



Connecticut FREEMASONS

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Thank You, Brother Hartog



PAGE **5**

**Pierpont Edwards
Medal Awarded
to Michael Dodge**



PAGE **7**

**Hartog Center
Hosts
Seminars**



PAGE **25**

**Mason
at
Sight**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

An Adventure in Superlatives	3	Dark and Stormy York Rite Night	12
Grand Master's Message.....	4	New Masonicare Administrative Services Building.....	13
From the desk of the Deputy Grand Master	4	Volunteers... The Lifeblood of CTCHIP	13
Pierpont Edwards Medal to Mike Dodge.....	5	Valley News.....	14
Grand Chaplain's Pulpit.....	6	Masonicare Parochialism.....	15
Twice the Officers, Twice the Space.....	7	Our Departed Brothers	15
Annual Silent Auctionat MHC	7	Thank You, Brother Hartog.....	16
Grand Historian's Corner	8	District News	18
Autumn Gathering	9	Did you vote?	22
First Masonicare Orientations	9	York Rite Opportunities.....	27
Letters to the Editor.....	10	Welcome/Congratulations	28
New Masonicare Board Members	10	Craft at Refreshment	28
Rainbow Safari Honors GWA.....	11	Craft at Labor.....	29
DeMolay Founders Recognized.....	11	Boosters	30
Halloween Youth Dance.....	11	Grand Master's DeMolay Class.....	31
Military Veterans Sought.....	12		

Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM

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GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLE BOARD

Robert J. Stika - December 2008

DATE	TIME	EVENT/LOCATION	DINNER	PUBLIC	ATTIRE
Wednesday, December 3	3:00 p.m.	Masonicare Audit Committee, Wallingford	N	N	C
Friday, December 5 through Sunday, December 7		Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia	N	N	F
Sunday, December 7	6:00 p.m.	GL holiday party, Ashlar Village, Wallingford	Y	N	S
Tuesday, December 9	6:00 p.m.	Brainard Lodge No. 102, awards, Niantic	Y	SP	F
Wednesday, December 10	12:00 noon	Masonicare Board of Directors, Wallingford	N	Y	C
Saturday, December 13	2:00 p.m.	Friendship Lodge No. 145, installation, Manchester	Y	SP	F
Saturday, December 13	6:30 p.m.	Masonicare Board of Trustees, holiday party, Wallingford	REF	N	S
Monday, December 15	7:30 p.m.	8th District permanent members, Preston	N	N	C
Thursday, December 18	12:00 noon	Union Lodge No. 31 installation, Niantic	N	N	F
Friday, December 19	8:00 p.m.	New Haven Commandery No. 2 Christmas Observance	N	S	
Saturday, December 20	12:00 noon	DeMolay bowling clinic, Norwich Ten Pin, Norwich	N	Y	C
Saturday, December 20	6:00 p.m.	Ft. Trumbull Heroes, Stonington	REF	N	C
Sunday, December 21	10:00 a.m.	MHC holiday visit with apron and jewel, Wallingford	N	Y	S
Sunday, December 21	12:30 p.m.	AON holiday visit with collar and jewel, Newtown	LUNCH	Y	S
Tuesday, December 23	6:30 p.m.	8th District Actual Past Masters Degree, Coastal Lodge No. 57, Stonington	Y	N	S
Thursday, December 25		Merry Christmas			
Sunday, December 28	2:00 p.m.	Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34, Preston, installation, GM Presiding	REF	SP	F
Thursday, January 1, 2009		Happy New Year			



Volume 4 - Number 7

Publisher

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

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An Adventure in Superlatives

by Carl G. Ek

The slender, dapper gentleman looked over the podium at a crowd of more than 400 people in the Knapp Auditorium of the soon-to-be officially opened Hartog Activities Center at Ashlar Village, Wallingford. No, he admitted, he didn't really want to be on stage with all of the prominent people who had come to the open house and ribbon cutting ceremony, and certainly didn't want to give another speech. And, he candidly stated, he didn't expect that he'd be around to have to do so when he was a reluctant speaker at the groundbreaking ceremony that had been held two years earlier – when he was only 95.

But there was Ferdinand "Ferd" Hartog, Jr., 62 years a Mason and now a sprightly 97 years of age, standing at the microphone immediately prior to the formal ceremonies, thanking those present to thank him for the generosity that had brought about the October 30 ceremony. Happily he beamed, "I made it!"

Bro. Hartog, a member of St. John's Lodge No. 6, Norwalk, moved to Ashlar Village in 1999, shortly after the death of his wife, Dorothy, who had been a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for more than 50 years. He quickly established himself as one to 'give back' in his new community.

As Jennifer King, president of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, noted in her introduction of Bro. Ferd, "... he chooses to give back through thoughtful gestures,

both small and large. His charitable endeavors range from collecting metal tabs from soda cans in support of the 'Tabs for Tots' program of the Shriners Hospitals for Children to coming forward as the premier benefactor in support of the construction of this spectacular Activities Center."

It was Bro. Hartog's gift of \$2 million to the Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, Inc. that kicked off the development of an activity center that has become the hub of community life for the residents of Ashlar Village (soon to be renamed Masonicare at Ashlar Village). The new facility includes the 400+ seat auditorium that hosted the ribbon cutting, a dining room that overlooks the lake in the center of the property, a fitness center, a movie theater, and a barbershop and hair salon.

In his remarks, Bro. Ferd said, "I enjoy being part of the Masonicare family and to show my support for this wonderful organization by giving what I can." Proud to have the beautiful new Center bear his name, he added, "I know this building will bring comfort and joy to Ashlar Village residents for years to come." He also invited all present to tour the facility, enjoy the delicious refreshments, and to "have a happy day."

WB Jon-Paul Venoit, president of Ashlar Village, acted as master of ceremonies, introducing speakers who paid tribute to both Bro. Hartog and to Masonicare for their continued support of seniors. WB Howard W. Orr, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Masonicare, Inc. placed the project in proper perspective by noting that it had come in "on time and under budget!"

Wallingford mayor Bill Dickinson, Jr. opened his remarks with the statement that became our headline. Calling his every visit to the Masonicare campus "an adventure in superlatives," he noted that all that it has done within the community was looked upon with admiration by the rest of the town. He was followed by Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell – the daughter of a Mason – who expanded on the



Brother Ferd Hartog relaxes at the grand opening of the Hartog Activities Center at Ashlar Village.

theme of "generosity, good spirit, and kindness" that marked not only Ferd Hartog, but the entire culture of Masonicare. Connecticut 3rd District Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro spoke of personal understanding of the concerns of seniors as the daughter of an active, vocal 94 year old mother, and added to the accolades for Bro. Hartog.

It was then time to cut the ceremonial ribbon at the front of the stage. Masonicare president and CEO Stephen McPherson, Bro. and State Representative Al Adinolfi

from Cheshire, Ashlar Village chaplain Rev. Donald Allen, and MWGM Robert J. Stika joined with the speakers to surround Bro. Hartog as he, assisted by Gov. Rell, snipped the ribbon to formally open the "Hartog Activity Center."

After noting that tours of the facility and a reception in the dining area would follow the ceremonies, it was time for closing remarks from Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut Robert J. Stika. MW Stika echoed the fraternity's appreciation of Bro. Ferd Hartog and his generosity in providing funding to make the activity center a reality. He also praised Masonicare and its many affiliates for serving especially seniors, but also the community, in the spirit of Masonry.

Those who have seen MW Stika speak at other events know that he has a penchant for brevity, and the Hartog Center dedication was no exception. Recalling that the guest of honor had invited everyone to 'enjoy the delicious refreshments and have happy day,' Bro. Stika closed with an invitation of his own: "Let's eat!"

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Our Cover...

Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell holds the ribbon for Bro. Ferd Hartog to cut. Looking on are (from left) Masonicare president and CEO Steve McPherson, Ashlar Village president Jon-Paul Venoit, State Representative Bro. Al Adinolfi, Masonicare chairman Bro. Howie Orr, Wallingford Mayor Bill Dickinson, and U.S. Representative Rosa DiLauro.

Grand Master's Message

Our semi-annual session proved the advantages of the old philosophy of "Make a plan, work the plan." We were focused and finished over an hour early. This was not just due to the plan but to the efforts of everyone there to keep the meeting focused. I want to thank each of you there for your support.

If you haven't had a chance to see the new Hartog Activities Center at Ashlar Village, it's worth a trip to Wallingford to see it. It was an ideal place to hold the meeting. It also has some other outstanding features for the residents (including a Wii unit).

One thing I want to mention about our ritual is consistency. We have a rich heritage and it deserves to be preserved. With all the new members joining us, we need to ensure they are properly trained in both floor work and ritual. Each of our lodges may do ritual just a little differently. That doesn't mean it's wrong, just different. The one thing that we all need to do is be consistent. Our ritual is made more impressive by the little things, things like: squaring the corners, everyone starting on the same foot, and holding the rods the same way, ALL THE TIME. Keep it consistent. Each lodge has its own traditions but remember, "Traditions are often mistakes someone made that everyone else followed." If we always do it the same way no one will ever know.

I also want to welcome to the Grand Lodge a new lodge "Under

Dispensation." Please welcome Ashlar Lodge UD, located in the new Hartog Center in Ashlar Village. I anticipate the Grand Lodge will welcome them into the fraternity of Connecticut lodges in March, and I will choose 332 as their number.

Sandy and I wish each of you "Happy Holidays" by whichever name you choose. Enjoy yourselves but remember to give thanks to the Grand Architect of the Universe for all the blessings we have received. Drive safely and we will see you on the other side (in January).

Freemasonry. Live it.

Fraternally,



Robert J. Stika
Most Worshipful Grand Master



From the Desk of the Deputy Grand Master...

For the benefit of those District Deputies, Associate Grand Marshals, and brothers who will serve their lodges as Worshipful Master next year and were unable to attend the Semi-Annual Communication in October, I will repeat what the inspection will be based on starting January 1, 2009.

The inspection can be performed on any of the three degrees. If you are doing the Master Mason degree, the second section will not be part of the inspection as there are several different versions.

I am not going to make it mandatory, but strongly urge that the sitting Master preside over the business and degree that evening, and that the elected and appointed officers be in their chairs. If pro-tems are required, they should come from the lodge if possible before you go outside for assistance. If you are doing the Master Mason degree it is acceptable to have others assist for the second section.

If the Master does not preside the District Deputy is to make a note on his inspection report as to the reason why, but there will be no disciplinary action taken. Under no circumstances is

an outside degree team to do the work on inspection night.

It has been agreed upon that with inspections starting January 1, 2010, it will be required that the Master preside over the business and degree that night and installed officers be in their respective stations and places.

Inspections are to be completed by May 1, 2009 and if not completed by that date the Grand Lodge district line officer and District Deputy will assign a night for the inspection to be completed.

Fraternally,



Arthur H. Carlstrom
Deputy Grand Master



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RW Mike Dodge Surprised at Grand Lodge Session

by Michael L. Castroll

Connecticut's Grand Junior Steward, Michael Bryan Dodge, was born in Putnam, Connecticut, on Flag Day, June 14, 1973, to Bonnie and Timothy Dodge of nearby Woodstock. His brother, Christopher, rounds out the family.

An alumnus of Woodstock Academy, Mike went on to the University of Connecticut, making the Dean's List four times while earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in history in 1991. This task was not an easy one as Mike also had a full-time job, working his way through his schooling. For two years following his matriculation, Mike received a Congressional nomination to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Mike has also served as a counselor for the American Legion Nutmeg Boys State Program, having been a participant when he was in high school.

Mike's other community activities have been varied and helped to hone his leadership skills. He is a member of the Church of the Good Shepard in West Woodstock. On the political front, Mike labored in the quarries of the Woodstock Young Republicans prior to his arrival on the Woodstock Republican Town Committee. There he served as vice chairman for two years before becoming chairman of the Town Committee in 1999, the youngest town chairman in Connecticut's history. Mike also served Woodstock on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mike rose through the ranks in the Boy Scouts of America, earning the Eagle Scout award in his beloved Troup 27, Woodstock. Mike never forgot Troup 27, which he has served in several adult leadership positions. Mike currently serves the Connecticut Trails Council as merit badge councilor.

It was natural for Mike to seek Masonic light. He petitioned Putnam Lodge No. 46, F. & A.M., where he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on June 26, 1996. Immediately setting forth through the chairs, Mike served as Worshipful Master in 2002. Since that time, he has been secretary of Putnam Lodge, and is their ritual coach. He affiliated with Coastal Lodge No. 57 in Stonington in 2005, but Mike's heart is in the 9th District, where he serves the Blue Lodge Council and the Actual Past Masters Association in various capacities.

In 2006 and 2007, Mike served as Right Worshipful District Deputy for District 9A. His appointment thereafter as Grand Junior Steward was hardly a surprise. Mike also serves as the 9th District's CTCHIP coordinator, and was secretary for the Grand Lodge Committee on Rules, Regulations, & Jurisprudence, and

presently serves on the legal matters committee. Mike was also elected by the brothers of Moosup Lodge No. 113 to honorary membership.

In 1997, Mike was exalted in Warren-Putnam Chapter No. 12, Royal Arch Masons. It wasn't long before he was elected to lead the chapter, serving three terms as Most Excellent High Priest. He is currently serving his third term in that office for Trinity Chapter No. 9 after its merger with Warren-Putnam Chapter. Mike is an officer of the Anointed High Priests of Royal Arch Masonry of Connecticut, and has taken parts in several of the Grand Chapter-sponsored one-day classes. For his service to Capitular Masonry in Connecticut, he was awarded the Ephraim Kirby Award by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Connecticut.

Mike was greeted as a companion of Montgomery Council No. 2, Royal and Select Masters, where he served four terms as Thrice Illustrious Master. A member of the Council of Anointed Kings (Order of the Silver Trowel), Mike served in the officer line of the Most Puissant Grand Council of Connecticut in 2004 and 2005. Knighted in St. John's Commander No. 11, Knights Templar in 1997, Mike currently serves as Eminent Commander.

