

APRIL 2026



Connecticut FREEMASONS

In This Issue:

The Call to the 237th Grand Lodge Session

2025 Annual Report of Masonicare

Connecticut Freemasons Foundation Call to Meeting

Call for Nomination for Masonicare Board Service



Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM
69 Masonic Avenue
Wallingford, CT 06492

2025- 2026 Officers of the Grand Lodge Af & AM of Connecticut



Bro. Rinaldo F. Magliano, Jr.
Most Worshipful Grand Master

Bro. Shane Dufresne
RW Deputy Grand Master

Bro. F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr.
RW Grand Senior Warden

Bro. Mark H. Hawkins
RW Grand Junior Warden

Bro. Thomas Gondek
RW Grand Treasurer

Bro. James M. Anderson
RW Grand Secretary

Bro. James Anthony Moran, Jr.
RW Grand Senior Deacon

Bro. Matthew F. Griffin
RW Grand Junior Deacon

Bro. Nicholas H. Ives
RW Grand Marshal

Bro. James A. Saraceni
RW Grand Senior Steward

Bro. Robert S. Eubanks
RW Grand Junior Steward

Rev. and Bro. Carl H. Anderson
RW Grand Chaplain

Rev. and Bro. Carl H. Anderson
RW Grand Almoner

Bro. David J. Stewart
RW Grand Historian

Bro. Gary Graham
RW Grand Organist

Bro. Richard C. Memmott, Jr.
RW Grand Tiler

Bro. Michael Abrahamson
Associate Grand Tiler

Bro. Frederick A. Marotti
Associate Grand Tiler

Bro. Daniel W. Nichols
Associate Grand Tiler

Bro. Charles A. Miller, III
Associate Grand Tiler

Bro. Brian E. Beals
Deputy Grand Treasurer

Bro. Gregory K. Whitehouse
Deputy Grand Secretary

Bro. Jonathan E. Wilson,
Assistant to the Grand Master

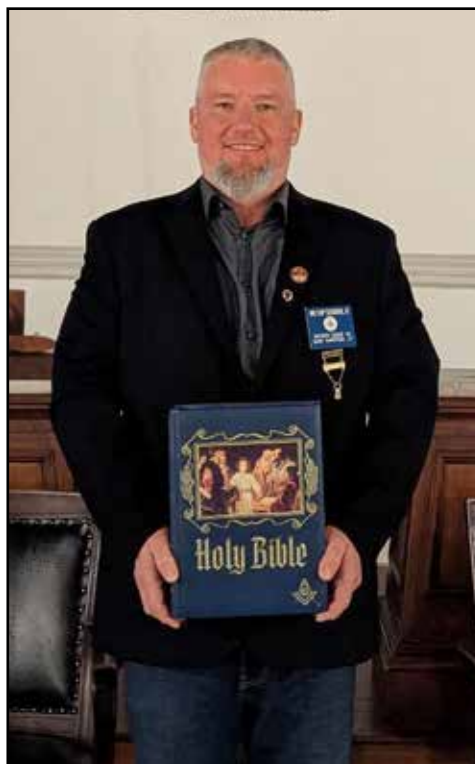


Table of Contents

Friends and Brothers.....	3
Call to the 237th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge.....	4
Grand Master's Message, Rinaldo F. Magliano, Jr.	5
Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc., Call to Meeting.....	5
Do You Know a Hero?	6
Congratulations to Our 50-year Members!	6
Meal Order Form for 237th Annual Communication.....	7
Call for Nominations for Board Service for Masonicare.....	8
Congratulations to Our New Brothers.....	9
Never Pay Dues Again.....	9
From the Desk of the Grand Chaplain.....	10
Called by The Grand Architect of the Universe	10
Grand Historian's Corner.....	11
From the Desk of Jon-Paul Venoit.....	12
Lafayette Consistory.....	13-14
CT DeMolay Golf Registration Form	14
CT DeMolay Golf 18th Annual Golf Tournament	15
Annual Gala Dinner	16
From the Quarry: The Rough Ashlar	17
Freebies.....	16
District 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.....	18-30
Consecration of Masonic Order of Athelstan	31
Charity Dinner and Program to Benefit George Washington National Memorial	32
Nursing Scholarship at Masonicare.....	33
Booster List.....	34
Masonicare Wine, Beer and Bourbon Tasting	35
2nd Annual Masonic Flea Market	35
Masonicare	36

Letters, articles, and advertisements may be sent to the Editor Frank Way at submissions@ctfreemasons.net and are due on the 10th of the month prior to the next issue.

Not just a man. A Mason.



Connecticut
FREEMASONS

Volume 21 Number 7

Publisher

**THE GRAND LODGE
OF CONNECTICUT AF & AM
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Theodore J. Nelson, Chairman

Francis G. Way, Editor

Jeff S. Bartlett

Bud Buckner

Rev. Carl H. Anderson, Masonicare

Adam Raider, Masonicare

Pat Kalinauskas, Creative/Layout

CONTRIBUTORS

John A. Amarilios

Carl H. Anderson

Larry S. Baker

Jeffrey A. Blayman

Robert Dodge

Fritzner Erauda

Robert Eubanks

Joseph K. Fried

Jonathan Glassman

William L. Greene

Arnie Grot

Peter Harrington

Nicholas H. Ives

Patrick Jones

Brian Keith

Robert J. Kovi

Jonathan Lamas

Steve Lewis

Daniel M. Luft

Rinaldo F. Magliano, Jr.

Fred Marotti

Michael Sabia

Clifford F. Stamm

David J. Stewart

Jon-Paul Venoit

Greg Webster

**Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M.
of Connecticut**

69 Masonic Avenue • Wallingford, CT 06492

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.

1:15 p.m. 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

203-679-5903

Fax: 203-679-5996

email: grandlodge@ctfreemasons.net

web: www.ctfreemasons.net

Friends...and Brothers

by Francis G. Way

"I never had any friends later on like the ones I had when I was twelve. Jesus, does anyone?"

The last line of the movie *Stand By Me* has stuck with me for years. Richard Dreyfuss, as The Writer, types it into his 1980s green-screen word processor as he recites it, closing his remembrance of Chris, Vern, and Teddy. It is not the same as the last line of *The Body*, the Stephen King novella that became the movie *Stand By Me*. While King's last line, *"The trestle upstream is gone, but the river is still around. So am I,"* is powerful, Ray Gideon and Bruce Evans' screenplay ending delivers, in my opinion, an immutable truth. It captures the essence of that kind of deep friendship that we are, on rare occasions, gifted to experience – that "finish each other's sentences" or "one glance communicates the entire story" kind of deep friendship.

I have been blessed to have many friends during my life. I have a cadre of former coworkers that I'm still in touch with many years later: for all its ills, social media is helpful in that, and a Discord server provides a way to stay in touch with friends from a more recent job. There are even some friends from high school that I am in touch with, a full 50 years after our graduation. But the group of my friends with whom I share that deep friendship, with an almost ESP-like knack for picking up on what each of us is thinking, is much smaller.

I have thought long and hard about that small group of friends recently. The loss of my friend MWB Edward Page put me in mind of my friend RWB Ric Manner, who also passed young at the same age, and they were definitely part of my "Jesus, does anyone?" group of friends. There are a few others in that group, and they know who they are. It is not lost on me that they all come from the fraternity.

Masonry is all about brotherhood, but it is also very conducive to developing deep and lasting friendships. Because we all undergo the same experience in taking the degrees, in belonging to a lodge, perhaps in going through the chairs, there is a commonality that provides an elevated base and perhaps a quicker process for becoming friends. Shared experiences of the kind that a man becomes a Mason undergoes promote closer bonds more quickly than someone you might meet in beer league softball or a dart league. The depth of those shared experiences makes it easier to find other common interests and ideas, and sometimes, before you know it, you have a "Jesus, does anyone?" kind of friend.

Those friendships can strengthen a lodge – brothers who are friends outside of lodge seem to help a lodge thrive. To be sure, they have to be careful not to be closed off to new brothers coming into the lodge. A lodge with cliques and groups of brothers who only want to dine and talk with "their friends" can be very intimidating and unwelcoming. But that warmth and caring of those friendships can permeate a lodge and make it seem more fun and welcoming.

Deep friendships formed in Masonry are very fulfilling and provide a strong sense of satisfaction and comfort. Common interests, what you find funny or moving, and laughter and brotherly love add a richness to life that can be hard to find anywhere else.

There are many reasons to seek out the fraternity and join a lodge. Making friends is not, by far, the worst of these reasons.

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

JAMES M. ANDERSON
GRAND SECRETARY
69 Masonic Avenue
Wallingford, CT 06492



BUSINESS PHONE
(203) 679-5903
FAX NUMBER
(203) 679-5996
grandsecretary@ctfreemasons.net

237th ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

The 237th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A. M. of Connecticut will be held at the **Marriott Hartford/Windsor Airport, 28 Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT 06095 (I91, exit 38), on Saturday, April 11, 2026.** The formal opening of the Grand Lodge will be at 9:30 a.m.

This is the "CALL" to that meeting.

Registration will start at 8:00 A.M. Please note: **All voting delegates must register at the registration table and present their 2026 Dues Card to the Grand Tiler upon entry to the session.** Registration will be by Home/Primary Lodge number as designated by posted signs in the area.

VOTING: Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, District Deputies, Past District Deputies, current Associate Grand Marshals, and current Grand Lodge Standing Committee members must register in order to vote. Each voting delegate will register **only once, either by virtue of his highest attained Grand Lodge Masonic office or Committee Membership or, if he chooses, as an elector (proxy) on behalf of his lodge.** The use of proxies is encouraged where appropriate to ensure full representation of constituent lodges.

