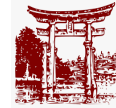




# NIPPON LODGE No. 9



## 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

June 10, 2020



The new way of conducting a fellowship or Lodge meeting using ZOOM application.

## The New Normal Life of Being A Mason

The Grand Master has spoken that we cannot conduct conferrals for this month and lodge businesses significantly changed during this pandemic. Bottomline is the pandemic has taken our lives to gradually change the way we live as well as the ways to conduct our rituals and gatherings in the Lodge.

The contents of the Grand Master's messages just show our Jurisdiction's abeyance to the dictates of the standing orders of the governments of Japan (GOJ) and United States. Lodges primarily comprised of U.S. military personnel and civilians remain under the dictates of it military commanders even though the GOJ has lifted the country's state of emergency.

So, how will we cope up with the "new normal" way of Masonic Life? We were privileged to have RW Joel Encarnacion in our last virtual ZOOM meeting.

Being the incumbent Grand Senior Warden, his thoughts added with the lively discussion of the brethren present in the meeting cleared the concerns about rituals, proficiency returns and more importantly how we shall prepare for the long-awaited of meeting again.

We need to conduct a major clean-up and mark the lodge for proper physical distancing including the requirement of installing transparent partitions wherever required. Conducting temperature checks will be necessary in entering the Lodge, as well as the possibility of wearing gloves and masks while conducting stated meetings and fellowships. With all these precautionary measure, obviously the time to execute now, and the question that remains unanswered is until when are we dealing with the "new normal" way of conducting Lodge business? Well, let us all hope for the best, and may the GAOTU grant those people who

are diligently working on finding the vaccine to eliminate the virus.

This "new normal" way of using the Lodge will be part of our Masonic lives. I will not be surprised if we will see an Grand Lodge edict that will address such times of pandemic. It will remain as a significant life-changing event in the years to come.

Please let me conclude this article with another fraternal reminder about staying safe and sheltering in place. We do not want to be complacent with what appears to be an improving situation around, but keep your attentive ears and eyes open about the guidance and actions of our respective authorities as well as the people around the community.

We will keep the brethren informed regarding this matter. Let us continue to live by the principles of /G\.

BROTHERLY LOVE



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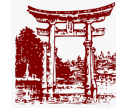
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**Jun 10, 2020**



## Worshipful Master's Corner



Fraternal greetings from the East! As it appears, the health condition of readiness in Japan is improving, but there are still some hotspots that are potential sources of clusters in the country. Cases might have improved in the U.S., but we cannot leave our guards down while the virus continues to be a threat in our society. I guess we will live the phrase “new normal” the rest of our lives even the vaccine for Corona virus comes around. As majority of our members are governed by the Department of Defense, we will continue to consider the differences of the guidance given by the Government of Japan and the military commanders. Let’s be aware of our surroundings and maintain physical distancing.

It was a big surprise witnessing the brethren’s support in our endeavors last month. Responding to the guidance of the Grand Master about how we are communicating with the Lodge members, we tried to use the ZOOM application online and conducted some trial meetings with the Pillars and other officers. Finding it efficient and effective, we did our first ZOOM special meeting with the attendance of 15 members. Bro. Rolan Santos from Lemoore, CA and Bro. Raffy Crisologo attended that meeting. The second meeting was attending by 15 members again and Bro. Rommel Nocon from Salinas, CA and Bro. Richie Tiek from Yokosuka joined as well. Then, we did our quasi-Stated Meeting on 05 June 2020 with the attendance of 15 members again and Bro. Jerron Laurente from Los Angeles, CA. As you may not know, I am receiving emails from other brethren that live in different time zones that are confused in the time difference and were not able to join us. Personally, I am elated to know that we have brethren who are willing to support our Mother even though they are located in other parts of the world. We were still able to discuss some Lodge business that did not require any balloting or vote. I personally continue to invite the brethren to join our online meetings and show your support to our Mother.

We are still challenged by the pandemic, but we did not let the virus stop us to show our charitable causes to the community. HWB Bill Cloonan and WB Ito delivered the ¥ 30,000 to Seifuen and Wakatake Ryo as our donation for their purchase of cleaning materials. Due to the complexity of the virus pandemic, we changed the initial thought of collecting cleaning materials in the Lodge and deliver to the orphanages.

Our Senior and Junior Wardens including our dedicated Treasurer spent some midnight oil to scrutinize scholarship applications of the four E.J. King High School students, and we were able to award two \$1,000 scholarship grants to the best qualified students selected by the Scholarship Committee. It has been three consecutive years that we are doing this scholarship program, and the school appreciates our efforts.

