are to ourselves, and whose inspiration and help is the greatest fact of human experience. To be in harmony with His purposes, to be open to His suggestions, to be conscious of fellowship with Him –this is Masonry on its Godward side. Then, turning man-ward, friendship sums it all up. To be friends with all men, however they may differ from us in creed, color, or condition; to fill every human relation with the spirit of friendship; is there anything more or better than this that the wisest and best of men can hope to do? Such is the spirit of Masonry; such is its ideal, and if to realize it all at once is denied us, surely it means much to see it, love it, and labor to make it come true.

Nor is this Spirit of Friendship a mere sentiment held by a sympathetic, and therefore unstable, fraternity, which would dissolve the concrete features of humanity into a vague blur of misty emotion. No; it has its roots in a profound philosophy which sees that the universe is friendly, and that men must learn to be friends if they would live as befits the world in which they live, as well as their own origin and destiny. For, since God is the life of all that was, is, and is to be; and since we are all born into the world by one high wisdom and one vast love, we are brothers to the last man of us, forever! For better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, and even after death us do part, all men are held together by ties of spiritual kinship, sons of one eternal Friend. Upon this fact human fraternity rests, and it is the basis of the plea of Masonry, not only for freedom, but for friendship among men.

Thus friendship, so far from being a mush of concessions, is in fact the constructive genius of the universe. Love is ever the Builder, and those who have done most to establish the City of God on earth have been the men who loved their fellow men. Once let this spirit prevail, and the wrangling sects will be lost in a great league of those who love in the service of those who suffer. No man will then revile the faith in which his neighbor finds help for today and hope for the morrow; pity will smite him mute, and love will teach him that God is found in many ways, by those who seek him with honest hearts. Once let this spirit rule in the realm of trade, and the law of the jungle will cease, and men will strive to build a social order in which all men may have opportunity “to live, and to live well,” as Aristotle defined the purpose of society. Here is the basis of that magical stability aimed at by the earliest artists when they sought to build for eternity, by imitating on earth the House of God.

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## Junior Warden's Corner



Bro. Carl Caluya

Month of August How Goes It @ NL#9



Before entering!!! Sanitize



The first SM during the pandemic

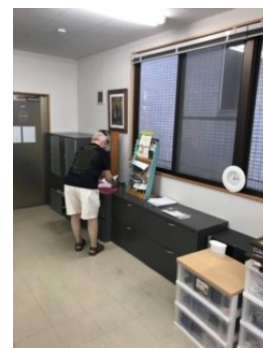


Maintaining good housekeeping

## THE MASONIC BROTHERHOOD



**" Remember  
You Can't Change Your  
Past.  
But You Can Create Your  
Future.  
Don't Get Stuck In Thinking  
About What You Could Have  
And Should Have Done.  
Think About What You Can  
And Will Do And Start  
Taking Action Today."**



**BROTHERLY LOVE**



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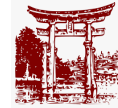
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## Treasurer's Corner



**HWBro. Bill Cloonan**  
Hon. Past Master NL#9



A brotherly reminder for our yearly financial obligations to our Lodge:

As Free Masons, we have obligated ourselves at the Altar to support all of the rules/regulations and By-laws of our beloved Lodge of which we have become a member and are beholden. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your Lodge Treasurer for the information you may need to pay your dues either by check/money order or a direct bank transfer to NFCU. Our website. Located here: [www.nipponlodge9.com](http://www.nipponlodge9.com) provides all of the information necessary to effect a direct transfer of funds to NFCU. The front page of the website displays a link entitled Special Announcements. As you know our yearly dues are \$120.00. We found it necessary in 2018 to raise the dues from \$70.00 to \$120.00 due to inflation and additional obligations that we owe to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Japan.

Again, thank you for the continued support of your Lodge.

With continued Fraternal embrace,

Bro William (Bill) Cloonan, HPM, Nippon Lodge No. 9

Sasebo, Japan

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## Secretary's Corner



WB Henry J. Staggs  
Past Master NL#9

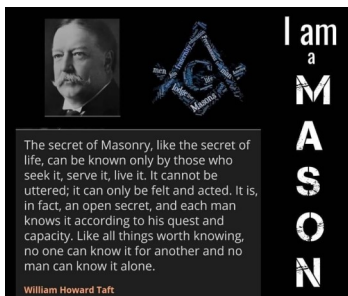
**Important Reminder :** [PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES & SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGN FOR THE MAXIMUM COLLECTION OF DUES FOR THE INCOMING MASONIC YEAR 2021.](#) For those who have not paid for this year, you can still send your payment to the Lodge or by bank transfer to our NFCU account.

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. Let us support the Lodge by campaigning for the maximum dues collection. 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\*\*](mailto: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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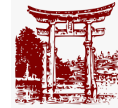
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**Points of Contact:**

**WEB:** [www.nipponlodge9.com](http://www.nipponlodge9.com)

**FB:** NL9 Officers and Members

Nippon::9 (Non-Tiled)

**EMAIL:**

[nipponlodge9sasebo@gmail.com](mailto:nipponlodge9sasebo@gmail.com)

## NIPPON LODGE No. 9

### MASONIC YEAR 6020 (A.L.) OFFICERS

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

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