

# St. John's Lodge No. 9, F. & A. M.

## Trestleboard



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FEBRUARY 2010

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

Jim Russell, editor

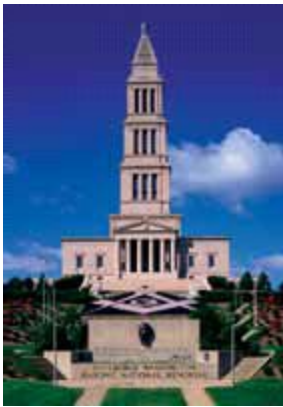
7910 Greenwood Ave. N.

(206) 623-0261

[stjohns9@seattlemasons.org](mailto:stjohns9@seattlemasons.org)

### FROM THE EAST

MWBro. Al Jorgensen  
*Worshipful Master*



February is the month we honor the memory and accomplishments of the former National leaders of our Country on Presidents Day. Two of our most notable Presidents, Abraham Lincoln and Brother George Washington were born this month. This year is especially significant for Brother Washington as it marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. It was founded on February 22, 1910. Over its 100 years of existence the Association has achieved many milestones, most notable was the erection of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial located in Alexandria,

Virginia. This magnificent edifice sits on Shooters Hill and overlooks Northern Virginia and Washington D.C. In addition to memorializing our first President it provides insight into the Masonic Fraternity and the several organizations which compose the Masonic Family. This Monument belongs to all the Masons in the United States and we should be justly proud of how it represents the best our Gentle Craft has to offer. If you travel to the Nation's Capital, take the time to visit the Memorial. It is just a block from the King Street Station of the Metro and there is no fee to tour the exhibits. It will be time well spent.

St. John's Lodge will honor our ladies this month and it is hoped you will invite them to accompany you for dinner prior to the stated meeting. Our musician Adam Creighton has indicated he will have a musical program to entertain us during the social hour. My lady, Nancy, is looking forward to getting acquainted with all the ladies of St. John's and will host them for conversation and a little fun she calls "The Price Is Right." I understand it will test their shopping skills and there will be prizes for the most accomplished shoppers.

We also hope to host some visitors from Joint Base Lewis-McChord. During the holiday season members of the Lodge visited then-Ft. Lewis, for Operation Kid Smile. An invitation was extended at that time for some of the families to join us for dinner at our February meeting. If their duty requirements permit we will have an opportunity to meet and thank these soldiers for their dedicated service.

Finally, as I addressed last month, communication is absolutely essential for strengthening our Fraternity. If you know a brother you have not seen or heard from in some time, take a moment to give him a phone call to find out if he is well, and more importantly invite him to the meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup>. If he needs a ride, offer him one. If he needs a ride and you cannot provide it, let me, one of the Wardens, or the Secretary know and we will endeavor to make it happen.

### SCOTTISH RITE OPEN HOUSE

The Valley of Seattle Scottish Rite will hold an open house to show off their new "digs" on Sunday, February 28, between 2 and 4:30pm. The address is 1207 N. 152<sup>nd</sup> St., Shoreline, just a block east of Aurora N. Light refreshment and music is planned to add to your enjoyment.

Last month the Grand Lodge dedicated the cornerstone for the new facility which has two Lodge rooms, administrative offices, a reception or meeting room and will also house the Rite Care program which offers quality speech therapy to children with language disorders at no cost to the family.

**RSVP to the Scottish Rite at (206) 324-3330.**

### CALENDAR



- **February 8 (7-9pm): Ritual instruction classes at Greenwood Masonic Center**
- **February 9 (6pm): Officers Meeting**
- **February 15 (9:30am): laying of wreath at Geo. Washington Memorial (coffee at 9am – University Lodge 141)**
- **February 15 (7pm): Greenwood Lodge Fellowship Night – dinner & games**
- **February 16 (6pm): Board of Trustees (change from February 10)**
- **February 17 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated Ladies Program: Price is Right!**
- **February 24 (7pm): District 5 LOMA meeting**
- **February 27 (8:30am): Washington DeMolay Foundation breakfast at Nile Shrine**
- **September 4: St. John's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**
- **September 11: 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

## February Communication Welcomes Our Ladies

Masons of St. John's are encouraged to bring their lady this month for our February 17<sup>th</sup> stated communication. Dinner will be served at 6:15pm, following a social "hour" opening about 5:30. While the men assemble for our usual business session at 7:30, Lady Nancy Jorgensen will lead the ladies in a rousing session of *The Price is Right!*

Is there a better way to recognize this Valentine month than to honor our ladies?

