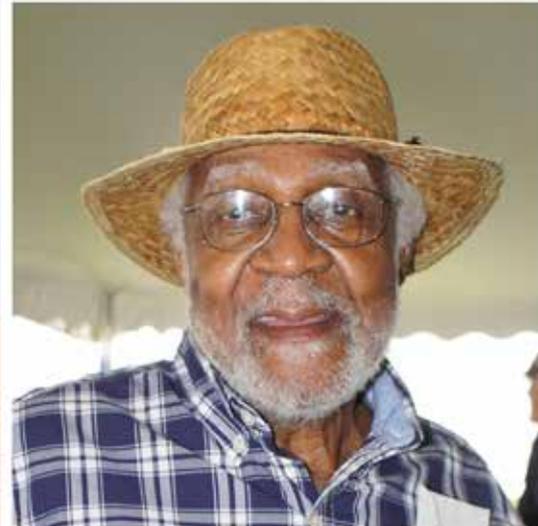


July/August 2021



Connecticut FREEMASONS



It's summertime!

**Officers of the
Grand Lodge of Connecticut
A. F. & A. M. 2020- 2021**



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Deputy Grand Treasurer

Bro. James M. Anderson
Deputy Grand Secretary

Bro. Donald R. Skinner
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.



Volume 17 - Number 1

Publisher

**THE GRAND LODGE
OF CONNECTICUT A.F. & A.M.**

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Theodore J. Nelson, Chairman

Francis G. Way, Editor

Jeff S. Bartlett

Bud Buckner

Rev. Carl H. Anderson, Masonicare

Adam Raider, Masonicare

CREATIVE/LAYOUT Pat Kalinauskas

CONTRIBUTORS

John Amarilios

David R. Blythe, Sr.

Jeffrey A. Blayman

Lisa D'Addeo Bohman

William E. Bohman

Donald M. Casey, Jr.

David Cole

Mark Dzumak

Rev. Harry (Chip) Elliott

Peter Gaulton

Sandie Greene

William L. Greene

F. Matthew Heinrich

Jack Hickey

Jamie Paul Lamb

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Summertime, Summertime, Sum-Sum-Summertime...

by Francis G. Way

The song "Summertime, Summertime," originally recorded by The Jamies in 1958, has been covered many times, and the do-wop stylings of its opening lines are instantly recognizable. For many lodges and brothers, the months of July and August – Masonic summer – represent a break from labor, a chance to rest and recharge themselves, and if brothers meet, it is usually to enjoy a picnic or a social gathering.

How different this summer is than last. In the June issue we celebrated the opening of the fraternity – the return to a more normal labor and the return of special events. All over the state, lodges are doing degrees, marching in parades and enjoying picnics. The joy on the faces of the brethren is unmistakable. District Deputy presentations are occasions to welcome the new District Deputies and AGMs, but almost just as importantly to share a meal and the fellowship that was so dearly missed.

The days are longer and warmer, the sun is shining, and it feels good just to live life. Enjoy the summer! Recharge, rest up, and get ready for September and continuing the labor that was so long lost.

The *Connecticut Freemasons* is returning to its regular summer schedule and not publishing an August issue. This issue's **Craft at Labor** and **Craft At Refreshment** dates run to September 15. The September issue will be available electronically on September 1, when it also will start to appear in brothers' mailboxes.

We wish you all a happy, safe, and healthy summer.

"See you in September" (and in case you're wondering, that was by The Happenings, in 1959)...



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

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 • 800-529-4161 (in-state only)

Fax: 203-679-5996

email: grandlodge@masonicare.org

web: www.ctfreemasons.net

Grand Lodge Almoner Program

by William E. Bohman

My brothers, for the last few months I have been presenting the four programs To help you and the lodges in Connecticut plan to have diverse, educational, and just plain fun lodge programing (the Master's Achievement Award); vet the men who are expressing interest in Masonry through our electronic membership request program (The Six Steps to a Petition); and encourage new Masons to travel Masonically, to meet brothers involved in other lodges and discover the wider world of Masonry available to them (The Master Mason Perfect Ashlar Award).

This month I will cover the last but perhaps most important of my four programs, the expanded Almoner program. It is the most important because it addresses the obligation, we all took when we knelt at the altar and became Masons – our obligation to help, aid, and assist poor distressed Masons their widows and orphans.

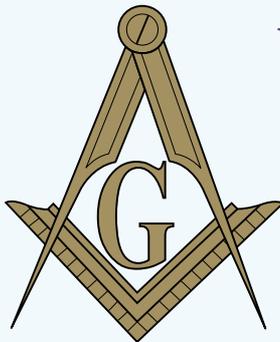
Your lodge may not have an Almoner, but every lodge has a Welfare Committee, or a brother assigned to help other brothers, or some other mechanism to accomplish the same goal. Some lodges do a terrific job at keeping in touch with their members while others do not.

What I am proposing is that the Almoner or whatever the brother is titled in a given lodge, call every brother in the lodge at least twice during the year to establish a two-way dialog. These calls should be about the brother and his family, and NOT about money, lodge

dues, or a special solicitation. These calls should be concerned only with the brother and his family, how is the brother is doing, how is his family doing, what has been going on in their lives, and in updating the brother about lodge activities. Once a dialog is established a brother will feel comfortable to discuss any assistance he or his family may need.

When I was raised a Master Mason, over 30 years ago, there were no cell phones and long distance charges made it impossible for lodges to call and talk with out of town or out of state brothers. Now cell phones make it possible to get a group together at lodge, make calls and enjoy the company of brothers while making those calls, and perhaps even share pizza and beer.

My brothers, this past year, the year of COVID-19, we have done a better job at keeping in touch with brothers we couldn't see in lodge. COVID-19 made us change the way we commonly did things. As a result, brothers who we hadn't heard from or about in years have been reintroduced to their lodges. I am asking that, now that COVID-19 is receding, we not slip back into the bad old habits of the past. Keep up the dialogue, keep up the good work you have started.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

America-St. John's Lodge No. 8
David Matthew Soto

America-St. John's Lodge No. 8
Kpinzou Telou

Hiram Lodge No. 18
Christopher Charles Follen

Morning Star Lodge No. 47
Jason Edward Cedor

Morning Star Lodge No. 47
Cody Douglas Rawling

Ansantawae Lodge No. 89
Travis Keith Bain

Brainard Lodge No. 102
Michael Edward Bugden

Brainard Lodge No. 102
Joshua Alan Rehrig

Brainard Lodge No. 102
Dante Anthony Simpkins

Ouroboros Lodge No. 151
Benjamin James Valinsky

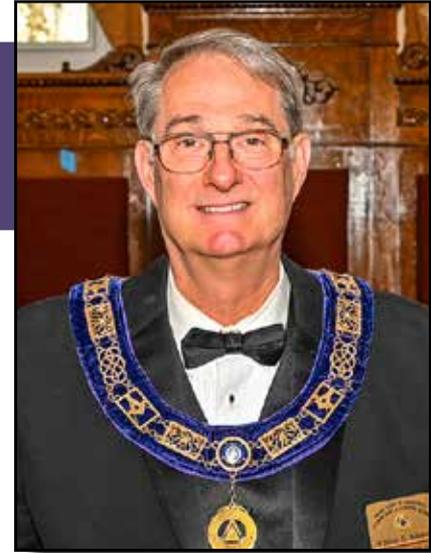
King Solomons Lodge No. 7
Thomas B. Gray, Jr.

America-St. John's Lodge No. 8
Omar A. Barrett

America-St. John's Lodge No. 8
Clayton Lewis Hutcherson

Grand Master's Message

by William E. Bohman



My brothers, last month I gave you some examples of what brothers and lodges in Connecticut have been doing.

I am so grateful to all the Worshipful Masters who are holding degrees for the brothers who have been waiting. I am so grateful to all my brothers who are out there participating, working in the name of Masonry for the betterment of all the various communities where Masons are involved: church groups, civic groups, youth groups, and so many more. I am so grateful for the courage you are displaying in the face of a receding but, still present COVID-19.

In this issue of the *Connecticut Freemasons* you will find promotions for events I have attended in the past and stand out in my mind as the events where I have had the most fun in Masonry.

I hope you and, where appropriate, your families will enjoy them.

Saturday, September 18

Down East Maine Table Lodge at Moriah Lodge No. 15 in Brooklyn.

This is perhaps the best table lodge I have ever attended. The entree is lobster, steak or both. RWB Edward Paige, the Grand Junior Warden is the host. In past years he has sung, danced, and told outrageous stories. I can't imagine what he has planned for this year, but I won't miss it.

