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Advancing to the Grand East



PAGE **3**

**Pierpont Edwards
Medal Awarded
to Ed Hadigian**



**Grand
Master - Elect
Arthur H. Carlstrom**



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**Chris Hodapp
Visits
Connecticut**

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Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM

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Robert J. Stika - November 2008

DATE	TIME	EVENT/LOCATION	DINNER	PUBLIC	ATTIRE
Monday, November 3	4:00 p.m.	Annual Ladies Dinner, Groton	Y	N	S
Thursday, November 6	2:00 p.m.	Masonic Health Care Chapel, Wallingford	N	Y	S
Friday, November 7	6:30 p.m.	Cathedral Table Lodge, Colchester non-Masons, men only	Y	Y	S
Saturday, November 8	8:30 a.m.	Warden's and Secretary's Seminar Hartog Activities Center – Ashlar Village	N	Y	C
Saturday, November 8	6:30 p.m.	Friendship Lodge No. 145, Awards Presentation Mill on the River, South Windsor	Y	Y	F
Sunday, November 9	2:00 p.m.	Autumn Gathering Masonic Healthcare Center, Wallingford	REF	Y	S
Tuesday, November 11	6:30 p.m.	Brainard Lodge No. 102, Niantic Veterans Day program	Y	Y	F
Tuesday, November 11	2:00 p.m.	Connecticut Freemasons Foundation Grand Lodge office	N	N	C
Thursday, November 13	2:00 p.m.	Masonicare Investment Committee, Wallingford	N	N	C
Saturday, November 15	9:30 a.m.	Putnam Lodge No. 46, Putnam	N	N	S
Sunday, November 16	2:00 p.m.	Masonicare Tour- Ashlar of Newtown	REF	Y	C
Tuesday, November 18	2:00 p.m.	Masonicare Compensation Committee, Wallingford	N	N	C
Tuesday, November 18	4:30 p.m.	Masonicare Executive Committee, Wallingford	N	N	C
Thursday, November 20	5:30 p.m.	Grand Lodge officers meeting, Wallingford	Y	N	C
Friday, November 21	7:00 p.m.	Wooster Lodge No. 10, Colchester Master Mason Degree	Y	N	F
Saturday, November 22	5:30 a.m.	DeMolay Grand Master's Class	Y	N	F
Sunday, November 23	7:30 a.m.	8th District Blue Lodge Council, Niantic Thanksgiving Breakfast	BFST	Y	S
Monday, November 24	7:30 p.m.	Blue Lodge Council 8th District, Niantic	REF	Y	C



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All submissions are required by the 15th 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.

Fall Grand Lodge Communication Holds Few Surprises

by Carl G. Ek

A regular communication of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut was held for the first time in the Hartog Activities Center of Ashlar Village, Wallingford, on Saturday, October 18, 2008. MWGM Robert J. Stika welcomed 317 voting delegates to the new site, and had escorted into the lodge room 11 of the jurisdiction's Past Grand Masters.

The first order of business was the election of Grand Lodge officers for 2009-2010. Bro. Arthur H. Carlstrom was elected to serve as Most Worshipful Grand Master. Also elected were Right Worshipful Brothers: Charles A. Buck Jr., Deputy Grand Master; James T. McWain, Grand Senior Warden; Gary W. Arseneau, Grand Junior Warden; Charles C. Maxson, Grand Treasurer; and Robert G. Fitzgerald, Grand Secretary. MWPGM Kenneth B. Hawkins, Sr. was elected to succeed himself for a three year term as a Grand Trustee.

Grand Master Stika quickly dispatched with the business of the session, which ended more than an hour earlier than announced. He stated that his edict regarding the raising of funds would be renewed in its current form to allow the Legal Affairs Committee to put together legislation that would fit the needs of Connecticut Masonry. In answer to a question, he also noted that, in regard to past business "The Trial Commission does not have the power to override the Grand Master."

Bro. Stika proposed changes to Sections 4702 and 4703 of the Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations. By vote of the craft, it was determined that effective immediately, it was no longer required that a lodge send certified letters to brothers with unpaid dues whose mail has been returned as undeliverable at least twice by the US Postal Service. Returned letters would have to be retained as proof of notification to the brother.

he Grand Master asked for a "yes-no" vote on whether to continue with efforts to redistrict the Grand Lodge. A show of voting cards proved that the craft had no interest in the redistricting effort.

The 2009-10 proposed budget provided the most discussion of the day. It was agreed to raise the Grand Lodge per capita charge to \$55.00 as of January 1, 2009. Discussion centered around reductions that needed to be made from the expenditure side. Brothers suggested that those on both ends of the age spectrum – older brothers on fixed incomes and newest members perhaps still in college – would be ill-served by dues increases. Expenses have been, and will continue to be, reduced, cuts being made wherever possible.

Commissions were presented to three new Grand Representatives from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. Bro. Anthony Foote will represent us to the Grand Lodge of Malta, WM Andrew Goddard to the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, and RW Richard Backe, the Grand Lodge of Arizona.

Also a part of the morning was the annual meeting of Masonicare, Inc. WB Howard W. Orr, chairman of the board of trustees, asked the craft to ballot for three brothers to serve terms on the board. Elected were Bro. Sherwin Borsuk, M.D., RW Donald Dean, and RW William Deickler.

Bro. Orr reported that affiliates of Masonicare will be renamed. The Masonic Healthcare Center will be the Masonicare Health Center. Ashlar Village will become Masonicare at Ashlar Village. Ashlar of Newtown will become Masonicare at Newtown, and the Connecticut VNA will soon be known Masonicare Home Health and Hospice. Unchanged will be the Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, reflecting both its heritage and direct ties to the Grand Lodge of Connecticut

Next was Bro. Stephen McPherson, president and CEO of Masonicare, Inc., recognized and thanked Bro. Ferdinand Hartog for his contributions to the construction of the center in which the session was held. Bro. Hartog received a standing vote of thanks from the craft.

Bro. McPherson discussed the expansion in the Masonicare campus, including the new Kenneth B. Hawkins, Sr., apartments and the addition of six hospice beds in the acute care area. He then invited the craft to learn more about the facilities at Ashlar Village on October 26, the Masonic Healthcare Center on November 9, and Ashlar of Newtown on November 16.

Another report came from MW Bro. Chip Stamm, II, president of the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc. Bro. Chip noted that more than \$90,000 had been distributed in the previous year, and that the Foundation endowment had been in excess of \$750,000, recent financial issues aside.

He moved to amend the by-laws of the corporation such that directors be elected rather than appointed beginning with the 2009 fall communication of the Grand Lodge, following a format similar to that used by Masonicare to nominate their candidates for directors. This was approved.

Deputy Grand Master Arthur H. Carlstrom was called upon for remarks. He stated that he looked forward to the upcoming year, that there would be changes, and that it would be



fun. Support of current programs – CTCHIP, blood drives, Masonic youth, and others – will continue.

He urged new brothers coming into Masonry to consider serving Grand Lodge on committees. "We need more men with the title of 'brother' to serve," he stated. The Deputy Grand Master then encouraged all lodges of Connecticut to contribute \$60 and become sponsors of *Connecticut Freemasons*.

Bro. Carlstrom called for a reduction of the number of events on the same night. Toward that end, he pledged to keep the calendar on the Grand Lodge website as up to date as possible. He might drop in unscheduled with white apron for an evening of fellowship.

In the upcoming year, lodge inspections may be done on any of the three degrees, with Worshipful Masters strongly urged to preside over degree work. As of January 1, 2010, this will be a requirement.

After thanks to RW Irving Pease for crafting a new square and compasses and WB JP Venoit and the staff of Ashlar Village for the use of their facilities, the Grand Lodge communication was closed. The annual communication will be held on March 29 and 30, 2009.

Our Cover...

Grand Master-elect RW Arthur H. Carlstrom (front) will lead his Grand Lodge officers in 2009 after they were elected at the October Grand Lodge Regular Communication. Not pictured and also elected were RW Charles C. Maxson, Grand Treasurer and RW Robert G. Fitzgeralds, Grand Secretary.

Grand Master's Message

HARVEST TIME. On Saturday, October 11, I had the pleasure of attending the Grand Lodge Prince Hall Affiliates annual session. They approach their session a little differently than we do. They have a joint session with their Order of the Eastern Star. They also seated my accompanying Grand Lodge officers alongside their respective counterparts, an honor I found moving and respectful. The message the Grand Worthy Matron put out was: "You reap what you sow!" When we sow the seeds of Freemasonry, we can reap the fruits of new members, a stronger fraternity, and a better society. We need to remember that this "harvest time" lasts all year.

TATTOOS. Since the publication of the last issue of the *Connecticut Freemasons* there has been a lot of speculation as to whether a tattoo violates our Entered Apprentice obligation. From what I have seen, the answer is "NO." They show variations of the square and compasses, which are also visible on automobile decals, rings, lapel pins, the newspaper banner, and a myriad of other places. We obligate ourselves to not reveal the secrets of Masonry and these are obviously not "secret."

SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION. Congratulations to the newly elected officers of our Grand Lodge. I have worked with them for the past eight and one-half years and I know we will be in

good hands. Your support will help them immensely, just as it has helped me. And speaking of elections, exercise your constitutional duty and vote for the good of our country.



I hope you all give pause in your lives this month to remember and give thanks for what you have and those you love. Pray for those in service to our country who are not able to be with us. Give a prayer of "thanks" to the Grand Architect of the Universe, in whatever form you choose. And give those you love a hug of "thanks" for what they mean in your life. Give thanks, and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Fraternally,

Robert J. Stika
Most Worshipful Grand Master

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Surplus Grand Lodge Proceedings Available from the Grand Lodge Office

Due to a recent change in rules and regulations, the Grand Lodge can reduce the number of Grand Lodge Proceedings being held in its archives. As a result, extra Proceedings, both hard and soft covered, are available to lodges to augment lodge libraries. Lodge historians should inventory their libraries to identify missing issues and submit a request. If those years' issues are available from the excess archives, a lodge representative may pick them up at the Grand Lodge office.



Extra Grand Lodge proceedings, both hard cover and soft bound editions are being culled from storage.

Grand Lodge Cites WB Ed Hadigian

by Michael L. Castroll

If anyone tells you that one person cannot make a difference, you know they don't know Worshipful Brother Edward Hadigian.

Edward Hadigian entered the world in Wethersfield, on October 4, 1934. Ed always maintained a highly visible profile, attending local schools, and eventually teaching at Newington High School for 34 years. Ed made an indelible mark on thousands of young lives and set an example for those who would follow him. He has earned several citations and recognitions from a variety of civic and educational associations. High among these accolades was when he was voted Newington's "Teacher of the Year" in 1982. The tribute that best describes his unselfishness is the existence of the 'Ed Hadigian Award' presented annually at the John Wallace Middle School in Newington to the student who best exemplifies 'service' to school and community.

Someone of Ed's caliber would naturally find Freemasonry. Bro. Ed followed family tradition, joining Sequin Lodge No. 140 (now Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140) in Newington in 1964. He was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on November 19, 1964. The night he was raised is still a most special occasion in Ed's life.

Much to his surprise, Ed's father and Ed's twin brother, Albert, were among those present when he was brought to light at his Master Mason Degree. Albert and Edward are more than twin brothers, they are twin 'Brothers', and became twin 'Worshipful Brothers' on December 28, 1985. In a joint installation held in Newington's Masonic Temple, Ed was installed Master of Sequin Lodge and Al was installed Master of Eastern Star Lodge No. 44, now in North Windham. Albert and his wife, Barbara, reside in Fort Pierce, Florida, where they and daughters Holly and Elizabeth keep busy Masonically with Fort Pierce Lodge No. 78, F. & A.M., the Rainbow Girls, and many other bodies.

In contrast, Ed is a lifelong bachelor. He also never joined any appendant or concordant Masonic bodies. In his 44 years as a Mason, Ed has lived and breathed our ancient craft tenets and moral lessons. He lives for his community and its lodge, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140.

If Ed thinks someone in the lodge deserves recognition, he works behind the scenes to write an award nomination.

WB Ed's own accomplishments for his lodge and his community are unending. Many of them are subjects the Committee on Masonic Education might suggest when speaking to lodge officers coming up the line. Among his activities, Ed he has served as lodge chairman for collection of "Easter Baskets for Social Services"; chairman of the lodge scholarship fund for 20 years, providing \$500 scholarships to a boy and girl graduating Newington High School; and chairman for 10 years of the lodge outreach committee, which sponsors and donates to Little League teams, delivers holiday plants, and has built several structures at town parks and sports fields.

Among his community accomplishments, Ed is a founding member of "Friends of Football." He also created the baseball team yearbook, acting as the publication staff and doing all of the jobs that were required.

Ed Hadigian means many things to many people, and is the personification of Masonry to all that he serves within and without the craft. When his lodge needed someone to be Master in 1990, Ed stepped up and served a second term in the East. He was chosen to serve District 5-B as Associate Grand Marshal more than a decade before he first ascended to the Oriental Chair. Ed also served Sequin-Level Lodge as secretary for over 10 years. Ed is a tireless worker who is just a phone call away. He always speaks enthusiastically of the next project.

On June 26, at the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the chartering of Sequin Lodge, Ed got a whopping surprise. He and others present who had been involved in educational pursuits were called to join the Grand Master in the East. MW Bro. Robert J. Stika praised the work they had all



The surprise was on Bro. Hadigian at Sequin-Level No. 140's 60th anniversary when MW Bob Stika presented him with the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.

done, and then asked that they return to their seats – except for Bro. Hadigian. With just the two of them left standing before the crowd, Ed knew he'd been had. A finer choice could not have been made to receive the Pierpont Edwards Award in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.

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"Playing the Blame Game"

A major game has swept across all aspects of life in the world today. It is the "Blame Game." This game has become common in every aspect of our society.

Of course it is not really new, but it is new in the widespread application of it in so many areas in which we expect responsibility on the part of those pointing the finger of blame for their actions – or lack of actions – at other people.