Mike is a Sublime Prince in the Valley of Norwich and Connecticut Consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, and is a Noble of Sphinx Shrine. He is also a member of the Nutmeg Chapter No. 106, Swords of Bunker Hill. In 2005, Mike remembered 'the days of his youth' when he took the DAD program and became an advisor for Israel Putnam Chapter, Order of DeMolay.

For all of his outstanding achievements without and within Masonry, RW Bro. Michael B. Dodge was awarded the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service at the Grand Lodge session in April. While it is traditional that this award's bestowal remains a secret until presented, Mike's nomination came to no one's surprise but his own!

Eventually catching up with Mike, he offered straightforward responses. Concerning his days in scouting, he said, "There are a lot of similarities with Masonry." He cherishes



Then MWGM William L. Greene read the citation and then presented the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service to RW Michael B. Dodge.

his experiences at Boys State, and regards his nominations to West Point with the highest esteem. He noted, "Once the rules changed, and with ROTC not an option, my life went in a different direction."

Of his numerous accolades, the Pierpont Edwards Medal is certainly regarded as the capstone. Mike offered his mantra: "I never do anything I love for any tangible reward. You only get out of Masonry what you put into Masonry," he said. Reminded that he'd put in quite a bit in an awfully short time, he said, "I've never seen any statistics, but I understand I'm one of the youngest to receive this award. Oh, well, I guess you could look it up."

After citing the Ol' Perfesser, Mike added, "Sorry, I have to go, we have a Fellowcraft Degree tonight!" We're lucky to have caught up with him. He just doesn't stay still.

(Editor's note: the Grand Lodge roster of recipients of Pierpont Edwards medals since the initial presentations in 1939 does not include the ages of those selected for the award. A review of the database of living recipients indicates Bro. Dodge received the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service at the youngest age of any now living recipient.)

"Change can be wonderful"

"And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. ... And why have ye brought up the congregation ... that we and our cattle should die there? And why have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place?" *Numbers 20: 2-8.*

The saddest words to hear in a place of worship or in an organization or in any gathering of people is, "But we've never done it that way before." Or, "but we have always done it that way." It is natural to fear the unknown and decide to travel down the road in the old way.

When Moses led the people out of slavery, they were pleased, but when the going became difficult they wanted the old way of being slaves in Egypt where water, food, and shelter were plentiful. Didn't we find out that the people of Iraq did not support the change after the government of Saddam was ended and they were without security, food, and water?

Some people are almost too willing to change. A young boy heard that a band needed a trombone player and he asked for the job. The next day as the band marched and played, terrible sounds came from the trombone section. The boy could not play the trombone. The band director asked the boy why he had not told him that he could not play the trombone. The boy answered, "Well I didn't know. I had never tried to before."

Change can be wonderful, but you have to know what it takes and what you are willing to do to make it a successful change.

Benjamin Keach, an early Baptist pastor, introduced hymn singing in his English Baptist church. After quite a difficult time he got the congregation to agree to sing a hymn after the Lord's Supper in 1673. After six years he got the congregation to sing a hymn on "public thanksgiving days." It took another 14 years to get the congregation to allow singing in the worship service on Sundays. He lost 22 members of the church who believed the old way was the best.

It takes vision for people to accept change. One must have the vision to see what change can mean for an organization, for a life, or for a town. Then the person must have the faith in their ideas to sell the idea to others. Charles Goodyear had an idea that he could make rubber usable. When he failed again and again, people made fun of his dream. Then one day, by accident, he made weatherproof rubber and changed the world.

What brought this to mind was the most recent issue of the *Indiana Freemason*. My "mother" lodge is Acme Lodge No. 83 in Michigan City, Indiana. Michigan City is on Lake Michigan, some sixty miles east of downtown Chicago, Illinois. There was an article about the late Past Grand Master Robert Emerson Hancock, Jr.



that, "he would also have been making changes in the arrangements right up to the last minutes."

There is a large group of Masons, including several 33° Scottish Rite honorees, who call themselves the Sons of Bob or "SOB's." Even when a play honoring the "Masonic Veterans of the Past" compared Bob

Hancock's ego with the large signature of John Hancock, he did not become angry, it caused him to laugh.

Every lodge and Grand Lodge needs a 'Bob Hancock.' He would see men who had great potential and would "push" them into accepting leadership roles. He would see the need for change and fight to get changes made. He did not allow criticism or opposition to deter him in his dream of making Indiana Masons better by urging change. This he did in all the bodies of the craft.

We all know someone who has become dissatisfied with his or her life, no matter how successful they have been in their careers. They never miss by a chance to tell someone about their unhappiness. They can go on for some time about their plans for change. Yet they do not change. They always have good reasons for not changing.

Most people are resistant to change and trying new things. As E.H. Carr expresses it, "Change is certain, progress is not." In the history of our world, change and pain have always gone hand in hand. Our lives will be judged by the light we have seen. It may be the light of a fact that causes us to change all our former assumptions or it may be the light of our consciences which causes us to be better men and accept needed change.

As we see the growth in the number of younger men becoming Masons in Connecticut, we know that the changes of the past few years have been successful. They have not always been well received, but that must never be allowed to prevent change. We need to grow as the years pass, for if we do not, then we will continue the decline of the past several years.

May we always have Grand Masters with enough vision, strength, and courage to make the necessary changes to keep our organization growing and doing the great work it is doing. Amen.

He was a most controversial Mason and several lodges were upset with him during his year as Grand Master. It seems change and trying out new ways for the Indiana Masons to operate was a lifetime occupation for Brother Hancock. The author of the article, Brother Paul Page of Calvin Prather Lodge No. 717, wrote that Bro. Hancock would have "loved" his funeral at the magnificent Scottish Rite Cathedral in Indianapolis, but



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Twice the Officers, Twice the Space

by Carl G. Ek

Before the opening of the Hartog Activities Center at Ashlar Village, Wallingford, it could not have happened: seminars for two large groups of Blue Lodge officers, some using video presentations, others needing breakout space, at the same location, running concurrently.

Yet that was the scenario on November 8, when the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education (CME) offered training for presumptive lodge Wardens of 2009 in the spacious Hartog dining facility. At the same time, the Knapp Auditorium across the hall was the site of the secretaries and treasurers seminar, assembled by RW Grand Secretary Robert G. Fitzgerald, RW Grand Treasurer Charles C. Maxson, and Grand Lodge office manager Mrs. Marje Chick.

Incoming Wardens received greetings from Grand Master Robert J. Stika and an overview of their morning before being divided into working groups, each with a CME facilitator. Those expecting to be Senior Wardens had the same assignment at all of their tables: planning of a year-long term calendar, discussion of what makes a good trestleboard, and preparation of

a first trestleboard message.

Groups of likely Wardens chose table reporters who recorded the work of the group and reported it to the entire seminar. It is also the plan of the CME to copy and distribute each group's working notes to give the brethren examples of trestleboard messages they might draw on and plans for events they may be called upon to run.

Wardens-to-be also were divided by projected office to meet with their Grand Lodge counterparts – RW Bros. Charles A. Buck, Jr., Grand Senior Warden, and James T. McWain, Grand Junior Warden. These brothers discussed the year ahead on the local and Grand Lodge level. Bro. McWain especially covered the process by which men seeking Masonic information through the Grand Lodge website should be approached, while Bro. Buck fielded numerous questions about lodge inspection procedures in 2009 and 2010.

Across the hall, secretaries and treasurers, most veterans to their positions but several set to step into new responsibilities, received very specific training concerning their positions. Grand Secretary Bob Fitzgerald and Grand Treasurer Charles Maxson led a series of speakers who presented segments of the session. Thanks to wireless internet capabilities, lodge websites were accessed and discussed. State-of-the-art equipment projecting on two large screens allowed all present to see various forms needed by the Grand Lodge and government bodies.



RW Grand Senior Warden Charles A. Buck, Jr. held a session with incoming Senior Wardens, spending much time reviewing the inspection procedures for 2009, when lodge Masters are 'strongly encouraged' to preside over the evening's degree work, and 2010, when that will be a requirement.

Both groups of officers may have grumbled to some degree about sacrificing a Saturday morning for a Masonic seminar, but post-session comments seemed to indicate that the trip to Wallingford had been worthwhile.



WB Newton "Bud" Buckner, CPA, explains financial issues of lodges and temple corporations at the November 2008 secretaries and treasurers seminar before dual projection screens.



Some saw Secretaries flocking to the seminar; others saw Grand Lodge officers off to another meeting. Seems birds of a feather ...

Annual Silent Auction at MHC Features One-of-a-Kind Christmas Trees

The Twentieth Annual Festival of Trees at Masonic Healthcare Center in Wallingford will be in full swing beginning **December 1**. The very popular event features a silent auction of 60 unique, beautifully decorated tabletop trees.

The lighted trees, designed and trimmed by teams of Masonicare employees, volunteers, residents, and members of the Order of the Eastern Star, will be on continuous display in the lobby of the Healthcare Center until **Friday, December 19**.

Everyone is welcome to visit the Center any day between **8 a.m. and 9 p.m.** to view the trees and place a bid. Bids will be closed at **2 p.m.** on **Friday, December 19**, when the highest bidders will be announced and winners

can claim their holiday tree. Winners will be notified if they can't be present on that date. All proceeds from the auction will be used to support a host of activities for the residents of Masonic Healthcare Center.

As always, this year's Festival of Trees features a variety of unique and imaginative decorations. The variety of creative themes and decorations will appeal to every taste and delight adults and children of all ages.

One of the trees may be just what you're looking for to complete your holiday decorating or could be the perfect gift for that special person.

For additional information, contact the Volunteer Services Office, Masonic Healthcare Center, 22 Masonic Avenue, Wallingford at 203-679-5980.



Grand Historian's Corner

RW Bro. Gary A. Littlefield, Grand Historian

The War Between the States – otherwise known as the Civil War – has many stories of Masonic brotherhood and compassion. In July 1863, General Grant of the Union army captured Vicksburg, Mississippi and some 35,000 Confederate troops. He ordered General Ransom to proceed down the Mississippi River to Natchez. The city of Natchez was the only point between Cairo, Illinois and the Gulf of Mexico that was held by southern forces. One of Ransom's brigades was the 33rd Wisconsin Volunteers, most of whom were Masons, and many of whom were Royal Arch Masons.

After a few shots, the Confederates fled Natchez and the federal officers entered the city. About two weeks after the federal takeover, two Masons called on Col. Moore, a Wisconsin Mason, and made themselves known. There were three young Confederate soldiers who had received the Most Excellent Master's degree and were desirous of receiving the Royal Arch Degree while still in Natchez. Told there were not enough members of Natchez Chapter No. 1 RAM to confer the degree, Col. Moore made strict search of his troops and found that there were enough (after a couple of rehearsals) to congregate and the task was completed.



In October we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Bulkeley Bridge in Hartford, which is the I-84 crossing over the Connecticut River. In 1908 five thousand Masons, several thousand Knights Templar, and other Masonic marchers conducted a parade from Memorial Arch near the State Capital through the streets of Hartford to the bridge. That was just one of the many parades held during dedication week. A board on display at Riverfront

Park showed the Masonic dedication and the Masonic booth answered questions about the bridge, dedication, and Freemasonry.



Grand Secretaries and Grand Masters often get very verbose in their written reports to the Grand Lodge. Ten printed pages comprised the entire 1801 proceedings, when all forty-five lodges were present for the semi-annual communication in Hartford in May. Stephen Titus Hosmer continued as Grand Master. Moriah Lodge No. 15 had petitioned for division and was allowed to sit at Canterbury, while Putnam Lodge No. 46, under the leadership of Lemuel Grosvenor, was to sit at Pomfret. Eastern Star Lodge No. 44 was allowed to sit alternately in Lebanon and Windham. Petition for lodges in Stonington and Oxford were denied. The Grand Secretary issued a summons requiring St. John's Lodge No. 8 to appear at Grand Lodge to answer a complaint made by Washington Lodge No. 19 regarding the initiation of a member and jurisdictional boundaries between King Hiram Lodge No. 12 and St. John's 8. Future proceedings indicate this was continued until the October 1802 session, when it was resolved that St. John's No. 8 should abstain from further practices of this nature. At the October session, Western Star Lodge No. 37 of Norfolk petitioned to rotate between Colebrook, Canaan, Winchester, and Norfolk. This was turned down with no reason given; it may have been the idea of rotating among too many different communities.



In October, my home lodge, Wooster No. 10 in Colchester, held its annual awards night. Three fifty-year presentations were made by MW Robert J



Stika. In today's age, fifty-year presentations are common, but what made these most unusual was that the three brothers – WB Paul Randall and Brothers Harold Geer and Delton Briggs – are the same age, and were schoolmates and life-long residents of Lebanon. This Grand Historian is much younger than these three brothers, and as their children were in school with me, and they knew me before I knew them. It was my father who told me that these men were Masons, like many others, and I saw them as a child and now as an adult as men of character. That was important because it helped me formulate my desires to become a Mason.

Fifty years ago was a different time in America. Television wasn't so filled with shows that would keep people at home and fraternalism was critical in forming alliances. We were in a Cold War with the countries of the Soviet empire in 1958 and cell phones, the Internet, and instant messaging were space age ideas. To all who have received the fifty year gold service pin this year, our congratulations to you. You join a long list of Masons with character and you have served with honor.



As lodges hold installation during the months of December and January, let us not forget the office of historian. It is an office to which every lodge should have an incumbent. Together with the secretary and Worshipful Master and some of the more senior members of the craft, the historian can create memories for future ages and rediscover memories of the past.

In October, this Grand Historian was privileged to attend the ceremonies presenting WB Michael L. Castroll of Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125 and several other lodges the James Royal Case Fellowship from Masonic Lodge of Research. WB Castroll has earned the award by his efforts and research. We congratulate WB Castroll for this award that only a select number have received in ages past.

