



Braden Lodge

Braden Lodge #168 ■ 920 Lowry Ave NE ■ Minneapolis MN 55418
Sec@BradenLodge.org ■ (612) 567-1886 ■ www.BradenLodge.org

NEWS

January 2018

WB John A. Stitely, Hiram Award Recipient, Headlines 2017 Awards Nite

The **Hiram Award**, the highest honor that can be bestowed at the local Lodge level, was awarded to Worshipful Brother **John A. Stitely** at Braden's Annual Awards Night held Nov 30th, 2017.

A 46-year member of the Craft, WB Stitely was raised in 1971 at Tri Lumen Lodge #18 in Oskaaloosa IA. He was a member of Iowa City (IA) Lodge #4, and Mizpah Lodge #639 in Cedar Rapids IA, where he served as Worshipful Master in 2000. He moved to the Twin Cities in 2002 and joined Braden Lodge in 2003, rising through the chairs to become Master of the Lodge in 2009.

In nominating WB Stitely for the award, WM Jeff Koltveit cited John's integral role in bringing the Lodge together, and improving the level of ritual and education at our Lodge.



Worshipful Brother **John Stitely** (left) receives the 2017 Braden Hiram Award from Worshipful Master **Jeff Koltveit**.

Photo by Erick Crail

The following Brothers were also recognized for reaching membership milestones in 2017:

5 Years:

- Jason Aanenson
- James Hayward
- Martin Kleinbaum
- Jay Koelsch

10 Years:

- Todd Forrester
- Kerry Johnson
- Cabral Shakir
- Mark Steiger
- Keith Strickland

15 Years:

- Steven J Leinen ^P

20 Years:

- Scott M Stenwick ^P

30 Years:

- Steven R Kufus ^P
- Fai Wong ^P

35 Years:

- James W Hanney ^L
- Donald K Woebkenberg

40 Years:

- Kenneth R Benscoter
- Mark Guinn ^L
- Thomas J Nase Sr

45 Years:

- Kenneth F Hochule

50 Years:

- Bruce L Johnson

55 Years:

- James L Bond
- William C Dreyer ^P

65 Years:

- C Paul Faraci

^P = Past Master
^L = Life Member

Braden Raises Seven New Masons in 2017

Of all the Lodges in Minnesota from which they could have chosen, seven men honored us during 2017 by choosing to pursue their search for Masonic Light at Braden Lodge.

In May, we learned one candidate would be leaving the country soon! Brother **John Ward**, who is employed as an archaeological researcher with Lund University of Sweden, needed to head to Egypt for a two-year "dig", so we conducted an accelerated degree cycle over five weeks in June and July. He managed to squeeze another event in before he left, too: a week after his Master Mason Degree, he married fellow archaeologist Maria Nilsson! *Congrats!*

In September, we began a more moderately-paced degree cycle for six new Brother Masons:

- **Michael Bearfoot**, an Automation Engineer at the Univ of Minn;
- **Jason Cork**, a self-employed Audio Engineer;
- **Patrick Michael Cronin**, a self-employed Homemaker who recently became engaged (*poping the question at the new Star Wars movie!*);
- **Sean Holt**, a Software Engineer for RSM, an accounting firm;
- **William Otto**, a Weapons Repair Technician for the National Guard; and
- **Ernie Scherger**, an Engineer for Boston Scientific & volunteer firefighter.

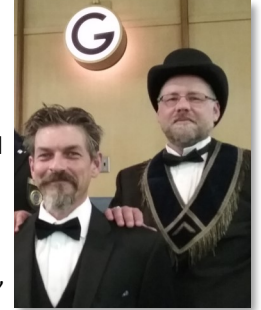


Photo by Erick Crail

New Braden Brother **John Ward** (left) with WM **Jeff Koltveit**.



Photo by Erick Crail

New Braden Brothers (front, L to R) **Michael Bearfoot**, **Ernie Scherger**, **Sean Holt**, **William Otto**, **Patrick Cronin**, & **Jason Cork**, with (back, L to R) Senior Warden **Matt Gallagher**, Junior Warden **Brian Silverain**, and Worshipful Master **Jeff Koltveit**.

Five of these six Brothers were raised at Braden Lodge on Nov 18th, with Worshipful Master **Jeff Koltveit** presiding in the East, and WB **David Allison** performing the King Solomon role in the second half of the Degree.

Due to a conflict with his National Guard obligations on Nov 18th, **William Otto** received a courtesy 3rd degree with Arcana Lodge #187 on Nov 11th.

... plus one new Brother we will "share"

In December, we gained another new Braden Brother when **Br Nicholas MacDonald** was accepted for Dual Membership. A recent transplant to the Twin Cities, he plans to be active with Braden Lodge while continuing to support his home Lodge, Unity Lodge #130 of Sioux Falls, SD. *Welcome!*

New Officers Elected For 2018

On Dec 7th, 2017, Braden Lodge #168 held its annual Election of Officers for 2018. Our Treasurer, **WB David B. Allison**, was elected Worshipful Master for the coming year.

