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MARCH 2008

**INSIDE: MASONICARE
2007 ANNUAL REPORT**

Connecticut Freemasons' Lewis Jewel



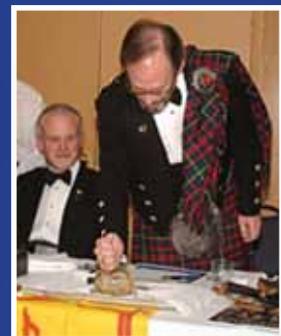
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**Pierpont Edwards
Medal Awarded
to Peter Boychuck**



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**Visit
with
Megan**



PAGE **19**

**Haggis
Stabbed in
Westport!**



MW Bill Greene's Florida visit, courtesy of Masonicare, brought him new friends and a chance to greet long-time friends.

Past Grand Masters MW Norman L. Getchell, left, and MW John Gonsalves, right, were host to several reunions.

One meeting took place at Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19, Ocala.

Sandie Greene got a typical Connecticut "welcome home" on their return.



"... but, what is a 'Lewis'?"

by Carl G. Ek

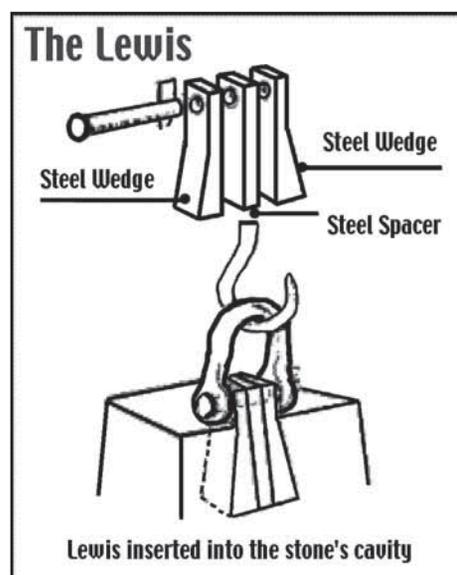
Brethren attending lodge meetings throughout the fall and winter have seen men wearing a jewel that is shown on this issue's cover courtesy of Peter J. Alling, Trumbull No. 22. On examination, the top bar is engraved with the name of the wearer's father and the date of his Entered Apprentice Degree. On the lower bar is the name of the wearer and his date of initiation. Suspended from the second bar is a representation of a 'lewis,' and the package is known as the "Lewis Jewel."

On August 1, 2007, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut said that it "recognizes and adopts" the use of the Lewis Jewel. The letter from Grand Secretary Bob Fitzgerald explained eligibility for the jewel. It may be "worn by a Mason, if, at the time of his Initiation, his father was a Mason in good standing..." A Mason would also qualify if his deceased father had been a Mason in good standing at the time of his death. It does not matter if the father was a Mason before the son was born, and is available to all Masonic sons of a Mason, not just the first son to become a member of the craft.

These requirements can lead to unfortunate results. A Master with no known Masonic relatives sponsored and raised his father during his term in the East. This was a wonderful event for the

entire family, but the son-Master is ineligible for the Lewis Jewel as his father was not a Mason when the son joined. That same Master, later in his term, was able to sponsor and raise his brother, who had changed job shifts and could now attend lodge meetings. This second brother is eligible for the Lewis Jewel since his father was already a Mason when he was initiated!

But that begs the original question: what is a Lewis? The answer is found in European Masonry, where the terms 'lewis' and 'louveteau' have long been used. These English and French words are used Masonically to



The assembly of an operative 'lewis' is shown. The drawing is based upon an illustration appearing the Masonic website of Bro. Ron Blaisdell of Michigan and Florida.

designate the son of a Mason.

A lewis is an instrument used in operative masonry to raise heavy blocks of stone into place. It consists of three metal parts: two wedge-shaped sidepieces, and a straight centerpiece, that fit together. A dovetailed recess is cut into the top of the stone block. The two outer pieces are inserted then spread by the insertion of the centerpiece. The three parts are bolted together, a metal ring or shackle is attached, and the block is hoisted by hook, rope, and pulley. Thus, the stone may be conveniently raised to any height, and deposited in its proper position. Once the stone is set in its place, the lewis is removed, leaving the upper surface smooth and unmarred, and with no clamp or chains on the outside to interfere with the laying of the next course of stones.

Ancient operative masons used this tool as early as the Roman era. Stones with the mortised cavity for the insertion of a lewis have been found in England in Hadrian's Wall, built c. 121-127 CE. Archaeologists



Brother Jason Ashe, St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64, Winsted, right, with his father Brother Albert Ashe, Coral Springs Lodge No. 373, Oakland Park, FL, who presented the Lewis Jewel at his son's Master Mason degree in Seneca Lodge 55, Torrington, on February 5.

have found further evidence of its use by the Saxons in England in buildings constructed in the 7th century.

However, the origin of the term 'lewis' for this device is uncertain. Some trace its etymology to the French 'levis' from lever – to lift, hoist, raise; and to 'louve' – a sling, grip, or claw for lifting stones. Masonic historians conclude that the term came into fraternal use in the 18th century. William Preston's lecture in the Second Degree, published by in the 1780's, contains the following discourse on the Lewis:

See LEWIS page 13

Testimonial for Grand Master **WILLIAM L. GREENE**

Sunday, March 16

Ashlar Village, Wallingford

3:00 p.m. Social Hour • 4:00 p.m. Dinner

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William L. Greene - March 2008

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	DINNER/PUBLIC/DRESS		
Friday, March 7	5:30 p.m.	AON Winter Gathering	Ashlar of Newtown	Y	Y	S
Saturday, March 8	6:00 p.m.	Deputy Grand Master's Roast	Groton Inn, Groton	Y	Y	S
Sunday, March 9	2:00 p.m.	District 7, 8, and 9 Spring Gathering	Storrs	Y	Y	S
Monday, March 10	6:30 p.m.	Washington 70 Awards Night	Windsor	Y	SP	F
Tuesday, March 11	6:30 p.m.	Rededication Night	Ionic 110, North Windham	Y	N	F
Wednesday, March 12	6:00 p.m.	Grand Master's Chanters Night		Y	SP	F
Friday, March 14	12:00 noon	Service Awards Evening at MHC	MHC Wallingford	REF	Y	F
Saturday, March 15	12:00 noon	New England Brotherhood	Ashlar Village, Wallingford	Y	SP	S
Sunday, March 16	3:00 p.m.	Grand Master's Testimonial	Ashlar Village, Wallingford	Y	Y	S
Thursday, March 20	12:00 noon	Friendship Tuscan 145 Irish Dancers	Manchester	N	Y	F
Wednesday, March 26	5:30 p.m.	GLO Meeting		Y	N	C
Friday, March 28	6:30 p.m.	Rainbow Grand Assembly Informal Opening	Holiday Inn, Waterbury	N	SP	F
Saturday, March 29	7:30 p.m.	Rainbow Grand Assembly Banquet	Holiday Inn, Waterbury	Y	SP	F
Saturday, March 29	9:30 a.m.	Rainbow Grand Assembly	Holiday Inn, Waterbury	Y	N	F
Saturday, March 29	2:00 p.m.	Daughters of the Nile	Aisha Temple 83	REF	SP	F
Sunday, March 30	9:00 a.m.	Rainbow Grand Assembly Devotional Service, Installation		N	SP	F
Sunday, March 30	2:00 p.m.	Daughters of the Nile	New Britain	REF	SP	F



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To advertise, please contact Simon LaPlace at slaplace@ctfreemasons.net or 860-526-4021. All ads must be received by the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. Please note: The Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM, does not endorse any of the products or services contained herein nor imply any warranty of the goods, services, or claims advertised. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all advertisements, Connecticut Freemasons will only be liable to reprint, at no charge, any correction due to typographical error.

Peter Boychuck, Jr. – Always Chipping In

by Michael L. Castroll

Peter Boychuck, Jr. isn't new to the spirit of giving. It seems he's done so all of his life. Born in New Haven on February 11, 1952, he is the son of the late East Haven Police Sgt. Peter and Rita Boychuck. Although he lived in East Haven, Pete graduated Eli Whitney Technical High School in 1971. During those years he was active in the Boy Scouts and received the Order of the Arrow. He continued his education by attending Waterbury State Technical College, where he earned an Associate's Degree in Electrical Engineering.

While serving his hometown as a supernumerary for the East Haven Police Department, he began his electronics career with Picker International Medical Systems. Pete continued his education at night, graduating the University of New Haven in 1986 with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. During this time he began working for General Electric as a quality control engineer, and he remains with GE with than 20 years of service.

Peter met Deborah Angel while attending Waterbury State Tech, and the couple married on September 28, 1974. Fifteen months later, they made Southington their home. The couple has two daughters, Bonnie and Heidi. Both would eventually serve as Grand Worthy Advisor of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls in Connecticut.

A member of Grace United Methodist Church, Peter has served as youth advisor, chief usher, and on the council of ministries, and has been chairman of the silent auction at the church fair. He is involved with Habitat for Humanity through GE, and can be found serving Thanksgiving Dinner to the homeless at a Bristol shelter. It might be said that Peter served a period of probation for that which was yet to come.

Peter's Masonic career began as he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in 1990. The following year he was appointed to the line and served as Worshipful Master of Friendship Lodge No. 33, Southington, in 1997. He then served as chaplain before taking over as treasurer in 2001.

When his daughters joined the local Rainbow assembly, Peter became an advisory board member, and later served as chairman. He has served Rainbow on the grand advisory board and continues to serve on the Grand Assembly Committee. During this time, he served the Grand Lodge of Connecticut as Associate Grand Marshal for District 5-B.

At the semi-annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, in October

2002, MWGM Walter E. Kaechele asked Peter to become chairman of the Connecticut Child Identification Program (CTCHIP), a new venture for our Grand Lodge. Peter went to work, planning and implementing the program by January 2003. Over 1,000 children were identified by the next annual Grand Lodge communication in April. To date, over 35,000 children have been identified. Parents take home the ID package at no cost to them.

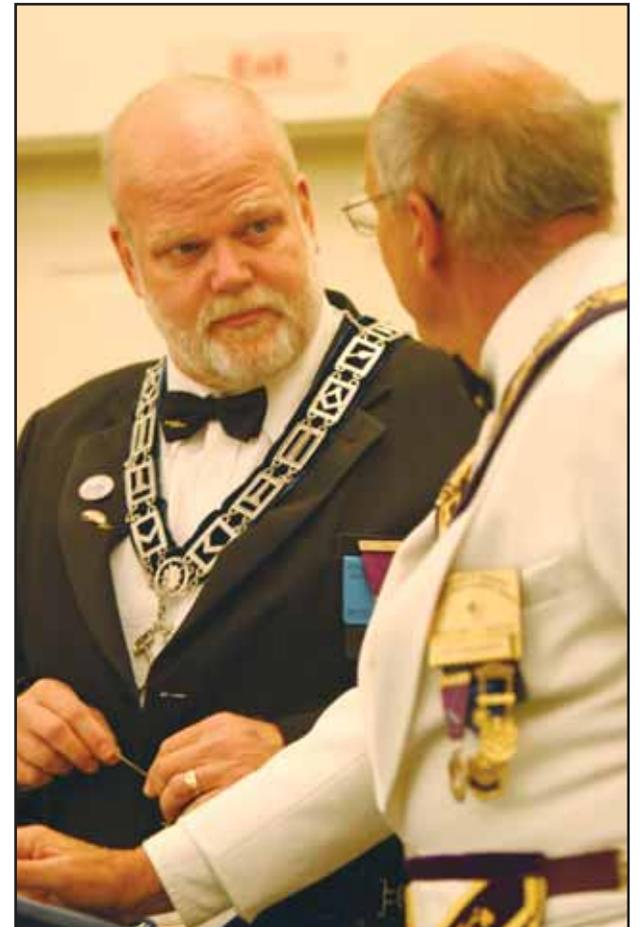
It is no wonder this dedicated brother was given the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.

WB Boychuck is also a Noble of Sphinx Shrine Center in Newington, where he loves to ride in parades with the Cycle Unit, raising money for Shriners' Hospitals. He is a Past Patron of Frederica Chapter No. 110, Order of the Eastern Star, having served in that capacity on three separate occasions. He continues to serve the Grand Chapter as chairman of the sound system committee, a position he has held for the last four years.

Peter takes it all in stride. At a recent communication of Friendship Lodge, he served in the dual capacities as treasurer and secretary in the absence of RW Gary Arseneau. Peter made the substitution seem natural. He said that he and Gary go way back, in fact, "Gary got me to join." He continued, "We always did things together. Then, several Wednesdays passed and Gary couldn't be found. When I inquired, then he told me. I wanted to be where he was."

Peter speaks about Masonry being a family affair. He's proud of his daughters' accomplishments in Rainbow, and their membership in the Eastern Star. As for the CTCHIP program, he said it was getting better all the time. Parents are coming back with their kids to be updated, especially when there's a new arrival in the family. On the national level, he notes that CHIP has become very popular, with twenty-seven states implementing it so far. (Connecticut's MW "Chip" – no relation – Stamm has spearheaded the program's acceptance with the National Conference of Grand Masters.)

As for receiving the Pierpont Edwards Medal, Peter smiled. He said, "I was looking forward to going camping. Friendship Lodge had Ladies' Night on the agenda. I called Gary (Arseneau) to see if he could get away. He said, 'The Grand Master is coming. It's a command performance.' So, the



WB Peter Boychuck, left, at the September 1 Friendship No. 33 Ladies' Night when Grand Master Bill Greene presented the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze.

camping trip went out the window, and we all went to lodge. When the Grand Master wanted me to speak about CTCHIP, I knew the jig was up." And rightly so!

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Rediscover the life and breath of Freemasonry

The prophet Ezekiel wrote, "The hand of the LORD came upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O LORD God, You know.' Then He said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

"So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then He said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to

the breath: Thus says the LORD God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude (Ezekiel 37:1-10 NRSV.)