As we enter the holiday season, let us record the lessons and historical facts of 2008 and look forward to moving ahead just as fast and just as well in 2009.

Happy Holidays!

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Autumn Gathering Recognizes Fraternal Service

by Carl G. Ek

For the third consecutive year, Masonicare, Inc. hosted an 'Autumn Gathering' of the Order of the Amaranth, Order of the Eastern Star, and Masonic districts 4, 5, and 6 to enjoy a social afternoon, offer information and tours of the constellation of services offered, and recognize members of the Masonic family for their efforts on behalf of others.

As the guests enjoyed a bountiful fall-themed collection of hors d'oeuvres and desserts, brief welcomes and presentations were made. Bill Piper, president of Masonicare, offered a welcome to all present. He announced that the under-construction Kenneth B. Hawkins, Sr. Apartments were already full with a lengthy waiting list, and that a six bed, in-patient Hospice has been established in the acute care unit of Masonicare.

New chairman of the board of directors for the Masonic Healthcare Center WB Robert Simon thanked all present for their attendance and the ability to showcase the Wallingford facility before introducing WB Howard W. Orr, chairman of the board of trustees for Masonicare, Inc. He spoke of the importance and pride in serving various needs of seniors in the name of Masonry, and offered special thanks to the volunteers of all ages who serve across the spectrum of Masonicare affiliates.

Bro. Stephen B. McPherson, president and CEO of Masonicare, Inc. expanded on the theme of serving seniors in the name of Masonry and "selling" peace of mind to an aging population. Noting that the Wallingford facility did everything but "deliver babies,

have an emergency room, or perform surgery," Steve urged brothers and their families to get onto the waiting list for Masonic facilities so that when the day comes and a need arises, they will be in a position to move to one of the constellation's facilities.

A highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of awards in recognition of contributions to their various organizations by Most Worshipful Grand Master Robert J. Stika. From the 4th Masonic District was honoree WB Kenneth I. Greenhill of Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford, vice chairman of the CTCHIP program. The District 5 honoree was Bro. Johnny Miller of Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, a member of the Grand Lodge community services committee. District 6 honoree WB Bard Teigen of Composite Lodge No. 28, Suffield was unable to attend; his plaque will be presented at a later date. Representing the Order of the Amaranth was 2002 Grand Royal Matron Honored Lady Alice S. Britton of Stratford Court No. 21.

Two veteran leaders of the Order of the Eastern Star were then recognized. Sister Arline L. Morgan, a member of Mystic Chapter No. 20, presided as Worthy Grand Matron in 1962-1963. Also honored was her immediate predecessor in that office in 1961-62, Sister Eleanor G. "Betty" Stoddard, a member of Olive Branch Chapter No. 87, Madison. It was also noted that Sister Betty has been a Star member for the last 76 years!

After the honorees' brief remarks, tours of Masonicare and additional refreshments closed an enjoyable afternoon.



MW Robert J. Stika presents Sister Eleanor G. "Betty" Stoddard her Masonicare recognition plaque. Sister Betty, a member of Olive Branch Chapter No. 87, Madison, served as Worthy Grand Matron in 1961-1962, and was announced as a 76-year member of the Eastern Star.

First Masonicare Orientations a Success

The first Masonicare Orientation Forums were presented on Sunday, October 26, at Ashlar Village and Sunday, November 16 at Ashlar of Newtown. The events were well attended and introduced many Masons to the variety of services Masonicare provides to the seniors of Connecticut.

As president and CEO Steve McPherson explained, "It's easier to say what we don't do: we don't deliver babies, we don't have an emergency room, and we don't perform surgeries." Other than that, seniors can find residential living options, health care, home health care, or outpatient care through Masonicare's constellation of services.

WB Bob Simon, chairman of the board of directors of Masonic Healthcare Center and Ashlar of Newtown, offered particularly

poignant remarks in his welcome to the group at Newtown:

"Masons are obligated to be of service, and in that vein, we hear about the Shrine hospitals, the 32° Learning Centers, the vision research, and, of course, Masonicare. However, for many who live in central Connecticut, Masonicare is just that big facility just off the Merritt Parkway. Indeed, to many Masons, Masonicare is that facility that somehow shares the Wallingford property with the Grand Lodge.

"Well, to you, Masonicare is not, and should not be, a mystery. It is the crown jewel of Masonry in Connecticut, and Ashlar of Newtown is an important part of it – as you will see when you take the tour later this afternoon.

"For me, this gathering is a great opportunity to showcase this fine facility. And it is a great opportunity to express, both from me and on behalf of the board, sincere appreciation to the volunteers and staff of Ashlar of Newtown for their commitment and professionalism. And it is a great opportunity to meet and greet residents in their home.

"This is your great opportunity to see the ideals of Masonry presented in bricks & mortar – in service and in hospitality – to really see Masonry in service – to truly be able to contribute to the relief of poor, distressed Masons, their widows and orphans.

"So... welcome, and thank you for your attendance, and thank you for being part of our Masonic service."

Letters to the Editor...

To the Editor:

I take serious exception to the incomplete and misleading report by Carl G. Ek (Volume 4 - Number 6, November 2008, Page 3) referring to "... past business [of the Trial Commission] ..."

Nothing in the original report (decision) of the Trial Commission nor [sic] the Supplemental Report made any reference to the authority of the Grand Master. Nor was there ever any issue in the case reported about "power to override the Grand Master."

The Supplemental Report of the Trial Commission, prepared in accordance with the vote of Grand Lodge at the previous session, was accepted on motion of the Grand Master. At some point there was a joking question to the Grand Master concerning such overriding the Grand Master. In an equally jocular vein the Grand Master responded as reported.

There was no issue in the underlying case that was heard by the Trial Commission related to powers of the Grand Master. The article should have reported the acceptance of the Supplemental [sic] Report of the Trial Commission and made it clear that the question and answer were not related to the Report and Supplemental [sic] Report.

RW Morton N. Katz
Chairman, Trial Commission

Dear Sirs,

I just threw my November 5th edition of Connecticut Freemasons in the trash bin. I want no one to see it in my home for the first time in my Masonic life. I am ashamed that any of my brothers approve of demeaning their bodies with tattoos like bikers and street gang members. When I became a Mason, I swore an oath over the Bible and God's Word in that book tells us that it is abhorrent to God for us to defile our beautiful bodies with icons. Freemasonry is one of the last bastions for a Christian to be in the world but not of it. We are being attacked by secularism to change our Constitution, to reject our antiquated and useless Old Testament, to accept any view of morality, to change our economic system, to weaken our military. All the Brothers that I know have fought against this agenda strongly and continue to do so.

The secular humanists creep up on us like the sniveling sneaks they are. They trick us in to one "little" change, "a tattoo is okay" then another and another until eventually we have compromised our whole system and we no longer are Masons. If you disagree with me or are interested in exploring this idea more thoroughly, read George Orwell's book *Animal Farm*.

Dix J. Kelly
Friendship Lodge No. 33

New Board Members to Serve Masonicare Organization

Masonicare is pleased to announce that at the regular communication of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut held October 18 at Ashlar Village in Wallingford, Bro. Sherwin M. Borsuk, M.D., Meridian Lodge No. 77, Meriden, and Bro. William R. Deickler, Jerusalem Lodge No. 49, Ridgefield, were elected to serve as new members on the Masonicare Board of Trustees. Their terms will expire in 2011.

At the Masonicare annual meeting held on October 29, also at Ashlar Village, the following individuals were appointed to serve on Masonicare affiliate boards for the 2008 - 2009 term:

Ashlar of Newtown Board of Directors and Masonic Healthcare Center Board of Directors

Bro. Richard Ruggiano, Temple Lodge No. 65, Westport
Bro. Patrick J. Wilkinson, Wyllys St. John's Lodge No. 4,
West Hartford

Bro. Mark D. Winne, Composite Lodge No. 28, Suffield

Ashlar Village Board of Directors:

Bro. Andrew D. Urbanski, Jerusalem Lodge No. 49, Ridgefield
Bro. Chester Miller, Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford
(Emeritus Board Member)

Connecticut VNA Board of Directors:

Bro. Paul L. Chello, St. Alban's Lodge No. 38, Guilford
Bro. Paul A. Edberg, Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145,
Manchester

Bro. Jeff Flynn, Estuary Lodge No. 43, Old Saybrook

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut Board of Directors:

MW William L. Greene, Uriel Lodge No. 24, Merrow
Bonnie McWain, Trumbull

Bro. Stephen B. McPherson, Masonicare's president and CEO, said Masonicare is fortunate to have so many outstanding individuals willing to serve in these important roles. "These capable, hardworking members of the Masonic family deserve our sincere thanks and appreciation for their commitment to the cause of Masonry. Their dedication supports Masonicare's mission as we continue to provide quality care to our residents and patients each day."



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Rainbow Safari Stops to Honor GWA

by Carl G. Ek

The theme of 2008-09 International Order of Rainbow for Girls Grand Worthy Advisor AliciaMarie Hurlburt is "A Sunshine Safari," and that theme carried Rainbows, their advisors, and friends to 'Australia' – usually known as the Pyramid Shrine Center, Milford – for the October 25 reception honoring the Grand Worthy Advisor.

A packed house saw co-mistresses of ceremonies Alexa Rucinski and Julia DeFrances of Branford Assembly No. 19 welcome 'elephant trackers' (the grand officers), 'statewide scouts' (grand representatives to other jurisdictions), and a host of Masonic dignitaries.

AliciaMarie has been a member of Rainbow since 2000, and is currently a sophomore at Salve Regina College in Newport, Rhode Island. There she is an honor student in a pre-med program, hoping to become a doctor working in Africa. Parts of her last seven summers have been spent volunteering at Camp Sunshine in Maine, her Grand Rainbow charity this year.

Bubbly and very popular among Connecticut

Rainbows, AliciaMarie credited her organization with helping her develop as a person. In her remarks at the reception, the poised young lady spoke of the sense of 'belonging and caring' that were present from the time she joined Rainbow. Noting her own experiences in service to others, and gaining confidence and poise through her work in Rainbow, she urged her sisters to take their lessons seriously.

Stating that "Rainbow is the best place to be," she thanked her assembly, Supreme Deputy Mom Anne K. Needham, and especially her family for their love, support, and the opportunity to participate in "one of the greatest experiences of my life."

Yet for all AliciaMarie Hurlburt has received from Rainbow, she returns so much more to her sisters. She continues toward her career goal with the lessons of love and service and the message of hope and charity present in all Rainbow assemblies, as lessons to guide her toward her work in Africa. The Hurlburt family, and the Masonic family, can be very proud to honor such a grand Grand Worthy Advisor.



The guest of honor, carrying her elephant mascot, is escorted into the reception by her father, Rick Hurlburt.

DeMolay Founders Recognized

One of seven DeMolay obligatory days is Founders Day, held each year to mark the passing of Order of DeMolay founder Dad Frank S. Land on November 8, 1959. It was on a very rainy November 8 that Robert H. Heller Chapter, Order of DeMolay, West Haven observed "Founders Day" at the grave of the chapter's 1927 founder, Dad Robert H. Heller. Bro. Heller and wife Peg are buried in the Masonic section of Beavertdale Cemetery, Hamden.

Master Councilor Bill Austin read a tribute to the life of Dad Heller before placing a bouquet at the grave marker, and a prayer was offered by PMC and State Junior Councilor Tyler Anderson. Present to thank both men for their foresight were (from left) chapter advisor Dad Bob Gunderson; PMC Anderson; Bro. Chris Austin; MC Bill Austin; and advisors and PMC Senior DeMolays Richard C. Memmott, Jr., John Ryan, and Bryan Anderson. Holding the photographer's umbrella was PMC Pat Gannon.



Halloween youth dance

"The guests included 'bag boy,' Bob Behler and his son..." With apologies to Bobby 'Boris' Pickett, there were a number of monsters mashing at the Rainbow-DeMolay Halloween dance held at the New Britain Masonic Temple. The young and young at heart came as anything from a bag of groceries (winner of most original costume) to Dorothy (complete with Toto), a banana, and even a three-hole punch (!). Dad Andy Birdsall of Sleeping Giant Chapter deejayed the dance, which was chaired by DeMolay State Sweetheart and New Britain Assembly No. 6 Worthy Advisor Samantha Stoddard.



A collection of costumed winners, encompassing the scariest, funniest, and most original costumes at the Rainbow-DeMolay Halloween dance. Among the winners (?) were a bag of groceries, a Soviet tennis star, 'Brenda,' 'Dorothy' (less Toto), and 'Hippie Jamie', the Riddler, and even a three-hole punch....

Military Veterans Sought for Oral History Project

by Mort Katz

Veterans of the United States military service are actively being sought for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. This project seeks information from military men and women – and those at home who were in contact with them – serving in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf.

The purpose of the project is to honor the approximately 19 million war veterans living in the United States by gathering and making available for future generations the histories of these brave individuals. The principal



goal is to collect audio- and videotaped oral histories of the participants. Also sought are contemporaneous documentary materials such as letters, diaries, maps, photos, and home movies from veterans of all branches of the armed services.

Those interested in participating may call 1-202-707-4916 during business hours, or may leave a message at 1-888-371-5848. Locally, the project is being coordinated by the Center for Public Policy & Social Research of Central Connecticut State University. They may be reached at 860-832-2976.

Further information is also available on the Internet at www.loc.gov/veterans.

US Army veterans are also invited to participate in the U.S. Army Military History Institute survey by calling 1-717-245-3971. Army veterans may also visit <http://armyheritage.org/usahec/veterans/asp>.

Only one World War I veteran is known to be alive today. World War II veterans are being called home at an approximate rate of 1,000 per day. The Pearl Harbor Survivors group for New York and New England recently held its last annual meeting – only seven of the survivors, some in their nineties, none younger than 80, were able to attend the 2008 reunion.

