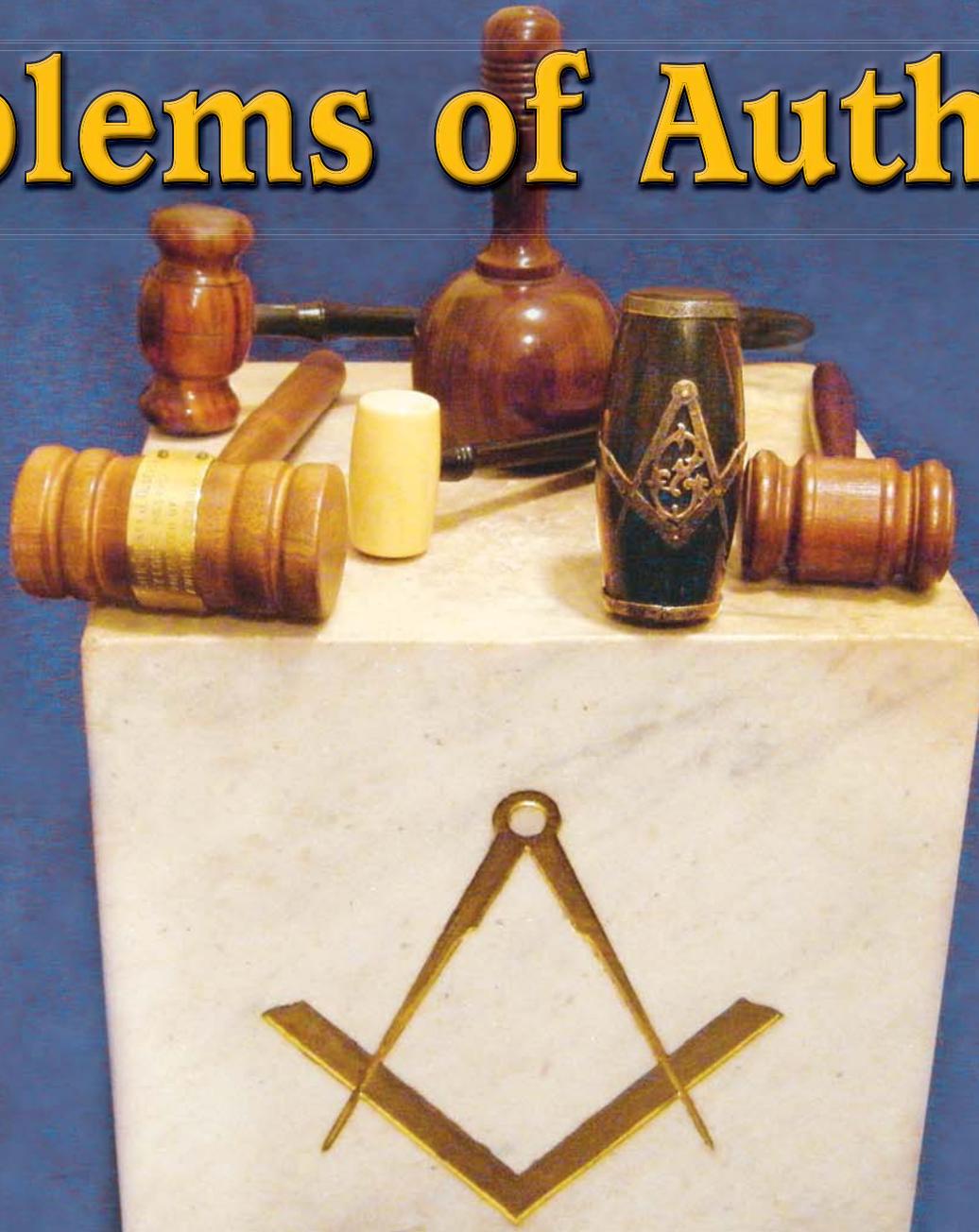




# Connecticut FREEMASONS

JANUARY 2010

## Emblems of Authority



Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM  
69 Masonic Avenue  
P.O. Box 250  
Wallingford, CT 06492



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**Pierpont Edwards  
Medal awarded to  
Fred W. Schmalz**



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**Honorary  
Membership for  
"Widow" Creator**



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**Special  
Night in  
Danbury**

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## Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM

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## GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLE BOARD

Arthur H. Carlstrom - January 2010

<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>EVENT/LOCATION</u>	<u>PUBLIC</u>	<u>DINNER</u>	<u>ATTIRE</u>
Friday, January 1	Happy New Year			
Monday, January 4, 7:30 p.m.	Federal Lodge No. 17, Watertown	N	Ref	S
Tuesday, January 5, 7:30 p.m.	Olivet Chapter No. 29, OES, Plainville	N	Ref	S
Wednesday, January 6, 4:00 p.m.	By-laws Committee Meeting, Wallingford	N	N	S
Wednesday, January 6, 7:30 p.m.	St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, Litchfield	N	Ref	S
Saturday, January 9, 1:00 p.m.	Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville Installation	Y	N	F
Monday, January 18, 7:30 p.m.	Federal Lodge No. 17, Watertown	N	Ref	S
Wednesday, January 20, 7:30 p.m.	St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, Litchfield	N	Ref	S
Thursday, January 21, 6:30 p.m.	Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester Table Lodge	N	Y	F
Saturday, January 23, 9:00 a.m.	District Deputy School of Instruction Ashlar Village, Wallingford	N	N	S
Saturday, January 23, 12:00 noon	Awards Committee, Wallingford	N	N	S
Wednesday, January 27, 5:30 p.m.	Grand Lodge officers meeting	N	Y	C
Friday, January 29, 7:30 p.m.	District 3 Blue Lodge Council King Hiram Lodge, Shelton	N	Ref	S

# "The Duties of a Master of a Lodge..."

by Simon R. LaPlace and Carl G. Ek

Every year, hundreds of Worshipful Masters and Wardens promise to submit to the fifteen "ancient charges and regulations of Free and Accepted Masons" before being installed. These charges "point out the duties of a Master of a Lodge," and are deemed so important that they are read to ensure accuracy.

What do these charges mean? Here is some food for thought.

**1. You agree to be a good man and true and strictly to obey the moral law.**

Every Mason should follow the guidance of his own Volume of Sacred Law, but more especially a Master of a lodge. A Worshipful Master is one who can be emulated and serve as a model for other's behavior.

**2. You agree to be a peaceable citizen and cheerfully conform to the laws of the Country in which you reside.**

**3. You promise not to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against government, but patiently to submit to the decision of the Supreme Legislature.**

**4. You agree to pay proper respect to civil magistrates, to work diligently, to live creditably and act honorably by all men.**

Charges 2, 3, and 4 all relate to the duties of Masters to be law-abiding citizens who respect – even when disagreeing with – specific laws or individuals in government. Masters must see that the divisive topics of politics and religion are not discussed in lodge.

(No, those who led the American Revolution did not violate these charges. They created a new country, a new government, and new laws to which they conformed. Those 56 men – at least 14 proven to be Masons – openly pledged their "lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor" to work diligently to preserve the new country they founded.)

**5. You agree to hold in veneration the original patrons and rulers of the Order of Masonry, and their regular successors, supreme and subordinate, according to their stations; and to submit to the awards and resolutions of your brethren, when convened, in every case consistent with the Constitutions of the Order.**

By the time one ascends to the Oriental Chair, he should have knowledge of the structure of the Masonry. A history of the craft should imbue him with a respect to continue and abide by this structure. As the Worshipful Master supports the traditions of Masonry, he allows the brethren to govern through him, as their best interests are to be his as well.

**6. You agree to avoid private piques and quarrels and to guard against intemperance and excess.**

The goal of all Masters is to see "who can best work, and best agree." Personal disagreements must be set aside so that all may labor for the common good.

A Master is obliged to see that brothers and guests take care to avoid excessive indulgence after closing or at a table lodge.

**7. You agree to be cautious in carriage and behavior, courteous to your brethren and faithful to your Lodge.**

As a Master wields great power, so too must he use restraint both in his demeanor and in his influence. A pound of honest praise can be undone by an ounce of undue criticism.

**8. You promise to respect genuine brethren, and to discountenance impostors and all dissenters from the original plan of Masonry.**

Once satisfied that an unknown man is a Mason, he should be treated with the same kindness and concern as a member. Those seeking financial gain, power over others, or personal honors – never Masons in their hearts – eventually disappear from the fraternity when they realize that few are hoodwinked by their inappropriate desires.

**9. You agree to promote the general good of society, to cultivate the social virtues, and to propagate the knowledge of the art.**

Masonry was never meant to be confined to the lodge room. Masters, by example, infuse ritualistic teachings into their lives, offering to the world the lessons taught in degree work through their behavior and conduct.

**10. You promise to pay homage to the Grand Master for the time being and to his Officers when duly installed; and strictly to conform to every edict of the Grand Lodge or general assembly of Masons that is not subversive of the principles and ground-work of Masonry.**

As the Grand Master is the head of the craft, respect for him is also deference to the fraternity he leads. A Worshipful Master symbolizes this by leading his lodge according to the regulations approved by the Grand Lodge as a whole, and the Grand Master when the Grand Lodge is not in session.

**11. You admit that it is not in the power of any man or body of men to make innovations in the body of Masonry without the consent of the Grand Lodge having been first obtained.**

The first Grand Lodge congregated in 1717, and now there are hundreds of Grand Lodges recognized as truly Masonic. Masters must realize that any deviation from current broadly accepted principles must be carefully scrutinized and formally approved by the Grand Lodge to avoid a loss of recognition.

**12. You promise a regular attendance on the committees and Communications of the Grand Lodge on receiving proper notice and to pay attention to all of the duties of Masonry on convenient occasions.**

A lodge is a constituent of the Grand Lodge when in session. In order for a lodge to be an indispensable component it must be represented. Thus its presence is mandatory, either personally or by proxy.

