



# ST. JOHNS LODGE No. ONE

## F. & A.M.

### PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

### CONSTITUTED - 1757



November 2023

3924<sup>th</sup>  
Regular  
Communication



R.: W.: Eric E. Grist  
District Deputy Grand Master  
Metro District

W.: John W. Kent III  
Grand Master of Ceremonies

M.: W.: Douglas J. Grant  
Grand Master

R.: W.: Michael R. Barbera  
Grand Marshal

**This Month's Communication: November 15, 2023**

Return Service Requested



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

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PROVIDENCE, RI  
Permit No. 2898

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](mailto:secretary1prov@gmail.com)

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Officers Rehearsal

6:30 PM

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

St. Johns #1 P Communication

6:00 PM

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

St. Johns #1 P Special Communication – EA Degree

7:00 PM

Light dinner at 6:00 PM (Reservation required by Friday November 24th)

We will be holding a special communication on Wednesday, 11/29/23 to confer the EA degree on two additional candidates and we will be opening and closing in the Entered Apprentice degree. Please come out (again) on 11/29 to support these candidates, our newest EA Brothers as well as the Officers and help us repeat and deliver the WOW! Your contributions and participation are absolutely vital.

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

W.: Joseph J. Bernier, Master

## Master's Message

My Brothers,

Our October communication was nothing short of incredible! The Officers of St Johns Lodge No 1 Providence delivered an amazing Entered Apprentice degree to four candidates. As Master of this Lodge, I couldn't be any prouder of the exemplary work and am so appreciative of the time and dedication invested to deliver this kind of experience. At the altar, with my own eyes, I saw our candidates experience the WOW: they were deeply impacted, left with awe and now have lots of thoughts and questions. Please join me in welcoming our newest Entered Apprentices to SJ1P: **Bro. Richard Lunn, Jr., Bro. Omar Niazi, Bro. Jason Norberg and Bro. Alan Vukas.** Thank



you, thank you to everyone who made this degree so wonderful. I need to extend special thanks to **W.: Bro. Robert Frank** from Jenks Lodge for his expertise with lighting (so impactful) and a very special thank you to **Bro. Senior Steward, Jeffrey Parker**, for taking on an additional lecture in the second part of the degree. Bro. Parker's lectures were not only inspiring but letter perfect! Encore, you say? Well, we will be holding a special communication on *Wednesday, 11/29* to confer the EA degree on two additional candidates. Please come out (again) on 11/29 to support these candidates, our newest EA Brothers as well as the Officers and help us repeat and deliver the WOW! Your contributions and participation are absolutely vital.

Now that I'm done gushing about the degree work, I am pleased to share that the guest speaker for our November communication on 11/15 is **R.:W.: Bro. Kirk White**. Bro. White was raised in 1992 in White River Lodge #90 in Bethel, Vermont. He served as Master of that lodge as well as Fibonacci Lodge #112 (Vermont's traditional observance lodge). He is Past Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons, Past Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters, Deputy Commander of the Grand Commandery, Chief Adept SRICF and has or is serving in leadership in a variety of other Masonic bodies. He is currently in the Vermont progressive grand line as Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Vermont. R.:W.: Bro. White holds a BA in Psychology and Religion, an MA in Counseling, and is a licensed acupuncturist and Chinese herbalist. His particular interest, among many, is initiatic techniques and the psychology of personal transformation and consciousness change. As a side gig, he is also a Vermont legislator.

I've asked R.:W.: Bro. White to be our guest speaker to discuss his book, *Operative Freemasonry: A Manual for Restoring Light and Vitality to the Fraternity*, for two reasons. First, R.:W.: White's book touches on Masonic Observance which is the thread I'm trying to weave throughout everything we do this year. But secondly, his book addresses several important topics (Prospects, Initiation and Mentorship) which are particularly relevant to us in this moment at SJ1P as we have prospects, candidates and newly initiated Brothers. The timing of his presentation is perfect. In addition to learning more about his manual on Masonic revitalization, I'm hoping R.:W.: Kirk will leave us with some thoughts and considerations in welcoming and educating new Brothers as well as investigating those who wish to join the Fraternity.

