

# The Cable Tow

The newsletter of the Juneau Masonic Community

Fall 2018





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**Fall 2018**

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

Published quarterly.

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## **Cover image:**

Jaques de Molay, the last Grand Master of the Knights Templar and namesake for the Masonic boys' order of the same name. The statue in the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts building in Boston.

Photo by W. Bro. Charles Ward

Send submissions to [charlesward4@me.com](mailto:charlesward4@me.com). The deadline for submissions for the next edition is Dec. 15.

# A game of horseshoes



Photo provided by W. Bro. Allen Bell  
Bro. Al Bell and Frank Bell, a member of the Oddfellows, crafted the horseshoes seen in this photo. The highlighted shoes are, from left, a shoe with the three links of the Oddfellows, a shoe with a miniature anvil, and a shoe with the Masonic square and compasses. The other pieces are examples of orthopedic shoes for horses with faulty gaits. Al was a member of Prairie Lodge No. 77 in Paris, Ill., and is W. Bro. Allen Bell's grandfather.

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**Juneau Masonic Community**



**@JuneauMasons**



**@JuneauMasons**

# Lost and found Brethren

By W. Bro. Charles Ward

In the Spring 2018 edition of the Cable Tow, I wrote about how members can better keep in touch with the goings on at Mt. Ju-neau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 and other Masonic bodies in the Capital City. In this edition, I'll flip that premise and discuss how the Lodge can better keep in touch with you.

In sending out some recent reminders about outstanding bills, I heard back from a Brother who noted the letter I sent was the first he'd received from the Lodge since the mid-1990s. What went unwritten was the message the Lodge had apparently been incommunicado for more than 20 years and only broke radio silence when it needed money. I heard similar sentiments from a few others as well. It's a fair criticism. You shouldn't only receive appeals for money from the Lodge, Scottish Rite, Shrine Club, etc. without also getting news of what's happening

in those groups, calls to meetings, cards for special occasions or times of trouble and so on.

The problem of lack of communication has layers beyond

addresses that the Post Office seems to be able to find.

Currently, there are three brothers who we have no idea how to reach. They may have

moved more times than the Post Office can keep up with, they may have switched to another email address, or they may have traveled to the Undiscovered Country. We simply don't know.

That number is down quite a bit from where it was only a

few years ago. A lot of that is due to W. Bro. Ken Vaughan's (my predecessor in the Secretary's seat) persistence in chasing down lost Brothers, and either updating their contact information or recording their names on the rolls of the Grand

Lodge on High. I've tried to do

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sloth, apathy and rudeness, however. It's also attributable to the fact the Lodge doesn't know where all its members are.

As of this writing, there are 139 Brothers (Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts and Master Masons) in our membership database. Eighty-five of those Brothers have valid email addresses on file. Most of the rest have mailing

## Lost Brethren

If you know how to reach these Brethren, please let the Lodge Secretary, Charles Ward, know:

- David Brown
- Kenneth Pipkin
- Randall Weaver





*Rainbow Gets Girls Ready for Life!™*

*The Masonic Family's for everyone!*

If you know a girl aged 11-20, invite her to join Juneau's fun-loving group of Rainbow Girls! For girls 7-10, we have a Pledge program to provide activities and mentorship before Rainbow eligibility!