**13. You admit that no new Lodge shall be formed without permission of the Grand Lodge and that no countenance be given**

**to any irregular Lodge or to any person clandestinely initiated therein, being contrary to the ancient charges of the Order.**

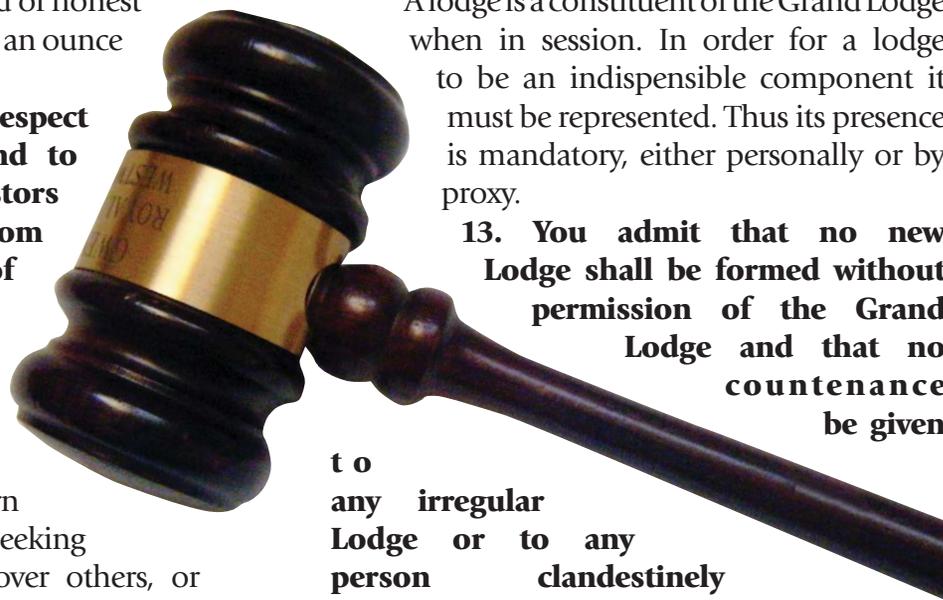
To benefit from Masonry's reputation, some men (and women!) improperly start groups, confer 'degrees,' and hold themselves out as Masons. Masters must take care not to interact with such unlawful groups.

**14. You admit that no person can regularly be made a Mason in or admitted a member of a regular Lodge without previous notice and due inquiry into his character.**

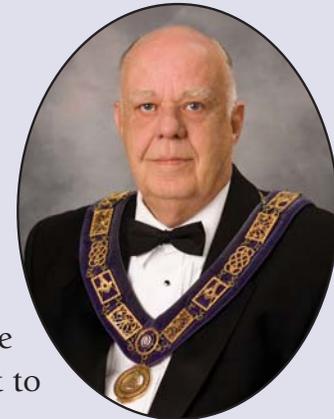
The harmony of Freemasonry cannot be contaminated by those who might provoke discord. A Master must appoint qualified gatekeepers to investigation. The Worshipful Master is ultimately responsible for the members elected during his term.

**15. You agree that no visitor shall be received into your Lodge without due examination and producing proper vouchers of his having been initiated in a regular Lodge.**

The Worshipful Master alone is responsible for what non-members may attend his lodge. He must be satisfied that each guest is true and lawful, with a similar responsibility to exclude those who would be disruptive or should not attend if sensitive lodge business is being conducted. Only certain Grand Lodge officers have the absolute authority to visit a lodge not their own.



# Grand Master's Message



The winter season is now officially with us and the Holiday Season and New Year have been celebrated with family and friends for another year. I hope that all had a pleasant and happy time and we all look forward at a prosperous New Year.

Many lodges have completed their installations and the newly elected and appointed officers are now starting to work on their planned programs. There are still others to be installed who also will be looking forward to starting a new Masonic year.

We now have to start thinking about setting our sights for the coming months. Time is passing by very quickly and before you know it the Annual Session will be upon us and much planning needs to be done.

During the month of December I had the opportunity to travel to visit the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and see a good friend installed as the new Grand Master. We enjoyed a personally guided tour of Mt. Vernon while there. Also, at an awards night at Temple Lodge No. 16, Cheshire, I was pleased to present WB James Nankin the Pierpont Edwards in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service. I joined New Haven Commandery No. 2 for its annual Christmas observance, which made one

think about what the celebration is all about. I attended the Milford carol sing and had a chance to sing with the three presiding heads of the York Rite bodies at this annual event. Those that were present now know we will never make it to the finals on American Idol.

This coming month I hope to continue to travel and meet and greet the brethren and maybe sneak in some unannounced fraternal visits as time and weather permit. You never know who might stop at your door step.

To the newly installed and yet to be installed officers, I want to congratulate you and hope you have an enjoyable term of office and continue the good work of this great fraternity.

Fraternally,



Arthur H. Carlstrom  
Most Worshipful Grand Master

## ROAST OF THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER RW CHARLES A. BUCK, JR.

**Saturday, March 13, 2010**

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1:00 p.m. Social Hour

2:00 p.m. Luncheon and Program Begins

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# Fred Schmalz Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal

by Michael L. Castroll

Worshipful Brother Frederick W. Schmalz was born July 27, 1935 in Rockville, Connecticut to Rose K. Hallcher and William A. Schmalz. His mechanical ability was inherited from his father and his grandfather, who each held many patents for work with the Colt Firearm Company. Fred spent time on his uncles' farms baling hay and milking cows. He graduated Rockville High School in 1953 and then went to Hillyer College (now the University of Hartford). Fred also joined the 43<sup>rd</sup> Division of the National Guard.

Religion has always played a major role in Fred's life. He met his wife, Mary Jane, at a church social, and it wasn't long before she became Fred's June bride in 1955. This union produced daughter, Cynthia Rose, wife of James Pastula, and the parents of Fred's grandson, Brian Pastula.

Fred's career with the Southern New England Telephone Company (SNET) spanned 38 years. Beginning as a cable splicer helper, he worked up the ladder to be a foreman and a supervisor. During 1988-1990, Fred was the statewide coordinator of emergency services for SNET. During this time he was presented with the NOVA award for his community service during natural disasters. He was also presented with numerous commendations for going above and beyond the call of duty. He retired from SNET in 1991 at the age of 56.

Fred started as a volunteer fire fighter in Rockville at the age of 16. He later served in Enfield for 35 years. During this time Fred was superintendent of alarms and the certified first aid instructor for both the fire department and the police department. His services assisted several neighboring towns and the local Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts.

Fred retired from active fire fighting in 1979, but later was the unanimous choice to serve the Enfield Fire Commission as secretary-treasurer, a position he held until 1994.

Fred has been on the board of trustees of the Methodist Church of Enfield. Fred and Martha enjoy singing in the church choir, as well as the community ecumenical choir. While singing during a Christmas Cantata, the



*The roast in Suffield was filled with humor and so were Fred's shoes, with Mickey Mouse socks.*

Advent wreath caught fire. Fred put his music down, carried the burning wreath outside, and snuffed its flames out in the snow. Returning to his place on stage, he finished his piece without missing a beat!

It was only natural that Fred would find Masonry in his heart, and first received Masonic light in November 1968. He was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Euclid Lodge No. 109 (now Composite Lodge No. 28), in May 1969. He later held dual membership in Morning Star Lodge No. 28. Fred is currently the secretary of Composite Lodge No. 28.

Fred's Masonic connections stretch in many directions. He joined the Scottish Rite and is active in the Valley of Hartford, where he sings in the choir and helps to set up the lighting and sound for Scottish Rite degrees. Fred is a Noble of the Sphinx Shriners, where he is involved with the Chanters and the False Alarmers, a unit made up of retired firemen. He was instrumental in getting an old school bus donated to the unit for use in parades. He helps to coordinate transportation of children on Angel Flights from all over the world.

Fred is a member of Ionic Chapter No. 100, Order of the Eastern Star, where he has served as Worthy Patron several times. A Grand Representative of North Dakota near Connecticut, he has made official visits to that jurisdiction. A Past Grand Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star in Connecticut, Fred was appointed to design the backdrop for the Grand East in Memphis, Tennessee.

Fred and Martha have also been a part of the National Camping Travelers (NCT) Masonic camping group since the mid-1970's, and have gained much pleasure from a multitude of friends, whose enjoyment is cherished.

What is also cherished is the time and energy that Brother Fred Schmalz has expended on behalf of his church, his community, his



*Grand Master Arthur H. Carlstrom congratulates WB Frederick W. Schmalz after presenting him the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze at the Composite Lodge No. 28 roast on October 25.*

family, and the whole craft of Connecticut Freemasonry. Thus, in order to raise funds to help with the temple building, Composite Lodge and Ionic Chapter planned a 'roast' for Fred, who was eager to participate. Fred's lightheartedness turned to suspicion when he saw MWGM Arthur H. Carlstrom walk into the banquet hall. MW Art had come to bestow upon Fred the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service. It was a fitting thing to do.

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## The Still, Small Voice

Back in the late '70's, I had the pleasure of attending a lecture given by the late theologian, Henri J.M. Nouwen, with a friend of mine at Yale Divinity School. Fr. Nouwen was a deeply spiritual man who shared his thoughts on contemplation and meditation with his audience.

I hadn't thought about his lecture for quite some time when my spiritual director at the seminary gave me an assignment to read one of Father Nouwen's books and write a report

for my quarterly letter to the Archbishop. It couldn't have been assigned at a better time. All of the inspiration I found in his lecture over 30 years ago was rekindled. He spoke of the need for each of us to take time to be alone and listen to the voice of God.

We are constantly surrounded by the din and cry of the world. The noise of modern life blots out everything else. We have our I-Pods and Bluetooths to keep out the noise of the world but they only exchange one noise for another. God speaks to us but how can we hear him amidst all the other voices?

In his book, *Making All Things New*, Father Nouwen writes:

"We have often become deaf, unable to know when God calls us and unable to understand in which direction God calls us. Thus our lives have become absurd. In Latin the word "absurd" *surdus*, which means deaf."

We need to make a time to turn off the rest of the world. We need to sit and listen in silence and solitude for the still, small voice the psalmist spoke of, "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." *Psalm 46:9-11*



Often when I sit in silence, I find that I am hearing the inner voices of my life. I think about work or family or obligations.

I let the emotions and dilemmas of the day intrude and overcome the healing refreshing voice of silence. These thoughts are certainly important and shouldn't be neglected, but during this special time they need to be set aside. I am getting better but I must constantly work to repress these issues so I can open my heart to God.