A Dark and Stormy York Rite Night

by Michael B. Dodge

It was a dark and stormy night; suddenly the heads of all three York Rite bodies met at the Knapp Auditorium of the Hartog Activities Center... Well, okay, it wasn't "suddenly" – the event had been planned for months, but the night WAS dark and stormy!

The annual York Rite Testimonial dinner was held for the first time at the Hartog Center at Ashlar Village on the evening of November 15. It was an opportunity for members of the York Rite and their ladies to come together to honor Companion Kenneth N. Hall, Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons

of Connecticut, Companion Andrew G. Weimann, II, Most Puissant Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Connecticut, and Sir Knight Robert J. DiPasquale, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Connecticut.

Brother, Companion, and Sir Knight Bruce R. Bellmore was the emcee for the event, and set the tone early by starting the night off with a joke. The proceedings continued in a light manner that at times was more reminiscent of a roast than a testimonial. Most Excellent Companion Hall demonstrated that his recent surgery had not slowed him

down by deftly jumping onto the stage and completely forgoing the stairs.

When Most Puissant Companion Weimann got to the microphone, Companion Bellmore threatened to turn off the volume to the microphone to restrict the Most Puissant's speech, but Companion Andy demonstrated that he needed no microphone to be heard! Right Eminent Sir Knight DiPasquale took the microphone next, but was supplanted by Most Puissant Companion Andy, who hastened to introduce his lady as he had concluded his remarks without doing so. Sir Knight DiPasquale quickly followed Companion Andy's lead and introduced his lady, whereupon Companion Hall also introduced his lady. The damage, however, had been done and Companion Andy's lovely wife Susan rose and reminded the three that Most Worshipful Grand Master Robert J. Stika has a rule – if you forget to introduce your lady, you must buy her a new outfit!

When Honored Lady Charlene D. Rowe, Grand Royal Matron of the Grand Court of Amaranth was asked to speak, she admonished the three York Rite Grands that in her organization, jewelry was the preferred means of penance! Congratulations to ladies Juanita, Susan, and Joan on your new outfits and new jewelry!

The entire night was not all frivolity and mirth, however. Companion James C. Kleinkauf was called to the microphone as chairman of the York Rite Coordination Committee, and after some very brief comments, Brother, Companion, and Sir Knight Edward Schoenrock was escorted to the stage and presented with the prestigious James Royal Case Award for Outstanding Service to Masonry in general and the York Rite in particular.

Deputy Grand Master Arthur H. Carlstrom was the last dignitary to speak, and noted how pleased he was to have received the James Royal Case Award in 1995 and how much that award meant to him. Rev. Ray N. Cooley brought the evening's celebrations to an end, but before his final benediction, did relate a brief story about Deputy Grand Master Carlstrom's volunteer work at the Masonic Healthcare Center pushing wheelchair-bound patients to and from Sunday services, and how happy those patients seemed to be when RW Art finally brought them back home to their rooms!

The night had been especially enjoyable, and the Companions, Sir Knights, and their ladies were sorry to have to brave the driving rain to retrieve their vehicles and return home, but all were encouraged by the assurance that they would all meet again very soon.

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New Masonicare Administrative Services Building

Every day approximately 45,000 drivers on the Wilbur Cross Highway pass the newly acquired Masonicare administrative services building, featuring a prominent square and compasses. This location will centralize financial services, human resources, and information systems, and serve as the recruitment center.

Volunteers...the Lifeblood of CTCHIP

by Ken Greenhill

If not for the efforts of volunteers, little charitable good would actually reach those who need the help. Not that monetary donations aren't important, but the need for caring people to give their time is a priceless commodity. The "Welcome to Our Town" signage in communities across the state may surprise some that there are many organizations, groups, and churches that serve people and compete for the precious little time our schedules allow.

Right there in the midst of many of those signs will be a Masonic sign revealing the presence of a local lodge. Our fraternity is far more than a social group trying to do good for the community. Without question, however, our "mark in the community" is only visible through our works. As such, as we provide the services we offer, we find ourselves competing for the same precious time that our brothers and their families have to give.

On September 20, the leaders of the Connecticut Child Identification Program (CTCHIP), which could not survive without the countless hours given by its volunteers, gathered at Ashler Village to say a special "Thank You" to those who have continually offered more with their commitment to CTCHIP. The CTCHIP Committee, through the District Coordinators, selected one or two people within each district that made significant contribution by their donations of time or funding.

The committee selected 24 people, lodges, and organizations who merited special gratitude. The recipients of the awards

were greeted by Grand Master Robert Stika and committee chairman WB Carl Mossberg and enjoyed a wonderful breakfast before being presented with plaques expressing the committee's gratitude.

Another CTCHIP event, now in its third year, is referred to as "Ted's Excellent Adventure." The NBC30 Health and Wellness Exposition weekend generously offers CTCHIP a prime area to set up and greet those who want to have their child participate. The program runs on Saturday and Sunday for 7 hours each day and provided 450 Purple Packs. Between 20 and 25 people are necessary to prepare, set-up, perform, and break down this exhausting event. The CTCHIP Committee thanks everyone who helped and looks forward to next year.

For the past two years, RW Bro. Joseph Cyr, CTCHIP district coordinator, has worked with a team of nurses from Griffin Hospital in Ansonia to supply

CTCHIP Purple Packs to nearly 6000 children in the Naugatuck valley. Through a grant obtained by the Hospital, caring people give their time during the school day to perform CTCHIP events in the schools.

The continued support and commitment of CTCHIP volunteers is what makes CTCHIP successful, despite the competition for time between many groups. It is through their good works that the light of Masonry shines.

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

Valley of New Haven, A.A.S.R. News

by Michael L. Castroll

It's December again! The month starts with the matriculation of our Fall Class as Sublime Princes. That means it's time to go shopping for a new class of candidates for our Spring Class! Take advantage of the Ambassador Program. If your lodge is without an ambassador, you do it. Call Membership Development Chairman Charles H. Tirrell, MSA, at (203) 215-5305, or e-mail him at chtirrell@yahoo.com. Don't worry about shopping days. Petitions are always welcomed, and in season! (And the right size!)

Another successful Oktoberfest was enjoyed by all on November 10. A round of applause (or just another round?) goes out to PSP (and Right Eminent Grand Commander) Bob DiPasquale and Illustrious Jack H. Stevens, 33°, MSA, co-chairmen, who fed the crew! With several prospective members partaking of our chow, the future looks bright!

If you missed the Oktoberfest, you missed our newly renovated kitchen. Come and see for yourself. Help make 2009 the best ever – sign up one Master Mason, and you (both of you) will not be sorry!

Our degrees always start with dinner at 6:15 p.m. You'll have great food and see some great degree work in a refurbished Greek Room on the second floor.

Finally, as this is the season for giving, let's not forget the Blue Envelope. It does so much for so many. Take pride in the Scottish Rite. Take pride in your Valley, and her home.

Whether it is Merry Christmas or Happy Chanukah, or something else you celebrate, the message is the same. Season's greetings, and a safe and Happy New Year to all!

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

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

As we enter this holiday season, and look forward to spending time with family and close friends, and to the joys that are associated with it, we must also mention that it is time to reflect back on the year. Here at the Valley of Hartford, we can say it truly has been a productive year.

This past spring saw a group of Masonic brethren become part of one of our largest classes in years. Some of these new members, and also members from our most recent classes, have become increasingly active within the Valley. They are taking on various roles, whether it be in recruitment, writing articles for the *View of the Valley*, joining one of the four officer lines, becoming a degree cast member, or just involved in order to successfully put on the degrees.

At the same time we have been able to continue to support our Scottish Rite charitable giving projects such as: the Scottish Rite Learning Centers for Children with Dyslexia; DeMolay; The Masonic Charity Foundation; awarding college scholarships to help children

or grandchildren of our current and past members; our Family Life programs; a new and expanded *View of the Valley*, published quarterly and mailed to all members; and, most importantly, a website that any valley would be extremely proud to call its own.

This fall we were proud to welcome, as the newest members to the Valley of Hartford: Matthew R. Chmile, Tyson D. Dorman, Bruce J. Hoffman, and Justin T. Kollmorgen, all members of Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor; Edward Schilke, St. John's Lodge No. 2, Middletown; and Kevin R. Slisz, Estuary Lodge No. 43, Old Saybrook; who during the month of November were able to witness the ever popular 18° (Knight of the Rose Croix of H.R.D.M.) and also witness their final degrees required to be received as Scottish Rite Masons on Consistory Day.

Consistory Day, this fall, can also be remembered for something that has not happened in our valley for many years, namely receiving Prince Hall Sublime Princes and

having their Scottish Rite candidate join our candidates in the conferral of the Consistory degrees. It also allowed us a chance to meet, and break bread with them, and allowed some of their Prince Hall Masonic state officers to join with our Masonic state officers. Because we were portraying the 30°, we had in attendance fellow Scottish Rite members from New Jersey and Massachusetts.

No matter how you serve our Masonic fraternity, whether as an active participant, a sideline viewer, or just as a card-carrying member, your membership is deeply appreciated. This brings us to our thought for this issue. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: "We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing; others judge us by what we have done."

For more information about how to join the Scottish Rite, acquire a petition, or print out other types of forms, or to see what is happening within the Valley of Hartford, visit our Valley website: <http://www.valleyofhartford.org>.

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or visit our Valley Website: <http://www.valleyofhartford.org>

Masonic Parochialism

by Tom Accuosti

For several years now I've gone to Grand Lodge sessions, and each time I'm amazed that most of the people attending get there just a few minutes early, and then leave as soon as the gavel bangs the meeting closed. Okay, I've never been much of a fan of sitting in meetings, especially meetings in which other people do the talking. In fact, I can imagine that for a lot of people, Grand Lodge sounds like this:

"Blah blah blah... declare the session open ... blah blah blah... welcome to the two hundred and mumblety mumbleth annual... blah blah blah... welcome the Past Grand ... blah blah blah... presentation by Masonicare... blah blah blah... elections for the next year... blah blah blah... the proposed budget includes ... blah blah blah... lack of membership... blah blah blah... new programs will include... blah blah blah... show our appreciation to ... blah blah blah... results of the voting... blah blah blah... congratulations to ... blah blah blah... please inform the Grand Tyler... blah blah blah... Thank you all for coming." BANG

Even though it ended a half hour earlier than anyone had expected, some people zoomed out of there so quickly that I thought we were serving free donuts in the lobby.

I don't get that. For me, the best part about Grand Lodge is the hour before and the hour after the actual meeting; this is the time to get together with people that you don't normally see every month, to renew old acquaintances, and to hear about what's happening in other lodges and in other parts of the state. There are not a lot of ways that the Grand Lodge can communicate ideas about its various programs until after they are instituted – which, to my way of thinking, is usually too late. People on various committees who talk about new ideas with the craft are in a position to get input. The flip side, of course, is that the craft – that's you

and me – manages to have some input at the planning stage. And, this is the opportunity to meet those junior Grand Lodge officers who are going to be leading the craft one day.

Additionally, I get to see other District Grand Lecturers so that we can complain discuss the issues in our districts. I have also found that there are a number of old-timers who are full of ideas and opinions – but good ones – and I enjoy talking to them and getting some feedback. And truth be told, I also enjoy listening to the latest gossip news about various lodges and officers and the people I've met.

In current business parlance, this is known as "networking." Now, networking has developed a bad rep, mainly because people imagine a room full of insurance brokers and used car salesmen who are trying to get you to buy something that you don't want. But consider: we explain to our Fellowcrafts that the pillars representing Strength and Establishment are adorned with "network" because it represents "unity." And truly, how can we have unity – that is, a cohesive craft – if members on one end of the state don't know (or don't care) what is happening at the other end?

When talking with a few other brothers after the meeting, it came up that very few people had – according to the poll on the Grand Lodge website – visited lodges outside of Connecticut. That led another wag to note that most Masons don't even visit other lodges *inside* Connecticut.

Brothers - what's up with that?

Before a member is even raised, we are talking to him about visiting other lodges. "Wait until you're a Master Mason," we love to tell them. "You'll go to all those other lodges and see how other people do things," we explain. It's as if other lodges are foreign countries. In fact, part of our degree ceremonies here in

Connecticut do allude to traveling in foreign parts, and how that is one of the benefits of being a Master Mason.

So why do so few of us actually take advantage of that privilege?

Sure, sometimes there is a time factor. Many of us barely make time for our own lodges, even when we know what the schedule will be. Members with a family – or a life – are already juggling evenings off. In my own family, my daughter has music lessons, Girl Scouts, and tutoring, my wife has church meetings, and I have a few non-Masonic duties each month, and I imagine that many families are not much different.

Yet I'm still amazed at the number of Masons that I talk to, who have never – as in, you know, *never* – visited another lodge. Others have gone once or twice, but "not in years," or only for some special program. Simple curiosity isn't enough to get somebody out of the house and into another lodge once or twice a year?

The underlying attitude that puzzles me – actually, that *bothers* me – is that too often I get the impression that many members forget that we are all part of a larger organization. I understand that some members feel very strongly connected to their own lodge and that could possibly be a reason that they do not have much interest in the lodges around them. But still, why bother even mentioning "the ability to travel" if you are not going to avail yourself of the opportunity?

For that matter, why not simply remain a Fellowcraft?



Tom Accuosti

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.