St. John's Musician Bro. Adam Creighton will be entertaining the gentlemen and the ladies following dinner. Bro. Creighton performs for a number of local lodges and the Nile Shrine.

MWBro. Al Jorgensen urges all brothers to bring your ladies. His lady Nancy Jorgensen will be offering a variety of programs for the ladies periodically throughout the year while the men are in our meetings. Hopefully this will create an atmosphere to get our ladies more involved.

The original version of The Price is Right! was first transmitted on the NBC, and later ABC, television networks in the United States from 1956 to 1965. Hosted by Bill Cullen, it involved four contestants bidding on expensive products. While the products might not be as expensive in Lady Nancy's version, the excitement and challenge should be equally entertaining.

A program of interest such as this customarily follows dinner. The dinner and program are open to anyone, including prospective members - the business meeting starting at 7:30 is open only to members of the fraternity.

**Please make your 6:15pm dinner reservations with the secretary at [stjohns9@seattlemasons.org](mailto:stjohns9@seattlemasons.org) or 206 623-0261 by Friday (January 15<sup>th</sup>) prior to the stated meeting. Invite a brother to accompany you to lodge.**

### **DEMOLAY FOUNDATION BREAKFAST**

*Nile Shrine, Mountlake Terrace, February 27*

Here's a fun event with a fine breakfast and compelling speaker. And it benefits the young DeMolay lads throughout Washington. Opening at 8:30am on Saturday, February 27, former Seahawk and present coach of the Lake Washington High football team Ray Roberts will be telling tales.

Get your **FREE** ticket from VWBro. Chuck Brockway (chairman of the Foundation), MWBro. Al Jorgensen, or VWBro. Jim Maher. Come with your wallet, however, as your donation to the Foundation is the purpose of this event.

**Ray Roberts** (born June 3, 1969 in Asheville, North Carolina) is a former offensive tackle who played for 10 seasons in the National Football League. He attended the University of Virginia. He was drafted tenth overall by the Seattle Seahawks in the 1992 NFL Draft and also played for the Detroit Lions.

### **Here and About**

WBro. Terry Grove is Wise Master of the Rose Croix, Everett Valley.... WBro. Paul Cox is a Grand Canyon Park Ranger.... Bros. Carl Tokarek and Simon Letarte demonstrated their proficiencies on the Master Mason degree in open Lodge in January.... WBro. Joseph Lund has been re-elected president of the Masonic Service Bureau.... Brothers from St. John's performed a Masonic funeral service for our late Bro. Orrin Niles in January....



### **GEO. WASHINGTON STATUE**

Brothers of District 5 and the Daughters of the American Revolution have been saluting the birthday of our first President and brother



Mason George Washington with a wreath laying ceremony for several years. This event takes place at Kane Hall on the University of Washington campus. We'll meet at University Lodge on **February 15** at 9am for pastries and coffee and then walk to Kane Hall. The Kane Hall program begins at 9:30. Free parking is available under Red Square.

Our District 5 Deputy of the Grand Master VWBro. Mike Cuadra will be laying a wreath at the base of the statue. We will be **clothed as Masons** - so be sure to bring your apron.

### **SHRINE SPOTLIGHTED LAST MONTH**

As the Grand Master of Washington had designated the month of January "Shrine Month," MWBro. Al Jorgensen invited newly installed Potentate of the Nile Shrine, III. Sat Tashiro, to enlighten the brethren on this appendant body. MWBro. Tashiro thanked the members of St. John's who had attended his public installation and expressed gratitude to the Master for this opportunity to present a couple of representatives to speak.



WBro. Larry Bronner, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Nile and a Past Master of Alki Lodge No. 152, said that the first Shrine was established in 1872; today there are 400,000 Shriners, primarily in North America. In the 1900s infantile paralysis (polio) was a major health problem for children, and the first Shrine hospital was established in 1922. Today, there are 22 hospitals, with a cost of 2 million dollars a day to operate.