A proxy form will be sent directly to the Lodge Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden should they: 1) not be able to attend this Annual Communication in person [proxy must be executed in advance]; 2) be entitled to vote by virtue of holding one of these offices in more than one lodge; 3) be entitled to vote by virtue of being a Grand Lodge Officer or a permanent member of Grand Lodge. Please inform any brother who is attending as a proxy that he must present his brothers entitled to vote should bring the apron and jewel of their office, whether as a permanent member, lodge officer, serving as a proxy.

Your attendance at this Annual Communication is important. We will consider available reports of Standing and Special Committees, Grand Lodge Officer reports, and any other business proper to be considered, all subject to the usual rules. **There may be certain changes to the Rules & Regulations which will be considered for adoption.**

Please note the following Sections of our Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations regarding Lodge representation:

Section 2301. Penalty if Lodge Is Not Represented at Regular Grand Lodge Communication: (reads in part) "A Lodge neglecting to be represented at a Regular Grand Lodge Communication shall incur the penalty of two hundred and fifty (\$250) dollars ..."

FRIDAY BANQUET: The Grand Master's Buffet Banquet for Grand Lodge Officers, Distinguished Guests, members of the Craft, and their ladies will be held on Friday evening, April 10, 2026, at 7:00 pm with a social hour at 6:00 pm in the Windsor Ballroom, at a cost of \$75. Banquet tickets will be mailed to those placing an order **prior to March 20, 2026.** For orders received after that date, tickets will be held at the door.

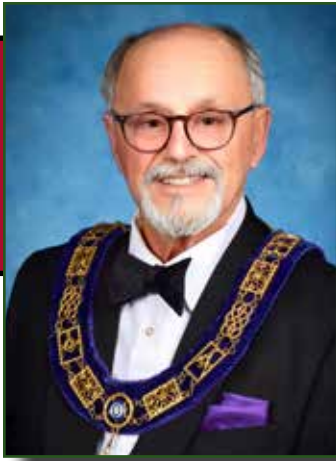
SATURDAY LUNCH: On Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 12:00 Noon, the Past District Deputies Association of Connecticut will host a luncheon for a cost of \$40. All prices are per person and include tax and gratuity. Reservation deadline is March 20, 2026. Lunch will also be available at other venues in the surrounding areas. To order FRIDAY BANQUET or SATURDAY LUNCH, please use "Meal Order Form" on page 8 in this issue of Connecticut Freemasons.

HOTEL INFORMATION Hotel reservations Marriott Hartford/Windsor Airport (Credit Card Required)
<https://bit.ly/49ajWKA> Ground transport from Bradley International Airport to the hotel, please call 860-688-7500

The Grand Lodge Office cannot make hotel reservations. Lodges and brothers are responsible for making their own reservations with the **Marriott Hartford/Windsor Airport.** We encourage you to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. Room rate is \$147 per night plus tax. Last day to book is **Friday, March 20, 2026.** To reserve your room, use this link: <https://bit.ly/49ajWKA> or call 860-688-7500 (ask for Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut when making reservations by phone)

Brother Lodge Secretary, please note that proxy forms will be mailed directly to the top three officers of your Lodge. Please remind them of their responsibility to be present at Grand Lodge or to sign their proxy and give it to someone else.

With my fraternal best wishes
James M. Anderson
R.W. Grand Secretary
February 1, 2026



Grand Master's Message

by MWB Rinaldo F. Magliano, Jr.

Brethren and friends,

As I stand before you for the final time in this role, my heart is filled with gratitude.

Serving as your Grand Master has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Over these years, I have witnessed not only the strength of our traditions, the kindness, generosity, and unity that define our fraternity, but sadly, the situations that make any position of leadership a challenge.

We have celebrated milestones, faced challenges, and worked together to ensure that our principles – integrity, charity, and brotherly love – remain alive in every lodge and in every heart. I have been humbled by the dedication of so many who give their time and talents without seeking recognition, simply because they believe in the good we can do together.

Though my term ends, my commitment to our Craft does not. I leave this office confident that the future is bright, for I see in each of you the same passion that first inspired me. Let us continue to build bridges, extend a hand to those in need, and keep our light shining for generations to come.

I want to take this time to specifically call out special individuals for their contributions to the success of my year.

- MWB Joseph Porco and WB Doug Barry for their hard work, dedication, and steadfast focus on building the strength of the fraternity. They are joined by the members of the Membership Strike Team, who refocused their efforts on the "Lost Contact" prospects and successfully recovered a significant number of these men and brought them into Freemasonry.

- WB Jerry Nero and WB Kyle Podpolucha for all of the endless support for many projects throughout this year.

- WB Fred Marotti for the tremendous work on the Grand Master's Gala.

- The Grand Lodge Office staff: WB Mark Orsini and Ms. Lynnmarie Evans, for their tireless efforts in supporting the Grand Lodge and me.

- The Legal Matters Committee for diligently providing me with superior recommendations. The issues that came before the committee were, and still are, very serious, and their expertise cannot be taken lightly.

- The Grand Lodge Line and Staff Officers for their hard work and support during my year.

- RWB Jonathan Wilson for all he did to keep me on schedule, to provide my schedule to the Grand Lodge Officers to allow better coordination for our efforts, and provide (when I requested) an opinion based on knowledge and experience, whether it agreed with me or not. Brother Jon, words can't fully express how you've contributed to our fraternity. Thank you so very much.

- And most importantly, to my love, Lady Mary. It is because of your strength, your patience, your input, and your unlimited support for this fraternity and all that it means to me that I have been able to serve this jurisdiction. Your sacrifices allowed me to be away, sometimes every night of the week. I know we both are looking forward to the next few hours, which means passing the gavel and going home, relieved of the responsibility of the office of Grand Master. I love you!

In closing, I want to give the fraternity a heads-up on the rough seas ahead. The jurisdiction faces some challenges in balancing and approving its budget, aligning its expenses with its revenue, and continuing to strengthen the fraternity to make these decisions easier. Remember that increasing the rolls will strengthen the revenue side of the equation.

Thank you for your trust, your friendship, and your unwavering support. May the Great Architect of the Universe bless and guide you always.

So mote it be,

Rinaldo F. Magliano, Jr.
Grand Master



Part-Time Drivers/Monitors Needed to Join a Busy Livery Company

Requirements:

- Monday-Friday availability.
- Must be 21 years or older.
- Valid CT Driver's License for three consecutive years,
- Clean driving record.

Must Pass: a DCF Background Check, the Sex Offender Registry, a DMV Background Check, and a DOT Medical Exam.

We offer our Team Members Paid Training, 401k, and Uniforms. Pay rate: \$19 per hour upon endorsement approval. All our vehicles are DMV inspected.

Interested applicants apply online at curtintransportationgroup.com

Safe and Reliable
Since 1918.



Do You Know A Hero?

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut is proud to re-introduce the Hometown Hero Award. If there is a Brother or member of your community you feel is a Hometown Hero, we encourage you to nominate him or her for this special award to service. Whether a first responder or someone who has made a difference in your hometown, we want to pay him or her, special recognition for their achievements.

The application can be found in the Resources section on GrandView. We look forward to recognizing YOUR Hometown Hero in the near future!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR MEMBERS!



Raymond F. Barker, Jr.
Uriel Lodge No. 24

Keith R. Carlough
Columbia Lodge No. 25

Paul E. Kelly
Washington Lodge No. 19

John L. Blennerhassett
Annawon Lodge No. 115

Ronald W. Hodgkins
Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

Kenneth H. Kirschner
Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14

Howard L. Brainard
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

Michael P. Hugyo, III
Union Lodge No. 40

Howard William Orr
Composite Lodge No. 28

Robert S. Brooks
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

William T. P. Jenks
Montgomery Lodge No. 13

Herman V. Schuler
Annawon Lodge No. 115

**Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut
237th Annual Communication**

Friday, April 10, 2026 – Saturday, April 11, 2026

Meal Order Form

Lodge/Organization:	
Contact Name:	
Email:	
Phone:	

Meal / Event	Quantity	Unit Price	Line Total
Friday Night Grand Lodge Banquet Dinner Buffet (Formal Attire)		\$75	
Saturday PDD Luncheon – Roast Beef Sandwich		\$40	
Saturday PDD Luncheon – Turkey BLT Sandwich		\$40	
Grand Total			

Return with check to:

Grand Lodge of CT
69 Masonic Avenue
Wallingford, CT 06492-3019

Please submit by March 20, 2026.

Special Needs/Allergies		
Authorized Signature:		Date:

Hotel Information

Hotel reservations Marriott Hartford/Windsor Airport (Credit Card Required).

<https://bit.ly/49ajWKA>

Ground transport from Bradley International Airport to the hotel.

Please call 860-688-7500 upon arrival.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD SERVICE

February/March 2026

To Prospective Masonicare Board and Committee Members:

By this notice, the Board of Trustees of Masonicare Corporation hereby issues a Call for Nominations of candidates for election to the Board of Trustees of Masonicare Corporation, Masonicare Affiliate Boards of Directors, and/or Masonicare Board Committees. To be considered for service, nominees need not specify on which board/committee they are interested in serving. Individuals may request a Nomination Application by completing and returning the questionnaire below.

Applications are to be submitted to me and postmarked no later than April 16, 2026. Applicants will be contacted to schedule interviews.

Nominees should have qualifications in business, corporate leadership, finance, law, or healthcare, which qualify them for board service. Candidates should be aware that board/committee members assume fiduciary duties with respect to their service, and that violation of these duties can entail personal liability. Service on our boards/committees requires a considerable time commitment, varying with the needs of each corporation. While Masonicare's boards/committees are primarily comprised of those who are specifically members of the Masonic fraternity or related appendant bodies, affiliate board and Masonicare committee membership may also contain qualified members of the local community.