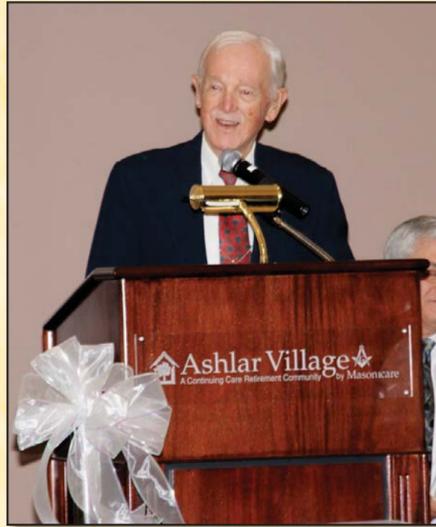
Raymond M. Alender Village 29
William N. Apostolides..... Union 5
Clifford H. Banks Jr Eureka 83
Alva H. Bradley Jr Adelphi-Momauguin 63
D. Robert Broom Union 31
Nelson T. Clark Washington 19
Ernest G. Corbin Ionic 110
Roger F. Cox Columbia 25
George F. Dean Jr Friendship Tuscan 145
Kenneth L. Drager Silas Deane 147
Edward Golden Sequin-Level 140
Richard G. Griswold Fayette 69
Harold Hunstein Union 31

Everett W. Jacobs Sequin-Level 140
John P. Jones Union 31
Christopher G. Letz Coastal 57
Leo Libera Washington 81
Gordon B. Lonsdale Friendship Tuscan 145
Eugene Lubocki Orange 143
George Malash Fidelity-St. John's 3
Charles E. Martin Jr Wyllys-St. John's 4
John M. McClelland Hartford Evergreen 88
Christopher C. Moore Jr Coastal 57
William P. Nixon Somerset-St. James 34
Harvey E. Olson Silas Deane 147
James H. Parechanian Shepherd-Salem 78
Edwin E. Passmore Uriel 24

Ellsworth L. Reitsma Fidelity-St. John's 3
Henry E. Schmaltz Wyllys-St. John's 4
Armas A. Sini Coastal 57
Hubert Snelgrove Fidelity-St. John's 3
William H. Staples Union 5
Robert O. Stearns Eastern Star 44
Roland D. Sundberg Moosup 113
Arthur R. Van Gasbeck Hartford Evergreen 88
Donald N. Vaughn Friendship Tuscan 145
F. Denton Wertz Jr Wyllys-St. John's 4
Leonard E. Whitford Columbia 25
John N. Whitner Compass 9
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200 Years for Jerusalem Lodge No. 49 in Ridgefield

by Walter K. Wieland

Two hundred years ago, when Thomas Jefferson was President and two years after Lewis and Clark had returned from their journey west, seven Ridgefield Master Masons decided they needed a local meeting place to avoid the long journey to Danbury to attend lodge. They petitioned the Grand Lodge of Connecticut for a charter, and on October 5, 1808, were granted one, becoming Jerusalem Lodge No. 49.

Their first communication was on November 30, 1808, meeting at the Amos Smith Tavern, located where the Ridgefield Library now stands. During the next several years, meetings were held at various members' houses, with

at least one meeting being held in an upstairs room of Keeler Tavern.

On February 25, 1817 the lodge voted to offer shares at "twelve dollars and fifty cents" each in order to erect their own "Masonic Hall." Thirty brothers purchased 37 shares and the lodge purchased 20 shares for total of \$712.50, the town even purchasing 8 shares. The original hall was built on the site of the present Masonic Temple. The plot of ground, owned by Brother Isaac Olmstead, was sold to the lodge for \$20. In nine months, the Temple was completed and furnished. The first meeting in the new hall was held on December 15, 1817.

The lodge treasurer paid

the town \$100 for its shares on March 5, 1877, and on May 5 the Worshipful Master reported the building to be paid in full. That same year, Brother Phineas C. Lounsbury was elected Governor of the State of Connecticut. In 1887 Brother Abijah Ressequie, the owner of Keeler Tavern, had the distinction of being the oldest Mason (in years of membership) in the United States.

On December 8, 1895, the Masonic Hall burned to the ground in the Great Fire of Ridgefield, but by December 28 plans were made to build a new hall identical to the destroyed one. The first meeting was held in the new building's banquet hall on June 1, 1896.

This October 25, Grand Master Robert J. Stika and his Grand Lodge officers performed a Masonic rededication ceremony of the 225 year old lodge before an assembly of guests and dignitaries. Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi, along with State Representatives Toni

Boucher from Wilton and John H. Frey from Ridgefield brought congratulations to one of the town's oldest organizations, one that has continuously supplied the community with leadership.

In one of the early histories of the lodge, RW Edwin F. Shepard wrote: "What shall we say about the history which I have touched upon so imperfectly? Our predecessors have helped to develop real men, men who have been leaders or helpers in every facet of our community. This fact justifies the existence of our lodge. Our past is secure and we are proud of it. But what of the future? As we look about us, we see a world of unrest and apprehension. I firmly believe if we remain steadfast in the principals and teachings of Masonry, and maintain the enthusiasm and cooperation which has been manifest in the lodge since its beginning, we may look forward with confidence to a bright and prosperous future for Jerusalem Lodge, No. 49."

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Grand Master Stika (top hat) and Acting Worshipful Master Walter Wieland, along with Grand Lodge officers at the rededication marking the 225th anniversary of Jerusalem Lodge No. 49, Ridgefield.

DISTRICT No. 1

(a) RW Steven A. Bowen, DD • WB Lemuel G. Johnson, Jr., AGM
(b) RW Philip R. Roberts, DD • WB Danny A. Camp, AGM

Scottish for a Night, A Night for Scotch

"This is not a race," said Grand Junior Warden Jim McWain at the Temple Lodge No. 65 Scotch tasting night in Westport on October 24. That admonition was followed as brothers and prospects sipped a variety of single malt Scotch whiskies and compared the flavors that each region of Scotland produces.

First, a dinner of venison and venison meat loaf was prepared by Martha Kaechele and husband, MW Walt, which surprised many who had previously known only a tough and gamey meat. Specially prepared for the night, the Kaecheles' recipe called for slow cooking, proper seasonings, and removal of fat to make the meat tasty and tender.

While an overhead projector played videos of scenic Scotland, accompanied by appropriate music, a representative from Glen Ro Spirit Shoppe in Monroe helped the tasters appreciate the

selections. They rated Scotches ranging in retail price from \$33 to \$70. Some surprises included how a slight amount of water would "open" the flavors, and that some Scotches were noted as being "aperitifs" for before dinner.

Bro. Duncan Stalker, a native Scot, helped the brothers to pronounce the names of "Bunnahabhain," "Glenmorangie," and "Tobermoray." But no one needed help finishing their samples of the assortment from the regions of Skye, Jura, Orkney, Speyside and others.

At the end of the night, the beer drinkers, rum connoisseurs, and wine aficionados had to admit there was a Scotch they preferred. And if they couldn't quite remember which one, or couldn't read the notes they had carefully committed to paper, at least they left with the assurance there was another "Scotch Night" in their future next year.



From left, Bro. Duncan Stalker (holding postcards from Scotland), RW Jim McWain, Roy Nealon from Glen Ro Spirit Shoppe, Monroe, and kilt clad Bro. Tony Foote get ready to pour at Temple Lodge 65's Scotch night.

DISTRICT No. 3

(a) RW Alfred G. Rollinson, DD • WB Stephen J. Nevins, AGM
(b) RW Marshall K. Robinson, DD • WB James D. Waite, Jr., AGM

Harmony Lodge Honors a Past Grand Master

On November 6, Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, hosted its annual Necrology and Awards Night.

Following dinner, brethren and their guests retired to the lodge room, where WB Russell W. Griswold presented a moving ceremony in memory of lodge members who had been called by the Grand Architect of the Universe.

Following this solemn remembrance, WM Bill Blackwood distributed incremental pins to long-serving members of Harmony Lodge. Bro. James M. Anthony, Jr. was presented his 25-year pin, and RW Bruce Padula, a Past District Deputy in District 4, was recognized for 30 years.

At the 35-year level, WB Harry E. Needham, III, Executive Officer of Connecticut DeMolay, was called forward. He spoke of the foundation in fraternal work he had received from his membership in the Order of DeMolay, and of several of his former advisors still active in Masonry – most notably, MWPGM Louis Vander Eyk, who was also Harmony Lodge secretary during Harry's two terms as Master, and RW Arthur H. Carlstrom, Deputy Grand Master, and a

Past State Master Councilor of DeMolay.

After Bro. Allan Geary – also the father of a Past State Master Councilor – received his 45-year pin, all eyes turned to Bro. Vander Eyk, the recipient of his 60-year pin.

Lou began his remarks by turning in his 35 and 55-year pins to the secretary "to help save money." Lou spoke with gratitude of his years in Masonry, and of his term as Grand Master. He especially recalled his visit to the Grand Lodge of England at their 275th anniversary and the opportunity to shake the hand of their Grand Master, the Duke of Kent.

The evening concluded with DGM Carlstrom bestowing the Grand Lodge's 50 year gold award on Bro. Howard D. Woods. Bro. Woods expressed regret that his hearing had failed and that he was unable to hear most of the presentation – but he quite clearly understood what was being said when told that he no longer needed to pay dues.

The refreshment hour allowed brethren and friends from across the decades to congratulate one another, enjoying, as Bro. Anthony said, the "familiar old friends and old familiar friends."



WM Bill Blackwood of Harmony Lodge No. 42 stands with MWPGM Louis Vander Eyk after presenting him with his 60-year membership pin.

In Search of Our Signers

by Robert G. Dorr

(Editor's note: Bro. Dorr is the historian of Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury. Interested in the men who signed the charter of Harmony Lodge in December 1797, he and MWPGM Louis Vander Eyk went to Naugatuck searching for their Masonic ancestors.)

Based on early records, we went to the home where our charter was signed, now known as 28 May Street, Naugatuck. We examined photos from the lodge library and the current house, and Lou and I can say with certainty that this building was the home of Bro. Jared Byington, Harmony's first Master. It is recorded that 25 Masons met at his home, on the corner of May and Hill Streets in Salem Bridge (now Naugatuck), on December 21, 1797. The home has changed quite a bit in 211 years.

Lou and I then visited Hillside Cemetery, Naugatuck, searching for signers of our charter. After a short walk, we found the grave of Bro. Asahel Lewis, a charter member. Raised in Hart's Lodge No. 22, Woodbridge, in 1796, Bro. Lewis died on October 5, 1808 at age 36. His grave is plainly marked with the square and compass.

The sermon at his funeral was delivered by Rev. Dr. Daniel Burhans, pastor of the Episcopal Church in Newtown and a brother Mason. Rev. Dr. Burhans was a Yale graduate, had established many Connecticut parishes, and was a friend of Rev. Tillotson Bronson of St. John's (Episcopal) Parish, Waterbury, another charter member.

Also buried at Hillside Cemetery was charter signer Bro. and Dr. Francis Fogue. A Frenchman, he died February 27, 1825 at age 58. The Waterbury newspaper reported on his "eccentric" preparation for his death. His tombstone, inscribed *Uno deo confideo* ("In one God I trust"), stood by the door of his dwelling. A gold plate inscribed with the insignia of the Masonic order was countersunk

below the surface of the stone, but it was pried out by a desecrator.

We came upon the grave of Capt. Timothy Gibbud, the first secretary of Harmony Lodge. Also raised in Hart's Lodge No. 22 in 1796, Bro. Gibbud's grave is plainly marked with the square and compass. His gravestone is nearly illegible, but not to a Mason.

The columns Boaz and Jachin are still visible despite the nearly two hundred years that have passed. Bro. Gibbud died November 6, 1825 at age 64.

We found and photographed the graves many other early members of our Masonic fraternity at Hillside Cemetery, but we were in search of the graves of those 25 brothers who signed our charter and began the history of Harmony Lodge. Thus, we left Hillside Cemetery, traveling on Rubber Avenue to Gunntown Cemetery. We were in search of Brother Asa Gunn, and where better to find him? We also knew that Harmony brother David Wooster was buried in Gunntown, but we had no idea who else we would find.

People believe that spirits freely roam in Gunntown Cemetery, though Bro. Lou and I had no expectation of being called by those spirits on our visit to Gunntown. Still, upon arriving, we immediately found the grave of Bro. David Wooster. He was there that December night in 1797, and he remained a loyal member of Harmony Lodge. Bro. Wooster, a soldier in the Revolution, died at age 77 on January 12, 1812. Born in 1735, this was not the same David Wooster, later a general, who was the charter Master of 'The Lodge at New Haven' in 1750. Harmony's Bro. Wooster was a charter member of Federal Lodge No. 17 in Watertown in 1791 and also a charter member of Harmony Lodge in 1797.

As mentioned, some people believe that Gunntown Cemetery has active spirits that roam and beckon. Bro. Lou and I went there to find Asa Gunn; we never did find him, but one grave did 'beckon' us. It was a stone with a large 'G' in the left upper corner. The other side was covered with moss; Lou handed me his penknife and I slowly cleaned off the square and compasses!

The gravestone was partially buried,



Louis Vander Eyk at the grave of the Bro. Asahel Lewis, Hillside Cemetery, Naugatuck. Bro. Lewis was one of the first signers of the charter of Harmony Lodge No. 42. The square and compass are clear to all.

only a name visible on that stone that called us to it. The name was familiar – Bro. Andrew Adams. I had heard that name in our Masonic history, but was not sure where. Who was this 'Andrew Adams,' a Mason? That answer would have to come later. For now, Lou and I decided we'd had a good day, finding graves of four of the original twenty-five signers of our charter.

Returning home I discovered that Bro. Andrew Adams – whose gravestone 'called out' to Lou and I, and the last stone we examined – was the man who had served our lodge the most. He received his three degrees in 1802, all in Harmony Lodge No. 42. He went on to serve as Worshipful Master in 1807, 1808, 1810, 1812, 1813, 1819, 1824, and 1825 – a total of eight years as Master! Bro. Adams laid down his working tools on September 14, 1830 at age 52. Was our Bro. Adams 'calling out' to us on that day in Gunntown so that he would be included in our survey? It does seem odd that the last stone we discovered was of the man who served our lodge in so many ways.

It was a most wonderful day, walking in the steps of our oldest Masonic brothers. That they still speak to us over the centuries shows that our message in one with the ages.