*Friendship, community service, leadership*

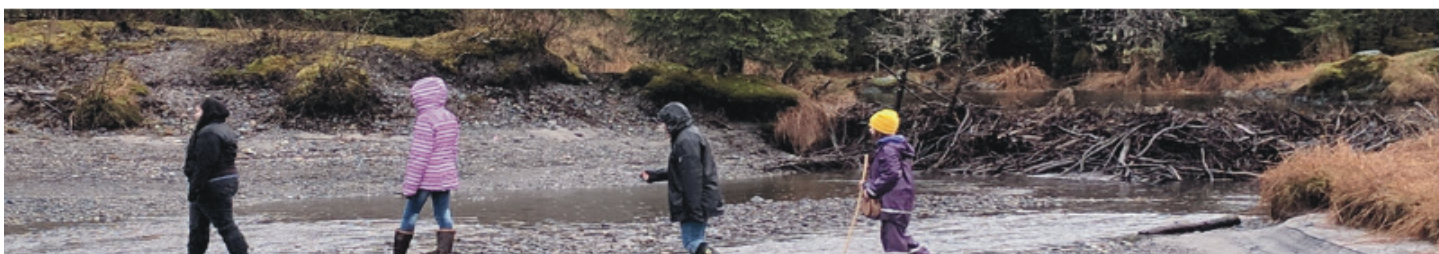
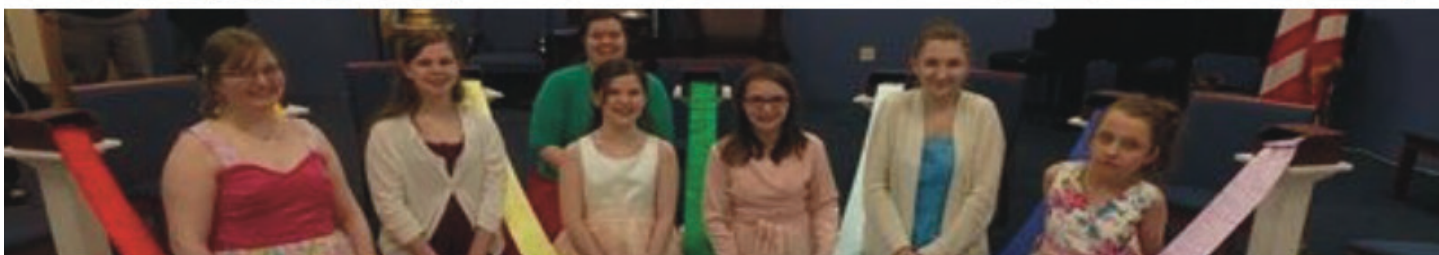
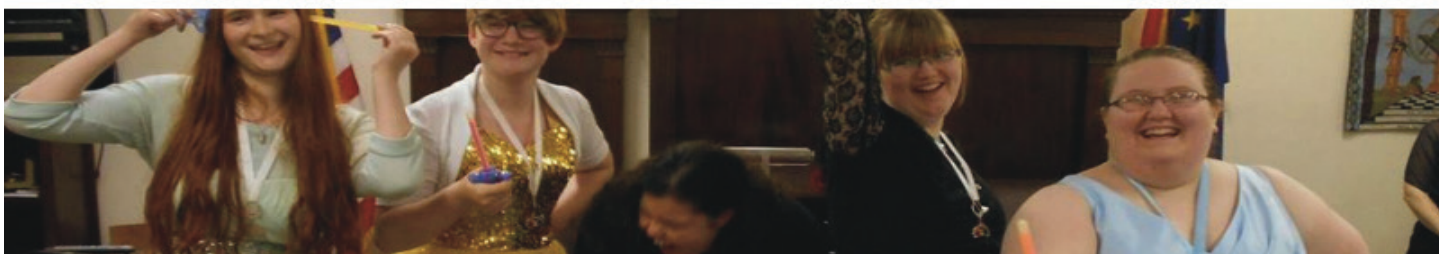
*Upcoming events:*

Halloween Treats Fundraiser ••• Sept 1 – Oct 20

Advancement Night ••• Oct 6

Archery Range Night ••• October TBD

Trick or Treating for the Southeast Alaska Food Bank ••• Oct 31



*@juneaurainbow*



# On poor public conduct by Masons

**Bro. Chuck Dunning**

*(Editor's note: This article is reprinted with the kind permission of the author. For more of his work, please visit [chuckdunning.com](http://chuckdunning.com).)*

Recently I was browsing through social media and had occasion to recall how the essential documents and rituals of our tradition teach many things about how Masons should conduct themselves. For its universality, the only example I now reference is in Section 5 of Anderson's Constitutions of 1723: "The Craftsmen are to avoid all ill Language, and to call each other by no disobliging Name, but Brother or Fellow; and to behave themselves courteously within and without the Lodge."

This reflection began when I ran across a user's profile that included a picture of him wearing a lodge officer's jewel, and many of his posts revealed that he was proud to share his involvement in Masonic activities. The reason I had been looking further into the man's profile was because I had stumbled across posts by him that shocked me, and I don't feel shocked very easily. The posts were filled with hostile insults and obscenities directed at another Mason, as well at the second Mason's non-Mason friend. All of that was further amplified by the fact that "Bro. Ruffian"

had jumped directly into such un-Masonic behavior without anything of the sort having previously occurred in the conversation. In other words, there had been no escalation involving the other two parties, and they had actually attempted to keep their disagreements civil. Furthermore, none of his diatribe was written in jest, but was clearly meant to be nasty, intimidating, and hurtful. Bro. Ruffian used ugly terms that were disparaging of an ethnicity, a religion, and the non-Mason's womanhood. In looking through some of his other social media posts, it was obvious that such behavior was common for him.

