

The Cable Tow



The newsletter of the Juneau Masonic Community
Summer 2019

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

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Cover image: The
Treadwell Mine Pump House
on a beautiful day in Douglas.
Photo provided.

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

A sublime Saturday

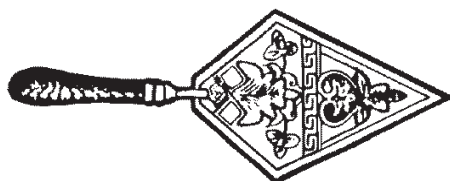


Photo by V.W. Bro. Don Hale

Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 welcomed its newest Master Mason when it raised Bro. Dedrick Smith to the Sublime Degree on March 30. The Lodge held a Festive Board following the degree. Pictured are, from left to right: Bro. Richard Marshall, W. Bro. Steven Stewart, W. Bro. Larry Fanning, Bro. Ed Kalwara, V.W. Bro. Jeff DeFreest, Bro. Mer'chant Thompson, V.W. Bro. Don Hale, Smith, W. Bro. John Barnett, V. W. Bro. Harley Clough, Bro. Jim Herr, Bro. Torrey Jacobsen, V.W. Bro. Bruce Morley and R.W. Bro. Charles Ward. Hale conferred the Degree, Barnett and Jacobsen gave the Lecture and Marshall delivered the Charge.

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Juneau Masonic Community



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Gearhart receives Carla Timpone Award

By Bro. Charles Ward

Sister Rachel Gearhart is one of three Alaskans who received the 2019 Carla Timpone from the Alaska Women's Lobby.

The award honors Alaskans who "who have dedicated themselves through professional and volunteer work to addressing social wrongs, particularly as they relate to women, children and families," said Nancy Courtney, treasurer of the Alaska Women's Lobby, in an email.

"Rachel does great work, both paid and volunteer, in many social justice issues, health, and education, including her work with JAMHI, the Juneau Pro-Choice Coalition, and many other local community support organizations," Courtney said. "As co-chair of the State of Alaska's SHARP Advisory Commission, she did yeoman's work to get Senate Bill 93 passed this legislative session, which renews the health care professions loan repayment and incentive program. She always does a lot of work with her trade organization -- the National Association of Social Workers

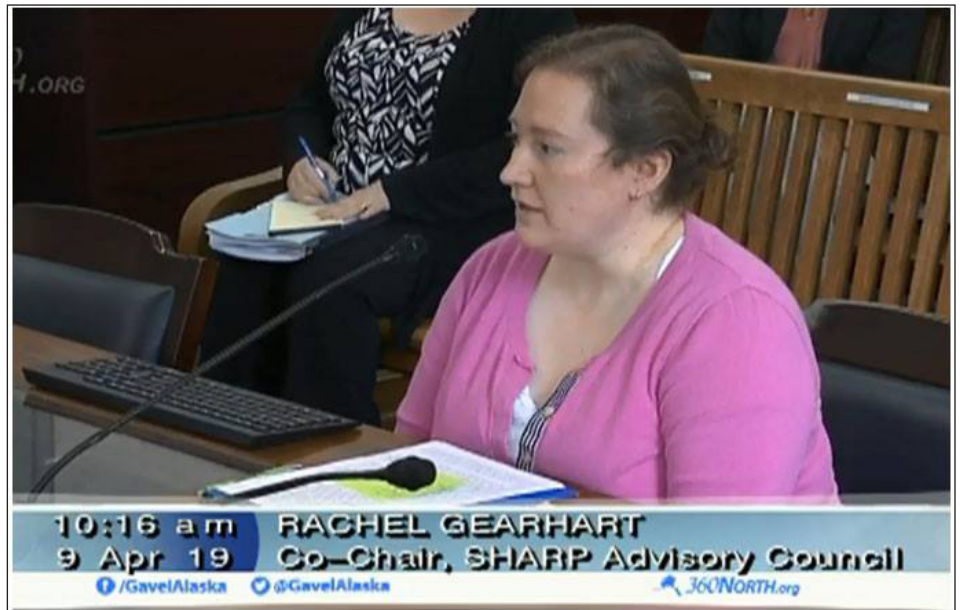


Photo provided

Sister Rachel Gearhart testifies on Senate Bill 93, which would extend and expand a student loan-repayment program for Alaska health care workers, at a legislative committee meeting on April 9, 2019. Gearhart is one of three Juneauites honored by the Alaska Women's Lobby with a Carla Timpone Award at a June 9 brunch.