As we begin a new year and make our resolutions for 2010, let us make one of them a promise to ourselves and a promise to God. Let us take a few moments each day to silence the "inner and outer noises of our lives." Open ourselves, our hearts and minds to God's word as He speaks to us. And let us discipline ourselves to make it a part of our lives. Only by listening to Him, may we find that inner peace we so desperately need to let ourselves find that joy which God gives freely to us. And by expressing that joy through our lives, we can change the world.

God Bless!

Fred V. Miller, Jr.



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## Masonicare Festival of Trees



Here are a just a few of the nearly 60 trees that filled the lobby of the Masonicare Health Center from December 1-21. A silent auction of the trees netted more than \$5,400 to benefit The Masonic Charity Foundation's Holiday Appeal. All proceeds support a host of holiday events and activities for Masonicare's residents.

# George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association Centennial Celebration

On February 22, 1910, George Washington's 178th birthday, Masonic leaders from across the nation met in Alexandria, Virginia to form an association for the purpose of building a memorial to honor America's foremost Freemason. February 22, 2010, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, will be a day of great festivities.

In honor of the occasion, the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, hosted by the Grand Lodge of Virginia, will be held in nearby Arlington. Delegates will attend the Association's annual meeting and celebrate the 100th Anniversary and Washington's 278th birthday at the Memorial.

At the annual meeting, a new portrait of George Washington as a Freemason will be unveiled. Painted by local artist Christopher Erney, the portrait will be a new interpretation of Washington. Prints of the portrait will be available at the meeting. Complementing the portrait is a new video. It presents George Washington as the inspiration for the founding of America and explores the founding of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. Underwritten by the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma, it will be available on DVD and as a download from the Memorial's website for Masonic education.

The Memorial's new logo to commemorate the occasion was also designed by Christopher Erney. The logo combines the Washington family crest with numerous Masonic symbols. Its square and compasses is taken from the Memorial's 1923 cornerstone and affirms the Association's motto *In Memoriam Perpetuam* as it supports Freemasonry in a new century of service. (see sidebar)

Following the annual meeting, the International Order of DeMolay will rededicate the colossal bronze statue of George Washington in Memorial Hall and reaffirm the role of DeMolay young men in Freemasonry. The statue was a gift to the Memorial from DeMolay and 2010 marks the 60th anniversary of its unveiling by President,

Past Grand Master, and DeMolay Honorary Past Grand Master Harry S Truman.

On display during the celebration will be the trowel and gavel used at the 1793 cornerstone laying of the United States Capitol by George Washington and the 1752 Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 bible upon which a young Washington took upon himself his Masonic obligations.

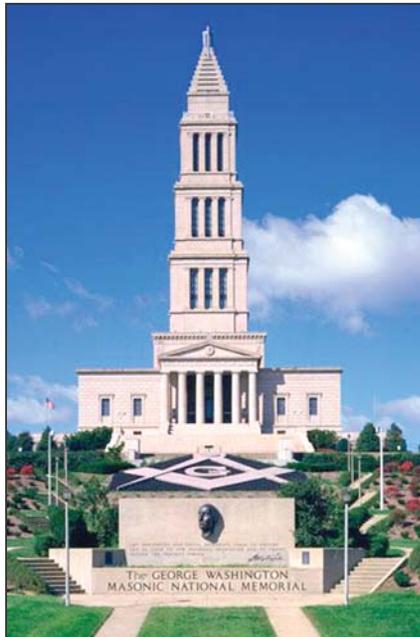
The new White House Stones Exhibit will be inaugurated at the celebration. Each stone in the exhibit is marked by one of the Scots Masons who helped build the White House in the 1790s. The stones were discovered during the restoration of the White House by President Harry S Truman in 1948. President Truman

had the stones labeled and one was sent to each United States Grand Lodge and other Masonic organizations. The exhibit reassembles nearly 50 stones. The exhibit also includes minute books from Lodge No. 8, Edinburgh, Scotland, recording the stonemasons' marks and noting those who have "gone to America." A matching minute book of Federal Lodge No. 1 will show those Scots masons forming the first lodge in 1793 on White House grounds.

A gala reception will be held in Grand Masonic Hall. A centennial celebration souvenir booklet containing a brief history of the Association will be distributed and several commemorative gift items will also be available and on display.

2010 is a unique celebration year for the Memorial Association. Together we celebrate 100 years of dedication to Freemasonry's greatest brother and honor the countless brothers who built and sustain the Memorial. Equally important, 2010 marks a pledge of rededicated service, trusting in God that the century ahead will be filled with success and achievement. The Association shines as a bright light of Masonry as it fulfills its mission: "To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country."

To learn more, please visit the Memorial's website: [www.gumemorial.org](http://www.gumemorial.org)



Since its inception, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association has used as its logo the Washington family crest with a Masonic square, compasses, and "G" emblem and the motto *In Memoriam Perpetuam*. For a new century of service, a new logo has been created. Keeping the same elements, it enhances the Association's Masonic identity. Virginia artist Christopher Erney began his design by enlarging the Washington family crest to make it the focus of the seal. Rather than a generic Masonic emblem, the new logo employs the emblem carved into the Memorial's 1923 cornerstone. The cornerstone was laid by then President Calvin Coolidge and every U.S. Grand Master using the same trowel as used by Washington for the U.S. Capitol.

The new design replaces the foliage that surrounded the crest with tools, emblems, and symbols of Freemasonry. On either side of the crest are pillars representing Jachin (strength) on the left and Boaz (to establish) on the right. The pillars are topped by terrestrial and celestial globes representing Freemasonry's universality and a Freemason's charity. Acacia vines of remembrance encircle the pillars. Complementing the globes is the sun in its glory above and the crescent moon below. Connecting the two lesser lights as the crest's border is a cable tow. At the right, pomegranates represent abundance; on the left a sheaf of wheat represents wealth. Within the wheat are five of the six working tools. The sixth, the square of the Master, is found resting upon Washington's crest. The new logo is now the Association's trestleboard to labor *In Memoriam Perpetuam*. The new logo will be used in Association publications and web pages and widely available on new items in the Memorial's gift shop.

One question that was posed to this Grand Historian was when was the word "temple" first used in Connecticut. The word "temple" appears to have been first used by Grand Secretary Eliphalet G. Storer in the reprint of the 1846 proceedings. It appears that prior usage contained the words "lodge room", "lodge hall", or "Masonic hall" as the place where Freemasons met. Storer also began using the term "Most Worshipful" in the title of the Grand Lodge, as the incorporated name was "The Grand Lodge of the State of Connecticut". In a few years the abbreviation "A.F. & A.M." was added because there were 'grand lodges' in the state for other fraternal organizations. The earliest documents show the title as "The Grand Lodge of the Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons." It seems that the title of Grand Master was always "Most Worshipful Grand Master".

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In the first part of the 20th century, Freemasons were active in politics around the state of Connecticut. Edward Norman Allen was an executive with the old Sage-Allen Department Store, located on Main Street in Hartford. He served as Lieutenant Governor from 1951 to 1955. He was a Hartford boy, born there in 1891. He graduated Hartford Public High School and attended Norwich University before graduating from Yale in 1914. He served our nation in World War I and joined the family business, where he became president in 1941. He marriage in 1935, his second, to Mildred Pomeranz, helped to increase the couple's interest in politics. He was mayor of Hartford in 1947. She became Secretary of State from 1955 to 1959. Brother Allen was a member of St. John's Lodge No. 4, the York and Scottish Rites of Hartford, and Sphinx Temple. Among his other civic responsibilities were president of the Hartford chapter of the American Red Cross, and trustee of the Wadsworth Athenaeum and Hartford Public Library. Allen's successor, Charles W. Jewett of Lyme, was the last Lieutenant Governor who was a member of the fraternity. The last Governor of Connecticut who was a Mason was Raymond Earl Baldwin of St. John's Lodge No. 8 of Stratford.



background, he was well known throughout Connecticut.

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In 1784 representatives met in New Haven in special convention to form a Grand Lodge and Pierpont Edwards was chosen as a provisional Grand Master.

This effort failed, but in the years preceding the eventual organization of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, Edwards was the presiding officer of the state convention, or association of lodges. The thirteen lodges now numbered 1 to 13 were participants in the meeting, and Union Lodge of Danbury (assigned No. 40) had belied its name and held aloof from the state organization.

The prime movers behind the state organization dispersed and continued to work within their local lodges and communities. Neither Jonathan Trumbull of Lebanon nor Matthew Griswold of Lyme, who were successively Governors during the post-revolutionary period, were Masons but were strict Congregationalists who had control over the clergy in the state. It took five years for the organizational effort to regroup and come to fruition. Again in 1789, the only holdout was the lodge in Danbury.

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Our Most Puissant Grand Master Randy Stevens has urged, on his visits to the constituent councils of Royal and Select Masters, that we, as Masons, take a look around our meeting rooms. Randy advocates finding out the history of the "old pictures" hanging on the walls, and the other unusual artifacts that decorate our buildings. He says that there is a story to tell about each one of them. How true that is! We need to document these stories, from brothers who might know the facts, before the information is lost forever. The answer is *not* "It has always been there." It was placed there by someone or for someone and that in singularly is a story. Let it be our resolution this year to find out the stories behind these items.

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Membership Chairman at (203) 410-9733

# Masonicare Employees Recognized by Alzheimer's Association

Two longtime employees with The Hearth, Masonicare at Ashlar Village's memory care assisted living program, were recognized recently by the Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Their awards were presented at the annual Excellence in Caregiving luncheon held by the Association.

Marta Selmi is a certified nursing assistant and resident care assistant. She has worked at Masonicare since 1993 and at The Hearth since its opening in May 2008. In her nomination, Marta was described as having "unlimited patience" and being "a mentor for her peers in her care and approach to our residents." Barbara Zielinski is also a certified nursing assistant and resident care assistant at The Hearth; she has been at Masonicare since 1990. Even among a staff known for its care, she is described as "one of the most compassionate, kind and patient individuals we are blessed to know" and as being "our own 'Alzheimer's Whisperer,' a gift she is sharing with all of us."

"We congratulate Marta and Barbara for their recognition and, more important, for the wonderful work they do for our residents each day," noted WB Jon-Paul Venoit, president of Masonicare at Ashlar Village. "With the increased demand for memory care in Assisted Living, we consider ourselves to be ahead of the game with such outstanding caregivers on staff."

