

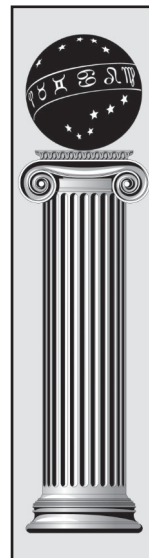


ST. JOHNS LODGE No. ONE

F. & A.M.

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

CONSTITUTED - 1757



May 2022

3910th
Regular
Communication



R.: W.: Rick Baccus
District Deputy Grand Master
Metro District

R.: W.: Richard F. Lynch
Grand Master of Ceremonies

M.: W.: Robert B. Ellston
Grand Master

R.: W.: Keith P. Moan
Grand Marshal

This Month's Communication: May 18, 2022

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St. Johns Lodge No. 1 Providence
F. & A.M.
P.O. BOX 8397
WARWICK, R.I. 02888-0397



St. Johns Lodge meets the third Wednesday of every month, except July and August,
at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 2115 Broad Street, Cranston, Rhode Island.
Telephone: 401-223-7041



Secretary's mailing Address: P.O. Box 8397 Warwick, R.I. 02888-0397
Telephone: 401-323-8955 Email: secretary1prov@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Officers Rehearsal

7:00 PM

Sunday May 15, 2022

The Grand Lodge of RI Church Service

9:00 AM

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

St. Johns #1P Regular Communication

6:00 PM

Monday, May 23, 2022

Grand Lodge Annual Communication

9:00 AM

Attest: M.: W.: Wyman P. Hallstrom, Jr., Secretary

W.: Joshua A. Irizarry, Master

Master's Message

My Brothers,

Two hundred and fifty years ago this June, a group of "concerned citizens" angered by England's increasingly aggressive control of trade in Rhode Island rowed into Narragansett Bay to assault a customs schooner that had become beached on a sandbar. In the fracas that followed, someone – and I'm not saying who – *may* have set fire to the boat...which then blew up...and then burned to the waterline.

In the centuries since, the **HMS Gaspee** "incident" has become inseparable from the story of Saint Johns Lodge #1 Providence. Our lodge's role in the burning of the Gaspee is a matter of deep pride, and it connects Saint Johns and Rhode Island Freemasonry – and by extension, ourselves – to the first gasps of the American struggle for Independence.

As we approach the semiquincentennial (I just learned a new word!) of the burning of the Gaspee, this important history ought to be front and center in our minds. There are three Gaspee-related matters I'd like to bring to your attention.

The first is that at our Regular Communication on May 18, **Worshipful Tim Culhane** will be presenting his paper on "*The Involvement of Saint Johns Lodge in the Burning of the H.M.S. Gaspee.*" W.: Culhane spent many months in the archives of Grand Lodge doing painstaking research for this paper, which asks to what degree Saint Johns Lodge was actually involved in the Gaspee Incident. Like all good history, the answer is both complicated and enlightening.

Secondly, Saint Johns has been approached by the **Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project** (RIMAP) for financial assistance for their search for the remains of the Gaspee. After consultation and a careful audit by the Finance Committee, I have made a motion that Saint Johns provide \$30,000 in funding to this effort. Because of the significant amount of money requested, I will be putting this to a Lodge referendum at the May Communication. This referendum will require the approval of 5/6ths of all SJ1P members present to pass. You will find a detailed description of the referendum proposal on the following page, and I welcome your comment and informed consent.

Lastly, brothers from throughout the Grand Jurisdiction will be marching in the Gaspee Days parade on Saturday, June 11, with Grand Lodge and Saint Johns at the front of the group. Because there are brothers for whom the two mile walk would be difficult (and also, because it will be awesome!) we are looking to construct a parade float in the shape of the longboats that our colonial brethren used to row out into Narragansett Bay that fateful evening in 1772. This, of course, is going to require some planning and elbow grease, and time is very limited. If you have the tools, talent, and time to help in the construction of this float, please contact **W.: Culhane** and **Brother Jason Shealy** as soon as possible.

