



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

Sept 29, 2020



Be safe



Be Well

Lodge System of Education of A Candidate

As we have discussed in the prior Masonic education bulletins, the preparation of a candidate in commencing his travel as a Mason is very important right from his initiation until the time that he will be raised. It is vital that the ceremonies of every degree be inculcated in his thought to better assimilate the true meaning of his journey from being a petitioner until his making of a free and accepted Mason.

PREPARATION FOR INITIATION.

To get the greatest good from the ceremonies, a Candidate should first prepare his mind for its reception. He should not be apprehensive and should enter the Lodge with the attitude which will enable him to appreciate the serious and solemn ceremonies through which he will pass. The Candidate should pay strict attention to every part of the ceremony in order that he may gain some understanding of the teachings of Freemasonry.

The methods we use in teaching will be new and unusual to the Candidate, which is by allegory and symbolism which have been used since ancient times. These methods have been used for over two centuries and have not changed very much since they were originated.

Finally, he should learn that every Mason in the Lodge room is his friend and Brother.

NO HORSEPLAY OR HAZING.

There is no place for horseplay or hazing during our ceremonies and the Candidate can be assured there will be none. The rituals are serious and solemn; we are trying to teach spiritual lessons with great dignity.

Anything which is told the Candidate in a joking manner or to otherwise frighten him, serves only to desecrate the honorable purposes of Freemasonry. The Candidate should have no apprehension about entering a Lodge. He is always entering a society of friends and Brothers where he will be treated with dignity and decorum at all times.

THE HEART OF THE MASONIC FAMILY.

Freemasonry is not just another fraternity or association of men banded together for social, political, or economic advantages. Our foundation is built on a philosophy of friendship, Brotherly Love, and a firm belief in a Supreme Being; in other words, the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God.

After initiation, the Candidate will receive his "posting lecture" to begin his Masonic education. The assigned coach or member/s of the Education Committee should be present and well prepared to present the portion of the Proficiency Guide Manual titled "The Entered Apprentice Degree".

Make the Candidate feel welcome and at ease. Answer any questions he may have at this point. As the instruction progresses, questions may arise. They should be answered as completely as necessary without giving information which will be covered in the succeeding Degrees. No doubt several questions will begin to form in his mind and should be answered as asked. The Manual will be given to the Candidate to complete the question and answer portion. Ideally, this would be in the presence of his coach or committee member/s. If he is allowed to look up the answers and then write them down, his learning curve will go up immeasurably.

He will also be taught the Due-guard and Sign, the Grip and Word, as well as the E.A. obligation for oral presentation/examination in an open Lodge.

BROTHERLY LOVE



RELIEF



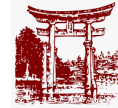
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Worshipful Master's Corner



Greetings from the East with fraternal embrace! We should still be glad that with the blessing of the GAOTU, the vigilance of every brethren made it possible that we have not heard of anyone within our Jurisdiction or the brothers wither so ever dispersed that no one has been a victim of the pandemic. Let us keep that informed and ready to cast away the dreadful effects of he pandemic while we still have the opportunity to travel lightly. Let us keep up with the advisories and follow the importance guidance that will keep us safe and well while waiting for the coveted vaccine to end this tumultuous situation.

Despite the odds with this pandemic, our Mother Lodge kept its Light glowing and continuing to reach out to the brethren of Nippon Lodge No. 9. It is quite impressive that the brethren stayed abreast in our online ZOOM gatherings, and the diligence of our Secretary and Treasurer greatly improve our contact and accounting of the brethren in the different parts of the world. I do ask your perseverance and dedication to continue reading your monitors as well as run your imaginations on how we do our rituals in the Lodge. We will continue to meet online through ZOOM to basically rehearse matters of discussion during our SM, in order to get a good consensus of the brethren while observing restrictions in group meetings. I was able to attend the Grandmaster's meeting with all the WMs in the jurisdiction through this medium, and considerably still a productive gathering despite the situation and distance.

Behind the scenes, our dedicated Junior Warden took care of the mementos that we gave to Bro. Wade on his PCS to the US. Thankfully so, Bro. Caloy Caluya is always on the ball in purchasing and presenting the mementos to our departing brethren. To Bro. Nate Wade, we wish you the best of luck in your professional and personal endeavors more importantly in your travels as a Mason. Please keep us informed if you ever need a cable tow from this part of the world. Bro. Orlan Blanco will be next in line to PCS, and it is a bit eerie that we cannot cast away our departing with a simple fellowship that we used to do in the Lodge.

