



OCTOBER 2026
Digital Issue

Connecticut FREEMASONS



In This Issue

Call to Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge
Official Notice of the Annual Meeting of Masonicare

2026- 2027 Officers of the
Grand Lodge Af & AM
of Connecticut



- Bro. Shane Dufresne
Most Worshipful Grand Master
- Bro. F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr.
RW Deputy Grand Master
- Bro. Mark H. Hawkins
RW Grand Senior Warden
- Bro. James A. Moran, Jr.
RW Grand Junior Warden
- Bro. Thomas J. Gondek
RW Grand Treasurer
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RW Grand Secretary
- Bro. Matthew F. Griffin
RW Grand Senior Deacon
- Bro. Nicholas H. Ives
RW Grand Junior Deacon
- Bro. James A. Saraceni
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RW Grand Senior Steward
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Associate Grand Tiler
- Bro. Brian E. Beals
Deputy Grand Treasurer
- Bro. Gregory K. Whitehouse
Deputy Grand Secretary
- Bro. Mark W. Dzurnak
Assistant to the Grand Master



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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.



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THE GRAND LODGE
OF CONNECTICUT AF & AM

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The Universality of Masonry

by Francis G. Way

“They also denote the universality of Masonry” – Middle Chamber Lecture

Most of us reading this have heard the line “They also denote the universality of Masonry.” Many Connecticut Masons have experienced this universality if they are snowbirds, have moved away from Connecticut for warmer climates or other reasons, and have attended lodge in their new locations.

The ritual may be slightly different. An F&AM jurisdiction’s ritual will definitely be different than that of an AF&AM jurisdiction, but not largely so. For example, “a just and lawfully constituted lodge” may be “duly constituted” lodge. There may be little additions: in Nevada, the Bible lecture that Connecticut uses as part of the installation of officers is given, almost verbatim, in the Entered Apprentice degree as a candidate is being brought to light. Anteroom and preparation room may simply be referred to as outer door and inner door.

The order of business may be a bit different: asking the Wardens if there are charges at opening and closing in one jurisdiction may just be asking at closing in another. In lodge the other evening, we listened to the quarterly reading of suspensions and the like: brothers who had been suspended, dropped NPD, dropped for failure to advance (EAs and FCs have two years to advance – if not they are dropped, but may apply again after a certain amount of time), and voluntary withdrawals (demits). If brothers are not allowed to communicate Masonically with a brother who is suspended or unaffiliated, the logic is that they should know WHO has been suspended or become unaffiliated – they are read quarterly, in a lodge by lodge format.

Those are the differences. What are the commonalities?

Obviously the landmarks. Those landmarks are what will allow a brother to walk into any other lodge in any other jurisdiction and have an expectation of familiarity and regularity. Yes, the lectures to work your way in might be a tiny bit different – the passes and words might be given a bit differently, but they are the same words. You’ve already established that the lodge you’re visiting is not clandestine (or you should have!) and those minor differences are just that – and they can be worked through, perhaps with a laugh and a smile on both sides. The landmarks, though, are the same!

But most of all, at least in my experience, the warmth of brotherhood is universal. The first time, you walk in as a potential cowan, a stranger. But even still, when you give your name, someone smiles at you, a warm smile. It might be the person you contacted about visiting. If you’ve just walked in without making arrangements first, it might be any random brother. But in that smile, you’re put at ease – you know, even if they don’t yet, that you’re among brothers.

And it only gets better from there. Once you’re proven, the brothers always smile at you when you walk in. They tell you about the monthly breakfast for the public. They tell you about Tuesday morning breakfasts at the Roadhouse, 7 a.m., for the brothers, and you’re always welcome, and hey, we’ll send you a text to remind you. You are welcomed and introduced during the communication as a visitor. Maybe eventually you’ll petition for membership. But that feeling of fraternity, what we as Masons may sometimes take for granted in our mother lodge, is there, and it is strong.

If you’ve not had a chance to visit another lodge, you should do so. Even in Connecticut, little traditions differ from lodge to lodge and are fun to see. If you have a chance to visit out of state – especially an F&AM jurisdiction – you should definitely do so. You’ll experience one of the great joys of our fraternity: the universality of Masonry.

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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CALL TO THE REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. of CONNECTICUT October 17, 2026

The 2026 Regular Semi-Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut will be held in the auditorium of **The Hartog Activities Center at Ashlar Village on the Masonicare Campus in Wallingford, Connecticut, on Saturday, October 17, 2026.** You will need to follow the instructions of the Security Staff for parking. You may enter from either Cheshire Road or from Masonic Avenue. Bus transportation will be provided as necessary. **Please note that the Masonicare Campus is a 100% smoke-free facility.**

The formal opening will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Recommended arrival time is 8:00 a.m. Please note it is anticipated that the session may run slightly beyond noon, but it will conclude by 12:30 p.m.

This **Regular Communication** is called for the purpose of electing Grand Lodge Officers for the year 2027. In addition, we will receive certain committee reports, act on any legislative changes that may be for consideration, and other issues, time permitting, as directed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Shane Dufresne. Section 8203 of our Masonic Law does permit action on changes to the Rules and Regulations which are raised from the floor or motions presented in Committee Reports at the meeting without prior notice to the craft.

The Pending legislation items may be published in the September 2026 issue of CT Freemasons. Please bring the appropriate reference material with you to the meeting. Limited copies will be available. The current committee reports (October 2026) will be posted on the Grand Lodge membership system (Grand View).

Registration of delegates will begin at 8:00 a.m. **All Brothers attending must present a 2026 paper or virtual dues card upon entering the tiled lodge.** All voting delegates must register at the registration table. Registration will be by Lodge number as designated by posted signs in the area.

Should you not be able to attend in person as a principal officer of your Lodge or should you wish to proxy your vote representing your Lodge so you can vote on your own behalf, if eligible, please fill out a proxy form that will be mailed to you under separate cover. If your proxy form is not properly filled out and signed by you, it will not be accepted at the session. Each officer, or his proxy, should bring the appropriate Apron and Jewel of his respective office. Sections 2300 and 2301 of our Rules and Regulations state that a Roll of Lodges will occur early in the opening of the session. **Proxy forms will be emailed directly to the lodge officers.**

With my fraternal best wishes,

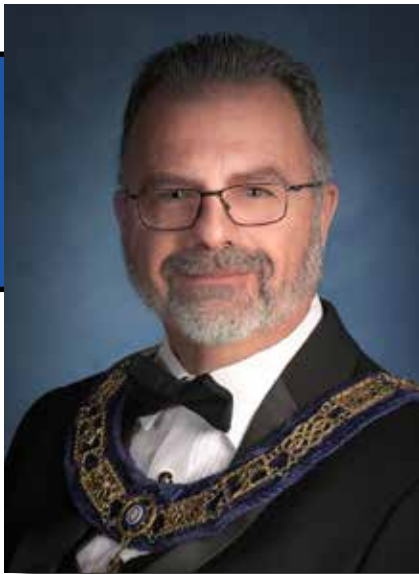
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Anderson".

Wallingford, Connecticut

James M. Anderson
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

TO BE READ AT THE NEXT STATED COMMUNICATION UPON RECEIPT

Directions to Ashlar Village on Page 9



Grand Master's Message

by MWB Shane Dufresne

Most of us have been back to lodge for about a month after our summer hiatus. We now begin the transition from the warmth of summer to the crisp winds of autumn. It carries a distinct sense of change. It's also an exciting time. It's like going back to school or a family reunion. We see those brothers we haven't seen in a while, and we reconnect and catch up. In the Freemasonry world, this seasonal shift is not merely a change in weather; it serves as a reminder that we have shifted from refreshment to labor. Our batteries are charged, and we are ready for the second half of the year. We prepare for inspections that may still need to be done, degree work, officers preparing for their next position in the lodge, awards night, and the annual meeting. The list goes on. It's certainly a busy time of the year. It challenges our 24" gauge because we are also balancing time with our home lives and work schedule. Then there are Thanksgiving and the religious holidays our brothers celebrate in the autumn.

Historically, many lodges didn't meet in the summer because they were tending to their crops and preparing for the harvest. Others didn't meet because older buildings lacked air conditioning. Interestingly, some lodges today have discussed "going dark" in January and February instead of July and August.

They would save some money on their heating bill. They could avoid venturing out into the cold weather. Not have to worry about ice- or snow-covered streets. It reduces the chance of slips and falls on ice-covered stairs and parking lots.

Autumn is universally recognized as the season of harvest, peace, and plenty. In Masonic teachings, symbols drawn from nature, like the sheaf of corn, are utilized to represent the bountiful rewards of labor, goodness, and a well-spent life.

However, autumn also marks the year's slow decline, reminding us of mortality. Days are shorter, nights are longer. For a lot of us, there are fewer days in front of us, and more are behind us. A core aspect of Masonic education involves reflecting on the temporary nature of earthly life. Just as the leaves change color, Masons can view the autumn of their own lives not with fear, but as a period of beautiful reflection, mature wisdom, and readiness for what follows. Ultimately, both autumn and Freemasonry serve a common purpose, prompting the individual to look inward, harvest the lessons of their labor, and prepare the mind for quieter, deeper wisdom. Does this mean we stop working on ourselves? Have we become a perfect ashlar? No, there is always work to be done to improve ourselves. We stop when we put down the working tools when the Grand Architect calls us home.

I am about halfway through my year serving as your Grand Master. Where has the time gone? I was told it would go quickly. I KNEW it would go by quickly. But it still seems surreal. I am proud to see all the great work our brothers are

doing in their communities and lodges. I have seen it firsthand. It makes me proud. Not because I had anything to do with their success and accomplishments. But to know I am part of this fraternity that makes a difference.

