





# The Cable Tow

Winter 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:

Members of Juneau Chapter  
No. 7, International Order of the  
Rainbow for Girls hang out with  
“Santa” Noble Craig Bumpus  
at the Juneau-Douglas Shrine  
Club’s Christmas Party. More  
than 200 people came through  
the doors of the Juneau Masonic  
Center for the inaugural event.  
For more on the party and the  
Club, please see page 4.

Send submissions to  
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deadline for submissions for the  
next edition is February 15.



# A colorful Christmas kickoff



Photo courtesy Gabrielle Hazelton, PM  
Members of Juneau Chapter No. 3, Order of the Eastern Star, closed out 2017 with a holiday sweater party at their last Stated Meeting of the year. For more on OES’ activities in fall and winter, please see page 6.

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Juneau Masonic Community



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# Contemplating the closing of a chapter

**By W. Bro. Charles Ward**

At the close of my year in the East, I couldn't be helped but to consider the Charge I and others have delivered at the end of each of our Stated Meetings.

The Charge provides a final reminder before we leave the Lodge of our duties to others - and ourselves - when we "quit this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to mingle again with the outer world." While all of the words it contains are good words, there are some passages that have stood out particularly to me whenever I've read it, heard it and delivered it.

"Amid [the outer world's] concerns and employments, forget not the duties which you have heard so frequently inculcated, and forcefully recommended, in this Lodge." This passage reminds us the tenets of Masonry do not exist only at meetings, but should be remembered and put into practice during our daily lives and interactions.

"Remember at this altar you have promised to befriend and relieve every Brother who shall need your assistance." The surface reading of this passage is an apparent reference to the requirement to offer aid to a Brother if his financial or other circumstances require it. However, this reminder goes further. There likely is a Brother or two who has made you roll your eyes or sigh in exasperation with his words or

actions. I have probably been that Brother to many of you at one time or another. However, even if a Brother's actions are inappropriate or offensive, and not just frustrating, you should continue to deal with him in a respectful manner. This, as we will see below, does not mean tolerating unMasonic conduct, but it does mean not responding in kind or ignoring your duties to that man, even if he has ignored his duties to you.

"You have been enjoined to remind a Brother in the most friendly manner of his fault, to aid in his reformation, and defend his character." You do have a duty to your Brother to work with him to correct any errors he makes. Many Brothers in the Lodge are happy to help when others stumble over words in the ritual or steps on the floor. But this responsibility also includes the much more difficult task of guiding your Brother when his words and deeds fall short of the Masonic ideal. Every Mason will, at some time or another, find his actions outside the due bounds set by the Craft. When you find your Brother in such a condition, your obligation is to whisper good counsel to him, offer him kind assistance as he works his way back to the proper path, and ensure his Brothers and the outer world see his positive qualities when the negative ones appear much more obvious.

"Finally my Bretheren, be ye all of one mind; live in peace; and may the God of Love and Peace delight to dwell with you and bless you." When I first heard this part, I found it a bit disconcerting, as on the surface, it can seem to be advocating groupthink. However, after reflecting on it, the better way to read it is as encouragement to see past our differences and embrace the things we, as Masons, have in common. This is re-enforced by the hope the "god of Love and Peace to dwell with you and bless you." While we as individuals all have different concepts of who God is and what God wants, we do agree God exists. This common belief rises above our sectarian differences, and there are other mutual ideals we hold despite our varying views on how to achieve them. We all want our nation to prosper, even if we don't agree on the path to prosperity. We all hold brotherly love and affection dear, even though some express that through bear hugs and hearty laughs while others are more comfortable with handshakes and quiet conversation. We all agree a man, if able, should work to provide for himself and family, even if our concepts of what good and hard work are differ. Our differences are generally smaller than our similarities, and are an ingredient in the cement of brotherly love and

*See Closing on page 10*



# Christmas party caps Club's year



Photo provided

Ill. Sir Kevin McKinley, center left, shares a laugh with Ill. Sir Jeff Polizzotto, center right at the Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club's Christmas Party at the Juneau Masonic Center. They are joined by Gabrielle Hazelton, left, and Noble Mer'chant Thompson, right.

## By Noble Charles Ward

More than 200 people came to the Juneau Masonic Center on Dec. 17 to attend the inaugural Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club Christmas Party.