MASONICARE is the Parent Corporation of our system. All nominees must be members in good and regular standing of A..F. & A.M. Masonic Lodges of Connecticut, or otherwise Masonically-affiliated, appendant or concordant bodies, with the exception of three who shall be members in good standing, and appointed from among Connecticut members of Order of the Eastern Star; the Order of the Amaranth; and Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. and two of whom may be selected as strategic members of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is composed of no less than fourteen but no more than seventeen members. Four seats are filled annually through the nomination and election process. The term of service on this board is three years, commencing in November 2026.

The term of service for Masonicare Affiliate Boards of Directors and for Masonicare Board Committees is one year, commencing in November 2026.

Please feel free to address any questions you may have regarding this process to Jon-Paul Venoit, President and CEO, 203-679-6000 or jvenoit@masonicare.org. Thank you for your assistance and participation

Sincerely and fraternally,



Christopher Earle, Chair
Nominating Committee

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION FOR BOARD SERVICE

Requests for a Nomination Application can be completed by returning the attached request. Once completed, the form should be sent to Christopher Earle, Chair of the Masonicare Nominating Committee by Facsimile to 203-679-3045 or electronically to jvenoit@masonicare.org. A Nomination Application will be sent to all applicants for completion.

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime phone number () _____ Evening phone number () _____

Mobile number () _____ Fax number () _____

Email address _____

Nomination Applications will be sent to the email address provided unless otherwise noted.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

Union Lodge No. 40

Eugene Glouzgal

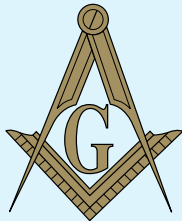
Pedro Gonzalez

Chris Hariga

Tyler Jason Pezzuti

Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Julio Evaristo Calvao



NEVER PAY DUES AGAIN!

The Grand Lodge has adopted a Lifetime Membership Plan

- ★ Once purchased, you opt out of your local lodge dues and Grand Lodge assessments.
- ★ Your lodge, through the plan, receives your dues until your 50th year of membership.
- ★ Upon your passing your lodge still receives your dues benefit for an additional 10 years.
- ★ Regardless of your financial situation, once the plan is purchased, you can't be dropped for non-payment of dues.
- ★ Applications and quotes for the Lifetime Membership Plan are **FREE**.
- ★ **Never pay dues again. Apply today!**
- ★ Contact your Lodge Secretary or Grand Lodge for an application.
Grand Secretary: grandsecretary@ctfreemasons.net

Family Owned & Operated Since 1972



AUTO REPAIR INC.

Foreign & Domestic Repairs

Paul Locicero

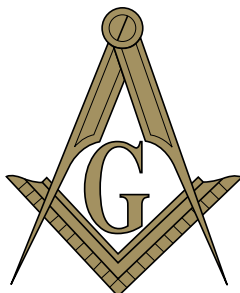
860-646-5036 Fax: 860-646-1552
174 West Center Street • Manchester

www.pp-autorepair.com

ppautopaul@yahoo.com



Since
1995!



Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc. Call to Meeting

In accordance with its by-laws, the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc. will conduct a brief meeting and election of representation to its Board of Directors at the will and pleasure of the Most Worshipful Grand Master during the Annual Stated Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut on Saturday, April 11, 2026. All members of the Grand Lodge who are in good standing are invited to attend.

Fraternally,
Bro. Christopher J. Earle,
Chairman



From the Desk of the Grand Chaplain

The Rev. Carl H. Anderson

Serving as Grand Chaplain for the last several months has been both a pleasure and a challenge. Certainly, the passing of four of our Past Grand Masters was difficult to say the least. We will miss MWB Dennis “Denny” L. Elkins, MWB Kenneth B. Hawkins, MWB James T. McWain, and MWB Edward C. Page. During the memorial services, I was reminded of the many ways we have been blessed by so many brothers who have passed to the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. So let us do our best to keep their memory alive and in our hearts as we continue our journey through life.

As we remember them and all the brothers who have passed during our Grand Lodge year, I offer this blessing for you:

May the Grand Architect of the Universe give us fullness of grace to further the principles of Masonry in all our undertakings. May God guide us and give us peace, knowing that there is an inexhaustible source of strength that guides us all along the journey of life. Let us continue to pray that we will not stray

from our given path but follow it with courage by faith. Finally, may God bless us with an abundance of peace, hope, and love, as we all draw upon His leading in life as both a man and a Mason.

As a benediction, I leave you the familiar words that I often use as a benediction for services at Masonicare:

"May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sunshine warm upon your face;
May the rains fall soft upon your fields."
And may God bless you in your going out, and coming in.
In your rising up and lying down,
“And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.”

May God bless each Mason, each lodge, and our Grand Lodge as we journey together as a fraternity and grow spiritually under the fatherhood of God. Amen.



We offer our condolences to the family and friends of those brothers who have been called by The Grand Architect of the Universe.

Moriah Lodge 15

Edward Carleton Page

Old Well St. Johns Lodge 6

Daniel Victor Obuchowski

Compass Lodge 9

Bruce W. Jones

America St. Johns Lodge 8

Michael R. Mulherin

Ionic Lodge 110

Albert Louis Goodhall, Sr.

Compass Lodge 9

Wilford F. Golding

Harmony Lodge 42

Marshall J. Scholan

Hartford Evergreen Lodge 88

Rudolph Albert Gaydos, Jr.

Annawon Lodge 115

Gerald Alan Calabritto

Corinthian Lodge 104

Roger Edward Seliga

Columbia Lodge 25

James Winslow Pike



Grand Historian's Corner

Bro. David J. Stewart

The Story of Two Stones

Every man who enters Masonry does so with hope, curiosity, and a sincere desire to improve himself. When a new brother is initiated, passed, and raised, he is not simply completing degrees; he is stepping into a lifelong journey of growth, responsibility, and brotherhood.

If we are serious about making good men better, then our labor must continue long after the handshake and the rap of the closing gavel. Every new brother should have a guide, someone who checks in, answers questions, and helps him understand not just what we do, but why we do it. Mentorship is not about authority; it is about presence. A brother who knows someone is invested in his journey is far more likely to remain engaged and grow in the Craft.

Ritual proficiency is important, but understanding the ritual is essential. New brothers benefit greatly from open discussions on symbolism, working tools, and the moral lessons behind them. The most powerful instruction a new brother receives is not spoken; it is observed. Education nights,

small study groups, or informal conversations after lodge can transform memorization into meaning.

Nothing disengages a new brother faster than feeling unnecessary. Giving meaningful, age-appropriate responsibilities, whether assisting in lodge setup, charity efforts, or educational programs, helps him see that his contribution matters. Purpose builds ownership, and ownership builds commitment.

If we want the Craft to endure, we must invest in those who will carry it forward. Helping new brothers is not an obligation; it is a privilege. When we take the time to guide, encourage, and support them, we do more than retain members; we ensure that the values of Masonry remain strong, relevant, and alive.

You were taught that every Mason enters the craft as a rough ashlar, unfinished, imperfect, shaped by life but not yet refined. Through time, labor, and instruction, he strives toward the perfect ashlar: squared, true, and fit for the builder's use. The perfect ashlar does not exist to admire itself. It exists to support the structure.

If we are truly dedicated to the craft, then we must ask ourselves, are we our brother's keepers? Do we actively seek to strengthen

the Fraternity by lifting those who are still working their stone? Do we invest in making good men better, not only through ritual and Masonic education, but through presence, patience, and genuine care?

When you entered Freemasonry, you were stepping into something much older than yourself. The teachings, the symbols, the words, they weren't just made for you; they were shaped long ago by men who sought to make sense of the world, their duties, and their place within it. And now, you've been entrusted with what they left behind. That carries tremendous weight and the responsibility of taking what's been handed down and doing your part to live it, protect it, and pass it on in good condition.

Freemasonry is a blueprint for how to be the kind of man others can count on, who stands for something. You weren't meant to just memorize the lessons but to embody and understand them. Our predecessors who came before us carried these ideas through wars, revolutions, and quiet everyday struggles. They held the line. Now, it's your turn. Are you still rough, or are you moving towards perfection?

Wooster Lodge No. 10
A.F. & A.M.

~ Since 1781 ~

*Serving the Community for
 more than 240 years*

DEE'S ANTIQUES
\$ PAYS \$ TOP DOLLAR • 2032358431

BUYING Gold, Silver, Jewelry, Coins, Military Items, Musical Instruments, Old Advertising Signs & Memorabilia, Fishing & Hunting Equipment, Vintage Toys, Comic Books, Antique Furniture, Anything Old & Unusual

Serving Community & Family Respectfully for Over 50 Years
 Call Thomas Spratta at 203.235.8431
 600 West Main St., Meriden, CT 06451
 TJS600@cox.net

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

After a very snowy winter that tested our patience and our preparedness, I think all of us at Masonicare are relieved that spring is finally here. But I must say that I was very pleased with how our staff responded to the two major snowstorms that hit our region, ensuring our residents and patients received uninterrupted care and services.

Outside of the start of baseball season (go Yankees!), one of my favorite springtime traditions is the LeadingAge Connecticut/Rhode Island Caring Hands Awards, a celebration of the outstanding nursing assistants and aides who enhance the quality of life for older adults. Masonicare had 10 honorees this year from across all our service lines, including CNAs Jill Mitchell, Jacqueline Quiroz, and Nate Satharakul; Resident Care Assistants Nadege Bazile, Olga Cano, Bozena Chudecki, Karin Hernandez, and Nancy Rode; Caregiver Karen Marotta; and Home Health Aide Aaron Ossont.

Listening to the nominations for every award recipient read aloud, I noticed that the best front line caregivers share some common traits:

“Consistently goes above and beyond by treating every resident with compassion, patience, and respect.”