Onward into history, my brothers!

W.: Joshua A. Irizarry

Joshua A. Irizarry
Worshipful Master



Get Well Wishes

Edwin Fielder 401-397-5637

85 Lakehurst Drive, Coventry, RI 02816

Peter McConaghy 401-641-5660

81 Norton Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920

Lino Martin

976 Long View Drive, North Attleboro, MA 02760

Let us remember all sick or shut in Brothers who could use a call, card or visit. Please report all such brothers to the Master Joshua A. Irizarry or any of the following Sick Committee members; Walter Kelly, Kenneth Phillips, Garabed Emdjian or contact Bob O'Brien at bob.obrien@gmail.com or 401-487-4750

Lodge & District Events

Saturday 05/07/22	Logia Libertad UD	7:30 PM
Monday 05/09/22	Redwood Lodge #35	7:00 PM
	Annual Communication	
Tuesday 05/10/22	Overseas Lodge #40	6:30 PM
Wednesday 05/11/22	Officers Rehearsal	7:00 PM
Saturday 05/14/22	Gaspee Chapter DeMolay	10:30 AM
Saturday 05/14/22	Fraternal Visit by Euclid Lodge #136, NJ	11:00 AM
Sunday 05/15/22	The Grand Lodge of RI Church Service	9:00 AM
Monday 05/16/22	Jenks Lodge #24	7:00 PM
Wednesday 05/18/22	St. Johns #1 Providence	6:00 PM
Monday 05/23/22	Grand Lodge Annual	9:00 AM
Monday 05/27/22	Rising Sun #30	7:00 PM
	Annual Communication	
Saturday 05/28/22	Gaspee Chapter DeMolay	10:30 AM
Saturday 06/04/22	Logia Libertad UD	7:30 PM
Saturday 06/11/22	Gaspee Days Parade	9:30 AM
Friday 06/24/22	SJ1P Annual Communication and Installation of Officers	5:30 PM

May 18th Monthly Communication

- 6:00 PM: St. Johns open to transact such business as shall regularly come before it.
- 6:45 PM: Dinner: **Baby Back Ribs** with teriyaki sauce
Grilled Chicken Breast with BBQ sauce
Sweet Corn, Potato, Macaroni, and Garden Salads
Coffee, Tea and Dessert
A limited number of fish meals available with reservation.
- 7:30 PM: Program: **The Burning of H.M.S. Gaspee: The Involvement and Influence of Saint Johns**
Lodge No. 1 Providence Free and Accepted Masons

Call: Brother Senior Steward @ 401-861-1757

or email: reservationsSJ1P@gmail.com

No later than **Sunday, May 15th** for reservations.

Any Brother with special dietary needs beyond the listed menu,
please mention it in your message.



Referendum Proposal:

That Saint Johns Lodge #1 Providence donate \$30,000 from the Lodge General Fund towards the discovery, excavation, and conservation of the Gaspee being conducted by the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project (RIMAP).

Background:

The Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project (RIMAP), under the direction of executive director Dr. Kathy Abbass and state archaeologist Dr. Tim Ives, is preparing a project to locate, conclusively identify, and excavate the remains of the Gaspee from the seabed off Gaspee Point.

SJ1P was approached with a request for funding for the project. On March 24, I attended a proposal for the Gaspee Excavation Project presented by RIMAP at the Aspray Boat House in Gaspee Park. Joining me in attendance were MW:. Ellston, RW:. Grant, RW:. Reed, RW:. Lynch, and W:. Culhane.

RIMAP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and depends wholly on donations for its activities. Volunteers must be trained in both basic archaeological techniques AND advanced underwater archaeological techniques, which are time and money intensive.