We can only hope for the best while we are still in the worst situation dealing with this pandemic. Despite the crisis, we continue to dedicate time and effort in carrying out the obligation we took at the Altar.

In closing and being your WM, I really appreciate your continued support to the Lodge. It was really a privilege and honor to have the Grand Senior Warden RW Joel Encarnacion from Yokosuka to join us in our ZOOM meeting last time. Let his humbling words and participation should not only mean for the WM, but be a reminder to us all members that supporting the Lodge is our duty and obligation being a true and faithful Mason. Please take care. Let us know if you need our Cabletow.

**PEACE and HARMONY!**

**BROTHERLY LOVE**



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## Senior Warden's Corner



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

### Visiting Other Lodges

From the very beginning, after Initiation, Brethren are encouraged to visit other Lodges. Not only does this broaden a Brother's perspective but also gives him a chance to meet many other Brethren within his jurisdiction. Networking not only helps a Brother enjoy his Masonic life but can also assist with his ongoing Masonic education.

Talk to your friends and work colleagues. Do you know what they do in their spare time? I bet you know what football team they support. But are they masons? Do they know you are a mason? By visiting other lodges you get to know lots of people whom you may not otherwise meet. There have even been occasions where fellow workers have met each other in lodge. For 2 years they had worked together, either knowing the other was a mason. Also, it is amazing how many relatives you may find.

When you decide to visit other lodges ask what lodges meet in the area where you work and live. Depending on if you have a car or not will limit what lodges you can meet. Some Lodges meet on almost every night of the week. So plan your trip. If possible go with a fellow lodge member who can introduce you and you don't have to walk into a lodge room without knowing anyone else.

I consider it at the very least good manners to ring or email the Lodge Secretary of your intention of attending. Also it is wise to make contact to ensure what time the Lodge is tiling. If you are travelling by car you can also check with the Lodge Secretary as to the appropriate parking arrangements. Some areas have limited parking. So, by checking you will not be caught out and therefore won't be running late for the start of the meeting.

When visiting another Lodge, there are some matters which you should do after you have introduced yourself to a member of the Lodge as a visitor:

1. Sign the Attendance Book before entering the Lodge – include your Lodge Number and Rank
2. If required, complete a Visitor's Card and hand it to the Tyler or Inner Guard;

However, if not visiting with another Brother(s) from your Lodge or specifically invited by a Member of that Lodge, you should be prepared to prove yourself as a Mason. In addition you should take a copy of your current Lodge's Notice Paper (Dues Card).

As a matter of courtesy please ensure that you turn off your Mobile Phone before entering the Lodge. I usually mute my mobile phone and leave it in my Lodge bag, outside of the Lodge room. Nothing worse than it ringing during the meeting. Not only does it disturb the proceedings but can cause you embarrassment.

If you are travelling Interstate / overseas plan ahead to visit a lodges during your trip. In order to facilitate your visiting a Lodge in other Jurisdictions it is advisable to obtain a Travelling Certificate from Grand Lodge. It is always a good idea to have a current Lodge Notice Paper indicating that you are in good standing.

If you can do visit other Lodges. Especially the ones which meet in your Temple. You will find that many Brethren are members of more than one lodge. Great fellowship can be the result, you will learn much more by watching the proceedings of other Lodges and will assist you to enjoy your Masonic career.

Remember that when you do visit or when other brethren visit you lodge. Talk with them. Really communicate so you do get to know them better.

NOTE: We have a Book of all Lodges around the world that we recognize and is kept at our Lodge. If you planning to visit any of those lodges, you can get the information from the book so you can make contact with them.

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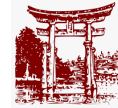
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## Junior Warden's Corner



Bro. Carl Caluya

### HOW GOES IT AT NL #9?



Defying the pandemic, HWB Bill Cloonan and WB Ito braved the day, and delivered our charitable donation to Wakatake Ryo (left) and Seifuen (right) Orphanages.



Bro. Miko presented with the signature souvenir item of Sasebo, the Koma (spinning top) for his PCS transfer to San Diego.

The brethren wish you the best, Bro Miko! Take care!



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## Treasurer's Corner



HWBro. Bill Cloonan

### The Oneness of Masonry

During these recent times of unrest in the United states, I found myself reading an article in the current Scottish Rite Journal. The article is entitled "On the Level: Breaking Bread Together".

The article discusses the "oneness" of Freemasonry. When Rudyard Kipling, an esteemed poet and novelist was the Secretary of the Lodge of Hope and Perseverance in Lahore, modern day Pakistan he remarked, "I became an Entered Apprentice by a Hindu, and Passed by a Muslim, and raised by an Englishman. Our Tyler was an Indian Jew. We met, of course, on the level". This aspect of Freemasonry is what I cherish more than anything else. Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, all creeds and colors are welcomed to join our truly noble and ancient fraternity.

