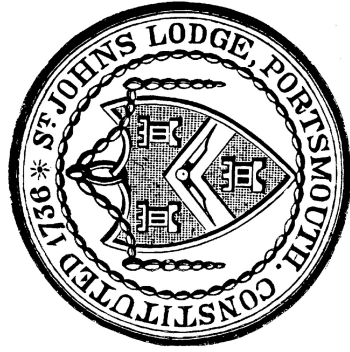
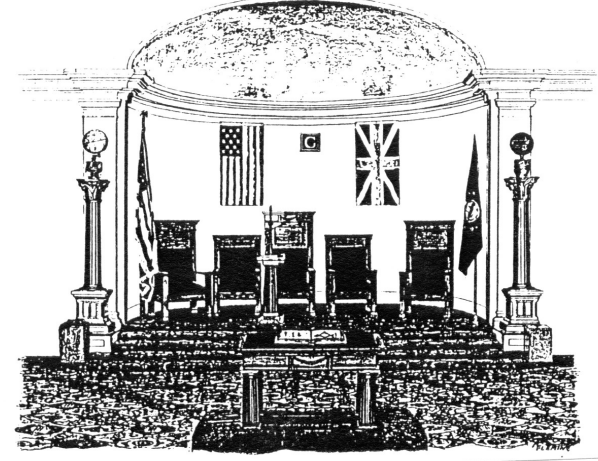


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Stamp

January 2026



January 2026 Trestle Board

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

The Master's Message

Greetings Brethren!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season filled with some laughs, joy, and peace. I am pleased to welcome Brother Michael Fulis as the newest Master Mason of St. John's Lodge, raised December 17th with an excellent degree experience. We held elections at the annual communication in December, and I am grateful and honored to remain in the East for another year as Master. Congratulations to all the brethren, especially those who are entering new positions this year, and my thanks to WB Cliff Hodgdon for his service as our Junior Warden these past two years as we dealt with adjustments in our line. We will hold the installation for new officers on January 7th at our regular stated communication. We will also go through our degree inspection process in January, with rehearsal on January 14th, and inspection on January 21st (without an actual candidate, but we do need someone to play the role of candidate). Assuming candidate proficiency we will have the actual Fellow Craft degree on January 28th. Officers must attend the inspection events.

For many people the New Year is a time for reflecting on the year just finished and setting resolutions for the future. When giving the degree charge to Brother Fulis last week, I was reminded that as Masons we are on a journey from the South gate in youth, to the West gate in the middle period of life and finally the East gate in age, with specific meanings in each case. If you set resolutions, consider how the unerring dictates of the monitor within can help sustain you on your journey.

Looking at the program year for 2026, we will again have a Rusty Brother night early in the year and I intend to have a few programs on St. John's Revolutionary War patriots in honor of our nation's 250th anniversary coming up in July. I have a few other program ideas that I will announce once I work out details with presenters, and I welcome your ideas as well.

As always, please take a moment to check on a Brother or Special Lady and lend a hand, or offer some fellowship if within the length of your cable tow.

I look forward to seeing you in Lodge! Happy New Year!

Fraternally,

Worshipful Michael Hudson
Worshipful Master



Thanks to your generosity, the women from Lydia's House of Hope enjoyed an unforgettable morning of shopping for their children, then on to Barnes & Noble to pick out something for themselves.

Brother Daniel Silverman, Brother Jason Dubrow and Worshipful Brother Daniel Stolworthy took them for lunch at Olive Garden and dessert at Chick-Fil-A.



Congratulations to our newest Master Mason
Michael Kimon Fullis



Throughout our Masonic journey, we are presented with many Masonic symbols, from the All-Seeing Eye to the Plumb, Square and Level.

The most universally recognized symbol, to both Masons and non-Masons, is the Square and Compasses. It is most widely regarded as the "symbol of Masonry". This has been recognized and accepted as the Masonic emblem from at least the beginning of the 18th Century. The United States Patent Office took

note of this in 1873. It told a flour manufacturer, and the world:

"This device, so commonly worn and employed by Masons, has an established mystic significance, universally recognized as existing, whether comprehended by all or not, is not material to this issue. In view of the magnitude of the Masonic organization, it is impossible to divest its symbols, or at least this particular symbol—perhaps the best known of all—of its ordinary significance, wherever displayed."

The manufacturer was denied the use of the Square and Compasses as a trademark.

While not attempting to trademark the Square and Compasses, some businesses have used them in the past. Old Sheffield Razors were made with the Square and Compasses stamped on the blade (along with other Masonic emblems). The first cattle brand registered in the Montana territory in 1864 was the square and compasses used by the Poindexter and Orr Ranch. The Koch Industries, which still uses this brand, has donated one of their branding irons to the Grand Lodge of Montana.

Around the late 1800's, some unknown "inventor" added the letter "G" in the center of the Square and Compasses. To many American Masons the emblem is not complete without this letter. This is not so in other countries, however. In other languages God does not start with the letter "G"; neither does Geometry.

While businesses have been prohibited from trademarking and using the Square and Compasses, some state Grand Lodges have registered the Square and Compasses to further restrict its usage. Grand Lodges in the US and other countries have registered the Square and Compasses including Pennsylvania in 1992, the Grand Lodge of Ohio in 1994 and the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1994.