The event, geared towards children and their parents, proved to be the best-attended event at the Center in 2017. Kids came away with plenty of cookies, candy and hot chocolate, along with a toy of their own. Of course, each one also got

an opportunity to tell Santa what good boys and girls they had been, and clue him in to their Christmas wishes. The Juneau Rainbow Girls were a big part of the event, helping with setup and clean-up, keeping the treat table filled and helping kids get in line to see Santa.

Along with the Christmas party, the Club held its annual Christmas lunch for friends and family on Dec. 20 at the Juneau Moose Lodge. Those in attendance enjoyed a buffet and the good cheer of all.

The Club also provided holiday safety tags to one of the local Christmas tree lots. These tags go with the tree, and provide tips and safety information for the holiday season.

The Club held its annual meeting on Jan. 3, 2018, and installed its officers there. The 2018 officers: Craig Bumpus, President; Larry Fanning, First Vice President; Jim Herr, Second Vice President; Jim Robinson, Treasurer and Charles Ward, Secretary.

Photos provided



**Left:** Seven members of the Orient of Alaska were coroneted Inspector Generals Honorary and received the white garrison cap emblematic of that title at the Scottish Rite Honors Ceremony in Juneau Nov. 3-4. They are, from left, Bruce Kling; Tom Brown; Charles Rogers; Jerry Hughes; Russ Shivers; Ron Ackerman and Fred Angleton. Between Hughes and Shivers is Ill. Dave Worel, 33°, Deputy of the Supreme Council in Alaska. **Below:** The Orient of Alaska invested five with the title Knight Commander of the Court of Honor and with the requisite red garrison caps. They are, from left, Larry Fanning; Allen Bell; William Vivlamore; Jeff DeFreest and Jerry Pendergrass. Worel is at the far right.



## Honors weekend in Juneau a hit

By Ill. John Barnett, 33°

The Juneau Valley served as host for the Scottish Rite Orient of Alaska's biennial Honors Ceremony Nov. 3-4, 2017.

More than 50 people attended some or all of the events, including Ill. Norm Gutcher, 33°, the current Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Alaska; Ill. David Worel, 33°, Deputy of the

Supreme Council for the Orient of Alaska; four Past Grand Masters; three Past Potentates of Al Aska Shrine; and numerous Masonic leaders from throughout Alaska.

Four members of the Juneau Valley — Ill. Russ Shivers, 33° of Juneau; Ill. Tom Brown, 33° of Sitka; Ill. Ron Ackerman, 33° of Skagway; and Ill. Gerry Hughes, 33° of Ketchikan — were coroneted as 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite

Masons. Two others from the Juneau Valley — Bro. Allen Bell, 32°, KCCH of Juneau; and Bro. Jeff DeFreest, 32°, KCCH of Ketchikan — were invested as Knight Commanders of the Court of Honor.

DeMolay also held its Honors Ceremony during the weekend. Gutcher; Bro. Larry Fanning, 32°,

**See Honors on page 5**



# OES closes out 2017 with spooks and cooks

**By Gabrielle Hazelton, PM**

Juneau Chapter No. 7, Order of the Eastern Star wrapped up 2017 by hosting a Halloween movie marathon and a holiday sweater party, resuming the traditional New Year's Day Pancake breakfast and installing a new Worthy Matron.

The inaugural Halloween movie marathon proved to be a fantastic experiment. Worthy Patron Doug Harris provided his favorite scary movies, and there will be valuable guidance for how to improve the event in future years.

OES closed its 2017 stated meeting schedule on Dec. 12 with elections and a holiday-themed sweater party. OES picked Andrea Miller as its 2018 Worthy Matron, while Doug Harris will continue as Worthy Patron. The Chapter installed its officers on

Dec. 16.

The traditional New Year's Day pancake breakfast resumed to kick off 2018. This year, the event was for members of the Masonic family and close friends, but plans are to open it to residents of the Capital City in future years.

Other events in the fall of 2017 included monthly fellowship over soup, a potluck and a travel gift exchange.

The Chapter made a donation to the Marie Drake Planetarium's education projects and its drive to replace its 50-year-old projector. It also donated kitchen items from the former Scottish Rite Temple to the Forget-Me-Not Manor, which is Juneau's new Housing First project.