Coming soon, we will have a new program that we will be rolling out. I am so impressed by the brother who put this together. He has worked with a Grand Lodge officer and Masonicare to tweak it, and they have worked together seamlessly. I believe this will put Freemasonry in the spotlight.

I look forward to the second half of my year and meeting some of you for the first time and seeing again those I've seen before. May your harvest be bountiful and abundant.



Congratulations to Our New Brothers!

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

Joseph John Noti

Moosup Lodge No. 113

William M Buchert

Scott E. Jodoin

Michael Allen Robinson

Ryan Matthew Vose





OFFICIAL NOTICE

**ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVENTH
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MASONICARE CORPORATION**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026
MASONICARE AT ASHLAR VILLAGE
KNAPP AUDITORIUM
WALLINGFORD, CT 06492**

Time: 9:00 a.m. *

This meeting is being held as part of the Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication for all Voting Members of Masonicare. Please make every effort to attend.

The purpose of the meeting is to vote upon the following items:

- Approval of the 136th Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
- Election of Trustees
 1. Bro. Bruce R. Bellmore - Hiram Lodge No. 1
 2. Bro. Kerry Brown – Madison Lodge No. 97
 3. Sister Bonnie S. McWain - Frederica Chapter No. 110

Sincerely and Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Christopher J. Earle".

Christopher J. Earle
Chairman, Masonicare Corporation Board of Trustees

* Actual time is at the discretion of the Grand Master.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION — REDLINE

Section 7013 — Participation in Public Events

ADDING A DISPENSATION-FREE EXCEPTION FOR A SMALL LODGE CONTINGENT IN A PARADE

• Purpose

This amendment would permit a Lodge to place a small contingent — not less than seven members — in a parade in Masonic clothing without first obtaining a dispensation from the Grand Master, provided the participating members are clothed consistently as the Worshipful Master directs.

The general rule is unchanged: a dispensation remains required for a Lodge appearing or participating in public in aprons and jewels. The amendment adds a fourth item to the existing list of exceptions.

Each year the Grand Master puts forth a dispensation to allow Lodges to march in parades wearing their jewels and aprons. As this is now standard practice, this will allow that a regular dispensation to be codified in the Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations, ensuring that this will be a permanent change to encourage the visibility of the lodge in the community following dignified guidelines.

• Scope of the Amendment

Three changes are made:

1. A fourth exception is added for parade participation by seven or more members.
2. The inline enumeration “1) 2) 3)” is converted to lettered subsections a. through d., conforming Section 7013 to the house style used throughout the Rules and Regulations. Section 7013 is presently the only Section in the volume using inline parenthesis-numbered items.
3. A stray closing parenthesis in the final cross-reference is corrected.

No other Section requires a conforming amendment. Section 3800 (Dispensation Defined) already contemplates dispensations authorizing Masons to “participate in public events outside the lodge room,” and is unaffected. See, however, the note on Nickerson’s Digest Decision 207 at the end of this document.

• Redlined Text of Section 7013

Section 7013. Participation in Public Events. Masons may appear or participate in public events, wearing aprons and jewels or only an apron, provided the brother(s) or lodge receives a dispensation from the Grand Master. Dispensation is not required for ~~1) installation of officers; 2) a Masonic Service for a departed brother; or 3) by vote of the lodge, to attend divine worship.~~

- a. Installation of officers;
- b. A Masonic Service for a departed brother;
- c. By vote of the lodge, to attend divine worship; or
- d. Participation of not less than seven (7) members of a Lodge in a parade, provided that all participating members are clothed consistently, as determined by the Worshipful Master.

(See Section 3800) concerning dispensations(See Section 3800 concerning dispensations.)

[End of Section 7013.]

• Clean Text as Amended

For the convenience of the Committee, the Section as it would read upon adoption:

Section 7013. Participation in Public Events. Masons may appear or participate in public events, wearing aprons and jewels or only an apron, provided the brother(s) or lodge receives a dispensation from the Grand Master. Dispensation is not required for:

- a. Installation of officers
- b. A Masonic Service for a departed brother
- c. By vote of the lodge, to attend divine worship
- d. Participation of not less than seven (7) members of a Lodge in a parade, that all participating members shall appear in a suitably dignified manner, shall be clothed consistently, and participation shall be conducted in a manner to reflect credit upon the fraternity as determined by the Worshipful Master.

(See Section 3800 concerning dispensations.)

• Note on the Effect on Nickerson’s Digest Decision 207

Decision 207 (Barlow, G.M. 1880, 20) holds that a Lodge which turned out and marched in procession in Masonic clothing, officers wearing jewels, violated the rule forbidding a Lodge to appear in public except under dispensation or to attend funerals. The Digest annotates it to the present Section 7013.

Upon adoption, that Decision would be partly superseded as to a contingent of seven or more. Recommend the annotation be amended to read: “For present regulation see GLR&R, Sections 3912, 7013; see also Section 7013(d) as to parade participation by not fewer than seven members.”

Decision 239 (G.L. Smith, G.M. 1969, 33), granting two Lodges approval to participate in a town Bicentennial parade in regalia, remains illustrative and requires no change — it concerned Lodges participating as such, which continues to require a dispensation. Decision 404 (Lockwood, G.M. 1873, 243) is already marked obsolete and needs no attention.

• Committee Action

Prepared by the Committee on Legal Matters pursuant to Section 2208.



PROPOSED LEGISLATION — REDLINE

Section 3515 — Grand Lodge Lifetime Membership Plan

CLOSING THE PLAN TO NEW APPLICANTS WHILE PRESERVING EXISTING PARTICIPANTS

• Purpose

This proposed change to Section 3513 of the Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations would close the Grand Lodge Lifetime Membership Plan to new applicants while preserving, in full, the rights of every Master Mason whose application was approved before the effective date

Section 3513 is NOT repealed. A repeal would leave existing Lifetime Members without any textual basis for the dues and Per Capita exemption they have already paid for, and would strand the remittance obligations in Subsection m., which continue for ten calendar years following a Lifetime Member's death. The Section must therefore survive until no Lifetime Membership remains outstanding.

Life memberships cannot scale equivalent to the needs of the budget changes required for proper balanced budgets presented by the Grand Lodge. All brothers who already participate in the program would not be affected, but no new applications will be accepted after January 1, 2027.

• Scope of the Amendment

The amendment touches the Section heading and the introductory paragraph only. Subsections a. through m. and the provisions governing Management of the Funds are unchanged and continue to govern grandfathered participants.

Section 3513 has no textual cross-references elsewhere in the Rules and Regulations. The index entries at DUES, PLURAL MEMBERSHIP, PRIMARY LODGE, LODGE DUES and TRUSTEES cite the Section by number only and resolve correctly without amendment. No conforming changes to other Sections are required.

• Redlined Text of Section 3513

Section 3513 Grand Lodge Lifetime Membership Plan

Closed to New Applicants.

~~Grand Lodge may establish a Lifetime Membership plan to allow Master Masons to pay in advance their Primary Lodge dues and Grand Lodge per capita tax based on criteria established by the Budget and Finance Committee and approved by Grand Lodge.~~

The Grand Lodge Lifetime Membership Plan, established to allow Master Masons to pay in advance their Primary Lodge dues and Grand Lodge Per Capita tax, is closed to new applicants effective January 1, 2027. No application for Lifetime Membership received by the Grand Secretary on or after that date shall be accepted or approved.

Any Master Mason whose application for Lifetime Membership was approved by the Grand Secretary before January 1, 2027, shall retain all rights, exemptions, credits and obligations under this Section as it existed at the time of such approval. Subsections a. through m. and the provisions governing Management of the Funds shall continue in full force and effect as to such members and shall not be repealed until no Lifetime Membership remains outstanding and every remittance required by Subsection m. has been completed

Nothing in this amendment shall alter the rights of a participant as set forth in Subsection c., of this section, or to complete the requisite installment payments as set forth in Subsection b., provided that the application was approved before January 1, 2027.

[Subsections a. through m., and the provisions headed "Management of the funds," are unchanged and are reproduced below for reference.]

• Subsections a. through m. — Unchanged

- a. Application for Lifetime Membership shall be on a form prescribed by Grand Lodge and shall be signed by the applicant, the Secretary of the applicant's Primary Lodge and the Grand Secretary.
- b. Payment of amount due shall be included with the application when submitted to the Grand Secretary.
 1. Applicant may elect to pay the amount due in installments subject to a nonrefundable administrative fee of ten percent of the deferred payment which shall be paid with the application.
 2. The minimum installment payment is fifty percent with the application and the balance paid within one year from the date the application was approved by the Grand Secretary.
 3. Failure to pay the installment balance when due will result in termination of participation in the Plan. Participant will be entitled to a refund of the amount paid reduced by the administrative fee, the Per Capita tax and the lodge dues credited to the lodge.
- c. Once approved, the payment becomes non-refundable after sixty (60) days following the acceptance of the application. The Grand Secretary shall establish procedures to request a withdrawal from the plan during that sixty (60) day period.
- d. The Lifetime Membership shall become effective on January 1st of the year following the acceptance of the application.
- e. The participating member shall not be subject to the Grand Lodge Dues, Assessments or Per Capita tax and the dues of his Primary Lodge (at the time of application) during his lifetime. He shall be liable for future assessments levied by his Primary Lodge.
- f. The member shall be subject to dues and assessments levied by a lodge in which he maintains affiliate membership.
- g. The Lifetime Membership is not transferable by the member to another Master Mason.
- h. Should the Lifetime Member voluntarily sever his membership with the Primary Lodge (at the time of application), the successor Primary Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall, for the purposes of this Section, be credited with the amounts described in Subsection m that had been payable to the original Primary Lodge. The Lifetime Member may be liable to the successor lodge for lodge dues and assessments more than the annual credit the lodge will receive.
- i. Subpart 47 Nonpayment of Dues/Unassociated Mason shall not apply to a Lifetime Member's Primary Lodge (at the time of application) but will apply to 1) dues of a successor Primary Lodge more than the annual credit the lodge will receive, and 2) dues owing to his affiliate lodge membership(s).