All of us have played the game. We blame others when we do not care to accept responsibility for our own actions. We don't want to look foolish. We don't want to get caught.

It is a wonderful game to play as the thrust of the Children's Sermon on Sunday. Just have a cookie jar with a few cookies and have one of the children take out a cookie. Then the person teaching the lesson will name the child who took the cookie and that child has been instructed to deny that he took the cookie and names someone else. That child denies it and names another. This goes on as long as you like. Then the leader stresses the need for each child to learn to take responsibility for their actions.

Apparently many of the today's leaders in business and government did not go to Sunday services the day that Children's Sermon was given.

The result has been the severe economic conditions that are touching all our lives.

In Job 1:18 we read, "Then the Lord said

to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil."

In Job 2:3 a similar passage is presented.

In Genesis 3:8-13 we have the original passing of the blame to others. Adam blames Eve, Eve blames the serpent, and so it goes; the blame game.

I have to admit I am very uneasy about the present economic situation of the world. You must remember that those of us who were born in the 1920's have lived through the Great Depression, World War II, and the post war years when this country became fixated on possessions. The title, "The Greatest Generation" would seem to be an exaggeration for a generation that accepted responsibility for their actions and worked to rebuild first their lives, then the world. All they wanted was a hand up, not a hand out. There was no place for the blame game in their lives.

We have had outstanding men and women who pointed out the way to a better world – Martin Luther King, Jr., Billy Graham, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Mother Theresa, and Dorothy Day.

A child was lost in the fields of a farming community. The people of the area set out to find the child; they went in all directions



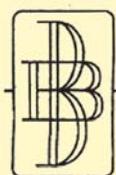
and failed to have any success. As it grew dark, it was decided to line up and hold hands as they moved across the fields. They found the body of the child and the people said, "If only we had joined hands sooner, she would still be alive."

How simple – just join hands and solve the problem. That is all it takes in most situations, working together. That will pull us through this present crisis.

What has all this to do with Masonry? This is what Masonry is all about – joining together and working together. As the largest fraternal society of men in the world, we can and do use our numbers to tackle problems in our society. Just think how our efforts and money have already aided so many men, women, and children. I don't need to discuss the many programs we support or the amount of money raised or the hours of time spent in charitable activities. The point is that none of these efforts would be possible without our joining together and working together. The world has much to learn from our fraternity.

I pray that the peoples of the world might learn to live peacefully as we do despite their different religions, color, social status, political views, or work.

We are truly a Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.



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Author Chris Hodapp Visits Connecticut

by Carl G. Ek

Joseph Fort Newton. John J. Robinson. Roscoe Pound. Albert G. Mackey. S. Brent Morris. Chris Hodapp.

Yes, in the listings of famous Masonic authors, WB Christopher L. Hodapp is one of the newer additions, and may eventually become one of the best known.

With less than five years of Masonic membership under his belt, Chris was commissioned to write *Freemasons for Dummies*, one of the 1,000+ titles in the famous series of basic introductions to topics of all kinds. How was he chosen for the job?

A Monday morning meeting of the 'for Dummies' staff at Wiley Publishing, Inc. heard one of the senior executives extolling the movie he'd just seen – *National Treasure*. "We need a book about the Masons!" he declared. "Who do we know who's a Mason?" A woman at the table volunteered that her father was a Mason in Indiana. "Call him!" was the response. No, dad didn't have any ideas, but referred his daughter to the Grand Master of Masons in Indiana.

The call came to then MWGM Richard Elman. Yes, he is reported to have said, I have someone dumb enough to take that on.... What gave the Grand Master the confidence to recommend a brother of only five years membership for the project? (And what might have happened to the book had the search gone to one of the other 50 United States Grand Lodges?)

Chris Hodapp joined Broad Ripple Lodge No. 643 in the Indianapolis, Indiana area as a successful author, documentarian, and producer of television commercials for more than 20 years. He took his EA in his mother lodge in November 1998, then took the FC and MM degrees at a one-day class on March 15, 1999. This, in part, was because Broad Ripple Lodge was having trouble fielding a degree team.

Chris knew little about Masonry as a candidate, but was deemed to know enough to immediately be seated as Senior Steward. The lodge lost five officers that year – job transfers, a new baby, and simple disinterest were among the contributing factors. Chris was elected Senior Warden, and less than two years after being raised, Worshipful Master. At his first meeting, a topic of discussion was closing or merging the lodge!

Asking for a chance to bring change as the new guy in the Chair, Chris set about to

apply principles he discussed at the District 5 Blue Lodge Council meeting (see companion story). A one who learned to think creatively while attending five different colleges over a seven-year span, Chris made his lodge a place where a brother could develop lifelong friendships, not a place where brothers "meet and flee."

One "passionate about this fraternity," Chris agrees that there is no "silver bullet to 'save the fraternity,'" and also realizes that if no one shows up for meetings, how will ritual work save a lodge? Family events, community service, and a conscious effort to not waste the brothers' time with minutia produces results far more quickly than expected. Five years after the 2002 discussion of closing, the lodge had more than 50 brothers, plus a sprinkling of friends (prospective members) and several of the brother's ladies enjoying the post-meeting fellowship and refreshments.

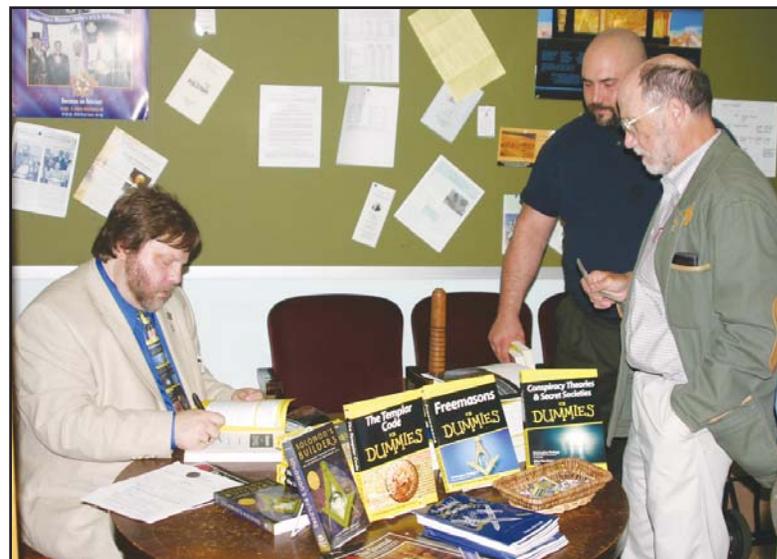
Since his term at Broad Ripple Lodge, Chris has also served as Master of Lodge Vitruvian 767, a newly chartered European-concept lodge that features a bit more formality in dress, Masonic education, and the feast at the festive board that occurs at every meeting. An officer in the York and Scottish Rites, Chris has been presented

an honorary membership in African Lodge No. 459, Boston, and is a member of several research lodges.

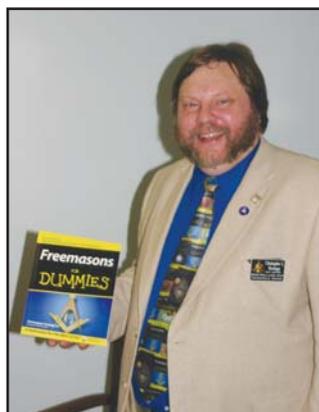
Are people interested in Masonry? Chris can provide statistics that show they are. *Freemasons for Dummies* has sold some 70,000 copies, more than four times the average sales of any title in the series. Currently translated into four languages, the book is being recommended to new Masons by local lodges and even Grand Lodges as a Masonic information tool for new Masons.

All *...for Dummies* books are completed in a four-month period after contracts are signed. As part of the series' process, Chris was assigned two editors with no Masonic background whatever – making them perfect to ask questions about anything Chris wrote that was not readily understandable to a non-Masonic public.

Working within the 'for Dummies' system was a new experience for Chris, but



As Bro. Edward L. Lawson, Jr. waits in line, WB Chris Hodapp inscribes and autographs a copy of his *Freemasons for Dummies* book.



Author Chris Hodapp strikes a familiar pose with his famous volume.

one that obviously agreed with him. He has since collaborated with his wife, author and historian Alice Von Kannon, on two other series books – *Conspiracy Theories & Secret Societies for Dummies*, and *The Templar Code for Dummies*.

Chris also noted that while the *...for Dummies* books are in competition with *The Complete Idiot's Guide to...* series, he and author S. Brent Morris, Ph.D., 33°, get along quite well. Indeed, Chris visited Bro. Morris in Washington, DC to learn about the structure of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Masonic Jurisdiction.

What's next for Chris Hodapp? He and Alice look very much forward to selling a 56-unit apartment complex they have owned and managed for the last six years. Fraternally, on May 1 of this year, Chris became the editor in chief of *The Masonic Society*. With the stated goal of creating "the premiere North American research society in Freemasonry," the premiere issue of *The Journal of the Masonic Society* is now in print, and memberships are available at \$39 annually.

The premiere issue of this 40 page glossy magazine – "that doesn't look like any other Masonic magazine nationwide" – shows the names of several hundred believers who have already subscribed, contents ranging from history to fiction to Masonic poetry and photographs, and contributing participants from coast to coast. With the intent of "... foster(ing) the intellectual, spiritual and social growth of the modern Masonic fraternity," *The Journal* will be at the center of this "vibrant, active community" within Masonry. As editor in chief, so will Chris Hodapp.

Newton. Robinson. Pound. Mackey. Morris. And yes, Chris Hodapp. The title aside, he's not for dummies.

Connecticut no longer has a position known as "Grand Orator," but some states still maintain that position in their Grand Lodge. In our beginnings, Masonic conventions were not complete without a sermon or oration, together with a feast to lighten the work of the assembly. In 1783 – before the Grand Lodge was formed – Masons in Connecticut invited Oliver Lewis for an oration during a Masonic feast. Lewis was a 1780 graduate of Yale and admitted to practice law. He had served during the Revolution and was a native of Southington.

He was made a Mason in Middletown about 1781 and was the first High Priest of the Royal Arch chapter there in 1783. When representatives from various lodges gathered in Middletown to discuss the formation of a Grand Lodge, it was Oliver Lewis who delivered the oration. The sermon was given by Rev. Abraham Jarvis, our first Grand Chaplain and second Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. Lewis'

oration was subsequently published for distribution. Upon the recommendation of his physician, he relocated to South Carolina, where he died in 1784 at the age of 27. He was so young yet he made his mark on Connecticut Freemasonry.



The office of Tiler is often misunderstood. Albert Mackey and others subscribed to the idea that tilers shut the door of Freemasonry to the outside world because the operative tiler covered the building where the Freemasons had done their work.

Another theory is that in 18th century London, men wore hats or "tiles," and the doorkeeper of the club, fraternity, or society was called a 'tiler' because he took care of the tiles, or hats. The Masonic word is correctly spelled "tiler," but in the operative fraternity there was a craft of "tylers," with the "y" replacing the "i." In 1212, after the great fire of London, a law was passed making thatched roofs illegal, and from that point on roofs were made of clay tiles.



The position of 'District Deputy Grand Master' existed in Connecticut until 1889, when the title was shortened to 'District Deputy.' In most other jurisdictions, the title remains 'District Deputy Grand Master.' In Connecticut the District Deputy is the personal representative of the Grand Master and outranks all but the Grand Master on the night of his official visitation to the lodge. Until 1904 the districts mirrored county lines, with Tolland and Windham counties joined as one district and the other six counties each having one. The county system of government never strongly existed in Connecticut except in the judicial branch, and county government was all but abolished in 1959.

However, in 1904 Grand Master Arthur Wheeler called attention to the fact that the districts were far from being equal in size, with one district having ten lodges and another having twenty-five.

Two additional districts were created around the two largest cities (Hartford and New Haven), making the current nine Masonic districts. In the last two decades there have been numerous attempts to reorganize

and change the number and makeup of the districts.

The negative reaction among the voting craft at Grand Lodge sessions has stopped most such action. Minor district changes have been made by Grand Masters, but if you overlay an early 20th century railroad map with the composition of the districts, you can easily understand their original composition. By the middle

of the 20th century, the automobile and interstate highways made it possible for easier transportation from one end of the state to another, except if you try to journey from Thompson to Salisbury or Stonington to Canaan, though the Thompson to Greenwich run is somewhat eased by interstate highways.



George Frederick Daskam was elected Grand Master in Connecticut in 1858. The photo gallery in the Grand Lodge office is missing a picture of MW Daskam, whose likeness is not known to exist. Daskam had a lodge that became number 86 on the rolls and named after him in Glastonbury. (It eventually consolidated with the other lodge in Glastonbury.) Daskam was born in 1818 and was a wholesale grocer.

He lived nearly twenty years after his term in the Grand East, leaving the earthly abode three days after Christmas in 1877. MW Daskam was raised in St. John's Lodge No. 6 in 1845 and was appointed Senior Deacon. He became Master in 1848, and was Most Puissant Grand Master of the Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters in 1858. He was also Grand Commander of Knights Templar in 1859. During the War Between the States he was in the Second Connecticut Light Battery until 1865 and earned battle scars from Gettysburg and in Alabama. Daskam was a member of the Episcopal Church and the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic).

He is buried at St. Paul's Episcopal Churchyard in Norwalk. As the brothers from the center of Glastonbury worked to charter a new lodge nearer their homes, the name chosen was that of the current Grand Master, and so it became Daskam Lodge. The last quarters of the lodge were torn down a few years ago to make room for a chain drug store.



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Jolly Mariners Pay Tribute to Founding Father Emil W. Usinger

Bro. Emil W. Usinger loved the water and was virtually born on it. His father, Emil M. Usinger, was a lighthouse keeper who manned Middleground Light, a lighthouse on Stratford Shoal, located midway between Long Island, New York, and the Connecticut shore in the early 1900s.

