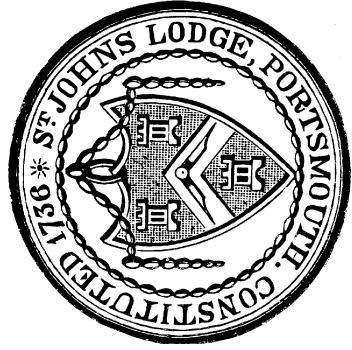
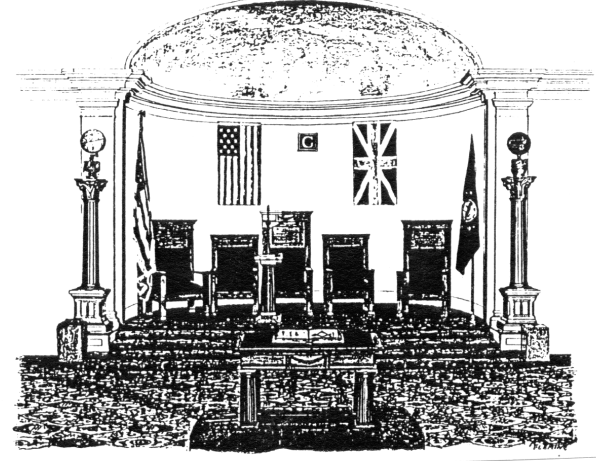


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Stamp

October 2024



October 2024 Trestle Board

St. John's Lodge No. 1
Portsmouth, NH

The Master's Message

Ritual, mystery, and symbolism are at the heart of our work in the Masonic quarries — but occasionally the esoteric must give way to the practical, and so in recent weeks the Lodge has turned its attention to some of the down-to-earth matters we need to address periodically to keep our mystical enterprise going. In particular, two agenda items merit special mention: the 2025 budget and the disposition of our parking lot.

First, I'm happy to report that we passed our 2025 budget unanimously at our September Stated Communication. Thank you very much to our Treasurer, Right Worshipful Brother Bill Sawyer, and our Cracker Jack finance committee for the diligent work to put the budget together.

For the most part, the budget consists of the various line items we've come to expect — our rent for the temple building, our anticipated charitable giving, our cost of meals and the like — but there is one new line item I'd like to highlight: \$5,000.00 for the purchase of furnishings for our pub room.

As some may remember, the pub room used to be much more basement-like. In fact, the whole thing looked like the back room where the old lockers are — that is, until Worshipful Brother Tom Hand Sr. took it upon himself to build and install the beautiful bar and oak paneling. Since its construction, however, the pub room has often been underutilized, and I've long suspected this was due to a lack of dedicated, comfortable furniture. Now, with this generous budget allocation, we have the opportunity to realize more fully WB Hand's vision for a pub room we can use and be proud of.

The second agenda item involves our parking lot. Currently the City of Portsmouth leases the lot from us for public parking. This lease will expire at the end of the year. In anticipation of the lease expiration, Brother Howard Kalet, President of the St. John's Masonic Association (the legal entity that has title to the Masonic Temple property) and I formed a parking lot committee to negotiate a new lease.

After researching the city's long-term plans for parking, we presented lease terms to the city that, going forward, better reflect the value our lot has with respect to the city's parking needs. While nothing yet has been signed, Brother David Splaine and I recently met with the City Manager

Continued on page 6.....

Masonic Travels



Brother Blake Greene came across this boulder on a trail in NC. It's inscribed "In Memory of James "Jimmy" Halliburton" and includes the NC State Forest logo and the Square and Compasses.

Brother Silverman visited the only Masonic Lodge in St. George, UT (in the heart of Mormon country) This small lodge has seating for no more than 20 members



Brother David Scamman came across this Masonic Temple on his travels in Haderslev, Denmark



In September, we said goodbye to our Sr. Deacon, Brother Joshua Nixon who Moved back to Missouri to work in his family insurance business. We will miss Josh but he promises to visit from time to time.

.....**Master's Message**, continued from page 2

to discuss our terms — and those terms were favorably received. If all goes as planned, we should have a draft lease agreement in hand to present to the lodge for discussion by the October Stated Communication.

In closing I'd like to note that we, as a Lodge, are blessed with the various skills and talents of our members. Whether it's the craftsmanship of WB Hand, the business acumen of Brothers Kalet and Splaine, or the musicianship of Brother Dan Silverman, we all have something unique to bring — and I invite each of us to consider what we can do for our great Lodge as we look forward to the upcoming Masonic year. So mote it be.