I recently heard a new take on this timeless allegory: N. Graham Standish, pastor of a church a few miles south of my new home in western Pennsylvania, suggests that the bones, sinews/flesh, and breath are symbols. In terms of the church, the bones represented theology and doctrine, the sinews and flesh represented the activities by which we express our beliefs (i.e., religion), and the breath represented the spirit of the congregation.

Bones – in religion's case, theology and doctrine – are important. Without them, you become a gelatinous blob, something like Jabba the Hutt of *Star Wars* fame or Pizza the Hut of *Spaceballs*. The groundbreaking Willow Creek Church outside Chicago recently did a study revealing that their "seeker-sensitive" contemporary model of church was producing

huge numbers of Christians with very shallow faith. Sometimes, I wonder if older congregations and traditions like mine do much better. If our religious beliefs are not anchored in a strong skeleton of theology and doctrine, they won't weather the storms of life.

By the same token, if you never act on your beliefs ... if you never share your faith ... if you never seek to live out your beliefs in community with other fallible human beings, then your faith is just an intellectual exercise. Sure, there are rules and doctrines in the Bible, but the overarching theme of Scripture is relationships. When Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment, He echoed the Pentateuch: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself (*Deuteronomy 6:5, Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:34-40*).

Finally, we need the Holy Spirit, the fresh winds of God, to give us life. Dr. Standish writes that all too many believers – conservative and



liberal, traditional and contemporary, in big and small congregations – "have slowly pushed the Holy Spirit to the margins, limiting the Spirit's power by emphasizing functionality, hierarchy, organization, and adherence to tradition." If we make religion about us, instead of God, it becomes breathless and lifeless.

Doesn't this sound a lot like Masonry? If we neglect our ritual and moral teachings, our Fraternity is just one more service or social club ... and not a very good one at that. If we neglect getting together with our brothers in lodge and our leaders neglect to plan and lead interesting meetings and programs, Masonry becomes nothing more than a ring on our finger and an annual bill for dues. And if we make the Craft about us, instead of working for the common good of Masonry and society in general – "making good men better" – than we shut out the breaths of fresh air that the Great Architect of the Universe and our brethren want to share with us, and we end up dead.

The good news is that lodges throughout Connecticut and around the world understand all of this, and there's new life all over our beloved Fraternity. And the good news is that more and more non-Masons are discovering and joining the Craft. My prayer for this, my last "Grand Chaplain's Pulpit," is that you will rediscover and be part of the bones, flesh, and fresh spirit of Freemasonry, in the days ahead. May the Great Architect of the Universe bless you and your lodge richly with new life.



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A Visit with Megan at the Shriners Hospital in Boston

by MW Bill Greene

On January 25, I had the pleasure of visiting the Shriners Hospital in Boston with Aleppo Shrine. The hospital is a 30-bed pediatric hospital providing comprehensive acute care and reconstructive and rehabilitative care to children who have been burned. In the 1960s, recognizing the lack of medical expertise in the burn care field, the Shrine of North America opened three Shriners Hospitals with the three-fold purpose of treating severely burned children; conducting research and improving methods of burn treatment; and training and educating medical personnel in the care and treatment of burn injuries. Boston was one of these hospitals.

Since the Shriners Hospitals specializing in burn care first opened, the survival rate for children with burns over 50 percent of their total body surface area has doubled. Today, these specialized hospitals are saving the lives of children with burns over more than 90 percent of body surface area.

This impressive survival rate has been achieved through today's improved surgical procedures, medical technology and the coordinated efforts of many hospital staff members. The treatment of burn injuries has advanced so dramatically in the past three decades that the Shriners Hospitals are now routinely saving the lives of patients who, in the past, almost certainly would have died.

However, now that their medical needs can be met, these burn injury survivors face another challenge: that of returning to normal life in a society that places tremendous emphasis on physical appearance. The burn care professionals at Shriners Hospitals have turned their attention to helping these patients function more normally in society. Some of the special programs that have been developed to address this need are the Reentry Program, Make-up Clinics, and Camp Ability.

My visit was especially meaningful to me because two very good friends of mine, Miss Megan Johnson and her mom Jill, were also visiting. You may remember Megan from an article in the September 2007 issue of *Connecticut Freemasons*. Megan was the Imperial Shriners national "Shriner's Kid" for 2006. Jill and her husband adopted Megan as an infant from Korea.

Megan is a beautiful 16 year old bundle of energy with a continuous smile on her face and a charming personality. Now a freshman in high school in her home town of Federal Way, Washington, she gets straight "A's" in school. She is also an accomplished musician, playing the piano, violin, and other instruments. One of the reasons she was in Boston was to play the piano at the Aleppo Shrine installation on January 26th. She is also a very talented artist.

Life hasn't been easy for Megan. She was born in Seoul, Korea with a severe case of hemifacial dysplasia resulting in a cleft lip and palate and bone growth problems in her face. In addition, she has a small leg length discrepancy and the beginning of a curvature of the spine.

Megan's family adopted her at the age of 10 months and brought her to the United States. She has

undergone 25 surgeries and is scheduled for another this August in the Portland Shriners Hospital. Despite her troubles, she still thinks of others in need.

When she was seven years old, and during her rounds of surgery, she organized her Girl Scout troop to collect videotapes and sent more than 20,000 to five Shriners Hospitals for the children. She has formed "Megan's Mission" to assist the homeless in Seattle. She makes fleece blankets and buys fleece jackets to give out to homeless people. She raises money for her program by selling cider in her neighborhood and sells white wristbands that glow in the dark stamped with "Megan's Mission... Helping Others".

She gave me one of her wristbands last July that I continue to wear day and night. The bright white wristband during the day and the glow in the dark at night is a constant reminder of that shining young lady with a big warm heart for others.

Megan has written a book and has also drawn all the illustrations. The book is being published and is expected in June of 2008. Megan and I correspond daily by Instant messenger or by cell phone and



Megan Johnson's drawing for MW Bill Greene — "Friends Forever."

I am constantly amazed by the talent of this young lady. Megan is very pleased with her association with Shriners and Masons, and thankful for the treatment, care, and love that have been given to her. She wants to become a nurse and hopefully work at a Shriners Hospital. In the meantime, she has an ambition to visit all 22 of the Shriners Hospitals in North America and express her appreciation for the care she has received. She especially wants to visit our Springfield Massachusetts hospital sometime soon.



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Grand Historian's Corner

RW Bro. Gary A. Littlefield, Grand Historian

In 1813 (195 years ago), John Cotton Smith of Sharon was the first member of the craft to be elected Governor of Connecticut. Stephen Titus Hosmer was serving in his 16th year as Grand Master (he would serve two more) and sessions were held in Hartford in May and in New Haven in October. There were petitions for lodges in Sterling and Milford, but they were not acted upon. Records show considerable time spent discussing grievances and relief. For the first time, all attendees had to register with the Grand Secretary before the opening hour with their papers or proxies, and the presiding officer had to present the returns for their respective lodges.

◆ ◆ ◆
Joshua Coit (1758-1798) was part of a prominent New London family. In 1794 he presented himself in Wooster Lodge in Colchester, where his law partner was to be initiated. Coit stated that he had been made a Mason in St. John's Lodge in Providence and was later passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. He desired to be raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. This was done, although records do not indicate any special correspondence between the lodges. When Union Lodge in New London was chartered, he took his membership there. Coit was the first Connecticut Freemason to be sent to Congress, representing the eastern area of Connecticut.



Benedict Arnold burned New London, Coit had moderate losses, according to his claims. He was sent to the General Assembly, rose to become Speaker of the House, and in his position worked to incorporate the city of New London. He also helped to settle some Ohio land questions. He went to Washington in 1793 and was a member of Congress until his death five years later. Because he was a moderate Federalist, he found himself out of favor with the political establishment in Connecticut. Because he favored a large navy and believed in the financial planning of Congress, his name was dropped from consideration for nominees for Congress and probably would have been defeated or not even nominated had he lived.

◆ ◆ ◆
Twenty-five years ago, Frederick H. Lorenson was elected our Grand Master. He is currently the second senior-most Grand Master behind MW Gail L. Smith, who served forty years ago. A page in the spring 1983 edition of the *Connecticut Square and Compasses* relates stories about Masonic youth and their leaders. Some of the photographs show a rather young looking DeMolay Past State Master Councilor Arthur Stauff (*editor's note: now WB and Captain Stauff, currently on duty in the Middle East*), who was just raised to the degree of Master Mason. The 1983 Grand Lodge session registered 16 different jurisdictions at the Parkview Hilton in Hartford. Brothers came from British Columbia, Texas, and the Northeast. Two lodges did not answer the traditional roll call and one did not even register. Pierpont Edwards Medals in Silver were presented to MW Brothers Arthur E. Simpson, Jr. and MW R. Stanley Harrison.

Yellow fever came to New London in August 1798 and Coit attended the funeral of Captain Elijah Bingham, the sitting Worshipful Master of Union Lodge. A few days later, Coit would find himself entering the eternal life at the age of 41.

Unlike many of his peers, Coit was educated at Harvard rather than Yale. He was admitted to the bar in 1779 and specialized in maritime law. While the war with England was still in force, Coit engaged in privateering, allowing his ships to bring in munitions and supplies for the Continental army. Coit became probate judge, justice of the peace, and treasurer of the ecclesiastical society. When

◆ ◆ ◆
Just a month from the release of this column, the Grand Lodge session for 2008 will be upon us and we will be looking to the leadership of our new Grand Master. MW William L. Greene has served well and faithfully during his stewardship and we look forward to his serving many years in the future for our great fraternity.

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Masonicare Quality of Life Walk Steps Off May 17

If the response to last year's Quality of Life Walk is any indication, this year's event will be a blowout.

Hosted by Connecticut VNA and Connecticut VNA Partners, the 2008 Masonicare Quality of Life Walk will get underway Saturday, May 17, at 10 am at Great River Park in East Hartford.

"Obviously, we're always hoping for bigger and better," said Brother Robert Stika, RW Deputy Grand Master, who is a member of the 2008 Quality of Life Walk Steering Committee. "Last year, we had a fantastic turnout, and we hope to do even better this year."

Last May, more than 500 enthusiastic walkers and volunteers throughout the state – including members of the Masonic family, Masonicare employees, Masonicare residents, and other participants – donned their walking shoes and rain gear for the 3-mile trek along the Connecticut River. The event, sponsored by The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, raised more than \$62,000 for Masonicare's Quality of Life Funds.

The Quality of Life Funds are used to meet the needs of residents and patients at Masonicare affiliates when no other funding source is available. Quality of Life dollars have been used to purchase items such as clothing, dentures, and hearing aids for those in need, and have underwritten the cost of special programs and services throughout the Masonicare continuum.

Despite last year's rain, an enthusiastic crowd turned out for the inaugural event. Among them were 78 youth volunteers from the Order of DeMolay of Connecticut and the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, who distributed T-shirts, served hot coffee and other snacks, and cheered on participants of all ages who elected to walk half a mile, 1 mile, or 3 miles.



Last year, more than 500 enthusiastic walkers and volunteers from around the state participated in the inaugural Masonicare Quality of Life Walk at Great River Park in East Hartford.

"There were young people there from all over the state, and they did a fantastic job," said Bro. Stika. "They had a lot of fun, too."

This year, Walk organizers are forecasting another fun-filled morning that begins with registration at 9 a.m.

The cost to participate in the 2008 Quality of Life Walk is \$25 per walker and includes a Walk t-shirt, light breakfast, and light lunch. Proceeds will once again benefit the Quality of Life Funds at Masonic Healthcare Center, Ashlar of Newtown and Connecticut VNA. The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut is coordinating the event.

As a rehabilitation supervisor for the Wallingford, Portland, and New Haven branches of Connecticut VNA, Sue Jennings recognizes the importance of the Quality of Life Funds. "Medicare doesn't cover a lot of durable medical equipment," said Jennings, who served as a Walk Captain last year and is serving in that capacity again this year.

"Sometimes people can't afford to purchase these items to be safe in their homes."

Katie Nardi, RN, BSM, who works as a clinical nurse manager on Ramage 4 at The Masonic Healthcare Center, said she chose to participate last year because she wanted to give back to the Masonicare organization in some way. "I also participated because the Quality of Life Fund does so much for my unit – from fallout chairs to electric wheelchair batteries, to compensation for out-appointment attendants for the residents – that I really wanted to help contribute to such a special fund and give even more to the residents. They deserve and appreciate the Quality of Life Fund so very much," she said.

Nardi, who served as a Walk Captain in 2007, said recruiting participants from The Masonic Healthcare Center last year was easy. "It was easy to get our co-workers involved,

particularly because it became a competition between Walk Captains to sign up as many as we could," she said. "This helped liven the spirits of the participants because not only were they walking to support a great cause, but they were also getting involved in a bit of fun competition."

Jennings said she and her Walk co-captains came up with creative ways to increase walker participation in last year's event. "We had fundraising throughout the year," she said.

"We had a poinsettia sale at Christmas time and raffled off baskets for Valentine's Day and Mother's Day. That paid for all of our walkers to participate," she explained. This year, they hope to double the number of Walk participants from Connecticut VNA.

"I think the nice thing for us in home care is the camaraderie," said Jennings. "It's fun to see your staff and co-workers and to do something together that you wouldn't normally get to do." While there is no controlling the weather, event organizers said last year's rain did not dampen the spirits of those who participated.

"I don't think the rain dampened anything other than our clothes," said Kelli Hyland, a senior accountant for Masonicare Corporate Services, who served as a Walk Captain in 2007 and is doing so again this year. "All but one person showed up for the Walk from my group." "The weather was a bit of a downer, but everyone was in good spirits, smiling, chatting, sharing stories, and laughing," said Nardi. "It was a good time to get to know each other outside of work while contributing to a good cause."

The rain also led to some unexpected activities, such as the DeMolay and others working together to push a food truck out of the mud. "That was a memorable event," said Bro. Stika, who is affiliated with Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34, Preston. "Overall, it was a very enjoyable morning."

Nardi said what struck her as most memorable was the presence of the younger members of the Masonic organizations. "They were very vocal, singing and cheering throughout the event," she said. "It is refreshing when young members are so actively supportive of something benefiting the older population."