By the time Bro. Usinger, a world-renowned authority on oysters, had retired in 1986 at the age of 75, he had spent more than 62 years of his life on the water or at sea.

On Sunday, September 7, members of the Jolly Mariners Square Club paid tribute to their Past Captain and founding father with a dedication ceremony at Ashlar Village, Masonicare's retirement community in Wallingford, where Usinger had lived for 16 years.

The Jolly Mariners, a social club comprised of members of Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford, donated \$3,550 to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut (MCF), Masonicare's philanthropic affiliate, in Usinger's memory. Approximately 40 friends and family members gathered for the recent dedication of the bar housed in the new game room at the Hartog Activities Center, honoring Usinger and his late wife, Helen.

"It was appropriate for the Jolly Mariners to make these memorial gifts to the Foundation because of what Emil meant to our club," said Bro. Ken Hawkins, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, a member of the Jolly Mariners, and vice chairman of the Masonicare Board of Trustees. "Emil was our founding father and we cherish our memories of him."

Bro. Usinger died on January 27, 2007, at the age of 96.

A Norwalk native, Usinger was a 58-year Mason who joined the Norwalk Chapter of DeMolay in 1924. In 1948, he joined Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, where he and Helen lived from 1943 until 1963. He served as Worshipful Master in 1958, a year after founding the Jolly Mariners Square Club. He was also a member of Milford Chapter No. 49, Royal Arch Masons, and the Adam Sattig Council No. 35, Royal and Select Masters.

"The Jolly Mariners' dedication is a fitting tribute to Emil," said Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit,

president of Ashlar Village. "After a lodge meeting one evening, a group went out in Emil's boat and enjoyed each other's company and spirits, and there, the Jolly Mariners Square Club was formed."

The Club celebrated its 50th anniversary last year.

According to MW Hawkins, the Jolly Mariners began in 1957 with 14 members and today has a membership of 22, including WB Usinger's son, Emil E. "We meet once a month," said Hawkins. "We sail to Port Jefferson each year and donate money to our lodge and to The Masonic Charity Foundation."

In 1963, Emil and Helen moved to Sayville, Long Island, where Usinger was named vice president of Blue Point Oyster Company. After his retirement in 1986, he traveled around the world as a consultant on oystering. The couple moved to Ashlar Village on September 6, 1991.

"Emil was loved by all of the residents," said Venoit, who knew Bro. Usinger for 16 years. Usinger had a wide, infectious smile, enjoyed bowling, playing pool and poker, and was truly a "man of the sea," Venoit said.

The Usingers were the parents of three children: son William, who is deceased; Emil E. and his wife, Bonnie, of Stratford; Carol Usinger Merz and her husband, John, of Greenfield, Massachusetts; and grandparents to 10 grandchildren and 19



Jolly Mariners Square Club Captain Bro. Jonathan Cady presents Eloise Mongillo, director of development at The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, with a check during a dedication ceremony at Ashlar Village in memory of Bro. Emil W. Usinger, the Club's founding father.

great-grandchildren. Helen died in 1996.

Most Worshipful Brother Hawkins, who serves as chairman of the Board of Directors of Masonic Healthcare Center, met Bro. Usinger in 1955 and remembers him as a "strong, remarkable, intelligent man and a wonderful role model."

"I cherished my visits with him at Ashlar Village," Bro. Hawkins said.



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For information, please contact Ron Dworkin, Membership Chairman, at (203) 469-4576 or (203) 464-2762

Out and About with the Eastern Star Family

by Eleanor Carbonaro

The Order of the Eastern Star gives generously of their time and talents both within and outside of the Masonic family. During late spring and summer, when people enjoy being outside, the members were also outside doing what they do best, helping others.

On May 17, Eastern Star gathered with the Masonic family at Great River Park in East Hartford for the Masonicare Quality of Life Walk. Many members who couldn't attend contributed to the cause with donations. Those who attended either walked the 5 kilometers, helped staff the several booths set up in the Park's Amphitheater, or cheered those who walked. Breakfast, lunch, and beverages were donated by sponsors of the Walk, and a local radio station provided invigorating music to get the walkers 'pumped up'. It was a beautiful day for a walk along the bank of the Connecticut River.

On July 22, Eastern Star participated

in the Habitat for Humanity Eastern Star Build Day in Hartford. This was Worthy Grand Matron Gail Evarts' volunteer project. No special talents were required and on the job training was provided by qualified builders.

"There is a tremendous feeling of community when you roll up your sleeves and work side by side with others to help build a home for a deserving family."

Everyone did a 'day's work', whether they were installing vinyl siding, nailing down the roof, nailing studs, or preparing lunch for the hungry workers.

There were no complaints or whining; everyone had a smile and a light heart. And, when the day was over, there was hope that the members of the Order of the Eastern Star would be given another opportunity to help the Habitat for Humanity organization.



Sun shines on the Order of the Eastern Star at the Quality of Life Walk on May 17. It was a beautiful day to help The Masonic Charity Foundation raise funds for residents of Masonicare.



Eastern Star takes a well deserved break at their Hartford Habitat for Humanity project. WGM Gail Evarts has an "operative square" held near her head, while another member shows his "24 inch gauge."

We welcome our new brothers to the fraternity.

William C. Jordan Ark 39
 Erik M. Armas Corinthian 103
 Gary W. Takach Corinthian 103
 Daniel F. Maxwell Hiram 18

CONGRATULATIONS

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

Charles E. Alloway Brainard 102	Ernst W. Freeman Center 97	Peter A. Misani Seneca 55
Palmer L. Aughenbaugh Estuary 43	Aaron L. Gersten Hartford Evergreen 88	Donald W. Moore Columbia 25
Paul A. Beaupre Somerset-St. James 34	Douglas E. Girard Somerset-St. James 34	Fred Moultrie Columbia 25
Duane W. Brookes Granite 119	George R. Grandell King Solomons 7	Francis J. Murphy Sequin-Level 140
Kenneth K. Coddington Jerusalem 49	Raymond W. Hasse Jr. Brainard 102	George Olsovsky Washington 19
William Conda Liberty-Continental 76	John K. Jepson Wyllys-St. John's 4	Albert J. Reid Friendship Tuscan 145
William E. Cramer Temple 16	George S. Johns Hartford Evergreen 88	Curt D. Ritzen Fayette 69
Clayton Cummings Composite 28	Michael Lasprogato Old Well 108	Kenneth W. Roe Old Well 108
Marvin L. Curland Coastal 57	Clesson W. Lehr Union 40	Russell E. Roden Valley 36
Jerrold H. Davis Union 40	Robert S. Lloyd Jerusalem 49	James D. Salter Valley 36
Charles H. Etchells Jr. Columbia 25	George T. Macura America-St. John's 8	Charles H. Schoch Estuary 43
Valentine H. Everson III Widow's Son 66	Michael Masailo Frederick-Franklin 14	Joseph L. Silhavy Ashlar-Aspetuck 142
William H. Foster Friendship Tuscan 145	Paul Mazik Union 5	Edwin W. Viets Hiram 1
Lothar F. Frank Friendship Tuscan 145	Charles R. Meister Harmony 67	William D. Wheeler Corinthian 103

Apple a Day Makes Friends for Life

by Tom Accuosti

Most Masons have an item or event which makes them feel particularly connected to the Fraternity — a ring handed down from a relative, a certain passage in a lecture, a symbol, or even a particular degree. The event that makes me feel the most connected to Masonry, and specifically, to Friendship Lodge No. 33, Southington, is an event that isn't even a Masonic function. It is the annual Apple Harvest Festival, held in the center of town every fall.

Seven years ago, right before I was initiated, I showed up at the September Trowel Club meeting. A friend - my sponsor - suggested that I meet some of the members, where they would be planning the food booth for the Festival that year. I introduced myself, and as I didn't know anybody, I sat in the back of the room to observe. My impression was that this was completely the opposite of what I had expected. These can't be the Freemasons, I thought to myself. Why are they arguing over whether to buy the \$20 coffee maker or the \$35 coffee maker? Can't they just take some of that Templar treasure and buy whatever they want?

Two weeks later, I was a brand new EA and was helping to erect the floor and the tent for the cooking equipment. Being accustomed to working quickly and efficiently in my own business, I was puzzled to see a number of my new brothers standing around, chatting, drinking coffee, and offering unhelpful suggestions to those of us who were actually doing the labor. An older member must have noticed the look on my face and took me aside. "Yes, it's important that we raise money with this festival booth," he explained, "but you need to understand that every single one of these brothers is also down here because they enjoy it. They're having fun. And they all contribute in some way, even if it's not apparent right now."

So, for the next two weekends I made a point to watch and listen. I was pleasantly surprised that just about everyone took time to welcome me, and to check to see that I was doing alright while I was slicing onions, scraping pans, or cleaning the cookware. At slack times, some took me aside to give me tips and advice, and more importantly, their opinions on what Masonry was all about.

A couple of brothers were particularly attentive, reminding me that the most important word that I would need to learn over my Masonic career would be the word "No," a lesson I have yet to fully realize.

I saw men who, I learned later, had not been to lodge in over ten years, but

who never failed to visit the booth at the festival to say hello, and to chat with old acquaintances. I even watched as one such member chatted for a half hour, then rolled up his sleeves and stayed to help us for another two during a busy period.

A few of the brothers, knowing that I was brand new, took me aside to let me know that I might meet some members who could be "a little rough around the edges" or who could "rub someone the wrong way," and that I should not take anything they said personally. How fascinating to discover later that the brothers I was cautioned about were actually among the several who made a point to make me feel welcome; one of them spent several hours with me over the course of the two weekends and impressed me with his down-to-earth good nature.

As the new guy, I appreciated his efforts, and I've made it a point to carry on his example with the newcomers that I meet.

In those first two weekends, I met more members of Friendship Lodge than I would go on to meet during the next year. I also learned - for free - something that many businesses pay consultants to teach: that working together with a shared goal is an excellent way to build the trust that you need to cement good, working relationships.

Corporations send managers off to white-water rafting, rock-climbing, and other team-building exercises, but that often misses the point: most people enjoy doing things for a good cause, and when they work together in close quarters on tasks that actually mean something, it adds a dimension that is not available in mere exercises. Few things help to smooth those rough spots between people like having them help you lift an old refrigerator up a flight of



Tom Accuosti

basement stairs, or helping to carry 400 pounds of beef over to your work area.

I also learned that there are few things that build trust and respect more than knowing that you will stay around for the all-important clean-up duty and enjoying the camaraderie that you develop after the clean up is finished, in which you hang around, gossiping and venting over a beer or a coffee, and basking in the satisfaction of a job well done.

Even though I'm now one of the "old-timers," I have never forgotten that Apple Harvest Festival as a new Mason, or the lessons of those weekends.

Tom Accuosti's Masonic blog - The Tao of Masonry can be viewed at www.masonictao.blogspot.com.

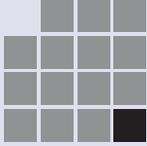
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Masonicare's Retirement Living Options: How to Apply for Admission

Masonicare receives many inquiries from the Masonic family regarding the process for gaining admission into the Masonicare continuum. Here is some general information to help you understand how this procedure works.

The process begins with a universal application. It is necessary to have an application on file for any of the following facilities: Ashlar Village, Pond Ridge, A. Norman Johnson Apartments, Wells Apartments, the Leslie G. Wright Residence, MasonicHealthcareCenter, Ashlar of Newtown, and Lockwood Lodge. When you request a universal application, you will be asked a few simple questions, such as name, address, and date of birth. If you need assistance filling out the application, simply call Masonicare Community Services at 800-982-3919 and a

member of the staff will gladly assist you.

When the Admissions Department of the facility to which you are applying receives your completed application, they will review it to be sure everything has been filled out completely. Once the review confirms that the application is complete and they have received the necessary medical information (with the exception of Ashlar Village), the Admissions Department will send a confirmation letter, stating that your name has been added to the waiting list. This also establishes your application date. **This does not mean that an offer is being made to you. It is just a confirmation that your application is now on file.** With your Masonic family affiliation, you will be given priority on the waiting list.

If the level of care needed

should change during the waiting period, your application date remains constant. As your name moves closer to the top of the list, you will be contacted by the Admissions Office to discuss placement, and perhaps to be asked to supply current medical and financial information. When a space becomes available, the next person on the waiting list is notified. The admissions' team uses the application date for placement of applicants according to State of Connecticut regulations. After an offer of placement is extended, you will be given information on what you need to do to facilitate your admission.

Remember, there is no obligation to accept an offer if you are not ready to move. If you choose to decline the offer of admission, your name can be moved to the Inactive Waiting

List. Your name will remain on this list until you request that the admissions department reactivate your application. When an application is reactivated, it is done so at the original application date. We encourage applicants and families to call the appropriate admissions office at any time with questions.

To apply for admission, or to arrange for a tour of the Masonic Healthcare Center, A. Norman Johnson Apartments, or Leslie G. Wright Residence, please call Masonic Healthcare Center's Admissions Office at 203-679-5901. For Ashlar of Newtown and Lockwood Lodge, contact Ashlar of Newtown's Admissions Office at 203-364-3108. For Ashlar Village and Pond Ridge, call 800-382-2244. For additional information on Masonicare, you may also call our toll-free HelpLine, 888-679-9997.

Third Rehab "Reunion" Held Recently at Ashlar of Newtown

In May of 2004, Ashlar of Newtown dedicated a new short-term rehabilitation program at the skilled nursing facility on Toddy Hill Road. Since that time, scores of patients have benefited from the positive, encouraging environment and attentive medical and personal care they received from the outstanding professionals who staff the 32-bed rehab unit.

To celebrate the success of Ashlar of Newtown's rehabilitation program and give "graduates" the opportunity to reconnect with other patients and employees, all former and current patients and their families were invited to attend the first "reunion" in August of 2006, a second in 2007, and this year, a third reunion was held on a beautiful day in September. The luau-themed event encouraged invitees to "bring the whole family" and featured a cotton candy machine, blowup jumper for the children, a face painter, clown, and a DJ to provide some great music.