For more information about assisted living at Masonicare, contact the toll-free Masonicare HelpLine at 888-679-9997.



Pictured with Samantha Demello, center, director of health and wellness at Masonicare at Ashlar Village, are honorees Marta Selmi, left, and Barbara Zielinski. Both were honored by the Alzheimer's Association, Connecticut Chapter as outstanding caregivers at its annual "Excellence in Caregiving" luncheon.

## The Masonic 'Secret Santa' and his Masonic gift

by Richard F. Denno

This year, RW Benjamin A. Isaacson, District Deputy of District 5A, and an employee of Friendship Tours/The Ship Shop, pulled the name of another employee and Freemason, WB Richard F. Denno, in the company's 'Secret Santa' tradition. Each employee draws the name of another employee and purchases a gift to be exchanged

at the company's holiday party in December. No one knows until the night of the party who their "Secret Santa" is.

WB Denno was not able to attend the party, but when he returned, he found a rather heavy wrapped package waiting for him. Upon opening the gift, he discovered a stone tablet with a Masonic poem etched on it. The poem was "By the Work You Did

Today," written by Brother Charles L. Mead.

"I was given a copy of the poem three years ago by a friend and Past Master of my lodge, Don Kirkwood," said Bro. Isaacson. "Knowing that Richard was a Freemason, I went online and found [www.MasonsCraft.com](http://www.MasonsCraft.com), where I purchased the tablet," he said.

Being curious about the author, Bro. Denno found Charles L. Mead on the internet. He discovered that the author was a member of Boynton Lodge No. 236, in Boynton Beach, Florida. Further research uncovered

that Brother Mead was the Master of the lodge in 1971 and a District Deputy in 1984. Going one step further, WB Denno found a telephone number for RW Mead and was in conversation with him within minutes.

Thinking that such a beautiful poem must be from a book of poems by Bro. Mead, he asked where he could find this book. "There is no book. That is the only poem I ever wrote," Bro. Mead replied, "I wrote it in a depressed moment in my life." RW Mead is now 80 years of age.

The beautiful poem is well worth sharing with the fraternity:

### "Holiday for Giving" Helps

This year's annual "Holiday for Giving" program at Masonicare Health Center brought in over \$750 worth of new toys and \$200 of non-perishable food to needy families in the town of Wallingford. All were generously donated by employees, residents, and friends.



From left, Beverly Bryda, director of social services and therapeutic recreation, volunteer Lorinda Weaver, and Karen Segal of the Town of Wallingford social services department and coordinator of "Holiday for Giving."

### BY THE WORK YOU DID TODAY

by Charles L. Mead, Boynton Lodge No. 236, Boynton Beach, Florida

Can you say tonight in parting  
with the day that's slipping past  
That you helped a single brother  
of the many that you passed?

Is a single heart rejoicing  
over what you did and said?  
Does the man whose hopes were fading,  
Now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day or lose it,  
Was it well or poorly spent?  
Did you leave a trail of kindness,  
Or a scar of discontent?

As you close your eyes in slumber,  
Do you think God will say,  
You have earned one more tomorrow,  
By the work you did today.

# On Being Brought to Li...

by Tom Accuosti

I'd heard about it over the years but never gave it much thought. Unlike some people who had friends or relatives already into it, I got into it after picking up a little bit here and there and finally developing enough interest to really look into it.

There were a ton of books on it, and I picked up a few at the library, then perused bookstores for more current information. Eventually I turned to the internet, where I found a wealth of information. My problem then became more one of how to figure out which websites were going to be useful.

After many long hours at various websites – both pro and con – I began to get a better idea. My next step was to haunt the web forums and bulletin boards where I could see discussions, and ask questions. I had a lot of questions, but I discovered that sometimes it was difficult to get answers; at least, answers that satisfied my curiosity. It didn't dawn on me until later that this was probably because I was still looking in from the outside; some questions can only be answered from experience.

But I did discover some things. There's an entire culture built around it, and it seems that almost everybody else who was

in it had a different idea of what it was, or what it should be. I continued to study, though, and eventually decided to get into it myself. I hadn't planned any huge commitment, at least, not at first. But I finally figured that I simply wasn't going to understand it any better until I gave it a shot.

The online communities were a big help, although I did discover that just like any other interest group, there were some "old timers" who had been into it from "back in the old days" and always maintained some attitude about how things were better, and how much harder they had to work, and how the new guys have it is easy, and how they had to walk to school in their bare feet in a blizzard, etc., etc. I guess their underlying message was "we were here first, and that makes us better than you." I saw how this put off some others, but I persevered.

Interestingly, I discovered that there were many schisms and splits over the years, and even though they seem to share the same general philosophy, the various groups seem to snipe at each other, and spare no words in describing how their version is



better. Even though it was obvious which group was bigger and more widespread, I still fail to see why there is so much animosity.

But once I made my decision, I discovered that there were many, many more people online who were only too happy to help, to give me some ideas and pointers, and to take the time to direct me toward even more information. And the neat thing is that I continue to ask questions, because once I think I've figured out one area, I realize how much more of it there is to understand. I have no idea how some people can take in all there is to it.

And here's the weird thing: once I decided to get into it, I began to notice more instances of it in my daily life. Being more attuned, I discovered people who were into it, and I saw signs and expressions all over the place. I had no idea that it was so widely known, and it has turned into a game for me, seeing how many signs I can spot in unexpected areas.

I also noticed that there are peculiar signs and tokens, not to mention a huge syntax – a vocabulary that is used by those

who are into it. The words are either unfamiliar, or familiar, but made strange because of the context. Figuring that out became another fun game, but worthwhile, too, as it helped me to figure out how things are put together. And of course, there are purists who insist that the usages have to be exactly a certain way, or it's not right.

And as I use the various tools that I've learned about, I become more aware of the philosophy behind them, and how all of these things fit together to help me be more productive in my craft.

Yes, it took a while, but I'm into it, now. I've even made a point of being more open about it, both at home and at work. People ask me questions, and I try to answer them without sounding too pushy. A few of them are thinking about getting into it, themselves.

Yes, I'm very happy that I finally got into it. In fact, now I wonder what took me so long to finally get around to using Linux.

What's that?

Linux. It's an "Open Source" operating system for PCs. I installed Linux on my home PC and now I'm running it at work, too.

Yes, this is about my computer.

Why? What did you think I was writing about?

## We welcome our new brothers to the fraternity.

Michael W. Johnston .....	<i>Ansantawae</i> 89	Anthony Samela.....	<i>Fidelity-St. John's</i> 3
Randall A. Johnston Jr.....	<i>Ansantawae</i> 89	Steve M. Wampler .....	<i>Fidelity-St. John's</i> 3
Jonathan W. Lynn .....	<i>Ansantawae</i> 89	Pranav Sambamurti .....	<i>Ivanhoe</i> 107
Timothy S. Millard.....	<i>Ansantawae</i> 89	Anthony T. Simari .....	<i>Ivanhoe</i> 107
Jonathan I. Glassman.....	<i>Cosmopolitan</i> 125	Frank R. Rodrigues.....	<i>Shepherd-Salem</i> 78
Jael Hernandez-Vasquez .....	<i>Cosmopolitan</i> 125	Joseph P. Iassogna.....	<i>St. Alban's</i> 38
Adam R. Kopchyak .....	<i>Cosmopolitan</i> 125	Marc B. Conner .....	<i>St. Luke's</i> 48
David L. Nock .....	<i>Cosmopolitan</i> 125	Jason P. Balletto .....	<i>Wooster</i> 79
John A. Radziunas .....	<i>Cosmopolitan</i> 125	Bruce S. Hall.....	<i>Wooster</i> 79
Matthew R. Dymarczyk.....	<i>Fidelity-St. John's</i> 3	Joseph M. Proto.....	<i>Wooster</i> 79

# John Morgan: Confidence in the Masonicare Mission

by Adam Raider

Bro. John Morgan supports the Masonicare Annual Appeal because he knows that every contribution helps Masonicare provide its residents and patients with the highest level of care available.

"It's needed," he said, "and I know it's going to be appreciated."

"John is certainly right," said Eloise Mongillo, director of development for The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. "Thanks to his generosity to The Foundation, and that of all our donors, Masonicare is able to improve the lives of seniors in our care every day."

A retired farmer, John was born in Newtown, where his father raised baby chicks that were then shipped by rail throughout the country. Circumstances led to the family giving up the hatching business in favor of dairy farming, but the Morgans found their 30-acre farm to be too small for cattle. So, they moved to a 194-acre parcel up in Sharon, where John still lives.

"Back in 2005," John said, "some people approached me about selling some real estate. I agreed and got a very good sum of money

for it. From then on, I've tried to help local charities. Masonicare is one place where I know I can really help out. I know my donation to Masonicare will be used, and used properly."

Gifts to the Annual Appeal have funded "quality of life" purchases like transportation services, wheelchair batteries, recreational equipment, and many other goods and services designed to make the lives of Masonicare's patients and residents more comfortable and rewarding.

If there is another reason that Bro. John, a Mason raised at Hiram Lodge No. 18, Sandy Hook, supports the work of Masonicare, it might date back to the early 1900s.

"My aunt, Hattie Hubbard, worked at the old Masonic Home (now Masonicare Health Center) for most of her life," John recalled. "She eventually worked her way up to running the dining room. One day, the chef had the day off, and someone asked my aunt if she would do the cooking. She had never cooked a meal in her life, but now she was going to take care of 300 people. Well, when the chef never came back, she stayed on as the new cook."

Hattie's lack of culinary expertise must



Bro. John Morgan

not have fazed the residents or managers of the Home, because she continued to work in the kitchen for many years. She retired briefly during World War II, but returned to work there as a pastry chef.

It was around this time that Hattie was badly injured in an explosion in the kitchen at the Masonic Home.

"After that," he said, "the Masonic Home took care of my aunt for the rest of her life. We never forgot that."

