



NIPPON LODGE NO. 9 / MASONIC  
PSC 476 BOX 135 FPO AP 96322-0001

March-April, 2015

**"WE LEARN TO SUBDUE  
THE PASSIONS, ACT  
UPON THE SQUARE,  
KEEP A TONGUE OF  
GOOD REPORT,  
MAINTAIN SECRECY AND  
PRACTICE CHARITY."**

## Annual Communication 2015

It was a historic and solemn day. The brethren gathered to participate in the Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Japan. It is quite surprising to see the brethren not only from Japan, but also the honorable guests that originated from countries outside of Japan including Alaska, Taiwan, China and the Philippines.

PGM Vic Ortiz gave his parting words to the brethren followed by an election of the new Grand Pillars. It is enlightening to see how the brethren meticulously select the officers of the Grand Lodge. This is one experience that every Mason should at least experience and see how our Grand Officers are elected and formed.

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### Highlights of The Month:

- \* Stated Meeting
- \* March—ANCOM 2015
- \* April—Easter with Seifuen Orphanage

**Our new Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Marvin Abueg (center) with the Nippon Lodge #9 brethren from (L to R) BJW Ervey Amoyan, BSW Ace Asuncion, Bro Manny Manipula, and NL #9 Worshipful Master, WB Mike Velarmino taken after the installation of the new Grand Lodge officers.**

## Message from the Worshipful Master

I would like to thank all the brethren that made the 58th ANCOM in Tokyo a great success. It was great seeing some new and old Faces, and this happens once a year, I would like to encourage everyone when given the chance to attend one of these once in a life time event.

Please take some time to offer a prayer to our departed brother. Bro. Lou Navarra, who joined the GAOTU last month.



Sincerely and Fraternally,  
WB Mike Velarmino

## Message From The Senior Warden

First of all, hats off and congratulations to our newly elected and selected Grand Lodge officers for the ensuing year of 2015. Hail to our new Grandmaster, MWB Marvin Abueg! For those who missed this memorable and exciting event, please visit our webpage for the pictures taken during the ANCOM 2015 celebration.

To our brethren at sea and yonder, travel light and looking forward to see you all again.

Please be reminded about our upcoming charity event for the underprivileged kids of Seifuen Orphanage.

We would like to also pass along to all to please update us with your current email and physical addresses, so that we can correspond to you expeditiously. Forward your addresses or our brethren's address that you think we are missing in our distribution.



Fraternally,  
Bro. Ace R. Asuncion

## Message From The Junior Warden

GL of Japan ANCOM was a Great experience. I would encourage every Brother to at least experience the Brotherly love the Lodges from the North provided. I would like to congratulate our very own and wish them a successful Masonic year:

GRAND MASTER - RWB Marvin D. Abueg  
GRAND ORGANIST - WB Michael Velarmino  
GRAND PURSUIVANT—WB Shigeru Oshima



Fraternally,  
Bro. Ervey Amoyan



## The MM-2015 Grand Master's Address

(Most Worshipful Brother Marvin Abueg)  
(Japanese Translation Included)



Good afternoon/Konichiwa

こんにちは/ Konichiwa

First and foremost, I would like to recognize our Past Grand Masters and visiting dignitaries in the East and on the floor. And would like to take this opportunity now to ask your permission to break the protocol of speaking up here in the East but rather on the floor.

まず第一に、ここにおられる、過去のグランドマスターの方々と訪問された方々にお礼を申し上げたいと思います。また、この典礼を機会にここで沢山の皆様とお話しをしたいと思っています。

I'm speaking on the floor vice up there in the East to show to all of you my personality as some of the Brethren located in the Kanto Plain and elsewhere in Japan don't know much about myself.

皆様の前に立ち、東から話すよりも、ここに立ち、特に関東の皆様に、私という人間をみて頂きたいと思います。

I'm an easy going, personable and very approachable person. I believe in open communication. Exercising Brotherly love to the maximum extent possible is who I am. I don't mind whether you are EA, FC, MM, PM, or GL officers.

私は、簡単に言って親しみやすい人柄だと思っています。そして、オープンなコミュニケーションを信条としています。私は、だれであろうが最大限、兄弟愛を行使することを惜しみません。あなたがEA、FC、MM、PM、またはGL役員をするかどうかを気にしないです。

To me we are all the same – one family. Those titles I mentioned are all positional authority. To me we are one family.

我々はすべて同じで、一つの家族であります。私が述べたいことは、すべての各地位の人であっても、私たちは一つの家族であるということです。

## MP-2015 Grand Master's Address continued....

The High and Low. The Rich and the Poor. And we learned that we are all created by one Almighty Parent – Therefore, we are all the same as Freemasons.