"The most memorable thing for me was the number of people who attended despite the dreary day, and all the young kids who were volunteering," Hyland agreed. "I thought that was great. I chose to participate because what is a more worthwhile cause than the people we are here for – our residents."

Registration for this year's Walk will soon be underway. Walk Captains are being assigned at each Masonicare affiliate and throughout the Masonic organization. "People should sign up because it is another way to give back to our residents," Nardi said. "This will allow us to give even more needed and desired things to our residents to improve their quality of life."

To register for the 2008 Quality of Life Walk, or for additional information, contact The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut at (203) 679-5585.

MHC Offers Help and Hope for People with Vision Loss

"Lowvision," or partial sight, is a condition that can't be corrected through surgery, medication, eyeglasses, or contact lenses. Low vision ranges from minimal loss to almost total blindness. The vision loss is permanent and can interfere with the performance of simple daily tasks such as reading mail, paying bills, writing letters, or simply dialing a phone. No longer being able to drive, watch a favorite TV show, or read a novel can cause people with low vision to feel shut off from the world around them.

Fortunately, there is help available for people with low vision. Since 1995, **Masonic Healthcare Center's Low Vision Rehabilitation Center** in Wallingford has been helping people learn to use their remaining vision to the best of their ability, even after their eye doctors have done everything possible to correct their vision problems.

Just ask Bro. Robert Wassell, a 57-year member of Valley Lodge No. 36, Simsbury, formerly Hiram Lodge 98, Bloomfield, about the Low Vision rehabilitation program at Masonic Healthcare Center. Bro. Bob, who is 92, was diagnosed with macular degeneration several years ago and has been a low vision patient at Masonic Healthcare Center for almost two years. He knows firsthand what can be done to make life better for people who are visually impaired, and he

can't say enough about how much he was helped by the Center's knowledgeable, caring professionals.

"My daughter, who was visiting her father-in-law at Masonic Healthcare Center, saw a brochure on the Low Vision program and brought one home. She encouraged me to make an appointment, and I've been coming here ever since. Dr. Parke and the staff are just wonderful – I can't thank them enough. They've helped me so much."

Bro. Bob, who was a printer with Travelers Insurance in Hartford for 43 years, is now considered legally blind. His vision problems caused him to give up his driver's license some years ago. "It was a very hard thing to do, but I was fortunate that my wife, Virginia, was able to do all of the driving for us." Sadly, Bob's wife passed away in January of 2006. "Besides missing her so much, I realized it would be very difficult to live alone in our home without Virginia's help, so I put my name on the waiting list for the A. Norman Johnson Apartments on Masonicare's Wallingford campus," Bro. Bob explained. A friend of Bob's drove him from Colchester to Wallingford so he could continue to keep his appointments at Masonic.

While Bro. Bob was waiting to make the move to Johnson Apartments, Jean Festa, Director of Outpatient

Rehabilitation and the Low Vision Program, paid him a visit at his home in Colchester. She provided him with some great tips that helped him make the most of his remaining vision. She also suggested an assortment of magnifying devices to help him – from larger numbers on the microwave and the thermostat to a talking alarm clock and wristwatch. "For just about everything I was having trouble with, she was able to offer something that could help me."

After Bob made the move to the Johnson Apartments, occupational therapist Michele Tarantino, coordinator of the Low Vision program, worked with him to ensure he was well acclimated to his new surroundings. Michele suggested to Bob that he subscribe to Books on Tape, and listening to these books has become a pastime he truly enjoys. He also attends a monthly Low Vision support group right on campus at Ashlar Village. "Being involved with this group has really helped a lot. And although I'm legally blind, instead of being sorry for what I lost, I'm thankful for what I have – the ability to get around. Moving here was one of the best decisions I've ever made."

A retail store in the Low Vision Department, which is open to

the community, offers a wide array of the latest optical and non-optical devices. Magnifiers, reading machines, talking clocks, diabetic supplies related to vision, enlargement software, and calculators and timers with large numbers are just some examples of the equipment that can make living at home easier – and safer. These devices are reasonably priced and are not taxed due to Masonic Healthcare Center's not-for-profit status.

Services for low vision evaluation and occupational therapy are approved under Medicare Part B and most commercial insurances. Individuals can self-refer, but a doctor's referral, either from a primary care physician or eye care specialist, is recommended.

If low vision is affecting your quality of life, or that of a loved one, be sure to take advantage of the comprehensive low vision services available at Masonic Healthcare Center. As Bro. Bob will enthusiastically tell you, he's definitely glad he did!

For additional information about Masonic Healthcare Center's Low Vision Program or to schedule an appointment, call 203-679-6282. Free parking is conveniently located right outside the entrance.



Michele Tarantino, coordinator of the Low Vision Program at Masonic Healthcare Center, works with Bro. Bob Wassell, a low vision client and resident of the A. Norman Johnson Apartments at the Center.



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Peases Ease into Retirement with Active, Charitable Lifestyle

Bro. Irving Pease and his wife, Madeline, are relative newcomers to Ashlar Village — and to retirement — but they have adapted quickly to their new lifestyle and are enjoying every minute of it.

"It's been 18 months already," says Bro. Irving, a longtime Mason and retired machinist who ran his own business in Enfield for 23 years, making small, high precision aircraft parts. "It doesn't seem like it."

The former Enfield residents said they weren't even looking to retire when they visited Ashlar Village, Masonicare's continuing care retirement community, in February of 2006. "I was still working," says Irving, a Somers native who is now 72. "I had no intention of retiring."

But retire he did and the Peases moved to Ashlar Village in June of that same year. This year, they will be moving into Notch Hill, Ashlar Village's newest independent-living apartments, when construction is completed. "It was like shutting off a light switch," says Irving, reflecting on his decision to sell his business and make the move. "It was time."

Although the Peases' lifestyle has switched into retirement mode, one thing that hasn't changed over the years is their desire to help others. One way they do that is through their faithful support of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, the philanthropic affiliate of Masonicare.

"We've always been supporters of The Masonic Charity Foundation and the good work that they do," says Irving, a 52-year Mason, who is a Past Master of Ionic Lodge No. 110, North Windham, and Past District Deputy for District 9B. "We've contributed for years."

The Peases are also members of the Masonicare Society, a giving society in which donors are recognized for their contributions

of \$520 or more each year to the Masonicare Annual Appeal.

The Masonicare Annual Appeal is a campaign that supports the Quality of Life Funds for residents and patients in need at Masonic Healthcare Center, Ashlar of Newtown, and Connecticut VNA, all Masonicare affiliates.

"We're fortunate to be able to contribute," says Madeline.

Most recently, the couple established a charitable gift annuity (CGA) with The Foundation, which is another way to support Masonicare. The Peases will continue to receive a steady stream of income from the annuity as long as they both live.

Charitable gift annuities have tax advantages and can be established as either a one- or two-life annuity, with payout rates corresponding to the age of the annuitants. With a two-life charitable gift annuity, the balance of the original gift becomes available to support Masonicare's many programs upon the death of the second annuitant.

"This was our first annuity," says Irving. "We put the money in there and are getting a good return for the rest of our lives. It will also do a lot of good, helping to enhance the quality of life of those in need."

The Peases' association with Masonicare goes back many years. In 1979, Irving gave weekly tours of the Masonic Healthcare Center as a District Deputy. Today, he serves as a member of the Masonic Healthcare Center Development Committee as well as President of the Ashlar Village Association.

Bro. Irving is also affiliated with Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford. In addition, he serves as Associate Grand Marshal At-Large for Ashlar Village.

The Peases have been married for 43 years and have two sons, Scott and Craig. Like Irving, Bro.



Although they are relative newcomers to Ashlar Village, Madeline and Bro. Irving Pease are longtime friends of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

Craig is Past Master of Ionic Lodge No. 110. Irving also has a daughter, Wendy, from his previous marriage, and two grandchildren; he is now a great-grandfather as well.

Madeline, 68, who was most recently employed as circulation coordinator at Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield, says she always had a feeling that their life's journey would bring them home to the Masonicare campus in Wallingford.

"I think when we first married, it was always in the back of my mind that this was where we would end up living one day," says Madeline, who grew up in Houlton, Maine.

And the move to Ashlar Village has been gratifying. "Everybody is so friendly here — all the residents, all the people who work here," she says.

"The staff bends over backwards to help you," Madeline adds. "It's like living in a five-star hotel. They spoil us!"

The Peases keep very busy within the Ashlar Village community. In addition to his work in the Woodcraft Shop and participation in the Computer Internet Group, Irving serves as the retirement community's official photographer.

Madeline, meanwhile, works in the grocery store and participates in the Care Shawl Program, in which she helps knit shawls that are blessed by a chaplain and delivered to those "in need of a hug."

"Here, you can be as alone or as busy as you want," Madeline says. "There are dozens of things to participate in."

"You just can't beat it," she says. "Ashlar Village is wonderful."

For more information about the benefits of establishing a charitable gift annuity, contact The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut at (203) 679-5555.

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Robert "Rabbie" Burns, Poet, Mason

Scottish Bard Inspires Burns' Nights

by Tony Foote

Robert Burns (January 25, 1759 – July 21, 1796), also known as Rabbie Burns, Scotland's favorite son, the Ploughman Poet, the Bard of Ayrshire, and, in Scotland as simply The Bard, was a poet and a lyricist. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland, and is celebrated worldwide. He is the best-known of the poets who wrote in the Scots language, although much of his writing is also in English and a 'light' Scots dialect, accessible to an audience beyond Scotland.

Robert Burns was initiated and Entered Apprentice in Lodge St. David, Tarbolton on July 4 (ironic date), 1781, at the age of 23.

Burns came into the lodge amidst a controversy. Originally there had been only one lodge in Tarbolton, chartered in 1771 from Kilwinning Lodge No. 0, said to be the oldest lodge in the world. In 1773, a group broke away, forming Lodge St. David No. 174, and the original lodge became St. James Tarbolton Kilwinning No. 178, only to

be reunited in 1781, nine days before Burns' first degree.

While St. James was clearly the older of the two lodges, St. David's name was used, and seeds were sown for further dissension. Burns, in the meantime, was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft, and raised to the degree of Master Mason on October 1, 1781.

The lodge record book, according to James Mackay's "Burns" reads as follows:

"Robert Burns in Lochly was passed and raised, Henry Cowan (ironic name!) being Master, Robert. Wodrow Secretary, and James Manson Treasurer". (p. 119)

Manson and Wodrow would later take the regalia of St. James' Lodge from the charter chest stored at John Richard's Inn after tricking Richard into a false errand with a couple of "gills" of punch. While originally ordered to return the regalia by the Grand Lodge, it was eventually ruled that since the union of the two lodges was voluntary, then the separation was as well.

St. James Lodge met again as a separate body on June 17, 1782. (Mackay, 119-120). Burns went with St. James Lodge, and on July 27, 1784, he was elected "Depute Master" of the lodge at the ripe young age of 25. Sir John Witefoord was the Worshipful Master of the lodge, but it was

a somewhat honorary position, and the Deputy Master in reality was in charge.

Burns was faithful to the lodge, attending regularly. Three minutes were in his handwriting; 29 minutes were signed by him, and also show when he changed his name. Originally, his father spelled the last name "Burness" and before 1786, Robert spelled it the same way. On March 1, 1786, Robert's brother Gilbert received his second and third degrees and both Gilbert and Robert signed their last names as "Burns" (Mackay, p.121).

1786 was not a happy year for Robert financially or emotionally. Denied his love Jean, Burns sought comfort with Mary Campbell (the famous "Highland Mary"), who reportedly bore Burns a child and died later that year from typhus. Burns, in grief over the loss of two women, as well as facing child support payments for Jean's unborn child, decided to flee to Jamaica to avoid grief and an angry father (and brother!).

Tradition says that Burns recited his "Farewell to the Brethren of St. James Lodge, Tarbolton" on the night of June 23, at the stated meeting of the lodge, in anticipation of his voyage to the West Indies. However, Burns decided to stay in Scotland when his Kilmarnock edition of poems was published in July 1786 by a brother Freemason, and 350 brethren of St. John's Lodge, Kilmarnock, subscribed to a copy. In October he was made an honorary member of Lodge Kilmarnock Kilwinning St. John, and wrote "Masonic Song" in honor of the lodge and its Worshipful Master, Major William Parker (McLeod, p.169).

Burns' rise in popularity for his poems also contributed to his rise in Freemasonry. At a meeting of Lodge St. Andrew in Edinburgh in 1787, at which the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland was present, Burns was toasted by the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Francis Chateris, with the words

"Caledonia and Caledonia's bard, Bro. Robert. Burns," which was met with a terrific response from the brethren. Burns was completely taken aback, and though trembling, returned the toast of the Grand Master, to response of 'Very Well Indeed' from some of the officers of the Grand Line (McLeod, p. 169).

In February 1787, Burns was made the Poet Laureate of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning No. 2, Edinburgh.

Tradition has it the Burns was installed as Poet Laureate at the March meeting of the lodge (as many paintings show), but lodge records disprove this. Some maintain that faulty records and Robert's modesty are responsible for it being left out of the lodge minutes and Robert's letters.

Mackay doubts that Burns would have purposely left out such a high accolade to his work as a poet (Wallace McLeod's essay "Robert Burns," p.170, Mackay, p.274). When the first Edinburgh Edition of his poems was released in April 1787, again, many subscribers were members of Canongate, including the publisher, printer, and artist who supplied the frontispiece for the edition. Like his Kilmarnock edition, Freemasons assisted their brother and ultimately gave the world the gift of Burns's poetry.

Burns was exalted a companion in the Holy Royal Arch Degree in May 1787 at St. Ebbe's Lodge, Eyemouth. The companions unanimously agreed to admit Burns without paying the necessary fees, as they were greatly honored to have such a great poet and man like Burns a part of their chapter (Mackay, p.311).

When Burns moved to Dumfries, he joined Lodge St. Andrew on St. John's Day, 1788, and once again, showed a great enthusiasm for his lodge. In 1792, he was elected Senior Warden and served a one-year term. This was the last Masonic office he held before his death in 1796. He was 37 years old.