Continued on page 9

Proposed Legislation - Section 3513 continued from page 8

- j. Should a Lifetime Member be subject to Masonic Trial and subject to an involuntary loss of membership in his Primary Lodge he shall have his Lifetime Membership suspended until his membership in his Primary Lodge is restored. If a sentence of expulsion is imposed, unless his membership is restored in accordance with Section 4403 within five (5) years, he shall forfeit his Lifetime Membership. If the Lifetime Member has not been restored to the Primary Lodge membership rolls by December 31st, the annual credit due the Primary Lodge against the Per Capita tax shall be omitted.
- k. Should the Primary Lodge merge into or consolidate with one or more other lodges, the Lifetime Membership shall transfer to the successor lodge as prescribed in Section 4100(f). The Lifetime Member may be liable to the successor lodge for lodge dues and assessments more than the annual credit the lodge will receive.
- l. Should the Primary Lodge surrender its charter, the Lifetime Member shall continue to be a Master Mason in good standing, and he shall notify the Grand Secretary of his successor Primary Lodge in accordance with Section 4006 or Section 4100(e). The new Primary Lodge in this event shall succeed to the payments owing to the former Primary Lodge and the Lifetime Member may be liable to the successor lodge for lodge dues and assessments more than the annual credit the lodge will receive.
- m. Annually, the Grand Secretary shall report to each lodge the Master Masons who have a Lifetime Membership and shall show as credits against the Grand Lodge Per Capita assessment the following amounts:
1. The Grand Lodge Per Capita Assessment unless the member is otherwise exempt by Section 3508.
 2. The Primary Lodge dues that were assessed in the year of application, increased by a compounding factor of 1.00 percent annually beginning with the second year. The remittance of the lodge dues will continue for ten (10) calendar years following the death of the Lifetime Member.
3. If the Primary Lodge exempts members from lodge dues and the amount paid with the application is based on the lodge exemption, then the payments to the lodge shall end in the year the member would no longer be subject to the Primary Lodge dues.

• Management of the Funds — Unchanged

- a. The Grand Trustees shall hold and invest the funds in trust having received the same from the Grand Treasurer.
- b. At the discretion of the Grand Trustees a separate subaccount may be established for the funds received.
- c. The Grand Trustees shall invest the funds consistent with the investment strategies utilized for other investments held by the Trustees.
- d. The fund may be assessed for investment expenses incurred consistent with investment expenses incurred for other funds held by the Trustees.
- e. Annually, on or about March 1st, the Grand Secretary shall notify Trustees of the amount required to be distributed to Grand Lodge in accordance with Subparagraph m.

• Committee Action

Prepared by the Committee on Legal Matters pursuant to Section 2208.



ASHLAR VILLAGE DIRECTIONS

The Masonicare Campus is a 100% Smoke-Free Facility.

From Hartford, Connecticut

- I-91 South to exit #17 (Wilbur Cross Parkway - Route 15 South)
- Take exit #58A, at end of ramp there is a traffic light, turn left at light
- Immediately at next traffic light, turn right onto Cheshire Road
- Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right

From Waterbury, Connecticut

- 84 East to exit #27 (691 East) towards Meriden/Middletown
- Take exit #1B (Wilbur Cross Parkway – Route 15 South)
- Take exit #58A, at end of ramp there is a traffic light, turn left at light
- Immediately at next light, turn right onto Cheshire Road
- Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right

From Essex, Connecticut

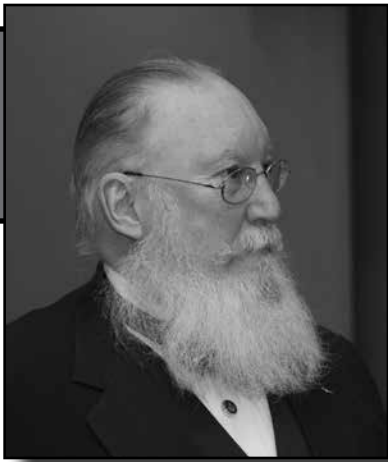
- Route 9 North to exit #30 (I-91 South) on the left towards New Haven
- Take exit #17 (W. Cross Pkwy - Route 15 South)
- Take exit #58A, at end of ramp there is a traffic light, turn left at light
- Immediately at next traffic light, turn right onto Cheshire Road
- Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right

From New Haven, Connecticut via Route 15

- Route 15 North to exit #58A
- Turn left at traffic light
- At second light, turn right onto Cheshire Road
- Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right

From New Haven, Connecticut via I-91

- I-91 North to exit #11
- At traffic light turn left Route 22 (CT-22 W) turn left take ramp onto CT 15N (Wilbur Cross Pkwy) toward Hartford
- Route 15 North to exit #58A
- Turn left at traffic light
- At second light, turn right onto Cheshire Road
- Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right



From the Desk of the Grand Chaplain

by WB Harold A. (Hal) Elwell

If you're reading this, you must have some time on your hands. Is it too much time? Are you bored? If so, that might not be a bad thing.

Recent studies show researchers are moving away from the general assumption that boredom is simply a function of having nothing to do and can be overcome by doing "something." Some studies now indicate that boredom may be an emotion with a distinct function for our psychological, and possibly even physical, health. Just as hunger is a signal that we need fuel for our bodies, boredom may be a signal that we need to nourish our minds. But we might satisfy boredom without giving our minds anything of real value. Just as we ought to consider our food choices when hungry, maybe when we are bored, we should ask, "What does my mind need?"

In the world today, we have more opportunities to occupy our attention than any generation before us. There is always something to watch, something to read, something to listen to, or something to scroll through. But are we nourishing our minds, or are we simply feeding them? We can keep ourselves constantly entertained without ever finding anything that gives our lives greater meaning. Boredom continues and perhaps follows the attention spiral down and gets worse.

What does that mean to us as Masons? From the beginning of our Masonic journey, we are taught that we are beginning a process of self-improvement. We are given lessons, symbols, obligations, and working tools intended to help us become better men. The work is never completely finished. The rough ashlar is an excellent illustration of this idea.

We begin as imperfect and unfinished stones, and through the proper use of the working tools, we seek to improve ourselves. The common gavel reminds us of the need to remove the rough edges of character that interfere with our relationships with others. The 24-inch gauge reminds us that our time is limited and should be properly divided. The square and the plumb furnish models for our actions. These lessons are not intended simply to occupy our minds. They are intended to nourish them.

Masonry asks us to think, to listen, to observe, and to reflect. The Holy Bible on the altar reminds us that there is wisdom greater than our own. The working tools remind us that becoming better men requires effort and attention. And the trowel reminds us that our work is not solely about ourselves. We are to spread brotherly love and affection and to build stronger relationships with those around us.

Perhaps that is one remedy for boredom. We don't necessarily need more entertainment. We may need more purpose.

If we find ourselves with time on our hands, perhaps we should ask whether there is a brother who could use a visit or a telephone call. Is there a new Mason who needs encouragement? Is there someone who could benefit from an act of kindness? Is there some work that needs to be done in our Lodge or in our community?

We should be as thoughtful about how we spend our time as we are about what we put into our bodies.

The next time you find yourself bored, consider it a signal that what you are engaged in isn't working out as planned. Lean into the boredom. Discover what is lacking and give your mind a rest from the useless distractions that may briefly hold your attention but really don't satisfy anything. Remember that there is always another stone to square, another rough edge to remove, another brother to assist, and another opportunity to put our Masonic principles into practice. The work of building the Temple is never completely finished.



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The Grand Historian's Corner

Bro. David J. Stewart

Canopies, Big Trees, and the Overshadowed Brother

Imagine the canopy of a great tree. In nature, nothing grows well beneath certain large trees. Why? Because of intense competition for resources, limited sunlight, shallow, widespread root systems that monopolize water and nutrients, and the dense canopy that blocks life-giving light. The result is a place that is hostile to new growth.

Can this happen in our lodges? Can seasoned, knowledgeable, well-meaning Master Masons sometimes become the very canopy that prevents growth? We teach that Masonry is a progressive science. We speak of light: seeking it, receiving it, and sharing it. The Entered Apprentice is brought from darkness to light; the Fellowcraft is encouraged to advance in his knowledge with more light; and the Master Mason is raised to a new understanding.

Growth is built into our system. Yet if we overshadow our newly made brothers, dominate every discussion, fill every chair, make every decision, answer every question before they even have time to think, then we unintentionally block their light.

This is the danger of the "big tree" Mason; there is nothing wrong with strength, with knowledge, and with experience. But if we are not careful, we can become like the dense oak whose roots stretch wide and whose branches block the sun.

A newly made brother may sit quietly, unsure how to participate, unsure if his ideas would be welcome, and unsure if there is room for him to grow. In due time, without light, nourishment, and opportunity, he withers, not because he lacked potential, but because he lacked space and did not gain a strong Masonic education.

What should we do?

A wise gardener does not remove the great tree. Instead, he prunes it and ensures light reaches the forest floor.

So how do we apply this Masonically? We offer the new brother meaningful work and get him involved. We let him make mistakes and learn. We invite his voice in discussions, offer encouragement with education and study, and offer mentorship, not dominance.

This is the true strength of the lodge. A lodge is not measured by how strong its senior members are. It is measured by how well it prepares its future.