Saturday, October 2

Master Mason Farm Degree by Composite Lodge No. 28 in Suffield and Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 in Newington.

Have you ever been to a Master Mason degree in a farm field? I have and it was one of the most memorable degrees I have ever attended.

Dinner by the really excellent chefs of Sequin-Level Lodge will be at 5 p.m. After dinner it will be dark, and our outdoor lodge will be tiled by the darkness and brothers patrolling the periphery.

The degree work will be done by the officers of Composite Lodge No. 28 in their usual fine style.

I am looking forward to wearing my jeans and boots and witnessing a Master Mason degree done by camp firelight under the canopy of heaven.

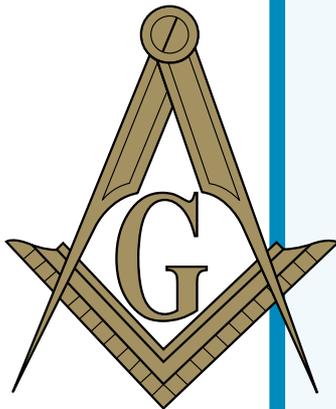
I will bring bug spray and a folding chair.

Saturday, October 23

Halloween in Salem sponsored by the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Connecticut.

Have you ever been to Salem, Massachusetts, at Halloween? I have and I'm going again. Salem is famous for witch trials held hundreds of years ago. Now the whole town goes crazy with the fun of Halloween. They all get dressed up in their favorite costumes and roam the streets. Enjoy the restaurants and revolutionary war history.

The kids or grand kids will be wide eyed.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

SIDNEY P. LEVINE
COSMOPOLITAN LODGE NO. 125

DEAN P. MARKHAM
ANCHOR LODGE NO. 112



Grand Chaplain's Message

Rev. Harry Elliott (Father Chip)

Summer is upon us and many of us will not be attending lodge much in July and August. It is a time of much needed refreshment and recreation. We can also say it is a much-needed time for re-creation. We find new strength and resolve. Much like solar panels, we tend to soak up the summer sun and allow it to buoy our spirits and heal our tiredness.

The story is told of a Kansas farmer who found a baby eagle in one of his fields. The poor young eagle was not in good condition, and the farmer took it back to his home to nurse it back to health. Over the next few weeks, the eagle was doing well and the farmer put it in with the young chicks in his chicken pen.

Although the eagle did well during the first weeks, it began to grow listless and seemed to be losing its strength. The farmer feared the young eagle was going to die after all, until --- one day the farmer had an inspiration. He packed the eagle in his pickup truck and headed west

for the Colorado mountains. When he arrived at the eastern edge of the Rockies, the farmer took the young bird deep into the foothills. Finally, he held the eagle in his arms and pointed its head to the mountain tops where the wind was blowing, and an occasional eagle cried out as it traced the currents of the mountain winds. A strong shudder coursed through the eagle's body and it spread its wings as a new strength seemed to surge through the bird. It stood and leaped into the air, caught a strong breeze and soared into the sky.

The farmer watched the eagle with a tear in his eye as the bird cried out what seemed to be a farewell. A verse from the Bible came to the lonely figure of a Kansas farmer as he watched the eagle soar:

"...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles..."

May this summer renew your strength so that you too can soar on wings like eagles.

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

Carl E. Aspland, Jr.
Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14

Dennis J. Darak
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Sperie Perakos
Hiram Lodge No. 1

Charles Francis Barrera, Jr.
Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

Daniel George
Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4

Joseph Romano
Hospitality Lodge No. 128

Barry Kingsley Beecher
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64

Fred Gillman
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Kenneth M. Simpson
Uriel Lodge No. 24

Ernest A. Belcher
Harmony Lodge No. 67

Roy I. Hostetler
Bay View Lodge No. 120

Leon F. Smith, Jr.
Manchester Lodge No. 73

Fred P. Blicher, jr.
Widow's Son Lodge No. 66

A. Norman Johnson
Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4

Eugene H. Staiger
Fayette Lodge No. 69

Richard Douglas Cosgrove
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11

John Richard Osborne
St. Luke's Lodge No. 48



From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

Our gradual “return to normal” continues. Of course, it’s really a return to the NEW normal, because like everyone else, we at Masonicare are still figuring out what normal will look like in the post-pandemic world.

We do know that COVID-19 isn’t disappearing anytime soon, so we’ll keep certain precautionary measures in place for our residents, patients, and staff for the foreseeable future. The financial challenges we faced before and during this public health crisis are also lingering, so we’ll push on with our strategic plan to increase efficiencies, reduce expenses, and seek out new sources of revenue that don’t rely on government reimbursement.

Some other updates from across our continuum:

- Visitors have returned to Masonicare Health Center and our residential communities, much to the delight of our residents and their loved ones.
- June 30 was our deadline for all Masonicare employees to be vaccinated for COVID-19, with some exceptions made for individuals who requested a religious or medical exemption. Staff were informed back in December 2020, when the first vaccines were approved for emergency use, that vaccination would be mandatory as a condition of employment. The vast majority of our workforce was compliant because they understand the necessity and want to protect themselves and those in our care.
- At Masonicare Health Center, we are targeting late July to open the new rehab unit on 3 Sturges. The expanded Behavioral Health Hospital should be completed in early September.
- Masonicare at Ashlar Village is under new leadership. Kimberly Magalhaes, who spent a decade running our non-medical home care affiliate, Masonicare at Home, is now Associate Executive Director of Independent Living. Rachael Laudano, whose primary responsibility was managing all of our partnerships with external senior living communities, is now Associate Executive Director of Assisted Living. Kim and Rachael did such an outstanding job

overseeing operations at Ashlar Village on an interim basis that I felt they deserved the opportunity to continue in those roles long-term.

- After lengthy internal discussions, we arrived at the difficult conclusion that it was in Masonicare’s strategic best interests to end our relationship with three communities at which we were providing assisted living services: Immanuel House in Hartford, Kingsway in Norwalk, and St. Jude Common in Norwich. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to care for clients at those locations and have assured them that we will continue to work with building management to provide a smooth transition for all parties. Continuity of care remains our top priority.
- GenM (short for Generation Masonicare), a new consulting service that will allow Masonicare to share its expertise with other healthcare organizations, is now managing The Cottages at Southwick in Southwick, MA. The 46-acre retirement community features 187 independent cottages and apartments. By providing support in sales, marketing, and other areas, we’re going to unlock the potential of a solid startup community. Hopefully, this will be the first of many more similar partnerships.
- We remain on schedule for our special 125th anniversary celebration for the Masonic family on September 25.



Until then, have a fantastic summer!

Sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon-Paul Venoit". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.



Growing League Of Women | GLOW

by Lisa D'Addeo Bohman

Since this wonderful newspaper takes a well-deserved break for the month of July, it's two for the price of one this month! That's right; below are two months' worth of ways you can get **GLOW**-ing.

So, has anyone out there thought about giving **GLOW** a try? Or, better yet, has anyone tried it and actually discovered the good company of a woman/women but who were previously just nameless attendees of Masonic events?

If you answered "yes" to either of the questions – kudos to you! If you haven't yet tried, don't despair, opportunities abound. **GLOW** is all about helping you establish new or deepen existing friendships with other women that go to lodge events by expanding our shared social, educational, cultural, professional and charitable experiences cross-generationally.

So let's look at some more ways you can "Grow the **GLOW**" during the months of August and September:

August is often a calm and quiet time of the year; it's a time to relax before the school year starts.

National Financial Awareness Day

There is often a disconnect between women's priorities and the focus of many financial investing services. Our longer lifespans, smaller wages, marital status, and childcare responsibilities, all present unique challenges to planning for our retirement. Why not start a **Women's Investment Group** that meets at a Lodge? Such groups can be very empowering; offering its members simplicity, clarity, and a supportive environment to help you take control of your financial future.

National Senior Citizen Day

Instead of just attending a "Widow's Night" (an event name I would certainly advocate changing) at lodge, how about doing something more impactful. Help make senior women in your area feel safer, more independent, and healthier by **Volunteering to Give Rides**. Or how about **Helping Elderly Women Record and/or Share Meaningful Stories of their Lives**. It's a great way to spend quality time with some of our seniors and connect generations – think Masonicare. Or why not share your time and talent **Teaching Senior Women How to Use Computers, Technology and the Internet** – you can reach out to your local senior center to get some ideas as to how to get started.

September marks the unofficial start of the fall season and

is often associated with new beginnings – the start of the school year, football season (yeah!).