I have borrowed this article from a Brother Roger Himmel, 32° and have found his words very inspiring. He reminds us that, as Rudyard Kipling stated, in Masonic Fellowship we are one, on the Level. Whether you are Christian, Jew, or Muslim as well as black or white; "we are one".

Several decades ago there was a Jewish Rabbi who spoke about the true name of the Lord according to ancient followers of Jewish mysticism, the Kabbalists. He explained to his congregation that the name of the Lord is secretly contained in a prayer called the Shema, which reads in Hebrew: "Shema Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad". In English this means: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our G0d, the Lord is one." The rabbi explained that the name of the Lord is contained in the very last word in the Shema: Echad. It is not the Hebrew word itself (which would be a violation of the third commandment to pronounce). The word Echad means "one", and the Lord's name is our very breath as we say this. We are all "One".

As the African-American hymn sings out: "Let us break bread together on our knees!"

Our Fraternity shows how men can get along and be "One". I pray and hope that someday even non-masons will see and realize this aspect of the human species.

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## Masonic Education

(Entered Apprentice Proficiency Guide)

### INSTRUCTION IN THE ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE

As an Entered Apprentice, you have taken the first step in Masonic work. We recognized in you those qualities we seek in members and our primary concern is to build of your character through self-improvement, which we feel, is so much a part of Masonry.

All Masons learn ritual and its lesson by rote work - through a series of questions and answers passed from mouth to ear, committed to memory to be repeated in open Lodge. This instruction, we hope, will ease your introduction to Masonic education and allow you to quickly become a productive member of the Craft.

The Ritual is the basis of Freemasonry and through it we impart our teachings. There is merit in understanding the whys of our Lodge because if you know the roots and reasoning, you can better understand the processes.

You are reminded that Masonry must begin in your own heart because before you can benefit from anything, you must be willing and ready to accept the benefits it has to offer. A question we ask is; where were you first prepared to be made a Mason? It must be in your own heart, because, if your own intentions are good, you will be made better by any instruction. Conversely, if you have no inclination to accept ideas you will not be able to see their value.

We asked you to be duly and truly prepared - this meant that you would need to wear special garments furnished by the Lodge and which conform to past traditions. This also made you aware that we do not look at your fancy clothes, your jewelry, or your custom made shoes as being important to your character, but that your internal qualifications are what we regard as important.

We began to present you symbols to teach lessons. Being hoodwinked (blindfolded) is a symbol of darkness and secrecy. It was not necessary to physically remove your eyesight but we asked you to begin in darkness. A Cable-Tow was placed around your neck as a sign of the restraints placed on you externally, by yourself and by others. It showed you that we all have limitations and with knowledge gained, those limitations removed.

We made a big deal of your entrance into the Lodge asking you to seek admission, challenging you and delaying your entrance until the Master granted it. This is important because your entrance into a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons symbolize your birth into the world of Masonry. This also gave significance to the fact that we are willing to accept you if you desire to be initiated.

We asked from whence you came and as you heard, "from a Lodge of the Holy Saints John at Jerusalem". You may have noticed that we speak of two Saints and one name - John. This is because Masons have universally adopted them as their patrons, Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist. We see in them the same readiness for true improvement that we seek.

St. John the Baptist readied the world for the coming of the Messiah. St. John the Evangelist, by God's direction, wrote the Revelation, preparing us for the second coming of the Messiah and the life in eternity. We only symbolically place them in an ancient Lodge at Jerusalem, a city revered by many as the place of all beginnings.

You were informed that no man should ever enter upon any great undertaking without first invoking the blessings of Deity and then asked to kneel and attend prayer. After a prayer was offered in your behalf, you were asked in whom you put your trust; your response affirms your belief in a Supreme Being.

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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>	WB Ace R. Asuncion
<b>Senior Warden</b>	WB Manny Manipula (PM Nippon Lodge #9)
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Bro. Carl Caluya
<b>Secretary</b>	WB Ed Burdios (PM Harry S. Truman Lodge #694)
<b>Treasurer</b>	HWM Bill Cloonan (Honorary PM Nippon Lodge #9)
<b>Chaplain</b>	WB Ron Deguzman (PM Aomori Lodge #10)
<b>Marshall</b>	WB Mike Velarmino (PM Nippon Lodge #9)
<b>Senior Deacon</b>	Bro. Will Dispolo
<b>Junior Deacon</b>	Bro. Joseph Delacruz
<b>Senior Steward</b>	Bro. Nathan Wade
<b>Junior Steward</b>	Bro. Hero Jambalos
<b>Tiler</b>	Bro. Orlan Blanco

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