“Remains steady during challenging situations.”

“Strong work ethic, commitment to excellence, and genuine kindness.”

If you or a loved one uses our services, you might get to meet one of our Caring Hands Award winners, who not only embody the core values of Masonicare but also serve as a shining example to the rest of our industry.



Yours sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon-Paul Venoit". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Masonicare's delegation at the 2026 LeadingAge Caring Hands Awards, held March 4 at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, CT.

A JOURNEY OF 333 MILES STARTS WITH ONE STEP!

by John A. Amarilios, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

The Consistory's degree schedule for this season is quickly coming to its conclusion.

April 13: 19th Degree (live), 28th Degree (video).

May 4: 32nd Degree (live).

Dinner starts at 6 p.m. Due to the high demand for the 32nd Degree, there will be three seatings for dinner: 5 p.m., 5:45 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. You must make reservations as seating is very limited. Call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064 for reservations, information, and further details.

Family Life events pick up the pace in May. There will be a two-day bus trip to Gettysburg that will examine Masonic facets of the events during the Civil War. Reservations are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

On May 17, the Valley is sponsoring the Connecticut Youth Orchestra Spring Concert at the Klein Auditorium. Tickets are free for Consistory members and can be obtained from the Consistory office. On May 25, the Consistory and the Valley of Bridgeport will march in the Annual Memorial Day Parade in Stratford, and on June 6, the Consistory will sponsor a bus ride to the Schubert Theater in New Haven to see *Les Misérables* with dinner at Brazzis prior to the event. For reservations or inquiries, call the office at (203) 375-0064.

In April, Bro. Patrick Atkinson, 32° of the Valley of Wilmington, will undertake a historical run from Wilmington, Delaware, to Lexington, Massachusetts, to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the United States and the 50th year of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library in Lexington. His run of 333 miles will go through many Connecticut cities and towns. The Consistory will post details of his expected arrival at each town so that the Masonic community can come out and cheer him on. His expected itinerary is Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, Norwalk, Westport, Southport, Bridgeport, Stratford, Milford, West Haven, New Haven, North Haven, Northford, Durham, Middletown, Portland, East Hampton, Colchester, Amston, Lebanon, Willimantic, North Windham, Chaplin, Hampton, Pomfret Center, Putnam, and Thompson. Please see <https://www.srmml.org/celebrate50/revolutionary-run/>



One of the most important responsibilities we have as men is to preserve our mortal vehicle in the best condition possible to allow the soul spark within to maximize its time on the physical plane. The longer we exist in good health, the more experience and life lessons we can accrue, making our mortal sojourn much more productive and honoring the incredible gift that Deity has bestowed

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention All Master Masons!

2026 SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES
Reservations required.

Call the Consistory Office at (203) 375-0064.
Mon. April 13 - 19th Degree (live), 28th Degree (video)
Mon. May 4, 32nd Degree (live)

For the latest copy of the
Lafayette Consistory News visit
<https://ctfreemasons.net/appendantbodies/lafayetteconsistory/>

Contact the Consistory Office to arrange for seating and meals for any of the degree events.

Valley of Bridgeport 2422 Main Street Stratford, CT 06615 Office@LafayetteConsistory.com 203-375-0064	Valley of New Haven 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com 203-269-0336	Valley of Waterbury 529 Highland Avenue Waterbury, CT 06708 cdoneill@snet.net 203-754-8209
--	--	---

For more information, contact the Valley near you or email Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com.

upon us: life itself. Allowing the physical vehicle to deteriorate needlessly through discordant passions and poor life practices has karmic implications for our souls.

It has been noted in the scientific and health literature that men, as a group, tend to live on average several years less than women. This can be attributed to five universal behaviors that we encounter at various times in our lives. Outside of madcap foolishness that typically involves adolescent accidents and drug abuse, the overwhelming reduction in lifespan is attributable to:

1. Binge drinking, 2. Chronic Stress, 3. Social Isolation, 4. Chronic Sleep Deprivation, 5. Prolonged Daily Sitting

While each one of these behaviors seems innocuous, it has been proven that they take a toll and collectively reduce the lifespan of the Temple that each of us is trying to construct by several years.

Our lodges can serve an important function in ameliorating some of these conditions. Keeping older members involved and making sure they are being followed up with can go a long way toward reducing social isolation. Many younger brothers might not be able to relate to older brothers who no longer have the ability to transport themselves to lodge. In many cases, they have never met these men who occupied the chairs in their lodge a score or more years before them. Brothers should also realize that many of our older brothers may be widowers or have a physical infirmity that has reduced their mobility. Rather than suffer the embarrassment and frustration of not hearing ritual or conversation in the lodge,

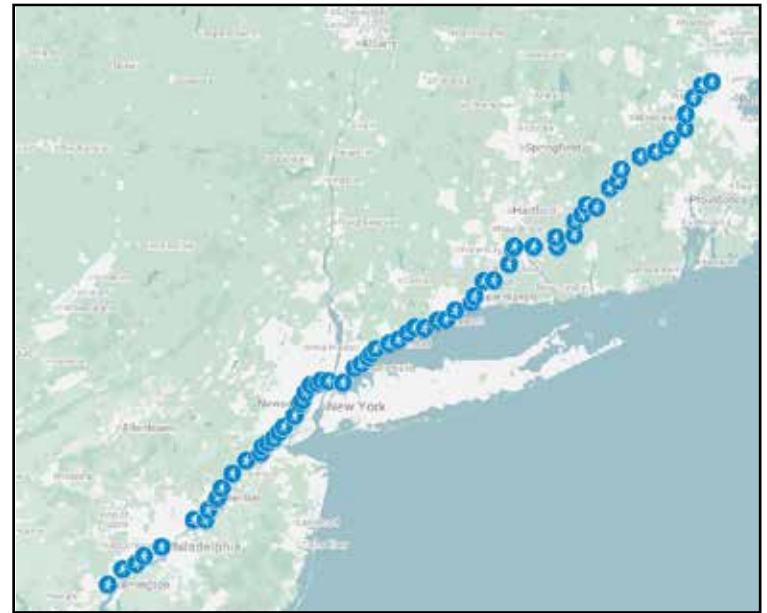
Continued on page 14

A Journey of 333 Miles continued from page 13

some older brothers decide to withdraw and slowly cease being fixtures in our lodges. This social withdrawal is deleterious to their health and yields a never-ending depression, which leads to various physical breakdowns.

One of the most important functions of the lodge should be to keep these men involved and actively participating as much as practicable. At a bare minimum, the Lodge Almoner should be following up with these brothers on a quarterly basis. The lodge should get out of its comfort zone and provide them with opportunities and means to get to the lodge, perhaps more so during May, June, or September when the days are long and the temperatures are still warm. It is imperative to help these men circulate outside of the four walls that may be their daily environment. By doing so, we are helping ourselves, since doing so with actual Brotherly Love will yield the benefit of a healthier physical vehicle.

The Great Light admonishes us, "Love Is the Fulfillment of the Law" (Romans 13:8-10). The science behind this is well established – acts done with love release oxytocin, dopamine, and serotonin, which foster bonding, euphoria, and happiness. This is the



proverbial win-win, and each lodge has the ability to help every brother in its ranks attain better health and longevity!

FIAT LUX!

REGISTRATION FORM

18th Annual Connecticut DeMolay Golf Tournament – Tuesday, June 2, 2026

The Farms Country Club, 180 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

To benefit Connecticut DeMolay and The Connecticut DeMolay Foundation, Inc. (a 501(c)(3) charitable organization)

Please PRINT all information on all lines.

Please PRINT all information on all lines.

Company/Individual Sponsor Name		
Name and Title of Person Authorizing Sponsorship		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone number:	Call number:	Email Address:

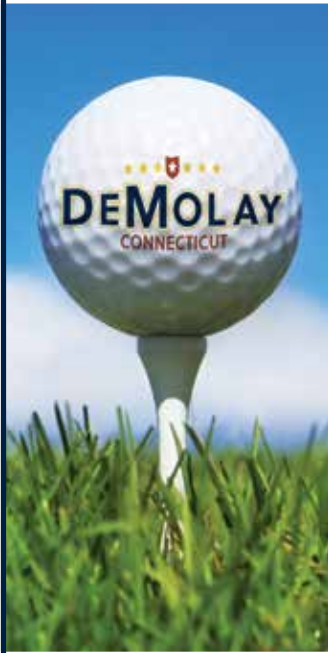
Please check desired level of participation.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$3,000 Tournament Sponsor - Includes 8 players | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Closet to Hole Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,700 Gold Sponsor - Includes 4 players | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Longest Drive Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,400 Silver Sponsor - Includes 4 players | <input type="checkbox"/> \$175 Tee Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$850 Bronze Sponsor - Includes 2 players | <input type="checkbox"/> Players/Guest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000 Cart Sponsor - Includes name on carts | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Foursome & Tee Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Lunch Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Twosome & Tee Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$750 Golf Ball Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$225 Individual player |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Beverage Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Non-golfing Social |

Note: The dress code at The Farms Country Club requires collared shirts and no cut-off shorts.

Player/Guest 1	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	
Player/Guest 2	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	
Player/Guest 3	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	
Player/Guest 4	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	

Please complete and return with payment by May 25, 2026
 Make check payable to "The Connecticut DeMolay Foundation, Inc." – P.O. Box 8832, New Haven, CT 06532 • 203-915-1229
 For additional information contact: Chris Earle, (203) 915-1229 or cearle@comcast.net • David O. Stern, (203) 444-2077 or dsternct@gmail.com



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
DEMOLAY
CONNECTICUT

18TH ANNUAL
BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

**The Geoffrey Cornish-designed
The Farms Country Club**

180 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

Registration and Raffle Ticket Sales starting at 10:30am. Noon Lunch;
Shotgun start at 1:00pm in a 4-player scramble. Dinner, silent auction, and
raffle prize awards following tournament. Prizes for 1st and 2nd low gross
and low net, longest drive and closest to the pin, men and women.