Start of the School Year

The financial pressure many families face this time of year in preparing their child(ren) for school can be daunting – new clothes and shoes, before/after care, extra-curricular activities, the list goes on and on. Often forgotten is the **need for basic school supplies**. You can help kids succeed in the classroom by connecting with some other like-minded women to collect pens, pencils, notebooks, crayons, erasers, backpacks, and then donate them to a local school or social services organization in your area.

Swap Party

Fall is a great time of the year to clean out the clutter and lighten the load before the holidays. Why not gather some women, along with some of their excess stuff, for a thrifty get together. Your **swap party** could focus on clothing, or children's items, books/CDs/DVDs, or housewares. Whatever is left at the end of the night you can donate to Goodwill, The Salvation Army, or Dress For Success.

National Women's Friendship Day

What better day to give **GLOW** a try – you might just find a new friend or two with which to celebrate this special day.

Before I close I want to let you know about one other very special date coming up in September – **Grand Master's Day and the finale to Masonicare's 125th Anniversary Year** – slated for Saturday, September 25 at Masonicare in Wallingford. The day kicks off with a large parade featuring Fife & Drum Corps from around the state, vintage cars, motorcycles, some special canines, representatives of our many Masonic bodies, and lots more surprises. **NEW THIS YEAR** – A tradition will be started when a trophy is awarded to the Masonic District that has the most participants on-hand that day! That District will then have bragging rights for a whole year until the trophy is up for grabs again at Grand Masters Day 2022.

And, it goes without saying that an event like this is a great way for you wannabe **GLOW**-ers to meet some fantastic women that I know will be there that day!

Looking forward to seeing you on September 25 and sharing more ideas with you to help you **GLOW** when we return after the summer hiatus.

MWPGM Melvin E. Johnson Recognized by the Past District Deputies Association

by F. Matthew Heinrich

The Past District Deputies Association annually recognizes a Past Grand Master for his service to the Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut. In 2020, the Association intended to honor Brother Melvin E. Johnson when it held its annual meeting, however, the planned event was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rather than wait any longer, a convenient and meaningful date was identified with the hope of surprising Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Johnson.

On May 28, 2021, the award was presented to Brother Johnson at a meeting of the Tobacco Valley (Sixth District) Blue Lodge Council, held at Wyllys-St John's Lodge No. 4, the home lodge of Brother Johnson, by Brother F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Grand Senior Steward and a Past President of the Association. Also in attendance at the event were several members of Brother Johnson's lodge including the Worshipful Master Jason C. Holloway and representatives of the other lodges in the Sixth District.

Brother Johnson served as the Worshipful Master of Wyllys-St. John's Lodge in 2003 and served the Grand Lodge as District Deputy of Masonic District 6B in 2007-2008. He later became the Grand Junior Deacon and progressed to serve the Grand Lodge as Most Worshipful Grand Master in 2019. He continues to actively serve his lodge and the Grand Lodge.



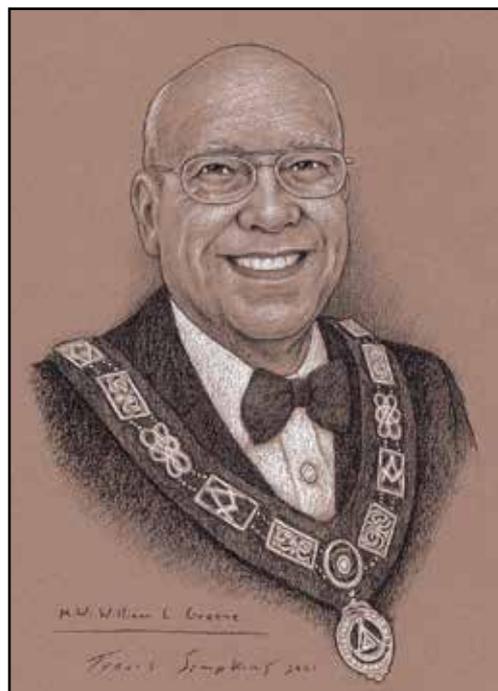
MWPGM William L. Greene Honored with Portrait at National Sojourners Meeting

by Jack Hickey

Most Worshipful Past Grand Master William L. Greene, the Secretary/Treasurer of Hartford Chapter No. 56, National Sojourners, Inc., was honored with the presentation of a framed charcoal portrait during a meeting of the Chapter on May 18.

The portrait, by Massachusetts Brother and artist Travis Simpkins, was presented during a Zoom meeting by WB Jack Hickey, President of Hartford Chapter 56. Hartford Chapter, which usually meets at Sphinx Shriners Center in Newington, has been meeting exclusively over Zoom for the past year.

The National Sojourners, Inc., are a nationwide association of Masons who have spent time in the military service, and honorary members.



MWB Greene, Past Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut (2007), has been serving as Secretary/Treasurer of Hartford Chapter No. 56 and William Ledyard Camp, Heroes of 76 since 2011, and has stated his desire to retire from the position as soon as his successor is trained.

President Hickey, a Massachusetts Mason with Morning Star Lodge of Worcester, MA, commissioned the portrait to thank MWB Greene for his 10 years of service as Secretary/Treasurer.

In addition to serving as Secretary/Treasurer for Hartford Chapter, MWB Greene is also a member of New London Chapter No. 58 and is the regional representative for Southern New England.

Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr.

On the cover of the June issue of the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper it showed a sign that read “YES..... We are OPEN,” plus the symbol of our fraternity hanging over the word “WELCOME.” The sign represented the fact the Masonic organization is alive and active. Blue Lodges have found a way to operate, to allow men of good moral character to join our fraternity and at the same time work for the betterment of their communities. The Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite, and Valley of Hartford, have found ways to accommodate those brethren who desired to join the Scottish Rite.

I am not currently able to inform you of who the presiding officers are for the Valley of Hartford for 2021-22. The Valley of Hartford Annual Meeting that was scheduled on May 19 was postponed until June 10, in the hopes that the newly officers could be installed under more relaxed restrictions. The meeting was held live at our Scottish Rite Cathedral and included annual reports, election and installation of officers, and up to the minute information regarding going completely live in the near future.

For Consistory Day on Thursday June 17, the Valley was able to have up to 100 members in attendance under the State and Grand Lodge guidelines at that time. Hopefully, this indicates we are headed back to having full Valley activities again.

In addition, The Scottish Rite Foundation of

Hartford, Inc. held its first annual meeting in two years, at the Valley of Hartford Cathedral, in Newington, following a catered box luncheon at the Sphinx Shrine Center. Any member of the Valley of Hartford is eligible to join the Foundation, who gather once a year for a luncheon prior to the meeting. The fee to join is a single life-time membership fee and remains in effect as long as you remain a member of the Valley. The membership fee also includes the cost of each year's luncheon, usually catered or at a restaurant. For more information on how to join contact either the Valley Secretary at office@valleyofhartford.com, or the Foundation Secretary at srf.secretary@gmail.com.

As we look to the celebration of Independence Day on July 4, will we be not only celebrating our nation's independence, but also the relaxation of most or all of the restrictions of the past year. We will soon be back to full activities this fall enjoying fellowship and enjoying the lessons of life as portrayed in our degrees – JUSTICE, INTEGRITY, TOLERANCE, SERVICE TO OTHERS, REVERENCE TO GOD, and DEVOTION TO COUNTRY.

Now that the summer months are ahead of us, ENJOY the time, keep healthy and safe no matter what you plan, and hopefully we will see you back this fall when we hope to portray our degrees live for a large class of new members in the Scottish Rite, Valley of Hartford.



**ANCIENT ACCEPTED
SCOTTISH RITE**
Valley of Hartford
207 Deming Street
Newington, CT 06111

**LOOKING FOR MORE
KNOWLEDGE IN MASONRY?**

What do the following have in common?
*Justice * Integrity Tolerance * Service
Reverence to God * Devotion to Country*

**They are the CORE VALUES portrayed
in the Scottish Rite degrees.**

**A Masonic organization where you will find
Inspiration - Convenience - Enjoyment.**

**Applications for the next 2021 Class
are now being accepted.**
See what we have to offer by visiting our
website: www.valleyofhartford.org
Or, learn more about the Scottish Rite by
visiting the Supreme Council, NMJ, website.

**For more information about becoming a member of
the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite or to receive a
Scottish Rite informational DVD, contact
Tony Angelica, 32°, Valley Secretary,
Valley of Hartford AASR.
(860) 666-0712
Email: office@valleyofhartford.com
www.valleyofhartford.org**

The Three Pillars That Must Be Ascended

by John A. Amarillos, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

It appears that the pandemic may well be on its way into the history books and the Consistory is starting up with a full schedule of Degree and Family Life events. A full listing can be found in the accompanying Lafayette Consistory News insert to the July issue of the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper. I cannot emphasize how important it is to make reservations, as soon as practical with the Consistory office. To make reservations for degrees and Family Life events at (203) 375-0064.