Speaking of mentorship - To the Past Masters of SJ1P: as I shared during the Past Masters meeting this summer, I am going to be reaching out to ask for your participation in our classes of instruction

Continued on the next page

## Get Well Wishes

**Peter McConaghy** 401-641-5660

81 Norton Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920

**Lino Martin**

976 Long View Drive, North Attleboro, MA 02760

**Darryl Triggs**

401-632-6817

31 Remington Farm Drive, Coventry, RI 02816

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 W.: Joseph J. Bernier or any of the following **Sick and Distressed Committee** members; Walter Kelly, Kenneth Phillips, Karapet Emdjian or contact Bob O'Brien at [bob.obrien@gmail.com](mailto:bob.obrien@gmail.com) or 401-487-4750

If you know of a brother who is ill, recuperating, house bound or we just haven't seen in a while, please contact someone on the **Sick and Distressed Committee**.

## Lodge & District Events

Friday 11/03/23	<b>Logia Libertad #50</b>	7:30 PM
	<b>DDGM's Visitation (Metro District)</b>	
Saturday 11/04/23	<b>Friendship Lodge #7</b>	7:30 PM
	<b>GM's Visitation (Northern District)</b>	
Wednesday 11/08/23	<b>Officers Rehearsal</b>	6:30 PM
Saturday 11/11/23	<b>Overseas Lodge #40</b>	1:00 PM
	<b>Annual Communication</b>	
Saturday 11/11/23	<b>Gaspee Chapter DeMolay</b>	2:00 PM
Monday 11/13/23	<b>Redwood Lodge #35</b>	7:00 PM
Wednesday 11/15/23	<b>St Johns #1 Providence</b>	6:00 PM
Saturday 11/18/23	<b>Grand Lodge Semi-Annual</b>	1:00 PM
	<b>Communication</b>	
Monday 11/20/23	<b>Rising Sun #30</b>	7:30 PM
Saturday 11/25/23	<b>Gaspee Chapter DeMolay</b>	2:00 PM
Monday 11/27/23	<b>Jenks Lodge No. 24</b>	7:30 PM
Wednesday 11/29/23	<b>St Johns #1 P Special-EA</b>	7:00 PM
	(Light dinner at 6:00 PM with Reservations by November 24 <sup>th</sup> )	



## Monthly Communications

**November 15<sup>th</sup> Monthly**

6:00 PM: Lodge Opens

6:45 PM: Dinner

7:30 PM: Guest Speaker

**November 29<sup>th</sup> Special EA**

6:00 PM: Light Dinner

7:00 PM: EA Degree

Call: Brother Senior Steward @ 401-861-1757 or email: [sj1prov@gmail.com](mailto:sj1prov@gmail.com)

No later than **Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>** for the Regular and

**Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>** for the Special EA Degree

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

– basically a few minutes of your time for a quick meet and greet. What a great way to welcome our newest Brothers and give them the opportunity to meet some Past Masters who have led our prestigious Lodge. This is also a chance for you to share some of the knowledge you have gained in your years and experiences as a Mason. I promise – no preparation required! Not intending any exclusivity, if any brother is interested in participating in this manner during our classes, please contact me. Your participation is absolutely welcomed!

With the holiday season quickly approaching, I wanted to share the dates of a few upcoming events. The SJ1P Holiday Party will be held at Alpine Country Club the evening of Friday, 12/15. Also, the annual SJ1P Basket Assembly/Distribution will take place the morning of Saturday, 12/16 at Scottish Rite.

Lastly, a friendly reminder that a dinner reservation is absolutely required and due the Friday before our communication – this month that is Friday, 11/10 for our Regular Communication and Friday, 11/24 for our Special Communication . You can make your reservation with Brother Senior Steward via email at sj1prov@gmail.com or 401.861.1757. The cost of the meal with a reservation remains \$10. \*IF\* we can accommodate a Brother without a reservation the evening of the communication, the cost is \$20. A copy of the memo about reservations/catering/costs was recently sent to members. Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation.

If I do not see you in Lodge during the month of November, on behalf of the Officers and myself, I want to extend a Happy Thanksgiving and blessings to you and your family!