Sponsorship levels:

- \$3,000 - Tournament Sponsor (includes 8 golfers)
- \$1,700 - Gold Sponsor (includes 4 golfers)
- \$1,400 - Silver Sponsor (includes 4 golfers)
- \$850 - Bronze Sponsor (includes 2 golfers)
- \$500 - Beverage Sponsor
- \$250 - Longest drive sponsor

- \$2,000 - Cart Sponsor
- \$1,000 - Lunch Sponsor
- \$750 - Golf Ball Sponsor
- \$250 - Closest to the pin sponsor
- \$175 - Tee sponsor

- \$1,000 - Foursome and tee sponsor
- \$500 - Twosome and tee sponsor

- \$225 - Individual player
- \$60 - Non-golfing social

All sponsorships include acknowledgement in the Connecticut DeMolay Journal.

For registration flyer, please contact:

**Chris Earle, The Campaign for
Connecticut DeMolay**

P.O. Box 8832, New Haven, CT 06532
(203) 915-1229 or cearle@comcast.net

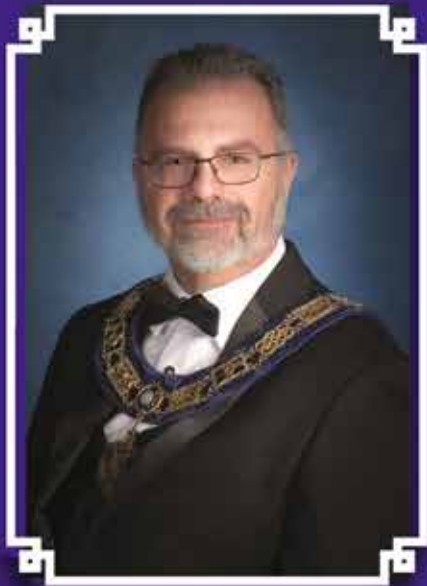
or

David O. Stern

(203) 444-2077 or dsternct@gmail.com



REGISTRATION WITH PAYMENT DUE BY MAY 25, 2026



The Brothers of

Harmony Lodge No. 42

Invite you to join us!



Annual Gala Dinner

to honor Brother

Shane Dufresne

the incoming

Most Worshipful Grand Master
Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of the State of Connecticut

Please join us to congratulate, support, and
celebrate our new Grand Master.

April 18, 2026, 6 to 10 P.M.

Aqua Turf Club

556 Mulberry Street
Plantsville, Connecticut 06479

\$60 per person or \$550 table of 10.
Includes sit down family style dinner
music, dancing, and 50/50 raffle.
Cash bag pass around.
Cash bar.

**For reservations, please copy this link
into your browser or scan the QR code.**

[https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/
annual-gala-for-incoming-grand-master-rwb-shane-dufresne](https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-gala-for-incoming-grand-master-rwb-shane-dufresne)

You may also mail reservations
& payment to:

Harmony Lodge No. 42
c/o Gary-Gala Event
531 Highland Avenue
Waterbury, CT 06708



Please make checks payable
to Harmony Lodge No. 42.

Contact Secretary Gary Byram at (860) 463-2699 or
gbyramg5@gmail.com for questions.

From the Quarry: The Rough Ashlar

by Paul Ladd

There comes a point in every man's life when he realizes something unsettling. He is not yet the man he thought he was.

That realization rarely arrives in dramatic fashion. More often, it comes quietly, after a difficult conversation, a poor reaction, or a moment of honest reflection when a man sees that some part of his character still needs work. It can be an uncomfortable moment. It can also be the beginning of growth.

The Craft gives brethren a powerful symbol for that stage of life: The Rough Ashlar.

A stone newly taken from the quarry is uneven and unfinished. No builder would place such a stone directly into the walls of a temple without first studying it and shaping it carefully. Before it can serve any useful purpose, it must be worked.

It doesn't take much imagination to see oneself in that stone.

Each of us carries rough edges formed by years of experience. Habits that developed gradually. Reactions that appear before patience has time to intervene. Blind spots that are hard to see without the help of others.

Time alone doesn't smooth those edges.

Many men assume maturity will somehow refine them automatically. In truth, most of us have known men who carried the same temper, the same pride, or the same damaging habits for decades. The years passed, but the stone remained much the same.

Improvement begins when a man becomes willing to look honestly at himself. That kind of reflection requires humility. It also requires patience. The builder who shapes stone doesn't swing blindly. He studies the surface first. He learns where pressure should fall and where restraint is required. The work of character unfolds in much the same way.

A thoughtful man learns to pause and examine his own conduct. Where does impatience appear more often than it should? When does

pride prevent him from listening? Which habits have quietly shaped his behavior over the years without much attention?

And this is where the lesson becomes personal.

Most of us already know at least one rough edge that needs attention. We've seen it in our reactions, heard it in our tone, or felt it afterward in the quiet discomfort that comes when we know we could have handled something better. The question is not whether the rough edge exists.

It does.

The question is whether we are still willing to do the work.

That work never truly ends. Experience may soften some habits, but new seasons of life have a way of exposing places where more shaping is still needed. That is part of the journey.

Freemasonry does not promise that a man will become perfect. What it offers is a framework for reflection and a reminder that character, like stone, is shaped through deliberate effort over time. A well-built temple is not the result of one dramatic moment of construction. It rises slowly as each stone is carefully shaped and placed where it belongs.

The same can be said of a life.

Character is formed through countless small decisions made over the years. A moment when patience replaces irritation. A conversation where listening matters more than speaking. A choice to examine ourselves honestly rather than assume we have already finished the work. Those moments may seem small at the time. Over the course of a lifetime, they shape the kind of man we become.

Reflection

If you were to examine the stone of your own character today, which rough edge would benefit most from your attention?

In the March 2026 issue of the *Connecticut Freemasons* the article "Sequin Level Lodge No. 140 Food Drive and Community Support" was incorrectly attributed to WB Larry S. Baker.

The author of the article was Bro. Martin Yanofsky

District 1

Lodges 3, 5, 6, 8, 19, 65, 67, 85, 104, 107, 142, 144, 149



Temple Lodge No. 65 Welcomes Two Entered Apprentices by Jonathan Achar

On the evening of February 26, Temple Lodge No. 65 of Westport held its first degree of the year, initiating two brothers, Bros. Peter DeMattio and Philip DeVries.

It was a spirited and participatory degree ceremony, with several brothers from Temple Lodge taking part in the degree lectures and spoken rituals.

WM Bruce Duff presided over the degree, and encouraging last words were given by RWB “Wally” Jimenez, District Deputy for Masonic District 1A.

The evening was capped by refreshments and dessert in the dining room, and the new brother enjoyed a rewarding and memorable welcome to Temple Lodge.



Temple Lodge No. 65 Celebrates Robert Burns Night

by Jonathan Achar

In what seemed like an endless, snowy winter, the lads and lassies of Temple Lodge No. 65 in Westport heralded spring with the warmth and fellowship of a traditional Scottish evening, replete with bagpipes, a recital of Brother Burns’ poetry, haggis, and other flavors of Scotland.

The evening was orchestrated by lodge Treasurer, Bro. Tom Belden and WM Bruce Duff. Piper Terrance McGovern provided the spirited bagpipe music, and native Scotsman Richard Gordon gave a rousing toast and recital of Brother Burns’ poetry. The lodge was adorned with Scottish flags and decorations, and amid the fun, it also held a silent auction.

The celebration continued well into the evening, and the attendees took home a wee bit of the spirit of Brother Burns and Scotland as they departed.



District 2

Lodges 13, 18, 21, 39, 40, 48, 49



St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 Hosts Fellowcraft Degree

by Peter Cleary

On Tuesday evening, March 3, St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 in New Milford welcomed brethren from across Connecticut to witness and participate in the passing of four brothers to the degree of Fellowcraft. Bros. Shane Mongar, Vilson Vataj, John Cavanaugh, and Igor Marinho advanced on their Masonic journey, marking an important step in their pursuit of light and knowledge in the Craft.

The officers of the lodge, with WB Kyle Podpolucha, upheld the high standard of ritual excellence for which the lodge is well known. Their dedication to precision and reverence for the work ensured the degree was conducted with dignity and meaning.



A highlight of the evening was the Middle Chamber Lecture, delivered by WB Podpolucha. His confident and inspiring presentation conveyed the profound lessons of the Fellowcraft Degree and left a lasting impression on everyone.

St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 continues to demonstrate its commitment to mentoring and developing its members, ensuring that every brother grows in knowledge, character, and dedication to the principles of Freemasonry.

Ark Lodge No. 39 Initiates Two Brothers

by Jeffrey W. Finch

On Wednesday, February 25, Ark Lodge No. 39 in Danbury initiated two brothers. Bros. Mark Pierce and Patrick Clark began their Masonic journey.

WM Russell Caram presided over the degree.



District 3

Lodges 7, 11, 12, 42, 47, 55, 64, 78



A Soup-er Time at Seneca Lodge No. 55

by **Andy Bronson**

On Tuesday, February 3, during the respite between NFL Conference Championship games and the Big Game in Santa Clara, the brothers of Seneca Lodge No. 55 in Winsted held a “Soup-er Bowl” of their own. Dubbed Soup-er Bowl I, six Seneca Lodge brothers vied to win the coveted Golden Soup Ladle.

Taking inspiration from Putnam Lodge No. 46 in Putnam, WM Jason Mendez used this as an opportunity to celebrate the rich bonds of fellowship in District 3. Brothers from King Solomon’s Lodge No. 7 were all too eager to make the trip up from Woodbury, not only for soup but also to claim rights to the District 3 Traveling Trowel.

