



BRADEN LODGE

NEWS

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December 2022

Braden Lodge Has A New Home!

Thursday, December 1st, 2022, marked the beginning of a new chapter for Braden Lodge — for on that day, we conducted our first Stated Meeting at our new Lodge home!

Braden Lodge had rented space at **Arcana Lodge #187** in NE Minneapolis since Jan 2015 — but that relationship came to an end when Arcana proposed a rent increase of **155%** (over **2.5 times** our prior rent), rejected our counter offer that represented a reasonable **14% increase**, then called off further negotiations and issued us a notice to **terminate** the lease and **vacate** the premises. Our last meeting at Arcana was **Nov 17th**, with the physical move occurring mostly over the weekend of **Nov 18th-20th**.



Exterior of Minnehaha Building from Bloomington Ave
(Photo by Google Street View)

This move by Arcana was not totally unexpected, primarily due to their decision to tear out the **kitchen** in **Dec of 2019** for what was supposed to be 3-4 months to remodel the kitchen — and was still undone and unusable when we moved out last month, almost **three years** later. So we had already begun exploring our options, identifying Minnehaha as one of several lodges on our short list of alternative sites if necessary. We had even held a series of **“test drive a Lodge”** meetings at Minnehaha (and other lodges in consideration) this past summer. So when the termination notice was received, we were fortunately prepared to spring into action and finalize negotiations for our new home in time to meet their deadline to vacate.

Minnehaha Lodge is located at **5149 Bloomington Ave S** in the Hale neighborhood of South Minneapolis, just blocks from **Lake Nokomis**. Their building is also used by **Cataract Lodge #2**, and several appendant bodies, including the **Eastern Star**, **DeMolay**, and **Job’s Daughters** — the other groups sharing the building give it a welcoming energy and “vibe” that made us feel right at home! The building features a beautiful carpeted Lodge Room with sound system, a fully-equipped kitchen,

a dining hall and lounge that easily accommodates up to 120 people, a library, and an adjacent parking lot.

Unfortunately, Minnesota weather has already interfered in our use of the building: after our initial **Dec 1st** meeting, and a Fellowship night **Dec 8th**, a snow storm caused us to cancel our meeting there **Dec 15th**, and a forecast for blizzard conditions **Dec 22nd** convinced us to meet online via a **Zoom meeting** to take care of bills and other business that could not wait until our next Stated Meeting on **Jan 5th**.

We have several events scheduled that will hopefully bring Brothers in to check out our new home: **Dec 29th** will be our annual **“Cheese & Crackers”** holiday get-together, and a Mardi Gras-themed **Table Lodge** will be held there on **Sat Feb 18th** (see details below.) And for 2023, we plan to offer dinner at **6:30pm** on meeting nights (1st & 3rd Thursdays) instead of after the meetings, so we have a more consistent time for eating together. Our Fellowship nights on the remaining Thursdays will feature a meal served around **7pm**. After almost three years without a kitchen, so we had to order out, or move lodge activities to local parks so we could grill out, it is such a relief and joy to be able to offer hot-cooked meals and “break bread together” with our Brothers on a regular basis again!

We hope you will join us soon as we begin this next exciting chapter in the 136-year history of Braden Lodge #168!



Lodge Room (set up for Installation of Officers)

Mardi Gras Table Lodge Features Creole Fare

Join us for a scrumptious adventure in New Orleans cuisine at a **Mardi Gras Table Lodge** set for **Sat Feb 18th**, at **6:30pm**, at the Minnehaha Lodge Building. You'll dine on Muffuletta Sliders, Crawfish Spread on Crostini, Shrimp Gumbo, Catfish with Creole Seasoning, Greens with Creole Mustard Vinaigrette, Chicken Etouffee, Red Beans & Rice, Corn Maque Choux, and, of course, King Cake for dessert. Even the Traditional Seven Toasts will reflect the theme, with non-alcoholic versions of a Hurricane, Pimm's Cup, Mint Julip, and Planters Punch. And yes, we will have beads! (no flashing of body parts required!)

Tickets are **\$30** per person and can be purchased starting **Jan 2nd** on our website at www.BradenLodge.Org. Seats are limited, so order early! **Y'all come now!**



Memorial Service for WB Otto Christenson

Braden Lodge is hosting a Memorial Service for **WB Otto Christenson** at **7pm** on **Thurs Jan 12th, 2023**, with a reception following. Worshipful Brother Otto was a 41-year member of Braden Lodge, 3-term Worshipful Master, and Hiram Award recipient who passed away Nov 5th at the age of 73. He was also involved in a number of appendant bodies, and served as a District Representative for the Grand Lodge of MN. **Alas, our Brother!**