Fraternally,

W: Joseph J. Bernier

Joseph J. Bernier  
Worshipful Master



**October's Guest Speaker**

**“Operative Freemasonry”**



**KIRK C. WHITE** is Past Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Vermont, has served as Illustrious Grand Lecturer for the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Vermont and is active in the R.C.C., S.R.I.C.F. and other Masonic bodies. He holds a B.A. in Psychology and Religion, an M.A. in Counseling, and has done post-graduate study in transpersonal psychology specializing in initiatic techniques, and the psychology of personal transformation and consciousness change.

**Ballot on Petition to Join Affiliation**

**Joseph M. Maddalena**  
member of Redwood Lodge #35

**Ballot on Petition for Re-Instatement**

**Miguel Odio**  
(Dropped for NPD)

**In Memoriam**

**Brother Bruce Ferguson Cushman**

Born April 6, 1937

El Paso Lodge #13

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Entered Apprentice degree January 20, 1967

Fellowcraft degree February 17, 1967

Master Mason degree March 31, 1967

Signed the by-laws April 4, 1967

Affiliated with St. Johns Lodge #1 Providence

October 15, 1986

Grand Lodge 50 year veteran's medal 2017

Departed October 7, 2023

86 years



**2023 Holiday Food Baskets**

**Saturday, December 16th at Scottish Rite**

2115 Broad St. Cranston RI. 02905

**Set-up from 6:30am – 8am**

**Basket event 8am – 10am**

**FOR BASKET RESERVATIONS**

All brothers who wish to receive a basket please call:

\*Bro.: Hugo Adames II. @ 401-366-2766

Associate Tiler: Bro. Thomas Kumes @ 401-785-1093

Please only use the #s provided here for your reservation. Once you have made your reservation at these #s you will put on the list. There will be no need for a call back or a confirmation, leaving your message will take care of your reservation.

Limit one (1) basket per Brother! The hard deadline

Will be Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> @ 5 PM.

*If you request a basket and do not claim it the day of, you will be billed \$85 for the cost of the basket and your basket will also be given away to a needy family!*

**Thank you for your cooperation and diligence,**  
**St. Johns Lodge 1P wishes all our brethren and their families a**  
**happy and blessed holiday season.**

*Bros. Thomas Kumes & Hugo Adames II*



**THANKSGIVING**

Happy Thanksgiving from W.: Joseph J. Bernier, Master,  
the Wardens and Officers of St. Johns #1 Providence

**St Johns Lodge Number One Providence ~ Officers 2022-2023**

**Master: W.: Joseph J. Bernier**  
**Senior Warden: Jason Shealy**     **Junior Warden: Robert Larrabee**  
**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: William C. Gouge**     **Junior Deacon: Scott C. Alexander**  
**Senior Steward: Jeffrey Parker**     **Junior Steward: Octavio Gomez**



**Marshal: W.: John B. Paliotta**  
**Sentinel: Sean C. Paley**  
**Tiler: Karapet Emdjian**     **Associate Tiler: Thomas J. Kumes**  
**Master of Ceremonies R.: 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 (2026), W.: Scott E. Miller (2025), Edward O. Quinn (2024)**

**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 DiScuillo
1982	Anthony Marcello, Jr.
1984	Gregory W. Dexter
1986	Elton D. Ricker, Jr.
1993	Anthony Marcello, Jr.
1994-95	Thomas A. Ashley
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
2021	Joshua A. Irizarry
2022	John B. Paliotta
<b>Unity Lodge No. 34</b>	
1969	George W. Haworth
<b>Barney Merry Lodge No. 29</b>	
1978	William E. Whetstone
1985	Paul R. Moran
1990	David Lancaster
1992-93	Robert B. Ellston
1997-98	William E. Whetstone
2000	Ronald P. Reed
<b>Thomas Smith Webb No.43</b>	
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 DiScuillo
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

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
2017-2017	Stephen T. McGuire

2017-2018	Peter Iacobucci
2018-2019	Glenn S. Carlson
2020-2021	Gary S. Kaufman
2021-2022	Robert B. Ellston
2022-2023	Robert A. Palazzo



**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 DiScuillo
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
2023 M.: W.:	Wyman P. Hallstrom, Jr.
*deceased	