

The Cable Tow

The newsletter of the Juneau Masonic Community

Winter 2016



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Spring 2017

The newsletter of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21,
Free and Accepted Masons of
Alaska and the Juneau Masonic
Community.

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No. 21.

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Cover image:

The Lodge Room at the new
Juneau Masonic Center is ready
for the two degrees and the
installation held on Dec. 17,
2016. These events were the
first official events held in the
Center, which will be dedicated
on March 18. Photo by V.W. Bro.
Don Hale.

Send submissions to
charlesward4@me.com. The
deadline for submissions for the
next edition is May 15, 2017.



Dual degrees to open the doors at the JMC



Photos by V.W. Bro. Don Hale

Members of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 conferred two degrees on Dec. 17, 2016. **Top:** W. Bro. Ray Rusaw conferred the sublime degree of Master Mason on Bro. Alex Simpson, center. W. Bro. John Barnett delivered the lecture to Simpson. **Bottom:** W. Bro. Charles Ward conferred the Fellowcraft degree on Bro. Jim Herr, center. V. W. Bro. Harley Clough delivered the lecture to Herr. The degrees were the first conferred in the new Juneau Masonic Center.

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Juneau Masons meet up in Anchorage

By W. Bro. Charles Ward

Ten members of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 attended the 36th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alaska, held Feb. 2-3 at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Anchorage.

M.W. Bro. John Bishop, the Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons in Alaska for 2017-18, selected some of those Juneau Masons to serve as Grand Lodge officers for the coming year. V.W. Bro. Jim Robinson will serve as Deputy of the Grand Master for District 4, which covers Southeast Alaska, while V.W. Bro. Al Brookman continues as Grand Orator and W. Bro. Charles Ward will step in as Grand Sword Bearer. Other members of MJG 21 turned in their purple aprons at the end of the Communication, including V.W. Bro. Don Hale (outgoing District Deputy), V.W. Bro. Jeff DeFreest (outgoing Grand Chaplain), W. Bro. Steven Stewart (outgoing Grand Marshall) and Ward (outgoing Grand Tyler).

Following committee meetings on Feb. 1, M.W. Bro. Carl Lindstrom, now the immediate past Grand Master, hosted a banquet that evening. A show from Hobo Jim followed an evening of fellowship and food.

The Communication officially began Feb. 2, with messages



Photo courtesy the M.W. Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of Washington
10 members of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 attended the 36th Annual Grand Lodge of Alaska Communication Feb. 2-3 in Anchorage.

of welcome and congratulations from members of various grand lodges, appendant and concordant bodies before the opening ritual.

The members of Grand Lodge approved a \$6 per capita increase in the annual assessment, which will be in place for 2018. A proposal to create reconciliation committees, which are meant to heal conflict between brothers outside the Masonic discipline process, did not get enough votes to pass, but did receive enough votes to be carried over to next year's Communication.

At Thursday's Fellowship Banquet, Hale presented Ward with the District Deputy's Award of Merit.

Feb. 3 brought the conclusion

of officer elections. In addition to Bishop's election as Grand Master, both R.W. Bro. Keith Herve (now Deputy Grand Master) and R.W. Bro. John May (now Senior Grand Warden) moved up in the progressive line. The Grand Lodge elected R.W. Bro. Norm Gutcher to the Grand South, and retained R.W. Bro. Jerry Wasson as Grand Secretary and R.W. Bro. Jim Grubbs as Grand Treasurer.

Many members from Juneau joined brothers from lodges across Alaska at the Anchorage Masonic Center on Feb. 4 for a day of education and training.

Al Aska Shrine also hosted events that weekend, with the Potentate's Ball on Feb. 4 and the Past Potentate's Breakfast on Feb. 5.

A whirlwind to begin 2017

By W. Bro. Charles Ward

It's been a tremendous whirlwind in the nearly three months since you honored me with selection and installation as Worshipful Master.

Dec. 17, 2016
was a
great
day,

one
we
raised
our newest
Master Ma-
son, Bro. Alex
Simpson, passed
Bro. James Herr to the
degree of Fellowcraft and
had a great turnout to see
our 2017 officers installed and
enjoy a great meal afterwards.

From there, I managed to get through our first few meetings of 2017 without setting our new building on fire, and it was then off to Anchorage for the annual Grand Lodge Communication. It's a particular honor to go to the Communication as a representative of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21, and to be able to share the news of what's happening in the Capital City with Masons from across Alaska. I encourage everyone who can make it to a Communication to do so, even

if you're not going to cast ballots. The Communication is a great way to enjoy fellowship with your fellow Masons and get a sense of being a part of a greater whole.