WBro. Dennis "DJ" Synnott said that he has been a proud member of the Shrine for the past twelve years. He added that he was brought to tears during his march in one of the parades when a woman approached him and expressed how grateful she was for the Shrine hospital that saved her life as a child.

All encouraged the brothers to investigate joining the Shrine: "Playground with a Purpose."

Letter from Nancy

## LADIES TO ENJOY PRICE IS RIGHT!

We are entering the third month of a new term for the Masons of St. John's Lodge. I would love to meet the ladies of those Masons. An activity on February 17th after the dinner will be provided. There will be several new, lovely treasures available for us to play "Price is Right". You will have a chance to guess the price and it will be yours to take home. A very important part of that evening will be an opportunity for you to suggest programs or activities that you would enjoy participating in, on future third Wednesdays of 2010.

I look forward to meeting all of you on February 17th. If you would like to call and give me your suggestions I would be happy to visit with you.

Thank you,

Nancy Jorgensen  
253-862-3083

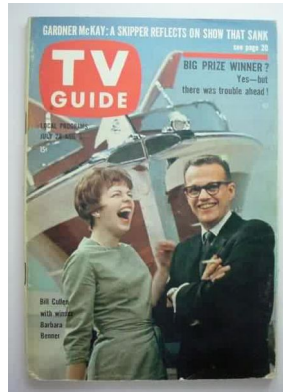


## The Price is Right!

The original version was first transmitted on the NBC, and later ABC, television networks in the United States from 1956 to 1965. Hosted by Bill Cullen, it involved four contestants bidding on expensive products, doing so in the manner of auctions except that Cullen did not act out the role of auctioneer, trying to obtain a bid closest to the product's actual retail price without going over that price. After a set round of bids, the player whose bid was closest to the correct value of the prize--and had not gone over that value--would win it. At the end of each edition, the player who had won the most (by dollar value) was declared the winner and became the returning champion, entitled to play again in the next edition. This version of *The Price Is Right* ended in 1965.

The revamped version returned to the air in 1972 as *The New Price Is Right*; the "new" addendum was later removed. It is still in production in the United States. From September 4, 1972 to June 15, 2007, the show was hosted by Bob Barker. On October 15, 2007, Drew Carey debuted as the new host.

In this new version, four contestants place a single bid on an initial product, in dollars only as the production company will round off all retail prices to the nearest dollar; the player who bids closest to the product's actual retail price without going over then gets to play one of several mini-games, which are called Pricing Games in most countries, including the United States, for an additional and more substantial prize or group of prizes.



## PGM ROBINSON TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

This marks the 50th year MWBro. Ken Robinson has been a Mason and the brothers of Occidental Lodge No. 72 invite all to share this celebration with MWBro. Ken. Non-Masons, family, and friends are invited the evening of Thursday, February 18.

Occidental Lodge will be hosting a complimentary dinner at 6:30pm and then will have a public ceremony in the Lodge room before retiring for refreshment and fellowship. If you want to attend the ceremony, just come on down that evening. If you wish to attend dinner, call and leave an RSVP by Saturday, February 13 on the Occidental Lodge answering machine (206) 782-8289 letting them know who you are and how many will be in your party.

## Washington Masonic Code

### CHAPTER 19 - COURSE OF PETITIONS

#### Sec. 19.01 B.L.

**Action Upon a Petition.** Action upon a petition for the Degrees or for affiliation shall be in the following manner:

1. A petition shall be presented and accepted only at a Stated Communication. No vote of acceptance shall be taken,
2. Upon acceptance, the petition shall be referred to an Investigating Committee of three Lodge members,
3. The Investigating Committee shall deposit its report with the Lodge Secretary at a subsequent Stated Communication after referral of the petition. The Lodge Secretary will present the investigating committee's report. In case of a vacancy in the committee, the Master may fill the vacancy and receive the report at that Communication, **Rev. 2003**
4. The investigation report shall be signed by at least two members of the committee; and
5. Regardless of whether the committee report is favorable or unfavorable, a ballot is still necessary. The rejection of a petition can be effected only by a ballot.