Seneca Lodge’s Junior Warden, WB Andy Bronson, with help from Stewards Ray Hebert and Matt Kozikowski, and WB Rob Namias, put in hard work behind the griddle because soup just goes better when there’s grilled cheese to go with it!

At the end of the night, Senior Steward Ray Hebert took home the Golden Soup Ladle for his potato soup. Both Bro. Ray and Seneca Lodge are excited for the chance to defend the title during next year’s Soup-er Bowl II.



The crown jewel – the Golden Soup Ladle.



Prep for WB Bronson’s Butternut Squash Soup (2nd place winner).

Shepherd-Salem Lodge No. 78 Initiates Two Entered Apprentices

by **Miguel Thompson**

On Tuesday evening, February 24, 2026, Shepherd-Salem Lodge No. 78 in Naugatuck initiated two candidates to the Entered Apprentice Degree: Bro. Juan Corral and Bro. Steven Mendez are from Naugatuck and Waterbury, respectively.

Shepard Salem Lodge was honored to have RWB Shane Dufresne, Deputy Grand Master, and RWB Joe Zannio, District Deputy of Masonic District 3B, as guests.

The degree was well performed, and thanks go out to all the officers.



Cupid Visits King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 by Steve Lewis

It might have been a week early, but in commemoration of Valentine's Day, the brothers of King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 honored loved ones on Saturday, February 7. The evening's dinner was designed to celebrate friendship and community, and to provide entertainment to break the monotony of a dark winter's eve.

According to several historians, no one really knows how Valentine's Day began. Initially, it was thought to have begun as a Catholic feast day established in 496 AD to honor a third-century priest named Valentine, who was martyred on February 14. Although the Catholic church still recognizes St. Valentine, it removed his feast day in 1969.

Valentine's Day, as we now know it, most likely originated as a folk practice to celebrate the impending spring in mid-17th-century England. The initial observers were English commoners, often from rural areas. However, the widespread adoption of the holiday celebrating love and the tradition of sending Valentine's cards did not find universal acceptance in England until the late 18th century.

According to Elizabeth White Nelson, the author of *Market Sentiments: Middle-Class Market Culture in 19th-Century America*, "In a sense, the origin of Valentine's Day is really a 19th-century obsession more than anything."

Regardless of the origin, the sentiment of communal celebration remains an essential core value of our fraternal organization.

"So, I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of the life God has given them under the sun."

~ Ecclesiastes 8:15



RWB Daniel Reeve and wife Amy (Seneca Lodge)



WB Richard Miska and wife Heather



WM Stephen Saxton and wife



MWB Marshall Robinson and his significant other Linda Vernik.



Bro. Steven Morrone and wife Melody



group photo

Joint Fellowcraft Degree *by Steve Lewis*

On February 18, King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 of Woodbury and St. Paul's Lodge No. 11 of Litchfield conducted a spirited Fellowcraft degree filled with joy, excitement, and the sharing of knowledge. Before presiding over the ceremony, WM Stephen Saxton recognized the 10 Past Masters in attendance. Seven brothers, six from King Solomon's Lodge, continued their journey into the light by being passed to the degree of Fellowcraft.

Calling a friend brother, and a brother friend, is one of the highlights of Masonry. Sharing like values, working to make good men better, and delighting in the achievements of others are not mere platitudes, but rather embedded in the essence of every Mason.



(l-r) Bro. Thomas Williams, Bro. Justin Roberts (2nd Row), Bro. Jeffrey Reignier, and Bro. Clayton Gustafson. (2nd Row), Bro. Paul Gonzales, Bro. Michael Plank, and Bro. Caleb King (St. Paul's No. 11).

District 5

Lodges 14, 29, 33, 36, 101, 128, 140, 146, 148



Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 Doing What They Do Best

by Larry S. Baker

Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, of Newington is doing what they do best by taking care of their community. On Sunday March 1, after serving 98 meals to the first Sunday breakfast crowd, the lodge's Easter Bunny production crew assembled 100 Easter baskets to give to the Newington Human Resource Department. These will be distributed to children in need of a smile. Sequin Lodge has been supporting this endeavor for many years, and the brethren always have a great time putting the baskets together.



Delivering the baskets: Larry S. Baker, Pam Wassik, Lisa Delude and Chip Stamm



(l-r) Joey Savage, Reynaldo Laureano, Joseph Goodrich, Kevin Rand, Christian Mastrianni, Christopher Stamboulis, Larry S. Baker, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Mackie, Mike Mackie and Christian Freund.

District 6

Lodges 4, 25, 28, 70, 73, 88, 145, 400



“We Will Grieve Not” by Pat Jones

“Though nothing can bring back the hour of splendor in the grass, of glory in the flower, we will grieve not, rather find strength in what remains behind.” – William Wordsworth.

The Masonic world recently lost Edward Page, a great man who was imbued with deep intelligence and a wonderful sense of humor. The brothers of Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 felt a genuine sadness in learning of his passing. He had been to the lodge numerous times and was well-loved and respected. A large contingent of the lodge’s brothers attended his memorial service.

After a recent Stated Communication, WM Duane Mason called the brothers together to discuss various ways to honor his life and legacy. The brothers joined together in a large group and spontaneously and simultaneously took selfies with their phones in his honor. Taking “selfies” was something that MWB Page had regularly done. The respect that the brothers showed by this virtual salute was limitless. The seemingly little things we do as humans take on greater significance in difficult times.

WB Khamp Phimvongsa, Chaplain and Worshipful Master in 2025, is a man of many talents. An accomplished artist, he painted a beautiful 30” x 36” oil-painted portrait of the MWB Page that was presented at the memorial service as a way to honor him and keep him forever in the Craft’s memory. As WB Khamp says, “a lot of love went into that work.”

MWB Edward C. Page will not be forgotten.



Widows' Appreciation Luncheon at Washington Lodge No. 70 by Robert Dodge

“Always in our thoughts.” It is a simple saying, often used as a comforting phrase during crises or times of loss. For others, it implies the person is continuously, not just occasionally, in one’s mind. The brothers of Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor strive to always keep their ladies and widows in their thoughts, through both actions and by creating lasting memories.

On Saturday, February 21, the lodge continued its annual tradition of hosting a Ladies and Widows’ Appreciation Luncheon. The event was organized by RWB Bob Dodge and his wife Stephanie. Despite the previous night’s snowfall, the dining hall was packed with guests who were treated to a Valentine-themed luncheon and an afternoon of fellowship, topped off by Stephanie’s decadent handmade desserts. WM Victor Barile shared his goals and agenda for the year with the guests and thanked everyone for attending.



Five Brothers Initiated in Columbia Lodge No. 25

by **Arnie Grot**

Columbia Lodge No. 25 in South Glastonbury portrayed an Entered Apprentice Degree on Wednesday evening, February 18.

WM Gness found five candidates in waiting, and David A. Berthiaume, Caleb A. Guinn, Michael Ashia, Timothy K. Murtaugh, and Charles H. Moreland, IV received the Entered Apprentice Degree. WB Juan Diaz gave the Approach and Coming to Light Lectures, WB Mike Hudson presented the Apron, RWB Jeff Flynn delivered the Penniless Lecture, Bro. Vijay Pachamuthu presented the Working Tools, Bros. Julio Florez and Jesse Gay gave the First Section Lecture, WB Walter Grube delivered the Charge, and RWB John DiCioccio presented the Charge Challenge. The new brothers were given their lecture books, and WM Gness welcomed them to the lodge. Bro. Dave Lockard explained the significance of the Bible passage that was recited during circumambulation and gave the brothers a document with more detail.



Among the dignitaries who attended were MWB Rinaldo F. Magliano, Jr., RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, RWB Robert D. Dodge, Bro. Jeremy M. Gaffney, and WB Donald A. Wills.

MWB Magliano praised the cast for putting enthusiasm into each role for an excellent Degree. He also demonstrated this enthusiasm during the degree by reliving his Steward roots as he grabbed a Steward staff and lining up opposite RWB Arnie Grot while assisting the WM bringing the new brothers to light.

District 7

Lodges 2, 43, 51, 81, 95, 112, 119, 131, 151



Warren Lodge No. 51 and The Spirit of Brotherhood

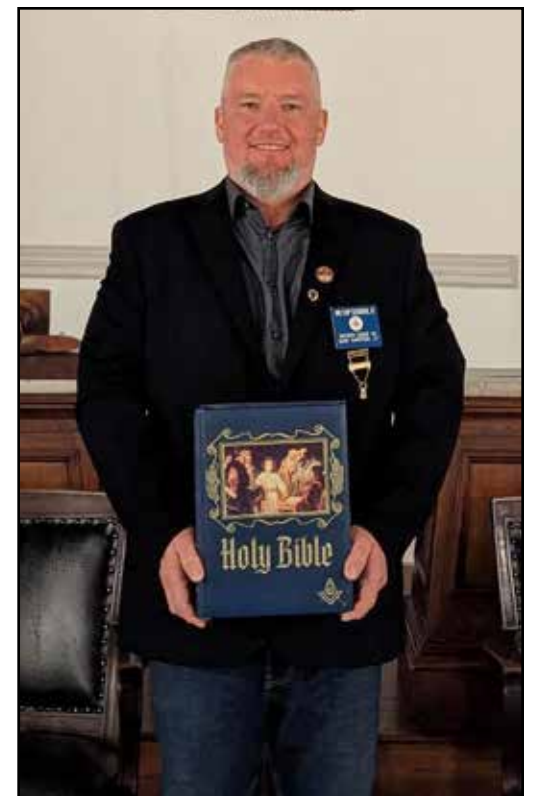
by **Jeffrey A. Blayman**

The second meeting of the month at Warren Lodge No. 51 in Portland is normally reserved for an informational program by a guest speaker. WM David L. Rutter, Jr., recently visited Anchor Lodge No. 112 in East Hampton and was inspired by a program by WB Chip Seagrave about the Masonic Bible. He decided to invite WB Seagrave to speak at Warren Lodge.