The Children's Dyslexia Centers is looking for a part time business manager who will work in the Waterbury Center. A full description of the employment opportunity can be found in the accompanying July Lafayette Consistory News. The gig is a permanent part time affair for about four days a week, and it is ideal for a semi-retired person who has business and computer savvy and is not looking for a full time opportunity.

If you are a Worshipful Master or a Lodge Warden looking for a program for your fall stated communications, the Consistory is supporting a "Rite on the Road" program. We'll come out to your lodge and put on a presentation about the Scottish Rite, and if you have members who are already members of the Rite, or would like to become members of the Rite, we can also present the new 4th degree in a tiled environment after the stated communication. Again, contact the Consistory office so that arrangements can be made WELL in advance...

The Hautes Grades Academy program consists of three levels. There is currently a wait list, so signing up at <https://scottishritenmj.org/hautes-grades-academy> is necessary if you desire to start this work. The academy is structured as follows: Level One— The candidate will delve into the ritual of all twenty-nine Scottish Rite, NMJ degrees; Level Two— The essay portion of the curriculum will allow for self-reflection and review of Scottish Rite degrees selected personally by the candidate, and Level Three— a written research paper on a topic of the candidate's choice, which will be pre-approved and reviewed by the HGA committee. Research topics can vary between history, ritual, and the philosophy of the Scottish Rite. When a brother completes the program, he will earn the honor of becoming a Scottish Rite Hauts Grades Academic, and with it attain the right to include the letters HGA after his name. He will also have earned a certificate and jewel; which will be presented to him at a significant Consistory affair.

* * *

The three pillars of Freemasonry arise from the surface of the earth towards the heavens. They are never depicted as supporting any physical

structure. Why? Because they represent spiritual powers that should be firmly embedded in the being of a proper Master. The three columns are known to represent wisdom, strength and beauty, not as some kind of theoretical thought or emotional sentiment, but as solid realities which make up the nature of a realized Master Mason.

For the Master Mason, Wisdom is initiated by an innate desire to attain mental order and focus or discipline. In order to attain this you must first and foremost develop your intellect.

To comprehend the term Strength, you must first learn to conquer your finite natural energies and not to waste them without meaningful purpose. Esoteric Kabbalists place the Sephirah of Daath (knowledge) on their middle pillar. The control of energy and its proper employment is essential if the work we are doing is to ever succeed. It is only through the proper utilization of energy that the Master Mason can attain extended faculties and develop an enormous capacity for work.

This energy must be used for the Greater Good and must not be used selfishly or else dire Karmic costs will inevitably be incurred.

Beauty is another facet of life on this plane of existence which is greatly misunderstood. It is the ultimate form that in which life essences of a creature (mineral, vegetable or animal) crystallize and express themselves in a physical form. As a solid example of this, I will point you to the work of Masaru Emoto with water crystals in a series of books dealing with the secret messages of Water. This is a very old concept that was also allegorically depicted in Brother Oscar Wildes' Dorian Grey.

I have alluded here to three master keys to Masonic initiation that must be explored and digested by the individual brother seeking to eventually go through the transmutation of becoming a Master Mason. This is a lifelong study and endeavor, however, the summer is young so you may embark on a truly personal exploration of how to attain to the summits of Freemasonry - those summits that you can make yours and take with you, to the realm of the Temple "not made by Hands."

Fiat Lux!

As always, the Lafayette Consistory, and the Valleys of Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury stand 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.

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Sat. July 24, 2021 ~ Stratford
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31st Degree (video) Registration at 10 a.m.

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Starts at 7:30 p.m.

Meal reservations: Call the
Consistory Office at 203-375-0064.
Meals and Degrees are subject to Health Dept.
edicts in affect at the time of the events.

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

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District 2

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



St. Peter's Lodge No.21 Marches in Memorial Day Parade

by Daniel W. Nichols

On a cool Monday morning, May 31, brothers from St. Peter's Lodge No.21 in New Milford gathered to march and honor the selfless sacrifice many have given for our freedom. The brothers collected on Main Street, led by WM Matt Fitzgibbons. They were organized in the proper fashion to show the crowd how Masons meet, act, and march.

The parade circles the Main Street area so spectators can sit on the green and view all that New Milford civic organizations have to offer. Many observers waved and cheered at the brothers, truly a sign that Masonry has not been forgotten. A bomber was scrambled, and speeches were given of sacrifice and honor.

Everyone has a family member who has made a sacrifice – take the time to thank them and ask them for their stories. The stories shared of courage, commitment, and duty need to be passed down so that the future generations may know the right!



(l-r): WB Peter Dolce AGM 2A, WB Greg Bollaro, RWB Daniel Nichols DD 2A, RWB Joe Porco Grand Senior Warden

The Golfing Masons of District 2A

by Daniel W. Nichols

On June 11, a breezy warm Friday morning, four brothers of Masonic District 2A gathered to have fun and practice the bonds of Masonry. It's a simple task all brothers must perform from time to time to remind ourselves that we all need to unwind and relax.

The weather was beautiful, pars were made and so were some bogies. Shots went awry, shots went straight, and some have become stories of legend. The brothers laughed, made fun of each other and were happy to have one day away from work with brothers who are cherished. Doing these simple things is what life is about.

We all work, we all support people we love, and we all have our obligations. Let's not forget to take the time to remember what life is for and enjoy each other's company. Spending time with brothers does not always have to be on a given night. Make plans to hang out and relax. These moments are what makes bonds strong and keeps brothers close when the times of need arise.

Now that summer is here take advantage of the great weather and enjoy!

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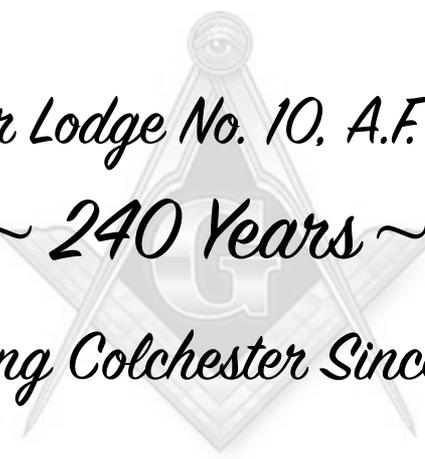
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District 3

Lodges 7, 11, 12, 17, 42, 47, 55, 64, 76, 78



St. Paul's Lodge No. 11 Hosts District Deputy Presentation for RWB Mark Dzurnak *by Ricky McDonnell*



On a wet afternoon at St Paul's Lodge No. 11 in Litchfield, a significant attendance of brothers including Most Worshipful Grand Master William E. Bohman, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Bruce R. Bellmore, two Past Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Officers, current and past District Deputies, Past Masters, and brethren gathered for the formal reception of Brother Mark Dzurnak, a Past Master of St. Paul's Lodge, who had been appointed Right Worshipful District Deputy of Masonic District 3B.

An eventful afternoon in the lodge room was followed by refreshments provided by SW Jamie Fischer.

St Paul's Lodge thanks all of those who attended on such an unpleasant afternoon. Special thanks go out to RW Brother Shane Dufresne for conducting the presentation. and thank you MWGM Bill for keeping me company and closing in Ample Form.



St. Paul's Lodge No. 11 Celebrates Awards Night *by Mark Dzurnak*

On the June 2, the brothers of St. Paul's Lodge No. 11 held their annual awards night. Two brothers received 50-year pins and one received his 45-year pin. Brother Shane Dufresne, Right Worshipful Grand Marshal, presented the brothers their 50-year pins. Many other brothers were awarded 5-year incremental pins ranging from five to 40 years. Four brothers also received their Master Mason certificates.

After last year's Awards Night was canceled due to COVID-19 it was a pleasure to meet in person and enjoy the company of brothers and family.

St. Paul's Lodge was honored to have Brother Steven Chiappalone, Right Worshipful District Deputy for Masonic District 3A in attendance for the evening. Congratulations to all the brothers who received their well-deserved awards.



(l-r back row): Brothers Courtney Brown, Trevor Doll, Matt Cook, Jerry Glass (front row): RWB Steve Chiappalone, RWB Shane Dufresne Bro. Lawton Wood, WB Frank Gangloff, RWB Ricky McDonnell, WB Pat Ianuzzi, Bro. William Hall, Jr.



