

February 2023



Temple Lodge No. 9 A.F. & A.M.

Chartered January 16, 1815
2022-2023

208th Year of Fellowship

From the East – Christopher W. Fitzgerald, WM

February is upon us, and Brothers, we have a busy month ahead. First, to recap January, we ceremoniously opened and closed the lodge early at the first Stated Communication in order to travel to Endeavor Lodge No. 17 to show support for WM Drummond and his membership during their Grand Visit. From top to bottom the evening was wonderfully well done. Brotherly love and laughter was certainly in abundance. At our January 26th Stated Communication, we celebrated the 208th anniversary of our Lodge Charter, signed January 16, 1815. Senior Steward Ronnie Joseph put on a pizza party for the event complete with Dilly Bars from Dairy Queen. MW Bill Wadkins and Secretary Jeff Hague, PM provided us with some outstanding work for the night. MWB Wadkins, presented an artifact found on a farm in Milford, DE that possibly belonged to WB George Washington and shared some extraordinary historical accounts about Masonic figures from our town with strong connections with our first Mason President. WB Hague, then delivered the same address, which he wrote and also shared at Temple Lodge No. 9's 200th anniversary celebration.

On February 9th, we will be doing some Grand hosting ourselves as we will be paid an official visit from Most Worshipful Grand Master Stephen M. Tucker, his staff, and ladies. Our theme for the event is Mardi Gras. Fellas, fun coat and tie please with green, purple, and gold accents. Ladies, cocktail attire with the same scheme will suffice to observe the theme.

February 11th we have the honor of providing WB Tom McMurray with a Masonic Funeral Service at Rogers funeral home at 11.00. Please arrive with ample time to put on our regalia and receive instruction.

The Brother Dan Trader Bowling Tournament is also on the 11th registration starts at 1:45 at the Milford Bowling Lanes and Brothers, shooters and sponsors are wanted. Contact WB Jim Bennett to get involved.

Monday, February 20th there is a bus trip to Alexandria, VA for the Cornerstone Rededication Ceremony at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial. Let me know ASAP if you are planning to attend. This trip is open to the family, so bring your lady and children if you'd like.

At our Stated Communication on February 23rd we will be passing Brother Scott Spencer to the degree of Fellow Craft. So come out and show some support for Brother Spencer.

Stated Communications

Second and Fourth
Thursday of Each Month

7:30 PM

Fellowship with Dinner

6:30 PM

Meetings are not held in
July and August or on
Thanksgiving or Christmas
(when those holidays fall
on a Thursday)

Lodge Officers 2022-2023

Worshipful Master
Chris Fitzgerald
(302) 242-4916

Senior Warden
Stephen Walter, PM, PGSB
(302) 270-2697

Junior Warden
Keith Geise
(717) 994-6114

Secretary
Jeff Hague, PM, PGMar.
(302) 422-0233

Deputy Secretary and
Webmaster
Chad Robinson, PM, PGMar.
(302) 270-4391

Treasurer
Jim Bennett, PM, PJGS
(302) 228-1228

Curtis Perry – Senior Deacon
Rob Watts – Junior Deacon
Ronnie Joseph – Senior Steward
Jesse Weick – Junior Steward
Roland Cohee, Jr., PGC - Chaplain
Robert S. Young – Tiler
Pete "Ringo" Ringenary - Marshal
Tom McMurray – Lodge Instructor



From the East – Christopher W. Fitzgerald, WM (cont.)

Brethren, as you can see we are hard at it and this lodge's membership and officers are up for the challenge.

As I close, Brothers, May I have the pleasure, Cheers, to our dear Worshipful Brother Tom McMurray. May you be warmly received by the Supreme Architect of the Universe and conducted to your station at the Celestial Grand Lodge above.

From the West – Stephen Walter, PGSB

What Came You Here To DO?

