

Bulletin  
June,  
2023

ST. JOHN'S LODGE No.11  
Free And Accepted Masons  
Oldest Continually Operating Unmerged Lodge in DC

Chartered  
February,  
1846

➤ **Trestleboard** ◀

**Friday, June 2nd, 2023**

6:30

LODGE FELLOWSHIP/MEAL

**Family, Friends, Candidates and  
Prospects Welcome**

7:30

STATED COMMUNICATION

—————  
**GOING FORWARD  
ALL LODGE EVENTS  
WILL BE HELD AT:**

**Almas Shrine Temple**  
1315 K Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005

—————  
**ALMAS SHRINE PARKING**

Garage parking is available onsite at the Temple, and only \$3 for the entire evening.

The entrance to the garage can be found on 13th St, just south of the DCFD Engine 16 Fire Station.

To access the Lodge elevator lobby through the garage, continue down to level P3. Look for the reserved parking spaces for Almas Shrine.

The door to enter the building is just to the right of the reserved spaces—press the button on the callbox next to the door for admittance.

**AILING BRETHREN**

Please keep all our brethren in prayer for good health, good spirits and the continued manifold blessings of the Great Architect of the Universe.

"Be not slow to visit the sick: for that shall make thee to be beloved." (cont.)

➤ **Stated Communication** ◀

**Important Note: Change of Location**

Please note that our Lodge has relocated, and moving forward all meetings will be held at the Almas Shrine Temple. Please reference the Trestleboard section of the Bulletin for address and parking details.

➤ **From the East** ◀

**Brethren,**

I'd like to take a moment to remind everyone that our Lodge cannot continue to progress and improve without your support. In May, we had a turnout of only six (6) Brethren. While we were able to conduct business, and engage in lively discussion about the Grand Lodge legislation change proposals, our resources were stretched very thin, and it was disappointing to see such a small crowd. I challenge everyone to take time and evaluate how taut your cable-tow is, and prioritize engaging with your Brethren and Lodge, if possible. Officers have an obligation to make a concerted effort to attend our Stated Communications; you are the foundation on which we build the structure of our Lodge.

A quick note on the Semi-Annual Grand Lodge Communication. An amazing turnout on Wednesday, May 10th included representatives from all but 7 Lodges in the District. Lively discussion and debate took place, and the decision was made to call a special to further amend the proposals to ensure that the language reflects the intent without unintended consequences in the future. As a summarized reminder, the proposals were: 1 - Any Mason who brings a suit or legal action against another is automatically expelled; 2 - Any individual who refuses admittance to the Grand Lodge Officers in a Masonically-affiliated meeting shall be expelled; 3 - changing the language for the Grand Secretary's salary from a salary to an annual honorarium; and 4 - clarification on the definition of Lodge rooms, and adjustments to the proper procedures with illegible ballots. At this time, the Brethren have all agreed that we feel that the proposals are incomplete and need refinement. We will be working closely with the Grand Lodge, and the rest of the jurisdiction to revise these proposals.

At our June Stated, we will have a Warden's night, meaning that all Lodge Officers will rotate one seat towards the East. Brother Arce has planned for a guided meditation to an 18th Century Egyptian Rite Lodge; he has requested that all who wish to participate bring a yoga mat or beach towel. Pizzas will be ordered, so make sure to respond to Brother Junior Warden if you are planning to join for dinner. He has also invited the Grand Lodge physician to give a presentation on the proper use of an AED (automated external defibrillator) in case of emergency.

## ➤ Trestleboard ⇐

**Brothers Please Remember**, if any member knows of another Brother who is Sick or Confined, please inform Worshipful Master **James 'Jamie' M. Hall** at 443-844-1804, Senior Warden **Michael T. Arce** at 240-821-4530, or Junior Warden **Stephen M. Motroni** at 916-847-2707.

### MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

#### JUNE

Bro. Theodore Arthur	11 yrs
WB Sam Chin, PM	11 yrs
Bro. George Ellis	53 yrs
RWB David Han, PM	22 yrs
WB Robert Johnson, PM	25 yrs
Bro. Ryan Martin	11 yrs
Bro. Daniel Orłowski	11 yrs
WB James Parkhurst, PM	11 yrs
WB Chris Pouler, PM	45 yrs
Bro. Wesley Yurgaites	11 yrs

#### JULY

William J. Foster	74 yrs
Franchot E. White, PM	50 yrs
John C. Regner Jr, PM	42 yrs

"On behalf of the officers and brothers of St John's Lodge No. 11, I would like to thank you for your Fraternal service and wish you many more years of Fellowship and Fraternity."

- James "Jamie" M. Hall, WM

### STATED COMMUNICATIONS

7:30 PM First Friday (Except July)

#### Almas Shrine Temple

1315 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

#### Lodge Social Media

[www.stjohnslodgedc.org](http://www.stjohnslodgedc.org)  
[facebook.com/stjohns11dc](https://facebook.com/stjohns11dc)

#### Grand Lodge Web Site

[www.dcgrandlodge.org](http://www.dcgrandlodge.org)



## ➤ From the East, cont. ⇐

Finally, in an effort to gauge how many Brethren are reading our bulletins and communications, I am offering a bit of trivia, which if you find me in Lodge and answer correctly, will earn a beverage of your choice from the Almas bar. What are the three highest production pinball games in modern history?