Prior to its merger with Braden Lodge in 2012, WB Allison served two terms as Worshipful Master (2003 & 2008) and one year as Secretary (2011) at **Como Park Lodge #324**. He has been Treasurer at Braden the past two years. He will commemorate 20 years as a Master Mason during 2018. David works for the White Bear Lake School District as their Data Manager.

WB Allison has chosen "**Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty in ALL Endeavors**" as the theme for his year in the East.

The complete list of elected(*) and appointed officers for 2018 follows:

*Worshipful Master:	WB David Allison	*Secretary:	WB Erick Crail
*Senior Warden:	Brian Silverain	*Treasurer:	WB Andy Harvego
*Junior Warden:	David Potter	Chaplain:	WB Anthony VanWagner
Senior Deacon:	Erik Fairchild	LEO:	Matt Gallagher
Junior Deacon:	Travis Thorpe	Tyler:	WB Steve St John
Senior Steward:	Jay Koelsch	Marshall:	Damian Sheridan
Junior Steward:	Arik Oversmith	Musician:	Ray Davis
Funeral Coordinator:	WB John Stitely	*Trustees:	Erik Fairchild
Historian:	WB Tim Grube		Mark Steiger
Food Svc Director:	David Potter		WB Andy Harvego

Following a scrumptious Dinner at 6:30pm, an excellent Installation Ceremony was held at 7:30pm in the Lodge Room on Thurs Dec 14th. **WB Jeff Koltveit** served as the Installing Master; and **WB Tim Grube** served as the Installing Marshall.



Photo by David Coleman

Pictured at Braden's Installation of Officers for 2018, held Dec 14th, 2017, were:
Front (main floor, L to R): • **Ray Davis**, Musician • **Erik Fairchild**, Senior Deacon / Board of Trustees • **Jay Koelsch**, Senior Steward • **Damian Sheridan**, Marshall • **Arik Oversmith**, Junior Steward.
Back (steps, L to R): • **Travis Thorpe**, Junior Deacon • **WB Anthony VanWagner**, Chaplain • **Brian Silverain**, Senior Warden • **WB David Allison**, Worshipful Master • **David Potter**, Junior Warden / Food Service Director • **WB Erick Crail**, Secretary • **WB Andy Harvego**, Treasurer / Board of Trustees.



BRADEN LODGE NEWS

Published periodically by Braden Lodge #168, 920 Lowry Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN
 Copyright © 2018 by Braden Lodge #168. All Rights Reserved.
 Written and edited by WB Erick Crail, Lodge Secretary, except as noted.
 Published under the authority of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota.



IN MEMORIAM 2017



During 2017, we learned of three Brothers who have laid down their working tools to journey to the Celestial Lodge:

- **Brother Peter G Spindler:** Born in St Paul in 1926, Br Spindler was raised as a Master Mason at Braden Lodge on 12/10/1949, and remained a member of Braden for 69 years. After serving in the Navy in WWII, he attended Macalaster College and worked for Cargill Inc for 35 years. He was 94 when he died on 1/03/2017.
- **Brother Stuart H Steinman:** Born in St Paul in 1923, Br Steinman was raised in Braden Lodge on 6/14/1956, remaining a Mason for 61 years. He was an owner of William & Stuart Jewelry and Tread-Aerobic Treadmills. He died at age 90 after a long battle with dementia on 4/01/2017.
- **Brother Gerald E Carlson:** Born in St Paul in 1958, Br Carlson was raised as a Master Mason at Como Park Lodge on 11/20/1993, and remained a Mason for 21 years. He was a musician in local bands and taught video production at Hastings High School. He died 1/01/2014 at the age of 55 after a lifelong battle with depression. (We did not learn of his death until June 2017.)

NEWS BRIEFS

- **If You Want Masonic Honors At Your Funeral, PLEASE** give one of the enclosed business cards to your next-of-kin, and ask them to notify us. *Save the other card for yourself!* As Masons, we pledge to "fly to the relief" of a worthy Brother in distress, so please don't hesitate to call on us in a time of need!
- **Calling Trivia Buffs!** Braden Lodge is hosting all-you-can-eat Pizza & Popcorn and 6-round Pub-Style Trivia Nights at the Lodge on the 2nd Fridays of Mar-May and Sept-Dec. Just \$10 per person, so gather a team and your thinking caps and come join the fun!
- **Dinner With A Side Of Murder!** Braden is hosting another exciting fundraiser at the James J Hill Mansion on Sat Oct 6th. You can dine in the elegant surroundings while solving a Dinner-Theatre style Murder Mystery! *Check our website for further details this summer.*
- **Missing Mail** The mailbox at the Lodge was "jimmied" open sometime between Dec 22nd and Dec 28th. If you mailed your dues payment last month, and do not find your 2018 dues card enclosed with this mailing, please monitor your bank statement to see if your check is cashed, and let the Secretary know. *Sorry for any inconvenience!*