January 2026

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, January 7, 2026

(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

Dinner—Ham, Black Eyed Peas

Officer dress—white tie and tails

Special Communication

Fellow Craft Degree

Brothers Dante Artioli, Symond Milstein,

Jesse Anderson

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

Dinner—Breakfast for Dinner

Officer dress—white tie and tails

**Contact
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St. John's Lodge

Historical Sketch

James Lendley Cotter

This time of year, back in the 1980s and 90s, you could hardly get a parking space out at the Fox Run Mall in Newington. Inside the mall, thousands of happy shoppers were shoulder-to-shoulder at the anchor stores of Sear's, JC Penney, Filene's and Jordan Marsh (later Macy's).

Before the Mall at Fox Run was built, we had the Newington Mall (built in the 1970s) with its anchor stores of Porteous (Mitchell & Braun), Montgomery Ward, J.M. Fields (later Bradlees) and Shaw's Supermarket. The Newington Mall had lots of great stores and it also enjoyed wall-to-wall people shopping during the holidays. The Anderson-Little clothing store at the Newington Mall had its own mall entrance from the parking lot and lots of people used it to enter the mall; it was at Anderson-Little that I got my first job in 1977 when I was 16 years old. It was a great job and they paid me \$2.35/hour. I'm sorry to say that the Newington Mall is long gone – but its replacement, the Crossings at Fox Run (built in the mid-1990s) is very popular with its main stores: Best Buy, Barnes & Noble, Kohl's, Michaels, Trader Joe's, Dicks Sporting Goods and Old Navy.

Before the malls were built in Newington, we used to travel to the North Shore Shopping Center in Peabody, Massachusetts, where my mother liked the Jordan Marsh Company. That mall opened in 1958. Jordan Marsh was a huge multi-floor department store with escalators. Back in the early 1970s when I was in Junior High School, we could sign up to go on an after-school shopping trip to Peabody. My friends and I would travel on a school bus from the Portsmouth Junior High School down to Peabody. We were told by a teacher that traveled with us to be back on the bus by a certain time when we would return to the school. Those Christmas shopping trips were great fun – can you imagine kids doing that today?

Prior to the 1960s, people did a lot of their shopping in downtown stores. In downtown Portsmouth we had some really great stores that included J. J. Newberry's and the W. T. Grant Co. on Congress Street. Montgomery Wards was up a little further on the opposite side of Congress Street. All three of those stores carried great merchandise; and Grants had the coolest pet department that included tropical fish and all sorts of cool animals including a monkey! Across Congress Street from Montgomery Wards, near where Café Mediterranean is today, was a large multi-floor building near what was then called Vaughn Street (across from the Kearsarge Hotel). In that building, which was torn down as part of urban renewal, was another very popular and successful store called GofKauf's Home and Auto Store.

Kauf's was a regional store with several other locations around New England including Newburyport and Dover. The store's full name was Gofkauf's and was so named for its two founders – Mr. Gofman and Mr. Kaufman who combined their names to create the business name. The name was eventually shortened to Kauf's probably because it was too difficult to pronounce GofKauf's.

Kauf's operated in downtown Portsmouth as a local auto parts store and home goods retailer from the 1940s to the 1970s. The store offered at discounted prices just about

anything you could possibly need including automotive supplies - including tires; toasters and dishwashers and all other home appliances; tools, hardware, sporting goods and beach chairs; musical instruments; toys, and well, just about anything else you could imagine. It was quite a store, and they had a large and popular catalog that came in the mail, and half-page advertisements in the Portsmouth Herald. In the 1970s, they left their Congress Street location when their building was scheduled to be torn down as part of the Vaughn Street area urban renewal, and they relocated to 1850 Woodbury Avenue where Great Bay Spa and Sauna is today, across from the Mr. Bubbles Car Wash. In their new location, with plenty of parking, they continued to offer discounted home goods and auto supplies from 9 am to 9 pm every day. When they were still located in downtown Portsmouth, the store was managed by Jim Cotter.

James Lendley Cotter was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on December 17, 1907, the son of John W. and Margaret (Crosby) Cotter. In 1930, Jim married Bernice Louise (Bea) Knickle of Watertown, Massachusetts. They lived in Boston for several years and eventually moved to 38 Whidden Street in Portsmouth's South End where they raised their three children – twins: James Robert and Bernice Louise Cotter, and Richard Leonard Cotter. In later years they lived at 277 Wallis Road in Rye.

Jim was the manager of the Kauf Stores in Newburyport, Dover, and Portsmouth for many years and his wife, Bea, was a retail clerk at J. J. Newberry's in Portsmouth for more than 20 years. After he retired from Kauf's, Jim was employed as a toll collector by the Interstate Bridge Authority that owned and operated the Sarah Mildred Long (Middle) bridge connecting Portsmouth and Kittery. He was a very active member at St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth where he sang in the choir and served as superintendent of the Sunday School. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Jim died at his home in Rye on Friday morning, November 12, 1971, the result of a short illness; he was only 63 years old. He was survived by his wife Bea, their three children, and eleven grandchildren. His wife died 23 years later on March 4, 1994, at the age of 88 years in Chula Vista, California, where she resided in a convalescent home. She and Jim are buried together in the Cotter family plot at Rye Central Cemetery.

Jim was a good man, a good husband and father, a respected businessman and a highly regarded citizen of the seacoast; and yes, he was also a Freemason. Brother James Lendley Cotter entered St. John's Lodge, No. 1 in Portsmouth on June 9, 1954, and was Raised to the Degree of Master Mason on September 29, 1954. He sought more light in masonry through the York Rite and was particularly active in Washington Chapter, No. 3, Royal Arch Masons in Portsmouth.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**