When we allow brothers to grow, especially our newer ones, then the lodge becomes vibrant, leadership multiplies, knowledge expands, and peace and harmony prevail. We move from being a forest of one towering tree to a thriving grove of strong pillars.

Let us be always mindful that when a newly made brother enters his lodge, he is tenderly growing. He carries potential we may not yet see. Let us not overshadow him. Let us instead stand as pillars that support the structure, not canopies that block the light. Give him tools. Give him nourishment. Give him opportunity.

And then—watch him grow.



Congratulations to Our 50-Year Members!

Richard Borkowski
Peter V. Hansen
Unity Lodge No. 148

John B. Anderson
Charles A. Buck, Jr.
William C. Byers
James R. Gleason
Jon C. Hopwood
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

James R. Candee
Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge No. 142

Williston B. Case, Jr.
Millard L. Soule, Jr.
St. Luke's Lodge No. 48

Randall I. Graff
Washington Lodge No. 70

Kenneth R. Kierstein
Marvin R. McGee
Union Lodge No. 31

Bruce Levkoff
Ark Lodge No. 39

Donald Bruce McCausland
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

Richard A. Philippi
Compass Lodge No. 9

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



Robert John Cascone
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

Horace A. Cushman
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Roger A. Galvin
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Martin J. Hallier
Widow's Son Lodge No. 66

Kevin J. Merz
Acacia Lodge No. 85

Edward S. Pocock, Jr.
Friendship Lodge No. 33

Washington Lodge No. 70 Hosts First CARES Community Safety Training

by Victor Barile

Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor hosted a training session on August 22 for the new CARES, *Eyes Open & Voices Heard* Community Safety Program, welcoming more than 20 brothers from eight lodges. Those brothers became the program's first certified practitioners, marking an important milestone in the rollout of this new community safety initiative.

The program is an initiative of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut's Committee on Community Action (COCA). It is designed to replace the former Child Identification Program with a broader, more modern approach to community safety, awareness, and preparedness for vulnerable youth and seniors.

Additional training sessions will be offered statewide as the program expands. Informational program brochures and new child and senior identification kits are also being developed in collaboration with Masonicare, further strengthening the effort to provide Connecticut families and communities with useful safety resources.

"This is probably a first-of-its-kind approach to addressing at-risk youth and seniors," said RWB Mark Hawkins, a training attendee and Chairman of COCA.

RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., also attended and congratulated the brothers for their participation. He recognized WM Victor Barile for his leadership in bringing the training together during what has been a busy summer for the brothers of the 6th District.

RWB Heinrich further stated, "The successful training at Washington Lodge No. 70 marks an important step in launching the CARES, *Eyes Open & Voices Heard* program across Connecticut. With the first group of certified practitioners now prepared to



serve, this initiative is positioned to support lodges, families, and communities through education, awareness, and proactive safety engagement, while also advancing one of the goals of MWGM Shane Dufresne."

As COCA finalizes the new child and senior safety resources, future training sessions will be announced throughout the state. The work begun at Washington Lodge No. 70 sets a strong foundation for a program focused on vigilance, compassion, and meaningful community service.

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

When a Masonicare employee gets an award from us or an industry partner like LeadingAge, they often comment that they don't think about their work in terms of recognition. Instead, they usually talk about the joy they feel in building genuine relationships with others. Which, of course, is at the heart of what we do.

Awards for Masonicare, on the other hand, are a group achievement. *Forbes* recently included Masonicare on its list of America's Best Employers by State – one of only 348 healthcare organizations nationally to make the list. This followed a nationwide survey of more than 245,000 U.S. workers in which respondents were asked to recommend their employer on a scale of 0 to 10 based on criteria including wages and benefits, management style, company reputation, flexibility, and career advancement opportunities. Our inclusion on this list is a testament to how Masonicare employees really feel about our culture, and I'm so grateful for their feedback.

Masonicare was also named the top nonprofit (250+ employees) in the *Hartford Business Journal's* 2026 Business Excellence Awards, which celebrate exceptional businesses and their achievements, innovation, and meaningful contributions to Connecticut's economy and communities.

These honors don't just increase awareness of our mission and drive interest in our services. They're also tangible evidence that the Masonic values of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth continue to make a meaningful difference in people's lives. And they reflect our ongoing commitment to carrying forward the vision Freemasons helped establish over 130 years ago. YOU get to share that pride.

Masonicare employees, family members, board members, and others participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's last month

in New London. If you'd like to join us in the fight against this disease, we will also have teams at the Central Connecticut Walk in Bristol on Saturday, October 17, the Greater New Haven Walk on Sunday, October 18, the Fairfield County Walk in Westport on Sunday, October 25, and the Greater Hartford Walk in East Hartford on Saturday, October 31. To join or support any of our teams, please visit alz.org/walk and select "Find a Team," then enter MASONICARE



I want to offer my sincere thanks to Bro. Shane Dufresne, Most Worshipful Grand Master, and fellow officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF&AM, for performing TWO Masonic cornerstone ceremonies for us in the same week to celebrate the grand openings of the pavilion at Masonicare at Mystic and the Golf and Gathering Complex at Masonicare at Ashlar Village. Both projects were supported by gifts to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut and offer residents, family members, staff, and others new spaces and opportunities to socialize, build connections, and share good times.

We'll have many more updates for you at the Semi-Annual Communication on October 17 at Ashlar Village. I hope to see you there!

Yours fraternally,

Jon-Paul Venoit



JP Venoit shows off one of two custom wood and resin tabletops in the Golf and Gathering Complex at Ashlar Village.



In Mystic, Grand Lodge officers performed the traditional Masonic cornerstone ceremony indoors before moving outside for the pavilion ribbon-cutting, refreshments, and entertainment.



At the Golf and Gathering Complex ribbon-cutting are (from left) WB Jon-Paul Venoit, President and CEO of Masonicare, Masonic Charity Foundation Executive Director Carrie McMahon, MWB Charles W. Yohe, RWB Christopher J. Earle, Chairman of the Masonicare Board of Trustees, Barbara Yohe, Bro. Gary Gonzalez, and MWB Shane Dufresne

OF SECRECY AND SILENCE NO. 2

by John A. Amarilios, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

The Lafayette Consistory swings into the fall degree season in earnest with the presentation of the 11th Degree with a live cast on October 26, followed by a video showing of the 8th Degree. Mark your calendars for Monday, November 16, for a live presentation of the 27th Degree, followed by a video presentation of the 23rd Degree. Degrees start on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and are preceded by sumptuous repasts at 6 p.m. with a suggested donation of \$10.

On the Family Life front, the Annual Turkey Trot 5K Road Race, on November 26, Thanksgiving morning at 7:30 a.m., starts and ends in front of the theatre and supports our Children's Dyslexia Centers. On December 5, we travel to New York for the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular, a 90-minute Christmas show at the Rockefeller Center. On December 18, the Annual Holiday Party and fundraiser for the Children's Dyslexia Centers takes place at the Woodwinds Banquet Facility. If you have questions or would like to make reservations, call the Consistory Office at (203) 375-0064 during business hours for further information and to check on availability and cost.



Last month we alluded to the need for light workers to master the art of silence and secrecy. Today we will further develop the mechanics of this process, which is a prerequisite to the attainment of one's goals. I have often spoken of the dual nature of man – namely the bodily personality, which is transient and which turns to dust upon transition. The body and its personality are imbued with what we call a rational conscious mind. It reasons, and it reacts to facts and physical appearances. This conscious mind, unfortunately, is the main source of error when it tries to force an outcome through tension and analysis of facts and situations.

On the other hand, the subconscious is a faculty of the never-ending soul which is seamlessly grafted onto the physical body at the time of birth. This double entity known as Man is endowed with what one might term a "faithful manager" – the timeless and un-aging soul that is most powerful, blind, and always executing the commands that it receives. It brings long-forgotten experiences and skills that remain resident within its massive records. This subconscious will execute what it is told to do and can be accessed through one's imagination and "inner speech," which is used in a higher-dimensional process that all men can employ, again unconsciously.

To a certain extent, all of humanity can access this higher dimension of thought, symbols, and ideas. Some can do so with greater dexterity and efficiency than others. This subconscious realm is where perfect ideas and resolved conditions exist. Artists, writers, inventors, managers, amongst others, all find solutions in this realm. In our 4th Degree, Solomon struggles to access this realm when he tries to put down the needed work on his trestleboard.

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention All Master Masons!
2026 SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES
Reservations required.
Call the Consistory Office at (203) 375-0064.
Mon. Oct. 26, 11th Degree (live) 8th Degree (video)
Mon Nov. 16, 23rd Degree (live) 27th Degree (video)
For the latest copy of the
Lafayette Consistory News visit
<https://ctfreemasons.net/appendantbodies/lafayetteconsistory/> or scan the QR code below.

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 sharky53@snet.net 203-565-3024
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For more information, contact the Valley near you or email Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com.

Problems arise when we do not allow the subconscious mind to do its work but interfere with it by having the rational mind hurl worry, doubt, and all sorts of emotional pressures at the same problem or issue. Fear and worry are forms of negative prayer, and both emotions invite the exact conditions that one wishes to avoid. This is an unfortunate and unintended attraction.

Once again, I must stress the treasure that is doled out to each one of our brothers on the second page of their Entered Apprentice ritual. Yes, you are here to subdue your passions. Fear, doubt, and worry are some of the passions that exhibit the lowest rate of vibration that man can express, and as I have described above, it will interfere with the creative process that one intends to manifest. Your success depends on your subduing your passions. Next month I will further develop this process for your success as a brother seeking light, as well as a man seeking success and accomplishment on the material plane of existence.

Fiat Lux!