Since getting back from Anchorage, the focus has been preparing for the Dedication of our new Juneau Masonic Center. While the exterior transformation took place last year, these last few weeks have seen a remarkable metamorphosis inside the walls and under the roof. The Center looks and feels more like a home each time I enter its doors. While there have been many

hands
backs
to get the
completed,
and all de-
serve thanks, I would be remiss if I did not draw special attention to W. Bro. Ray Rusaw's efforts in that regard. Because of those efforts, the Center will be a showpiece of fellowship in Juneau and of Masonic activity in Alaska.

However, not all Masonic activ-

ity in Juneau has been centered on travel and construction. We brought back the Fifth Tuesday tradition, with Bro. Brandon Daves serving as Dungeon Master during a spirited D&D session, with other board and card games taking place. More than 20 Masons, OES mem-

bers,
Rainbow
Girls and
DeMolay boys
(along with a
couple of folks
potentially interested
in one of our groups)
came out to enjoy a lit-
tle competition and a fine
potluck dinner. Our next Fifth
Tuesday opportunity is in May,
and I'm looking forward to another chance to socialize.

Also on the near horizon are a couple (at least) of degree nights, more chances for Masonic education and the Feast Day of St. John the Baptist, which also serves as the 300th Anniversary of the launch of the Grand Lodge of England, an important milestone in Masonic history. I look forward to seeing more and more Brothers and friends at Lodge and at these events.

Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club



Photo by Kate Pifer

Members of the Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club, along with members of Juneau DeMolay, took part in the Red Cross' smoke detector installation program, which provides fire alarms to area families upon their requests. The team went out in Juneau's Switzer Creek neighborhood on Jan. 28 and installed or gave away more than 20 alarms. The team, seen here from left, are Nobles Mer'chant Thompson and Charles Ward, along with Thompson's sons M.J. and Jake. The Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club plans to go out with the Red Cross again in August, as part of Juneau's 2017 "Year of Kindness" initiative.

Fezzes fly into action in the Capital City

By Noble Charles Ward

The Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club hit the ground running in 2017.

Chief Rabban Larry White installed the Club's officers — President Mer'chant Thompson, First Vice President Craig Bumpus, Second Vice President Larry Fanning, Secretary Charles Ward and Treasurer Jim Robinson — at the Club's Jan. 4 meeting.

On Jan. 28, two of those officers

— Thompson and Ward — teamed with members of Juneau DeMolay to install free smoke detectors as part of the Red Cross' free smoke alarm installation program. The team installed or gave out more than 20 smoke alarms in what Juneau Red Cross Preparedness Specialist Kate Pifer called the most successful distribution day since she began with the Red Cross in August of 2016. The Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club plans to go out with the Red Cross again in August,

as part of Juneau's 2017 "Year of Kindness" initiative.

February brought the Club's traditional Valentine's Day lunch, which featured a buffet for Shriners and their sweethearts, candy and flowers for the ladies and a door prize.

As the year moves on, Juneau-Douglas Shriners will join other members of the Juneau Masonic Community in dedicating

See Moves on page 8

Just like the Prodigal son, we've returned

By W. Bro. Charles Ward

Time for our close-up, Mr. DeMille.

While we're not putting on a Masonic production of "Sunset Boulevard," it is time we show off our new building to the world, or at least our little part of it.

The March 18 Dedication and Open House comes at a fantastic time. Construction is complete, nearly all of the interior work is done and we've had some opportunity to shake down the Juneau Masonic Center since our soft opening on Dec. 17, 2016. While there will always be improvements to make, things to maintain and light bulbs to change, we have a place of our own for the first time in a long while.

Our next major task will be ensuring the Center's long-term financial future is sound. The financial structure in place when the Juneau Masonic Center Association – the holding corporation that owns the Center – served its purpose when it was collecting income from tenants at the day care center and its primary expenses were rent for meeting space, property taxes and upkeep on the two buildings at 9315 Glacier Highway. However, the Association's assets have changed and so have its expenses.

Our partnership with the Scottish Rite will, eventually, bring a steady source of income



Photo by W. Bro. Charles Ward
Family and friends gather around for pizza and a potluck supper prior to the Fifth Tuesday Game Night on Jan. 31. The Game Night was one of the first activities held in the new Juneau Masonic Center.

for JMCA. However, that income is offset for the next four years by JMCA's loan repayments to the Scottish Rite and, in any event, will not be sufficient to pay for all the building's expenses. The bodies that own JMCA – Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21, Juneau Chapter No. 7, Order of the Eastern Star and the Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club – will be working through their representatives on the JMCA Board to create a plan for the Center's financial future. To that end, JMCA created a subcommittee designed to come up with a proposal to for the Board – and eventually the owner bodies –

to consider in the near future. I invite you to participate in these discussions, either indirectly through your JMCA representatives or directly by attending JMCA meetings – still at 5:30 p.m. on the final Monday of the month. The financial subcommittee kicked off its work at 5:30 p.m. on March 6.