Sincerely and Fraternally,

**WB James M. Hall**

Worshipful Master

## ➤ From the West ⇐

### Brethren,

As part of my preparation in following my path to the East, I have been studying the opening and closing sections of our monitor. This has not been an easy task, as I find myself in a familiar place when it comes to studying ritual: learning it. As we all learn differently, I wanted to share my method. First, I study the text. I think it is important to know the words in cipher — how can one "know" if you don't understand? I made the mistake during my Entered Apprentice degree proficiency. In sections that I struggled to learn, I mistakenly inserted "my profane words" in place of what was standard in the ritual.

Once I know the words, I move to the second step: observation. I travel to as many Lodges in the District as possible to observe the performance. This helps reinforce what I know by providing context in the interactions between the speaking parts.

The last part is my favorite: discovering the deeper meanings. My Brothers, this is the most rewarding part! Our opening and closing are more than a statement of purpose or ceremony, the words are a call to come together and instructions on how to return to the profane world.

I'm interested to hear your thoughts on ritual and Masonry at our next Stated Communication.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

**Bro. Michael Arce**

Senior Warden

## ➤ From the South ⇐

### Brethren,

It was good to see those of you who attended Lodge this past May. I, for one, was very excited for the home cooked meal Brother Arce prepared for us. With summer upon us it is becoming more difficult to secure the time to come to Lodge. I know it may be difficult, so I recommend you all mark your calendars and try to make it happen. I often find that writing it down makes me hold myself to my commitments.

May had a very small turnout. Though light, it was still very enjoyable.

(cont.)

As always, we had some very exciting discussions, some of which on the recent Semi-Annual Grand Lodge Communication. There are some important discussions happening, so I hope to see you all in the Lodge this June.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

**WB Stephen M. Motroni, PM**  
Junior Warden



### From the Secretary's Desk

#### Greetings Brethren,

I hope that your summer is off to a good start. My annual trip to New Orleans for the Jazz & Heritage Festival was an amazing break. It was good to completely unwind and immerse myself in the food, the music, and the friendly atmosphere that is the Big Easy. Outside of our home, Washington, DC, New Orleans is my favorite city in America. If you have not had the opportunity to go, I encourage you to add it to your list! I can provide you with all the recommendations!

Many of you have expressed that you are not receiving communications from the Grand Lodge either electronically and/or via the Postal Service. If you feel this is the case, this is yet another reason for you to make sure your contact information is correct in Grand View (<https://dc.grandview.systems/>).

If you open up your profile ("My Profile") take a look at your Communication Preferences. Make sure that you select which communications you wish to receive.

Fraternally,

**Anand A. Trivedi P.M.**  
Secretary

### ❖ The Chaplin's Corner ❖

#### Brothers,

As we step into the month of June, I am reminded of the importance of unity and harmony within our Masonic fraternity. June serves as a reminder that our strength lies in our ability to come together and work toward a common purpose.

Unity is a fundamental principle in Masonry. We gather as brothers from diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and walks of life, bound together by our shared values and ideals. It is through this unity that we find strength and support in our Masonic journey.

In our current world, it is crucial to embrace unity and harmony, not just within our Masonic circles but also in our interactions with others. By practicing tolerance, respect, and understanding, we can foster a sense of unity not only within our fraternity but also in our families, communities, and the world at large.

Let us remember the importance of brotherly love and the power of unity this month. Reach out to your fellow brothers, engage in meaningful conversations, and find ways to support and uplift one another. By doing so, we strengthen the bonds that hold us together and exemplify the true spirit of Masonry.

May this month be a reminder of the strength we derive from unity and a call to action to promote harmony in our lives and communities.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

**Bro. Benjamin Watts**  
Chaplin

**WORSHIPFUL MASTER**

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g7accord@gmail.com 443.844.1804

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**SENIOR STEWARD**

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**TREASURER**

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**CHAPLIN**

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benwatts@outlook.com 703-919-8302

## Trustees

D. Scott Heath (2023)

Jason Lee (2024)

Tommy Ripke (2025)



## Honorary Members

MWB Teko Foly, PGM

MWB Joseph S. Crociata, PGM

MWB Akram R. Elias, PGM

RWB Christopher K. Mahaney, PM

RWB David Han, PM

MWB Michael D. Nicholas, PGM

MWB Jeffrey D. Russell, PGM

## Living Past Masters

Franchot E. White	1978
John C. Regner	1985**
Nelson L. Fink	1986 - 1987
Charles W. Riley	1988
Karl F. Gruel, Jr.	1994 - 1995
Chip K. Mahaney, RWB (Hon.)	1995*, 2005*, 2015*
Akram R. Elias, PGM (Hon.)	1999*, 2001*, 2003 - 2004*
Teko Foly, PGM (Hon.)	2002 - 2003*, 2014*
Robert E. Johnson	2002, 2004*, 2008- 2010
Joseph Crociata, PGM (Hon.)	2003*, 2015*, 2016*
David Han, RWB (Hon.)	2005*, 2010*
Jeffery D. Russell, PGM (Hon.)	2006*, 2013*
Michael D Nicholas, PGM (Hon.)	2009*, 2010*, 2020*
Michael J. Gambale Jr.	2011
Justin T. Russell	2012
Geoffrey Newman	2012 - 2014*, 2019-2020*
Harry Trapp, Jr.	2013
Anand A. Trivedi	2014
D.W. Stephenson	2015
James Parkhurst	2017
Sam Chin	2018
Sean Parkhurst	2019
Jason Lee	2020, 2021
Stephen M. Motroni	2022

\* indicates Master at another lodge

\*\* indicates made Honorary PM of St. John's No. 11