As always, the Valley of Bridgeport stands ready to help further your understanding of the three degrees of Freemasonry. Should you have questions about the Scottish Rite, please feel free to contact me at the email address above, or call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064.





It's Your Generosity That Turns *Hope* Into *Possibility*.

We are deeply grateful to the CT Freemason community for their generous service and support of Masonicare.

You helped build these sanctuaries of fellowship and care. We were so pleased to honor and celebrate you at our President's Luncheon, honoring The Masonic Charity Foundation's benefactors.



Donations from Connecticut's Freemasons and Lodges to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut are more than a gift; they bring ambitious projects to life, like the new Golf and Gathering Complex at Masonicare at Ashlar Village and The Pavilion at Masonicare at Mystic.



We look forward to strengthening our legacy of charity together.

We invite you to contact Executive Director Carrie McMahon at 203.679.5572 to learn more about investing in Masonicare's future by being part of our Growing Tomorrow campaign.

With gratitude,
The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut



The Masonic Charity Foundation
of Connecticut
The Philanthropic Affiliate of Masonicare



Want to Read the Digital Editions of *Connecticut Freemasons*? Read Them on the New Phone App Created by Frank Way!

With the *Connecticut Freemasons* moving to a hybrid distribution model (five of the 11 editions a year in digital format only), it just made sense to provide a way for subscribers to easily read the newspaper on their phones or tablets. So, we built the “CTFM Reader” app. No more having to go to the website, find the PDF, and download it; the app provides easy, convenient access.

The CTFM Reader app lets users open the app, select an edition of the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper, and read it. You can scroll, zoom, take screenshots, use landscape mode, and just about anything else you would expect to do in a reader app.

The CTFM Reader app (V1.0) is now live in the Apple App Store (see the QR code accompanying this article) for iPhone and iPad devices and is in final testing on the Google Play Store for Android. The Android version should be available in late September.

Enhancements are already being worked on for the next major release (V2.0), so even better things are coming.



QR code for Apple.



Feature graphic from the Google Play store.



Main edition selection page, Android screen capture.



Reading September edition, iPhone screen capture.



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Valley of New Haven First Annual Golf Tournament for Children's Dyslexia Centers

by Cyril Embil

On August 25, the Valley of New Haven hosted its First Annual Connecticut Scottish Rite Charity Golf Tournament at Lyman Orchards Golf Course.

This event brought brothers, friends, and supporters together for a memorable day of golf, fellowship, and service. The four-player scramble featured friendly competition, contests, prizes, and a banquet—but the real winner was the cause.

The event raised more than \$7,000, all of which will benefit the Connecticut Children's Dyslexia Centers and support their important work helping children overcome the challenges of dyslexia.

Congratulations to the winning team from the Valley of Bridgeport: Mark Hawkins, Mark Bedan, and Jay Mountain. Other winners were Closest to the Pin: Steve Allinson 33° and Stacey Allen; Longest Drive: Sal Ferrigno 32°

A special thank-you to Brother Earle, the organizing team, sponsors, golfers, volunteers, and everyone who helped make this inaugural tournament a success.

We look forward to welcoming golfers and friends back next year.



From the Quarry: Living Squarely

by Paul Ladd

Most men know the right thing to do long before they decide to do it. The difficulty rarely lies in understanding what is right. More often it appears in the moment when action becomes necessary. That quiet space between knowing and doing is where character is tested.

A man may hold strong beliefs about honesty, fairness, and responsibility. He may speak about those values with conviction. Yet life has a way of presenting situations where acting on those principles requires a measure of resolve. Convenience begins to compete with conviction.

Sometimes the easier path appears harmless enough. A small compromise here, a quiet omission there. In the moment, these decisions may seem insignificant. Yet they have a way of shaping the direction of a man's conduct over time.

The Craft offers a symbol that speaks clearly to this challenge: The Square.

To an operative mason, the square ensured that stones met at the proper angle. Without that alignment, the structure would slowly lose its strength. Even a slight deviation, repeated across many stones, could weaken the entire building.

The symbolism is direct.

A life built upon sound principles must also remain aligned with those principles through action. Beliefs alone are not enough. They find their strength in the choices a man makes each day.

That alignment does not always come easily. Every man encounters moments when circumstances invite him to drift slightly away

from the standards he intends to keep. A difficult conversation may tempt him toward impatience. A disagreement may encourage words he would normally avoid. The pressure of a situation may make compromise appear reasonable in the moment. These are the moments when the square becomes meaningful.

The tool itself does not correct the stone. It simply reveals whether the work remains true. In much the same way, reflection allows a man to examine whether his actions still align with the principles he claims to value. Recognizing those moments requires honesty. Responding to them requires resolve.

And if we are candid with ourselves, nearly every man can remember a moment when he sensed that quiet tension between what would be easy and what would be right. Sometimes we handled the moment well. Other times we may look back and realize we would choose differently today.

Those experiences are part of the work. A man who chooses to live squarely understands that character is formed through many small decisions made over time. Each choice aligned with his principles strengthens the structure he is building.

Those decisions may seem ordinary in the moment. Yet they quietly form the foundation of a life that stands firm.

Reflection

Where in your life right now is there a place where aligning action with principle could strengthen the structure you are building?



Distinguished Public Service Award

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut is proud to introduce the Distinguished Public Service Award. If you know a brother or a someone in your community who has made an impact, we encourage you to nominate him or her for this Distinguished Public Service Award. Whether a first responder, a medical professional, an educator, or anyone who has made a difference in your community, we want to pay them special recognition.

You can find the application in the Resources section on GrandView. We look forward to recognizing YOUR nominee in the near future.

Valley of Hartford 22nd Annual Connecticut Children Dyslexia Centers 5K Road Race

by **Arnie Grot**

On July 25, the Valley of Hartford, AASR held its 22nd Annual 5K Road Race to raise funds for the Children Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut.

The Children's Dyslexia Centers apply a science-of-reading-based, structured language approach to teach literacy. Children receive one-on-one tutoring twice a week after regular school hours. This allows for the curriculum to be tailored to each individual child, with progress made in small, quantifiable steps.

Race Director Deepack Saluru organized a dedicated team of volunteers who worked tirelessly to set up, support runners during the race, and take down and clean up afterward. Eighty-five runners participated and finished the race on a sunny Saturday morning, with temperatures around 70 degrees.



At the start...



Volunteers from CT DeMolay.



Ill. Bro. Howard Turner checks in Danielle Postemski for the race.



Max Schweitzer, first place overall.



K. Morrison, first female (13 and under).

Race Results.

Age Group	Place	Runner	Gun Time
Female 1 - 13	1	K. Morrison	43:01.9
	2	O. Russell	43:19.3
Male 14 - 19	1	Roan Christmann	18:27.8
	2	Alden Nielsen	35:43.2
Female 20 - 29	1	Riley Listro	26:06.5
	2	Katherine Swierk	27:37.1
Male 20 - 29	1	Mark Lindberg	20:03.3
	2	Marcus Wilson	20:16.1
Female 30 - 39	1	Michelle Raymes	26:20.7
	2	Ashley Hopfenblatt	29:35.8
Male 30 - 39	1	Christopher Scott	22:43.6
	2	Julio Franco	23:37.4
Female 40 - 49	1	Danielle Postemski	30:43.9
	2	Jen Howe	31:03.1
Male 40 - 49	1	Justin Friedman	24:13.2
	2	Matt Miller	27:18.7
Female 50 - 59	1	MJ Montz	24:38.4
	2	Tracey Meyers	31:38.9
Male 50 - 59	1	Francesco Daniele	22:00.0
	2	Rafael Garcia	23:17.0
Female 60 - 69	1	Paulette Gleit	30:08.5
	2	Bernadette Lecza	33:11.5
Male 60 - 69	1	Kevin Pfeifferle	32:00.0
	2	Lawrence Regan	22:52.8
Male 70 - 79	1	Jay Keiser	32:18.1
	2	Stephen Johnson	1:00:54.5
Male 80 - 99	1	Tom Caporaso	38:56.4



Ashley O'Connell, first female finisher, (12th overall).



Bro. Arnie Grot and Newington Police Officer Gleit.



Bro. Saluru and some of the Valley of Hartford volunteers.



Tom Corporaso, oldest male runner, winner, Male 80-99.

The New Haven Masonic Temple

1926 ✿ Centennial ✿ 2026



Open House & Re-dedication Ceremony

October 3rd, 2026 10:00am to 2:00pm

Please join us as the Grand Master and his corps of Grand Lodge officers, re-dedicate the building to the use of our fraternity.

After the ceremony we'll offer tours of the building and have displays by all our owning bodies as well as other past a present resident organizations.

Come and enjoy a stroll around our building and enjoy some light refreshments in the dinning hall.

Centennial Gala Celebration

October 24th, 2026 6:00pm at the lodge in New Haven

This formal affair will include dinner in the Banquet Hall with musical entertainment and a number of presentations including some historical information to get to know our temple. We'll have some thank you gifts which include carefully curated Centennial memorabilia.

Tickets to the Gala are \$55 per person which includes a drink ticket.



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Consider joining our **"Centennial Club"**.

The donation is \$100 and includes:

- Your name on the Centennial Club plaque.
- A Centennial commemorative Coin.
- A Centennial formal tie. (bow or straight)

The Colonial Entered Apprentice Degree at Fort Nathan Hale

by Jeffrey Blayman

On Saturday, August 29, with the sun setting on Fort Nathan Hale in New Haven, 90 brothers witnessed the initiation of two candidates, a fitting celebration of the country's 250th anniversary. Bros. Amin Behzadi and Stephen Watson of Trumbull Lodge No. 22 became Masons on this special evening.