高い地位、低い地位、裕福、貧しいに関係なく、我々はすべて、全能の守護者によって創造されていることを学びました。－そして、私たちは全て同じフリーメーソンリーであります。

I would like to recognize the friends, the non-masons that are here today and more importantly our spouses.

私を支え、私の為に貢献してくれる家族、また、ここにいるすべての人に感謝したい。

Believe it or not, our spouses are an integral part of our Masonic journey. We need their 100% support in order for us to be successful in Freemasonry – our goal of becoming a Better Person.

信じられないかもしれませんが、私たちの家族、フリーメーソンの旅は不可欠な部分であります。より良い人間になるという目標 – 私たちがフリーメーソンで成功するために私達は100%のサポートをします。

From our lodge meetings, charity works and fellowships, our spouses are always there to support. A round of applause to our spouses.

私たちのロッジのミーティング、チャリティーイベントやフェローシップからは、私たちの家族をサポートすることは常にあります。私たちの家族への協力に感謝したいと思います。

I would like to briefly touch a couple of challenges I think we face as Masons.

私は簡単に私たちはメイソンとして直面していると思われるいくつかの課題に触れたいと思います。

One is Lack of membership; Two - the Enemy within ourselves and three Masonic Education. I believe these three goes hand in hand. Please bear with me as I'm going to mix these three challenges in the next few minutes.



## **MM-2015 Grand Master's Address continued....**

一つは、メンバーシップの欠如である。二つめ - 私達自身の良くない心、そして、三つめとして、メーソニックの教育、私はこれらの3つが手をつないで行くと思っています。私は次の3つの課題に取り組むにあたり、私と一緒にご負担願います。

One might say, OK Grand Master I got the lack of membership and education. But what are you talking about the enemy within ourselves?

**OKグランドマスター！私はメンバーの減少と教育の問題に対しては、グランドマスターに解決策が言えると思います。しかし、自分自身の中の問題に関してどう、思われますか？**

For me, the enemy within ourselves is our own demeanor or simply our own behavior. Un-Masonic Behavior is the enemy within ourselves. And we are the only one that can fix this challenge. How do we defeat this enemy within ourselves? I believe through proper Masonic Education.

私にとっては、自分自身の中の良くない心は私たち自身の態度、あるいは単に私達自身の行動です。アンフリーメーソンの行動は、自分自身の中の問題である。そして、我々は、この課題を解決することができる唯一の方法です。どのように我々は自分自身の中にある、この問題を打ち破るのでしょうか？ 私は、適切なフリーメーソンの教育を通して解決出来ると信じています。

As a Mason, everywhere we go, whatever we do reflects on us as Freemasons. Our names will be mentioned all the time with a connotation of – by the way he is a Mason. So if we show to the public the good deeds we do as a group, as an individual or even as a family, this will help with gaining membership which is the other challenge we are facing.

メイソンとして、たとえ私達がどこに行っても、何を行っても、フリーメーソンとして映ります。我々は個人として、グループ、または、家族、これは我々が直面している他の課題です。我々は一般の人々に良い行為を示す場合メンバーシップを獲得するのに役立ちます。

As far as Masonic Education, I'm not talking about a structured education system but simply a discussion on the context of our monitor during lodge meetings.

私は、ロジミーティングの間に、構造化された教育システムではなく、単に私達のモニタのテキストについて議論し話しています。

## MD-2015 Grand Master's Address continued....

Take about 15-30 minutes. Start on the 3 charges – First, Second and the Third degree charges. Ensure the Brethren understood very well the meaning of these charges.

次に、15ー30分時間を取りますので。第1、第2、第3のチャージを理解し考査してください。

We need to open our eyes, mind and more importantly our hearts and understand what the charges really mean. After all, where were we first prepared to be made a Mason? In our Heart. Not here..... but here.

もっとも重要なのは、心を開いて目で見るとは心で見るのが重要です。

So we read; we Learn; then What?

多くを学び、そして、その先に何をやりますか？

We PRACTICE!! By doing so, I believe this will help bring additional membership into our Lodges. In short, we should LIVE and PRACTICE WHAT WE PREACH.

我々は実践します！ それをやることにより、私達のロッジはより活気づいていくでしょう。

It is un-masonic to solicit men to join Freemasonry. However, we do solicit by the lives we live before the eyes of the community.

これは、フリーメイソンではない方々に、我々フリーメイソンに参加してもらうための、ものです。我々が目の前の地域社会において、良いコミュニティーを築くことが勧誘に繋がります。

So to influence others to join our Fraternity by the lives we live is the best way to get new members than by simply asking them to join. We should Practice the masonic virtues in our daily lives.

私達が日常生活において、よりよい行いをすることで、私達の活動に参加してもらうことが最善の道と考えています。我々は、日常生活において、フリーメイソンの教えを実践するように心がけて行きましょう。

## MP-2015 Grand Master's Address continued....

The bad part of this whole process is that if we cannot control this enemy within ourselves and we practice the wrong behavior like vicious or immoral habits, then we will not succeed in getting more members to join our Fraternity.