Meridian Lodge No. 77's Night with the Chief *by Nick Valinsky*

On the evening of April 5, the brothers of Meridian Lodge No.77 in Meriden were honored to host Meriden's newest Chief of Police, Chief Roberto Rosado. Chief Rosado was appointed to his new position in July, 2020. As a Meriden native, Chief Rosado has said that he "always wanted to be a Meriden police officer." After serving 22 years with the Willimantic Police Department, the chief finally came back home to Meriden. After several attempts to welcome the chief at a Stated Communication were rescheduled because of a snowstorm and an active investigation, the lodge was finally able to formally welcome the new chief to Meriden.

After a brief introduction of Chief Rosado's long and distinguished law enforcement career by Worshipful Master Nick Valinsky, the chief humbly took questions from the brothers. For over 45 minutes, the brothers and Chief Rosado engaged in a discussion ranging from traffic stop delays to working in tandem with the FBI on gang violence. The chief was extremely generous with his time and the



brothers commented how refreshing it was to sit down and have a candid discussion with someone so influential in their community and to put a face to the name they had seen in the local paper.

When asked what they could do to help the police in their community, the chief's answer was simple but to the point. He stressed the need to simply express support for local law enforcement in daily conversations with family and friends. He remarked that those conversations go a long way in terms of shaping attitudes in the community.

The brothers of Meridian Lodge were thrilled to host such a distinguished guest and benefitted greatly by creating a rapport with the city's top law enforcement officer. It was a night full of statistics, discussion and even some laughs, but most of all it was a wonderful opportunity for the Masons of Meriden to once again engage with their local community.



Fun and Fellowship Aboard the Sea Mist

by David Cole

On Saturday, May 15, Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 chartered the Sea Mist to cruise the Thimble Islands for the evening. With last year's charter canceled due to COVID-19, the brothers really looked forward to getting out and being together.

With an enclosed deck for those inclined for comfort, and an above deck for those brave Masons who wish to enjoy all that Long Island Sound could throw, a great evening was had by all. Especially enjoyable was that brothers from Annawon Lodge No. 115 in West Haven joined Widow's Son Lodge for the cruise. With the Senior Wardens, Junior Wardens, and Senior Deacons from both lodges on board, the fellowship provides much to look forward to in the coming years.



Continued on page 15



(front) WM Chet Blue, (rear center) JW Joe Fraco, (rear right) SD Charlie Miller



(l-r) SW Jonathan Collingwood (Widow's Son Lodge), SW John Garcia (Annawon Lodge)

Annawon Lodge No. 115 and Hiram Lodge No. 1 Join to March in West Haven Parade *by Matt Schwartz*



The brothers of Annawon Lodge No. 115 of West Haven and Hiram Lodge No. 1 of New Haven, marched together in the West Haven Memorial Day parade on May 31. The two lodges proudly represented the 4th Masonic District, carrying a district banner in addition to Annawon Lodge's banner.

Brothers from Annawon Lodge included WM Edward Anyafulu, SW Jonny Garsha, JW Chris Belous, JD Frank Andriulli III, WB Kyle Podpolucha, WB Steven Mullins, SS Doug Turcotte, SD Joseph McVety, and Brother Lonnie Reyes. WB Fred Marotti, and many of his lodge officers proudly represented Hiram Lodge as well.



With the world slowly coming back to normal, it is safe to say that brotherhood both in Annawon Lodge and Hiram Lodge as well as in the 4th Masonic District is as strong as ever.



District 5

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



Hospitality Lodge No. 128 Awards Eric W. Manner Memorial Scholarships *by Francis G. Way*

On June 9, as Hospitality Lodge No. 128 celebrated their return home to the Solomon Welles House in Wethersfield, they added to the celebration by presenting the RWB Eric W. Manner Memorial Scholarships to deserving students from Wethersfield and Rocky Hill.

The recipients joined the brothers and their families at the annual summer picnic. Ms. Kate Anzidei, of Wethersfield, and Mr. Trevor Christensen of Rocky Hill, were chosen to receive the 2021 awards. Ms. Anzidei will be attending Wheaton College, majoring in Studio Art, and Mr. Christensen will be attending Bryant College, majoring in Data Science. The scholarships are given in memory of RWB Ric Manner, a Past DD and Past Master of Hospitality Lodge No. 128. The awards are given yearly to a student from Wethersfield and a student from Rocky Hill – towns that played a large part in the history of the original Hospitality Lodge, and from which the current lodge draws brothers.

The brethren would like to wish Ms. Anzidei and Mr. Christensen all the best as they continue their studies in college, and asked that they stay in touch and keep the lodge posted on their experience if they do desire.



(l-r), WM Alberto Dieguez, WB Matthew Griffen, Secretary, Ms. Kate Anzidei, Mr. Trevor Christensen, RWB Brian Beals, Scholarship Committee Member.

Masonic District 5B Welcomes RWB Harry Needham and WB Keath Romano *by Francis G. Way*

On the evening of June 1, at Unity Lodge No. 148 in New Britain, Masonic District 5B welcomed RWB Harry E. Needham, III, District Deputy and WB Keath Romano, Associate Grand Marshal. In an evening more reminiscent of District Deputy presentations of old than of recent COVID-19 restricted gatherings, brothers, and families and friends turned out to celebrate the appointment of RWB Needham and WB Romano.

In what was for many of the attendees the first Masonic dinner in a long while, the kitchen crew at Unity Lodge prepared a wonderful meal of pork loin, roasted potatoes, and green beans. The full dining room buzzed with conversation and smiles abounded as everyone clearly enjoyed the fellowship. Unity Lodge's Junior Warden, Bro. Jeff Davis, and the kitchen crew did a great job and laid out a delicious meal.

After dinner, the ceremony began as Unity Lodge's Worshipful Master, WB Ray Rossignol,

welcomed the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother William E. Bohman, who would preside over the evening's ceremonies. MWB Bohman then welcomed his suite, among whom were the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Brother Bruce R. Bellmore, and the Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden, Brother Joseph Porco.

After the invocation by RWB William Bonney, Past District Deputy, the Colors were presented by Nathan Hale Chapter, Order of DeMolay and New Britain Assembly No. 6, International Order of Rainbow for Girls.

RWB Christopher Earle delivered the History and Role of the

District Deputy and presented RWB Needham's biography. This was followed by a musical interlude, a vocal solo of "You'll Never Walk Alone", performed by Vivian LaRosa, wife of Brother Joe LaRosa, Unity Lodge's Organist.

RWB Bruce R. Bellmore presented and explained the



Continued on page 20



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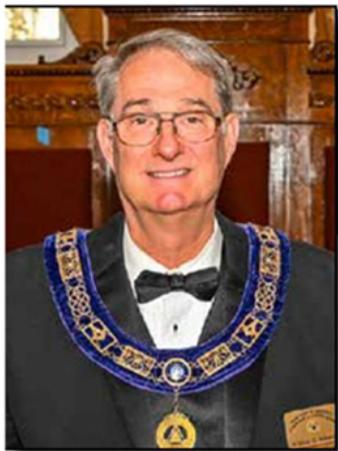
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District 5 - Welcomes RWB Needham and WB Romano *continued from page 16*

Collar, Jewel and Apron to RWB Needham.

Brother Gordon Kimball of Maine and Past Executive Officer for DeMolay, delivered the Charge to the District Deputy, after which felicitations and greetings were brought by WB Paul Catanzaro, Past Master of Unity Lodge; MWB Gary Arseneau, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master; RWB Brian Noble of Massachusetts; and RWB Benjamin Weisner, Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden of Maine. The short talks by RWB Needham's brothers were humorous but also spoke to RWB Needham's dedication to the Craft and his leadership skills.

The Past District Deputies Association Dues Card was presented to RWB Needham by RWB Francis G. Way, President of the PDD Association.

At that time, RWB Needham then took over the presentation, introduced and thanked his family and friends, and proceeded to present WB Keath Romano, his Associate Grand Marshall. RWB introduced WB Romano, and WB Romano's biography was presented by RWB Mark Parasiliti, Past District Deputy. This was followed by Unity Lodge's Senior Warden, Bro. Hiram Morales, explaining the role of the Associate Grand Marshal.

After all of the ceremonies, MWB Bill Bohman presented his Grand Master's Message, and the closing prayer, with the DeMolay 9 O'Clock Interpolation, by State Master Councilor Dominic Roland and Brother Ed Lawson, Past State Master Councilor.

The evening was concluded with dessert in the dining hall.

Masonic District 5B is excited to welcome and work with RWB Needham and WB Romano, and look forward to some exciting times.