The degree kicked off at 6:15 p.m. under the gavel of RWB Glenn Jacques and the members of Hiram Lodge No. 1, the oldest lodge in Connecticut. The unique verbiage of their ritual, in conjunction with the costumes and relics of a lodge chartered in 1750 at a historic location, made for an extremely special degree opportunity. With the additional support of innumerable worthy Brothers delivering the lectures, the evening was both interesting and educational.

Numerous members of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut attended, including MWGM Shane Dufresne, who personally recognized brothers who traveled from Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts to witness this special communication. He also thanked the countless individuals and groups that made every effort to create this degree, which was ultimately a tremendous success.

The sense of brotherhood and exuberance for the degree just witnessed was palpable, and by the courtesy of the Grand Master, the lodge was closed in Ample form as the last rays of sunlight fell below the horizon and the old fort returned to its quiet slumber.



A Fresh Start for The Forest – Tall Cedars Initiate a Record-Setting Class

by Jeffrey Blayman

On Saturday, August 29, members of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon gathered at the Valley of Hartford, AASR, in Newington to initiate a record number of new members. Under the leadership of GTC Chuck Jewart and the stage direction of PGTC David Lafargue, 24 Masons, including MWGM Shane Dufresne and a host of distinguished guests from throughout the Kingdom, joined Supreme Grand Tall Cedar Bruce E. Neubauer, Sr. and his suite of officers to watch an all-star cast perform the Prologue and Royal Court Degree.

Following the degree ceremonies, District Deputy Supreme Grand Tall Cedar Eric Hoy began the afternoon's educational work, instructing the new brothers in rites and ritual. The Brother Cedars enjoyed a discussion on all that is Cedarism by the Supreme GTC and his Sr. Deputy Supreme GTC Jerry O. Richards, Jr.

Brother Bruce highlighted the history of the Cedars, noted they started working with the Muscular Dystrophy Association in 1951, the same year that the Jerry Lewis telethon began, and that Jerry lovingly referred to the Tall Cedars of Lebanon as those guys with the funny hats. He spoke briefly about the Muscular Dystrophy Relief Fund and the Tall Cedars' commitment to supporting clinical research to develop a cure, and how the MDRF supports families with children suffering from these debilitating diseases.

STC Bruce added that today was indeed a momentous occasion, as it was not long ago that Nutmeg Forest 116 had only 22 members and now, after only two years, the Forest is staged for great success with 61 members! This new growth has reversed the decades-long decline in membership, giving new life and new hope to the Kingdom.

After brief last words and the rap of the gavel, the brothers of Nutmeg Forest 116, Laurel Forest 130, and Massasoit Forest 91 posed for pictures, shook hands, and proceeded out into the sun to live by the Cedars creed of Fun, Frolic and Fellowship.



Continued on page 23



National Camping Travelers Holds its International Rally in Connecticut

by Pat Kalinauskas

Every year, National Camping Travelers (NCT) holds an international rally. In 2026, the 61st week-long international rally, themed around our country's 250th anniversary, took place in mid-July at Mineral Springs Campground in Stafford Springs. National President Dennis M. Morgan of Friendship Lodge No. 33 headed up an interesting week of games, trips, craft classes, a pet parade, entertainment, and plenty of food. Twenty campers and some drive-ins (45 people) attended the rally from as far away as Texas, Michigan, and Florida. One day of rain did not hinder any of the plans, but most days were sunny and warm. An evening around the campfire was complete with plenty of conversation among the campers.

Trips included a visit to the Shriners Hospital in Springfield and to Old Sturbridge Village for a taste of early New England history. Entertainment included a very interesting illusionist and the multi-talented Bonnie Lou Plourde (daughter of RWB Peter Boychuck), whose vocal harmonies with a folk-pop duo called "She's With Him" were a big hit. A murder mystery dinner called Pasta, Passion and Pistols, with a cast of 10 characters, all suspects in the death of "Pepe," included the audience who attended the dinner for the interactive whodunit. The director



Folk Song Duo "She's With Him."



Around the Campfire.

and one of the actors was MWPGM Gary Arseneau, who has been active in several Masonic plays. OES Sister Sharen Ames, was at the helm as rally chair. She planned the entire week and her dream team of extraordinary helpers, Rick Ames of Ionic Lodge No. 110, Dennis's wife Lyn, Past Grand Matron, OES, and all of the members of NCT's District One, manned various events and meals of the week, made all the work more enjoyable.



The Dream Team of Sister Lyn Morgan, WB Rick Ames, and Rally Chair, Sister Sharen Ames with Bro. Dennis Morgan.

Connecticut's National Camping Travelers (a Masonic family camping club) plans several camp-outs during the camping season and also includes a camp-in restaurant dinner in the spring and in November before the holiday season begins. As part of District One, we travel with our Masonic family from Massachusetts. We go everywhere for camp-outs; we visit campgrounds in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts,

Vermont, New York, and, of course, Connecticut. Many Connecticut members attend the international rally, which could be anywhere; in 2027 it will be in Ohio.

We'd love to have you join us to meet the brothers and sisters of our welcoming Masonic family camping club to see if you would like to become a member. NCT members are Master Masons, Eastern Star members, and their families. Our season closes on October 17 this year with a turkey roast; reservations are open to all at \$22.50 per person. If you would like information on membership or information on the camp-outs scheduled for 2027, please email the secretary, Pat Kalinauskas, at patk4Labs@gmail.com.



Illusionist (center) baffles two from audience, Christian Miller and MWPGM Gary Arseneau.



Sister Lyn and National President, Bro. Dennis Morgan

Masonicare Golf & Pickleball Outing

by Jeffrey Blayman

The 2026 Masonicare Golf & Pickleball Outing took place on a beautiful Tuesday at the Farms Country Club in Wallingford. The day was filled with camaraderie, competition, and support for Masonicare as brothers from across the state gathered to compete. Thanks to the participants' generosity, the event raised a record-breaking \$285,000 to help fund enhancements across the Masonicare community.

After golf or pickleball, brothers gathered in the dining hall as prizes were awarded, and Masonicare CEO WB JP Venoit offered his own personal remarks of gratitude. He said this incredible achievement would not have been possible without the many golfers, pickleballers, volunteers, and generous sponsors who truly helped make this day a huge success.



Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association – Congratulations, Eagle Scouts!

by Jonathan Glassman

Congratulations to Austin Doughty of Troop 55 in Goshen, Calvin Vance of Troop 45 in Southington, Asher Rosenberg and Irving Rodriguez of Troop 72 in Stratford, and Robby Namais of Troop 3 in Torrington. All are new Eagle Scouts who were each, at their respective Courts of Honor, presented with the Connecticut Masonic Eagle Scout Commendation on behalf of the Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association and Grand Lodge of Connecticut!



Masonicare at Mystic Cornerstone Ceremony

by Jeffrey Blayman

Masonicare at Mystic recently celebrated 10 years of faithful service and marked the occasion with a fabulous new pavilion for residents to enjoy! Masonicare Executive Director, Laura Dubuque, welcomed everyone, including MWGM Shane Dufresne and his Grand Lodge officers, at the opening of the festivities. Vice President of Fraternal Relations, RWB, and Reverend Carl Anderson offered the invocation.

When the Grand Lodge officers assembled east of the cornerstone, a solemn moment of prayer was offered by RWB Hal Elwell, Grand Chaplain. RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Deputy Grand Master; RWB Mark Hawkins, Grand Senior Warden; and RWB James Moran, Grand Junior Warden, tested the work to be certain it was plumb, level, and square, then anointed it with the symbolic corn, wine, and oil as is tradition.

Continued on page 27



Masonicare at Mystic Cornerstone Ceremony continued from page 26

President and CEO of Masonicare WB JP Venoit, took a moment to thank the many helping hands that make Masonicare such a wonderful environment for its residents. They are considered the very best in contemporary living for 55-and-older assisted living options for residents who require extra support, and they are heralded for their personalized memory care services for residents with memory loss conditions. Masonicare is a wonderful place to spend your golden years, made even better by additions like this pavilion, which we joined together today.

The cornerstone was provided complimentary by Mason-owned FoxBeckerGranite (860) 346-1681, <https://foxbecker.com>.

For more info about Masonicare at Mystic, call 860-415-8651 or visit masonicare.org.



District 1

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



Acacia Lodge No. 85 Sends Humanitarian Aid to Venezuelan Earthquake Victims

by Kraig Gray

Two earthquakes struck Venezuela on June 24. For Dr. Pedro Falcón, a Master Mason of Acacia Lodge No. 85 and Vice President of ASOVENCT, the Venezuelan Association of Connecticut, the tragedy struck particularly close to home.

Dr. Falcón is a music educator by profession, with a doctorate in oboe performance, and much of his work with ASOVENCT had centered on culture, community, and music. The nonprofit supports Connecticut's Venezuelan community through cultural and community programs. Suddenly, disaster relief became a new and urgent calling. Brother Pedro felt a deep responsibility toward those suffering back home.

Brother Falcón and ASOVENCT's leadership quickly mobilized. What followed were weeks of collecting, sorting, packing, transporting, and preparing donated supplies for shipment. Volunteers from Connecticut's Venezuelan community, the broader Latino community, local churches, and missionary groups answered the call, as did several brothers from Masonic District One. The brothers contributed financially and by giving their time and labor alongside Pedro, ASOVENCT members, and the many volunteers who rallied around the effort.

For Brother Falcón, their presence meant something beyond the work itself. He has not returned to Venezuela in more than a decade and has spent those years separated from family there. In Connecticut, however, he found another family through Freemasonry – a bond that became very real in the weeks following the earthquakes. Reflecting on what that support meant to him, Brother Falcón put it simply: "It meant everything to me."