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Thomas R. Burnham..... Valley 36	George Hulme..... King Hiram 12	Fredrick J. Mullaney Jr..... Temple 16
William O. Camp St. Luke's 48	Robert J. Hurlburt Valley 36	Vincent Palmer Sr..... Widow's Son 66
William S. Clark.....Hartford Evergreen 88	Robert T. Jennings St. Peter's 21	Frank R. ParkerEvening Star 101
Percy F. Coker..... Corinthian 104	Wilbur C. Johnson..... Compass 9	Homer A. Petry..... Valley 36
Jo A. Coulter..... Corinthian 104	Murray L. KaplanFidelity-St. John's 3	Frank P. Prelli St. Andrew's 64
Robert H. Dains..... Morning Star 47	Lester Kimenker..... Sequin-Level 140	William PrucknerAmerica-St. John's 8
Samuel L. Dimenstein.....Cosmopolitan 125	Henry H. Knapp..... Corinthian 104	Ralph D. PryorColumbia 25
Herbert Galvin.....Cosmopolitan 125	Ralph E. Kraft Union 5	Raymond C. Riggott..... Unity 148
Robert G. Gillespie..... Village 29	Emerick W. Kuter Oxoboxo 116	Ellsworth D. Rogers Federal 17
Erwin M. Glincher.....Cosmopolitan 125	Norman A. Levinson..... Sequin-Level 140	Frank T. Stone..... Sequin-Level 140
Robert A. Goin.....Columbia 25	Charles E. Linsley Annawon 115	Nellis S. Treadwell..... Ashlar-Aspetuck 142
Douglas G. Grandin Sr. Valley 36	Raymond H. Lube Fayette 69	Berkeley S. Wildman.....Fidelity-St. John's 3
Clark E. Green..... St. Andrew's 64	Raymond E. Luden.....Adelphi-Momauguin 63	Gordon A. WilsonManchester 73
Cecil I. Grey.....Liberty-Continental 76	Ronald A. Mard Corinthian 104	Robert B. WiltshireJerusalem 49
Irving J. Guarino..... Annawon 115	John D. McNaughton..... Columbia 25	

Lewis Jewel...

(continued from page 3)

WM- Brother J.W., *How were the sons of craftsmen named?*

JW - *To the son on whom these honors were bequeathed, the appellation of Lewis was given, that from henceforth he might be entitled to all the privileges which that honor conferred, W. Sir.*

In the English system of Masonry, the lewis is found on the tracing board of the Entered Apprentice. There it is used as a symbol of strength because, by its assistance, the operative mason is enabled to lift the heaviest stones with a comparatively small exertion of physical power. It has not been adopted as a symbol by American Freemasons, except in Pennsylvania, where it receives the English interpretation.

A paragraph used in a United Grand Lodge of England version of the Junior Warden's lecture

dating from 1801 gives this instructive explanation: "The word Lewis denotes strength, and is here depicted by certain pieces of metal dovetailed into a stone, which forms a cramp, and enables the operative Mason to raise great weights to certain heights with little encumbrance, and to fix them in their proper places. Lewis, likewise denotes the son of a Mason; his duty is to bear the heat and burden of the day, from which his parents, by reason of their age, ought to be exempt; to help them in time of need, and thereby render the close of their days happy and comfortable; his privilege for so doing is to be made a Mason before any other person however dignified."

Yes, this is another English custom that does not apply to American Freemasonry. By the Constitutions of England, a

lewis, the son of a Mason, may be initiated at the age of eighteen, while it is required of all other candidates that they shall have arrived at the more mature age of twenty-one. That said, *The Builder* noted in 1922 that, "In this country, these rights of a lewis or a louveteau are not recognized, and the very names were, until lately, scarcely known, except to a few Masonic scholars."

With Connecticut and many other Grand Lodges lowering the age of admission to Masonry in recent years, the custom of initiating a 'lewis' at a younger age than other candidates has

been rendered moot.

When you see a man wearing the Lewis Jewel, you know that he has Masonically followed in his father's footsteps – and how appropriate this is, given the last instructions in the charge to the brethren at each lodge installation: "... may the tenets of our profession be transmitted through your Lodge from generation to generation."

(Editor's note: application forms for the Lewis Jewel are available at the web site of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut – www.ctfreemasons.net. The cost of the jewel is \$58.00.)

Answering Duty's Call....

Connecticut Freemasons is compiling a list of our Connecticut servicemen brothers who are currently serving in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area. Please let us know their names, rank, theater of operation, and lodge name and number so that we may properly recognize their sacrifices in a future issue.



DID YOU
Vote?

Results are in!

There were 2 polls on the Grand Lodge website (www.ctfreemasons.net).

Since January 27, the polls have collected the opinions of 93 voters if they have a family member in the Masonic Family and 80 voters if they plan to attend a Table Lodge.

The results are in and the tally is:

Is anyone else in your immediate family a member of the Masonic Family?

No 47 50.5%
Yes 46 49.5%

I plan to go to a Table Lodge this year.

Yes 71 88.8%
No 9 11.3%

There are two new polls on the Grand Lodge website. Please take a moment and cast your ballot. Vote for the good of the order.

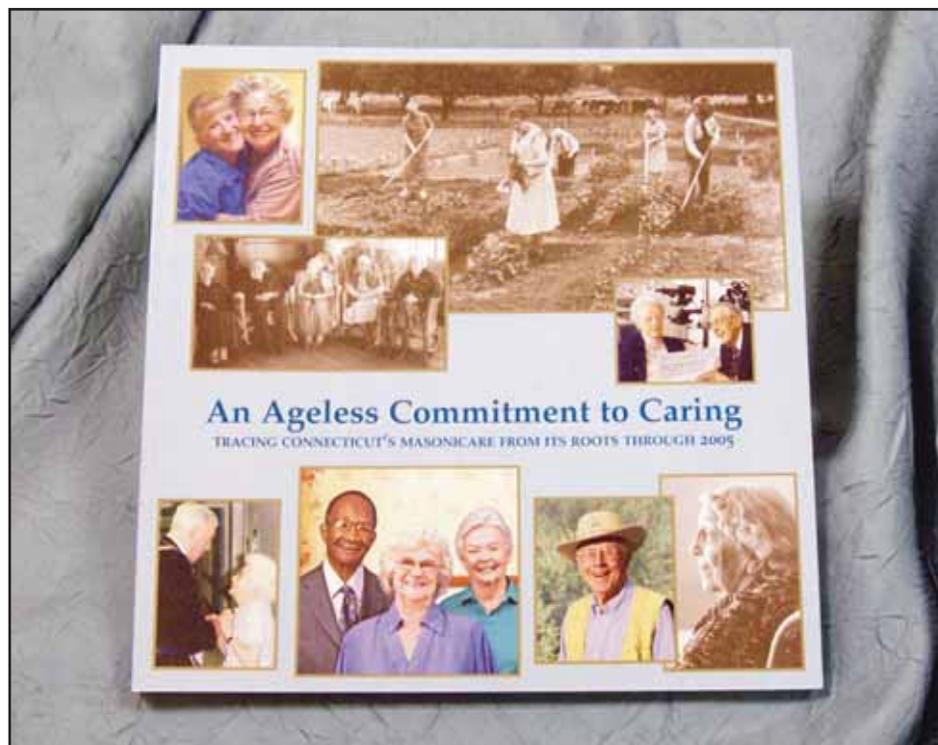
Read About Masonicare – From Its Roots Through 2005

Complete History Now Available in Book Form

The complete history of Masonicare spans more than 100 years and is now available in a book entitled *An Ageless Commitment to Caring*, which explores the historic rise of this true "continuum of care."

An Ageless Commitment to Caring explains how in 1797, the Rev. Ashbel Baldwin, the first Grand Chaplain, encouraged the Grand Lodge to establish a fund to help the needy, and how in 1895, the Masonic Home and Orphanage was opened on an 88-acre parcel in Wallingford. Now Connecticut's leading not-for-profit provider of senior healthcare and retirement living, and open to all, this wonderful organization is a symbol of what Masons can do when they work together for a common cause.

The book chronicles the first Grand Master's Day in 1902, the



formation of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, and the building and expansion of what is now known as Masonic Healthcare Center.

Readers will learn how Ashlar Village became a reality, how Ashlar of Newtown was acquired, and how Connecticut VNA became the largest home healthcare and hospice

organization in the state.

Filled with wonderful photos of people and events from the past and present, the book relates the important roles many of these people, both Masons and non-Masons alike, played in expanding and improving the vision that became the Masonicare of today.

Written by Rita O. Mushinsky, who served the organization for

28 years as its first director of public relations, the book was laid out and designed by Pat Kalinauskas. Bro. Gail L. Smith, MWPGM, assisted in the planning and execution.

If you would like to own this 130-page book, it is available for a suggested donation of \$25.00. All proceeds will be used to benefit the 2008 Masonicare Annual Appeal, which helps support residents and patients throughout the Masonicare continuum when other funding sources are not available to them.

Please make your check payable to "MCF of CT", and if you wish, you may specify that your donation be used to benefit Masonic Healthcare Center, Ashlar of Newtown, or Connecticut VNA.

The book is on display in the Gift Shop at Masonic Healthcare Center in Wallingford, or you can contact Richard Memmott, Masonicare's Director of Community Services, at 1-877-4-AGELESS or 203-679-6905. Quantities are limited.

Old Erie Lodge No. 3, Warren, Ohio

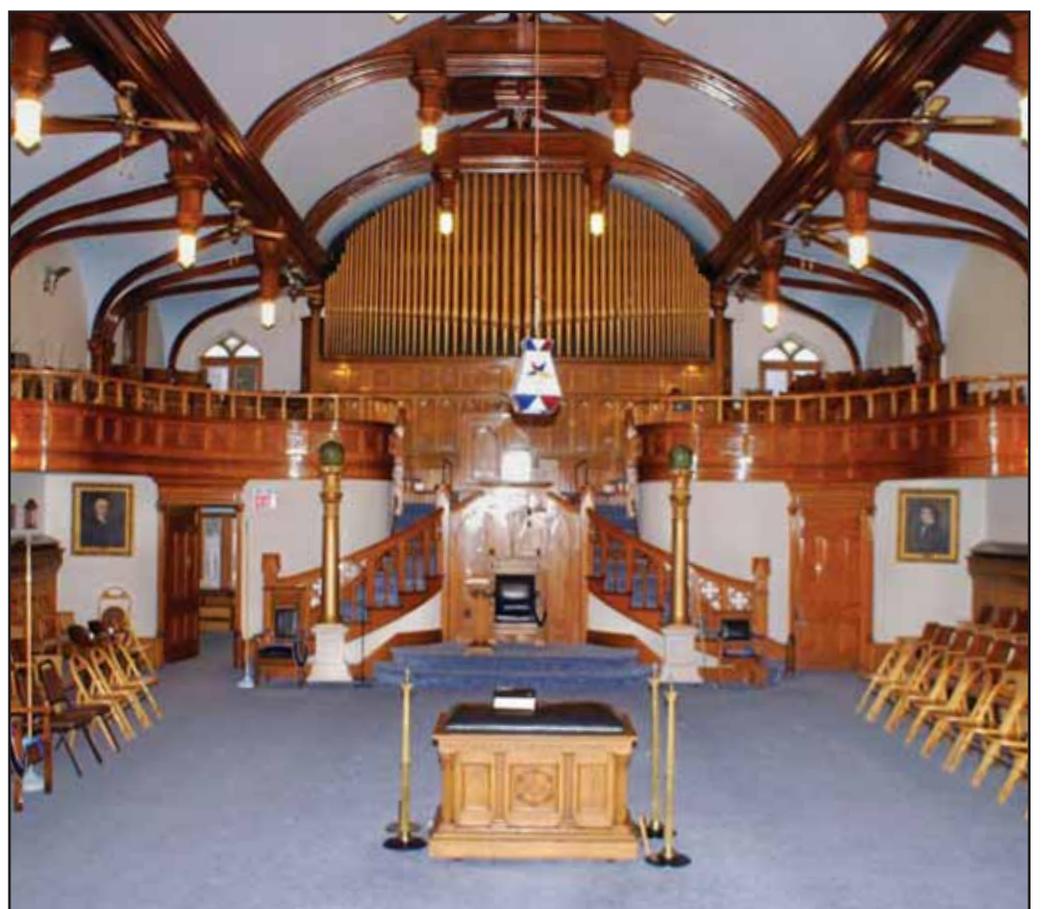
On February 12, Grand Master Bill Greene visited Old Erie Lodge in Warren Ohio. The Lodge was celebrating 205 years of Freemasonry in Ohio and 200 years as part of the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio.

Old Erie Lodge was originally chartered by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut in 1803 as Erie Lodge No. 47 by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

Old Erie Lodge was one of six Lodges that established the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, on January 4, 1808. MW Greene was invited to the celebration by WB George Edmiston.

The lodge has a beautiful building, lodge room, dining area, and meeting rooms. The lodge room itself was once a two-story grain storage building. It is now filled with hand-carved woodwork. It is reported that the ceiling height from floor to highest point is 40 cubits in height. Sound familiar? WB Kenneth Smith, a three time Past Master of Old Erie, made a gavel that was presented to MW Bill. WB Smith is 81 years old and loves working with wood. He made many things in the lodge such as photo frames, display boxes, and gavels.

The friendship and courtesies extended by the brothers of Old Erie Lodge were deeply appreciated by the Grand Master, who intends to visit their Lodge again. MW Greene presented a plaque to Old Erie lodge and to the Grand Lodge of Ohio from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut to commemorate the visit.



Beautiful woodwork can be seen looking toward the West at Old Erie Lodge No. 3, Warren, Ohio.

photo courtesy of Bill Greene



2007 was filled with activity as the 5-year plan which was approved in 2005 began to be realized. Enclosed you'll find our report for the fiscal year, October 1, 2006 - September 30, 2007.

independent living apartments, one of the most sought-after pieces of our continuum.