Sadly, Bro. Ruffian is not unique in that respect, and such behavior happens far too often. It suggests that Masons like Bro. Ruffian either do not know or do not care their behavior violates the virtuous standards inculcated by our tradition. Aside from whatever his personal circumstances may be, it is also clear that a lodge has failed him in one of three ways, if not some combination of them.

First, the lodge had a duty to interview and investigate him before he was accepted for initiation, carefully contemplate their findings, and act accordingly on his petition. I find it doubtful that his bigoted attitudes and hostile behavior were not already in place at that time. If they were in place, the

lodge should have discovered it, clarified he had work to do before becoming a Mason, and offered to help him. If those attitudes and behaviors weren't already in place, then he either joined a very careless and inattentive lodge that ignored a newly developing problem, or a very toxic lodge that actually encouraged that development. In any case, the lodge didn't live up to its obligations to him or to the Fraternity.

Second, the lodge may not have properly educated Bro. Ruffian about Masonic standards. By "properly educated," I mean a lodge should do more than put a man through ceremonies teaching about social and moral virtues and have him vow to uphold them. As a candidate, he should have been informed that developing in virtue is at the core of Masonry's philosophy and lifestyle. He should have been encouraged to contemplate his own behavior and clarify for himself how he might learn and grow in such ways. He should have been told his lodge would expect him to work at that learning and growth, and the brothers would support him and hold him accountable in doing so. All of these steps should have been taken as part of his education before he was ever allowed to enter and be initiated.

Third, the lodge may have failed in monitoring, contem-

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# Lost

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the same, and have had some success at it as well.

Sometimes, though, it's like a drawn-out game of Whack-a-Mole. You update the records of one lost Brother, and get returned mail from another. I could write this piece in the next "Cable Tow" and have 10 names in it, instead of three.

In addition to the three lost Brothers, there are 20 others who are not responding to letters and emails. It's difficult to know who is not getting the messages and who is not responding, but

the Lodge undoubtedly has had contact information for some of them.

If I can ask, I have a few requests of you to help your Lodge keep in touch with you:

If you're moving, please add MJG 21 to your list of folks to update with your new address.

If you hear of a Brother who is out of contact with the Lodge, pass on the Lodge email address (mtjg21@gmail.com), website (capitalcitymasons.org) and its social media sites (we're on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). Or

have him call me at (907) 957-3582.

Let us know if you have a major milestone, achievement or celebration. Your Brothers would love to hear the news.

Ask your family to let us know if you fall ill.

In return, I'm going to endeavor to keep the Lodge in increasingly better communication with all Brothers, both through communications intended for all, and one-on-one contact.

Thanks for helping me with this task.

# Conduct

*Continued from page 4*

plating, and responding to his progress, or lack thereof, in Masonic education and behavior. If he actually held the office associated with the jewel worn in his profile picture, then he has already been through the three degrees, and may have already advanced through more than one office. How is it that in all the time such a journey should have required, Bro. Ruffian has been permitted to behave as he does and not be held accountable for it? No member of our Fraternity, no matter how badly a lodge needs members or officers, should be allowed to progress to degrees or titles that

deserve more dignity and respect than his personal knowledge and behavior warrants.

Now please don't misunderstand me. I am not saying Masons shouldn't speak their minds. Nor am I on a puritanical rant calling for Masons to pretend to be pseudo-angelic paragons of propriety and inoffensiveness. I am not advocating intolerance of Masons being human, and thus liable to behave badly at times despite our best intentions. After all, mercy and forgiveness are very important principles in Masonry. But I am saying there is serious contemplative work that needs to be

done by Masons, as individuals and as lodges; the character and quality of our active presence in the world, personally and collectively, emerges from such work. It is work that must be done if Masons are to be more than a club of "good ol' boy" posturing braggarts using the noble words and titles of our tradition to mask or, even worse, falsely justify baseness, bigotry, and brutality. We are meant to be builders in, of, and for all the virtues, and the greatest of these is love. That should be the ever-present center of contemplation within the circle of our thoughts, attitudes, and actions.