Former rehab patient Leona Reynolds of New York was delighted to return to AON for the reunion, which was her second. As a rehab patient in June 2007, she was very

impressed with the care and support she received during her stay. When Leona learned in November 2007 that she needed knee replacement surgery, she immediately said AON was where she would go for her rehab therapy. She was again impressed with the high quality care and professionalism of the staff, and was especially pleased with the positive encouragement she received from Jhasson Brook, director of rehabilitation.

According to Leona, "Jhasson is my rock; he got me back on my feet and taught me how to walk again. When I have surgery on my other knee, I definitely won't go anywhere else for my rehab."

According to Joel S. Feigenson, MD, Medical Director for Rehabilitation Services at Ashlar of Newtown, patients and staff enjoyed the camaraderie and the sharing of "success" stories by many of the patients. "It was wonderful to see our



Former Ashlar of Newtown rehab patient Leona Reynolds (center) has a great time at the recent "Reunion" with her daughter, Kathy Doherty, and son, Tom Woodin.

former patients and hear how they've been doing since graduating from the program. We are very pleased with the great response and the positive comments received from all who attended."

Valley of Hartford, A.A.S.R. News *From the desk of David R. Blythe, Sr., Valley Secretary*

There is a saying: "The past cannot be changed, but the future is still in your power."

With this in mind, the growth in Freemasonry, as well as in the Scottish Rite, the York Rite, and the Shrine, falls into the hands of all Master Masons. While we within the organization have seen declining membership and the consolidation of Blue Lodges, the organization is still alive and beginning to show a turnaround. However, this turnaround can only continue with each and everyone's help, provided you still believe in the fraternity and what it stands for.

Here at the Valley of Hartford, AASR, I have seen some of these signs. Our classes have not been as large as in years gone by, but we are seeing some growth. Membership has not shown the sharp declines as several years ago. But more importantly, the Master Masons who are joining us are getting involved right away in various positions and

bringing in new members.

A prime example of this new attitude and commitment to our organization comes from a member of our spring class – Bro. Brain A. Cosker, Jr. Not only did he show interest in becoming a member of our technical group, but he was the top line signer on four of members of our fall class. Other recent new members have been the top liner signer a new petition and yet others, like Bro. Steven Shoopak, even before he completed his degrees, was so impressed with the Valley and its members that he asked "How do I become a line officer?" Bro. Shoopak is now an officer of the Charter Oak Lodge of Perfection. But perhaps what has impressed me more is that several of our Masonic brethren who are seeking membership in the Valley of Hartford Scottish Rite are under 40 years of age. With young blood like this, how can we, as an organization, not succeed?

Although it is now too late for other Blue

Lodge Master Masons to get into this year's fall class, our next class will be starting up on February 5, 2009. If you have ever considered continuing your advancement in Masonry, now is the time to contact us and to learn more about us.

Any current member of the Valley will be happy to tell you about the Scottish Rite and you can always contact me at the Scottish Rite Valley Office any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday morning between 9:00 a.m. and approximately noon. The telephone number is 860-666-0712.

To the current members of the Valley of Hartford, as well as to all who are reading this article: "HAPPY THANKSGIVING." Remember the happiest times in life are those spent with family.

For more information about what is happening within the Valley of Hartford, visit our Valley website: <http://www.valleyofhartford.org>

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

Our fall class is getting the best ceremonials and allegories we can give them, yet it isn't enough! Something is missing – more class members! This is the plea of SP Charles H. Tirrell, MSA, and our Valley's membership development chairman. This plea is also heard among the casts and crew for our various degrees. It isn't nice to play to an empty house!

Charles has implemented a recruitment program called

the Blue Lodge Ambassador Program. Each lodge in District Four is to be represented with Sublime Princes from those lodges. No one works alone, and the program's effectiveness will only be felt when the message is delivered to each lodge.

Charles and his team are looking forward to providing information programs, ritual assistance, and events at which the Valley may mingle with any lodge. To that end, Charles looks forward to provide for a Valley-

sponsored Lodge Appreciation Night.

If you would like to become an ambassador, or otherwise find out more, Charles will welcome your calls to 203-215-5305, or your e-mails to chtirrell@yahoo.com.

If you haven't been by to see the good work of the Valley, you may not have seen the improvements to the Whitney Avenue Masonic Temple. We are fortunate enough to be housed in one of the biggest showcases

of Masonry in Connecticut, yet so few come inside to see for yourself. If you've stayed away for too long, and are concerned about formalities, an excellent opportunity awaits you.

On Monday evening, November 10, we will host our second annual Oktoberfest! A stated meeting will precede the Oktoberfest, with all that it implies!

So, let's see a double-digit Spring Class, and let's have fun! See you in the Valley...



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NOVEMBER DEGREE SCHEDULE:

November 6 - Rose Croix Portrayal of 18° Degrees at 7:30 pm
Pre-degree dinner at 6:00 p.m. — Advance reservation required

November 15 - Consistory Day
9:30 am Portrayal of 30°, 31°, and 32°
Luncheon at noon — Advance reservations required

If you would like more information about the upcoming degrees,
or 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 email: sect@snet.net
or visit our Valley Website: www.valleyofhartford.org

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Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
THE VALLEY OF NEW HAVEN
Masonic Temple, 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven

REPEAT OF A GREAT EVENING:
November 10, stated meeting followed by Oktoberfest

**TRAVEL WITH US TO OUR SISTER VALLEYS
FOR THIS MONTH'S CONSISTORIAL DEGREES:**
November 19 – 25°, Master of Achievement, at Waterbury
November 24 – 28°, Knight of the Sun, at Stratford
**December 1 – 31°, Knight Aspirant, and 32°,
Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, at Stratford**

Contact Vern Cleaves at (203) 269-0336 or any member of the Valley.
We would like to know how many will be attending
so we may have some refreshments.

Autumn Gathering to be Held November 9 at MHC

The Autumn Gathering will be held at Masonic Healthcare Center on the Masonicare campus in Wallingford on November 9, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

During the Autumn Gathering program, special presentations will be made to several deserving members of the Masonic family. Brother Robert J. Stika, Most Worshipful Grand Master, will present awards to brothers Kenneth I. Greenhill, Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford; John A. Miller,

Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville; Bard C. Teigen, Composite Lodge No. 28, Suffield; and Sisters Arline L. Morgan, Mystic Chapter No. 20, North Haven, Order of the Eastern Star; Eleanor G. Stoddard, Olive Branch Chapter No. 87, Madison, Order of the Eastern Star; and Alice S. Britton, Stratford Court No. 21, Stratford, Order of the Amaranth.

All members of the Masonic family are cordially invited to attend. Please RSVP to RW Carl Anderson at 203-679-6917.

Did You Know...?

For the past 3 years, the Eastern Star Charity Foundation of Connecticut has generously supported the Masonicare electronic greeting card system. This system allows family and friends from anywhere in the world to send greetings free of charge to residents or patients at Masonicare in Wallingford, or Ashlar of Newtown. You can send birthday greetings, get well wishes, holiday greetings, congratulations, or just a friendly note to say "hello."

Generic stock photos are provided for your use, or by uploading your own digital photo onto the electronic card, you can share memories from your latest vacation, a graduation photo, or a baby photo, for example. The cards are formatted to print on half-fold card paper so they look like a store-bought greeting card. The card can be displayed on a window ledge or dresser, with the photo facing toward the recipient to provide a constant reminder of you and your thoughts and good wishes.

Masonicare Community Services staff is notified by email when a card has been sent. Every effort is made to print and deliver cards the same day, or by the next day, after receipt, with the exception of weekends.

To access this program, look for the link at the top of the main Masonicare web site: www.masonicare.org.

For questions, you can call Jim Albert, Masonicare's chief information officer, at 203-679-7430 or email him at jalbert@masonicare.org.

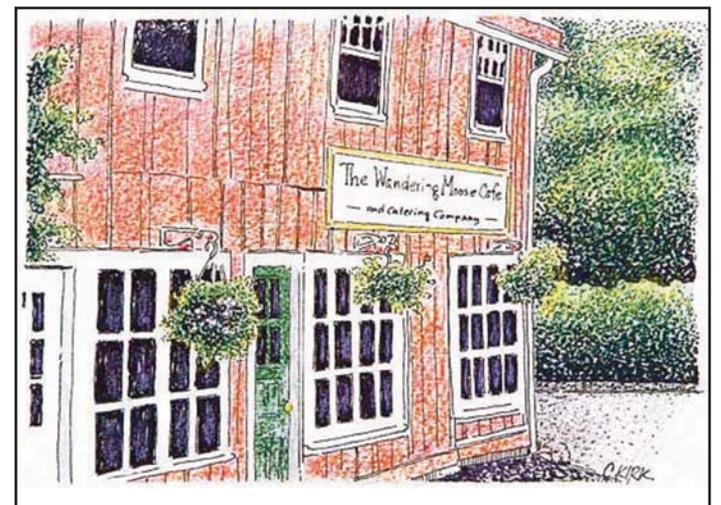
Masonicare Inform at the Wandering Moose December 1

A Masonicare Inform Program will be held on Monday evening, December 1, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Wandering Moose in West Cornwall, conveniently located just off Route 7, next to the historic Cornwall Bridge. The "Inform" programs are designed to ensure that the Masonic family is kept up to date on the latest news about Masonicare and its plans for the future.

Brothers Steve McPherson and Carl Anderson will provide an informational program that evening. The hosts for the event, which will include a cocktail and hors d'œuvres reception, are Brother Charles W. Yohe, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, and his wife, Barbara. The cost to attend is \$10 per person, and reservations are required.

For additional information or to make a reservation, please call Brother Carl Anderson,

Vice President for Fraternal Relations, at 203-679-6917, or email him at canderson@masonicare.org, by November 24.



The Masonicare HelpLine Center

An information and referral resource center for seniors and their families

Masonicare is pleased to announce the formation of the Masonicare HelpLine Center, a free and confidential service that provides assistance to seniors and families to help them navigate our vast and often complex healthcare system.

The HelpLine's knowledgeable representatives, available by phone at 888-679-9997, respond to inquiries regarding senior healthcare and retirement living issues and offer assistance in accessing and using services, agencies, and programs important to seniors. "It's a vital resource that provides guidance and support to individuals, families and caregivers who need direction and don't know where to turn for help," says Susan Costanzo, Senior HelpLine Consultant.

The new HelpLine Center

works in tandem with Masonicare Community Services (MCS), the statewide outreach program that has served the Masonic family and Connecticut residents for many years. In addition to the HelpLine Center, MCS continues to link individuals to health and social services available through Masonicare and in their own community. As an added benefit, MCS will also arrange to have a representative visit you in your own home to offer assistance and provide valuable information at no cost.

If you, a family member, or friend needs assistance, remember that Masonicare is here to help! Just call 1-888-679-9997 to speak with a HelpLine Center representative, or 1-800-982-3919 to reach a Masonicare Community Services representative.

GRAND REP VACANCIES

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut is seeking to fill vacancies as Grand Representatives to the following grand jurisdictions.

Interested applicants should provide information for their qualifications to grandlodge@masonicare.org, or by mail to PO Box 250, Wallingford, CT 06492.

New Brunswick, Canada

Gabon, Africa

Ivory Coast, Africa

Bolivia

Grand Orient of Brazil

Acre, Brazil

Para, Brazil • Paraiba, Brazil

Pernambuco, Brazil

Barranquilla, Columbia

India

Nuevo Leon, Mexico

York Grand Lodge, Mexico

"When..."

by Carl G. Ek

That was the 'address' on an envelope that was pinned to a bulletin board in the home of an older and somewhat unwell gentleman who lived in Fair Haven many decades ago. I never asked him about it, but surmised that the contents were instructions for his next-of-kin when the Grand Architect of the Universe called him home.

Morbid? A better word would seem to be 'practical.' "Through some incredible infatuation, we forget that we are born to die." No one escapes this world alive, so planning for what is inevitable seems a responsible course of action. This is especially true as those who will make your final arrangements are all but certain to be distraught at your passing. Uncertainty about your wishes can only add to their stress at they attempt to carry on without you, their loved one.

As difficult as it may be (both for you and for your family members), you should have a conversation about your final wishes. This is especially true for Masons, for whom special arrangements can be made if desired.

Ideally, those closest to you should know the location of an envelope detailing your desires. It should contain vital information such as the location of your will – you do have a will, don't you? – and other financial documents such as bank accounts, insurance policies, property deeds, etc. From a Masonic standpoint, there are several questions for which your family needs answers.

Where is your Masonic apron kept? By this we mean the lambskin that was given to you when you were made a Mason, possibly a half century or more ago. If you've lost that apron due to fire or flood, or in the course of moving from home to home, contact your lodge for a replacement now, while you think about it. That apron is meant to be placed upon your remains in the casket.

Do you want a Masonic service of any kind? There are services appropriate for

calling hours, burial, or as a memorial service. Your envelope should contain the names and phone numbers of the Master and Secretary of your mother lodge, as these brothers generally assemble those who will perform the service. If you do not live near your mother lodge, or are a dual member locally, local contact information is also important. Don't know where to find that information? Most lodge trestleboards contain the names and phone numbers of their principal officers; also, the Grand Lodge office can provide that information.

But how do you reach the Grand Lodge office? Those phone numbers – local and toll-free – are on the back of every dues card of every Connecticut Master Mason. Also, those who explore the Internet can surf to <http://www.ctfreemasons.net> for that information.

No, contemplating your own death is not something that we find pleasurable. But having all of the information necessary for your family to carry out your wishes will ease their concerns, 'when'....



Ashlar of Newtown's 25th Anniversary Capped Off with Special Evening for the Community

by Margaret Steeves

As the cap-off to its 25th anniversary year, Masonicare's Ashlar of Newtown hosted an evening with John Murphy, executive vice president of Danbury Hospital, and Susan Davis, president and CEO of St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, on September 24. The two healthcare executives outlined their priorities for future wellness to a gathering of community residents and healthcare professionals at the Reed Intermediate School in Newtown.