Connecticut VNA has embarked on an exciting venture with Saint Francis Hospital. By combining the Greater Hartford office of Connecticut VNA and Saint Francis Homecare, we've launched **Connecticut VNA Partners**. This initiative will allow both organizations to expand the home health and hospice care they bring to the Hartford region. Our demographic and reimbursement projections all point to greater need and emphasis for community-based care. Masonicare and Connecticut VNA are preparing for this with special demonstration projects proposed to the state, as well as technological pilots that will explore ways to help seniors live safely at home, longer.

At **Ashlar of Newtown**, renovations on the short-term rehabilitation unit were completed just as the fiscal year drew to a close. Newtown will continue to renovate its other units as it prepares to celebrate 25 years as part of the Masonicare continuum. We also are pleased to now have a full-time Masonicare physician on site in Newtown.

While we are pleased to report this progress, we must acknowledge that we are more than 4 months into the next fiscal year and the market has changed. The Charity Foundation, which we are dependent upon to make up for the shortfall in Medicaid reimbursement, had a great 2007 thanks to tremendous donor support and the investment market at that time. Further, in all of our clinical businesses we encountered intense competition for nurses as never before. We are grateful for the talented and dedicated staff we have. We need to continually recruit, engage and reward employees who embrace our mission and vision — what we call *The Masonicare Experience* — through all of our services whether inpatient, outpatient, residential or childcare.

We ask for your support in the year ahead and are most grateful for your tremendous interest and allegiance.

Howard W. Orr

Howard W. Orr
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Stephen B. McPherson
President and Chief Executive Officer

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT as of September 30, 2007 (\$000 omitted)

The financial summary is presented on a consolidated basis to include Ashlar of Newtown, Ashlar Village, Connecticut VNA, Corporate Services, Masonic Healthcare Center, Masonic Management Services and The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. A complete copy of the consolidated financial statement is available upon request.

OPERATING REVENUE

Net patient service revenue
Resident fees
Other revenue
Net assets released from restriction

Total Operating Revenue

OPERATING EXPENSES

Salaries and wages
Employee benefits
Supplies and other services
Professional fees
Provision for depreciation and amortization
Interest
Provision for bad debts

Total Operating Expenses

(Deficit) from operations

NON-OPERATING GAINS (LOSSES)

Contributions
Investment income
Impairment/Change in
unrealized appreciation on assets

Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets

	2007	2006	% Change
Net patient service revenue	\$ 120,768	\$ 122,401	-1%
Resident fees	11,020	9,335	18%
Other revenue	8,221	7,646	8%
Net assets released from restriction	157	113	39%
Total Operating Revenue	140,166	139,495	0%
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Salaries and wages	82,708	80,682	3%
Employee benefits	22,577	22,290	1%
Supplies and other services	23,103	21,825	6%
Professional fees	16,175	17,317	-7%
Provision for depreciation and amortization	8,775	9,328	-6%
Interest	2,559	2,709	-6%
Provision for bad debts	1,384	227	510%
Total Operating Expenses	157,281	154,378	2%
(Deficit) from operations	(17,115)	(14,883)	-15%
NON-OPERATING GAINS (LOSSES)			
Contributions	5,841	5,267	11%
Investment income	19,110	13,594	41%
Impairment/Change in unrealized appreciation on assets	5,245	5,242	0%
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 13,081	\$ 9,220	42%

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ASSETS

Current assets	\$	39,515	\$	39,328	0%
Noncurrent assets whose use is limited		187,001		170,984	9%
Property, plant, equipment and other assets, net		111,394		90,668	23%
Total Assets		337,910		300,980	12%

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities		62,308		45,408	37%
Noncurrent liabilities		94,345		90,332	4%
Total Liabilities		156,653		135,740	15%

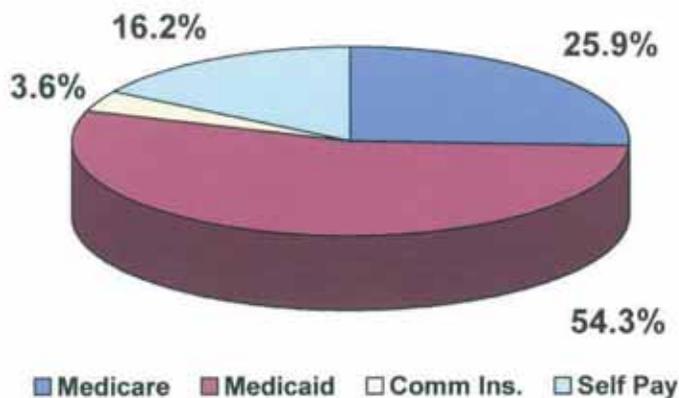
NET ASSETS

Unrestricted		102,105		89,024	15%
Temporarily restricted by donors		2,377		2,186	9%
Permanently restricted by donors		76,775		74,030	4%
Total Net Assets		181,257		165,240	10%

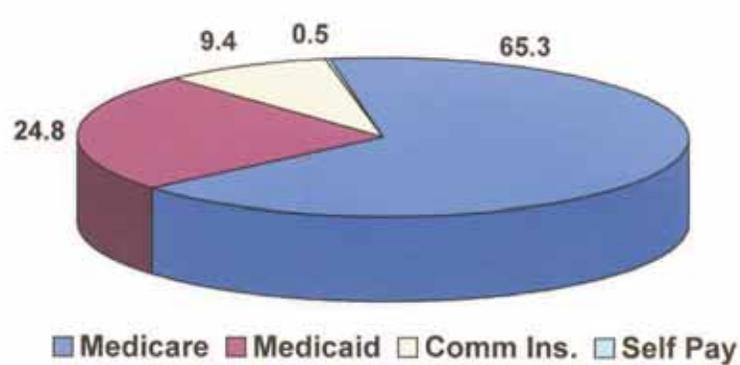
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

		2007		2006	% Change
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$	337,910	\$	300,980	12.27%

Revenue
Long-Term and Sub Acute Care



Revenue
Home Healthcare and Hospice



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THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

Each year, The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut works to secure charitable gifts that enable Masonicare and its affiliates to continue offering the highest quality healthcare to the residents and patients they serve.

During fiscal year 2007, the fundraising efforts of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut secured \$8,940,236 in support of programs and services of Masonicare and its affiliates. Between October 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007, The Foundation received unrestricted contributions totaling \$6,807,397, as well as \$2,132,839 in gifts earmarked for its Endowment. These gifts came in many forms, including bequests, charitable gift annuities and trust distributions, as well as donations to the Masonicare Annual Appeal and to The Foundation's special events. Of particular significance is the very generous gift of \$355,000 made by The Eastern Star Charity Foundation of Connecticut, Inc.

Fiscal year 2007 contributions were as follows:

Bequests	\$4,639,047
Trusts	2,143,635
Major Gifts	1,005,011
Gift Annuity Residuals	259,526
Scholarship Funds	11,567
Masonicare Annual Appeal	374,106
Holiday Appeal	53,028
Gifts to Connecticut VNA's Hospice Program	121,516
Masonicare Golf Classic	206,730
Masonicare Quality of Life Walk	61,359
Some Enchanted Evening Event	13,477
Tribute Gifts	22,935
Other Gifts	28,299

Total Funds Raised in 2007: \$8,940,236



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MASONICARE SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY

STAFFED OCCUPANCY

	2007	2006
Masonic Healthcare Center (Licensed beds)		
Skilled nursing beds (337)	100%	100%
Rehabilitation beds (45)	92%	93%
Acute medical beds (50)	65%	51%
Acute psychiatric beds (30)	77%	78%
Residential care apartments (86)	99%	99%
Independent apartments (57)	100%	100%
Ashlar Village		
Independent living units (262)	97%	96%
Assisted living apartments (57)	97%	100%
Ashlar of Newtown		
Skilled nursing beds (122)	98%	98%
Rehabilitation beds (32)	81%	89%
Assisted living apartments (54)	84%	78%

VISITS

	2007	2006
Connecticut VNA		
Skilled nursing care	156,177	166,648
Physical, occupational and speech therapy	47,609	62,090
Home health aides	150,422	159,139
All other	26,310	12,001
Total	380,518	399,878
Hospice and Palliative Care (Measured in days)	90,698	92,935
Masonic Management Services		
Physician visits	36,400	31,033

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DISTRICT No. 1

(a) RW William R. Deickler, DD • WB Frederick J. Clark, Jr., AGM
(b) RW Michael J. Sutula, DD • WB Christopher G. Finalis, AGM

“Burns Night” Brings Out the Kilts in Westport

by Tony Foote

Temple Lodge No. 65, Westport, held their first Burns Night Supper on Saturday, February 2. This evening was enjoyed by 76 lodge members with family and guests, starting with a cocktail hour during which attendees got to know each other.

Bruce Taylor, a Scottish piper, played the bagpipes as people mingled. The Haggis was piped in by Bruce, carried on a silver platter by Ninorah Brookshire and Deborah Burns, fondly referred to in the lodge, as Rabbin Burns' great, great, great granddaughter.



From left, Duncan Stalker, Deborah Burns, Edward, and Ninorah Brookshire and Bruce Taylor present the Haggis. The photo on front cover shows the stabbing of the Haggis.



Bro. Tony Foote leads the kilt-clad brothers of Temple Lodge No. 65 at the February 2 Burns Dinner. Noticably absent from the photo is RW James McWain, who had no good reason to offer for not wearing his kilt. We'll look for it next year, Jim!

WB John T. Kahler welcomed the guests and handed the chair over to WB Duncan Stalker, who introduced dignitaries and guests. There were toasts to The President of the United States of America and to Queen Elizabeth of England.

A superb meal was enjoyed by all and \$275 was raised for the Connecticut Child Identification Program (CTCHIP) by auctioning a signed bottle of authentic Robbie Burns Scotch Whisky. The high bid came from WB Lemuel Johnson, Temple Lodge No. 65.

The evening ended with the traditional singing of Auld Lang Syne.

WHAT IS A BURNS SUPPER?

Burns Suppers have been part of Scottish culture for about 200 years as a means of commemorating Scotland's best loved bard. When Burns immortalized the haggis in verse he created a central link that is maintained to this day. The ritual was started by close friends of Burns a few years after his death in 1796 as a tribute to his memory.

We thank our Masonic brothers for their continued support



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Trumbull's Erff Honored by Elks



Bro. Matt Erff (center) is the Junior Warden of Trumbull Lodge No. 22, New Haven, but on January 26 he was a center of attention at the Hamden Lodge No. 2224, Benevolent Protective Order of Elks 'Community Awards Night 2008.' One of the evening's six honorees, Bro. Erff was designated the "Volunteer Firefighter of the Year" for his eleven years of volunteer fire service plus volunteer ambulance service as a certified Emergency Medical Technician. Shown with Bro. Erff are Elks Club Exalted Ruler Karen Forsyth (l), who presided over the evening's events, and

Bro. David Berardesca, Hamden fire chief and member of Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, who nominated Bro. Erff for the award.

Father Marshals Deacon Sons



At the installation of Orange Lodge No. 143, Milford, installing marshal VW Elmer Manley had the pleasure of escorting his sons, the Deacons, to the respective places in the lodge. At left is Dean, who serves as Junior Deacon, while Greg, right, is the new Senior Deacon. photo courtesy of Moe Knox

"Victorian Lady" Entertains Corinthian No. 103

On February 9, Kandie Carl, the "Victorian Lady," took the ladies of Corinthian Lodge No. 103, North Haven, back to the day when corsets and high-button shoes were the style. Kandie, an entertainer with background, in theater, dance, and sewing, demonstrated

the fashion of the 1890s for the attendees at a "Ladies' Appreciation Tea" hosted by the brothers of the lodge. The tea was arranged by Worshipful Master Nicola M. Iannone as a tribute to the women in their lives and to express to them their sincere gratitude for all they do.

Ten brothers and 34 ladies witnessed the performance that Kandie calls the "more is better philosophy of the gilded age." She began by showing her audience how a lady of the Victorian Era dresses from her bloomers and chemise out. She then added layer upon layer of clothing to achieve the "silhouette" look of the time. As Kandie added each layer, she named the article of clothing and explained its function as part of the overall look. She finished her outfit with a hat, purse, gloves, and a fan. She also demonstrated how Victorian ladies used a fan to discretely communicate with others in

the room.

After her performance, she joined everyone for a cup of tea, tea sandwiches, fruit, cookies, and punch. Conversation around the tables centered on the fashions of the time and Kandie was happy to answer everyone's questions. It was the general consensus that to be a Victorian Lady took a lot of time and hard work. All the ladies thought it would be fun to play dress up as a lady of the 1890s for a day, but all agreed that they would not want to do it every day.



The Victorian Lady asking Brother Bill Buick for a kiss with her fan.

Fred V. Miller, Jr.



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DISTRICT No. 4

- (a) RW Robert C. Moon, DD • WB Charles W. Rome, AGM
(b) RW Bruce Padula, DD • WB James J. Pyskaty, AGM
(c) RW Bradley K. Cooney, DD • WB Edwin F. Dingus, AGM

"Carrying" Out Orders

Lodge officers know that one of the duties of the Senior Deacon is to carry out the orders of the Worshipful Master. Lodge officers also know that when a Master 'orders' something, his order is to be obeyed.

Eileen Jess (elevated), wife of WB and Associate Grand Tiler Bob Jess of Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford, apparently wasn't aware of this. Thus, when new Ansantawae Worshipful Master Stephen Hill asked Senior Deacon Scott Sherrick to present Mrs. Jess to the East that she and the wives of the lodge might be thanked for their efforts in providing lodge refreshments and in numerous other ways, Eileen replied that she was too busy getting the post-installation



refreshments ready to go upstairs. What's a newly installed Deacon to do? Thanks to the fortunate lens work of Bro. Moe Knox, we learn that Bro. Sherrick is up to carrying out his orders – and 'in' his brother's wife....

Wooster Tricorn

When Aaron Andrews (standing) was installed as Worshipful Master of Wooster Lodge No. 79, New Haven, at the end of January, his 'style' was a tricorn cover, similar to the head covering of the namesake of the lodge as represented on the banner.

Seated is Anna Andrews, wife of the new Master, who provided musical interludes as a soloist and a member of a mixed quartet.