Alaska Chapter -- and is serving as co-chair of their biennial conference being held in Juneau this fall."

In addition to her advocacy work, Gearhart is a member of Juneau Chapter No. 7, Order of the Eastern Star and is a majority member of Job's Daughters. She also volunteers her time with Juneau Assembly No. 3, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

Gearhart will receive her

award at a brunch scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on June 9. Joining her as award recipients will be Lin Davis and former Rep. Sam Kito III.

The award's namesake came to Alaska in 1976 and helped establish Women in Crisis -- Counseling and Assistance and the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. She also served as a legislative aide and served on the boards of several advocacy organizations.



Congrats to the queen

Photo provided
Members of Juneau Chapter No. 7, Order of the Eastern Star, came out to support Sister Dixie Weiss at her coronation as Queen of Juneau Igloo No. 6 of the Pioneers of Alaska. Pictured are, front row, L to R: Gabrielle Hazelton, Weiss, Betty Hunt. Back row, L to R: Rachel Gearhart, Val Lind, Sandi Hicks and Cheryl Jebe.



From the South

Squinting into the Sun

By W. Bro. Allen Bell

For the third time in my life I'm serving as Junior Warden, and I'm still troubled by my job description: "As the sun in the South is the glory and beauty of the day . . ." Huh? Glory and Beauty? Me? You must mean someone else. I still remember hearing it for the first time some 35 years ago when I was initiated. The Junior Warden in my home lodge then sure wasn't beautiful, not any more than I am now.

Furthermore, what's this about superintending during refreshment? While in years past some of the brethren might have drifted into intemperance or excess, most of us now are too long in the tooth (those of

us who still have teeth) even to remember what intemperance or excess was like.

So, while surfing the internet I ran across a couple of articles that shed some light on the subject. The first was published in Scott Creason's blog, The Midnight Freemasons, by W.B. Gregory Knott of St. Joseph (Ill.) Lodge No. 970, titled "Inside Naval Lodge No. 4, Washington, D.C." Knott described his visit to Washington and to a meeting of Naval Lodge, which was chartered in 1805. He recounted he was greeted warmly, and described the membership thus: "With D.C. being such a transient city, most of the Naval Lodge members are from other parts of the country. This creates real

diversity within its membership—the night of my visit, I spoke with Brethren working on Capitol Hill, members of the military, small business owners and federal employees."

Another article from the Midnight Freemason's blog caught my eye. This one is "Scotland Trip Demonstrates Brotherly Love Does Prevail Worldwide," by W. B. Kevin J. Wurster of Hilton Lodge No. 1143 (East Peoria, Ill.). The author and his wife were on a trip to Scotland, and he had made arrangements through his own Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Scotland for him to visit the museum of the Grand Lodge

See *Squinting* on page 6

Ramblings from the road

By Jeff "Cat Herder" DeFreest

On May 30, the Widows Sons from Juneau set sail on the *M/V Tazlina* to Haines to join in on the 2019 Challenge Ride for the Alaska Grand Chapter of the Widows Sons, a Masonic Riders Motorcycle Riders Association. For the brothers in Southeast Alaska it was to be at least a 2,200-mile ride.

Some, however, rode further. Claude "Vapor Rider" Roberts, rode up from Oregon and Dave "Dog Pile" Alderson rode down from Ketchikan a week earlier to meet up with Claude in Washington. Then they both headed north and east to Mile Post No. 1 of the Al-Can Highway. They rode the Al-Can to Beaver Creek in the Yukon, where the Juneau riders rendezvoused with them at the 1202 Roadhouse.