Ronald Rozett, MD, consulting physician to Masonicare, introduced the presentation. Dr. Rozett prefaced his remarks with the statistic that 17% of every \$100 of goods and services produced in the U.S. goes to healthcare.

Susan Davis, RN, Ed.D, began by assuring her audience that she is "first and foremost, a nurse," having begun her

career at the bedside. She encouraged her listeners to "be an active participant in your own healthcare," citing a landmark study which correlates patient responsibility with a decrease in care errors. She urged her listeners to ask questions – even writing them down in advance of an office visit – to make sure they were informed, and brought information on questions to ask your pharmacist, clinical caregiver, and physician.

John Murphy, MD, shared some sobering statistics about the state of health in our country. Despite spending more on healthcare than any country in the world, life expectancy in the U.S. ranks 25th. He cited the factors which contribute to premature death: genetics (30%), social factors such as where you live, your income, education, and quality of healthcare (30%) and the greatest percentage (40%) of factors being behavioral,

including tobacco use (18%), obesity and inactivity (17%), and other decisions of judgment (e.g. seat belt and motorcycle helmet use). Statistics indicate that 35% of Americans are obese; among children, it's 16% and growing, and among Americans over the age of 65, it's 20%.

Dr. Murphy also stressed preventative care: get your annual flu shot and the pneumonia vaccine; women over 50 should have a mammogram every 2 years; and colonoscopies for both men and women over 50 are important to help detect colon cancer at its earliest and most curable stage. He also stressed that monitoring cholesterol is important to help prevent heart disease and stroke.

Both hospital executives promoted the value of an "EMR," or electronic medical record. It ensures that ALL patient data is present...x-rays, test results, history, medications, allergies, etc., regardless of where the test,

x-ray, etc. was done. Dr. Murphy is promoting a "regional health information exchange." To make this happen, there needs to be collaboration among providers, technical and informational interfaces, and connectivity.

Among the topics raised during the question and answer period were nationalized healthcare and infection control. Both executives felt that nationalized healthcare was very far away and that the best infection control is washing your hands with soap and water. Antibacterial soaps are good but they don't eliminate every germ.

The presentation by these major leaders in the healthcare field was enthusiastically received. Bro. Tom Gutner, President of Ashlar of Newtown, thanked Dr. Davis and Dr. Murphy and encouraged the audience to resolve to embrace a healthy lifestyle.

(Margaret Steeves is Vice President for Marketing at Masonicare)

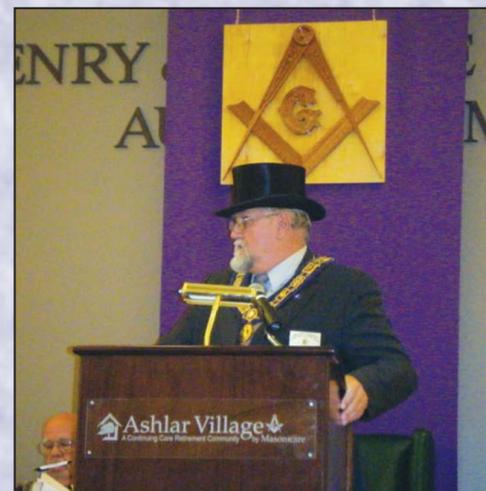
October Session of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut



Attendees at the October Grand Lodge session were pleased to be welcomed to the new Hartog Activities Center.



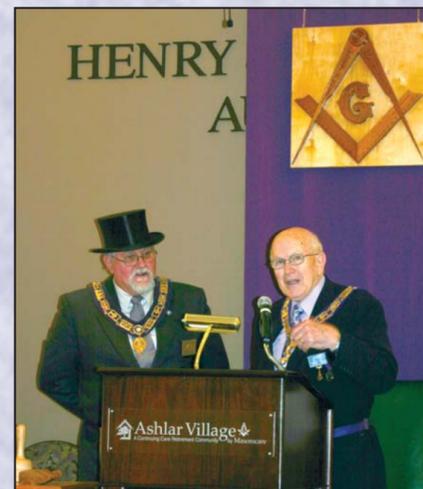
Eleven Past Grand Masters were presented and given Grand Honors as thanks for their dedicated service to the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.



Grand Master Stika reviews his Grand Lodge.



MW Stika addresses, from left, RW Rich Backe, Brother Tony Foote and WB Andy Goddard who are presented their commissions to represent the Grand Lodge of Connecticut with the Grand Lodges of Arizona, Malta and Kentucky respectively.



RW Irving Pease was thanked for crafting a new square and compasses.



"This Activities Center Was Given By Ferdinand Hartog, Jr. In Loving Memory Of His Wife Dorothy." Bro. Hartog poses before personal mementoes displayed in the seating area.



A crane was setting the trusses for the new Kenneth B. Hawkins, Sr. Apartments, part of the on-going expansion on the Masonicare campus.

GRAND MASTER'S APPEAL - 2008

Time to donate to Connecticut Freemasons Foundation!

Recently, every Connecticut Mason received a letter from Grand Master Stika for his **Grand Master's Appeal** for the **Connecticut Freemasons Foundation**, either to the Grand Lodge Permanent Endowment Fund or the Connecticut Child Identification Program (CTCHIP) Fund, or both. The funds donated for CTCHIP are used as needed to support our ongoing program that has provided identification packets to nearly 40,000 Connecticut children.

The Foundation's 501(c)(3) charitable purpose is served by your contribution and supplements the Grand Lodge assessment. These earnings have enabled the Grand Lodge to make donations to such worthy causes as the Shriners Hospitals, the Scottish Rite Learning Centers, the George Washington Masonic Memorial, and others. By making these donations from Endowment Fund earnings, Grand Lodge has not had to draw upon its only other source of funds, your per capita payments.

*There remain many brethren, however, who have not yet responded to the **Grand Master's Appeal**.*

*Send your check today to:
**Connecticut Freemasons Foundation Inc.,
PO Box 69, Wallingford CT 06492**
and indicate to which fund you want it to go.
All donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible.*

**Grand Master's Appeal
P.O. Box 69, Wallingford, CT 06492**

Yes, I want to help support the charitable and educational works of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. Enclosed please find my/our contribution of:

- \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000
 CTCHIP Grand Lodge Permanent Endowment Fund

Please make your check payable to: Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

DISTRICT No. 2

(a) RW Thomas L. Sullivan, Sr., DD • WB Gary H. Ross, AGM
(b) RW Frederick V. Miller, Jr., DD • WB Joseph M. Levkoff, AGM

Hiram No. 18 Shines Masonic Light on Sandy Hook from New Window



by Bill Hillman and Joe Porco

A beacon of Masonic light will shine at night in the town of Sandy Hook. The plain oval window at the peak of the Hiram Lodge No. 18 has been replaced with a stained glass window featuring a square and compasses. The creation was the work of Bro. Hans Frohlich, left,



who holds the window with Bro. Al Ballwig prior to its installation. The brothers of Hiram No. 18 gave the pair a standing ovation of approval.

Bro. Ron Eastwood provided wiring and lighting for the new window installing with the help of other brothers on October 3.

Requirements for 2009 Worshipful Masters

Wardens should heed MW Stika's requirements for 2009 Worshipful Masters. Certificates from prior years or this year of successful completion will be necessary before installation as Master of a lodge.

1. Be certified to open and close a lodge, receive dignitaries, go to refreshment and back. Contact the District Lecturer for certification.
2. Perform at least one of the following:
 - Attend the Masters Seminar, October 4, at Ashlar Village, Wallingford, 8:00 a.m. registration. Attendance to be verified by the Committee on Masonic Education.
 - Attend the Wardens Seminar, November 8, at Ashlar Village, Wallingford, 8:00 a.m. registration. Attendance to be verified by the Committee on Masonic Education.
 - Attend the New Masons Forum at Ashlar Village on Sunday, October 26, 2:30 p.m. or at Ashlar of Newtown, Sunday, November 16, 2:30 p.m.
 - Successfully complete the Masonic Education Course. Download the application from the Grand Lodge website www.ctfreemasons.net.
 - Pass the 50 Question Quiz prepared by Grand Lodge. Contact the District Lecturer for certification.

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600 West Main Street, Meriden, CT 06450

WB George Ward Honored with Award

by Jim Waite

On Saturday, September 20, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 47, Seymour, held their awards night at the Oxford House restaurant, Oxford, and presented the "Excellence in Masonry" award to WB George H. Ward. The award read "In recognition of your dedication and longevity in Masonry, we honor you for a job well done."

WB George, is a past master of both King Hiram Lodge No. 12, Shelton, and Morning Star Lodge No. 47 who has served as the 3rd District Blue Lodge council president. He turned 82 on October 2.

He presently is tiler for King Hiram No. 12 and served as Worshipful Master of Morning Star No. 47 in 2007. Along with his Masonic duties, WB George is currently: Master of Harmony Grange No. 92, Monroe; chaplain of Fairfield County Pomona Grange No.9; a member of the Legislation Committee of the Connecticut State Grange, president of the Huntington Chapter No. 3240 AARP; and a member of the Huntington United Methodist Church, where he serves on the Board of Trustees.



From left, RW Marshall K Robinson, District Deputy 3B, WB George Ward, WM Harry Yost, Morning Star Lodge No. 47, and RW Arthur H. Carlstrom, Deputy Grand Master, at Morning Star No. 47's awards night.

King Hiram No. 12 Celebrates 225th Anniversary

by Jim Waite

On October 12, Worshipful Master Charles V. DeDufour welcomed Most Worshipful Grand Master Robert J. Stika and his Grand Lodge officers for a rededication of King Hiram Lodge No. 12, Shelton, in appropriate Masonic form.

King Hiram No. 12 was granted its charter by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts on January 3, 1783. The 225th anniversary of that event was celebrated among friends and families who were surprised that actual corn, wine, and oil were used. Corn is used as a sign of

nourishment to strengthen and sustain the lodge. Wine is the emblem of refreshment to sustain the practice of every humanitarian attribute in empathy and with compassion. Oil is used to signify that joy which should animate every Mason to the practice of universal benevolence.

the charter that he himself had signed.

The first Worshipful Master of King Hiram Lodge No. 12, then located in Derby, was Charles Whittlesey, and many of the original petitioners were members of King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury, which also recommended the lodge be instituted.

Brother Paul Revere, then Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, reportedly was present for installation of officers and presentation of

After the ceremony, refreshments were enjoyed in the banquet hall. The kitchen and library have been renovated in recent years as part of Boy Scout Eagle projects. The King Hiram building is currently under going additional upgrading with new windows and siding.



Grand Lodge officers who participated in the rededication ceremony line up in front of the covered symbolic lodge used in the program. Pictured above are (from left): WB Stephen J. Nevins, Associate Grand Marshal, 3A; RW Michael B. Dodge, Grand Junior Steward; RW Alfred G. Rollinson, District Deputy 3A; RW Marshall K. Robinson, District Deputy 3B; MW Grand Master Robert J. Stika; RW Arthur H. Carlstrom, Deputy Grand Master; RW Charles A. Buck, Jr., Grand Senior Warden; RW Donald W. Dean, Grand Senior Steward; and WB James D. Waite, Jr., Associate Grand Marshal, 3B.

Fred V. Miller, Jr.



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DISTRICT No. 4

- (a) RW Robert C. Moon, DD • WB Charles W. Rome, AGM
(b) RW Robert J. Knowles, DD • WB John L. Anderson, AGM
(c) RW James J. Pyskaty, DD • WB William S. Clark, AGM

A Busy Weekend for Temple No. 16

by Roger Jackson

At Temple Lodge No. 16, Cheshire, the 'Power of Volunteerism' lives on! Through the hard work of many brothers, September was a month to remember. Scholarships were presented to deserving students, the lodge co-hosted – and won again! – their 5th annual 'Two Ball Cane Golf Classic,' and Junior Warden Mike Bonini stepped into the East to confer a nearly flawless Entered Apprentice degree on a class of four new brothers.

September's activities culminated with a coat drive on the weekend of October 20-21, commingled with a Sunday morning pancake breakfast. WB

Phil Reed and Ruben Rivera and their volunteer team collected bags of coats to be donated to those in need. The pancake breakfast continued to be a big hit as almost 100 breakfasts were served! More important was the comradeship enjoyed by all in attendance.

Stretching the weekend was a Masonic information night on Monday, September 22. Two prospects came through the door, one completing a petition. Several other brothers said that they had people interested, but that they could not attend that Monday evening. SW Ken Neumann put together an informative program that helped newcomers begin to understand what Masonry was

all about.

Temple Lodge No. 16 is clearly

about the hard work of many for the good of all!



Would you let this crew cook breakfast for you? Wielding their working tools are Temple Lodge No. 16 members (l-r) Fred Lord; Dean Palmer; Dave Matusz; WB Phil Reed; JW Mike Bonini; Tom Lewoc; WB Steve Eberle; SW Ken Neumann; and Chris Glenn.

DISTRICT No. 5

- (a) RW Phillip R. Quintal, DD • WB Benjamin A. Isaacson, AGM
(b) RW Laurence E. Hangland, DD • WB Philip B. Swain, Jr., AGM

Rockcats host Mason/non-Mason Night in New Britain



Post-presentation, Bill Dowling (second from right) joined with Unity Lodge SW John Bengtson, JW Kevin Girouard, and WM Harry E. Needham, III to examine a Unity trestleboard featuring a photo of Kevin and Harry with Rocky, the team's mascot.

Back in May, Unity Lodge No. 148 was scheduled to hold a Mason/non-Mason night in the Stadium Club at New Britain Stadium, home of the Double A minor league New Britain Rockcats. Sadly, the date was marked by near monsoon conditions, and the event had to be postponed. In early October, with the season long over, the lodge and its guests visited the Stadium Club for dinner and a fun presentation.