## R.A.M. 49 Sing-Along XL – the Comfort of Tradition

by Carl G. Ek

In 1970, Arthur Forrest Simpson, already a Grand Steward in the Grand Lodge line, served as High Priest of Milford Chapter No. 49, Royal Arch Masons. Bud, as he was universally known, planned a Christmas carol sing-along for the third Monday in December for his members and their families. He also invited the heads of Connecticut's grand Masonic bodies. To the surprise of many, all four

attended the first sing-along and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The next year, the invitations went out to the grand heads and their seconds-in-command. Again, all were present, most with spouses. The tradition had been cemented, and has now passed year 40.

MW Bud is present only in spirit, but MW Ken Hawkins has taken over the duties of master of ceremonies. Ken adheres faithfully to the schedule – singing to start at 7 p.m., and the final notes of 'Silent Night' before 8 p.m.

Some traditions ended in 2009. RW Richard Smail – a Past Grand High Priest and Past Most Puissant Grand Master – was called by the Grand Architect earlier in the year. He and wife Lenore had attended 37 of the 39 previous sing-alongs. Also missing was long-time accompanist and Past Grand Matron Ruth Songhurst, who is battling illness. At the keyboard was WB Richard Cassey of America-St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford.

The 'grand heads' quartet – Most Worshipful Grand Master Arthur H. Carlstrom, Grand

Commander Bruce R. Bellmore, Most Puissant Grand Master Randy S. Stevens, and Grand High Priest John Mellor – acquitted themselves with honor, while their seconds in command will rehearse in the coming year.

As usual, Bro. Hawkins assembled impromptu groups during the evening. A fine Past Grand Masters quartet was composed of MW Brothers Gustaf R. Bodin, Charles B. Fowler, Jr., Joseph J. Howard, and Frederick H. Lorenson. Definitely not impromptu were the *a capella* vocal solos of Grand Commander Bruce Bellmore or the flute arrangements by Sister Carolyn Walls.

A tradition was also reborn in 2009. For many years, Sister Margaret Simpson, wife and later widow of founder Bud, offered a recitation of "What Shall We Give the Children." This year, Ginny Bodin, wife of PGM Gus, presented the inspirational piece, long a favorite of sing-along attendees.

Interspersed were brief remarks from the singing grand heads plus Milford Chapter High Priest Kenneth I. Greenhill and Deputy for Scottish Rite Ill. James R. Spencer, Jr., 33°. MP Comp. Stevens perhaps expressed best that the comforts of tradition are among the most special gifts of the season.

It was announced the sing-along XLI will be held in Milford on December 20, 2010.



From left, Grand High Priest John Mellor, Most Puissant Grand Master Randy S. Stevens, Grand Commander Bruce Bellmore, and Most Worshipful Grand Master Arthur H. Carlstrom formed a "Grand Quartet" at the Christmas carol sing-along.

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

Happy New Year to all of you from all of us at the Valley of New Haven! Here's hoping all of your wishes come true.

The Scottish Rite calendar is based on a solar cycle, or the time it takes for the earth to revolve around the sun. It follows the calendar of the builders of the Temple of King Solomon, and is called *Anno Mundo*, or the year of the Earth. We follow the Gregorian cycle, but our year is the same as that of the Hebrews, which is 5770.

Our formal labors commence with a stated communication on Monday, January 11, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. The following Monday evening, January 18, the Valley of New Haven

will host a candidate information night. On the very next Monday evening, January 25, it's game time! The Valley of New Haven will confer the 4° and 6° upon the class of candidates, and the 'old Fourth Degree' will also be portrayed at that time. The schedule continues in February when Illustrious Sidney Isenberg 33°, Thrice Potent Master, leads his officers in the conferral of the 14°.

On Saturday afternoon, February 20, the Valley of New Haven once again hosts its ever-popular Winter Picnic. From 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. food, fun, and games are the order for the day. It's all free of charge but reservations are a must! They can be made

with Bob DiPasquale at 203-949-8612, or Ill. Jack Stevens 33°, at 860-848-7586. All events are held at the New Haven Masonic Temple, 285 Whitney Avenue. All degrees are preceded by dinner at 6:15 p.m.

Members, don't be shy about handing out applications. You can get them from membership chairman Charles Tirrell, Ill. Vernon K. Cleaves 33°, our Valley secretary, or your lodge ambassador. If your lodge does not have an ambassador that can be easily remedied by either of the above.

Please don't forget that Blue Envelope. It helps to support all of our charities. You'll be glad you did!

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

We begin a new year and with it a chance to again practice the values and teachings we learned on becoming a Master Mason, and a Scottish Rite Mason – particularly that we are a fraternity of brothers who value life, freedom of religion, love of country, and love of family.

To that end, we welcome these newest members to the Valley of Hartford, Scottish Rite family, the 2009 fall class of Scottish Rite Masons:

Konstantinos Antoniou, Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford; Dennis W. Bellamy, Jr., Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester; Thomas E. Knowlton, Meridian Lodge No. 77, Meriden; Henri N. Mathieu, Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4, West Hartford; William Ramkin, Village Lodge No. 29, Collinsville; Ruben Rivera, Temple Lodge No. 16, Cheshire; Michael S. Simmons, Wolcott Lodge No. 60, Stafford Springs; Mark T. Strong, Silas Deane Lodge No. 147, Newington; Michael

E. Talamini, Wolcott Lodge No. 60; Richard P. Wurst, Fayette Lodge No. 69, Vernon; Martin J. Yanofsky, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington; Sean P. Zamora, Uriel Lodge No. 24, Merrow.

These brothers were part of a larger group from the five Connecticut valleys within the Supreme Council, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, and Connecticut Prince Hall Affiliates, who became 32° Scottish Rite Masons on November 14 at a joint Connecticut Consistory Day in New Haven.

The Valley of Hartford, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, is accepting applications for its 2010 spring class. On March 4, an informational night will be held at our Scottish Rite Cathedral, starting at 7:30 p.m. Come and learn about the Scottish Rite and get answers to any questions that you may have.

The schedule for the portrayal of the Scottish Rite degrees this spring is Thursdays

March 11, March 25, April 8, and April 15, all starting at 7:30 p.m. Our degree schedule then concludes with the Consistory Day degrees on Saturday, May 1, starting at 10:00 a.m. This year's Consistory Day will be extra special as the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction Ill. John Wm. McNaughton, 33°, will be in attendance. In addition, a ladies program will be held.

For more information about the Scottish Rite and its fraternal fellowship, or about our charities, activities, degree work, and the benefits of belonging to the Scottish Rite, we have informational DVDs available for the asking. Please contact the Valley of Hartford Scottish Rite office any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday between 9:00 a.m. and noon at 860-666-0712, or [sect@snet.net](mailto:sect@snet.net).

Forms, membership applications, electronic copies of our newsletter *View of the Valley*, and a calendar of our events are at [www.valleyofhartford.org](http://www.valleyofhartford.org).



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**VALLEY OF HARTFORD 2010 SPRING SCHEDULE:**

March 4	CANDIDATE INFORMATION NIGHT
March 11	Portrayal of the 4° and 5°
March 25	Presentation of Select Master Degree and Portrayal of the 14°
April 8	Portrayal of the 15° in full form and 16° Vignette
April 15	Portrayal of 18°
May 1	Consistory Day
May 6	Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

*Now accepting applications for our Spring class.*

If you would like more information about becoming a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite contact David Blythe Sr., 33°, Valley Secretary, at the Scottish Rite Valley Office (860) 666-0712, or email: [sect@snet.net](mailto:sect@snet.net) or visit our Valley website: [www.valleyofhartford.org](http://www.valleyofhartford.org)

**ATTENTION MASONS**

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

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**Monday, January 18 - Candidate Information Night**

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**Monday, January 25 - 4°, 6°**

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**Saturday, February 20, 2010 - Fourth Annual Winter Picnic**  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - New Haven Masonic Temple  
*Reservations Are a Must! No Cost!*

**Reservations to: Robert DiPasquale,**  
1276 Barnes Road, Wallingford, CT 06492  
e-mail: [bobd1276@comcast.net](mailto:bobd1276@comcast.net) Telephone: 203 949-8612  
Please leave name, number attending, and number of children.

For further information, please contact  
Valley secretary Ill. Vernon K. Cleaves, 33°.

# Letter to the Editor...



Dear Connecticut Freemasons,

When ones mother lodge is not in ones mother country.

Brothers, here in Connecticut we have an economy that has many international corporations within it.

This has naturally led to a large population of foreign born professionals within our borders. New England is not well known for hospitality. Steady habits...yes... particularly welcoming...not necessarily. Once you do make a friend here however, it is for real.

The obvious problem exists then for our brotherly society. We have an untapped cultural potential that we may not be availing ourselves of well. Of the many demographic populations we see around us and could hope to bring to our humble fraternity, the Hispanic group is the oldest and largest.

Often we have a foreign born man come to Freemasonry because of its tenets and principles, not because of a particular friendship.

He joins, and with the language and cultural barriers can't make a connection easily. As one who spent time in a foreign country, in a state of culture shock, I know it isn't easy to just melt into the melting pot.

Sadly, after a while we may see less and less of the new brother and then not at all. We might call him a few times, but it's basically over for him and for every other potential man in his circle. This is not ideal, and each of us should be aware of it.

If a new foreign brother comes along, reach out and keep reaching out. These are highly educated, cultured people, and shouldn't be passed over for lack of trying.

Fraternally,  
WB David R. Edman  
Friendship Lodge No. 33, Southington

## Nutmegger Reunions Planned

Masonicare is once again planning "Nutmegger Reunions" for members of the Masonic family who reside in Florida. There will be a total of five reunions this year, with gatherings being held on both the east and west coasts of Florida.

The locations and dates of the reunions are as follows:

March 1	Vero Beach	Vero Beach Hotel and Spa, 3500 Ocean Drive
March 2	Naples	Olde Cypress Golf Club, 7150 Treeline Drive
March 3	Sarasota	Hilton Garden Inn Sarasota, 8270 N Tamiami Trail
March 4	Ocala	Marion Dunn Lodge, SE 36th Avenue
March 5	New Port Richey	Timber Greens Country Club, 6333 Timber Greens Boulevard

Masonicare is also pleased that Bro. Arthur H. Carlstrom, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut, will attend all five reunions. MW Carlstrom will present 50-year pins to any brothers who are due to receive them.