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MLR Confers Case Fellowship

by Carl G. Ek

As announced in the October issue of *Connecticut Freemasons*, WB Michael L. Castroll was formally recognized as a James Royal Case Fellow by Masonic Lodge of Research at their October stated communication. Bro. Castroll, a correspondent for this publication, is the historian of several lodges and other Masonic bodies. He is also a published author of non-Masonic historical articles.

A varied crowd of Research Lodge members, local lodge historians, and Grand Lodge dignitaries listened to Bro. Castroll's his paper, *What the Lodge Historian Should Know*, and witnessed the presentation of the certificate and medal attesting to the honor.

At the request of MLR Worshipful Master Jonathan R. Tomlinson, members of New Haven Chapter and Robert H. Heller Chapter, West Haven, Order of DeMolay participated in the ceremony, presenting the colors and offering the benediction. MWPGM Samuel B. Walker, the 2002 Case Fellow and past president of the Philalethes Society, introduced Bro. Castroll prior to the presentation of his paper, and RW Ronald Goldwyn, secretary of MLR, read the citation of Bro. Mike's accomplishments.

Masonic Lodge of Research will choose the next James Royal Case Fellow at its annual meeting in December. The presentation to that brother will be made at an agreeable date in 2009.



Present for the Masonic Lodge of Research conferral of the 2008 James Royal Case Fellowship were (from left) MWPGM Samuel B. Walker, the 2002 Case Fellow; MLR WM Jonathan R. Tomlinson; honoree WB Michael L. Castroll; and MLR member and RW Grand Senior Warden Charles A. Buck, Sr.

Widow's Son 66 Has a Busy Weekend

by David Cole

The weekend of October 11 and 12 was a busy one for Widow's Son Lodge No. 66, Branford as a spirit of fellowship sought to stuff as much fun into one weekend as possible.

The festivities started Saturday evening, October 11 when the lodge hosted their annual Oktoberfest. The tradition is fairly new since the year 2000 when WB Ken Jalbert decided that in order to build and retain membership one must bring the lodge together in fun events. For nearly 20 years, Widow's Son has had a Robert Burns' Night in midwinter. To this was added a "Steak 'n Ale" in late spring and the Oktoberfest in the fall. Widow's Son Lodge gives a big thanks to Ken and his team for another night of great enjoyment. A feast of jagerschnitzel, German potato salad, Bavarian pork loin, sauerkraut, kielbasa, red cabbage, potato pancakes, and – of course – Oktoberfest beer

was provided for only \$15.... and included a night of Masonic fellowship.

In continuance of new traditions promoting fellowship along with family, the next day, Sunday, Widow's Son held their second annual MasoniCruise. This was started while WB Bill Lordan was Master, and was so much fun that it was decided to continue as an annual event. WB Bill charters a boat, loads it with food and wine, and invites the brothers and their families to tour the Thimble Islands off the coast of Branford.

There was concern that October weather might not be kind, but the cruise came on a beautiful Indian summer day. The 3rd annual MasoniCruise may be open to brothers throughout the state to share in Widow's Son's fun. The capacity of the boat is only 36, and if anyone is interested for next time, they should contact any of the Widow's Son Lodge officers. Expecting a full charter, Bill has already started booking the boat!



At the Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 Oktoberfest, a relaxed Brother Bill Rose visits the beer tent constructed by WB Ken Jalbert.

Golden Anniversary for Cheshire Lodge Building

by Stephen H. Eberle and Roger Jackson

There is hardly a more massive or imposing lodge building in Connecticut than the one used by Temple Lodge No 16, Cheshire. On October 18, Grand Master Robert J. Stika and his Grand Lodge officers rededicated the former Connecticut Light and Power substation, commemorating 50 years as a lodge building.

During the summer of 1957 the property was purchased and work started on the building. The design and construction of the interior of the building was completed by volunteer lodge members, whose names are found on the plaque in the main lobby. The cornerstone was laid on Saturday, October 18, 1958.

Thus it was an appropriate time, exactly 50 years later, for the building to be rededicated in full Masonic custom.



WM Jackson and MW Stika get ready to cut the 50th anniversary cake.

Worshipful Master Roger Jackson organized the event, first having visitors and guests serenaded by the Pyramid Shrine Pipe and Drum band, and afterward providing a selection of refreshments in the newly renovated banquet hall.

The imposing brick building contains a spacious meeting room for the lodge and allows it to perform their degrees in expansive comfort. The anteroom contains a suitable display of their historical collection, which contains all of the original (and fully restored) lodge record books, including the original Bible used in the opening of the lodge in 1790.

The collection also includes glassware, artwork, furniture, old photographs, reference books, awards, and citations. One of the most interesting pieces of material is the square and compasses that was affixed to the cover of the coffin of



WM Jackson presents Bro. Jon Fischer a certificate for "Meritorious Service" for all the extra hard work he put in on the renovation project of the social hall.

the first Master, David Badger, when he was buried in St. Peter's graveyard. The square and compasses were returned to the lodge when it was uncovered during construction of the St. Peter's education wing.

On November 10, 1790, Temple Lodge No. 16 was the second lodge to be chartered by the newly formed Grand Lodge of Connecticut, organized in 1789. The signature of Connecticut's first Grand Master, Pierpont Edwards, can be seen on the original charter. Lodges constituted previous to the Grand Lodge were assigned the first fourteen numbers.

Temple Lodge Worshipful Brother and State Representative Al Adinolfi presented Worshipful Master Jackson with a Connecticut General Assembly proclamation congratulating the lodge on the fiftieth anniversary of its home on Country Club Road. A special presentation of a certificate for "Meritorious Service" was also made to Bro. Jon Fischer, president of the Cheshire Masonic Temple Association, for chairing the committee in charge of refurbishing of the social hall.

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DID YOU vote?

Results are in!

There were 2 polls on the Grand Lodge website (www.ctfreemasons.net). Since October 14, the polls have collected the opinions of 116 voters asking how many times have they attended lodge in the past year, and 85 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:

Have you ever visited a Lodge outside of Connecticut?
 Yes86.....74%
 No30.....25%

Does your Lodge present service awards or have an awards presentation every year?
 Yes79.....92%
 No6.....7%

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.

DISTRICT No. 6

(a) RW Melvin E. Johnson, DD • WB Aaron R. Sussman, AGM
(b) RW F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., DD • WB William G. Bryce, AGM

Grasp - Raise - Salute - Advance - Retire!

by Steve Aldi

So began each toast to honor our ladies and ladies everywhere. Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 hosted a Ladies at the Table evening on October 23.

After an opening prayer by chaplain Richard Claing and the Pledge of Allegiance, WM Joe Dias welcomed our honorees and the brethren. Bro. Andrew Warren explained that the white candle burns for Masons' ladies of the past and Bro. Madhu Renduchintala explained that the red rose on the altar signified love. Bro. Russell Scull then explained the historical significance of the ceremony that started in mid-18th century France.

WB Dustin Wood, Jr. prepared the meal with assistance in the kitchen by WB William Strickland and Bros. Matt Montgomery and Matt Stough. The roast pork entree followed pasta ravioli filled with butternut squash, topped with an orange sauce. A baked apple topped off the exquisite fall meal.

Seven "scripted" toasts were offered throughout the evening to: mothers; women in the military; the Governor of Connecticut; the ladies of the officers; the Worshipful Master's wife; the Grand Lodge officers' wives; and to our special ladies. Junior Warden Scott Reid and Senior Warden Jim Wilson performed flawlessly in ensuring "the oil meets the line" before each offering. Kate Dias offered a toast to the men of the lodge and Shirley Zeidler offered the last toast of the evening to Madhu Renduchintala for his excellence in coordinating the event.

Distinguished guests in attendance included: our own RW Donald W. Dean, Grand Senior Steward; Rev. Dr. and RW Robert O. Decker,



The ladies of Friendship Tuscan Lodge gather for a "No Men Allowed" photo after the Ladies at Table program.

Grand Chaplain; RW F. Matthew Heinrich Jr., DD-6B; WB William G. Bryce, AGM-6B; and RW Richard L Beebe, PDD-6C.

To quote Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons: "Oh, What a Night!"

Family Traditions Continue in Manchester

by Steve Aldi and Jim Wilson

At the October 2 Master Mason degree at Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester, Bros. Scott Pierce, Timothy Hemhauser, and James Carrol were raised. On hand to assist in the raising of Bro. Pierce was his uncle, Bro. Fred Svenson from Cornerstone Lodge, Duxbury Massachusetts, and a friend of the family, WB Gordon Andrews, Puritan Lodge, East Bridgewater, Massachusetts. Bro. Scott is a fourth generation Mason, his father Gordon a member of Friendship Tuscan No. 145 before his passing earlier this year.

On November 6, Bro. Matthew T. Stough was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason with the assistance of his grandfather, William Keehner. Bro. Bill is a 50 year member of Unity Lodge No. 148, New Britain, and was present for each of Matt's degrees.



From left, VW David Slack, RW F. Matthew Heinrich Jr., WM Joe Dias, Bros. Matthew T. Stough and William Keehner.



From left, WB Gordon Andrews, Bro. Fred Svenson, Bro. Scott Pierce, WB Stephen Spencer, Bro. James Carrol, Bro. Timothy Hemhauser, and WM Joe Dias.



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DISTRICT No. 6

(a) RW Melvin E. Johnson, DD • WB Aaron R. Sussman, AGM
(b) RW F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., DD • WB William G. Bryce, AGM

We 3 – Representing 5,000

On October 8, 1908 over 5,000 Masons paraded to the ceremony placing the final stone of the Hartford Bridge in ancient Masonic custom. Registration showed representatives from 102 lodges present from across the state, and the two mile parade was escorted by 950 uniformed Knights Templar from 9 Commanderies.

One hundred years later, on October 19,



In the background the Bulkeley Bridge awaits the rededication plaque unveiled by Bro. Morgan Bulkeley's descendants on October 19.

at a considerably smaller rededication of the renamed Bulkeley Bridge, RW Grand Historian Gary Littlefield, RW District Deputy Larry Hangland, and RW Grand Junior Deacon Simon LaPlace presented a display of the original working tools and other mementoes used in the ceremony a century earlier.

The organizers of the rededication, Riverfront Recapture, were impressed by the explanations that, no, Connecticut Freemasons did not “build the bridge,” but instead consecrated it with the traditional corn, wine, and oil. They were especially interested in “the trowel,” which had evidently become a subject of much discussion among them.

Large wall posters explained the bridge's unfortunate predecessors, the expansion in 1959 to accommodate increased traffic, and the Bulkeley Bridge's inclusion in the interstate highway system. Prominent among the enlarged photos was then Grand Master Edward E. Fuller, in formal Masonic regalia, observing the shirt-sleeved workmen preparing the final



Grand Historian Gary Littlefield, left, and RW District Deputy Larry Hangland stand behind the display case containing original implements from 1908.

resting place for the giant stone.

Among the other objects displayed from the 1908 event were an original program, unique from what the organizers had previously seen; an original issue of the newspaper recounting the day; several pins worn by participants; and a wide-angle photograph depicting the large crowd and the stone being deposited beneath the roadway.

Despite not having 5,000 Masons present, the forefathers of what has been called “Connecticut Freemasonry's finest hour” might have been pleased to know their labors were not forgotten.

DISTRICT No. 8

(a) RW William L. Milton, DD • WB David M. Costner, AGM
(b) RW John F. Plante, DD • WB Mickey C. Reavis, AGM

Brainard Lodge Pays Tribute to Masonic Veterans

by Roger Daboll

Brainard Lodge No. 102, Niantic, paid tribute to veterans on Veterans Day, November 11 with a gathering of Masonic veterans, family members, and Masons. Members of the Grand Lodge in attendance were Most Worshipful Grand Master Robert Stika, Rev. Dr. and RW Bro. Robert O. Decker, Grand Chaplain, and RW Charles C. Maxson, Grand Treasurer.

Following a dinner, the presentation of the colors was offered by the Heroes of 76, American Sojourners Camp 58, by Brothers Ed Childs, Bill Breed, Jeff Stober, and Will Nelson. Lt. Cdr. Lewis Tew, US Navy (ret.) and member of Union Lodge

No. 31, Niantic, presented his reflections on the Normandy invasion. He commented on his voyages between the United States, England, and France ferrying supplies, troops, materials, and ammunition, as well as his participation in the war effort in the Pacific.

The ceremony, “A Salute to the Fallen,” was given by Bro. Salvatore F. Tarantino, commanding Sheldon's Horse, the Second Continental Light Dragoons, assisted by Brothers Mark Sheldon and Ralph Whitney. He requested the names of any veterans that had passed “so that they may be here in spirit,” and offered a toast to all veterans who have fallen.

RW Frank Rebman gave a talk

“In remembrance of the fallen” and explained the origin of the red poppy, which was the result of a poem by Lt. Col. John McCrae, MD, of the Canadian Army, called “In Flanders Fields.” The red poppy became recognized as the Memorial Day flower in 1915. Brother Frank also read a letter from Skip Hanzel, son of Joe Hanzel, who was a submariner during the war, about his visit to the annual Submarine Veterans of World War II Convention. Two hundred had attended out of less than three thousand who remain.

To conclude the tribute, Bro. Ray Hasse, Jr. was escorted to the head of the group and MW Robert Stika presented Bro. Ray with his 50 year pin and certificate.

Congratulations to veterans Masonic and non-Masonic who sacrificed so much so that we may continue to enjoy what we have.



The toast offered by Bro. Salvatore F. Tarantino, assisted by Bros. Mark Sheldon and Ralph Whitney, as a “Salute to the Fallen” by Sheldon's Horse, Second Continental Light Dragoons.



Ghouls Escape Putnam Lodge

by Michael B. Dodge

The ghouls, ghosts, and goblins returned to the crypt on October 25 when Putnam Lodge No. 46, South Woodstock, held its eleventh annual Halloween table lodge.

Four grand jurisdictions were represented by past and present Grand Lodge officers and the 50 or more brothers present represented

no less than 10 lodges in at least five grand jurisdictions. Banquet Master WB Dean E. Bunnell and his kitchen crew again prepared a repast, this year being a "northern Italian beefsteak dinner." This annual event is always held on the Saturday BEFORE Halloween, and costumes are always encouraged, but never required.