Freemasonry is interwoven with biblical references, and so the discussion with the Masonic Bible presented each member of Anchor Lodge, which is full of richly decorated pages of illustrations. It also contains many lists, places for Masonic family trees, an index of terms, phrases marked in red for reference, and a list of U.S. Presidents who were members of the Craft.

WB Seagrave highlighted the uniqueness of this Bible and read some familiar excerpts from Genesis, quoting the portion recited in the Entered Apprentice degree. He discussed the flood, the call of Abraham, the story of Creation, and elaborated on Psalm 133 from the Entered Apprentice circumambulation. After this thorough analysis, he spent a little time describing his own connection to Freemasonry as a 10th-generation member and reflected on his journey, his fondness for Anchor Lodge, his late father, WB Charles A. Seagrave, II, and the many relationships he had with the lodge even before joining.

The spirit of brotherhood was alive in the stories of everyone present, as brothers offered their personal religious experiences as they related to the Bible. WM Rutter closed the meeting by saying he heartily enjoyed the engaging nature of the evening, felt he had learned more about the Bible on nights like this than in years past, and said that is why he decided to affiliate with the fine brothers of Anchor Lodge. He encouraged everyone to travel around their districts and offer support and brotherly love to their Masonic neighbors.



District 8

Lodges 10, 31, 34, 57, 102, 116, 150



Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 Treasurer To Make 100-Mile Ride to Support Breakthrough T1D

Bro. Jeffrey Zoglio, Treasurer of Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 in Montville, will participate in the 100-mile “Ride for a Cure” this September in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Bro. Jeffrey is a Type 1 diabetic and will be joining 249 other riders. He is riding in support of Breakthrough T1D (formerly Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation). Their mission is to accelerate life-changing breakthroughs to cure, prevent, and treat Type 1 diabetes and its complications.



Diabetes is a grueling disease that places individuals at a higher risk for cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, blindness, neuropathy, and amputations. In fact, diabetes remains one of the leading causes of death in the United States.

To prepare for the physical toll of the ride, Bro. Zoglio has already begun rigorous indoor training, conditioning, and strength training. As a Type 1 diabetic, he must also meticulously manage his diet and blood sugar levels throughout the event, which is expected to take approximately eight hours on September 27.

Bro. Zoglio is currently seeking donors/sponsors to help him reach his fundraising goal of \$6,000. All of the funds raised go directly to Breakthrough T1D. Attached is a QR code that leads to Bro. Zoglio's personal fundraising page. Any support, no matter the size, will make a massive impact on research efforts and the fight for a cure.

Thank you!

Union Lodge No. 31 Donates Pediatric Items *by Ray Geer*

Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London recently published a request in The Day newspaper seeking donations of items for patients in its pediatric unit. They asked for donations of coloring books, crayons, and similar items to help make their stay less stressful.

Brothers of Union Lodge No. 31 in Niantic donated pediatric comfort and activity items to the hospital. Their goal is to assist and reduce anxiety for children while they are patients or accompanying an adult in the hospital.



Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 Passes Two Fellowcrafts

by Jeffrey A. Blayman

On February 16, brothers from across multiple districts gathered at Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 in Montville. Bros. Andrew Hyland and Mark Fontaine were passed to the degree of Fellowcraft under the direction of RWB Rob Krawic.

The two brothers were treated to an exceptional Fellowcraft degree with crisp floor work by SD Paul Ladd. The many lectures of the evening were presented, including the Middle Chamber by WB Andrew Pedro, the letter G by Bro. Jeff Creighton and an engaging Stewards lecture by Bros. Michael Matovic and Michael Cantwell.

Many thanks go out to the brothers of Putnam Lodge No. 46, Brainard Lodge No. 102, Coastal Lodge No. 57, Warren Lodge No. 51, and Anchor Lodge No. 112, and to the numerous District Deputies who supported Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 in this fantastic evening of fellowship.



Parade Season Has Begun – Somerset-St. James No. 34 Marches in St. Patrick’s Day Parade

by Jeffrey A. Blayman

On an unusually temperate March day, on Sunday, March 1, Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34 marched in the Norwich annual St. Patrick’s Day parade. They were supported by brothers from across the state as they made their way through the city center and were welcomed by throngs of spectators with boisterous cheers.

It was a wonderful day to enjoy the company of brothers and promote the fraternity while celebrating the coming of Spring.



Somerset- St. James Lodge No. 34 Initiates a Brother

by Greg Webster

Attended by a full house of brothers from Districts 8 and 9, WM Michael Gibeault and the brothers of Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34 in Preston, initiated Bro. Nicholas Genova at their stated communication on March 4. Much hard work and preparation made the degree well-presented and a great success.

A great number of Grand Line officers from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, including RWB Jason Fletcher, District Deputy of Masonic District 8A, and RWB Glenn Studwell, District Deputy of Masonic District 8B, and MWPGM Theodore Nelson.

The lodge thanks all brothers who supported this evening and helped make it a memorable success. Finally, a special thanks to Bro. Marc Dubois for providing a delicious and hearty meal.



Be a Connecticut Freemasons Booster!

Name or Lodge _____

Address _____

Town _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Booster appearing as _____

Makes checks payable to: Grand Lodge AF&AM of CT • 69 Masonic Avenue • Wallingford CT 06492
Booster support is not deductible as a charitable contribution under IRC Section 170(c).

LISTING IS FOR 11 ISSUES

____ Individual Booster

\$25-\$49.99

____ Grand Booster

\$50-\$99.99

____ Grand Master's Circle

\$100 or more

LODGES & ORGANIZATIONS

____ Entered Apprentice

\$75-\$149.99

____ Fellow Craft

\$150-\$249.99

____ Master Mason

\$250 or more

District 9

Lodges 15, 24, 46, 60, 69, 110, 113, 122



Uriel Lodge No. 24 Supports Area Food Banks by Chuck Straub

Uriel Lodge No. 24 in Merrow has been collecting food, hygiene supplies, paper goods, and monetary donations at each meeting to bring to local food pantries. Each month, a different town receives the collection.

The first town selected was in November 2025, and donations were delivered to the Mansfield Food Pantry. That success encouraged the brothers to continue the donations. Bro. John Gorsky is in charge of the program, and he personally delivers the items to the food pantry. To date, deliveries have been made to the food banks in Mansfield, Willington, Tolland, and Coventry. The February collection will be going to the Coventry food bank.



(l-r) Bros. Adam E. Harvey and Jeremy Dunkley.

Fayette Lodge No. 69 – In Pursuit of Supporting the Community by Perne Maynard

With the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the United States of America, C-SPAN and other news networks are sponsoring “In Pursuit,” a website featuring essays and videos that tell the stories of presidents, founding fathers, and events that shaped the nation. The stories of George and Martha Washington are particularly inspiring and underscore the need for the fraternity to share the stories of the Craft's good works and accomplishments over the last 250 years. Check out <https://www.inpursuit.org>, and it will be easy to see that the young men who fought for the cause of freedom over tyranny in the Revolutionary War did so, in part, because of the principles George Washington taught them based on the tenets of Freemasonry.



In Connecticut, the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper has been a wonderful source for brothers to know what other lodges are doing to support their communities. Fayette Lodge No. 69 in Ellington has recently developed its Food Share project under the leadership of SD Cody Linnell. The lodge has strengthened its commitment to the community by bringing non-perishable food items to the stated communications and donating them at the end of each month. January's donation supported Cornerstone in Rockville, and February's supported the Ellington Human Services Department. The lodge's commitment to supporting these local organizations remains strong.

The program builds on existing efforts from prior years, most recently sponsoring two blood drives per year. In January, brothers braved a blizzard to travel to the lodge and donate blood, and as of this writing, they will host another at the end of March.

Finally, the lodge is committed to supporting local groups and events, such as Ellington Earth Day on April 25. And the brethren are very excited to help the local community with its America 250th Celebration in the upcoming months.

Consecration of Masonic Order of Athelstan

by Michael Sabia

A day several years in the making came to fruition on Saturday, February 21, at 4 p.m. at the Masonic Temple in Cheshire. White Rose Court No. 19 of the Masonic Order of Athelstan was consecrated under the direction of the Order's Grand Master, D. Allen Surratt, with the assistance of several of his Grand Officers.

The Grand Court was opened, and the order was conferred upon 14 candidates. The officers were then installed and granted their warrants from MW Grand Master Surratt, after which the Grand Court exited, and White Rose Court, under the direction of its Primus Master Charles McCollum, finished business and closed.

The brethren then enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by the officers of Temple Lodge No. 16, who went above and beyond to host the event following the recent flooding of the Meriden Masonic building.

The Masonic Order of Athelstan is an invitational group that requires its members to be Master Masons who have completed their Royal Arch Degree and to maintain membership in the lodge and chapter. The degree is one that builds upon the symbolism found in the additional lectures of the lodge degrees, emphasizing the importance of Blue Lodge Masonry.

White Rose Court will meet four times a year at the Masonic Lodge in Meriden.



Bruce Bellmore, Immediate Past Master; Michael Sabia, Senior Warden; Russell Bridges, Assistant Grand Master; Charles McCollum, Primus Master; D. Allen Surratt, Grand Master; Steven Chiappalone, Junior Warden; and Martin Ede, Eminent Prior.



White Rose Court with Grand Officers of the Order.