This is one of the first questions we are asked when we join the fraternity. The answer was simple and easy to remember; "To improve myself in Masonry." What seemed to be an easy answer now appears to be quite difficult sometimes and furthermore, the question can be interpreted several different ways. Literally, most of us joined this fraternity in order to work to become better men. I think it is important to note that Operative Masons were often workers of the craft for 7 years BEFORE they became Apprentices. This means that they had some knowledge of Masonry before they were able to improve themselves in their skill. We as Speculative Masons only start to learn the truths of Masonry after we join the fraternity, and thus really don't know how we are going to improve ourselves. As I think about that question and answer from almost 13 years ago, many more questions come to mind. How am I improving myself in Masonry? Do the lessons that Freemasonry teaches fill my life where'er I go? Am I improving myself in Masonry? More recently, a new question, Am I helping others to improve themselves in Masonry? I know that last one seems to be a more difficult charge of one's self, but isn't that what we are supposed to be doing? The more I read about Operative Masons, the more I learn about how they were not just guilds of skilled men working together, they were entire communities of men, women and children that supported and protected each other from all of life's perils. It is said that their societies were of a utopian nature. I leave you with these questions to answer:

Are you improving in Masonry?

How are you improving in Masonry?

Are you helping others to improve in Masonry?

What can the officers of Temple Lodge No 9 do to help you improve in Masonry?

What can I do to help you improve in Masonry?





Some Wise & Serious Truths – Masonic Education

SW Stephen Walter, PM, proposed that we use a piece on the Masonic Forget-me-not for this Trestleboard in honor of our beloved Lodge Instructor WB Tom McMurray.

BEHIND THE MASONIC SYMBOLS: THE FORGET-ME-NOT

In this article, we explore the history behind the forget-me-not, a symbol used in Freemasonry to teach a valuable and important lesson: the dedication and courage it takes to hold to Masonic principles, even in the face of grave danger.

From its beginning in 1933, Nazi Germany placed severe legal, political, and civic restrictions against institutions it saw as hostile to or inconsistent with its aims and ideals. Along with Jews, members of the LGBTQ+ community, those with mental and physical handicaps, Catholics, and Jehovah's Witnesses, Freemasons were likewise targeted for criminal prosecution and exclusion from society. The Enabling Act of 1933 dissolved all Masonic lodges in the Third Reich, confiscating all property and banning members from joining the Nazi Party. A year after, the Ministry of Defense ruled that soldiers, officers, and civilian personnel could not be members of Masonic organizations, and Hitler often linked antisemitism to conspiracy theories about Freemasonry. Some Freemasons were political prisoners in concentration camps and were forced to wear an inverted red triangle badge. The SS dedicated two separate offices towards pursuing Masonic organizations and Freemasons; this would continue into the war and into countries under German control such as France and Italy.

The most popular charges against Freemasonry by the Nazis were conspiratorial and antisemitic; they linked Masonic organizations to Communism, the international press, and the Jewish population. Nazis spread this information through Party newspapers, literature, in speeches, and through propaganda museum exhibits; for example, mock lodge displays were set up with skeletons in Masonic regalia alongside Jewish symbols.

Skeletons dressed in traditional Masonic regalia are posed in an anti-Masonic exhibit fueling Nazi propaganda: Anti-Masonic Nazi Propaganda Exhibit; Eastern Illinois University

In 1934, members of one of Germany's pre-war Grand Lodges, Grand Lodge of the Sun, began wearing the blue forget-me-not instead of the square and compasses on their lapels as a secret mark of identity. The "forget-me-not" is the informal name for the Myosotis flower, known for being small and having blue or purple petals. Throughout this whole era, these flowers appeared on lapels across cities and even concentration camps, worn by brothers whose love for the craft remained strong, even through the worst times. In 1947, when the Grand Lodge of the Sun was reopened, a pin in the shape of a forget-me-not was adopted as an emblem of that first convention by those who survived the Nazi era. It then was also adopted as an official Masonic emblem honoring those brothers who dared to wear the flower openly, and also recognizes the contributions of Masonic educators.