That gratitude was not Pedro's alone. ASOVENCT's leadership and volunteers repeatedly expressed their appreciation for the brothers who worked beside them. The assistance was simply Masons answering a brother's call, but its impact extended far beyond the fraternity.

On August 7, the scale of that effort became unmistakable. ASOVENCT delivered 22,730 pounds (more than 11 tons) of humanitarian aid to its final US storage facility in Brooklyn, New York, before delivery to those affected by the earthquakes.

It was a sizable accomplishment, but none of those closest to the human



Continued on page 29

District 1 continued from page 28

tragedy mistook one shipment for an answer to the continuing hardship facing the Venezuelan people. Brother Pedro reflected simply, “I wish I could do more.”

There is something particularly Masonic in Brother Pedro’s story.

A Mason’s obligation calls upon him to relieve a distressed worthy brother, but the charitable spirit taught in the fraternity does not end at the lodge door. When Pedro’s homeland was in distress, his brothers answered his call. In doing so, they helped him serve people they would likely never know or meet. Their work is a tangible expression of two principles familiar to every Mason: Brotherly Love and Relief—and, most assuredly, a means of bringing some measure of comfort to those enduring the most trying of times.



District 2

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



St. Luke's Lodge No. 48 Passes Four to Fellowcraft

by Matt Fitzgibbons

On Thursday, August 27, under the leadership of WM Jeff Parker, St. Luke's Lodge No. 48 passed four Entered Apprentices to the degree of Fellowcraft. Bros. Ali Taouil, Brian Cheney, Bruce MacIntyre Jr., and Charles Nierling were passed. Brothers throughout the district and the region came together to perform a superb degree, with WB Rob Gorman III delivering the Middle Chamber masterfully.

Among the many brothers and purple aprons in attendance were RWB James Saraceni, Grand Marshal; RWB Dan Nichols, Associate Grand Tiler; and RWB Rob Gorman, District Deputy, Masonic District 2B. RWB Gary Ross presided in the final half of the degree.



The evening was a shining example of brothers coming together in the best of Masonic principles to create an evening that four new Fellowcrafts will look back on fondly for the rest of their lives.

District 3

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



King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 Initiates Plainville Police Dispatcher

by Steve Lewis

On Wednesday, August 12, Zachary Jones completed his first step in Masonry at King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 in Woodbury. Bro. Jones is a dispatcher for the Plainville Police Department. During his duties there, he met the current Most Worshipful Grand Master, Shane Dufresne. During various conversations, Zachary inquired about becoming a member, and MWGM Dufresne was happy to assist.

The initiation of Bro. Jones was a glorious demonstration of the lodge's ability to enable a candidate's first step from darkness into light, through a flawlessly executed ceremony. In addition to MWB Dufresne, WB Robert Namias (AGM Masonic District 3A), and RWB Mark Dzurnak, Assistant to the Grand Master, also attended Bro. Jones initiation.



(l-r) WB Robert Namias, RWB Mark Dzurnak, MWB Shane Dufresne, Bro. Zachary Jones, and WM Stephen Saxton.

King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 Food Drive and Rockets on the Rock

by Steve Lewis

To help alleviate local food needs, the brothers of King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 in Woodbury held their 3rd annual food drive at LaBonne's Market, in support of the Woodbury Food Bank.

The Woodbury Food Bank provides weekly access to over 140 families and seniors in need- more than 250 people in the community who require assistance with food insecurity. This program serves both to support proper nutrition and to enable client families to conserve scarce financial resources for other household requirements.

The brothers are continually humbled by the kindness and graciousness of LaBonne's employees and by the continued kindness of the residents of Woodbury. Woodbury's generous neighbors provided more than 25 grocery carts filled with food and household items, which helped restock the Food Bank's shelves after the summer months. Additionally, cash donations totaled nearly \$1,700, which will be used to purchase additional necessities.

Members of King Solomon's Lodge who participated are Bros. Mark Cohen, Dave Forber, Mitch Goldburgh, Dennis Huebner, Zach Jones, Jeff Leavenworth, Joe Mangini, Rich Miska, John Novak, Steve Saxton, John Stack. With the utmost dedication to service and commitment, Bro. Rich Miska remains our only Brother who has participated in all thirteen food drives.

Since the lodge offers the best view in town for the annual Woodbury Volunteer Fireman's Carnival fireworks, we planned a fundraising event that evening, with an auction to benefit the Shriners Hospital.

Information on the programs of the Community Services Council may be obtained from Megan E. Houlihan-Aceto, Deirdre Bologna, the Food Bank Manager, by calling (203) 263-3869 or emailing community.services.council@gmail.com. Donations are accepted Wednesday through Friday mornings; however, additional contributions may be made on other days by contacting either Megan or Deirdra.



Bros. John Stack, John Novak, Zachary Jones, Rich Miska, WM Stephen Saxton, and Bro. Jeff Leavenworth.



Jeanne Lyle, local volunteer, and Bro. Mitchell Goldburgh.



District 4

Lodges 1, 9, 16, 22, 30, 38, 63, 66, 77, 79, 87, 89, 97, 115, 125, 332, 401, 500



Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 Brother Receives 65-Year Pin

by Bill Roots

Bro. Winthrop Smith, Sr., age 90, received his 65-year Masonic Service Pin during ceremonies on September 5 at Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 in Milford. He was joined by his son, Bro. Winthrop Smith, Jr., and his grandson, Bro. Winthrop Smith, III.



(l-r) Bros. Winthrop Smith, Jr., Winthrop Smith, Sr., and Winthrop Smith, III.

Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125 News

by Jonathan Glassman

The brothers of Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125 in New Haven congratulate Bro. Eduardo Castro Muñoz on being passed to the degree of Fellowcraft, and they were very happy to have a visit from a new friend, Bro. Harold Nevins of Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, who was made a Master Mason sixty-six years ago. Freemasonry brings the generations together!

The lodge also recently celebrated its Hawaiian Shirt Night. ALOHA!



Quinta Essentia Lodge No. 500 News

by Jonathan Glassman

Recently, the brothers of Quinta Essentia Lodge No. 500 in New Haven gathered at The Elm City Club for their Festive Board. They were joined by WB Allyn Lopes of Friendship Lodge No. 33 in Southington for a lively and educational discussion: The Flame of Truth – An Introduction to Zoroastrianism.

They also enjoyed their annual summer picnic in July, featuring a wonderful paella by Ted Doolittle cooked on the fire. The food was delicious, and everyone had a great time.

And finally, with summer coming to a close, brothers of the lodge enjoyed a wonderful evening together at Butcher Bros. Steakhouse. Delicious food and great fellowship!



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District 6

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



Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 News

by Pat Jones

Two significant fundraisers were part of the month's events at Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 in South Windsor. A contingent of brothers traveled to Washington Lodge No. 70 for a dinner fundraiser for a brother whose spouse has cancer. Everyone enjoyed delicious food and brotherhood.

A breakfast fundraiser at Hartford Evergreen Masonic Lodge proved to be "a great breakfast for a great cause," helping a family that has more than their share of misfortune over the past year. It is widely known that with WB Khamp Phimvongsa behind the griddle, everyone would eat well. WB Khamp was assisted by WM Duane Mason and Bros. Joe Noti, Dan Jacques, and Kirk Monstream. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful breakfast along with the fantastic feeling that goes with helping a deserving family.

Some of the best news the brothers of the lodge have heard in a long time is that the lodge acquired property adjacent to the

lodge as an answer to a longstanding need for more parking space, a larger dining/event space, and improved accessibility options. Current capacity is only 60 people. WB David Larsen, president of the lodge's building committee, gave a very informative presentation on the benefits of purchasing the property. He indicated that the rules and regulations that were required by the Grand Lodge, and the important zoning and Historic District Commission requirements of the Town of South Windsor, were all followed. The lodge voted to allocate funding to purchase the property and allocate funding for the purchase of additional property if available. The expertise of Bro. Jonathan Hayes, a realtor, was invaluable in this effort, as was the support of WM Duane Mason. Thanks also to RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Deputy Grand Master, for his expertise.

District 7

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



Washington Lodge No. 81 Enjoys Summer Picnic

by Richard Gorman

On August 16, the brothers of Washington Lodge No. 81 and their families gathered for fun and fellowship at their annual summer picnic in Watrous Park in Cromwell. The picnic helps brothers stay in touch through the summer and to introduce family members to the men of Washington Lodge.

In true Masonic tradition, there was more than enough food to feed everyone three times over, and they left the picnic area in better condition than they found it. The Worshipful Master and Wardens want to thank everyone who attended.



District 9

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



Putnam Lodge No. 46 225th Anniversary and Rededication

by Jeffrey Blayman

As is the tradition of moon lodges, the brothers of Putnam Lodge No. 46 met on the Saturday before the full moon to conduct their business. This occasion, however, proved eventful. A Rededication Ceremony was performed to help celebrate the lodge's 225th anniversary by MWGM Shane Dufresne and his suite of Grand Lodge officers.

After the ceremonies, the lodge closed in ample form, and the brothers gathered on the front porch to enjoy good company and a few cigars. The evening was an auspicious occasion made ever better by the brotherly love and hospitality of the brothers of Putnam Lodge.



Brandt Nursing Scholarships Awarded

by Adam Raider

In this, the 20th anniversary year of the Norma Brandt Memorial Nursing Scholarship at Masonicare, a record 22 academic scholarships were awarded to individuals pursuing a career as a Registered Nurse. These included Masonicare employees, employees' children, and individuals with ties to the Masonic family.