#### Sec.19.15 B.L.

**Petition After Rejection.** A Lodge which has rejected a petitioner for the degrees shall not accept another petition from him until the expiration of one year after such rejection; nor shall any other Lodge in this Jurisdiction accept a petition from a rejected petitioner until:

1. One year has expired following the rejection; and
2. The petition has been reported to the rejecting Lodge and full information requested regarding the character of the petitioner and his qualifications to receive the Degrees. If a diligent effort to obtain the information has produced no answer within ninety days, the Lodge may proceed to act upon the petition. **[Rev. 2003]**

**Coming to Dinner at 6:15? RSVP at 206 623-0261 or email the Secretary at [stjohns9@seattlemasons.org](mailto:stjohns9@seattlemasons.org).**



## MASONIC SERVICE BUREAU

The Trustees of the Masonic Service Bureau are working diligently at defining charity guidelines and future direction of the Bureau. Its financial portfolio (\$300,000) is good. Times have changed, and where once the Bureau had a staff of 2-3, it now has a staff of one. The Bureau once had medical equipment, and now has none, with few requests (which can be satisfied by purchases or rentals). In the past, expenditures were as much as \$37,000 annually, with \$6-8,000 for charity. This past year, the annual budget was \$15,000, with \$8,000 issued for charity.

WBro. Joseph Lund, will again serve this Lodge as our Trustee to the Bureau, where he also serves as its president.

### HOW TO TELL GOOD MASONS

**You can't tell the good Masons and Brothers  
By the size of the ring they wear.  
There are some wear no ring or aught other  
Shiny emblems, yet act on the square.  
You can't tell by their wisdom and learning  
Or the number of honors they've won.  
There are many poor brothers who're earning  
Lots of praise for the good deeds they've done.  
You can't tell just because they are witty,  
Or if they are lacking renown;  
Or they come from the big, busy city,  
Or are just from a small country town.  
Well, then, are there no sure ways of knowing  
Who will always be loyal and true?  
None are sure, but this hint I'm bestowing,  
And hope it is helpful to you:  
Look for those whom the Master can send on  
All his errands, and know they won't dodge.  
Yes, the ones you can likely depend on  
Are the ones who are always in Lodge.**

#### St. John's No. 9 Officers 2010

Worshipful Master	Alvin Jorgensen	253 862-3083
Senior Warden	George Rine	206 784-9617
Junior Warden	Joseph Oates, Jr.	425 883-4457
Treasurer	James Maher	253 630-0218
Secretary	James Russell	425 778-6823
Chaplain	Alex LaBarba	206 617-7308
Marshal	Charles Brockway	253 845-9735
Senior Deacon	David Flood	206 720-1560
Junior Deacon	Hans Wehl	425 688-1401
Senior Steward	Carl Tokarek	206 588-0909
Junior Steward	Simon Letarte	206 859-0370
Musician	Adam Creighton	206 818-9210
Tyler	Terry Grove	425 337-7134

## ST. JOHN'S LODGE NO. 9 TO CELEBRATE 150 YEARS OF MASONRY IN SEATTLE

**September 11, 2010.** Hold this date open for a day of re-dedication and celebration!

Brothers of St. John's will assemble to rededicate our Lodge in recognition of 150 years of Masonic presence in the Greater Seattle community. The Grand Master and members of the Grand Lodge team will join us in this beautiful and solemn ceremony on Saturday, September 11.

That evening, a fabulous dinner and entertainment will be held to recognize this wonderful occasion. Members of the Lodge, their ladies, and selected guests will be invited. Plans are underway to invite a recognized speaker, with music and dancing to follow high atop the Columbia Tower Center.

So mark your calendar now. This won't be just another anniversary dinner. This will be a day and an evening to remember!



### PENNSYLVANIA MASONS MOVE BEYOND "TO BE ONE ASK ONE"

Freemasonry in America is organized by state — there is no higher governing body — and Pennsylvania is the largest Masonic jurisdiction in the world, with a spectacular temple in Philadelphia, completed in 1873, as its headquarters. Right Worshipful Bro. Tom Sturgeon was sworn in reciting the same oath, or obligation, Benjamin Franklin recited 275 years ago when he took the same office.

Not much has changed in the interim, although the torches around the altar are now electric and the musical repertoire has been updated to include "Beer Barrel Polka" and "No Man Is an Island." Membership has been declining (currently 120,000 in Pennsylvania, down from 260,000 when RWB Sturgeon joined in 1965) and the median age has been steadily climbing (now 68).