Meet Your 2023 Leaders

Braden Lodge #168 elected the following Brothers to serve as their Lodge Leadership for 2023 at the annual **Election of Officers** held Dec 1st:

Worshipful Master.....**WB Jay Koelsch**
 Senior Warden.....**Harvie Holmes**
 Junior Warden.....**Michael Bearfoot**
 Treasurer.....**WB David Allison**
 Secretary.....**WB Erick Crail**

Worshipful Master-elect Jay Koelsch announced his Appointed Officers for 2023 at the **Installation of Officers** held Dec 8th:

Lodge Education Officer.....**Charles Knutson**
 Senior Deacon.....**Damian Sheridan**
 Junior Deacon.....**William Otto**
 Senior Steward.....**Patrick Cronin**
 Junior Steward.....**Dustin Korbel**
 Marshal.....(to be determined)
 Tyler.....**WB Stephen St John O'Day**
 Chaplain.....**WB Timothy Grube**
 Funeral Coordinator.....**WB John Stitely**
 Musician.....**WB Erik Fairchild**
 Historian.....**WB Timothy Grube**
 Librarian.....**Charles Knutson**
 Chef / Food Service Dir.....**WB David Potter**

Board of Trustees:

WB Timothy Grube.....thru 2023
Nicholas MacDonald.....thru 2024
Christopher Larson.....thru 2025



IN MEMORIAM

During 2022, we learned of the passing of several Brothers who have laid down their working tools:

- **GERALD G MANSERGH** died Apr 21, 2019 in West St Paul at the age of 84. He was raised in Triune Lodge #190, moved to Como Park Lodge #324, which then merged into Braden lodge in 2012. He was a Mason for 61 years and active in the Shrine, where he was known as "Clown Bakey."
- **DAVID E MALM** died Apr 2, 2020, in Eatonton GA at the age of 86. He was raised in Como Park Lodge #324, and was a Mason for 61 years.
- **WB EDWARD D ("NED") WITTMAN** died Jan 27, 2022 in Bullhead City AZ at the age of 77. A 37-year Mason, he was raised in Como Park #324, where he served as Master in 1987 & 1999, and received the Hiram Award in 1994.
- **WB GERALD J SCHLAEPPI** died Jul 1, 2022 in Bloomington MN at age 83. He was raised in Braden Lodge in 1979 and was a Lifetime Member for 42 years. He was Master of Braden in 1997 & 1998, and served as Lodge Secretary for 17 terms, from 1999 to 2015. He received the Hiram Award in 2009, and was Grand Treasurer of the MN Royal Arch Masons for over a decade.
- **RUSSELL E CHRISTOFK** died Oct 21, 2022 in St Paul at age 96. He was raised in Braden Lodge in 1950, and was a Lifetime Member of Braden for 72 years. He was also quite active in the Osman Shrine, serving as their Treasurer for 18 years, and was a dual member of Daylight Lodge #348 since 1995.
- **WB OTTO CHRISTENSON** (see front page) died Nov 5, 2022, in Minneapolis at the age of 73. A 3-term Master of Braden in 1985-87 & 2005, he received the Hiram Award in 2012, served as a District Representative for the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, and was a member of a number of appendant bodies.

Alas, Brothers!



Installation Night at Braden Lodge Held Dec 8th for 2023 Officers:

Front row: WB Erik Fairchild, Musician & Installing Master; Br Harvie Holmes, Sr Warden; WB Jay Koelsch, Worshipful Master; Br Michael Bearfoot, Jr Warden; WB David Potter, Chef & Installing Marshal; **Middle Row:** Br Damian Sheridan, Sr Deacon; Br Charles Knutson, Lodge Educ Officer & Librarian; **Back Row:** Br Dustin Korbel, Jr Steward; WB David Allison, Treasurer; WB Steve Leinen, Installing Secretary; WB Erick Crail, Secretary; & WB Andy Harvego, Installing Chaplain.

(Picture provided by Br Harvie Holmes)

Masonic Service

Anniversaries for 2022

In 2022, we recognized these members who reached a 5-year milestone in their membership in the Fraternity:

60 YEARS:

William Dreyer ^P

50 YEARS:

Kenneth Hochule

45 YEARS:

Mark Guinn ^L

40 YEARS:

James Hannay ^L
 Donald Woebkenberg

35 YEARS:

Steve Kufus
 Fai Wong ^P

25 YEARS:

Scott Stenwick ^P

20 YEARS:

Stephen Leinen ^P

15 YEARS:

Todd Forrester
 Kerry Johnson

10 YEARS:

Jason Aanenson
 Jay Koelsch
 Sean Lipscomb

5 YEARS:

Michael Bearfoot ^L
 Jason Cork
 Patrick Cronin
 Sean Holt
 William Otto
 Ernest Scherger III
 John Ward

KEY: L = Life Member P = Past Master



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