

January 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

Happy New Year Brethren! I wish you all prosperity, enlightenment, abundance & relief from any suffering you may encounter.

I am very pleased to boast that we closed last year in tremendously well form. Nearly 50 Brothers met us on the Level at our last Stated Communication and shared with us some fellowship, light, & laughter. Once the lodge was opened on the first degree, MW Bill Wadkins & his team of instructors, WB's Matthew Thompson, Martin Hogan, Chad Robinson & Jeff Hague, performed a piece of work in true Masonic pageantry. The stoic tone of the work, lead this contemplative Mason, to make a symbolic connection of the end of the year and the winter solstice, which opens up a new year with new opportunities and longer days, to man's own death and his new character in whatever the Supreme Architect of the Universe has in store for him in the celestial lodge above.

Our first Stated Communication in January will be opened early with a dispensation from the Grand Lodge, to then close immediately, with all other business being postponed, for the purpose of traveling to Endeavor Lodge No. 17's Grand Visitation.

Our second Stated Communication January 26th, we'll celebrate the 208th anniversary of the Chartering of our dear Temple Lodge No. 9., with all the Majesty she deserves. The assembly for the event will begin with dinner on the second floor at 6:00 and will include ice cream & cake. The Work for the evening will be a presentation of an actual artifact belonging to WB George Washington, PM, President of the United States, & founding father, by MW Bill Wadkins. As an encore WB Jeff Hague will deliver his piece on Temple Lodge No. 9 history, which he penned for and gave at our 200th anniversary celebration.

In closing, Brethren, again Happy New Year and may I have the pleasure?

May every free-mason have health, peace, and plenty, CHEERS!

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





Some Wise & Serious Truths – Masonic Education

Freemasonry behind Auld Lang Syne arm linking at new year
Research has uncovered a Masonic connection to why revellers around the world link arms
when they sing Auld Lang Syne at new year.

By Laura Paterson - 31st Dec 2021

Robert Burns was a Freemason all his adult life. A study of Robert Burns' best-loved song links the practice to freemasonry, where singing with arms crossed and hands joined was a parting ritual in many lodges.

University of Edinburgh musicologist Morag Grant – who has published a book about the song – spotted the Masonic link while sifting through the archives of Glasgow's Mitchell Library.

A newspaper report of an Ayrshire lodge's Burns Supper in 1879 describes the song being sung as members formed "the circle of unity" – a common Masonic ritual also called the "chain of union".

Dr Grant said the tradition of singing the song at times of parting, and doing so with crossed hands, emerged in the mid-19th century, not just among Freemasons, but in other fraternal organisations.

Burns was a Freemason all his adult life and the organisation was instrumental in promoting his work during his lifetime and after his death.

Dr Grant studied a range of historical sources – including written accounts, newspaper reports, theatre playbills, printed music and early recordings – to illuminate the song's path to global popularity.

"Auld Lang Syne's sentiments didn't just resonate with Freemasons," she said.

"Some of the earliest reports of the song's use at parting come from American college graduations in the 1850s."

Within decades, the use of the song at graduation had crossed to Japan, where the tune — known as Hotaru no hikari — is still played at the close of business in some shops.

Dr Grant's study shows Auld Lang Syne's global fame predates the invention of sound recording and radio, despite many commentators having previously linked its rise to the dawn of the broadcast era.

Her book records that in 1877, Alexander Graham Bell used it to demonstrate the telephone, and in 1890 it was one of the first songs recorded on Emil Berliner's gramophone.

The song's use at new year emerged around the same time, principally through exiled Scots gathering outside St Paul's Cathedral in London, but also expatriates living abroad.



Some Wise & Serious Truths – Masonic Education (cont.)

By 1929, the tradition was so well established internationally that a line from the song was displayed on the electronic ticker at new year celebrations in Times Square, New York.

The Scouts also played a key role in spreading its fame. The song was sung at the end of the first World Scout Jamboree in 1920 and versions in French, German, Greek and Polish soon followed.

Dr Grant's book, *Auld Lang Syne: A Song And Its Culture*, also explores the song's origins and Burns' role in creating the modern song from older models.

She said: "It's remarkable how this song, written in a language which even most Scots don't fully understand, has become so synonymous with new year the world over.

"The many traditions and rituals associated with the song – as well as its simple, singable tune – are key to understanding its phenomenal spread, and why we still sing it today.

"Auld Lang Syne is a song about the ties that bind us to others across the years and even though its appeal is now global, it's very much rooted in the world Burns inhabited."

Listen to the Tenors' rendition by opening the link below.

<https://youtu.be/6IMIGDZ5xBo>

Lyrics of Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And the days of auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear
For auld lang syne
We'll drink a cup of kindness yet
For the sake of auld lang syne

And surely you will buy your cup
And surely I'll buy mine!
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
For the sake of auld lang syne

We two have paddled in the stream
From morning sun till night
The seas between us Lord and swell
Since the days of auld lang syne

For old acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind
Should old acquaintance be forgot
For the sake of auld lang syne?

For old acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind
Should old acquaintance be forgot
In the days of auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear
For auld lang syne
We'll drink a cup of kindness yet
For the sake of auld lang syne

From the Marshal - "Ringo" Ringenary

Dates to Remember:

January 10, 2023

Grand Visitation
Delaware Lodge No. 37
7:30 PM

January 12, 2023

Grand Lodge Members Meeting
Temple Lodge No. 9
5:00 PM

January 12, 2023

Grand Visitation
Endeavor Lodge No. 17
7:30 PM

January 21, 2023

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

January 26, 2023

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

January 12, 2023

Grand Visitation
Hiram Lodge No. 21
7:30 PM

January 28, 2023

Youth Table Lodge
Union Lodge No. 7
3:00 PM

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.temple9.org

Wishing all a Happy New Year !!!!
Hopefully I can help others learn and grow in their Masonic education in this coming New Year.

A responsibility as the Marshal is to guide visitors/dignitaries around the lodge. Allow me this moment to guide my fellow Brothers of Temple Lodge No. 9. Having recently dedicated some of my spare time to learning and reciting various "charges" while in lodge, I was finding it very difficult for me to get up in front of Brothers, even in practice, to give a charge.

Inspiration and confidence to do this was gained after reading several Masonic publications on Education & Learning. Simply put, I came to the realization that a lot of us all make the same mistakes and have the same anxieties. These books gave me the confidence to tackle my issues with anxiety head on and not to shy away from them. Giving these Charges, I now look forward to reciting them and doing so with pleasure.

My hope is to continue to grow in my Masonic knowledge and hope the same for all of you.

Further Charges to follow!!

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 Andrae, 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, PGSB – 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.