District 6

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



Composite Lodge No. 28 Supports Community in Red Cross Blood Drive

Composite Lodge No. 28 in Suffield happily agreed to assist the Red Cross on May 1 in hosting a blood drive at the Suffield Senior Center. The American Red Cross suffered a significant drop in donations during the COVID-19 pandemic and was in great need of events. Brothers of Composite Lodge worked with Red Cross phlebotomists and nurses by running the check-in station and organization of donors. Brothers also guided volunteers for refreshments after their donation.

Leading up to the event, Composite created promotional materials for the community and advertised the event. Through the hard work of WB John Ledoux (standing on left), the lodge far exceeded the goal set by the Red Cross with well over 50 donors.

Composite Lodge No. 28 Returns to Labor with Annual Chicken BBQ

Composite Lodge No. 28 recently returned to a pre-COVID-19 tradition by hosting an outstanding chicken BBQ on June 6. This fundraiser has been a long-standing tradition for this lodge and provides funding for philanthropic efforts in the community, originating with a scholarship fund for Suffield Public Schools.

This year Junior Warden Andy Work led a hardworking team to provide delicious meals to the patrons of Composite Lodge. This event was so successful that every chicken dinner (130 in total) was reserved and sold!



District 7

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



Washington Lodge No.81 Presents Scholarships To Graduating Seniors

by Peter Gaulton

On May 20, as has been their custom for the past 35 years, the brothers of Washington Lodge No. 81 in Cromwell presented scholarships to two Cromwell High School graduating seniors.

At the awards assembly this year, held under a tent at Cromwell High School, RWB Ken Smith was pleased and proud to present the scholarships to Amanda Quieroz and Antonino Uccello. Amanda plans to attend the University of Rhode Island and Antonino has selected

Mitchell College in New London.

The scholarships are given in memory of Gregory G. Gaulton, a special needs young man who briefly, but proudly, attended CHS in the fall of 1985.

This year's awards are dedicated to a Washington Lodge beloved and distinguished Past Master, RWB Jim Nankin, who strongly endorsed and supported the scholarship project. Sadly, RWB Nankin passed to the Celestial Lodge on May 14.

Funds for the scholarships are raised by the lodge by sponsoring pancake breakfasts throughout the year.

The Gaulton family is very grateful to the lodge for their gifts to the two deserving recipients.

District 9

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



Moriah Lodge No. 15 Supports Local Food Bank

by Robert Scharlack, Jr.

On a recent Sunday morning in Brooklyn, brothers of Moriah Lodge No. 15 and their ladies set up a collection in front of the local Walmart to support Project Pin, a local food bank. After contacting Project Pin to ask what items they needed, the list was printed on slips of paper that Brothers Greg Messier, John Glenn III, WM Bob Scharlack, Jr. and his lady Mary handed out to customers as they entered Walmart.

When the drive started off slowly, Bro. Messier and Lady Mary purchased a few items to demonstrate the drive's goal. This helped tremendously and after an hour there were enough items collected to fill Bro. Glenn's pickup truck, which he then dropped off at the lodge.

At one point a customer walked out, removed a small bag from his cart, and said that the rest of the cart was for the food bank. There were approximately \$50 worth of food items in the cart. As lunchtime approached another load of items were dropped off at the lodge.

Walmart was very supportive, providing boxes in which to pack the items for transport, and another half dozen customers came out with carts full of listed items. Others made monetary donations.

At the end of the drive, four pickup truck loads of donations had been collected. Bro. Glenn stayed behind at the lodge to sort the items by product and size and organized the dropoff for the next morning. On Monday morning, the items were delivered and funds donated to Project Pin. All in all five shelves were filled in the food bank, to assist families through the early part of the summer.

It is truly special that the community cares so much about helping each other. Moriah Lodge takes great pride in the effective the food drive will have on those less fortunate in their community.



Pyramid Shrine Units Help Needy Children at Three Area Events

by Donald M. Casey Jr.



The 75th Annual North Haven Parade.

Nobles from the Pyramid Shrine Temple Clown Unit in Stratford celebrated Memorial Day by marching in the 75th annual North Haven Parade. Clowns interacted with several thousand spectators at the parade. Most importantly, Pyramid Shriners were able to share their mission of providing assistance to needy children receiving excellent medical care at Shriners Hospital.



Stratford's Main Street Festival

Pyramid Shriners also participated at the Main Street Festival in Stratford. Several units from Pyramid Shrine Temple entertained several thousand people attending the festival.



Trumbull's Memorial Day Parade

Pyramid Shriners from Stratford, celebrated Memorial Day by marching in a parade in Trumbull. Shriners from Pipes and Drums unit entertained several thousand spectators with a variety of patriotic music.



Some Thoughts On Masonic Memorization

by Jaime Paul Lamb

Obviously as active Masons we are frequently required to memorize passages of ritual and the lectures accompanying the degrees. This can be a rather formidable task, no matter which method of memorization one utilizes – particularly if deadlines for meeting proficiency or being ready for a degree conferral are considered. It may even lead us to ask ourselves “Why do we have to do all this memorization?”

I recently had to get my proficiency card to sit in the East at my Blue Lodge in Arizona (Ascension Lodge No. 89 in Phoenix. Old Well-St. John’s Lodge No. 6 in Norwalk is my Mother Lodge. Arizona Grand Lodge requires that all incoming Worshipful Masters be proficient in opening, closing, obligating, and conferring all three degrees, in addition to knowing at least one lecture. I chose the third degree lecture which, in Arizona, is about nine pages in our ritual book and consists of 19 paragraphs – and these are full-sized, Edgar Allan Poe-length paragraphs, mind you. It was a chore, and there was a deadline, but I was able to get it down in 2 months. That was about how long it took me to memorize the Middle Chamber lecture when I was Senior Deacon at Old Well-St. John’s Lodge in 2012. I don’t know many Masons who look forward to the amount of memorization it takes to meet proficiency for a degree or an office; it requires hours, days, sometimes months of our free time.

So, why do we do this? Why do we put all this time, energy and emphasis on memorization? I can think of two great reasons. First, we memorize ritual so we can run our Stated Communications and degrees without walking around with our faces in a book. It’s obviously more impactful for the candidate when we deliver our lectures and confer degrees from memory; it shows dedication to the Craft and it is proof of our labors. Second, ritual memorization helps us to form

a microcosmic representation of the Temple and Lodge room in our minds – and this is what I wanted to address here.

As I’m sure you noticed, Masonic ritual is loaded with orientational and directional cues: the Worshipful Master presides in the East; the Senior Warden in the West; the Junior Warden in the South; the Entered Apprentice is placed in the Northeast corner; one travels “from West to East and from East to West again”; the North is considered “the place of darkness”; Ruffians and Fellowcrafts travel “a westerly course”; etc. These cues help us orient ourselves and aid in the formation of a mnemonic temple in our imaginations. When we imagine where we would be standing, walking, circumambulating, and who we will be addressing in our mental lodge rooms, we are creating a microcosmic model in our minds. This model, in turn, resonates and sympathizes with the physical temple, where we actually perform the work. And the terrestrial temple further resonates and sympathizes with the Celestial Temple, that “house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

This begs the question, “Why does it matter if we have an inner representation of the temple or lodge room?” I have an answer, but I’ll need to digress for a moment. You know how we have all the character-building components of our work? Moral rectitude, circumscription of desires, keeping passions within due bounds – all of the “making good men better” stuff that we generally cluster around the symbolic working tools? Well, those principles need to be digested. It is not enough to merely say, “I’m going to be a good person now.” The tenets of the Fraternity need to penetrate the deepest core of our being – they need to become a part of our psyche.

I contend that the erection of an inner, microcosmic temple is precisely the method by which we “rewrite” the circuitry of our minds; we blaze new synaptic pathways; we upload new moral and ethical programs. We, as Masons, are transformed through our labors – and the bulk of our labors involve fairly rigorous programs of memorization. When we memorize Masonic ritual, we install a new mental interior – and only an improved interior can produce an improved exterior response.

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Cyrene Commandery No. 8 Joins Veterans Association for Memorial Day Remembrance

On Monday, May 31, the Sir Knights of Cyrene Commandery No. 8 of Middletown joined with the Veterans Association in their Memorial Day Remembrance at the South Green. The Sir Knights laid a wreath to commemorate those who made the supreme sacrifice in defense of our nation and preservation of our freedoms.

Sir Knight Edward Varjabedian, KCT, Eminent Commandery of Cyrene Commander No. 8, offered these remarks:

“Commander McClellan, as commander of Cyrene Commandery No. 8 of Masonic Knights Templars and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars of Connecticut, I thank you for this opportunity to join the Veterans Association of Middletown on this somber occasion of remembering the sacrifices our armed forces have made over the years. I present this wreath of red, white, and blue at the



memorial at South Green to commemorate the memory of those who gave their lives in order for us to stand here today.