Guest speaker Bill Dowling, president and managing partner of the New Britain Rock Cats, spoke about his ball club, Double A baseball, and the club's growth over the last decade in New Britain. He then entertained with stories of his years as executive vice president of the New York Yankees – a position in which he reported directly to principal owner George Steinbrenner, III. Bill noted that he, too, suffered George's wrath, often being fired from his position – and soon after rehired – by the mercurial Yankee owner. Bill gave insights into the workings of the team and offered anecdotes about a number of the players he met throughout the years.

DISTRICT No. 5

(a) RW Phillip R. Quintal, DD • WB Benjamin A. Isaacson, AGM
(b) RW Laurence E. Hangland, DD • WB Philip B. Swain, Jr., AGM

Apple Wedges Hit Big in Southington

by Tom Accuosti

If an apple a day keeps the doctor away, what do you suppose a fried apple does?

We may not know about the doctors, but hundreds of people came to the Friendship Lodge No. 33's booth at the 40th annual Southington Apple Harvest Festival to enjoy a Philly steak and cheese sandwich and a bag of delicious apple wedgies: apples that were peeled, cored, covered with batter, deep fried for a couple of minutes, and coated with a blend of sugar and apple pie spices. Friendship Lodge invented the tasty treat several years ago when looking for something to sell along with their trademark sandwiches.

They are now becoming one of the favorite foods at the festival.

Worshipful Master Jim Sinclair organized the lodge for the two-weekend long festival, which ran from September 26 until October 5, and was supported by several dozen members and their families. Bad weather threatened to cancel the parade on the first Sunday, but the rain eased up. By Sunday afternoon the sun was out and several thousand watched the parade along the 2 mile route.

The booth at the fair is the largest fund raiser for Friendship Lodge, which typically goes through about 250 pounds of shaved beef and 1,000 locally grown apples to feed the hungry crowds.



Appropriate for an Apple Festival, they're lining up for apple wedgies at the Southington Apple Harvest Festival. Steak sandwiches were also a hit for Friendship Lodge No. 33 at the tent in front of the lodge building.

Epilog: the Return of the District 5 BL Council Gavel

by Carl G. Ek

A story in this month's District News details the District 5 Blue Lodge Council meeting held in September at Unity Lodge No. 148, New Britain. The business of the Council included presentation of the district's traveling gavel, given in recognition of the greatest attendance at the Council meeting, to WM Frank Dlugoleski of Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville.

Bro. Frank spent some post-meeting time with guest speaker WB Chris Hodapp, author of *Freemasons for Dummies*, putting down the gavel to buy an autographed book. Frank went home happily with his new tome.

And without the hard-won gavel...

A call came from WB Mark Parasiliti, a Past Master of both lodges, to Unity WM Harry E.

Needham, III. Yes, Bro. Needham recalled, he'd seen the gavel in the New Britain temple. He didn't have the gavel, but suggested that perhaps the officers could have put it in a storage room as they cleaned up at the end of the evening.

Yes, they could have. No, they hadn't. WB David Stern, Unity Lodge's secretary, took the gavel home for – uh, safekeeping – until it could be returned to its Plainville possessors. Dori Stern thought that the gavel should be wrapped if it was to be a 'presentation,' so she wrapped it in heavy protective paper. Then she put it in a box, taped it very securely shut, and wrapped it in birthday paper. Then she put the box in another box, taped that one very securely shut, and wrapped it in more conservative holiday paper....

The final product resembled a set of matryoshka dolls.

It was the next stated communication of Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14 that

found 5 members of Unity Lodge No. 148, plus Unity dual members Parasiliti and RW Ralph Holmstrom, present for the announced purpose of thanking the host lodge for their assistance with Unity's degree work in the past year. The visitors presented the large, well-wrapped box to WM Dlugoleski, who eyed it suspiciously.

Unfortunately, unwrapping was made far too easy when he produced a small pocket tool that helped him slice through the carefully applied layers – and layers – of tape. The missing gavel was soon on display to a very happy Frederick-Franklin Lodge.

WM Frank thanked his Unity Lodge visitors for their – uh, thoughtfulness – in visiting to return the gavel. Final greetings were offered by RW Grand Senior Deacon Gary Arsenault, who commended Frederick-Franklin Lodge for their hospitality. He also remarked at having three different lodges together for fellowship.

And after the lodge closed, the traveling gavel was locked in the safe....



A delegation from Unity Lodge No. 148, New Britain, bears gifts for Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, and its Worshipful Master, Frank Dlugoleski (right). Among the visitors (from left) RW Carl G. Ek, Unity Lodge chaplain; Bro. Harry E. Needham, IV; Bro. Keith Romano, Junior Steward; and WM Harry E. Needham, III. Behind the camera is Unity Lodge secretary WB David O. Stern.

District 5 BL Council – A Night for ‘Dummies’

by Carl G. Ek

District 5 usually rotates its Blue Lodge Council meetings numerically through its eight lodges, but last June’s meeting – scheduled to be hosted by Unity Lodge No. 148 of New Britain – fell on the 60th anniversary of the chartering of Sequin Lodge No. 140 (now Sequin-Level) of Newington. Unity Lodge gladly deferred to September to allow WM and PGM Chip Stamm, II to hold a celebration that was reported on in the September issue of *Connecticut Freemasons*.

That left Unity with hosting chores for September 25, and WM Harry E. Needham, III arranged an impressive program for the brothers of the district and state: WB Christopher Hodapp, author of *Freemasons for Dummies*, was the guest speaker for the evening.

Approximately 60 brothers and some ladies, led by Grand Master Robert J. Stika, three Past Grand Masters, three other Grand Lodge officers, and a pair of nearly overlooked District Lecturers who are also prominent Masonic bloggers joined representatives of the district’s lodges to hear Bro. Hodapp’s presentation.

Business of the Council was conducted before the guest speaker. RW Gary Arsenault, Grand Senior Deacon, and district chairman of CTCHIP WB Ted Hasty joined MW Stika in presenting a certificate of appreciation to Unity Lodge No. 148 for their ongoing contributions to that program. WB Frank Dlugoleski of Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, was presented the district’s traveling gavel in recognition of the greatest attendance at the Council meeting.

Unity Lodge Master Needham presented lodge button-down shirts to Bros. Stika and Hodapp, and to another sojourner visiting the meeting: WB Bill Millett



Grand Senior Deacon Gary Arsenault (left) and district CTCHIP chairman WB Ted Hasty (second from right) join MWGM Robert J. Stika (right) in presenting a certificate of appreciation to Unity Lodge No. 148 Worshipful Master Harry E. Needham, III for the lodge’s ongoing contributions to CTCHIP.

of New Brunswick, Canada, Executive Officer of Atlantic Provinces DeMolay. Bro. Bill and wife Shelly were enjoying some holiday time in Connecticut and participating in a seminar later in the week. They were invited to attend the Blue Lodge Council dinner and meeting.

Then it was time for Bro. Hodapp to make his presentation. (A separate story introducing Bro. Hodapp is included on page 7 of this issue.) Chris noted that he was the author of not only the famous *Freemasons for Dummies*, but also three other books, two in that now-1,000 plus franchise: *The Templar Code for Dummies*, *Conspiracy Theories & Secret Societies for Dummies*, and *Solomon’s Builders*. The other two *Dummies* books were written in collaboration with his wife of 30 years, historian Alice Von Kannon. Chris is also a leading member of the ‘Knights of the North,’ and took a lead role in editing a volume entitled *Laudable Pursuits*.

Though Chris has been a Mason for less than a decade – his Entered Apprentice Degree was in 1998 – he is “passionate about this fraternity.” He is also very appreciative of the craft for the ‘astonishing success’ of his book, which has now been translated French, Dutch, and German, and is slated to be published in other languages, as well.

Some find the title concept of “... for Dummies” offensive, but Chris explained that the group running that business has developed a formula that guarantees success. Authors are given four months to complete their work, unvarying at 348 pages. Chris had urged that the title be “Freemasonry...,” but the publishers would not even discuss the idea. They knew that most Internet searches on the topic are made for ‘Freemasons,’ and wanted the benefit of that free advertising.

The title aside, Chris said that his principal volume had sold in excess of 70,000 copies – more

than four times the sales of typical ‘...for Dummies’ books. Pre- and post-meeting autograph sessions added to that total as brothers lined up to make multiple purchases from the personable author, who had driven from Indiana with a van loaded with boxes of books.

In his remarks, Chris noted that Masonry had been all but forgotten by two generations of Americans, and that it was necessary for us to reeducate people as to who we are and what we do. He spoke of the Masonic experience of building lasting friendships using his own experiences as Master of two very different styles of lodges.

He also reminded the craft that the Internet drives Masonic information today. As such, people join the organization for vastly different reasons than in the past.

Also, candidates for the degrees are apt to know more about the history and background of Masonry than most veteran members, and they are looking to their lodge “for something mythical that he read about.”

To Chris, this means, “If it’s ordinary, we’ve let him down!” That also means that Masonry must not waste the brothers’ time, but rather “think big!” Masonry, to Chris, is not about just ritual, but about “connecting one-to-one, brother to brother.” He emphasized again that “Masonry is not ordinary!”, adding that we are “poised to make history once again.”

Bro. Chris Hodapp is one of the public faces of the future of Freemasonry. Those who heard his presentation on September 25 left New Britain with a renewed spirit and energy that, carried into their lodges, will improve the Masonic experience for brothers old and new.

Connecticut's Masonic "Cathedral"

by Dave Slack

The George Washington National Masonic Memorial, the Grand Lodge buildings of Pennsylvania, of Massachusetts, of Minnesota...

These are wonderful and historic pieces of architecture and positive testaments to the greatness of our fraternity. In Connecticut, though, we prioritize things just a little differently.

Connecticut Freemasonry's priority is charity and relief and we substantiate our beliefs with our actions and financial decisions every single day. While we now have a very nice Grand Loge office we do not have an opulent, ornate (and expensive) Grand Lodge "cathedral."

The "cathedral" of Freemasonry in Connecticut is the Masonic Healthcare Center in Wallingford.

This facility serves as vivid testimony and living proof of our commitment to our altruistic spirit and the things that *really* matter in this life.

Saturday evening, October 4, Composite Lodge No. 28, Suffield, presented its fourth annual "Invite-A-Friend" Festive Board. Seven non-Masonic visitors attended. In the spirit of the fall harvest season the motif was that of the Bavarian Oktoberfest festival. This semi-public event followed the general form of the Ancient Masonic Table Lodge and was accompanied by abundant quantities of authentic Bavarian food and drink.

The theme of the evening included a special tribute to our valued and often under-appreciated public servants in the fire departments, emergency medical services, and police departments, as well as our security and military services.

Bro. Robert R. Natrass III gave the keynote remarks for the evening and provided a wonderful account of a life dedicated to public service and to Freemasonry. As a dedicated practitioner of both, he is in a perfect position to expound upon the symbiotic nature of Freemasonry and public service.

Bro. Bob is the originator and owner of Acacia Investigations, www.acaciainvestigations.com, which he founded in 1993 as a fire origin-and-cause investigation and consulting firm.

Prior to founding Acacia Investigations, Bro. Natrass served as an electronics technician in the United States Navy, Submarine Service. After his Navy enlistment, he joined the Connecticut State Police and retired after a twenty year career as commanding officer of the Bureau of Investigations and Enforcement of the Office of State Fire Marshal.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree, *cum laude* from the University of New Haven in Criminal Justice Administration and has received additional training at several universities throughout the United States. He had attended the FBI Academy and the National Fire Academy and has been an instructor in the field of law enforcement and fire investigation in both the public and private sector.

Mr. Natrass directs the operations of Acacia Investigations and continues to conduct fire origin and cause investigations in the field, which is his true passion.

Just as in Freemasonry, there is a brotherhood in public service. Whether it be police, fire, emergency medical service, or the military, bonds are made that transcend everyday relationships.

On April 19, 1984, Bob was raised in Trumbull Lodge No. 22, New Haven, with a brother trooper. The Master Mason degree was performed by the Connecticut State Police Degree team. They reminded him that Masons pledge to support widows and orphans.

Bob had no idea how poignant and personal this fact would become until an incident with his mother occurred over the Thanksgiving season in 2003. During a visit in Florida with their mother, the Natrass family was appalled to find her near death. She had been over-medicated by an assortment of doctors and her immune system was failing.

Masonicare was immediately consulted and arrangements were made for emergency admittance to the hospital. Mrs. Natrass was flown to Connecticut on an emergency flight and within a month she was off oxygen, up and walking, and had all her medications

reevaluated and adjusted.

"A doctor told us that had she not been admitted when she was, she would have probably been dead within a month. *Masonicare saved my mother's life!* It is one of the premier charities supported by Connecticut Freemasons."

Mrs. Natrass now lives in an apartment at Wright Residence in Masonicare's facility in Wallingford, and is healthy and active.

Physicians take the Hippocratic Oath, of which some of the primary tenets are to prescribe care to the best of their ability and "to do no harm." The good folks at the Masonic Healthcare Center take this admirable philosophy several steps further. The prime directive at Masonicare is "Quality of Life." World class medical care is a given at MHC; personal independence, dignity, and the quality of daily, routine life is as much a part of the regimen as clinical medicine.

This is indeed a special testament to Connecticut Freemasonry. We should be prouder of this than of any architectural "showcase" wherever in the world it may be located.

Masonicare is indeed the crown jewel of Connecticut Freemasonry and is the true embodiment of our core values and beliefs.

The "Oktoberfest" concluded with a "sing-along" organized by Junior Warden Jason Eckley and featuring Composite's own "Blue Lodge Brothers." Many of the brothers stayed past midnight having fun and enjoying each other's company.



From left, Composite Lodge Worshipful Master Gene Benjamin; Bro. and toast master Craig Caesar, Junior Deacon; Bro. Robert Natrass, key note speaker; and RW Brian Baeder, Chaplain, raise their glasses in a toast at the Oktoberfest Table Lodge.