These reunions are designed as special gatherings to bring together old friends and keep the Masonic family informed of happenings throughout the Masonicare continuum. Watch for your invitation, which should arrive by mail in early January 2010. If you are a snowbird, or are planning a trip to Florida on the above dates, you are also welcome to attend.

Masonic family members who would like additional information about the reunions, or who are due a 50-year pin, can contact RW Carl Anderson, Masonicare's vice president for fraternal relations, at 203-679-6917. You may also email Bro. Carl at [canderson@masonicare.org](mailto:canderson@masonicare.org).

2010-2011 president of Masonic Communities and Services Association Bro. Steve McPherson presented a plaque of appreciation to Larry Minnix for his support as president of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.



December 7, 2009

Mr. Stephen McPherson  
President & CEO  
Masonicare  
P. O. Box 70  
Wallingford, CT 06492-3048

Dear Steve,  
The thoughtful and beautiful award that was presented to me at the AAHSA annual meeting proudly resides in my office. I accept it on behalf of AAHSA.

I cannot recall many occasions when I was at a loss for words but this was one of them. I knew that an award was forthcoming but did not fully grasp the personal significance of it until you gave it to me.

I view this award as something to aspire to instead of something deserved. This perspective comes largely from the prestige and reputation of Masonic organizations and their exemplary standards for serving so many people in difficult phases of their lives.

I am honored and grateful. Please convey my appreciation to our mutual friends and colleagues of the Masonic Communities and Services Association.

God bless.

Sincerely,

William L. Minnix, Jr. D.Min  
President and CEO

## CONGRATULATIONS

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

Forster D. Puffe ..... Center 97    Mark Crook ..... Seneca 55    Morgan C. Zucker ..... Union 31

# "Widow" Creator Awarded Honorary Membership

by Michael B. Dodge

On November 29, members of the Connecticut Widow's Sons Motorcycle Club (Chip "Snoopy" Stamm, Frank "Cranky" DeFeo, "CrayZ" Dave Courtois, Richard "Starch" Haugh, Brett "T. Rattler" Summers, and Wendell "Yoda" Reeves) joined RW Mike "Tigger" Dodge for the short ferry trip from Bridgeport to Port Jefferson, New York. The purpose of the trip across the Sound? To present an honorary Widow's Sons membership to Billy Tucci of Bayport, New York.

Who is Billy Tucci, and what was the big deal about presenting him with an honorary membership? First, Billy Tucci is NOT a Mason (yet!), so being presented with an honorary membership to a Masonic Motorcycle Club is rather unusual. What did this non-Mason from Long Island do to warrant an honorary membership? Billy is an illustrator, or "cartoonist" as he describes himself, and he created the "Widow" that adorns the logo of the Widow's Sons paraphernalia.

In recognition and appreciation of that contribution, the Connecticut Grand Chapter had a Widow's Sons vest made. As Billy and RW Mike have been acquaintances for a dozen



Billy Tucci holds his new vest surrounded by members of the Widow's Son Masonic Riders Club. From left, Frank "Cranky" DeFeo, Chip "Snoopy" Stamm, Wendell "Yoda" Reeves, Mike "Tigger" Dodge, Richard "Starch" Haugh, Brett "T. Rattler" Summers and "CrayZ" Dave Courtois.

years, Mike set up the meeting. MW "Snoopy" arranged the schedule and transportation, and Billy made the lunch reservations. During lunch Billy explained that he had long held a great deal of respect for our institution, and asked for more information. He needed to make a convincing pitch to his wife so

he could join! During lunch, the group was informed that the Masonic lodge in town was only a block away. After a 5 minute walk the group found themselves on the steps of Suffolk Lodge No. 60, Port Jefferson, New York.

The building looked dark, but after the prescribed number of knocks, the doors surprisingly opened and the visitors were invited into the lodge where a rehearsal was taking place. After a quick tour, the group from Connecticut and Billy returned to the ferry terminal, where Billy was finally presented with his vest. All were delighted to see that his "colors" fit perfectly! Billy also gave the sojourners from the north lithograph copies of some of his work, which he gladly personalized for each.

Before heading back north across the Sound, Billy promised that if he petitioned he would let his new friends from Connecticut know so they could be sure to attend

his degrees. Preliminary plans were made for Billy to guide a spring 2010 motorcycle tour of Long Island's North Fork. As a final gift, CrayZ Dave and Crankie Frankie left Billy with his new nickname, the appropriate "Widow Maker."

**DID YOU Vote?**

***The Results are in!***

There was one poll on the Grand Lodge website ([www.ctfreemasons.net](http://www.ctfreemasons.net)). Since November 13, the poll collected the opinions of 112 voters asking if the printed ritual book be converted back to mnemonics. The results are in and the tally is:

Should the printed ritual book be converted back to mnemonics?

Yes.....	62	.....	55%
No.....	50	.....	45%

*There is a new poll on the Grand Lodge website. Please take a moment and cast your ballot. Vote for the good of the order.*

## Eastern Star Brings Holiday Party to Masonicare at Newtown



Masonicare at Newtown residents enjoy the OES Holiday Party, coordinated by long-time volunteer and PGM Sonja Liljengren.

# International Uproar When Black Hero Admitted to the Masons

by Jim McBeth  
Daily Mail (London),  
September 5, 2009

Few of the Masonic brethren who had gathered in the hall had ever seen such a magnificent specimen, standing a full 6ft 5in tall. His immaculately tailored suit was sculpted over a physique that exuded power, authority and a sense of quiet menace that was softened by candlelight and the handsome black man's beguiling smile.

Jack Johnson was the world's greatest boxer when he entered the small lodge to become part of a global fraternity. A short while later, after being 'examined', the American submitted to a secret rite and was accepted into 'the craft'.

His new brothers, blind to the colour of his skin - a level of tolerance he had never enjoyed - applauded and hoisted the giant to their shoulders, carrying him outside to a cheering crowd.

'Only God can undo this!' shouted Johnson, who at last felt a sense of belonging - in Dundee, thousands of miles from his intolerant homeland.

Several days before what would be the most momentous and contentious occasion in the history of Scottish Freemasonry, the boxer had been captivated by a conversation with a Dundonian, who told Johnson he belonged to a fraternity that admitted everyone, regardless of race.

To an Afro-American used to racial prejudice, the organisation described to him in a bar in Newcastle-upon-Tyne nearly a century ago offered an opportunity to be accepted as a person and a superlative sportsman.

He and his new friend were soon on a train to Dundee, where Johnson and the brethren of Lodge Forfar & Kincardine 225 would provoke a transatlantic furore that led to race riots in the American Deep South.

Americans, and not just those

from the white supremacist states, were aghast that the Scots had opened their ranks to a man hated by an Establishment that could not find a 'Great White Hope' to defeat the first black heavyweight world champion. But Johnson's membership of the lodge remains a source of pride to Masons - proof, they claim, that the brotherhood has never been discriminatory.

Yet in 1911 the full weight of Freemasonry in the U.S., and elsewhere in the UK, bore down on Lodge 225 with censure of its leaders. To their credit, they stood firm.

Gordon Webster, a former master of the lodge, says: 'I am proud that my past brethren fought tooth and nail and refused to abandon Brother Johnson. His tragedy was to have been 100 years before his time and his only "fault" was to be black.'

In an enlightened age, few can appreciate the anger over Johnson's admittance to the craft. His conversation, with a Scottish music hall promoter and Freemason, had taken place in the Pavilion Theatre, Newcastle.

The Texas-born boxer was intrigued by the concept of a brotherhood, open to all. He asked to join and his companion sent a telegram to the Right Worshipful Master of Lodge 225, requesting that the most famous black man in the world be initiated. The Master concurred, and Johnson took a brief break from his English exhibition tour to make the trip to Scotland. A black celebrity joining the Masons today would be innocuous but then it rocked the organisation. Practically every lodge in the U.S. objected, and it culminated in a Masonic 'trial' of the officials involved.

Johnson arrived in Dundee, accompanied by his white wife, Etta, and took a cab to the lodge near the city centre for the midday ceremony. While he waited, he was regaled good naturedly by tales of

red-hot pokers, two-edged swords, thumbscrews and other fictitious rites. Undeterred, Johnson signed the nomination paper, declaring his age to be 33 and his address as 34 Wabash Avenue, Chicago.

But some local masons, who shared the unreconstructed view of the Americans, alerted Grand Lodge Scotland to the event. Telegrams winged across the Atlantic as outraged Americans and Britons demanded the ceremony be stopped.

At Lodge 225, members realised Johnson's membership was being blocked by racism and they brought forward the initiation. By the time the message ordering them to stop arrived 'officially', he was a member, declaring: 'I'm proud and pleased to become a Mason under the auspices of such a splendid band of brothers.'

The new Freemason was soon making his way through cheering crowds to the station and the train back to Newcastle. But the controversy did not die. In October, the New York Times reported: 'Scotch Freemasons are up in arms at the recent initiation of "Jack" Johnson.'

Grand Lodge ordered an inquiry. A reporter from the Dundee Advertiser was dispatched to Leeds, to interview the boxer, who was unrepentant. He told the reporter: 'I don't want to say nothing because I don't want anybody to think I am unworthy. All I want is fair treatment, nothing I don't deserve. I am a Freemason and, as long as I live, I shall be one.'

In the Angus town of Arbroath, a Freemasonry stronghold, the brothers supported their Dundee brethren. One said: 'We are a brotherhood and I fail to see why the fact that he is a black man should debar Johnson.' Another declared: 'As a true and loyal Mason of many years, I would let brotherly love continue - black or white.'

It was a heroic stand, in defiance



Brother Jack Johnson

of international anger. A Right Worshipful Master of another lodge in the area condemned '225' for acting 'injudiciously and with undue haste'.

And the fallout did not stop. On April 24, Lodge 225 was suspended until December 1913, while the Right Worshipful Master was suspended for two years and three Past Masters for one year. Even then, they did not surrender. One brother said it was 'disgraceful that racial hatred had been at the bottom of it'. But the row was just another battle in the life of the champion boxer, whose struggle began when he was born Arthur John Johnson, the son of former slaves in 1878, the second of six children.

He turned professional in 1894 at the age of 16, with a win over John Lee in 16 rounds. In those days, fights lasted until surrender or knockout. In 1904, after three professional fights, he beat Ed Martin in Los Angeles to become the coloured heavyweight champion of the world.