The RIMAP Gaspee study began in 2014, when changes to the landscape (erosion and changes in tides) began to uncover shipwrecks off Gaspee Point. There are three phases to this project:

Phase I: The "Not the Gaspee" study (2015-2021), which excavated two shipwrecks off Gaspee Point to conclusively rule out material and artifacts that did not belong to the Gaspee. This phase was completed in 2021.

Phase II is contingent on raising a minimum of \$32,000 of new funding. This phase will use SONAR to scan two target areas in the bay that were identified as possible candidates for the location of the Gaspee. The \$32,000 will pay for ten days of boat time, as well as fees for using advanced underwater survey technology developed and owned by MIT.

Phase III is contingent on raising a minimum of \$82,000 of new funding (\$50,000 beyond Phase II). This phase will allow for the actual archaeological excavation and conservation of the target sites surveyed in Phase II.

To date, the Gaspee study has only raised around \$12,000 from various sources.

The proposed donation of \$30,000 from Saint Johns Lodge would allow Phase II to begin immediately and put the entire study at just over 50% funding. Given the size of the proposed donation, we will require as a precondition that "Saint Johns Lodge #1 Providence, F&AM" receive recognition by name as a primary sponsor on any publication, film, or other media that derives from the study.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua A. Irizarry, Master

In Memoriam

Brother Howard Sidney Flamer

Barney Merry Lodge #29
St. Johns Lodge #1 Providence
Born, October 17, 1927
Entered Apprentice degree March 18, 1952
Fellowcraft degree April 15, 1952
Master Mason degree May 20, 1952
Signed the By Laws
June 17, 1952
St Johns #1 Providence June 6, 2001
Grand Lodge 50 year Veterans Medal 2002
Departed April 24, 2022
94 years

Brother Donald Leffingwell Benson Sr.

St. Johns Lodge #1 Providence
Born, November 21, 1927
Entered Apprentice degree March 16, 1949
Fellowcraft degree June 15, 1949
Master Mason degree November 16, 1949
Signed the By Laws
December 27, 1949
Grand Lodge 50 year Veterans Medal 1999
Departed April 27, 2022
94 years

May Program

TAKE NOTICE,

Whereas this be the 250th Anniversary of the burning of HMS Gaspee,

And whereas Masonic Brothers from Providence, New England were said to participate,

And whereas many have succumbed and subscribed to misreport and inaccuracy,

In Order to extricate us out of the embarrassed and distressed circumstance,

to promote actuality and evidence, the facts will be unveiled,

and that rumors and hearsay will be repudiated by W:. Timothy Culhane at a meeting of St. Johns Lodge No. One of Providence on Wednesday the 18th of May, 2022.

St Johns Lodge Number One Providence ~ Officers 2021-2022

Master: W. : Joshua A. Irizarry
Senior Warden: John B. Paliotta Junior Warden: Joseph J. Bernier
Treasurer: R. : W. : Ronald P. Reed Secretary: M. : W. : Wyman P. Hallstrom, Jr. email: secretary1prov@gmail.com
Chaplain: W. : Robert J. O'Brien Associate Chaplain: Peter A. Healey



Senior Deacon: Jason Shealy Junior Deacon: Robert Larrabee
Senior Steward: William C. Gouge Junior Steward: Scott C. Alexander



Marshal: W. : Scott Miller
Sentinel: Jeffrey Parker
Tiler: Garabed Emdjian Associate Tiler: Thomas J. Kumes
Master of Ceremonies W. : Timothy L. Culhane Associate M.C.: R. : W. : Kenneth B. Phillips

Musical Director: W. : Larry Thienel
Lodge Reporter: W. : Timothy L. Culhane
Finance Committee: W. : Edward D. Bertrand, W. : Scott E. Miller, Edward O. Quinn