DISTRICT No. 5

- (a) RW Richard R. Jones, Jr., DD • WB Theodore L. Hasty, AGM
(b) RW Laurence E. Hangland, DD • WB Philip B. Swain, Jr., AGM

District 5 Tours Masonicare in Wallingford

by Johnny Miller

At a recent 5th District Blue Lodge Council meeting, brothers decided to take a tour of our "Masonic Jewel," our Masonicare facilities in Wallingford.

Masonicare hosted a tour of the Masonic Healthcare Center and Ashlar Village for 35 members and friends. The District 5 visitors were escorted through the facilities by RW Richard C. Memmott and WB Jon-Paul Venoit. For many, February 9 was the first time to see what they had heard so much about.

The visitors were impressed by the friendliness of the staff and enthusiasm of the residents. At MHC they viewed the lounges, stores, chapel, and train room.

The train room was closed but there was a window for all to take a peek.

Ashlar Village was the spot for a \$5 lunch of roast beef, chicken, and dessert thanks to a most gracious subsidy from Masonicare.

The new Hartog Center holds a movie house, arts and crafts area, and a new lodge room, as well as a recreation room with a pool table. Residents told the visitors they didn't know why they didn't move in sooner.

Masonic Healthcare Center and Ashlar Village made District 5 proud to be Masons and see what Masonry has contributed to.

Another visit when the train room is open is recommended as a good idea for everyone.

Here Be! Here Be!

A Message from
Worshipful Master Clifford F. Stamm II

Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington
Proudly Presents

English Lodge at Table

Thursday March 20

6:15 p.m. – Open Lodge • 6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Seven Course Dinner - \$20.00

*Limited Seating – First Come, First Served
Reservations are a must, this event will sell out!*

Please contact SW John Guirard at (860) 224-9218 or
guirardmm666@yahoo.com

DISTRICT No. 5

(a) RW Richard R. Jones, Jr., DD • WB Theodore L. Hasty, AGM
(b) RW Laurence E. Hangland, DD • WB Philip B. Swain, Jr., AGM

WB Sinclair Triumphs

Valley Lodge No. 36, Simsbury, hosted the 5th District Blue Lodge Council on Thursday, January 31, with a fine meal of roast pork. RW Gary Arseneau distributed plans formulated by the Redistricting Committee for the lodges to review prior to the next meeting of Blue Lodge Council. The upcoming visit to Masonicare was discussed.

A natural good-hearted banter bemoaned the possibility that a conversation between WB Harry Needham and MW Chip Stamm would add an hour to the meeting, however this was not the case.

RW Arseneau presented a large gavel, made by WB Peter Boychuck, and challenge deach lodge to "win" the gavel by having the most members attend a BLC meeting. Friendship Lodge 33, Southington, was the first recipient and WM Jim Sinclair hoists it in victory.



DISTRICT No. 6

(a) RW Melvin E. Johnson, DD • WB Aaron R. Sussman, AGM
(b) RW Dwight C. Mertens, DD • WB John DiCioccio, Jr., AGM

BIA – Working Together for a Great Cause

by Steve Aldi

The Manchester Brotherhood in Action held its 22nd annual breakfast to raise funds in support of a child with life threatening illness on Sunday, February 10, at the Manchester Masonic Building. Brotherhood in Action consists of members from B'nai B'rith, UNICO, Knights of Columbus, and Masonic lodges Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 and Manchester Lodge No. 73.

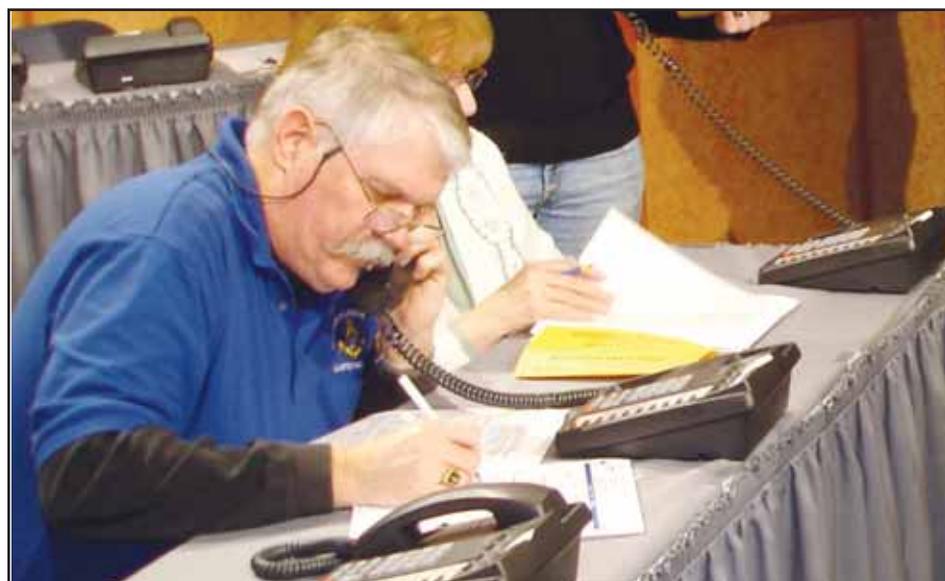
This year's child, Charlotte Wesoloskie, was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor at 3 weeks of age in May of last year. Her story and

a gallery of photos are available at her web site www.caringbridge.org/visit/charlottewesoloskie.

The tremendous turnout had the volunteers busy from the time the doors opened. Many members of the Manchester Fire and Police Departments participated as Charlotte's father Cory, right, is a Manchester police officer. Manchester Mayor Louis Spadaccini, a UNICO member, returned again this year to work with other volunteers to serve fruit cup, scrambled eggs, and hash browns. An oversized teddy bear was raffled and by the end of the 3 hour event, about 80 dozen eggs were consumed and \$4,000 was raised.



Columbia Answers the Call



by Arnie Grot

For the second year, Columbia Lodge 25, South Glastonbury, staffed every phone during a UConn women's basketball game at the CPTV Pledge Drive on Saturday, January 19. RW Rich Beebe organized the callers and coordinated the volunteers. Good Intent Chapter No. 17 OES, joined the lodge to make it a truly Masonic family event. In the photo, WM Skip House handles a pledge call.

Those who missed this event but wish to contribute may donate to: BIA, Mr. Joseph Hachey, 91 Diane Dr., Manchester, CT 06040.



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Sub Base Craftsmen Receive Notice

(The following refers to the Submarine Craftsmen Degree Team which is organized in the Eighth District. RW Art Richards is the author and one of the leaders of the team. This is part of the notice sent to the members for an upcoming degree. All area brothers are invited and perhaps some of you vets would like to join them in their work.)

NOW HERE IS A CHALLENGE FOR MANY! Just a few easy steps to get to the "Meet" of it all!!

1. Find your uniform (oh yea, "it is at the cleaners" has worn thin, heard it too many times!)

2. IT HAS WORN THIN!! (Yup, and most of us have "WORN FAT"!)

3. It was stolen, cleaners lost it, dog chewed it up, wife gave it away to the needy.

4. Now I know why there are Chaplains! (Confession time it don't fit- I grewed!)

5. Chuck Clark is not the only one that has grown a foot since he retired (yup, a foot in all directions, some places two)

6. Dick Lord retired after the Big One (WW1), still wears the same uniform. He is a Yankee and that explains it (I aint growin no more! New duds cost too much!!)

7. I too have eaten at some US Naval installations. Why do they serve cake for



breakfast? Along with cream of wheat cereal (must be I see the troops putting milk and sugar on it?)

8. At the last meeting that ran rather late I heard a Past Master say, "No, I will skip the FC too long!" I told him show up and we will be out of here 20 minutes earlier than tonight! Those that have been around remember CWO Jim Bates (the best ever) always say! - IN BY EIGHT- OUT BY TEN! (we have been trimming that quite a bit)

9. TRADITION: That much discussed word allows us to come early, stay late, hopefully get a part in the play! And have a good time

"PASSING THE FELLOWCRAFT" in the finest manner. First choice of chairs goes to active duty, retired last, but not least to those who served with PRIDE!

10. It would be of benefit to let the WM, Bill Dawson, Lody Morales or myself know if you are coming to join the evening so they WILL NOT RUN OUT OF FOOD!

11. FYI: Arthur E. Richards, USAF retired. I never learned to typewrite or spell. If I had I would have been in the USCG as a Clerk! Yeoman? Those are farmers in England! Hardest 5 years of my life was the fourth grade!

12. Now go back and read it all again! Hope to see a lodge with Bro's sitting in Tin chairs like it used to be!

"Letter to the Editor"

Dear Brother Editor-in-Chief:

Interesting article about fathers and sons in your latest issue. I saw only one mention ("saw" being the key word) of more than one son of a Mason being WM - several 3 generations.

My wife had three sons, a husband, a brother - all past masters of Eastern Star Lodge No. 44. One son and the husband were mentioned in your article. Linnell J. Smith was Master in 1976 and Mark Q. was Master in 1982. Linnell drove the rest of us nuts - he could read a lecture or a degree once and recite it. Her brother was Russell W. Potter 33° and PGHP and PGMPGM, close friend of Ivar Erickson and well known funeral director too.

Please tell that Associate Editor of yours that if he refers to the old Grand Lodge office as the former chicken coop one more time that I'll cut off more than his hair! It was part of the dairy barn! The farmer used to live in the basement of Wells where I am - there were females from dietary and nursing here too! I'm sure there were no romances at midnight - not in those days!

Fraternally, Gail L. (MW Gail L. Smith, Past Grand Master, 1968)
(WM Potter was Master of Eastern Star No. 44 in 1937)

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Ashlar of Newtown Seeks Volunteers for Lay Training in Geriatric Ministry Program

Aging, with its many challenges, is often a time when spiritual resources and emotional support are vital to the elderly and their families. Unfortunately, there aren't enough people trained to provide the pastoral care and spiritual resources so important to an elderly person's well-being. Masonicare and its affiliate, Ashlar of Newtown, are meeting that need by offering the "Lay Training in Geriatric Ministry" program. Open to people of all faiths, the program has been teaching basic ministry skills to volunteers from the community for more than 14 years.

The award-winning program was conceived and designed by Rev. Anne Baltzell, Masonicare's Director of Spiritual Services.



Chaplain Kurt Shaffert

Rev. Kurt Shaffert provides the lay training at Ashlar of Newtown. Chaplain Shaffert, who joined Masonicare in 2006, has a background as a parish pastor in Vermont and as a lecturer in pastoral care at Yale Divinity School.

Participants in the 8-week training program will attend two and a half hour class sessions on Wednesdays at Ashlar of Newtown. The first class in the series will be held on Wednesday, April 2, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Topics covered will include "Introduction and Orientation to our Facility," "The Pastoral Care Visit," "Dealing with Issues of Loss," and "Ethical Issues in a Nursing Home Setting." Continuing education and support sessions will be

offered monthly following training.

After completing the course, participants are expected to make a one-year commitment to provide approximately four hours per week of pastoral ministry at Ashlar of Newtown. In addition to making a difference in the lives of residents, volunteers will learn skills that will enable them to minister effectively to older members of their own families, church, and the community as well.

If you have interest in participating in the Lay Training in Geriatric Ministry Program at Ashlar of Newtown, please call Chaplain Kurt Shaffert at 203-679-6259 or email kshaffert@masonicare.org. Ashlar of Newtown, Masonicare's skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility where the Lay Training program takes place, is located at 139 Toddy Hill Road.

For information about Ashlar of Newtown or to obtain directions, visit Masonicare's web site at www.masonicare.org.

Valley of Hartford Graduation Dinner

by Francis G. Way

The Valley of Hartford honored their newest graduating class of Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, 32° Mason on Friday evening, January 28, at the Shrine Center in Newington. The graduation dinner has become a fixture in the Valley, taking place twice a year, to welcome and honor the members of the most recent graduating class and their wives or significant others. It is the evening that the newest Sublime Princes become part of the family that is the Valley of Hartford.

A cocktail hour both warmed everyone and gave a chance to get to know each other better. The evening was made more special by the contribution of some wonderful homemade wine, handcrafted by the Valley's Commander-in-Chief, Illustrious Brother Richard A. Incorvati, 33°, and antipasto platters made by Lisa Bohman, wife of 2nd Lt. Commander, Illustrious Brother William E. Bohman, 33°.

The honored guests were

seated among the Valley of Hartford brethren, the heads of Lodge, Council, Chapter, and Consistory; the Valley Treasurer and Secretary; and, of course, the Deputy for Connecticut, Illustrious Brother James R. Spencer, Jr., 33°.

Brother Frank Dlugoleski, Thrice Potent Master of Charter Oak Lodge of Perfection, performed double duty on this evening, attending as the head of the lodge, but also serving most ably as chef, providing a stuffed shells Italian dinner that had most everyone asking for seconds.

Brother Frank was assisted in his efforts by seven DeMolays and two dads from the Edward W. Slade Chapter, Wallingford. The eager young men prepped, served, and cleaned with great efficiency. They also added a bit of levity to the evening, and indicated that Masonry's next generation is getting ready to join in our great and good works.

Before dessert, the Valley's newest members were presented with their 32° certificates by

Illustrious Brothers Spencer and Incorvati.

Wives were also presented with a gift of appreciation as a way to welcome them into the Valley family.

By the time coffee and dessert were finished, smiles abounded, and all were ready to enjoy the weekend, looking forward to future Valley events with new friends, brothers, and families.



Father and son Michael and James Blasé display their 32° Scottish Rite Certificates.

photo by Kim M. Way

We welcome our new brothers to the fraternity.