"Brethren, ladies and friends," RWB Sturgeon greeted the audience for his installation. "The 21st-century Masonic Renaissance starts today!"

The "renaissance" is RWB Sturgeon's agenda for reform, jump-starting a membership drive with a new strategy that permits "selective invitation," replacing the old "To be one, ask one" policy that forbade Masons to proselytize (*still the rule in Washington*). He also decreed a lifetime dues exemption for any Mason over 60 who brings in two new members under 30.

RWBro. Sturgeon, a career law-enforcement officer, was installed as Right Worshipful Grand Master for Pennsylvania on Dec. 28.

### GOLF TOURNEY AT GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

Riverside Golf Course, Chehalis  
Wednesday, June 9

Terry Grove Chairman

## GRAND LODGE OF HAITI SEEKS ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING 7.0 EARTHQUAKE



The **Masonic Service Association** has received a request for assistance from the Grand Lodge of Haiti following the horrible damages to life and property caused by the **7.0 earthquake**, January 12.

The 2010 Haiti earthquake was near the town of Léogâne, approximately 16 miles west of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. By January 24, at least 52 aftershocks measuring 4.5 or greater had been recorded. An estimated three million people were affected by the quake; Haitian President Rene Preval stated that "nearly 170,000" bodies had been counted. Reports claimed that 20,000 commercial buildings and 225,000 residences had collapsed or were severely damaged.

The earthquake caused major damage to Port-au-Prince, Jacmel and other settlements in the region. Many notable landmark buildings were significantly damaged or destroyed, including the Presidential Palace, the National Assembly building, the Port-au-Prince Cathedral, and the main jail. Among those killed were Archbishop of Port-au-Prince Monsignor Joseph Serge Miot, and opposition leader Micha Gaillard.

Many countries responded to appeals for humanitarian aid, pledging funds and dispatching rescue and medical teams, engineers and support personnel. Communication systems, air, land, and sea transport facilities, hospitals, and electrical networks had been damaged by the earthquake, which hampered rescue and aid efforts; confusion over who was in charge, air traffic congestion, and problems with prioritization of flights further complicated early relief work. Port-au-Prince's morgues were quickly overwhelmed; tens of thousands of bodies were buried in mass graves. As rescues tailed off, supplies, medical care and sanitation became priorities. Delays in aid distribution led to angry appeals from aid workers and survivors, and some looting and sporadic violence were observed.

On 22 January the United Nations noted that the emergency phase of the relief operation was drawing to a close, and on the following day the Haitian government officially called off the search for survivors.

## Earthquake of enormous magnitude hits the Pacific Northwest coast on January 26, 1700.

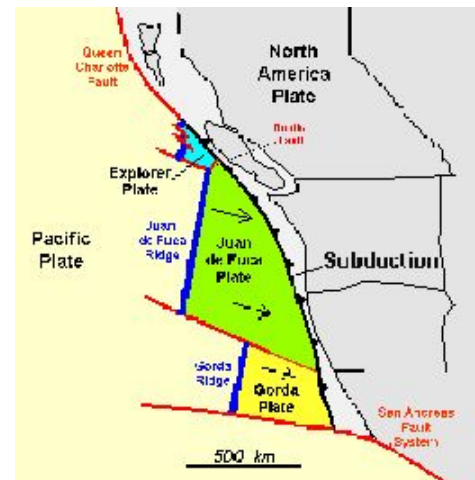
HistoryLink.org Essay 5098

On January 26, 1700, at about 9:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time a gigantic earthquake occurs 60 to 70 miles off the Pacific Northwest coast. The quake violently shakes the ground for three to five minutes and is felt along the coastal interior of the Pacific Northwest including all counties in present-day Western Washington. A tsunami forms, reaching about 33 feet high along the Washington coast, travels across the Pacific Ocean and hits the east coast of Japan. Japanese sources document this earthquake, which is the earliest documented historical event in Western Washington. Other evidence includes drowned groves of red cedars and Sitka spruces in the Pacific Northwest. Indian legends corroborate the cataclysmic occurrence.