Riding onto Tok on May 31, the Southeast riders met contingents from the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas. The June 1 rain was similar to what might be experienced in Ketchikan, not the Interior. All 12 riders arrived soggy but safely in Fairbanks in time for the of-



Photo provided
Jesse "Halibut" Kvale, Jim "Hat Trick" Robinson and Jeff "Cat Herder" DeFreest wait on line at the Whittier train tunnel during the 2019 Widow's Sons Challenge Ride. The ride lasted from May 30 until June 6.

ficial Widow's Sons dining out at the Turtle Club.

The meal at the Turtle Club also served as the awards banquet for 2019. Larry "Fishtail" Fanning received the 2019 Rider of the Year award for his most excellent work on riding logistics and accommodations over the last couple of years. Roberts received a more dubious distinction of the 2019 Yukon Broken Bike Award for his electrical gremlins and engine breakdown on the road with Alderson. These award winners were flipped from 2018, as Roberts was then named Rider of the Year and Fanning received the Broken Bike Award for his battery failure at Haines Junction. Also Jesse "Halibut" Kvale and newest member Matt Rowe both earned their "Challenge

Coins" for participating in the ride.

From Fairbanks, the ride continued to Talkeetna, Eagle River, Whittier and Seward. A few riders left the herd to head back to their homes at Nenana and Eagle River. The Southeast (and Oregon) riders continued onto Glenallen and Copper Center on Tuesday, and finally turned for home on Wednesday, overnighting a second stay at the 1202 in Beaver Creek, and then onto Haines on June 6 to catch the ferry home the next day.

Roberts and Craig "Wide-Load" Bumpus were involved in accidents on the way back to their homes. Both were a little bit shaken up, but OK.

Squinting

Continued from page 6

of Scotland and to attend a meeting of Water of Leith Lodge No. 1267. His host explained that Scotland had “no standard work; every lodge had control of its ritual. That when the Grand Lodge was formed the lodges would allow no such thing as Standard Ritual . . . many, many Lodges had been operating with Operative and Speculative Masons for 100+ years without a Grand Lodge and they had no need to have someone tell them how to do their work.” When you have lodges which have been in existence since 1599, and they’re composed of some hard-headed Scotsmen, this is what you get. (I can say this with impunity. There is a Clan Bell in Scotland. We were horse thieves and cattle rustlers.)

Let me quote at length from

Wurster’s story:

“As I stated above the ritual is not standardized and I understood and was ready for that. If a brother

was helping from another lodge, he did his part as he knew it and the others as they knew their work. . . .

Of course the Master made a few stumbles, he had to be prompted a few times, but I would never have known if it was word perfect or not .

. . and neither would the other visiting brethren in the room. You see they have the mindset that there is no right or wrong way, that each lodge does this a bit different, and that is Okay. This even went for the etiquette of

how one prepared himself for lodge. Some Brothers

wear their apron inside the jacket some outside some had more paraphernalia than others ... however they all looked at each other as correct. ...

I once heard someone speak about masonry, he closed his talk by stating “And pay the brothers their wages if any be due them.” The Friendship, Fellowship and Love shown to me, is that payment. What better payment than being able to go anywhere in the world with Freemasonry and be extended the hand of Friendship in such a great way.”

Here in Juneau, because of the incredible natural beauty of our surroundings we have been graced with visits from brethren from other parts of the country and the world. Part of my duty as Junior Warden is to see to hospitality towards our brethren, especially visiting brethren. I hope I can emulate the members of Naval Lodge and of the Scottish Lodges by exemplifying the virtue of Beauty through the attributes of Friendship, Fellowship and Brotherly Love to our visitors during both Work and Refreshment, so that all feel comfortable no matter how they perform their work and how they are clothed.

So mote it be.