Finally, OES welcomed Rachel Gearhart as a dual member, and has an initiation planned in January of 2018.



Photo courtesy Gabrielle Hazelton  
Andrea Miller, left, and Doug Harris, right, shortly after being installed as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron, respectively, of Juneau Chapter No. 7, Order of the Eastern Star.

## Honors

*Continued from page 5*

KCCH; and John Barnett received admission into DeMolay International's distinguished Legion of Honor.

Prior to the Nov. 4 closing banquet, the Valley dedicated the new Scottish Rite Temple, with Worel and Fanning conducting the ceremony.



# Rainbow wraps up a busy 2017



Photo courtesy Gabrielle Hazelton  
Members of Juneau Chapter No. 3, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, at a recent meeting.

## By S.D. Gabrielle Hazelton

Juneau Chapter No. 3, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls enjoyed a busy end to 2017, full of fellowship and volunteering.

The Girls continued their ongoing service projects of volunteering to cook and serve one meal a month at the Glory Hole shelter and cleaning up the Capital City. This year's beautification efforts marked more than 25 years of Rainbow participation in the cleanup.

This year they added events for kids who are living at the AWARE shelter, made centerpieces for the Juneau Pioneers' Home, collected food for the Southeast Alaska Food Bank, and volunteered to help out at Masonic Family events.

It hasn't been all work, though. The Girls took walks in the rain, drank lots of tea, played plenty of games, had a Halloween Party and a sleepover, and shared uncountable laughs.

The Chapter added five new

members in 2017, with two more ready for initiation in early 2018.

That, of course, doesn't mean there's not room for more. If you have a pre-teen or teenage daughter, niece, granddaughter, goddaughter or family friend in your life, feel free to reach out and get an invitation to the Girls' monthly fun

events.

If you want to be added to the information and activity list, contact Ms. Deanna Browne at [fordno1@gci.net](mailto:fordno1@gci.net).



# Doing away with 'droppings'

By W. Bro. Ken Vaughan

This will be my last article as Lodge Secretary. I chose not to continue as an officer, so another will take the job. Serving as Secretary has helped me learn a lot about the workings of the organization and I have appreciated the opportunity.

One of the things I have observed over the last several years as a Lodge officer is that we have not prepared our families well for the time when we pass to the Celestial Lodge. When going through the officer line and as Secretary, I have had discussions with family members following the passing of a Mason and some consistent situations seem to arise.

The family is unprepared for what to do with the white lamb-skin apron that each mason has. They are often unaware the white apron is intended to accompany our earthly remains to the final resting place. In some cases, I have been contacted by family members early enough that I can explain the customary practices, so the apron was

able to accompany the body. In others, the discussion has been what to do with the apron. My recommendation has been to dispose of it in a manner similar to how flags are retired. I suggest the apron be burned and the ashes be scatted. Scattering apron ashes at the gravesite, or at a special location important to the Mason has always seemed appropriate.

I have been blessed with "droppings" several times. "Droppings" are books or regalia dropped on the Secretary's desk, or, in a couple of cases dropped in the seat of my pickup. I understand the difficulty for family seeking to bring closure with the belongings left after a Mason passes to the Celestial Lodge. These items were important, and they wish to honor them for more than a trip to the trash can or Goodwill Store. I have held a few fires that were fed with out-of-date ritual manuals and handbooks, scattering the ashes and ensuring the Brother's treasures were returned to Mother Earth with thoughts and prayers.

Increasingly, I have observed

that many of us do not have family members following in the fraternity. Regalia, swords, aprons and similar can sometimes be passed on to new members. Some lodges seek to encourage new past masters to adopt the apron of a prior past master, and our Lodge has had a few opportunities to do that.

But, as Masons, we need to be sure we leave instructions for our family and friends as to the disposition of our Masonic belongings. It can also be discussed over a cup of coffee before or after a Lodge meeting.

We have been providing new candidates with a copy of "The Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry" for several years. If you want one for family to read and to help facilitate a discussion on what to do with Masonic belongings when the time comes, contact my successor or order a copy from a bookseller. Most of the major publishing retailers will have it or will be able to get it for you easily.

Hopefully, more discussions will be had about how to pass Masonic items along, resulting in fewer "droppings."