DISTRICT No. 7

(a) RW William V. Baroni, DD • RW Michael S. Shear, AGM
(b) RW Richard E. Backe, DD • WB Michael W. Moody, AGM

East Hampton is a CHAMP

by Richard Denno

Citizens Helping Active Military Personnel (C.H.A.M.P.) has united several East Hampton organizations to support troops from the greater East Hampton area serving in Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Iraq. Each month, care packages ranging from 12-21 pounds apiece are mailed to individual soldiers. Anchor Lodge No. 112, East Hampton, along with the local Boy Scout troop and the local VFW, assemble food and personal comfort items. C.H.A.M.P. recently received this thank you note of appreciation from one grateful soldier serving in Iraq:

October 3, 2008

Dear Kathy,

Thank you very much for the wonderful care package I just received from you and the CHAMP organization. The mail comes here only once every two or three weeks via convoys so when it does come, it's highly anticipated. I am a civil military operations officer assigned to Camp Zaytun where the Korean army is located. There are only a handful of Americans here so we don't have the nice amenities that some of the bigger bases have. I work on reconstruction projects such as schools and other public facilities. I have shared the contents of your package with my soldiers and some of my Korean soldier friends as well since they don't have much either and they love to eat snacks especially when we sit down to meetings. Again, thank you very much.

- LTC Tim Quinlan

LTC Tim Quinlan displays the "goodies" he received from the C.H.A.M.P. program.



District 7 Comes Out for the Valenti's

The Seventh District turned out for a special Master Mason degree at Granite Lodge No. 119, Haddam. Past District Deputy RW Edgar M. Valenti, Sr. was enjoying one of the high points of any father's life when he raised his son, Edgar M. Valenti, Jr., to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Every district lodge was represented and many of the district brothers took part in the October 8 degree.

At the conclusion of the evening RW Valenti presented a Lewis Jewel to Bro. Valenti,

signifying a son of a Mason. Another surprise was the presentation of a Past District Deputy's jewel to RW Ed. His past service included two years as Associate Grand Marshal and two years as District Deputy for the Seventh District.

The Valenti's admire each other jewels, RW Ed Valenti, Sr. (left) and his son Bro. Ed Valenti, Jr. ("Little Ed" to some) received a Past District Deputy's jewel and a Lewis Jewel, respectively.



Special Dinner for Special Ladies

On Sunday, October 12, the ladies outnumbered the men along one row of tables of the Special Ladies Dinner hosted by Estuary Lodge No. 43, Old Saybrook. The annual dinner honors the wives of living and departed brothers of the lodge in a "Ladies at Table" program. Traditional toasts and biographies are read by Estuary's "Special Ladies" and the Master

of Ceremonies, MW Sam Walker, provided the entertainment throughout with jokes, some "rib ticklers" and some "groaners." For some time the dinner has been held at the Dock 'n Dine restaurant in Old Saybrook, which provides a beautiful view of the Connecticut River and the busy river traffic on a typical Sunday afternoon in the fall.

Who Was Arthur M. Brown?

by Kenneth B. Hawkins, Sr.

(Editor's note: on many occasions, we have run photographs and stories showing devoted Scottish Rite Masons receiving the 'Arthur M. Brown, 33°, Meritorious Service Award' at the annual meeting of the Scottish Rite Council of Deliberation. Masons are aware that the 33° is the highest honor granted a brother by Scottish Rite national bodies. The MSA is a Connecticut's highest Scottish Rite award for service – but who was the brother for whom it was named?)

Illustrious Bro. Arthur M. Brown was born in Jewett City, Connecticut on September 24, 1877, the son of George W. and Sarah (Young) Brown. After attending the public schools of Jewett City and Norwich Free Academy, he prepared for the legal profession in the office of Solomon Lucas, Esq., Norwich and was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in January 1901. He was associated with Mr. Lucas until the latter's death in 1906.

For several years thereafter he practiced his profession independently until 1915, when he became associated with Charles V. James, Esq., under the name of Brown and James. He served as the prosecuting attorney for the Town Court of Griswold from 1903-1915, and presided as judge of that same court until 1923. He then was appointed State's Attorney for the County of New London, serving from 1924-1947, retiring due to statutory age limit restrictions.

Throughout his career, Bro. Brown followed the creed that he was duty bound to protect the innocent as well as to prosecute the guilty. He was referred to as "the most humane State's Attorney in Connecticut."

Recognized as one of the most active members of the New London County Bar Association, he served on many bar committees. Bro. Brown also served as president of the Connecticut Bar Association, member of the State Judicial Council, treasurer of New London County for twenty-three years, and Warden of the Borough of Jewett City from 1914-1916.

From 1901-1903, he represented the town of Griswold in the Connecticut General Assembly, and was its representative in the Connecticut Convention of 1902. In 1936 he was the Republican candidate for governor, but lost to the incumbent Democrat – Bro. Wilbur L. Cross!

Ill. Bro. Brown was also a leader in the fields of business and finance. He served as president of the Jewett City Savings Bank, vice president of the Thames Bank and Trust Company, director and vice president of the Chelsea Savings Bank, president of the New London County Mutual Fire

Insurance Company, president of the New London Northern Railroad Company, and on the boards of many other corporations in Eastern Connecticut.

Likewise, he gave unstintingly of his time and ability to the civic life of Norwich and Griswold. He was an ardent supporter of the Boy Scouts of eastern Connecticut and a very active member of the Norwich Rotary Club. He was also a member and trustee of the Jewett City Baptist Church.

On October 1, 1901, he married Gertrude E. Sanderson. They were the parents of two sons, Francis Y. Brown and Morton H. Brown, and the grandparents of five.

As might be expected, Bro. Brown had an extensive Masonic record. He was raised in Mount Vernon Lodge No. 75, Jewett City, on April 1, 1901, and served as its Worshipful Master in 1908 and 1909. He became Connecticut's Most Worshipful Grand Master in 1923.

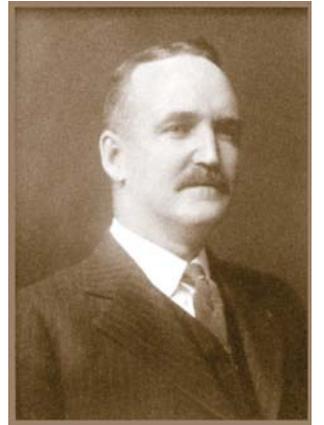
Bro. Brown took his York Rite work in Norwich in 1906 and 1907, and received his 4° through 32° in Connecticut Consistory, Norwich in 1916. He would later serve as its Commander-In-Chief. He was created an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, 33°, on September 17, 1918 and crowned an Active Member on January 7, 1937. In the Supreme Council he served on the jurisprudence and constitution & laws committees.

Ill. Bro. Brown possessed a magnetic personality, was a true friend of the people, and never used political office as a means of personal aggrandizement. Physically, mentally, morally, humanely, and socially, Ill. Bro. Brown was conspicuous in any group, an exemplar of the sound and dominant leadership that our fraternity elevates upon a

pedestal of cherished memory.

Arthur M. Brown passed to the great beyond at W.W. Backus Hospital, Norwich, on June 12, 1949, completing a century of service to mankind in seventy-one years of life.

(This report was presented to the 2008 meeting of the Connecticut Council of Deliberation by its historian, MW and Ill. Bro. Kenneth B. Hawkins, Sr., 33°, who acknowledged the assistance of Marie D'Amore of the Van Gorden-Williams Library and Archives of the National Heritage Museum of Lexington, Massachusetts, which was founded and is supported by Scottish Rite Freemasons.)





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Jamie Dunn Earns DeMolay MSA

Immediately after Jamie Dunn, III (left) stepped down as Master Councilor of New Haven Chapter, Order of DeMolay Executive Officer Harry E. Needham, III (second from left) announced that his term had earned him and the chapter the Past Master Councilor's Meritorious Service Award. Joining the EO and recipient, who is also the State Senior Councilor of Connecticut DeMolay, in the East were other recipients of the award. (continuing from EO Needham) Josh Tenner, State Master Councilor, Edward W. Slade Chapter, Wallingford; Nick Ferrigno, State Chaplain, Sleeping Giant Chapter, North Haven; and Manny Peters, Laurel Chapter, Norwalk. Visible in the East are new Master Councilor Christopher Rompe and Executive Officer of the Atlantic Provinces, Canada jurisdiction Dad Bill Millett.



Committee on Masonic Education WM's of '09 Seminar



Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Information chairman RW Martin L. Rudnick reviews some of the informational material presented to brothers aspiring to lead their lodges as Worshipful Master in 2009. Attendance at the seminar, the first held in the auditorium of the new Hartog Activities Center at Ashlar Village, Wallingford, was one of several opportunities for rising brothers to meet the qualifications to be installed into the Oriental Chair in December or January.

The CME seminar for likely Wardens will be held in the same location on November 8, and also serves as a qualifier for those hoping to preside over their lodges in 2009.

DID YOU *Vote?* Results are in!

There were 2 polls on the Grand Lodge website (www.ctfreemasons.net). Since September 22, the polls have collected the opinions of 105 voters asking how many times have they attended lodge in the past year, and 80 voters if they spent more time involved in lodge activities, or in activities of the Appendant Bodies.

The results are in and the tally is:

How many times have you attended Lodge in the past year?

more than ten times and almost every meeting	.....87	.....83%
6 to 10 times	.....12	.....11%
1 to 5 times	.....5	.....5%
None	.....1	.....1%

Do you spend more time involved in your Lodge activities, or in activities of the Appendant Bodies?

Lodge activities	.....59	.....74%
Both equally	.....15	.....19%
Appendant Bodies	.....6	.....7%
Neither	.....0	.....0%

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.

The York Rite Coordinating Committee of Connecticut cordially invites you to a

TESTIMONIAL DINNER

honoring

Companion Kenneth N. Hall <i>Most Excellent Grand High Priest</i>	Companion Andrew G. Weimann, II <i>Most Puissant Grand Master</i>	Sir Knight Robert J. DiPasquale <i>Right Eminent Grand Commander</i>
---	---	--

Hartog Activity Center, Ashlar Village, Wallingford
Saturday, November 15

Cash bar, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 p.m.,
dinner at 7:00 p.m.
Choice of
Roast Beef au jus, Poached Salmon, or Chicken Marsala
\$25 per person prepaid

Make checks "Bruce Bellmore" and mail to:
41 Michael Drive, West Haven, CT 06516-4834
Reservations by November 7, no tickets at the door!

York Rite Opportunities



Information to be included in *York Rite Opportunities* must be submitted by the 10th of the preceding month to the Grand Secretary/Recorder, Charles B. Fowler, 35 Elaine Mary Drive, Windsor CT 06095 or ctramrsm@sbcglobal.net.

NOTE: All dates and visitations are subject to change without notice.

NOVEMBER 2008

(ME) Most Excellent Grand High Priest, **(MP)** Most Puissant Grand Master, **(RE)** Right Eminent Grand Commander, (U) Uniform, (F) Formal, (C) Casual

1	ME	MP	RE	U	Chivalric Knights Templar Festival, Meriden, registration 8:30 a.m., lunch
4		MP		F	Adam Sattig Council No. 35, Milford
4				F	Keystone Chapter No. 27, Meriden. Royal Arch Mason degree
4				U	Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford, inspection, Order of Malta
5		MP		F	Menunketuck Council No. 36, Madison
6		MP		F	Wooster Council No. 28, Danbury
7	ME			F	Columbia Chapter No. 31, Collinsville
7				F	Jerusalem Council No. 16, Stratford, Select Master and Super Excellent Master degrees
10		MP		F	Cushing Council No. 4, Stonington
11		MP		F	Hamilton Council No. 22, Meriden
11			RE	U	Cyrene Commandery No. 8, Middletown, inspection, Order of the Temple
11				F	Wolcott Council No. 1, East Hartford, Royal Master degree
13	ME			F	Adoniram Chapter No. 18, Ellington
13		MP		F	Washington Council No. 6, Darien
14	ME		RE	U	Palestine Commandery No. 6, Preston, Order of the Red Cross
15	ME	MP	RE	I	York Rite Testimonial Dinner, Ashlar Village, Wallingford
17	ME			U	St. John's Commandery No. 11, North Windham, inspection, Order of the Temple
18			RE	U	St. Elmo Commandery No. 9, Meriden
18				U	Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford, Holy Land pilgrimage program, ladies welcome
20				U	Hamilton Commandery No. 5, Stratford, Order of Red Cross and Order of Malta
22	ME		RE	U	Palestine Commandery No. 6, Stonington, steamship round dinner, reservation to John Birdsall
24	ME	MP	RE	C	York Rite Coordinating Committee, Masonic Healthcare Center, 7:00 p.m.
25	ME			F	Trinity Chapter No. 9 and Montgomery Council No. 2, North Windham
25		MP		F	Buell Council No. 20, Litchfield

COMING UP IN DECEMBER:

4					Trinity Chapter No. 9, North Windham, 200 th Anniversary, 6:30 p.m. dinner
7					Palestine Commandery No. 6, and St. John's Commandery No. 11, Christmas observance, 1:00 p.m.
9					Wolcott Council No. 1, East Hartford, Mozart Masonic music
13					Stamford-Clinton Commandery No. 3 and Crusader Commandery No. 10, Christmas observance, Darien, 3:00 p.m.
14					Hamilton Commandery No. 5, Stratford, Christmas observance, 3:00 p.m.
14					Cyrene Commandery No. 8 and St. Elmo Commandery No. 9, Christmas observance, 3:00 p.m.
15					Milford Chapter No. 49, Christmas dinner and carol sing
18					Christmas program, East Hartford York Rite
19					New Haven Commandery No. 2, Christmas observance, 6:00 p.m.
28					Grand Commandery, St. John's Day observance

FROM THE MOST PUISSANT GRAND MASTER

November looks to be a full month. Remember to vote!! I have issued a dispensation for Adoniram Council No. 14 to meet in conjunction with the Chapter in Ellington, making their next meeting on Thursday, November 13. I look forward to seeing you in my travels. Happy Thanksgiving.