We successfully reached a mutual understanding about how we will share the use of our Lodge with out Prince Hall brethren from Tomodachi Lodge 111 headed by WB Rob Thompson. We did a ZOOM meeting with them to detail the contents of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and ensure that we maintain a harmonious relationship through the continued guidance and support of both our Grand Lodges. In summary, due to the strict compliance of the Japanese rental laws particularly the subletting of our Lodge, we will not be able to co-locate with our brethren from Tomodachi, but we ensured that mutual respect prevailed in giving them the chance to use our Lodge. The MOU will be shared with the Grand Lodge to ensure that they have situational awareness of the same. Our Tomodachi Lodge 111 brethren should be able to use the Lodge by the month of October. Please socialize with them, and learn how they conduct their rituals. In all, we are all Masons and shall be treating each other on the level with peace and harmony.

In closing, things are changing about how the base commanders as well as the national government of Japan are dealing with the perils of the pandemic. Please always consider yourselves as well as your families to be the biggest part of the solution to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Let us be reminded of the virtue of patience that we all learned upon entering into the Lodge of Masonry. Await a time in patience until the most effective vaccine drives us back to the norm of living again without restrictions and apprehensions. Stay well and stay safe.

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

BROTHERLY LOVE



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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 SEPT How Goes It @ NL#9



Token of Gratitude and Remembrance



Bro Nate Wade continuing his Masonic journey to his new duty station in the US

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."**



Simple recognition of his undying support to our Lodge...may the blessings of the GAOTU be with you and the family always

BROTHERLY LOVE



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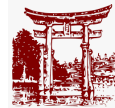
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Treasurer's Corner



HWBro. Bill Cloonan
Hon. Past Master NL#9

Brotherhood

I wasn't certain what my contribution to the September Gazette was going to be. I'll begin with a short quotation from a famous Masonic Scholar.

“He who endeavors to serve, to benefit, and improve the world, is like a swimmer, who struggles against a rapid current, in a river lashed into angry waves by the winds. Often they roar over his head, often they beat him back and baffle him. Most men yield to the stress of the current... Only here and there the stout, strong heart and vigorous arms struggle on toward ultimate success”. Albert Pike – Free Mason and Masonic Scholar.

As I read this quotation, I realized that we, as Free and Accepted Masons are often swimming against the current of the fast and furious world in which we live. As a fraternity of men who seek betterment in themselves but also betterment in the world it is incumbent upon us to be the cement that binds the human race. Brotherhood is a primary teaching in Masonry; we know that each person must be judged as an individual, on his own merits. We believe in our hearts that factors such as race, national origin, religious creed, social status and wealth are incidental to a person's character. In a previous piece I spoke of the “oneness” of Freemasonry and how this affects all of us who are dedicated to the Craft. We are all one, we all belong to the Human Race.

As many of us know, Freemasonry was brought to North America in the 1700s, a time when racial attitudes were very different from today. As happened with many churches and social organizations, these attitudes caused Freemasonry for African-American men to develop independently. In 1776 a group of African-American Masons in Boston began meeting as a Lodge; they were formally chartered by England in 1784 as African Lodge #459. African Lodge and its descendants developed a separate Grand Lodge system, known as Prince Hall Masonry (after the first Master of African Lodge). Prince Hall Grand Lodges ascribe to the same beliefs and rituals of Freemasonry as do all regular Masonic Lodges throughout the world. The main tenets being Brotherly love, Relief, and Truth are at the forefront. Do you see...again the term Brotherhood is invoked...Brotherly Love can prevail.

We as Free Masons are taught to leave politics and religion at the door before we enter our Lodge. Today's world is in turbulent crisis it seems. One hears so many different opinions on their particular news feeds. Whether the news concerns Presidential elections, COVID-19, or World Politics, we should endeavor to balance our thoughts with the teachings put forth in the Lodge and observe and react appropriately.

Let me close by paraphrasing a portion of our Benediction which is said at the closing of a Lodge: May the blessings bestowed upon us be many and may our Brotherly love, moral and social values always be in our thoughts and deeds in and out of the Lodge.

BROTHERLY LOVE



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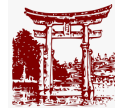
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Secretary's Corner



WB Henry J. Staggs
Past Master NL#9

Greetings Brethren! I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your support. Our Worshipful Master and Pillars have been phenomenal in keeping our lights lit for the Lodge and our Brothers. Despite of the ever-changing guidance from the Grand Lodge and our Installation Commanders that prevent us from our regular meetings, I would like to encourage you to send your inputs to our Officers and find creative ways of how we can improve our Lodge or simple ways to strengthen the bond between our Brothers and families. These inputs will be reviewed, whichever will best work and best agreed IAW with our policies. COVID may prevent us from meeting but it could never tear the bond between us. We look forward to your inputs.

As always... "May Brotherly Love prevail and every moral and social virtues cement us".

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.

The secret of Masonry, like the secret of life, can be known only by those who seek it, serve it, live it. It cannot be uttered; it can only be felt and acted. It is, in fact, an open secret, and each man knows it according to his quest and capacity. Like all things worth knowing, no one can know it for another and no man can know it alone.

William Howard Taft

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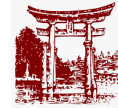
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Points of Contact:

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MASONIC YEAR 6020 (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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