Richard W. Harlow..... <i>America-St. John's 8</i>	Shawn R. Millang..... <i>Oxoboxo 116</i>	Andrew F. Barys..... <i>St. John's 2</i>
Paul D. Cross..... <i>Anchor 112</i>	Christopher Femmia..... <i>Sequin-Level 140</i>	Francis S. DiStefano..... <i>St. John's 2</i>
David A. Petrosky Jr..... <i>Anchor 112</i>	John Hinchcliffe..... <i>Sequin-Level 140</i>	Anthony S. Gennaro..... <i>St. John's 2</i>
Donald Quatrella..... <i>Ashtar-Aspetuck 142</i>	James N. Locke..... <i>Sequin-Level 140</i>	Mitish Rao..... <i>St. John's 2</i>
Edmund E. Clark..... <i>Frederick-Franklin 14</i>	John A. MacDonald..... <i>Sequin-Level 140</i>	Keith Romano..... <i>Unity 148</i>
Peter Haskapoulos..... <i>Frederick-Franklin 14</i>	James M. Mowell..... <i>Sequin-Level 140</i>	Michael Vaughan..... <i>Unity 148</i>
Andrew J. Pryor..... <i>Frederick-Franklin 14</i>	Russell H. Powers..... <i>Sequin-Level 140</i>	Jocelyn P. Champagne . <i>Universal Fraternity 149</i>
Avery J. Gaddis..... <i>Harmony 42</i>	Jason A. Blasl..... <i>Shepherd-Salem 78</i>	Jean F. Guerrier..... <i>Universal Fraternity 149</i>
Colin J. Kearns..... <i>Harmony 42</i>	Kristoffer Blasl..... <i>Shepherd-Salem 78</i>	Jerry G. Mercier..... <i>Universal Fraternity 149</i>
James F. Kierman Jr..... <i>Harmony 42</i>	Keith D. Milton..... <i>Somerset-St. James 34</i>	Gilbert Princy..... <i>Universal Fraternity 149</i>
Raymond J. Quinn II..... <i>Harmony 42</i>	Robert C. Johnson..... <i>St. Andrew's 64</i>	Roosevelt Saint Louis.. <i>Universal Fraternity 149</i>
Christopher D. D. Hardy..... <i>Hiram 1</i>	Robert J. Shoppey III..... <i>St. Andrew's 64</i>	David J. Kula..... <i>Wolcott 60</i>
Mark A. Orsini..... <i>Liberty-Continental 76</i>	David S. Woodworth..... <i>St. Andrew's 64</i>	John E. Hambrook..... <i>Wooster 10</i>



CONGRATULATIONS



We congratulate this brother who this month has achieved 75 years of Masonic membership.

Howard Weinz
Frederick-Franklin 14

We congratulate these brothers who this month have achieved 50 years of Masonic membership.

Donald E. E. Anderson Sr..... <i>Eastern Star 44</i>	Clarence F. Heimann..... <i>Washington 19</i>	Elton E. Mitchell..... <i>Wolcott 146</i>
Aarre V. Antila..... <i>Moriah 15</i>	Harold M. Holcomb Sr..... <i>Sequin-Level 140</i>	James P. Pall..... <i>Fidelity-St. John's 3</i>
Harry W. Bartlett..... <i>Federal 17</i>	Richard C. Innes..... <i>Anawon 115</i>	F. Stanley Phillips..... <i>Frederick-Franklin 14</i>
Clarence G. Brown Jr..... <i>Manchester 73</i>	Kenneth H. Johnson..... <i>Madison 87</i>	George M. Phillips..... <i>Union 5</i>
James A. Brown..... <i>Compass 9</i>	William E. Johnston..... <i>Meridian 77</i>	Leroy W. Robbins..... <i>Silas Deane 147</i>
Arthur F. Carter..... <i>St. Alban's 38</i>	George A. Kanehl..... <i>Manchester 73</i>	Donald L. Rome..... <i>Sequin-Level 140</i>
William J. Curr..... <i>Day Spring 30</i>	Bernard B. Katz..... <i>Cosmopolitan 125</i>	William J. Sinnamon..... <i>Manchester 73</i>
Embert E. Dwelley..... <i>Shepherd-Salem 78</i>	Michael Levine..... <i>Union 31</i>	Frederic P. Tozzoli..... <i>Manchester 73</i>
Arnold G. Elander..... <i>Corinthian 104</i>	Alan S. Massey..... <i>Cosmopolitan 125</i>	Gordon A. Wilson..... <i>Manchester 73</i>
Gerald Gutkin..... <i>Cosmopolitan 125</i>	Ralph O. McLean..... <i>Day Spring 30</i>	Howard D. Woods..... <i>Harmony 42</i>
Marvin Gutkin..... <i>Cosmopolitan 125</i>	Donald C. Menditch..... <i>Sequin-Level 140</i>	Lloyd A. Wyatt..... <i>Unity 148</i>

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Valley of New Haven, A.A.S.R. News *by Michael L. Castroll*

Each new class has a persona all its own! So far, the new additions to our Valley have gotten quite a treat. Illustrious Brother Jack H. Stevens, MSA 33°, and Sovereign Prince Robert J. DiPasquale provided another very successful Winter Picnic, and the lessons of the Rite continue to be taught in a professional and dignified manner. We are proud of the continued excellence in the degrees conferred in the Valley of

New Haven. The recent conferrals of the Twelfth Degree – under the direction of Richard A. Eppler, MSA, and Fourteenth Degree – under the direction of Ill. George A.W. Nousiainen, 33°, are but a foretaste of what is to come.

This month the Valley of New Haven will round out her portion of the work as the Sixteenth Degree is conferred by Elm City Council Princes of Jerusalem on Monday evening, March 10.

The degree will be preceded by a stated communication of the Valley at 7:30 p.m. On March 31, the Eighteenth Degree (Rose Croix of H.R.D.M.) will be conferred by New Haven Chapter of Rose Croix. All degrees are preceded by dinner at 6:15 p.m.

A reminder to those members of the Valley who have children or grandchildren seeking further education: contact our Illustrious Secretary, Vernon K. Cleaves, 33°,

for the paperwork (there's always paperwork) necessary to qualify for one of our scholarships. They will be given out at our summer gathering, so act now! At one time, the Abbott scholarships were designated for journalism students only. Today, any worthy student may receive this award.

Don't forget the other charitable endeavors of the Scottish Rite, and don't forget to respond to your Blue Envelope Appeal.

Valley of Hartford, A.A.S.R. News

The spring schedule for the Valley of Hartford, AASR, got underway on February 7 with its semi-annual candidate information night.

By the end of the night the class had grown to 12, but this number could increase since Blue Lodge Masons had until February 21 to get petitions to the Valley Secretary and become part of this class.

On February 21, candidates of the Valley of Hartford were joined by members and candidates from the Valley of

Norwich for a portrayal of the 4° and 11°. The spring schedule will continue on March 6 with the portrayal of the 14° and a special presentation of the Drama of the Secret Master.

Members of the Scottish Rite, who joined prior to 2004 will well remember this degree. (See Valley of Hartford ad in this newspaper for more information about this presentation).

On March 13, members of the Cyrus Goodell Chapter of Rose Croix will present the Feast of the Pascal Lamb,

From the desk of David R. Blythe, Sr., Valley Secretary

at which time the Valley will honor those brethren who have passed since the last portrayal of this ceremonial degree. The program is open to the public, but especially for the family members and friends of those departed brothers.

The remainder of the Valley's spring degree is: March 27, portrayal of the 15° and 16°; portrayal of the 18° on April 3; Consistory Day on April 19, with the presentation of the 22°, 31°, and 32°.

One of the most important

changes in the Valley of Hartford is the new format of our quarterly publication, *View of the Valley*. The first issue, now in a magazine format, was mailed in January and contains information about our spring pre-degree dinner, the Abbott Scholarship program, and pictures of our fall class candidates. The Valley hopes you enjoy the new look and the hard work that was put into it. Any suggestions that members of the Valley have to improve this publication would be appreciated.



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SPECIAL INVITATION: To all Scottish Rite Masons
Attend a special event, on Thursday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m., for the portrayal of the Drama of Secret Master which may be familiar to Scottish Rite Masons who became members prior to 2004. The beautiful lessons taught in this drama shed more light on Scottish Rite Masonry and provide a nice bridge from the Master Mason Degree in Blue Lodge to the degrees of the Lodge of Perfection.

If at any time you would like more information about becoming a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite... Contact David Blythe Sr., 33°, Valley Secretary, at the Scottish Rite Valley Office (860) 666-0712, or at Email address: sect@snet.net.

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Help Find a Cure for Alzheimer's Disease Participate in an Important Study

Alzheimer's disease. Just the thought of possibly having to face this devastating disease in our "golden years" is frightening. Affecting more than five million people in the United States alone, this progressive and eventually fatal brain disease has no cure. With our life spans increasing, more and more people are being diagnosed with Alzheimer's, resulting in a growing, global effort to find enhanced treatment options, delay the onset, and ultimately, find a cure for the disease.

The Institute for Neurodegenerative Disorders (IND) is working to find improved treatment options, diagnostic tools, and educational programs for neurologic disorders such as Alzheimer's disease. This premier research facility, located in New Haven, is inviting members of the Masonic Family to assist them in their vitally important research.

Over the past several years, researchers at IND and throughout the country have been working to develop brain imaging techniques that have the potential to measure changes in the brain that occur in people with Alzheimer's disease. These imaging methods target and chemically "tag" a protein found in the brains of individuals with the disease. The imaging techniques being developed at IND have the potential to spot this protein even before a diagnosis is made and extensive brain damage has occurred. The hope is that in the future, these imaging studies will allow doctors to use one or more protective medications, currently in the early stages of development. The eventual goal is to prevent, reduce or, hopefully, reverse the amount of abnormal protein deposited in the brain, thus reversing the damaging effects of Alzheimer's disease.

Danna Jennings, MD, Clinical Research Director at IND, expressed her pleasure at the prospect of working with the Masonic family in this important research. "It is a privilege to have an opportunity to partner with the Masons in our drive to eradicate diseases like Alzheimer's. In order to be

successful in our efforts, it's vital that we enlist the help of

thousands of research participants. Every year new medicines are made available to doctors only through the pioneering spirit and commitment of individuals who participate

in clinical trials. We look forward to working together with the Masons and their families to gain new understanding about how this disease progresses, and about how to slow or stop it."

Stephen B. McPherson, Masonicare's President & CEO, said members of the organization's senior management team have met several times to discuss IND's research and are in full support of the project. "We are excited to be part of this major study and encourage everyone who might be eligible to consider participating."

To determine whether you or a family member might be an appropriate candidate for participation in this confidential study, please review the following information outlined below.

What are the criteria for being included in the IND study?

A participant in this study must be 50 years of age or older with a clinical diagnosis of mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease. During an initial phone interview, potential participants will be asked questions about their medical history and current medications to help determine if they are eligible for the study.

Volunteers will be injected intravenously with an imaging marker or "tag" and will undergo SPECT imaging, a procedure to determine if the "tag" has

adhered to the protein in the brain associated with Alzheimer's disease.

How long will subjects be asked to participate?

The IND study is completed in a one-time, 3 to 4 hour visit. Volunteers may have the option to participate in further studies, which will be conducted up to three additional times during the course of a year.

Where is it done?

The study is conducted in New Haven, CT, in the Temple Medical Building, 60 Temple Street.

Throughout its history, Freemasonry has emphasized many important tenets and ideals, including social betterment through personal involvement and philanthropy. By participating in this significant and worthwhile study, you are being given an excellent opportunity to "practice what we preach."

To learn more about this important research study, please contact Carl Anderson, Masonicare's Vice President for Fraternal Relations, at 203-679-6917 or toll free at 877-4-AGELESS (877-424-3537.)

Free Lodge Furniture Needs a Good Home!

Adelphi Momauguin Lodge #63 has a full set of lodge furniture that it must get rid of. We currently have a Master's Chair, two large east chairs, two large wardens chairs, four additional smaller chairs, a secretary's desk and other misc. furniture. All furniture is dark stained shaker style and in good shape. Please contact VWB Charles Tirrell (203.215.5305 or chtirrell@yahoo.com) for more information.



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Craft at Labor...

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREES

Monday, March 3, Solar No. 131, Deep River, dinner 6:30 p.m., Inspection
Tuesday, March 4, King Hiram No. 12, Shelton, dinner 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 4, St. Peter's No. 21, New Milford, dinner 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 4, Unity No. 148, New Britain, dinner 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 5, Columbia No. 25, South Glastonbury
Monday, March 10, Anchor No. 112, East Hampton, dinner 6:30 p.m., Inspection
Monday, March 10, Anchor No. 112, East Hampton, dinner 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 12, Wooster No. 79, New Haven, Inspection
Wednesday, March 12, Ivanhoe No. 107, Darien, Inspection
Monday, March 17, Compass No. 9, Wallingford, dinner 6:00 p.m., Inspection
Tuesday, March 18, Harmony No. 67, New Canaan, dinner 6:00 p.m., Inspection
Wednesday, March 19, Cosmopolitan No. 125, New Haven
Thursday, March 20, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, dinner 6:00 p.m.
Monday, March 24, Evening Star No. 101, Unionville
Tuesday, March 25, Fayette No. 69, Ellington
Tuesday, March 25, Madison No. 87, Madison

Thursday, March 27, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, dinner 6:30 p.m.

FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES

Monday, March 3, Hartford-Evergreen No. 88, South Windsor
Tuesday, March 4, Seneca No. 55, Torrington, dinner 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 8, Uriel No. 24, Merrow, dinner 6:30 p.m.
Monday, March 10, Washington No. 19, Monroe
Monday, March 10, Jephtha No. 95, Clinton
Tuesday, March 11, Composite No. 28, Suffield, dinner 6:30 p.m., Inspection
Wednesday, March 12, Granite No. 119, Haddam
Wednesday, March 12, Eastern Star No. 44, North Windham, Inspection
Friday, March 14, Moosup No. 113, Moosup, at Corner Stone-Quinebaug Lodge No. 122, Thompson
Friday, March 14, Corner Stone-Quinebaug No. 122, Thompson
Monday, March 17, Federal No. 17, Watertown
Monday, March 17, Jerusalem No. 49, Ridgefield, dinner 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 18, St. Peter's No. 21, New Milford, dinner 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 18, Seneca No. 55, Torrington, dinner 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 19, Montgomery No. 13, Lakeville, dinner 6:30 p.m., Inspection
Wednesday, March 19, Friendship No. 33, Southington
Wednesday, March 19, Corinthian No. 103, North Haven, Inspection
Friday, March 21, Wooster No. 10, Colchester, 7:00 p.m. dinner
Saturday, March 22, Hiram No. 18, Sandy Hook, 9:00 a.m., lunch
Monday, March 24, Jephtha No. 95, Clinton
Monday, March 24, Annawon No. 115, West Haven, at Ansantawae Lodge 89, Milford
Monday, March 24, Silas Deane No. 147, Newington
Wednesday, March 26, Eastern Star No. 44, North Windham
Thursday, March 27, Temple No. 65, Westport, 7:00 p.m. dinner
Thursday, March 27, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester
Saturday, March 29, 10:00 a.m. 5th District Blue Lodge Council, Masonic Healthcare Center Auditorium
MASTER MASONS DEGREES
Wednesday, March 5, Somerset-St. James No. 34, Preston, 1st half at 5:30 p.m. dinner at 6:30 p.m., 2nd half at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 6, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester
Friday, March 7, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford

Wednesday, March 12, Moosup No. 113, Moosup, 6:30 p.m. dinner, at Moriah Lodge No. 15, Brooklyn
Saturday, March 15, Putnam No. 46, South Woodstock, 10:00 a.m., lunch
Monday, March 17, Wyllys-St. John's No. 4, West Hartford
Monday, March 17, Valley No. 36, Simsbury, 6:00 p.m. dinner
Monday, March 17, Meridian No. 77, Meriden
Tuesday, March 18, Coastal No. 57, Stonington, 1st half at 5:30 p.m. dinner at 6:30 p.m., 2nd half at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 19, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden
Wednesday, March 19, Somerset-St. James No. 34, Preston, 1st half at 5:30 p.m. dinner at 6:30 p.m., 2nd half at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 20, Fidelity-St. John's No. 3, Fairfield, dinner 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 20, Union No. 31, Niantic, dinner 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 20, Harmony No. 42, Waterbury, dinner 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 20, Wolcott No. 60, Stafford, Inspection
Thursday, March 20, Oxoboxo No. 116, Montville, dinner 6:30 p.m. at Niantic Masonic Center, Inspection

Craft at Refreshment...

Saturday, March 1, Widow's Son No. 66, Branford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Robert Burns Night
Sunday, March 2, St. Andrew's No. 64, Winsted, Noon, Temple Association Roast Beef Dinner
Monday, March 3, Meridian No. 77, Meriden, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Past Master's Night
Monday, March 3, Jerusalem No. 49, Ridgefield, 6:00 p.m., St. Patrick's Celebration, Irish Dancing demonstration and Corned Beef Dinner
Monday, March 3, Federal No. 17, Watertown, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Awards Night
Monday, March 3, Wyllys-St. John's No. 4, West Hartford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Table Lodge
Tuesday, March 4, Coastal No. 57, Stonington, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Pot Luck
Tuesday, March 4, Adelphi-Momauguin No. 63, North Haven, presentation "Leadership Tactics"-Dan Hawthorne
Wednesday, March 5, Corinthian No. 103, North Haven, 6:30 p.m. dinner, with speaker
Thursday, March 6, Somerset - St. James No. 34, Preston, 9:00 a.m., 8th District Breakfast, Groton Town House Restaurant
Thursday, March 6, St. Peter's No. 21, New Milford, Field trip to NYC for a

Master Mason Degree at Harry S. Truman Lodge No. 1066, meet at St. Peter's parking lot no later than 5 p.m.
Thursday, March 6, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, dinner 6:15 p.m., Landmarks of Masonry and the Ancient Charges unveiled
Thursday, March 6, Harmony No. 42, Waterbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner, program on candidate interviewing
Friday, March 7, Valley No. 36, Simsbury, 8:00 p.m., mason/non-mason night, cards/pool/darts
Saturday, March 8, Estuary No. 43, Old Saybrook, 9:00 a.m., lodge clean-up, pizza for all who help
Monday, March 10, Washington No. 70, Windsor, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Awards Night, MW Charles B. Fowler, Jr. receives 50 Year Pin
Monday, March 10, Evening Star No. 101, Unionville, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Ladies Night, Military Whist
Tuesday, March 11, Ionic No. 110, North Windham, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Re-affirmation Night
Friday, March 14, Estuary No. 43, Old Saybrook, 6:30 p.m. dinner, The Luck of the Irish, family and friends, corn beef and cabbage

Saturday, March 15, Corner Stone-Quinebaug No. 122, Thompson, 5:00 p.m., Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, open to Masons and non-Masons
Saturday, March 15, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 10:00 a.m., Craftsman Club, deliver Easter Plants to widows
Saturday, March 15, King Hiram No. 12, Shelton, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Movie Night
Saturday, March 15, Unity No. 148, New Britain, 5:00 p.m., New Britain Rainbow St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
Saturday, March 15, Ashlar-Aspetuck No. 142, Easton, 7:00 a.m., pancake breakfast-Easter Egg
Saturday, March 15, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 5:00 p.m., Saint Patrick's Day Dinner, Corn Beef and Cabbage, live entertainment
Sunday, March 16, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 8:00 a.m., Country Breakfast
Sunday, March 16, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, 8:00 a.m., Pancake Festival
Monday, March 17, Hartford-Evergreen No. 88, South Windsor, 5:30 p.m. Corn Beef & Cabbage dinner

Tuesday, March 18, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Judd Lewis Quarry Night
Tuesday, March 18, King Hiram No. 12, Shelton, 7:00 p.m., Table Lodge
Wednesday, March 19, Jephtha No. 95, Clinton, 4:00 p.m., Easter Soup Kitchen, Methodist Church, Clinton
Wednesday, March 19, Columbia No. 25, South Glastonbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner, slide talk: Boat Delivery up the East Coast
Thursday, March 20, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 6:00 p.m., English Lodge at Table
Friday, March 21, Shepherd - Salem No. 78, Naugatuck, 5:30 p.m. dinner, Meatless Spaghetti Dinner
Friday, March 21, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Milford Masonic Temple, program presented on Grand Lodge
Saturday, March 22, Anchor No. 112, East Hampton, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Set Back Tournament for CHAMP which sends monthly packages to area troops in Iraq and Afghanistan
Monday, March 24, Washington No. 70, Windsor, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Table Lodge
Tuesday, March 25, Unity No. 148, New Britain, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Fireside Chat with the Master and Officers, discussion of upcoming Grand Lodge Issues
Saturday, March 29, Wolcott No. 60, Stafford, Baked Ham and Scalloped Potato Dinner, two seatings: 5:00p.m. and 6:15 p.m.
Saturday, March 29, Estuary No. 43, Old Saybrook, 9:00 a.m., breakfast for friends and family
Saturday, March 29, Fidelity-St. John's No. 3, Fairfield, 7:30 p.m., Ladies at Table
Sunday, March 30, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 3:00 p.m., Sunday Service at Masonic Healthcare Center Chapel, Non-denominational Lodge Worship Service

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Monday, March 17, St. Peter's No. 21, New Milford
3RD DISTRICT BLUE LODGE COUNCIL
Friday, March 28, Harmony No. 42, Waterbury
5TH DISTRICT BLUE LODGE COUNCIL
Thursday, March 27, Silas Dean No. 147, New Britain, dinner 6:30 p.m.
6TH DISTRICT BLUE LODGE COUNCIL
Monday, March 31, Wyllys-St. John's No. 4, West Hartford, dinner 6:30 p.m.
7TH DISTRICT BLUE LODGE COUNCIL
Monday, March 31, St. John's No. 2, Middletown, dinner 6:30 p.m.

Kayla Rettburg Smiles Her Way to the Finish of Her Year as Grand Worthy Advisor

by Simon LaPlace

When Kayla Rettburg started her year as Grand Worthy Advisor of Connecticut Rainbow last year she was ready. She had a theme, a mascot, a service project, and colors — all coordinated for her year. So she was “Movin’, Groovin’ and Makin’ Smiles” all year long, whether it was traveling to sister jurisdictions or challenging the assemblies of Connecticut to participate in “Alex’s Lemonade Stand.” This charity raises funds to research and, hopefully, find a cure for pediatric cancer.

Her daisies and “smiley faces” were everywhere, sometimes in skirts, on a headband, or in decorations. The bright colors reflected her sense of humor, and cheery disposition, which she used to inspire other Rainbow girls to participate. When a delegation of 40 Connecticut girls arrived at the New Hampshire Grand Assembly, they nearly swamped the other states.

Kayla’s term is nearly over, and this “Groovy Gal” will go back to Meriden

Assembly to continue her duties as recorder. It will be easier for her to continue her record of perfect attendance since becoming a charter member in 2002.

Kayla created a video DVD filled with the photographic memories of her year. She’s thankful for the support of all Connecticut Rainbow and also the Meriden Masonic family, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88, South Windsor and Lady Washington Chapter, OES, Middletown for making her year special.

She has made many friendships here and in other states. Her poise, creativity and confidence brought a smile to



During one of Kayla Rettburg’s visits to an out-of-state Grand Assembly, this one in Rhode Island, she held the lucky ticket for a snack basket.

everyone she met, and Kayla’s memories as Grand Worthy Advisor will keep her smiling for many years to come.

Do You Get Masonic Education at Your Lodge?

By Norm Leeper, Editor

Southern California Research Lodge F & AM

Once upon a time there was a committee meeting set up for the specific purpose of discussing ways to improve Masonic education. The first stumbling block in the discussion came when there was no adequate description or definition of ‘Masonic education’. The problem has continued to perplex me. It is not only the problem of defining Masonic education, but more honestly, the problem of implementing a program that a Masonic lodge can utilize.

Traditional definitions of Masonry, ‘making good men better’ or ‘a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols’, tend more to describe a result. Masonic education is more complex, and to be useful, must translate into something that can be used.

Masonic education then (to me) is the information and knowledge that promotes individual growth - a process of learning and understanding the meaning of Freemasonry. (A life-long undertaking, I might add). Education is not an initiatic ritual or a catechism. Education comes after one has fulfilled the requirements to become a Master Mason.

A Masonic lodge is like a school house. No one receives an education unless that

person enters the building and participates in the process of acquiring information and knowledge. And, although part of a schoolhouse education may consist of rote memorization, the real transformation comes with participation in the learning process.

The failure to do more than confer degrees results in poor lodge attendance and poor membership retention. Of the myriad of programs available to assist lodges with their membership woes - few have had any measurable success. This, despite the message of Grand Masters from time immemorial for the need to ‘educate’ the brethren in the meaning of Masonry.

Then why does the Masonic experience cease after degree conferral?

The answer is twofold: (a) ritual is all that is ever mandated of a lodge; (b) lodges and lodge officers are not required to ‘educate’ their members. The solution is not to after our principles, but to change our methods of teaching our principles. It can be done with bold leadership and a Masonic vision.

Does Masonry have a bold leader with a vision? Are the powers that be willing to undertake modernization?

(Thanks to Marty Rudnick for obtaining permission to reprint this article.)

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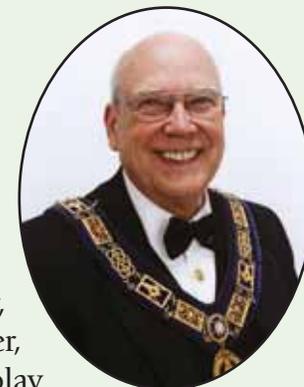
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Grand Master's Message



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My how the time flies! As I write you, I am reminded that this will be my last message as your Grand Master. I thank each of you for a very enjoyable year as your Grand Master and to my lady Sandie; Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! for the support you have given me these past nine years.

My term has been a very exciting time for Connecticut Masonry. We have seen the corner stone dedication, construction and ribbon cutting for our beautiful new Grand Lodge office building, a project some never expected to ever occur. In addition, we performed corner stone dedications for a new building at Gaylord Hospital and the new Masonicare Medical Office building.

Two weeks ago, Sandie and I traveled around sunny Florida, in 85 degree weather, to Nutmegger Reunions. We visited brothers and ladies now living there full time or as "snow birds." It was a delightful, rekindling old friendships and making new ones. I had the pleasure to present six 50 year service pins and visit with Bro. Carl Snow, a 67 year member of my mother lodge, Uriel Lodge No. 24, Merrow. A 60 year pin was presented to Bro. "Skip" Stamm, father of our own MW PGM Chip Stamm.

The hospitality extended to us was as warm as the weather! RW Carl Anderson was a terrific chauffeur and traveling companion and Brother Steve McPherson did a great job with chop-sticks at the sushi bar!

That was two weeks ago. Last night I drove back from a visitation to Old Erie Lodge No. 3, in Warren, Ohio, in a blinding snow storm! I think I'll take the heat of Florida!

Brothers and sisters, our Masonic youth groups need your help. We give them our financial help, but they need our physical help as well. Try to attend a Rainbow Assembly meeting or a DeMolay Chapter meeting. These young Americans enjoy our visits and you will be impressed with their work. You will feel so good about the welcome and fellowship you receive.

In addition, our youth groups need new members. If you have a daughter, son, granddaughter or grandson, neighbor, family member, or friend that is a teenager, please introduce them to Rainbow or DeMolay. You will be doing that youth group, yourself, and most especially that young man or woman a wonderful favor.

Please keep our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers as they perform their duties to preserve the freedom we as Americans enjoy. Join me in a prayer for their safety and grateful thanks for the sacrifices of their families.

I look forward to seeing you in lodge, chapter, and assembly meetings in the coming months. I leave our brand new office in the capable hands of RW Bob Stika. He has the skills and the compassion to lead Connecticut Masonry to its very best.

Our Masonic Family has made great strides: Working Together to Benefit All. My term as Grand Master has convinced me, more than ever, that Freemasonry is an answer to the call of those in need. I thank you for your help, aid and assistance to make our state and this country a better place.

*God Bless You All,
God Bless Our Masonic Family,
God Bless and watch over our service men and women
throughout the world,
God Bless the United States of America.*

Fraternally,

William L. Greene
Grand Master

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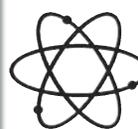


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