Living Past Masters of St. Johns Lodge Number One Providence

St. Johns Lodge No. 1P

1971 Hagop Tikoian
 1973 John C. Crompton
 1975 Robert D. Coleman
 1976 Barry A. Phillips
 1979 George M. Hanrahan
 1980 Carl E. Croft
 1981 Ralph DiScullo
 1982 Anthony Marcello, Jr.
 1984 Gregory W. Dexter
 1986 Elton D. Ricker, Jr.
 1993 Anthony Marcello, Jr.
 1994-95 Thomas A. Ashley
 1999-00 Clarence Soderberg, Jr.
 2001 Gregory W. Dexter
 2002 William E. Whetstone
 2006 Gerald T. Plemmons
 2007 Russell A. Kawa
 2008 Kenneth B. Phillips
 2009 Ronald P. Reed
 2010 Edward D. Bertrand
 2011 Donald L. Williamson, Jr.
 2013 Richard F. Lynch
 2014 Robert J. O'Brien
 2015 Timothy L. Culhane
 2016 William J. DeLuca

2017 Edward D. Bertrand
 2018 Richard Gonzalez
 2019 Mazen M. Alsabe
 2020 Scott E. Miller

Unity Lodge No. 34

1969 George W. Haworth

Barney Merry Lodge No. 29

1969 M. Lee Reed
 1978 William E. Whetstone
 1985 Paul R. Moran
 1991 James Wishart
 1992-93 Robert B. Ellston
 1997-98 William E. Whetstone
 2000 Ronald P. Reed

Thomas Smith Webb No. 43

1966 Bogos W. Pelgian ^
 1970 Bernard Labush ^
 1982 Steven Babigian ^
 1984 Steven Babigian ^
 1985 Mohamed H. Hussein ^
 1986 Dennis C. Smith
 1987 Louis Micheli Jr.

1988 Thomas F. Gregory ^
 1989 Duncan C. Watson
 1989 Bryan W. Cooper ^
 1990 Steven Skaling ^
 1992 Thomas F. Gregory ^
 1993 Louis Falaguera
 1993 William M. Troberman ^
 1996 Eugene Thibeault
 1999 Frank DiMascio ^
 2000 Eugene Thibeault
 2004-05 James F. Desmarais
 2007 Philip R. Hartnett
 2008 Robert Boehm
 2010 Gary Moe
 2011-12 Dennis Sullivan

(#) Honorary Past Master
 (*) Corinthian Lodge No. 27
 (^) Orpheus Lodge No. 36



Living Past Grand Masters of St. Johns Lodge Number One Providence

1994-1995 Ralph DiScullo
 2000-2001 Benjamin A. Phillips
 2001-2002 Dennis W. Pothier
 2002-2003 Robert J. Allen
 2004-2005 Bradford L. Barco
 2005-2006 Wyman P. Hallstrom, Jr

2006-2007 Carl B. Willi
 2007-2008 Steven E. Smith
 2008-2009 Richard S. Sokoll
 2009-2010 Richard L. Ault, Jr.
 2014-2015 Wyman P. Hallstrom, III
 2015-2016 Raymond E. Hassell

2016-2017 Stephen T. McGuire
 2017-2018 Peter Iacobucci
 2018-2019 Glenn S. Carlson
 2020-2021 Gary S. Kaufman



St. Johns Distinguished Service Medal

1967 W. : Kinglsey L. Bennett*
 1968 Kenneth W. Fawthrop*
 1970 W. : Harold W. Thatcher*
 1971 W. : Rufus C. Fuller, Jr.*
 1971 W. : J. Harold Robertson*

1975 M. : W. : Wesley Reuter*
 1980 W. : Ralph W. Wilkins*
 1982 W. : James F. Candelet*
 1992 M. : W. : Arthur R. Cole, Jr.*
 1992 W. : Anthony Marcello, Jr.

1994 M. : W. : Ralph DiScullo
 1995 R. : W. : Edward L. Calamar, Jr.*
 2000 R. : W. : Henry V. Aharonian*
 2005 W. : Elton D. Ricker, Jr.
 2007 W. : Gregory W. Dexter

2009 R. : W. : Russell A. Kawa
 2014 R. : W. : Kenneth B. Phillips

*deceased