Johnson died in 1946 and six years later he was accorded his place in boxing history by being inducted into the Hall of Fame. But in Scotland he will forever be remembered not just as a great pugilist but as the country's most famous Freemason.

Mr Webster adds: 'I'm proud of my past brethren and proud that Johnson was a member.'

As far as Forfar and Kincardine Lodge is concerned, Jack Johnson is, and will forever remain, a Freemason.'

# 2009 Festival of Trees

Here are some of the trees whose silent auction raised more than \$5,400 for residents of the Masonicare Health Center.



**'Twas the Night Before Christmas**  
Masonicare Primary Care Physicians



**Butterfly Magic**  
Grand Lodge Office



**A Merry Little Chocolate**  
Ashlar Village Marketing Department



**Candy Cane Christmas**  
Health Information Management



**Love and Magic**  
Nancy McPherson



**Hog Wild Christmas**  
Sturges 4



**Holiday Hoedown**  
The Child Development Center



**Home for the Holidays**  
Ashlar Village Administration



**Go-Go-Ho Huskies**  
Corporate Marketing

# Gift-giving Tradition Continues Thanks to the Quality of Life Funds

This year, The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, in collaboration with Masonicare Health Center and Masonicare at Newtown, again made sure that every resident received a wrapped present on Christmas morning. Coordinated through the social services and recreation departments, the work begins in early October when therapeutic recreation directors visit with each resident to help them make their Santa's wish list. Later, a personal gift was purchased for each resident and wrapped in holiday paper.

"For our residents who are unable to make a choice, staff members who work closely with them help make a selection," explained Rosemarie Preneta, director of volunteers. "Gifts can be a robe, electric razor, sweater, slippers," she added, "and some residents may just want a gift certificate to the store of their choice. The important thing is that it is truly personalized to each individual."

This amazing tradition was begun by The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut more than 30 years ago and is funded by The Foundation's "Holiday Appeal," which is largely supported each year through the generosity of the Masonic family and family of residents. This holiday season, Masonicare Health Center purchased a total of 527 gifts, while Masonicare at Newtown purchased an additional 150 gifts.



*Carmen Civitello, a resident on Ramage 4 at Masonicare Health Center, receives his Christmas gift.*

## GRAND MASTER'S APPEAL

**The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation wishes you and your family a Happy New Year 2010!**



***Please remember that your support of the Grand Master's Appeal supports the charitable aims of the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation.***

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

*Yes, Grand Master. I/we want to help ensure the growth of Freemasonry in Connecticut and continue the charitable and educational works of the Grand Lodge.*

\$1,000    \$500    \$100    \$50    \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ Other

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# 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

## New Brothers at Corinthian No. 104



Front row, from left, Bros. Ruben Philipe, Chris Hatzikostas, Tony Foote, Robert Hayduk, and Gary Ecsedy. Rear, from left, RW Charles A. Buck, Jr., Deputy Grand Master, and RW Jim McWain, Grand Senior Warden.

by Tony Foote

Congratulations to Bros. Ruben Philipe and Chris Hatzikostas of Corinthian Lodge No. 104, Fairfield, on receiving their Entered Apprentice degree. Two brothers from Temple Lodge No. 65 also received the degree, Bros. Robert Hayduk and Gary Ecsedy. Senior Warden Tony Foote sat in the East.

Honored visitors included RW Charles A. Buck, Jr., Deputy Grand Master, RW Simon R. LaPlace, Grand Senior Deacon and visitors from local lodges. RW Bro. Jim McWain, Grand Senior Warden, and WB Lemuel Johnson, AGM, rehearsed the stewards lecture and WB Dennis Corsalini gave the Bible lecture and the charge. The third section lecture was presented by RW DD-4A Theodore Doolittle.

Corinthian 104 Past Masters and members returned to see the degree, including WB's Robert Warner and Phillip Perrigo. Bro. Dario Lopez also returned to the lodge after being away and will step into the line for 2010 as Junior Steward.

Bro. Erasmo Torres, who completed his Master Mason degree in 2008, performed superbly as Senior Deacon for his first degree ever as an officer.

## New York Guard Recognizes Union No. 5 Brother

by Tom Burke

On December 4, Brother Felix Lugo of Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, was awarded the 88th Brigade 'Soldier of the Year' award by his National Guard Brigade, New York Guard 88th Brigade, in Jamaica Queens, New York. The event was the end of the year holiday party and the award was presented by Col. George J. DeSimone, 88th Brigade Commander, and Command Sergeant Major Manney.

After graduating from basic training in 2008, Bro. Lugo served in the 2nd 104th in Jamaica Queens under Commander Capt. Joseph Yohannan. He learned decontamination and rescue techniques, plus training in the use of the equipment needed in order to respond to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear incidents.

The mission of the Army Division of the New York Guard is to augment, assist, and support the New York Army National Guard and other components of the organized militia and agencies of the state of New York.

The award is for enlisted soldiers only, who must serve above and beyond the duty assigned to them. It recognized Bro. Lugo's support of the mission and

goal of the New York Guard through service and personal sacrifice.

Captain Yohannan's letter of recommendation commended Specialist Lugo, saying his "participation has been an invaluable part of the unit's weekly operations and training. The unit has been able to maintain its structure due in part to his proactive and professional endeavors. Felix Lugo has a proven track record as a professional organizer; his skills were established by working over 13 years as a print production specialist... I wish to recommend that Felix Lugo be promoted the rank of Specialist, a promotion that will be of enormous benefit to the unit and the New York Guard."



Capt. Joseph Yohannan, standing, congratulates Specialist and Brother Felix Lugo for his Soldier of the Year award at the end of year holiday party in Jamaica Queens, New York.

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# 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

## Westport Masons Recognize Local Charities

by Lorraine Feliciano

On December 6, the Temple Lodge No. 65, Westport charitable giving committee, headed by Bro. George Underhill, recognized four local charities with donations of \$1,000 each for their outstanding service to the community. Recipients were the Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Westport Warm-up Fund, First Night Westport/Weston, and Al's Angels.

Following the presentations, Santa appeared with gifts for the children attending the Christmas Party with their parents and guests.

*Recipients of Temple Lodge No. 65 donations are, front row from left, Jane Carlin, Domestic Violence Crisis Center; Sue Lebrija, Westport Warm-up Fund; Barbara-Pearson Rac, Westport First Night; and Chris DiGuido, Al's Angels. Back row left, Bro. George Underhill and WM Wilson Dinielli selected the organizations for their contributions to the community.*



# DISTRICT No. 2

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

## Awards Night at Union Lodge No. 40

by Christopher T. Gould  
and Walter S. Risso

The Master, Wardens, and brothers of Union Lodge No. 40, Danbury, were proud and honored to celebrate a very special awards night on Tuesday, November 17. After enjoying a fine meal and fellowship, Union Lodge was opened by Worshipful Master Kevin H. White, who then called the lodge to refreshment so that non-Masonic guests could be admitted.

WM White recognized all who were qualified to receive

anniversary service pins. Special recognition was paid to RW George Perry, Bro. Ronald Masi, Senior Deacon Frank Grande, and WB Christopher Gould in continued appreciation for their high level of Masonic service and commitment to Union Lodge. DeMolay member Rodrigo Martins, son of Junior Warden Geraldo Martins, also received an award for his continued participation with the Masonic brethren.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Allwyn

M. White "Mason of the Year" award for outstanding service to Worshipful Brother Robert T. Miller. It was a special moment for WM White to present the award, named for his father, to someone who had become both his Masonic mentor and very close friend.

WB Gould exhibited the David Wooster Medal in Silver that had been presented to Union Lodge on May 6, 1984. It is the highest award of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut to recognize "service other than to Freemasonry in the fields of art, science, business, government, entertainment, religion, or other service to humanity."

Also exhibited were gold and silver coins struck by the Grand Lodge to celebrate its 200-year anniversary in 1989, as well as the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze presented to Worshipful Brother Allwyn M. White that same year.

WB Gould paid further tribute to Allwyn M. White by sharing a comprehensive explanation of the symbolism contained in the ceiling canopy that Brother White had designed. The explanation had originally been presented by WB Kenneth Reddinger in his May/June 1994 "Message from the East." Another article in that same trestle board, written by RW and Union Lodge historian emeritus Jerrold Davis, recalled



*The David Wooster Medal in Silver presented to Union Lodge No. 40 in 1984.*

how Allwyn White "suffered a heart seizure on December 6, 1989 while attending Roll Call festivities in the lodge room, was removed to Danbury Hospital and died shortly thereafter."

Masonic lodges are built upon human pillars and Allwyn White was no doubt one of the strongest pillars that Union Lodge No. 40 has ever seen.

Our world continues to change at sometimes blinding speed. One thing has stayed constant in Danbury for 229 years: Freemasonry is alive and well at Connecticut's west gate.



*WB Robert Miller accepts the "Allwyn White Mason of the Year" award from WB Kevin White.*

## “Ladies at Table”: a First in Branford

by David Cole

Widow's Son Lodge No. 66, Branford, held its first “Ladies at Table” in recent memory on November 18. This was a way for the lodge to honor our widows, ladies, daughters, mothers, sisters, and to all those women who are associated with the Branford lodge. The ladies of the advisory board of Branford Assembly No. 19, Order of Rainbow were also invited.

Widow's Son Lodge hopes this will become an annual event. Newer members could see how enjoyable an evening like this could be. Of course, being Masons the food was delicious and the women were even served first. This was a big thing since with these brothers' appetites, it is always torture for them to wait, but the right thing was done.

*The ladies of Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 enjoy a good feast at the Ladies at Table program in Branford.*



## Temple 16 Awards Night Offers Various Honors



by Carl G. Ek

It was December 17, and a large contingent of Grand Lodge officers, led by Most Worshipful Grand Master Arthur H. Carlstrom, were present at Temple Lodge No. 16, Cheshire. Worshipful Master Ken Neumann had advertised the evening as an awards night, and, indeed, a number of year-service pins were presented.

The senior recipient present was Bro. and Rabbi Eric Silver, who received his 40-year recognition. The largest class was a trio of 10-year members, all Past Masters: WB's James Nankin and Royal Watrous, who led Temple Lodge, and David Berger, a Past Master of Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven.