— Andrew G. Weimann, II

Craft at Labor...

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREES

Monday, November 3, Wyllys-St. John's No. 4, West Hartford

Friday, November 7, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford

Tuesday, November 11, Manchester No. 73, Manchester

Tuesday, November 18, Coastal No. 57, Stonington

FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES

Saturday, November 1, Putnam No. 46, South Woodstock

Monday, November 3, Compass No. 9, Wallingford, step-up night

Wednesday, November 5, Hiram No. 18, Sandy Hook, step-up night

Saturday, November 8, Uriel No. 24, Merrow, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Monday, November 10, Evening Star No. 101, Unionville, Bro. Jason Burk in the East

Monday, November 10, Anchor No. 112, East Hampton, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Thursday, November 20, Warren No. 51, Portland, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Thursday, November 20, Oxoboxo No. 116, Montville, joint degree with Union Lodge No. 31

Friday, November 21, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford, step-up night

Tuesday, November 25, Fayette No. 69, Ellington

Tuesday, November 25, Manchester No. 73, Manchester

Tuesday, November 25, Brainard No. 102, Niantic, 6:30 p.m. dinner

MASTER MASON DEGREES

Saturday, November 1, Bay View No. 120, Niantic

Tuesday, November 4, Harmony No. 67, New Canaan, 7:00 p.m. dinner

Thursday, November 6, St. John's No. 6, Norwalk, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Thursday, November 6, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Monday, November 10, Washington No. 19, Monroe

Wednesday, November 12, Moriah No. 15, Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m. dinner

Saturday, November 15, Silas Deane No. 147, Newington, 2:00 p.m. lunch

Monday, November 17, Compass No. 9, Wallingford, Past Masters night

Monday, November 17, Hartford Evergreen No. 88, South Windsor

Tuesday, November 18, America-St. John's No. 8, Stratford, Mark Korchman in the East

Tuesday, November 18, St. Peter's No. 21, New Milford, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Tuesday, November 18, Union No. 40, Danbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Wednesday, November 19, St. Paul's No. 11, Litchfield, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Wednesday, November 19, Columbia No. 25, South Glastonbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Wednesday, November 19, Friendship No. 33, Southington, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Wednesday, November 19, Somerset-St. James No. 34, Preston, first half at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., second half at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 20, Harmony No. 42, Waterbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Thursday, November 20, Wolcott No. 60, Stafford, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Thursday, November 20, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 6:30 p.m. dinner, WM Chip and WB Rich Fentner in the East

Friday, November 21, Wooster No. 10, Colchester, 7:00 p.m. dinner

Friday, November 21, Oxoboxo No. 116, Montville, 7:00 p.m. dinner

Saturday, November 22, Uriel No. 24, Merrow, first half at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., second half at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 22, Putnam No. 46, South Woodstock, 5:30 p.m. dinner

Monday, November 24, Washington No. 70, Windsor, 6:00 p.m. dinner, Mitch Page in the East

Monday, November 24, Evening Star No. 101, Unionville, WB Bryan Burk in the East

Monday, November 24, Annawon No. 115, Milford

Tuesday, November 25, Temple No. 65, Westport, 7:00 p.m. dinner

Tuesday, November 25, Madison No. 87, Madison

Called to the Celestial Lodge

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

Stephen J. Ames..... Temple 16
Richard C. Ashton Brainard 102
John R. Blake Corner Stone-Quinebaug 122
Floyd R. Bradish..... Composite 28
Michael Brescia..... St. Peter's 21
Herbert W. Ellms..... Fidelity-St. John's 3
Morris Feldman..... Hartford Evergreen 88
Frederick S. Gratchian America-St. John's 8
Peter X. Groskritz..... Valley 36
Theodore Hamilla..... Washington 19
Harry S. Howard Bay View 120
Russell B. King Corner Stone-Quinebaug 122
Peter Kowaleski..... St. Paul's 11
Demetrios Louziotis..... Oxoboxo 116
James R. Marshall Oxoboxo 116
Robert W. Morphis..... Oxoboxo 116
Dennis D. Nebeker Bay View 120

Edward M. Neuweiler Annawon 115
Edward F. Orzech St. Peter's 21
Alfred F. Overthrow..... Old Well 108
Chester J. Perkins Coastal 57
James R. Rittenhouse..... Coastal 57
Richard V. Rosengrant Liberty-Continental 76
Joseph M. Roskos..... St. John's 6
Henry M. Sanders..... Ivanhoe 107
Robert H. Schaefer Ivanhoe 107
Robert O. Shermer Fidelity-St. John's 3
William D. Shipman Bay View 120
Robert C. Shumway Federal 17
John E. Stadnick..... Bay View 120
Rollin W. Taylor St. Paul's 11
William D. Thomas Corner Stone-Quinebaug 122
Robert E. Zielfelder..... Wolcott 60

Craft at Refreshment...

Saturday, November 1, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, 5:00 p.m., UConn Football/West Virginia, The Rent, refreshment stand
Sunday, November 2, St. Andrew's No. 64, Winsted, 12:00 noon, world-famous roast beef dinner
Tuesday, November 4, Coastal No. 57, Stonington, 4:30 p.m. pot luck dinner
Tuesday, November 4, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, 7:30 p.m., school of instruction, Cheshire
Wednesday, November 5, St. Andrew's No. 64, Winsted, 6:30 p.m. Table Lodge
Wednesday, November 5, Corinthian No. 103, North Haven, 7:30 p.m. Table Lodge
Wednesday, November 5, Cosmopolitan No. 125, New Haven, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 10th Year Past Master Night for RW Arnold Freedman, program: "Everything you wanted to know about Masonry but were afraid to ask"
Thursday, November 6, Somerset-St. James No. 34, Preston, 9:00 a.m. 8th District breakfast, Groton Townhouse Restaurant
Thursday, November 6, Harmony No. 42, Waterbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner, awards
Thursday, November 6, Wolcott No. 60, Stafford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, step-up night
Thursday, November 6, Brainard No. 102, Niantic, 9:00 a.m. 8th District breakfast, Groton Townhouse Restaurant
Thursday, November 6, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 6:30 p.m. dinner, renovation committee presents it results to enhance the lodge room interior
Friday, November 7, Wooster No. 10, Colchester, 7:30 p.m. Cathedral Table Lodge and game dinner, non-masons invited
Friday, November 7, Composite No. 28, Suffield, 9:00 a.m., Eastern Star tag sale
Saturday, November 8, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 6:00 p.m. Table Lodge venison dinner
Saturday, November 8, Composite No. 28, Suffield, 9:00 a.m., Eastern Star tag sale
Saturday, November 8, Wolcott No. 60, Stafford, 5:30 p.m. Yankee pot roast dinner
Saturday, November 8, Corner Stone-Quinebaug No. 122, Thompson, 5:00 p.m. chicken Alfredo dinner
Saturday, November 8, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, 6:30 p.m. dinner, presentation of Past District Deputy's jewel to RW Dwight Mertens, Mill on the River, Grand Master Stika to attend
Tuesday, November 11, Union No. 31, Niantic, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Veterans Day event
Tuesday, November 11, Fayette No. 69, Ellington, Veterans Day program, "Stars and

Stripes Forever"
Tuesday, November 11, Shepherd - Salem No. 78, Naugatuck, step-up night
Tuesday, November 11, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, school of instruction
Tuesday, November 11, Brainard No. 102, Niantic, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Veterans Day program
Wednesday, November 12, Corinthian No. 103, North Haven, 8:00 a.m. breakfast, Demir's Restaurant
Friday, November 14, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, 6:00 p.m. dinner, set back tournament
Friday, November 14, Madison No. 87, Madison, Veterans appreciation day
Friday, November 14, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford, 7:30 p.m. Table Lodge
Saturday, November 15, Composite No. 28, Suffield, 4:00 p.m. DeMolay spaghetti dinner
Saturday, November 15, Moosup No. 113, Moosup, 5:00 p.m. roast pork dinner
Saturday, November 15, Oxoboxo No. 116, Montville, 9:00 a.m., annual food drive, Beit Brothers Market, Montville
Sunday, November 16, Moriah No. 15, Brooklyn, 5:00 p.m. ham and bean supper
Sunday, November 16, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 8:00 a.m. country breakfast
Monday, November 17, Wyllys-St. John's No. 4, West Hartford, 6:30 p.m. Past Masters dinner
Monday, November 17, Jerusalem No. 49, Ridgefield, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual donation to charity night
Tuesday, November 18, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, 7:30 p.m., School of Instruction, Cheshire
Wednesday, November 19, Estuary No. 43, Old Saybrook, Annual Business meeting
Wednesday, November 19, Cosmopolitan No. 125, New Haven, 6:30 p.m. annual Thanksgiving dinner
Thursday, November 20, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 7:00 p.m., Frederick Franklin will be hosting BLC
Thursday, November 20, Village Lodge No. 29, Collinsville, 5:30 p.m. dinner, 5th District Blue Lodge Council.
Friday, November 21, St. Andrew's No. 64, Winsted, 7:30 p.m., Third District Blue Lodge Council.

Saturday, November 22, Putnam No. 46, South Woodstock, 8:00 a.m., OES Holly Fair/Holiday Bazaar/Christmas Craft Show
Sunday, November 23, Brainard No. 102, Niantic, 7:30 a.m., Blue Lodge Council Thanksgiving Day breakfast and program
Monday, November 24, Harmony No. 42, Waterbury, 1:00 p.m., Blood Drive
Monday, November 24, Bay View No. 120, Niantic, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Eighth District Blue Lodge Council
Tuesday, November 25, Estuary No. 43, Old Saybrook, 6:30 p.m. dinner, District 7 Blue Lodge Council, Granite Lodge No. 119, Haddam
Tuesday, November 25, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, 7:30 p.m., school of instruction
Saturday, November 29, Friendship No. 33, Southington, 7:00 p.m. movie night

MW Stika Rededicates Cornerstone at AON



Grand Master Ribert J. Stika (right) led the Grand Lodge officers in a symbolic cornerstone rededication ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of Masonic care's Ashlar of Newtown facility. The Sunday, October 5 event was held indoors to accommodate the many residents and guests who turned out despite threatening weather. RW Thomas Maxwell, Grand Marshal, is prepared to present the implements of the ceremony.

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Reception Honors Amaranth Leaders

Westwood Court No. 5, Meriden, hosted a reception honoring the Grand Royal Matron, Charlene D. Rowe and the Grand Royal Patron, David S. Rowe of the Grand Court of Connecticut Order of the Amaranth.



Grand Royal Matron, Charlene D. Rowe and Westwood Court No. 5, Royal Matron, Jullie Petrie enjoy the reception.

The Saturday, September 27 dinner and reception was held at the Hartog Activities Center at Ashlar Village, Wallingford. Over 100 guests enjoyed a dinner of prime rib, stuffed chicken breast or stuffed fillet of sole.

Representing the home court of the Grand Royal Matron and Patron, Westwood Court's Royal Matron, Honored Lady Jullie Petrie, welcomed the visitors and congratulated Char and Dave on their year so far.

An unusually large contingent of out-of-state dignitaries travelled from



Grand Royal Matron, Charlene D. Rowe and Grand Royal Patron, David S. Rowe, put their heads together at the head table at the Hartog Activities Center.

Massachusetts, New Jersey and Maine for the event.

The entertainment for the evening was supplied by Mario Barboza, soloist, accompanied pianist Brian

Frazier, who's repertory contained showtunes. His rendition of *Chim Chim Cheree* and *When You Wish Upon A Star* reflected the Disney theme which has been chosen by the Rowes for their year.

After greetings by various attendees including MW Stika, Char and Dave were presented several gifts including a GPS navigation system from their Grand officers and representatives. This will help them enormously in the travels.

GRM Charlene thanked HL Christina

Hackett for organizing the reception and her sister HL Gwen Rochette and Sir Knight Scott Bishel for emceeding the evening.



by Russell Griswold

For the third consecutive year, the 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children, 529 Highland Avenue, Waterbury was the site of a Dyslexia Awareness Walk, raising funds to provide professional one-to-one tutoring to children diagnosed with dyslexia. The event took place on Sunday, October 5.

Scottish Rite and other Masons, their families, students at the Learning Center and their families, and even a collection of very enthusiastic canines walked the two-mile route through residential neighborhoods in the Town Plot neighborhood of Waterbury. Walkers collected sponsorships to raise money for the cause; with funds still coming in, over \$8,000 was raised by the 2008 Walk.

An estimated 15% of the nation's population – over 2 million school-aged children – is affected by dyslexia. The

Waterbury Learning Center, one of 58 in the fifteen states comprising the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, raises funds to provide tutoring and to raise public awareness of the needs of those accepted into the program. Tutoring generally lasts for two years, and there is generally a significant measurable improvement in student reading ability from the student's first day until graduation.

Those who still wish to contribute to the Walk for Dyslexia Awareness may send checks to the address above. Additional information about the Center – including the enrollment of students – is available at 203-465-0830.

Planning ahead? Next year's 4th Annual 32° Masonic Learning Center Walk for Dyslexia Awareness is scheduled for October 4, 2009. See you there!



Above: And they're off! Setting out on the third annual Dyslexia Awareness Walk are (from right) Ill. Deputy for Scottish Rite James R. Spencer, Jr., 33°; Frank Lesco, MSA; and Ill. Ed Ham, 33°.

On right: Among the walkers were Ill. Bro. Bill Bohman, 33° (left), accompanied by Bro. Winfred Croeze of the Scottish Rite Valley of Hartford (right) and his son, Christopher. Bro. Croeze, a member of Valley Lodge No. 36, Simsbury, was raised in Lodge Frederique Royale No. 8 in The Netherlands.



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