Fraternally,

Worshipful Alan D. Ammann
Worshipful Master

From Labor to Refreshment



Gerald F. Buehrer, 91, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 10, 2024.

Worshipful Brother Buehrer was Past Master of St. Andrew's Lodge but was also a member of St. John's Lodge.

Jerry was a retired Major in the USAF. He was married with four children and six grandchildren



October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Stated Communication
Wednesday, October 2, 2024
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Meatloaf with Mashed Potatoes
Officer dress—white tie and tails

Brotherhood Game Night
Wednesday, October 16, 2024—6:00
Dinner—pizza upstairs in game room

Contact Information:

Alan D. Ammann
Worshipful Master
Ammann.alan@gmail.com
(603) 781-2455

Thomas W. Haslam, PM
Secretary
stjohnstom@comcast.net
603-498-7205

Mayer P. Alkon

On October 14, 1941, the occasion of the annual Visitation of St. John's Lodge, No. 1 in Portsmouth, Brother Mayer P. Alkon was presented with a 50-year medal by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, Most Worshipful Robert C. Laing. The inspecting officers that evening were RW Ernest H. Jenness of Dover, the District Deputy Grand Master; and from Danville, RW Alden C. Colby, the District Deputy Grand Lecturer. The Grand Lodge officers, accompanied by a large suite of past masters of the Lodge and Freemasons from around the state and the First Masonic District, were received and welcomed by Wor. William E. Dennett, the Master of the Lodge. The work of the evening was the Master Mason degree which was exemplified by Wor. Dennett and his officers. More than 200 masons were present at the meeting which started with a banquet in the auditorium.

Brother Mayer (Meier) Philip Alkon was born August 20, 1868 in Chorzele, Poland to Leo (Yehuda Leib) Alkon. Chorzele is a very small town in north central Poland. He immigrated to America with his family, arriving in New York City on June 13, 1881 at the age of 13. They first settled in Farmington, NH and soon after moved to Portsmouth where they lived at 30 State Street (near the Piscataqua River). On October 31, 1889, having made the requisite application, Mayer was admitted as a naturalized American citizen by the Supreme Court of New Hampshire.

Mayer opened M. P. Alkon & Co., a very successful gift shop in downtown Portsmouth in 1888. His very popular store was located at 49 Market Street, the current location of Summerwind Jewelers & Goldsmiths. He was a successful long-time dealer of fine china, crockery, glass, tin and wooden ware.

On January 19, 1897, Mayer married 20 year old Pauline Alkon Pinkus in Fulton County, Georgia, with Rabbi David Mark officiating. Pauline had immigrated to America from Germany. The married couple returned to Portsmouth and they lived at 58 Middle Road. They had one son, Leonard, and three daughters: Ruth, Eleanore and Marie. Pauline died on September 15, 1936.

Mayer was a faithful member of the Hebrew community of Portsmouth and helped establish Temple Israel in 1905. He was an active and dedicated parishioner and a celebrated part of the vibrant Jewish community in the Seacoast for many years.

In the late morning of July 22, 1952, 72 years ago, Mayer was stricken at his store and rushed to the Portsmouth Hospital on Junkins Avenue in a police cruiser. Sadly, he was pronounced dead on arrival; he was 85 years old. At the time of his death he was the oldest active merchant in Portsmouth.

Alkon's China Shop continued under the ownership of Mayer's son, Leonard, for several years until the operation was turned over to new owners, Robert and Charlotte Philbrook of Portsmouth in 1972. The business sold dinnerware and houseware on the retail side with one of the most complete inventories north of Boston, and food services equipment to restaurants, which was Bob's specialty.

Bro. Mayer Philip Alkon was a good man, a successful merchant and active citizen who helped shape the city of Portsmouth. He was an active 60-year member of St. John's Lodge having been Raised in the Lodge on October 14, 1891. He was also very active with the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He and Pauline are buried at the Temple Israel cemetery on Banfield Road in Portsmouth.

Speaking of good men and very active citizens, Robert Earl Philbrook is retired from the restaurant supply business and today lives in Kittery. He is 96 years old and this coming January, will be a 74-year member of St. John's Lodge. He was Raised on January 10, 1951. I'll tell you the rest of his story in a future article of the Trestleboard.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**