### The Earth Moves

The earthquake ruptured what is known as the Cascadia subduction zone -- the area of overlap between two of the tectonic plates that make up the earth's surface, the Juan de Fuca plate and the North American plate. The Cascadia subduction zone extends from Vancouver Island, British Columbia (about 49 degrees 30 minutes North Latitude) south to Cape Mendocino in northern California (about 40 degrees North Latitude). The earthquake dropped the entire Pacific Northwest ocean coastline three to six feet. The tsunami, up to 33 feet high, inundated the ocean coast.

This was one of the largest earthquakes the Pacific Northwest has ever had. It compares with two disastrous earthquakes: the March 27, 1964 Alaska earthquake, which measured 9.2 moment magnitude, and the May 21-22, 1960 Chile earthquake, which measured 9.5 moment magnitude.



Earthquake, 1700

Courtesy Malaspina College

## Military road from Fort Vancouver through Olympia to Seattle is completed in 1860.

HistoryLink.org Essay 144

In 1860, the military road is completed from Fort Vancouver to Seattle. It passes through Olympia, Fort Nisqually, Fort Steilacoom, and Fort Puyallup. The Reverend Daniel Bagley (*Master of St. John's 1861*) and family are the first to travel the road to Seattle.

The U.S. Congress authorized the road in 1853.

Who is that caped man? New plaque tells the story

Who is that figure on the pedestal below Red Square looking west to the Olympic Mountains?



It's George Washington, of course. Everybody knows that. Or do they? For 100 years, ever since the statue was donated to the University by the Rainier chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution with additional contributions by Washington state school children, nothing on its plaque has told a casual visitor who the figure is and why he matters. Nor did the plaque say who created the statue.

So, in the statue's centennial year, the University decided to remedy the omissions. Thanks to a generous donation once again from the DAR, the statue has a new plaque that reads:

"This statue of George Washington, first president of the United States (1789-1797) and commander in chief of the colonial armies during the American Revolution (1775-1783), was created in 1909 by the eminent American sculptor Lorado Taft (1860-1936) at the request of Professor Edmond S. Meany specifically for the University of Washington campus."

WBro. Meany served as Master of St. John's in 1897.



#### DUES REMINDER

Dues for 2010 were due and payable by December 31, 2009. **If you still have not paid your dues for this year, please remit \$15, today.** Send to PO Box 30069, Seattle, WA 98113.

### St. John's Adds 3<sup>rd</sup> Accelerated Reader School

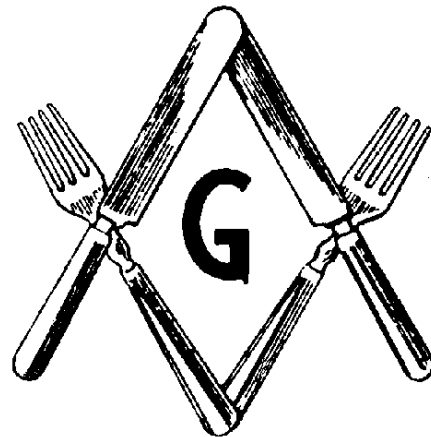
WBro. Joseph Lund, chair of the Accelerated Reader charity committee, proposed that the Lodge add a third school to its Accelerated Reader charities. Bailey Gatzert Elementary School is a K-5 school located at 1301 E. Yesler. The new principal, Mr. Greg Imel, is supportive of the Accelerated Reader system of childhood reading improvement. At WBro. Lund's recommendation, St. John's has directed \$6,000 start-up money for Gatzert Elementary, leaving \$2,000 to be shared by John Rogers and Sacajawea schools.

In the early development of the program we ask a school's Accelerated Reader coordinator to work up a budget proposal for that year's program. The idea behind this is that sometimes two thousand dollars is adequate (they might just need some books and a few tests) where another school that was starting from scratch might need \$6,000.

For a new school, we should know (1) how many commitments have been made by teachers in implementing the program, (2) the number of students anticipated in the program the first year, (3) if the school principal is really behind the program, and (4) the proposed budget with an implementation plan. The budget should include hardware, software, training, and books.

WBro. Lund said that a couple of members of the Bailey Gatzert staff have Accelerated Reader experience and are ready to roll. The school is short of money (as are all schools) and could well use the support. He visited the school and found that shelves in the library had more empty spaces than books.