The scholarship was established through a generous gift to Masonicare from the late Bro. John O. Brandt, Jr., of Pomfret Center, in memory of his wife, Norma. During her career as a Registered Nurse, Norma served as an office nurse, a visiting nurse, and a school nurse, known for her devotion to her

patients and her ability to relate to people of all ages. She was also a proud member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Betty Putnam Chapter No. 106, Woodstock, serving as Worthy Matron for 10 terms, and a Royal Matron of the Rainbow Court, Order of the Amaranth in North Windham.

Masonicare is proud to award the Brandt Scholarship to individuals who, like Norma, answered the call to a profession that plays such a vital role in patient care.

Congratulations to our 2026-27 Brandt Scholars:

JOHN ARNOTT: Son of John Arnett, Director of Dining Services at Masonicare at Greenridge Place. School: Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

MADALYNN CATALANO: Resident Care Assistant at Masonicare at Chester Village. School: Emmanuel College

SARAH COURTNEY: Daughter of Shelley Courtney, Social Worker at Masonicare Home Health & Hospice. School: University of Connecticut

CHELSEA COWAN: Nurse Case Manager, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice. School: Western Governors University

DANIEL CRUZ: Psychiatric Clinical Supervisor, Masonicare Behavioral Health Hospital. School: Charter Oak State College

MICHELLE DIAKPIENG: Daughter of Fred Diakpieng, LPN at Masonicare at Ashlar Village. School: University of Massachusetts

ABIGAIL DONATO: Daughter of Danielle Dowdol, Nurse Liaison at Masonicare Home Health & Hospice. School: Husson University

DAPHNE DOMINGUE: LPN, Masonicare at Bishop Wicke Health Center. School: Helene Fuld College of Nursing

DENIQUE EDWARDS: LPN, Masonicare Behavioral Health Hospital. School: Albertus Magnus College

ETHAN FAIRCHILD: CNA, Masonicare Health Center. School: Nova Southeastern University

MARY FRANK: RN Coordinator, Masonicare at Mystic. School: Central Connecticut State University

NICKI GALLO: LPN Supervisor, Masonicare at Ashlar Village. School: Albertus Magnus College

GRACE GLEASON: Daughter of Bro. William Gleason, Valley Lodge No. 36, Simsbury. School: Florida Southern College

LAWRY JEFFERSON: Clinical Nurse Manager, Masonicare at Bishop Wicke Health Center. School: Excelsior University

KAYLA KEARNS: Daughter of Evelyn Kearns, Resident Care Assistant at Masonicare at Ashlar Village. School: Quinnipiac University

ANNA KORYTNYUK: Daughter of Olena Korytnyuk, Regional ALSA Director, Masonicare. School: Western Carolina University

ROSE LAGUERRE: LPN, Masonicare at Wesley Heights. School: Albertus Magnus College

AVRY MARCINCZYK: Granddaughter of Bro. Lenny Selander, Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford. School: Sacred Heart University

EUDORA POE: RCA, Masonicare at Mystic. School: Arizona College of Nursing

LAMIECHA SHARPE: LPN, Masonicare Health Center. School: Goodwin University

DANIELA TAVARES: Waitstaff, Masonicare at Middlewoods of Newington. School: University of Saint Joseph

TRACEY TISDALE: LPN, Masonicare Behavioral Health Hospital. School: Albertus Magnus College

Scholarship applications for the 2027-28 academic year will be available in March 2027. Notices will appear in future issues of *Connecticut Freemasons*!



Eleven of this year's Brandt Nursing Scholarship recipients attended a reception at Ashlar Village in Wallingford. They are joined by Lindsey Smith (left), Vice President of Human Resources at Masonicare and Chair of the Brandt Nursing Scholarship Committee, and WB Jon-Paul Venoit (right) President and CEO of Masonicare.

BOOSTERS

Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: September 13, 2026.

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Lodges & Organizations

<u>MASTER MASON LEVEL \$250 +</u>	Lafayette Consistory, A.A.S.R.	<u>Entered Apprentice Level \$75-\$149</u>	Putnam Lodge No. 46
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89	Union Lodge No. 5	Coastal Lodge No. 57	Valley Lodge No. 36
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88		Columbia Lodge No. 25	
Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107	<u>Fellowcraft Level \$150-\$249</u>	CT Masonic Scouters Assn.	
King Hiram Lodge No. 12	CT Widows Sons Masonic Riders Assn.	Evening Star Lodge No. 101*	
		Quinta Essentia Lodge No. 500	

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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.



Washington Commandery No. 1 KT Donates to Gifts of Love

by Bill Zimmerman

On Saturday, June 27, Washington Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar of East Hartford made its first donations to Gifts of Love, a charitable organization in Avon that supports the community with a food pantry and gently used clothing depot.

The Commandery collected 20 bags of gently used spring and summer clothing, along with a substantial amount of canned and dry goods. The Sir Knights will continue to collect canned and dry

goods and will also focus on collecting coats, jackets, and other fall/winter related items.

A special thank you goes to Sir Knight Jeff Bartlett, who helped with the delivery and took the photos.

The Commandery is looking forward to making our second donation sometime in the fall.



Photos by
Jeff Bartlett

Craft at Labor

All dates, times, and locations, are supplied by the lodges. If there is a dinner, the time in the heading reflects that. The Connecticut Freemason newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events and to inquire about dinner reservations.

Semi-Annual Communication

Sat Oct 17 8 a.m., Hartog Auditorium, Wallingford

Entered Apprentice Degrees

Sun, Oct 11, 5:30 p.m., Masonic Scouters Association, Winsted, Dinner, *Camp Workcoeman*, 169 Camp Workcoeman Rd, New Hartford, Register online: <https://sites.google.com/view/ctmasonicscoutersassociation/events/camp-degree>

Fellowcraft Degrees

Mon Oct 19, 6 p.m., Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Dinner, Step Up Night

Wed Oct 21, 7:30 p.m., St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, Litchfield

Tues Oct 27, Brainard Lodge No. 102, Niantic

Master Mason Degrees

Thu, Oct 8, 6:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Dinner

Thu Nov 5, 6:30 p.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, Dinner

Mon Nov 16, 6 p.m., Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Dinner

Tues Nov 17, 6:30 p.m., Seneca Lodge No. 55, Torrington

Other

Sun, Nov 15, 10 a.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, Grand Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill, *Portrayed by the newly reactivated Nutmeg Order No. 106, \$30 lifetime membership fee*

Education – CME

Oct 10, 8:30 a.m., Unity Lodge No. 148, New Britain, Ritual Boot Camp FC

Oct 31, 8:30 a.m., Village Lodge No. 29, Collinsville, Ritual Boot Camp MM

Nov 7, 8:30 a.m., Meriden Masonic Lodge, Meriden, Secretary Seminar, 35 Pleasant St, Meriden

Nov 28, 8:30 a.m., Meridian Lodge No. 77, Meriden, Leadership Seminar

Craft at Refreshment

For more details about any of these events, please contact the lodge directly. In many cases, reservations are required, and they may or may not be open to the public.

All event information is supplied by the lodges and pulled from various calendars. The "Connecticut Freemasons" newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events.

Recurring Events

Every Thursday, Putnam Lodge No. 46,
Putnam, 7 p.m., Thursday Night Meeting
Socializing, Rehearsing, Prepping.

Recurring Breakfasts

First Sunday of the Month, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140,
Newington, 7 a.m., SBA Breakfast Fundraiser

First Thursday of the Month, 8th Masonic District,
Groton, 9 a.m., *Groton Townhouse Restaurant*

Third Saturday of the Month, Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14,
Plainville, 8 a.m., *Uncle Bob's Ham & Eggers, 2 Linden Street, Plainville*

Events

Thurs, Oct 1, 6:30 p.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140,
Newington, Festive Board for Dummies – An Evening with
Christopher L. Hodapp, *Seven course meal, \$50/pp, reservations:*
j_zarella@yahoo.com Sequin-Level brothers have first priority.

Sat, Oct 3, 10 a.m., New Haven Masonic Temple,
New Haven, Open House & Rededication Ceremony
Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the New Haven Masonic Temple.
Grand Master and Grand Lodge Officers rededicate the building, tours
and displays, light refreshments

Mon Oct 12, Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142, Easton,
Old Growth Forest Autumn Day Trip

Sat Oct 17 6 p.m., Union Lodge No. 5, Darien,
Ladies At Table

Oct 24, 10 a.m., Washington Lodge No. 19, Monroe
Annual Car Show, *1 Fan Hill Rd, Monroe.*
Classics, customs, truck – trophies for the top three.
Food, beverages. Show Car Entry Fee \$20

Sat Oct 24, 11 a.m., Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142, Easton,
Fall Family BBQ

Sat Oct 24, 6 p.m., New Haven Masonic Temple New Haven,
Gala Celebration Masonic Temple Centennial
Formal dinner with musical entertainment, presentations, \$55/pp

Sat Oct 31, Ashlar Village, Wallingford,
1776 Costume Ball (SAVE THE DATE)
More info to follow from Grand Lodge, watch your email.

Sat Nov 14, 6 p.m., Seneca Lodge No. 55, Torrington,
Ladies At Table, *Torrington Country Club, 250 Torrington Rd, Goshen*

Tues Nov 24, 6 p.m., Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142, Easton,
Friendsgiving Dinner

Sat Nov 28, 8:30 a.m., Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142, Easton,
Pancake Breakfast with Santa and Fundraiser

Dec 18, 6 p.m., Valley of Bridgeport, Branford,
Annual Holiday Party
The Woodwinds, 29 Schoolgrounds Rd, Branford
\$50/pp, \$500/table. Contact the Valley for more info.

SOME OBSERVANCES IN OCTOBER:

OCTOBER 12 – COLUMBUS DAY AND

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

OCTOBER 31 – HALLOWEEN

NOVEMBER 1 – CHANGE YOUR
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