Don't let the scary look fool you; MW Bill Greene is somewhere behind this mask.

Fun at Moosup's Fall Festival

by Michael B. Dodge

On Saturday, October 25, 20 brothers from Moosup Lodge No. 113, Moosup, joined with the Moosup Little League to present the second annual Moosup Fall Festival at the Moosup Little League Complex. The event was the idea of Junior Warden Jeffrey Joslyn. While attending Franklin-Pierce College in New Hampshire, Bro. Jeff attended the famous Pumpkin Festival in nearby Keene, New Hampshire. When Moosup Lodge found itself looking for ideas to increase their exposure in the community, as well as raise some funds, Jeff brought up the idea of a Fall Festival. With several prominent Little League administrators members of the lodge, including president (and Jeff's father) Jack Joslyn, the two organizations quickly came to an agreement to co-host the event and split the proceeds.

This year the Fall Festival featured a climbing wall provided by the US Army National Guard, fire equipment from the Moosup Fire Department, and the Connecticut State Police

SWAT assault vehicle. Lodge brothers and volunteers from the Little League sold fresh cut French fries (with chili and cheese), hamburgers, hotdogs, fried dough (donated by Bro. Steve Weidel, raised only a year ago), sausage with onions and peppers, mozzarella sticks, apple crisp, and pumpkin ice cream.

There were many events for both children and adults. For the kids, events included "Pumpkin Chuckin'", a petting zoo, pony rides, pumpkin carving, sack races, "witch races" (racing while straddling a broomstick, of course), and "musical pumpkins" (think musical chairs, but with pumpkins instead of chairs). For adults, there was a horseshoe tournament, a closest to the pin golf challenge, and their own "Pumpkin Chuckin'" event. A local photographer was present to sell family photos set against a fall background, and hayrides were offered.



The hayride was a big attraction for the kids attending Moosup's Fall Festival.

The festival closed with a large campfire at second base, where RW Robert M. Raymond regaled all with his "spook stories." After only its second year, this event has garnered quite the following in the Moosup/Plainfield area, and the two organizations plan to continue their partnership and sponsor the event for many years to come.

The Fumigation is On at Putnam's Annual Meeting!

by Michael B. Dodge

The annual meeting (fumigation) of Putnam Lodge No. 46, South Woodstock, will be held on Saturday, December 6. It is well known throughout New England, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York, most of which are represented by Grand Lodge officers.

The lodge opens at 10:00 a.m. and the first business is receiving all that "purple." Just before noon, all retire to the

dining room for oyster stew (prepared according to a 140+ year old recipe with assistance by the ladies of Betty Putnam Chapter No. 106, OES). Apple pie follows, with real Vermont cheddar cheese (delivered by the representative from the Grand Lodge of Vermont).

Around 1:00 p.m., the brothers return to the lodge room for the election of officers and most notably the annual fumigation! What is a "fumigation"? The

fumigation is an event that goes back to 1801. The Stewards pass out the "ammunition" ("cigars" to the outside world) along with ashtrays, matches, and ballots.

On a signal from the Worshipful Master, all brothers light their cigars at the same time, and continue to smoke them during the election. Tradition dictates that the election cannot end until the East cannot see the West for all the smoke, and with 80-100 brothers all smoking

cigars, the smoky haze can be seen slowly descending on the room.

Any brother who wishes to attend this famous event is encouraged to arrive early (9:00 a.m. is recommended) as parking gets tight. There is no fee for this event, although donations are appreciated. A basket is passed at lunch; the proceeds go to The Masonic Charity Foundation Holiday Appeal, and no reservations are required.

Moosup Scholarship Banquet Set

by Michael B. Dodge

On Saturday, January 17, 2009 Moosup Lodge No. 113, Moosup, will host its annual Scholarship Banquet. Now in its 26th year, this event was started to fund a pair of scholarships that were the suggestion of Lady Shirley Martel, wife of then-Worshipful Master Gregory Martel. Lady Shirley suggested the lodge present scholarships to local students as a way of promoting the lodge in the community. By vote of the lodge, the brothers demonstrated they agreed with her, but where would the money

come from? There were no extra funds in the lodge budget to pay for the proposed scholarships, so the lodge decided that they would sponsor a banquet and an auction to raise the necessary funds.

Today the lodge gives two \$300.00 "educational awards" every year. The requirements specify that the recipient must be in some way related to a member of Moosup Lodge, and all applicants are afforded a personal interview. A committee of the lodge conducts the interviews, and the applicants are assessed

on seven criteria, including their grades, their educational goals, and their attitude. Winners are chosen based on their interview.

The banquet is held every January, and the proceeds sponsor the following year's educational awards. Following the roast beef dinner, the lodge hosts an auction where goods and services donated by lodge members and local merchants are sold to add to the evening's proceeds. In the past the lodge has been able to auction such goods as granite bird baths, mattresses, and even a generator – all of which were

donated by local businesses, most with connections to the lodge.

The traditional "jurisdiction" of Moosup Lodge was composed of the towns of Plainfield, Sterling, and Canterbury. Only Plainfield has its own high school, which means that some past recipients have spent their high school years at one of the local regional high schools – the Harvard H. Ellis Regional Vocational Technical School, Norwich Free Academy, Windham High School, Marianapolis Preparatory School, and Woodstock Academy – as well as Plainfield High School.

Grand Master Stika Makes Mason at Sight

by Michael B. Dodge

The weather on Saturday, November 15 might have been bleak and rainy, but for Robert Walder Randall, it was a day of light – Masonic 'light,' that is! The story of Bro. Randall's admission to Freemasonry is a tale of firsts, and is also a story so complicated that it almost never happened. Bro. Randall lives at the Masonic Overlook Center in Charlton, Massachusetts, and cannot leave the facility – he is 93 years old and suffers from macular degeneration, is slightly hard of hearing, and spends much of his time in a wheelchair.

Robert W. Randall grew up in northeastern Connecticut, spending almost his entire life in Woodstock. When he and his wife Natalie began looking for accommodations where they would spend retirement, Bob's good friend, RW Frank W. McNally of Corner Stone-Quinebaug Lodge No. 122, Thompson, suggested the Masonic Overlook Center, Massachusetts' Masonic home and hospital. RW Frank took Bob and Natalie to see WB David C. Philippi, who was an administrator at Overlook. WB Dave helped Bob and Natalie be admitted, but Bob insisted on maintaining their home in Woodstock and keeping his legal residence in Connecticut.

Earlier this year, on a visit from RW Frank, Bob asked why Frank had never asked him to join Freemasonry. Frank left Bob with a promise to see what he could do. The obstacles were considerable. Bob

was insistent on joining Putnam Lodge No. 46, South Woodstock, instead of a lodge in Massachusetts. He could not, however, leave the facility to travel to Connecticut. Due to his health he would not be able to take all three degrees in full form.

Informed of the situation, MW Robert J. Stika suggested making Bro. Randall a Mason-at-Sight. Putnam Lodge enthusiastically agreed, and was willing to perform the obligations and invest the 93 year old candidate with the necessary signs to insure his proper initiation, passing, and raising. Since the candidate was in Massachusetts, MW Roger W. Pageau, Grand Master of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, graciously granted permission.

Nine brothers from Putnam Lodge accompanied MW Stika and RW McNally to the Masonic Overlook Center, where they were joined by RW Wayne E. Anderson, District Deputy Grand Master of the 24th Masonic District of Massachusetts, in which the Overlook Center is situated, and other Massachusetts brothers, and obligated Bro. Randall as an Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason in due form.

Putnam Lodge chaplain RW Kenneth W. Marvin made it clear what he thought of the event: "This is a first!" He was correct!

This was the first time MW Stika had made a Mason-at-Sight; the first time Putnam Lodge ever had a brother made a Mason-at-Sight; and perhaps the first time a Connecticut Grand Master has traveled to Massachusetts to make a Mason-at-Sight!

As a final twist, RW Anderson welcomed Bro. Bob as a MASSACHUSETTS Mason, as all residents of the Masonic Overlook Center who are Master Masons are automatically honorary members of Rose of Sharon Lodge, the lodge which meets on the Overlook campus. Not only did Bro. Randall become a Master Mason in the short span of 45 minutes, he also became a dual member in two jurisdictions!



The brothers of Putnam Lodge No. 46 gather around their new brother, Robert Randall, and his wife, Natalie, at the Massachusetts Masonic Overlook Center.

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.
Please note also change of email address for the Grand Secretary/Recorder.

DECEMBER 2008

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

2	ME		F	Trinity Chapter No. 9, North Windham	
3	ME		F	Halleck Chapter No. 44, Madison, 6:30 p.m. dinner	
3		MP	F	Lee Council No. 25, Collinsville	
4	ME		F	Trinity Chapter No. 9, North Windham, 6:00 p.m. dinner, reception of MEGHP and 200 th anniversary celebration, program: "Heroes of Jericho" and "History of Trinity Chapter"	
4			F	Eureka Chapter No. 23, Danbury. Mark Master Mason degree	
7		MP	F	Palestine Commandery No. 6 and St. John's Commandery No. 11, Christmas observance, 1:00 p.m.	
9		MP	F	Hamilton Council No. 22, Meriden	
9			S	Wolcott Council No.1, East Hartford, semi-public, Mozart's Masonic Music	
10			F	Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, East Hartford, Past Master and Most Excellent Master degree	
10			F	Suffield Council No. 23, Suffield, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Select Master degree,	
11	ME		F	Adoniram Chapter No. 18 and Adoniram Council No. 14, Ellington	
11			F	Rittenhouse Chapter No. 11, Darien, Past Master Mason degree	
12	ME		U	Palestine Commandery No. 6, Stonington	
13	ME	MP	U	Stamford-Clinton Commandery No. 3 and Crusader Commandery No. 10, Christmas observance, 3:00 p.m. Darien	
14	ME		U	Palestine Commandery No. 6 and St. John's Commandery No. 11, Christmas observance, 2:00 p.m., North Windham	
14		MP	U	Hamilton Commandery No. 5, Stratford. Christmas observance, 3:00 p.m., reservations to J. Demko	
14			RE	U	Cyrene Commandery No. 8 and St. Elmo Commandery No. 9, Christmas observance, 3:00 p.m., Meriden
15	ME		RE	S	Milford Chapter No. 49, Milford, 6:00 p.m. Christmas dinner and carol sing
16		MP	RE	U	East Hartford York Rite, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Christmas program, reservations to W. Mackey
19	ME	MP	RE	U	New Haven Commandery No. 2, New Haven, Christmas observance, 8:00 p.m.
25	ME	MP	RE		MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!
28		MP	RE	U	Grand Commandery Knights Templar, St. John's Day observance, St. John the Evangelist Church, 360 Church Street, Yalesville, 12:00 noon

NOTE: When a dinner precedes the meeting, reservations are usually required.

COMING UP!

January 1	Happy New Year!!!			
January 6	Keystone Chapter No. 27, Mark Master Mason degree			
January 13	Wolcott Council No. 1, SM and SEM degrees			
January 13	Hamilton Council No. 22, SM and SEM degrees			
January 20	Washington Commandery 1, Order of the Temple			
January 20	St. Elmo Commandery 9, 6:15 p.m. dinner, Red Cross & Malta			
February 10	Wolcott Council No. 1, 6:30 p.m. Valentine dinner			
February 11	Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, Royal Arch Mason degree			
February 17	Washington Commandery 1, 6:30 p.m. dinner, installation of officers			
February 26	Palestine Commandery 6, annual meeting and installation of officers			

CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FUND

Donations for the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (Atherosclerosis Research) should be made payable to CMMRF and sent to Richard E. Larcom, PMPGM, 51 Worth Ave # 2C, Hamden, CT 06518-3409.

ROYAL ARCH RITUALS AVAILABLE

The Grand Chapter adopted a revised ritual in 2002, published in plain English in an 8.5 x 11 loose leaf format. This was because the small red code books were out of print. There is a supply available from the Grand Secretary, costing \$10.

Craft at Refreshment...

Monday, December 1, Wyllys-St. John's No. 4, West Hartford, annual meeting

Monday, December 1, Compass No. 9, Wallingford, annual meeting

Monday, December 1, Jerusalem No. 49, Ridgefield, Annual meeting

Monday, December 1, Hartford Evergreen No. 88, South Windsor, annual meeting

Monday, December 1, Oxoboxo No. 116, Montville, annual meeting

Tuesday, December 2, America-St. John's No. 8, Stratford, annual meeting

Tuesday, December 2, St. Peter's No. 21, New Milford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting

Tuesday, December 2, Coastal No. 57, Stonington, 6:00 p.m. dinner, annual meeting

Tuesday, December 2, Adelphi-Momauguin No. 63, North Haven, annual meeting

Tuesday, December 2, Harmony No. 67, New Canaan, annual meeting

Tuesday, December 2, Shepherd - Salem No. 78, Naugatuck, annual meeting

Tuesday, December 2, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, school of instruction, Cheshire

Tuesday, December 2, Moosup No. 113, Moosup, annual meeting

Wednesday, December 3, Union No. 5, Stamford, annual meeting

Wednesday, December 3, St. Paul's No. 11, Litchfield, annual meeting

Wednesday, December 3, Columbia No. 25, South Glastonbury, annual meeting

Wednesday, December 3, Friendship No. 33, Southington, annual meeting, clam chowder after elections

Wednesday, December 3, Estuary No. 43, Old Saybrook, annual meeting

Wednesday, December 3, St. Andrew's No. 64, Winsted, annual meeting

Wednesday, December 3, Corinthian No. 103, North Haven, annual meeting

Wednesday, December 3, Cosmopolitan No. 125, New Haven, annual meeting

Thursday, December 4, Trumbull No. 22, New Haven, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting

Thursday, December 4, Union No. 31, Niantic, annual meeting

Thursday, December 4, Union No. 31, Niantic, 9:00 a.m., 8th District breakfast, Groton

Townhouse Restaurant

Thursday, December 4, Harmony No. 42, Waterbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting

Thursday, December 4, Warren No. 51, Portland, 7:00 p.m., annual meeting

Thursday, December 4, Wolcott No. 60, Stafford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting

Thursday, December 4, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting

Thursday, December 4, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, annual meeting

Friday, December 5, Wooster No. 10, Colchester, annual meeting

Friday, December 5, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 6:00 p.m., trim the lodge and pizza party

Saturday, December 6, Compass No. 9, Wallingford, 2:00 p.m., installation of officers

Saturday, December 6, Moriah No. 15, Brooklyn, 8:00 a.m., breakfast

Saturday, December 6, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 9:00 a.m., open house and holiday fair

Saturday, December 6, Putnam No. 46, South Woodstock, 10:00 a.m., lunch, annual meeting, fumigation

Saturday, December 6, Coastal No. 57, Stonington, 4:00 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

We welcome our new brothers to the fraternity.