Traditional Masonic Forget-Me-Not pin with five blue petals surrounding a yellow center and silver accents

Some Wise & Serious Truths (cont.)

Dates to Remember:

February 9, 2023

Grand Visitation
Milford Senior Center
Fellowship – 5 PM
Dinner – 6 PM
Meeting at Lodge - 7:30 PM

February 11, 2023

Masonic Funeral Service for
Worshipful Tom McMurray
Rogers Funeral Home
11:00 AM

February 11, 2023

Dan Trader Bowling Tournament
Milford Bowling Lanes
1:45 PM

February 20, 2023

Bus Trip to GWNMM
See WM Fitzgerald for More Info

February 23, 2023

Stated Communication
FC Degree
Dinner 6:00 PM/Lodge 7:30 PM

March 4, 2023

Senior Officer Training Workshop
Union Lodge No. 7
8:00 AM

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.temple9.org

Ultimately, Adolf Hitler was unsuccessful in eradicating Freemasonry in Germany and beyond. While temples were destroyed, property confiscated and burned, and Masons imprisoned and murdered, the mysteries of Freemasonry and the core principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth survived unimpaired in our brothers' hearts. Masonic organizations promptly rebuilt following the Nazi era, and once again to thrive in the face of adversity and hardship.

From the Wellness Committee

Recently I was informed that one of our members and Past Masters was hospitalized and was in need of some relief in the form of brotherly love. I called on WB Frank Beebe last week, where he is a resident in The Center at Eden Hill rehab facility Room 336. He was very happy to see someone from the Lodge and I was just as happy to meet and visit with him.

I had never met WB Frank before but we had our great fraternity in common and that gave us more than enough content to have a really good conversation, which allowed us to get to know each other some. We had a really good conversation.

As we parted on the Square, he asked me to deliver his fraternal greetings and to let the membership know that visitors are welcomed and encouraged.

Fraternal regards,
Brother Peter "Ringo" Ringenary, Marshal

Living Past Masters of Temple Lodge No. 9

John L. Watkins – 1973
Franklin S. Wilkins – 1974
Louis S. O'Day – 1978
Frank H. Beebe – 1981
Ronald Jester - 1982
Gilbert H. Emory – 1983
Steven L. Rogers – 1984
J.D. Dennis, Jr. – 1988
Jeff Hague, PGMar. – 1989/2007
William A. Dudley, Jr. – 1990
William T. Wadkins, PGM – 1992
Bruce K. Ney – 1993
Marlin A. Gillespie, PSGD – 1994
David F. Coady – 1997
Clarence R. Jackson – 1998
Joshua J. Willey – 2000
George Andraee, PSGD – 2002
George G. Jester, Jr. – 2005
Michael B. Saba – 2008/2009
Martin F. Hogan, III, PJGD – 2010
Chad Robinson, PGMar. – 2011
A. Daniel Doran, PGMar. - 2012
Will Currey, PGSD – 2013
Roland Cohee, Sr. PGT – 2014
Stephen Walter, PGSB – 2015
Jim Bennett, PJGS – 2016
Brandon Smith – 2017
Steve Kerr – 2018
Matt Thompson, PSGD – 2019
John Cannon – 2020
Michael Nichols - 2021

Affiliated Past Masters

Thomas McMurray – 1977
James Cooke – 2008
John Marinucci, PGM – 2011
Matthew D. Hovatter – 2007/08
James G. Sutton – 1994
Jeffrey D. Haass, Sr., PGM – 2015
William C. Thompson, PJGD – 2018
Charles Randy Wood - 2000

TEMPLE LODGE NO. 9 A.F. & A.M

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Unit 301
Milford, DE 19963

Address Correction Requested



TO THE FAMILY OF THE BROTHER NAMED ON THIS DOCUMENT: Should he become ill or in need of assistance, please notify the Secretary or Worshipful Master. Their names and contact information are contained within.