The red on that wreath and on the stripes of our nations’ glorious flag is dyed a richer hue because blood shed by those courageous men and women. We look forward to making this a tradition of remembrance. God bless our veterans and God bless America!”



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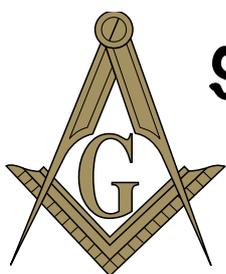
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Masonic Youth Night Provides Long Overdue Fellowship

by Adele Rossignol, Grand Worthy Advisor & Dominic Rowland, State Master Councilor

On April 24, Unity Lodge No. 148 of New Britain held their annual “Masonic Youth Night” event at Putter’s Paradise in Berlin. Rainbow, DeMolay, and Freemasonry united for a day of fun at this exciting event that included mini golfing, bumper boats, and mini car racing. The beautiful weather allowed for members of different branches of the Masonic family to gather safely outdoors, enjoying one another’s company while adhering to CDC-compliant safety guidelines.

Throughout the day, fraternal brothers and sisters were able to challenge one another to some healthy competition, scoring successful mini golf plays and racing the cars on the track. After a sunny day’s worth of activities, everyone gathered for some pizza. Through the sponsorship of Unity Lodge No. 148, the Masonic Youth of Connecticut were able to spend some long overdue time together after a year spent apart. Connecticut Rainbow and DeMolay are very grateful for the opportunity to make new memories as the world begins to progress to a better place in the wake of the pandemic.



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Communication is KEY

by Charles W. Yohe

The telephone was patented in 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell and, until very recently, was a staple in virtually every home in the United States. The past decade has resulted in a decline of stationary, landline phones with many preferring instead the portability afforded by wireless cellular telephones. While the old, wired telephone offered its own advantages resulting mainly from an infrastructure that was robust with the power to operate the telephone originating in the central office, replete with generator backup guaranteeing nearly uninterrupted service, many have found the portability associated with cellular phones.

Federal government mandates further have made it possible to move anywhere in the United States and keep the same telephone number. So, what's the point of this little history lesson? In a word, it is COMMUNICATION!

If the past 18 months have taught us anything, it is the value in communicating with one another. Masonry gleans its greatest value from interpersonal relationships. Perhaps that is why so many have expressed their feelings of "loss" in jurisdictions where lodges were forced to greatly curtail or completely suspend in-person meetings. When finally permitted to meet in a hybrid setting that included the use of modern audio/video conferencing, many members were relieved to once again experience a modified form of interpersonal visitation with their brothers.

In some respects, I have been fortunate to have relocated to a jurisdiction that has permitted in-person Masonic meetings with only minor "tweaks" such as requiring masks, temperature checks, and hand sanitizers for entry. Those brothers who felt they were vulnerable to the worst of COVID-19 simply stayed home and those of us who chose to attend took what we considered to be reasonable precautions. Masonic lodges continued to meet face-to-face throughout the on-going pandemic and included a meal beforehand. Notwithstanding, I still feel a sense of loss largely due to receiving little or no communication from my mother jurisdiction and lodges.

Worshipful Masters please note: EVERY MEMBER on your lodge's roster is under your care and deserves to hear from you in some way, shape, or form on a REGULAR basis. Now, I'm not suggesting that the Worshipful Master has to personally contact every one of his members by telephone, but he should have an appropriately sized corps of officers that are assigned to make regular voice contact with members of the lodge assigned to each.

It goes without saying that lodges should produce and distribute a trestleboard or newsletter on a regular basis. Modern technology has made it possible to do this in an extremely economical manner. It's not necessary to produce more than perhaps a dozen copies to accommodate those very few brothers who don't have the technology available to access electronic media. But even more important than the actual hard copy trestleboard would be having a member of the officer corps call that brother and verbally bring him up to date on what's happening in his home lodge.

These regular telephone calls additionally are most important to ascertain the remote brother's health and wellbeing. Many of our older brothers may be experiencing physical or financial issues of which their mother lodge is unaware. During casual conversation and proper questioning, it is often possible to discern when a distant brother needs assistance. When such is the case, it should be reported to the Lodge Almoner, who can, through additional resources, offer a helping hand.

Whether Worshipful Masters realize it or not, your members, whether local or at great distance, do have an interest in knowing what is happening in their lodge. A large part of being a leader is to communicate. Use all the tools at your disposal to do so. I'm sure that some Masters are going to plead that they aren't technologically savvy or that they don't have the time, but neither of those things is an excuse. Leaders seldom lead alone. They rely on a corps of officers to help them fulfill the organization's mission. George Washington did not win the Revolutionary War single-handedly, he relied on a network of other officers to carry out the battles that collectively led to the final victory. In like manner, modern Worshipful Masters should employ a similar tactic. The key is COMMUNICATION!

Coincidentally, Grand Masters and Grand Lodge Officers should likewise pay heed. Having been a progressing Grand Lodge Officer, I can offer fair warning that many times Grand Lodges do a very poor job of communicating with their rank and file membership. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that since good efforts and plans were formulated in a Grand Lodge Officer meeting, everyone at every level of the organization knows about them. Often times, they don't. Why? Because of a lack of communication.

The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite has provided an excellent example of what lodges and Grand Lodges could and should be doing for their respective members. Early on in the pandemic, the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (NMJ) ramped up their efforts to make a majority of the Scottish Rite degrees available to members electronically. Additionally, they conducted 'virtual' luncheons to bring members up to date on their ongoing efforts to improve and expand communication. The NMJ leadership is fully aware that the video 'Reunions' don't fully replace the experience of in person gatherings, but they have allowed the fraternity to continue to move forward and have provided an ongoing alternative for members who cannot attend in person gatherings due to location or health issues.

Personal communication is the key. Lodges and Grand Lodges need to make ongoing personal communication with their members a priority. Let's not only focus on bringing in new members, let's effectively communicate with our existing membership – not just when it's time for annual dues or when in danger of being dropped for non-payment of dues, but continually. If lodges and Grand Lodges do so, they very well may find the number of NPDs greatly diminished. Communication let's your members know that they are important and valued by you.

13th Annual CT DeMolay Benefit Golf Tournament

by Jeffrey A. Blayman



Brothers from all over the state came to participate and support the Connecticut DeMolay at their 13th annual benefit golf tournament at The Farms, a quaint and comfortable country club around the corner from Ashlar Village. Brothers greeted one another as they processed through the raffle-ticket and check-in tables.

At high noon, everyone made their way out to their designated tees. The heat of the day was stifling and any little bit of breeze to be gained from driving the golf cart as fast as possible was indeed a relief. After some good shots and some bad, the siren warning of oncoming lightning was

sounded. The golfers marked their positions and headed indoors as play was halted after eight holes.

The bar and lounge was boisterous with the sounds of laughter and conversation. Brotherly love was in full effect as everyone made the best of the unfortunate situation. The ensuing dinner made for a pleasant ending to round out the day events. The outpouring of support and the spirit of the day truly exemplified what it means to be a brother. As the DeMolay motto states, "No DeMolay shall fail as a citizen, as a leader, or as a man."



Craft At Labor

To have your lodge events appear in the newspaper, please update your lodge website Google calendars prior to the 10th of the previous month. If your lodge needs assistance accessing the website please have the Master or Secretary or Calendar Admin contact the Help Desk: <https://ctfreemasons.on.spiceworks.com/portal>.

All times 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.

Entered Apprentice Degrees

Wed., July 14, 8 p.m., Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107,
Darien

Tue., July 27, 7:30 p.m., Fayette Lodge No. 69,
Ellington

Tue., Aug 24, 7:30 p.m., Fayette Lodge No. 69
Ellington

Wed. Sept 1, 7:30 p.m., St. Paul's Lodge No. 11,
Litchfield

Thurs., Sept 2, 6:30 p.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140,
Newington, Dinner

Fellowcraft Degrees

Master Mason Degrees

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for the
Re-enactment of the
Cornerstone
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to become a member of the Society of
Washington Lodges, are on the website
gwmemorial.org.



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or any member of the Valley.

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 times are supplied by the lodges. The Connecticut Freemasons newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events. For recurring events and breakfasts, they may not take place during the summer months – call to check

Recurring Events

Every Tuesday, Day Spring Lodge No. 30, Hamden, 7 p.m., BINGO
Open to the public, all Masons and Eastern Stars. Refreshments

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

Second, Fourth Wednesday of the Month, Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, 7 p.m., Fellowship Night at the Lodge. *Open to all brothers, friends. Refreshments and discussion. Please call to verify.*

Recurring Breakfasts

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

Second Sunday of the Month, Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, 8 a.m., Fellowship Breakfast (8 a.m. to 10 a.m.)