# 365, plus a few more

**By W. Bro. Charles Ward**

By the time you read this, the Juneau Masonic Center will have been open for a little more than a year. It's been a fantastic inaugural, as the Center has hosted events filled with pomp and circumstance (the Dedication and Scottish Rite Honors come to mind) and those that go to its purpose as a home for Masonic activity in Juneau (meetings, sleepovers, movie nights, and so on).

The hard work of designing, building, and moving in to our new home is done. The harder work of maintaining it, physically and financially, remains, and those labors will be perpetual.

The Juneau Masonic Center Association — along with Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21; Juneau Chapter No. 7, Order of the Eastern Star, the Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club and the Juneau Valley of the Scottish Rite — took steps to put the Center on firmer financial footing. JMCA requested a contribution from members of the owner bodies

of \$230 per person for 2018. MJG 21 agreed to assess its membership this amount, with exceptions made for hardship and members older than 80. OES and the Shrine Club are considering how best to contribute to this effort. Further, JMCA and the Scottish Rite entered into an agreement in which the Rite contributed to the construction costs of the Center. In return, JMCA and Scottish Rite entered into a four-year agreement to repay those funds in the form of greatly reduced rent. It is anticipated that, when that agreement is concluded, the Scottish Rite will continue to rent a portion of the Center at a fair market rate, giving JMCA a source of income for its day-to-day operations. Finally, Blue Lodge created a fund designated for the long-term maintenance needs of the Center, which will, hopefully, be built up to a substantial sum before it needs to be drawn from. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please let a Lodge or JMCA officer know.

The physical upkeep is just as important as the financial.

As with all new buildings, there are a few nuts to tighten and touch-ups to do, but the structure of the building seems solid and well-designed for its intended use. The different bodies that use the Center have done a good job with the upkeep and cleaning, and the Rainbow Girls have offered to pitch in and take on many of the cleaning tasks. Going forward, a regular schedule of regular- and deep-cleaning activities will ensure the Center keeps its sparkle.

It's been an honor to serve on JMCA for the past five years, and see the Center go up. However, someone else will be at the helm of the Association going forward, as my term is up and I will not be taking on another.

The JMCA annual meeting is scheduled for Jan. 29, 2018, where it will choose new leadership. These meetings are open to all members of the Masonic family. If you want to contribute to the ongoing plans to improve the Juneau Masonic Center, you are welcome to attend meetings and pitch in.



Photo by V.W. Bro. Don Hale

**Left:** Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 installed its 2018 officers at a Dec. 21 Called Communication. From left, they are W. Bro Ray Rusaw, Chaplain; W. Bro. Allen Bell, Tyler; Bro. Mer'chant Thompson, Junior Warden; V.W. Bro. Al Brookman; Bro. Kyle Moselle; W. Bro. Doug Harris, Worshipful Master; W. Bro. Charles Ward, Secretary; W. Bro. John Barnett, Installing Marshal; W. Bro. Steven Stewart, Installing Master; Bro. Alex Simpson, Junior Deacon; Bro. James Herr, Junior Steward; V.W. Bro. Jim Robinson, Senior Warden; Bro. David Heydt, Senior Steward; W. Bro. Robbie Robinson; Bro. Ibn Bailey; and V.W. Bro. Don Hale, Treasurer.



Photos by V.W. Bro. Don Hale

Sixteen Past Masters attended a Dec. 2 Called Communication to honor the men who have taken the Oriental Chair. Past Masters filled all of the officers' stations, and a Festive Board and Ceremony of Seven Toasts followed. V.W. Bro. Russ Shivers, center right, presided over the Called Communication and honored V.W. Bro. Harley Clough, center left, on the 50th anniversary of Clough's year as Master.

## Closing

*Continued from page 3*

affection that binds us into one common mass.

As a closing note, there are a few great honors a Mason can receive. Being presented with your white apron and being raised to the sublime degree of a Master

Mason are the two greatest I have received. However, not far behind those two is being chosen by your Brothers to sit in the East and lead the Lodge for a time. Thank you for the trust you placed in me and your ongoing efforts to im-

prove Masonry in the Capital City. I look forward to serving under W. Bro. Doug Harris' leadership, and continuing to serve my Brothers and the Craft in whatever capacity they, it and the Grand Architect of the Universe see fit.