David P. Mencarini II	Friendship Tuscan 145
Eugene W. Cayer	Hiram 18
Anthony J. Raiani.....	Hiram 18
Arved Soomaa	Hiram 18
William A. Hamzy	Housatonic 61
Donald P. Blanchette	Putnam 46
Robert S. Eubanks	Putnam 46
Jeffrey L. LaCroix.....	Putnam 46
Billy T. Lantigua.....	Putnam 46
Gregg G. Cogswell	Seneca 55
Mark S. Crapo.....	Seneca 55
Robert M. Peterson.....	Seneca 55
Jeffrey L. Pleasant.....	Seneca 55
Christopher A. Hurd.....	Union 31
Steven M. Sheridan Jr.....	Union 31
Adam W. Ellyson	Union 5
Antonio J. Forte.....	Union 5
Felix Lugo.....	Union 5
Andrew Swall	Union 5

CONGRATULATIONS

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

Carl L. Brown.....Coastal 57

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

Robert C. Noble.....	Columbia 25
William H. Folland.....	Manchester 73
Roger E. Carlock.....	Manchester 73
John R. Sullivan.....	St. Andrew's 64
M. Wallace Rubin	Ansantawae 89
Clark D. Buell.....	Meridian 77

Robert A. Frank	Meridian 77
Dale L. Smith	Somerset-St. James 34
Matthew T. Jenetopulos	Trumbull 22
Charles Silkoff.....	Cosmopolitan 125
Charles B. Fowler Jr	Washington 70

Craft at Labor...

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREES

Monday, December 22, Washington No. 70, Windsor, B. Gresham in the East

FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES

Monday, December 22, Jephtha No. 95, Clinton, tentative

MASTER MASON DEGREES

Wednesday, December 3, Hiram No. 18, Sandy Hook, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Friday, December 5, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford, 7:45 p.m., advancement night

Saturday, December 6, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 6, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 9, Shepherd-Salem No. 78, Naugatuck, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Tuesday, December 23, Brainard No. 102, Niantic, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Craft at Refreshment (continued)...

Saturday, December 6, Adelphi-Momauguin No. 63, North Haven, 5:00 p.m. dinner with Santa

Saturday, December 6, Bay View No. 120, Niantic, annual meeting

Saturday, December 6, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, UConn/Pittsburgh football

Saturday, December 6, Universal Fraternity No. 149, Stratford, annual meeting

Sunday, December 7, St. Peter's No. 21, New Milford, 2:00 p.m., installation of officers

Sunday, December 7, St. Andrew's No. 64, Winsted, 12:00 noon dinner, Temple Association Roast Beef dinner

Monday, December 8, Washington No. 19, Monroe, annual meeting

Monday, December 8, Washington No. 70, Windsor, annual meeting, gift exchange

Monday, December 8, Jephtha No. 95, Clinton, annual meeting

Monday, December 8, Evening Star No. 101, Unionville, annual meeting

Monday, December 8, Anchor No. 112, East Hampton, annual meeting

Monday, December 8, Annawon No. 115, Milford, annual meeting

Monday, December 8, Silas Deane No. 147, Newington, annual meeting

Tuesday, December 9, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 5:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting

Tuesday, December 9, Village No. 29, Collinsville, annual meeting

Tuesday, December 9, Union No. 31, Niantic, 7:00 p.m. dinner, Union Lodge Past Master's dinner

Tuesday, December 9, Fayette No. 69, Ellington, annual meeting

Tuesday, December 9, Manchester No. 73, Manchester, annual meeting

Tuesday, December 9, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, school of instruction

Tuesday, December 9, Madison No. 87, Madison, annual meeting

Tuesday, December 9, Brainard No. 102, Niantic, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting

Wednesday, December 10, Moriah No. 15, Brooklyn, annual meeting

Wednesday, December 10, Ark No. 39, Danbury, 8:00 p.m. dinner, annual meeting

Wednesday, December 10, Eastern Star No. 44, North Windham, annual meeting

Wednesday, December 10, Ivanhoe No. 107, Darien, annual meeting

Wednesday, December 10, Granite No. 119, Haddam, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting

Thursday, December 11, Hiram No. 1, New Haven, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting

Thursday, December 11, St. Luke's No. 48, Kent, annual meeting

Thursday, December 11, Temple No. 65, Westport, 8:00 p.m. dinner, annual meeting

Thursday, December 11, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, annual meeting

Thursday, December 11, Ionic No. 110, North Windham, 7:00 p.m., installation of officers

Friday, December 12, Corner Stone-Quinebaug No. 122, Thompson, annual meeting

Saturday, December 13, Union No. 5, Stamford, 1:00 p.m. lunch, holiday party

Saturday, December 13, America-St. John's No. 8, Stratford, 5:00 p.m., installation of officers

Saturday, December 13, America-St. John's No. 8, Stratford, 9:00 a.m. breakfast, children's Christmas party

Saturday, December 13, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 3:00 p.m., installation of officers

Saturday, December 13, Uriel No. 24, Merrow, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting

Saturday, December 13, Brainard No. 102, Niantic, 12:00 noon, annual Christmas party

Saturday, December 13, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 1:00 p.m., installation of officers, family holiday gathering

Saturday, December 13, Ashlar-Aspetuck No. 142, Easton, 12:00 noon, Santa's breakfast

Saturday, December 13, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, 2:00 p.m., installation of officers

Saturday, December 13, Silas Deane No. 147, Newington, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Christmas Party, Dakota's

Sunday, December 14, Hiram No. 18, Sandy Hook, 1:00 p.m., installation of officers

Sunday, December 14, Temple No. 65, Westport, 11:00 a.m. dinner, Christmas Party

Monday, December 15, Compass No. 9, Wallingford, Christmas party

Monday, December 15, Hartford Evergreen No. 88, South Windsor, Christmas party

Tuesday, December 16, America-St. John's No. 8, Stratford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Christmas party

Tuesday, December 16, St. Peter's No. 21, New Milford, 6:00 p.m. dinner, annual Christmas potluck dinner party

Tuesday, December 16, Adelphi-Momauguin No. 63, North Haven, program: "Introduction to the Scottish Rite"

Tuesday, December 16, Harmony No. 67, New Canaan, 6:30 p.m. dinner, holiday party

Tuesday, December 16, Jephtha No. 95, Clinton, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Past Masters degree

Wednesday, December 17, Union No. 5, Stamford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, table lodge

Wednesday, December 17, St. Paul's No. 11, Litchfield, 7:30 p.m., installation of officers

Wednesday, December 17, Moriah No. 15, Brooklyn, 6:00 p.m., Christmas party with OES and Amaranth

Wednesday, December 17, Hiram No. 18, Sandy Hook, annual meeting

Wednesday, December 17, Friendship No. 33, Southington, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting

Wednesday, December 17, Somerset - St. James No. 34, Preston, annual meeting

Wednesday, December 17, Putnam No. 46, South Woodstock, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 9th District Past Masters degree

Wednesday, December 17, St. Andrew's No. 64, Winsted, installation of officers

Wednesday, December 17, Corinthian No. 103, North Haven, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Christmas potluck dinner

Thursday, December 18, Trumbull No. 22, New Haven, holiday party, observe the feast of St. John the Evangelist.

Thursday, December 18, Union No. 31, Niantic, installation of officers

Thursday, December 18, Warren No. 51, Portland, step-up night

Thursday, December 18, Temple No. 65, Westport, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Past Masters degree

Friday, December 19, Wooster No. 10, Colchester, 7:00 p.m. dinner, annual Christmas Party, travel to Jerry Cross' home, Yankee gift swap, pot luck

MASONIC FAMILY BOOSTERS

Acacia No. 85	Greenwich
Adelphi-Momauguin No. 63.....	North Haven
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Brainard No. 102.....	Niantic
Center No. 97.....	Meriden
Columbia No. 25.....	South Glastonbury
Compass No. 9	Wallingford
Composite No. 28.....	Suffield
Corinthian No. 103.....	North Haven
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Friendship Tuscan No. 145.....	Manchester
Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons.....	
Grand Commandery Knights Templar.....	
Granite No. 119.....	Haddam
Harmony No. 42.....	Waterbury
Harmony No. 67.....	New Canaan
Hartford Evergreen No. 88.....	South Windsor
Hejaz Grotto.....	New Haven
Hiram No. 1.....	New Haven
Hiram No. 18.....	Sandy Hook
Ionic Chapter No. 100, OES	Suffield
Ionic No. 110.....	North Windham
Ivanhoe No. 107.....	Darien
Jerusalem No. 49.....	Ridgefield
King Hiram No. 12.....	Shelton
King Solomon's No. 7.....	Woodbury
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Masonic Club of New London.....	
Meridian No. 77.....	Meriden
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Sequin-Level No. 140.....	Newington
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Silas Deane No. 147	Newington
Somerset-St. James No. 34.....	Preston
Stellar Chapter No. 55, OES.....	Danbury
St. Albans No. 38	Branford
St. Paul's No. 11.....	Litchfield
St. Peters No. 21.....	New Milford
Temple No. 16.....	Cheshire
Temple No. 65.....	Westport
Trumbull No. 22.....	New Haven
Union Lodge No 5	Stamford
Union No. 40	Danbury
Uriel No. 24.....	Merrow
Valley of Hartford, AASR.....	
Valley of New Haven, AASR.....	
Village No. 29	Collinsville
Warren No. 51.....	Portland
Washington No. 19.....	Monroe
Washington No. 70.....	Windsor
Washington No. 81.....	Cromwell
Widows Son No 66.....	Branford
Wooster No. 10.....	Colchester
Wooster No. 79.....	New Haven
Wyllys-St. John No. 4.....	West Hartford

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Grand Master Honored, Net Growth Achieved

by Carl G. Ek

Connecticut DeMolay annually honors the Grand Master of Masons with a class of candidates named for him. This year, William M. Wyman Chapter, Preston, hosted this event, honoring MW Brother Robert J. Stika. When the evening was over, the class of six and full chapter room had witnessed impressive ritual and pushed Connecticut DeMolay into net membership growth for the eighth consecutive year.

State Master Councilor Josh Tenner welcomed numerous DeMolay and Masonic dignitaries before offering the DeMolay Ceremony of Light as a prelude to the conferral of the DeMolay Degree. Josh tendered the gavel to his cousin, State Officer At-Large Nick Giori, to obligate the new brothers before Deputy State Master Councilor Greg Goto delivered the Flower Talk.

After the degree work, chapter Master Councilors present were

recognized and the members and advisors of Norwich Assembly No. 30, International Order of Rainbow for Girls were thanked for the excellent roast beef dinner that preceded the evening's work.

Executive Officer Dad Harry E. Needham, III, presented Dad Stika – a William M. Wyman advisor – a desk plaque honoring his long-serving work with DeMolay. In his remarks, the Grand Master praised DeMolay and welcomed the new brothers into an organization of great opportunities for them to make themselves better. He added, "I do everything I can do. I haven't done everything yet I want to do, but I will try to do everything to earn this award again."

The Grand Master closed by telling everyone that they all knew about something DeMolay, who was arrested on Friday, October 13, 1307 – the reason that 'Friday the 13th' is considered unlucky to this day!



The leadership of Connecticut DeMolay and the leadership of William M. Wyman Chapter, Preston, host of the 2008 DeMolay Grand Master's Class, pose with the guest of honor, Most Worshipful Grand Master Robert J. Stika (center). Back row left is DeMolay Executive Officer Harry E. Needham, III, while State Master Councilor Josh Tenner is at back row right. In the foreground are William M. Wyman chapter advisor Anne Stika-Clark and Master Councilor Alex Clark, daughter and grandson of the guest of honor.

GRAND MASTER'S APPEAL - 2008

Tax Free IRA Contributions are Extended

The historic \$700 million bailout plan passed in October extends the ability of donors to make tax-free contributions to charities from IRAs.

The law provides that, in each of the years 2008 and 2009, the owner of a traditional or Roth IRA may instruct the trustee to distribute up to \$100,000 directly to a public charity, without the distribution being included in taxable income. The distribution will count toward the IRA owner's mandatory withdrawal amount.

To qualify, the donor must direct the IRA manager to transfer funds directly to a charity. A withdrawal followed by a contribution will still have to be reported as income. The donor must be at least age 70 1/2, and the donee must be a tax-exempt organization to which deductible contributions can be made. Donor-advised funds and supporting organizations are not eligible.

The exclusion of the distribution to a charity from taxable income will also result in a savings of an additional five percent in the Connecticut Income Tax.

The gift must be outright. Rollovers to a planned gift, such as a gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust, do not qualify. Similarly, outright distributions to a charity from employer-sponsored retirement plans, such as Simple IRAs, 401(k)s, and 403(b)s, do not qualify.

Connecticut Freemasons Foundation Inc.
PO Box 69, Wallingford CT 06492

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

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