このすべての悪いプロセスは、私たち自身の中にあり、この悪い心を制御することはできません、我々が悪い習慣を行い続けるのであれば、私たちの活動に参加するより多くのメンバーを得ることに成功しないということです。

So the bottom line is this: Meaningful Masonic Education equals membership; Living and Practicing Freemasonry in our daily lives equals membership.

私の結論は、フリーメーソンの教えを実践することが、新たな仲間を得ることに繋がっていくとおもいます。

Finally my Brethren, we live in troubled times, where hatred seems to trump reason. Too many killings; too much hatred. Nevertheless, Freemasonry stands as the Beacon of hope and my wish is that someday men will be united regardless of country, sect or opinion.

最後に私たちは混沌とした時代に生きるなかでトラブルに見舞われた時、憎しみを理由に、殺戮や憎しみがあります。



Nippon Lodge #9 Pillars posing inside the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge lobby. (L-R) WB Mike Velarmino, BJW Ervey Amoyan, and BSW Ace Asuncion during the recently concluded AN-COM 2015 held in Tokyo, Japan.

## Notes from the Secretary

Dear Brother,

Please take a moment to look at the Dues Card you now carry. If it does not have the Year 2015 on it, then you are in arrears.

As stated in our Constitution, Art. 104. All dues to Subordinate Lodges shall be payable in advance annually on December 31<sup>st</sup>. of each year. CURRENT YEAR DUES \$50.00. Draw all Checks Payable to Nippon Lodge#9 and NOT To the Secretary.

MAIL TO:

NIPPON LODGE NO. 9  
PSC 476, BOX 135  
FPO AP 96322

Cordially and Fraternally,  
Bro. Earl Epperson



**Primary Address:**

NIPPON LODGE NO. 9 / MASONIC  
PSC 476 BOX 135 FPO AP 96322-0001

**Local Address:**

Nippon Lodge NO. 9  
4-3 Tanigo Cho 2nd Floor., Sasebo-shi

**Contact Telephone #s:**

WBro. Mike Velarmino: (81) 80-4209-5269  
Bro. Ace Asuncion: (81) 80-8367-0788  
Bro. Ervey Amoyan (81) 80-4356-2305

**We are on the  
WEB!!**



DATE	EVENT***
01 April	Stated Meeting
06 April	LOI (EA)
08 April	LOI (EA)
10 April	Charity Event (Seifuen)
13 April	LOI (EA)
15 April	LOI (EA)
20 April	LOI
22 April	LOI
27 April	LOI
29 April	LOI

\*\*\* Subject to change



# Masonic Education

## MASONIC EDUCATION (PART II)

(A Subject Too Often Overlooked by Bro. Bill Cloonan)

This is Part II of a III part series on various aspects of our honored Fraternity. In part one we took a brief glimpse at the importance of Masonic Education and posed a few questions to the reader.

1. What in fact are the origins of Freemasonry? 2. Where did it all begin? 3. How did it reach the present state in which we find Freemasonry today?

Why did the ancient Guilds of Cathedral builders need such an elaborate method of recognition? Why would they have needed signs and words, if in fact our early origins were with tradesman plying their skill in building cathedrals? Why would they wish to keep secret the methods by which they constructed a building? They were in the open, visible to anyone who wished to come near the building and certainly not in any danger from an outside enemy. So why would they need to have methods of recognition that would have not have been known to the casual observer?

One of the theories that has been around and has been for several hundred years and supported by many scholars in search of answers regarding the craft revolves around the **Knights Templar**.

Freemasonry very likely may have begun with the suppression of the Knights Templar in the year 1307. At that time the Templars were being crushed in France, but by the delay of the King enforcing the edict in England and Scotland many escaped. Mr. John Robinson, a scholar of the craft has written a book entitled "Born in Blood" where his theory of the evolution of Freemasonry is more thoroughly discussed. Possibly it is at that time that the Knights Templar went underground and had to devise a method of recognition enabling them to travel safely and to establish safe houses where they would have an opportunity to rest and refresh themselves. It also gave them the ability to recognize each other as members of the order. While the suppression of the Knights Templar may or may not have anything to do with early Freemasonry, it certainly makes more sense to me that secret signs and words in this type of environment were far more necessary than with the simple workmen plying his trade in building a cathedral.

Another thought from this particular theory. The suppression of the Knights Templar occurred on October 13, 1307. The particular day of the week was a Friday and ever since that event Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> has been considered to be an unlucky day of the year.