Third Sunday of the Month, Washington Lodge No. 19, Monroe, 8 a.m., Country breakfast

Events

Thursday, June 3, 6 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Pizza Night
Inferno Apizza, 411 Universal Dr N, North Haven, CT

Thur, July 1, 6 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Pizza Night
Inferno Apizza, 411 Universal Dr N, New Haven CT

Sun, July 11, 2 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Pizza Challenge
Moon Cutter Co., 2969 State St. Hamden

Thur, July 15, 6 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Stated Communication & Cookout
Hiram Lodge & Trumbull Lodge combined. This is a stated communication for both lodges.

Mon, July 19, 6:30 p.m., King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury,
Fire On The Rock, Summer Solstice 2021

Sat, July 24, 6 p.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington,
Steak, Scotch & Stogies

Sun, August 8, Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Lodge Picnic
Ashlar Village, Wallingford

Sat, August 14, Composite Lodge No. 28 Suffield, *Lodge Bowling Night*

Fri, Sept 3, Putnam Lodge No. 46, Putnam, *TENTATIVE: Woodstock Fair*

Sat, Sept 4, 9 a.m., King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury, Food Drive
LaBonne's Market, 238 Main St Woodbury



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Continued on page 31

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You spoke and we listened. There is now 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. The funds are used to help cover the printing and mailing expenses of the paper.

2021 Virtual Masonicare Wine & Beer Tasting: Building Connections, Supporting Residents & Patients in Need

This spring has been a time of renewed hope as well as reflection on the past year. The Masonic Charity Foundation's 2021 Virtual Masonicare Wine & Beer Tasting, which took place on Saturday, May 15, provided a special opportunity to celebrate while reflecting on the challenges of 2020 – all while benefiting Masonicare residents and patients in need!

Centered around the theme of #MasonicareMoments and accompanied by lighthearted musical selections, the virtual event content highlighted the unique events of the past year, as well as Masonicare's strengths in overcoming these challenges. In addition to the curated virtual content, each attendee received a Wine & Beer Tasting Care Package, thoughtfully sourced and packaged by Morrison Living and the Food Services Team at Masonicare at Ashlar Village. The packages were filled with wine, beer and safely pre-packaged hors d'oeuvres to sample and share with their family and friends, along with a souvenir gift and access to an online silent auction for some healthy competition.

Bro. Keith MacDowall, Master of Hiram Lodge No. 1, a Masonicare Wine & Beer Tasting Committee Member and 2021's top ticket seller, shared the impact of these virtual event perks. "The care packages are so well received. They're a big hit! Even more importantly, this event provided an opportunity for friends to gather together, which has been so rare this past year."

Like Bro. MacDowall, the members of Harmony Lodge No. 42 in Waterbury found that the 2021 Masonicare Virtual Wine & Beer Tasting allowed them to celebrate together for the first time in many months. "Our lodge gathering for this event was one of the first times during the past year that we had been together as brothers and friends. That made it special. And to be able to support a good cause at the same time made it more worthwhile," said Bro. Hal Elwell, Past Master of Harmony Lodge No. 42. "The best part was having a chance to share time with friends."



Bro. Marshall Robinson won a summer BBQ raffle basket as part of a special drawing, selected among those who donated to help the 2021 Masonicare Wine & Beer Tasting reach its fundraising goal



Bro. Charles Yohe & Barbara Yohe relax by their boat, while enjoying the 2021 Virtual Wine & Beer Tasting Event.



Members of Harmony Lodge No. 42 gathered for the first time in many months to celebrate and support a good cause.

New to the Virtual Wine & Beer Tasting this year, attendees also had the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win one – or more – raffle prizes in real time. Winners' names were announced in a live stream video, hosted by Masonicare President & CEO, Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit, and Chairman of the Masonicare Board of Trustees, Bro. Robert F. Polito, Jr.

This live element was especially impactful for Bro. Charles Yohe, MWPGM – a Masonicare Wine & Beer Tasting Committee Member, and Chairman of The Masonic Charity Foundation's Board of Directors – who celebrated at a distance from his boat in Florida.

"My favorite part of this year's event was being able to participate, even though we were out of state. Through the online silent auction and the live raffle, we could stay at our home in Florida and relax next to the boat, drink some of our wine, and feel like we were sharing in the event. We also enjoyed connecting virtually and celebrating with our good friends, Past Grand Master Marshall K. Robinson and his lady, Linda Vernik," said Bro. Yohe. "It was a fun way to make a contribution to Masonicare's residents and patients in financial need."

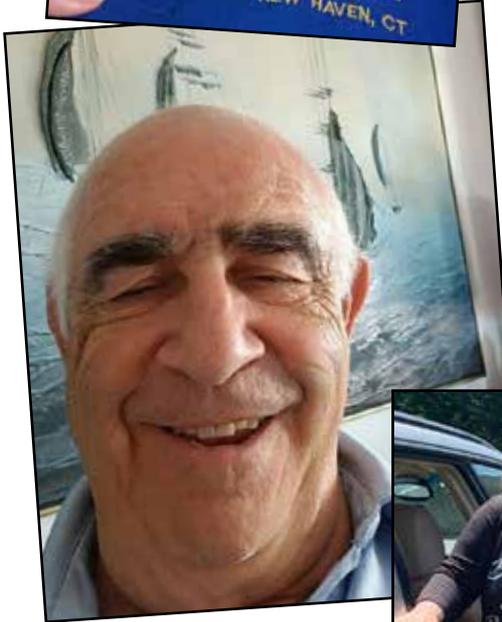
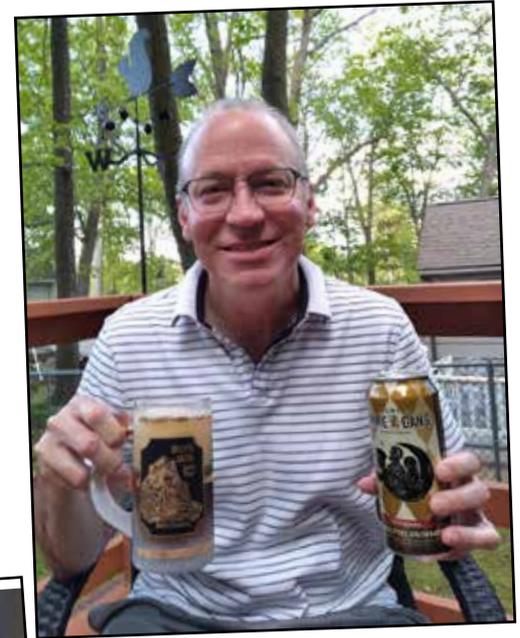
The 2021 Virtual Masonicare Wine & Beer Tasting brought the Connecticut Masonic family together, while providing important charitable support to Masonicare. Thanks to the event attendees, donors, and corporate sponsors – including Glenmede, Ziegler, Morrison Living, Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Hancock Pharmacy, M&T Bank, Murtha Cullina, Netsmart, NOA Diagnostics, PACT Primary Care, and People's United Bank – the event raised over \$86,000 to enhance the quality of life for Masonicare residents and patients in need.

"The Foundation does so much good," reflected Bro. Elwell. "It's what we're all about as Masons."

Event photos continued on page 33

Wine & Beer Tasting

continued from page 32



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NCT Helps Local Business Get Back on Their Feet

by Pat Kalinauskas

It was Springtime and National Camping Travelers (NCT) was getting their campers ready for the upcoming season when they heard that there was a problem at one of the campgrounds that they regularly go to. Mineral Springs Campground in Stafford Springs found itself very short staffed and needed some help preparing for an upcoming camping season.

The NCT club had been camping at Mineral Springs for many years and the owners always gave the club extra services at no charge. So, when NCT heard about the needs at the campground, it was a no brainer.



The barbecue pit needed to be completely replaced (a really big job), leaves needed to be raked, light fixtures in two bathhouses and the laundry needed to be replaced. Then there was stovepipe cleaning, painting, and general cleaning to be done.



NCT members from Connecticut and Massachusetts spent a three-day weekend (or as much time as they could) at Mineral Springs and were able to complete much of what was needed. It was a great feeling to help a local business get back on their feet and to be able to open after the pandemic.



The owner of the campground thanked the group by supplying a big evening dinner for all volunteers.

For info on NCT visit the website: masonicfamilycampers.org



Photos: Bill Mellow





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