John Rogers Elementary has been a part of our Accelerated Reader program since 1997. Sacajawea Elementary joined the program in 2002. Cedar Way Elementary (Mountlake Terrace) enjoyed the program for four years until the Edmonds School District chose to stop its participation in 2007.



WBro. Roger Barnstead writes, "The real secret of Freemasonry? How many Masons are going to show up for dinner!"

## Out of the Ashes – Taproot recovers and regroups after October arson



*“I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being.” – Oscar Wilde*

A scant three months after the Greenwood arsons that damaged the Eleanor Roosevelt Building and neighboring businesses, Taproot Theatre is again opening its doors.

The regional premier of its new production, C.S. Lewis’ “The Great Divorce,” opened January 27.

On Oct. 23, the Taproot Theatre’s Greenwood playhouse was damaged in the fire that burned down the Roosevelt Building, which Taproot owns. The fire, ultimately ruled arson by investigators, forced the theater to postpone its upcoming holiday show, “Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol.”

“At first the adjusters and contractors said it would take at least four months to get the theater ready for reopening,” said Scott Nolte, co-founder of Taproot Theatre and director of the upcoming “The Great Divorce.” “(But) we really wanted to open our 2010 season in our Greenwood playhouse.”

After discussing the dilemma with the contractors and insurance adjusters, they created an abbreviated schedule for rebuilding. This allowed for public areas of the theater to be done in time for the first show of the 2010 season.

“They’ve been working 10 hours a day, six days a week, to make it happen,” Nolte said. “There’s been a lot of work to do, and some moments it looked like it might not happen, but here we are, days before opening.”

Taproot Theatre was founded in 1976, and was mobile throughout its beginning years. Starting out as a touring company, Taproot found its home at Seattle Pacific University before moving to a church. In 1996, Taproot moved to its current Greenwood location.

Community support has been essential to the coping and rebuilding process after October’s arson.

“We have a great staff, a great community, many loyal patrons and donors and so many colleagues in the theatre community,” Nolte said. “They have helped give us the encouragement and the stamina that we need to get through this time.”

Support came in from all areas of the community, said Pam Nolte, co-founder of Taproot Theatre and an actor in the upcoming “The Great Divorce.” The community of Greenwood, the arts community and the church community all pitched in and asked “What do you need?” she said.

Taproot finished its run of “Enchanted April” with the help of Seattle Children’s Theatre, which gave Taproot use of one of its auditoriums.

As the Greenwood playhouse was rebuilt, Taproot Theatre found a temporary home in two local church basements, Greenwood Christian Church and Grace Fellowship, where theater staff and the actors have been rehearsing and preparing for the “The Great Divorce.”

Taproot consists of not only the main stage, which features the company’s seasonal performances, but an acting studio and road company as well.

“The acting studio didn’t miss a beat,” Scott Nolte said. “Some classes were already held offsite, and the others were relocated.”

Finding other locations for classes was a scramble, Taproot’s Education Director Sara Willy said.

“Two of our classes were supposed to perform on our stage before the holidays,” Willy explained. “We called a ton of different places about renting performance spaces.”

The acting studio ended up renting performance space from Stone Soup Theatre in Fremont. Students are really excited to have class back in the original Greenwood playhouse.

“The Great Divorce,” based on the novel of the same name by C.S. Lewis, features the narrative of a journey through hell to heaven. It was adapted for the theater by George Drance and the Magis Theatre Company. The Taproot production features 10 actors portraying 25 characters.

“The Great Divorce” runs through Feb. 27. Taproot Theatre’s next production is “Brooklyn Boy,” which runs March 17-April 17.

*(Contributor Sarah Storm is a student in the University of Washington Department of Communication News Laboratory.)*

## FEBRUARY 17: STATED COMMUNICATION AND ASH WEDNESDAY

What is Ash Wednesday?:

In Western Christendom, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and falls between February 4th and March 11th, 6 1/2 weeks before Easter. Early in Christian history the length of Lent varied, but in the 7th century it was fixed at 40 days as a reminder of the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert. Early penitents were sprinkled with ashes, wore sackcloth, and were required to remain apart from the rest of the community until they were reconciled on Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter.

**Return to:**

<http://www.seattlemasons.org>