These details are not as exciting to watch as slab being laid or walls going up, not as fun as our events and celebrations and perhaps not as emotionally fulfilling as a great meeting. But, though they are not why we labor as Masons, they are necessary to support that labor.

Assembly No. 3 gets 3 new members

By Mother Advisor Deanna Browne

Three new members joined Juneau Assembly No. 3, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, in January. All are daughters of majority Rainbow Girls; Abby Rice, Madeline Germain, and Eireen Anderson-Metz.

The Assembly initiated the new members in the new lodge room at the Juneau Masonic Center, with the help of majority

Rainbow Girls to make the ceremony flow smoothly and give our new members a memorable Rainbow experience. This now gives the Assembly a total of seven active Rainbow Girls.

The Assembly also took part

in Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21's Fifth Tuesday Game

Night, where its members learned how to play Dungeons & Dragons, and plans to take part in

the next Fifth Tuesday event on May 30.



From the West

Making careful choices as we move in

By Bro. Doug Harris

As I sit down to write my first article as Senior Warden, I reflect over the past several months at what the local Masonic Community has accomplished. Despite having been a Master Mason for almost 25 years, my involvement with Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 only goes back about four or five. The experience of planning and building our new home has provided the opportunity to get to know this community better than through the typical fellowship that goes on within the meetings.

As a student of human nature and someone with a passion for history, books, genealogy and an

overall sense of where “we” come from and who “we” are, it is fascinating to identify those things that different personalities value. Given my own predilections, I sometimes struggle to understand the perspective of others, however, I do acknowledge their values develop from the circumstances of their lives.

Ultimately, it is important everyone identifies the uniquenesses of each other and respect them, for they are the brothers and sisters we pledge to support in our respective oaths. This, however, must not be at the expense of the values of the others.

Through the process of unveiling our past from the less than ideal repositories in which they

have been secluded for nearly a decade, debate has ensued over that which is valuable. Unfortunately, there were things destroyed due to insufficient climate control and there was no hope to restore. Other things however have been proposed to be thrown for room's sake only. This cannot be decided unilaterally.

There have been accusations of some individuals being “hoarders.” I’ve probably been considered that too. Understandably, our new home has limited capacities, but we owe it to the generations before us, for which many of these things represent to continue their legacy, for that, to me, is what much of what Masonry is about.

Meetings on the level are key to civility

By V.W. Bro. Jim Robinson

Greetings, Brethren. It has already been three months since our Lodge elections, and almost as long since our installation. With our busy lives and so much going on within the Lodge and the concordant and appendant bodies, it seems as though we do not get a chance to take the time we need to really get to know one another as we should.

Since installation, I have been away for Christmas with my family, to Grand lodge in Anchorage, in California for a hockey tournament and short break, and have been busy with work. I know it is the same for most of you. We have hardly had a chance to see each other, and have not been able to spend the time we need to get to know one another.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master's theme this year is leadership and civility. I will leave the leadership topic for a later discussion, but want to talk a little bit about civility. I think one of the problems we face in soci-

ety today is that we spend way too much time alone with our phones, tablets, computers and televisions, talking about each other, and mentioning each other in posts and texts, and not nearly enough time talking to each other. We are inundated with information, news, and opinions downloaded and forwarded and posted, and televised, and thrown at us so many different ways, but we don't seem to have time to get together with our friends and just be friends.

That is why I think that the things our Worshipful Master is doing this year are so important. He is setting up things in the Lodge to help bring us together. I know that I am guilty of not making it out to all of the meetings and work parties and social gatherings, but I attend what I can. When I was obligated as a Mason I was admonished to answer and obey all lawful signs and summonses from my Lodge if within my power to do so, pleading thereto no excuse but the pressing emergencies of my public and

private avocations. If we do not make the effort required to come out to Lodge functions, we won't have a Lodge. We have a fancy new building, but the Lodge is not the building, it is the men in it. When we are at Lodge meetings and functions, we have a good time and learn things about each other, and about ourselves. I know we are busy, and it is cold, and rainy, and snowy, but we have to make the effort to get out.

If any of you are not attending because of something that you feel was wrong, or that hurt or offended you, please contact either W. Bro. Charles, or Bro. Doug, or me, and get together with one of us and talk. This is our year of civility, and I hope it is just the first of many. And to be civil, we need to talk, and get to know each other better. I promised our Master a short note, and this no longer qualifies, so I will stop and say I hope to be able to enjoy the pleasure of the company of many more of my brothers this year than I have been able to in the past.

Moves

Continued from page 5

the Juneau Masonic Center on March 18, have a presence at both the Capital City's Home Show and Gold Rush Days events, and, as always, drive their famous mini-Vettes and mini-cars in the Juneau and Doug-

las Fourth of July parades. Thompson has promised some new and different events for the Club this year as well, which should keep the Juneau-Douglas Shriners active in 2017.