The suppression of the Templars was crude and bloody but it was not an unusual event in those times. War, pillage, and the confiscation of property were a way of life. There were other orders in existence who had their trouble as well. What was there about the Knights Templar that made them known and recognized and respected? Why do I say respected? Because there wasn't and rejoicing at their suppression. Instead the day is remembered as unlucky! The only conclusion that I can reach is that this order held the respect of the people and their "**destruction brought about the omen of bad luck**".

Why were they so respected? There is no absolute answer to that question, but one could surmise that if they were indeed practicing the principles of Freemasonry, they would certainly have had the respect of the people.

My conclusion is that Freemasonry has existed for a very long time. Not perhaps, as we know it today, but as an order of men doing good work where they were permitted to exist.

## Masonic Education continued...

This observation is not to be taken in the context of the claims of many Masonic Scholars, such as: Masonry goes back to the times of Solomon or even Noah and the flood. In Masonic writing we must be very careful when making claims like this. Many times ancient symbols, which have in more recent times been co-opted by Freemasonry, are mistaken as evidence of early Masonic existence.

Here is one example. The All Seeing Eye on the one dollar bill is certainly well known to Masons and unfortunately, has mistakenly been interpreted as a Masonic Symbol. It is in fact an ancient symbol which was taken into Freemasonry in far more recent times.

The lack of understanding of ancient signs and symbols has, in my judgment, misled many Masonic historians into false conclusions. The study of history, particularly, where the written word was not used requires a well trained person when interpreting its meaning. That is why we need to do a far better job of interpreting early Masonic history than we have done in the past. If Masonic history began in earlier times than we normally talk about, it is obviously going to make a reconstruction of our past difficult because we have very few written records to go by. Remember these were times when few people could read or write. So we don't have minutes of early Lodge meetings available. Also remember, if their very lives were at stake, that was another strong inducement not to put very much information in written form.

The purpose of my tracing this obscure part of our history is simply to say to you that I very strongly believe that there was a far more significant purpose to the origins of Freemasonry than simply erecting buildings. I do believe that Freemasonry evolved into that stage, during its development, but the Cathedral builders reflected a time in our history and not it's beginning!

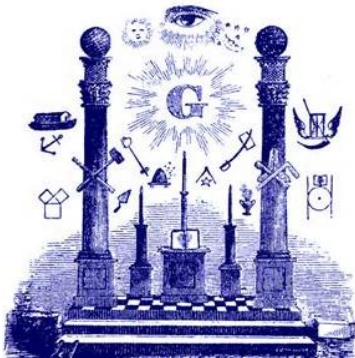
Let me carry this thinking one step further and bring it into the late 1700's. Benjamin Franklin and Voltaire did not join a workers guild! They joined what they believed to be an educational society which was called, "Freemasonry". These were extremely intelligent men who had no time to waste on things that were not important to them, and yet Franklin was an active Freemason and Voltaire joined shortly before his death.

What was it that they saw in Freemasonry that eludes us today?

I conclude Part II of this education with the above thought, hopefully embedded in your mind. Please take the time to continue the study of our great Ancient Craft and Fraternity and all that it has to offer.



# *Masonic Year 2015 Officers of Nippon Lodge #9*



## Charity Committee:

Bro. Julio Reyes  
Bro. Mark Crawford  
Bro. Ray Asuncion

## Audit Committee:

Bro. Ronnie Lagrito  
Bro. Mike Vagle  
Bro. Manny Manipula

## Education Committee:

Bro. Ace Asuncion  
Bro. Bill Cloonan

<b>Worshipful Master</b>	WB Mike Velarmino
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Bro. Ace Asuncion
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Bro. Ervey Amoyan
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bro. Bill Cloonan
<b>Secretary</b>	Bro. Earle Epperson
<b>Chaplain</b>	Bro. Kiyoteru Abe
<b>Marshall</b>	Bro. Masayoshi Okuda
<b>Senior Deacon</b>	Bro. Julio Reyes
<b>Junior Deacon</b>	Bro. Jim Wheeler
<b>Senior Steward</b>	Bro. Jim Harmon
<b>Junior Steward</b>	Bro. Yasu Michiwaki
<b>Tiler</b>	Bro. Manny Manipula



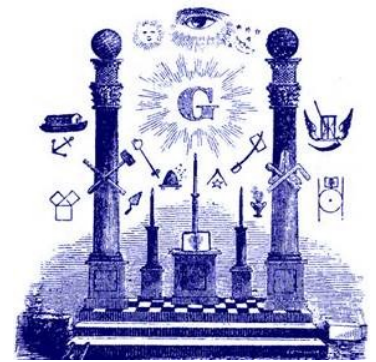
## Investigation Committee

Bro. Manny Manipula  
Bro. Ace Asuncion  
Bro. Ervey Amoyan

## Refreshment Committee:

Bro. Ervey Amoyan  
Bro. Yasu Michiwaki





## The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Japan 2015 Grand Lodge Officers