Trumbull Lodge #22, A.F.&A.M
presents

A Charity Dinner & Program to benefit

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial

Library Restoration & Washington Family Bible Exhibit



*Featuring R:W. Brother Timothy Strawn,
Director of Development at GWMNM*

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Dinner at 6:30pm / Program at 7:30pm

- *Cost is \$25.00 per person with all proceeds collected to be donated to the Memorial's restoration and exhibit.*



New Haven Masonic Temple
285 Whitney Ave.
New Haven, CT 06511

For more information, contact R:W. Brother Chris Earle at 203-915-1229

NURSING SCHOLARSHIP



at **Masonicare** 
An Ageless Commitment to Caring

Application deadline: **Friday, May 22, 2026**

The late Bro. John Brandt established the Norma Brandt Nursing Scholarship at Masonicare in loving memory of his wife, Norma, a Registered Nurse who dedicated her life and career to helping others. Masonicare proudly awards this scholarship to qualified individuals enrolled in an accredited nursing program (Associate Degree, BSN, or RN) who are benefit-eligible Masonicare employees with at least one year of service **or** the children/grandchildren of Masonicare employees **or** affiliated with a Masonic organization, either as a member or child/grandchild of a member.

For more information or to receive an application please contact Lindsey Smith at 203-679-6166 or lsmith@masonicare.org

masonicare.org |  | 22 Masonic Avenue . Wallingford, CT

BOOSTERS

Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: March 14, 2026.

An asterisk next to your name indicates that your support in the Booster list expires in one month. Please consider renewing your support of the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper at your current rate or at the next level up. After reviewing all of the receipts for Boosters, the lists are the Boosters who are current (i.e., within the 11 issue window). If your name does not appear and you feel that you should be on the list, please contact us. Note: Booster support is not deductible as a charitable contribution under IRC Section 170(c).

Grand Master's Circle *\$100 or more.*

Daniel Paul Alexander	Carlton R. & Susan A. Csiki*	Colonel John G. Gergulis	Kenneth Kirschner	John & Jane Sterry
LTC Dick & Cheryl Arndt	Robert Dodge	Jim Gillan*	Steve Lewis	George A. Stickels
Douglas D. Barnard	Rob & Malin Eubanks*	Thomas J. Gondek	Kurt Maehlenbrock	William J. Strand
Roger & Linda Bissell	Bill Ferguson	H. E. Greenbacker	James Maxwell	Arthur R. Tinsz
Judd S. Blaze*	Michael G. Fitting	Matthew F. Griffin	John A. Novak	Edwin B. Tuthill, Jr.*
Bud & Bobbi Buckner	William H. Flagg	Arnold S. Grot	Robert F. Polito, Jr.	Charles & Barbara Yohe
Gary Byram	John W. Ford	Joseph O. Hoefflinger*	Daniel Reeve	Andy Zeidler*
Lowell H. Cantor	Steve & Keith Franson	Dana W. Ivey	Marshall Robinson	In Memory of RWB Donald Maehlenbrock
Peter D. Cleary	Robert J. Furce*	Vin & Pat Kalinauskas	William H. Schoeck	
Lester Culver, Jr.	Paul Garavel	Karl King	Michael Shear	

Grand Boosters *\$50 - \$99.99*

Gus Bodin	Earl S. Evans*	Lewis W. Pennell	Steven B. Shapiro
Bruce Cagenello	Walter Grube*	Anton Petras	Rodney Spooner
Steven Canada*	Gordon R. Hallberg*	George A. Rados	John Sturges
James D'Acosta	Laurence Hangland	William Reller	Philip D. True
John P. Dilks, Jr.	Robert J. Knowles	Charles A. Rogers	Gordon C. Willoughby*
David Elkodsi	Frederick F. Newberth, III	Heinz Rosskothén	H. Frederick Wintsch

Lodges & Organizations

<u>MASTER MASON LEVEL \$250 +</u>	<u>Fellowcraft Level \$150-\$249</u>	<u>Entered Apprentice Level \$75-\$149</u>	Evening Star Lodge No. 101
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89	Quinta Essentia Lodge No. 500	Anchor Lodge No. 112	St. Peter's Lodge No. 21*
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88		Coastal Lodge No. 57	Valley Lodge No. 36
Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107		Columbia Lodge No. 25	
King Hiram Lodge No. 12		Corinthian Lodge No. 63	
Union Lodge No. 5			

Booster *(\$25-\$49.99)*

Ken Buckbee	Gold Door in the Wall	Roger Knickerbocker	Marcos B. Ribeiro	Robert J. Shopey, Sr.*
Philip D. Cogle*	Donald Goodrich	Shannan Kinsella	William G. Rose	Robert J. Shopey, III*
William G. Demetriades	Richard Guimond	Robert B. McKay	Martin Rudnick	William T. Shopey
Victor George*	Cliff Kearney	Richard C. Memmott, Jr.	Darrel Scribner	In Memory of CA Duke

Now you can support **Connecticut Freemasons** newspaper online! There is a PayPal dropdown *Connecticut Freemasons* Booster form on the Grand Lodge home page (ctfreemasons.net) just below the PDF version of the paper. **Use the dropdown to select your level, click the "Pay Now" button and then follow the directions. You can pay with credit or debit cards or a PayPal account.

Or, scan the QR Code on the right with your smartphone to go directly to the Connecticut Freemasons page on the website. Scroll down and follow the instructions indicated ** above. The funds are used to help cover the printing and mailing expenses of the paper.



WINE, BEER & BOURBON

Friday, May 8, 2026

Knapp Auditorium at Ashlar Village

VIP Pre-flight Reception
5:00pm – 6:00pm

Around the World Tour
6:00pm – 9:00pm

We invite you to put your tray table in the upright position and travel the globe on Masonic-Air by purchasing your ticket to the 2026 Wine, Beer, and Bourbon Tasting.



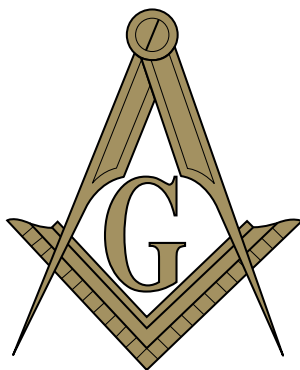
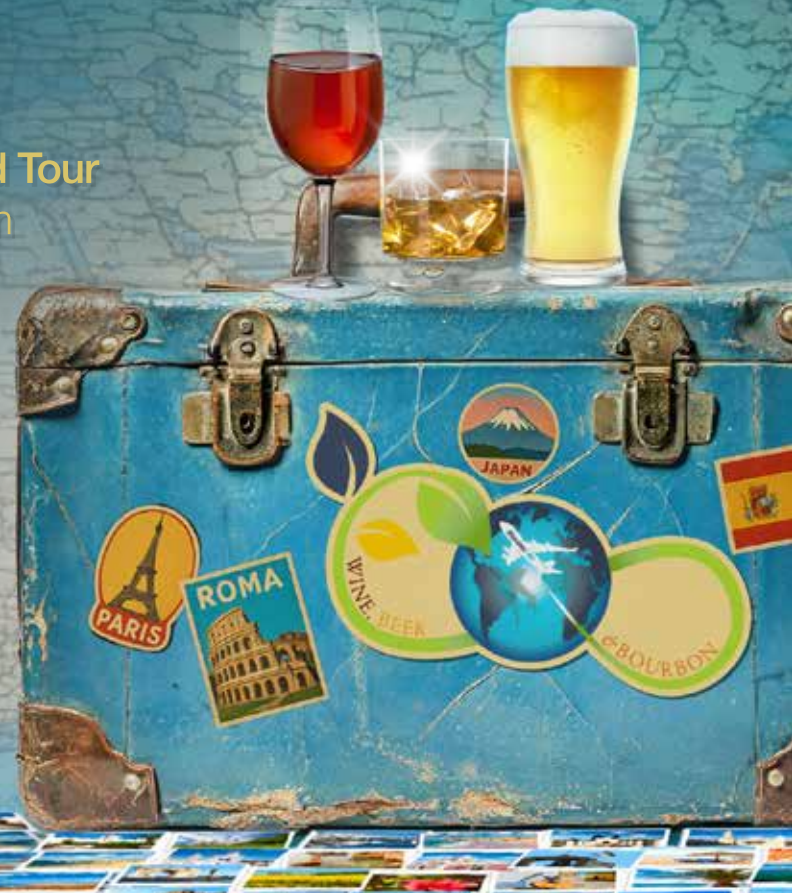
To register online, scan QR code or visit Masonicare.org/2026wine or RSVP to Tara Mulvey at 203.679.5571



The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut
The Philanthropic Affiliate of Masonicare



Premier Corporate Partner
GLENMEDE
ENDOWMENT & FOUNDATION MANAGEMENT



**2ND ANNUAL
MASONIC FLEA MARKET**

**SATURDAY
MAY 9TH
9:00-4:00**

**PINS
BOOKS
JEWELRY
ARTWORK
ANTIQUES**

**FREE
ENTRY**

**\$20
FOR A TABLE**

**CONTACT
DOMINIC
(203)910-3521**

**AMERICA ST. JOHNS #8
3960 MAIN STREET
STRATFORD, CT.**

Where Every Moment Shines.

Sunlit mornings. Laughter-filled afternoons. Evenings alive with connection.
These are the moments that matter.

These are Masonicare moments.

Striking residences. Vibrant, welcoming spaces. Every corner sparks conversation, every day invites discovery, and every moment, opportunity.

From all-inclusive living to fully customizable lifestyles,
Masonicare turns possibility into promise.

Shine on. ✨

Masonicare 

✧ An Ageless Commitment to Caring

888.332.0033

masonicare.org 



Chester | Farmington | Mystic | Newington | Rocky Hill | Shelton | Wallingford