The trio was about to return to their seats when Bro. Nankin was asked to wait for a moment. It was then that the Grand Master presented him with the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service! Photos and a biography of Bro. Nankin will appear in the February 2010 issue of *Connecticut Freemasons*.

*WB's Royal Watrous, James Nankin, and David E. Berger pose with Temple Lodge No. 16 Worshipful Master Ken Neumann after each received his 10-year anniversary pin.*

## Masons now Rainbow Girls

by David Cole

On December 16, Branford Assembly No. 19, Order of Rainbow for Girls initiated six new 'ladies' who had, for some reason, shown up at a Masonic lodge.

Widow's Son Lodge enjoyed the company of Branford's Assembly, who presented their “Fun Degree,” which basically involves taking grown men and making them Rainbow Girls. This was a night enjoyed by the girls, as well as the lodge brothers.

*Receiving their “Fun Degree” by the Branford Assembly Rainbow Girls were: from left, Jonathan Cole, Jay Fernandes, David Holyst, Paul Kuziel, Kurt Warner, and George Weted, Jr.*



# DISTRICT No. 5

(a) RW Benjamin A. Isaacson, DD • WB John S. Forker, AGM  
(b) RW Brian E. Beals, DD • WB Frank Dlugoleski, AGM

## Unity Lodge No. 148 Makes Good on a Pledge

One of the first acts for Bro. Kevin Girouard, newly installed Worshipful Master of Unity Lodge No. 148, New Britain, was to present a check for \$5,000 to Ms. Jennifer A. King, president of The Masonic Charity Fund, as a continuation of the lodge's \$50,000 pledge to the Pedi-Pal program. Ms. King expressed a bit of surprise and great appreciation for the donation, especially in the light of the financial difficulties all have experienced in the past year. She also explained that Masonicare's Pedi-Pal program is the state's only pediatric palliative care program, providing in-home care to children facing terminal illness and the families who live with that tragic knowledge.



# DISTRICT No. 8

(a) RW Robert A. Veneziano, DD • RW Richard B. Lord, AGM  
(b) RW John F. Plante, DD • WB Mickey C. Reavis, AGM

## Wooster Cathedral Table Lodge a Rousing Success

*Usual game dinner enjoyed by all*



*Everyone was "game" for a hearty Cathedral Table Lodge at Wooster Lodge No. 10, Colchester.*

by Frank Rich

Wooster Lodge No. 10, Colchester, recently hosted its annual Cathedral Table Lodge with a game dinner at its banquet hall. Some 50 brothers and their male guests feasted, sang, and toasted the night away in good fellowship under the direction of master of ceremonies WB Keith Wakelee.

A wide array of game dishes, including elk chili, smoked fish, squirrel, goose, and venison entrees, were prepared by WB Lewis Bradley and Bro. Cody Stober, and many brothers brought dishes to share for the bountiful buffet.

Although the event was scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m., brothers began arriving with their appetizer dishes as early as 6:00 p.m. and the celebration

was in full swing.

The brothers sang the traditional Cathedral Table Lodge songs of "We Gather Together," "Faith of Our Fathers," and "Auld Lang Syne," along with and "America the Beautiful".

The Cathedral Table Lodge was written by MW William Saars for Wooster Lodge in honor of RW Bro. James R. Case in 1983, and has continued annually since. According to the author, this Cathedral Table Lodge closely resembles what our colonial forbearers might have done. Thirteen toasts honor Wooster's history and memorialize several brothers long deceased, as well as paying tribute to the lodge, district, Grand Lodge, and Grand Master.

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# DISTRICT No. 9

(a) RW John S. Rhoads, DD • RW Theodore C. Rugar, AGM  
(b) RW Michael E. Talamini, DD • WB Mark J. Richens, AGM

## A Burning Tradition

by Carl G. Ek

The lodge was founded in 1801, and its tradition of fumigation goes back almost to the beginning. Once the province of brothers of Connecticut's 9<sup>th</sup> Masonic District and southern Massachusetts, the Putnam Lodge No. 46 annual fumigation has been the place to be for Masonic leaders throughout the northeast for more than a quarter century.

The event expanded after a visit from Bro. Thomas Dougherty, a Past Most Worshipful Grand Master of New Jersey, who accompanied a New Jersey brother who had relatives in the lodge. Though a non-smoker, Tom was impressed by the tradition. With the permission of Connecticut Grand Masters, he used his position in the Masonic Service Association to invite

Masonic leaders to Connecticut's 'Quiet Corner' for the annual event.

Though Tom has passed to the lodge not made with hands, outgoing Putnam Worshipful Master Ted Rugar still found himself with an East filled with dignitaries introduced by RW Charles A. Buck, Jr., Deputy Grand Master, who represented MWGM Arthur H. Carlstrom. This was Ted's second term in the East – the first time, he and lodge chaplain RW Ken Marvin found themselves in the East with the sitting Grand Masters of seven different Grand Lodges!

After the lodge's annual meeting and the presentation of honorary memberships to eight brothers present, all adjourned to the dining hall for the traditional oyster stew and homemade apple

pie, prepared under the watchful eye of WB John Brandt. The Cabot cheese was, as usual, donated by the Vermont delegation, this year headed by Grand Master Tom Johnson and including the Grand Senior Warden and five Past Grand Masters.

The lodge returned to labor, including fumigation, election of officers, and jokes, though not all brothers stayed to subject their lungs to a particularly smoky session. RW Buck was among those avoiding the cigars – he had quit smoking cigarettes only 7 weeks ago, and didn't want to be tempted by the environment.

Elections concluded, WB Ken Salo was installed as the 2010 Putnam Lodge Worshipful Master. He looks forward to an active year and continued growth in the lodge, with his



The newly installed Worshipful Master of Putnam Lodge No. 46, Ken Salo, has the honor of having the first cigar lit at the lodge's annual fumigation. Doing the honors is lodge treasurer WB Barry Shead, who presided over the lodge's elections.

term culminating with the 2010 fumigation ceremony.



What has 7 jurisdictions, 9 past or present Grand Masters, and 8 honorary members of Putnam Lodge No. 46, South Woodstock? The group photo of the distinguished guests at the lodge's 2009 annual meeting and fumigation! Third from left, front row, is outgoing Worshipful Master Ted Rugar; front row center is RW Charles A. Buck, Jr., Deputy Grand Master.

# Facebook is a Useful Tool for Lodges, Too

by Charles Tirrell

The November issue of *Connecticut Freemasons* included an article that introduced *Facebook*, the social networking site that has taken the internet by storm. A December *Connecticut Freemasons* article showed how a timely interchange could involve several people, sharing opinions and thoughts. A Masonic lodge can also use *Facebook* to bring its members together, by sharing announcements, discussions, and information.

People use social networking sites to connect with others and to talk about the things that they are interested in. *Facebook* users come together to discuss books, holidays, movies, school events, and countless other topics. Our brothers are excited about Masonry and about their lodges, so they are naturally drawn to *Facebook* to learn more about others' experiences in Masonry and to share their own. Since its beginning, brethren have met together on the internet to exchange ideas and discuss how Masonry is practiced in their various jurisdictions and lodges.

So how can your lodge use *Facebook* to inspire its brothers and help excite them into action? First, you need a central presence on *Facebook*. For this presence, there are two options: Pages and Groups. Pages and

Groups are *Facebook* features that assist organizations to promote themselves and disseminate their information. There are slight differences between these two options, but generally *Pages* are preferred for lodges.

A *Facebook* page is primarily a public relations tool. Any *Facebook* user can become a "fan" of the page and it is therefore open to brothers, friends, family, and community members. The advantages of a *Facebook* page are numerous. A lodge can post its upcoming events on the page and invite people to attend. This can allow your lodge to save money on postage and advertising, while reaching a wider audience of brothers and friends. Your lodge can post photos about the great events that it has had. The page's fans can then get a more intimate look into your lodge and its happenings.

Large amounts of content can also be posted onto the lodge page. Trestleboards can be posted on the page via a web link. Videos of an installation of officers or even a Masonic family picnic can be uploaded. The Worshipful Master could even digitally record his Master's message and upload it to the page. Links to your lodge's website can be included, as well as a link to the Grand Lodge's website and other pages about Freemasonry. *Facebook*

pages can allow its fans to start interactive discussion topics, for brothers to discuss everything from refreshments to the lodge budget. The options for posting content about your lodge are countless.

Finally, one of the primary benefits of your lodge having a *Facebook* page is that it is completely free. As long as your brothers have an email address and an internet connection, they can use *Facebook*.

*Facebook* is not a replacement for real life, nor is it a replacement for Masonry. There is no such thing as virtual Masonry. The lodge and our face-to-face brotherhood are what makes Freemasonry special. However, *Facebook* can help keep brothers informed and help excite them about your lodge's events. This, in turn, may inspire them to come out and enjoy the fellowship of the lodge.

Like email, websites, and online documents, *Facebook* is just another virtual working tool by which we can perfect our art. Hopefully, your lodge can find a way to use this new tool to help bring brothers, friends, and family a little closer together.

## DeMolay Helps 'Stuff-A-Bus'

by Carl G. Ek

It was more than 20 years ago that a local radio personality named Glenn Beck – yes, that Glenn Beck – came up with the idea of filling a school bus with donated food to help feed the hungry at Thanksgiving. Glenn may have moved on, but WKCI radio in Hamden, better known as KC101 FM, has continued the tradition.

Also continuing a tradition of assisting with 'Stuff-A-Bus' were the members of New Haven Chapter, Order of DeMolay. For the sixth consecutive year, DeMolays and advisors were on duty in Hamden's Magic Mile to carry donations from cars to the trailers and refrigerator truck parked behind the iconic school bus.

More than a dozen DeMolays gave anywhere from three to nine hours in service to others on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Most wore their new maroon-and-gold chapter hoodies, providing instant identification of those volunteering their time. Members and advisors also brought donations to the event, filling a shopping cart with food items for the less fortunate.

KC101 staff has already asked New Haven DeMolay to participate in the next Stuff-A-Bus on November 20, 2010. The chapter plans to begin a fraternal food drive next September to increase the amount given to help this important cause.



Consider the plight of New Haven DeMolay member Enio Santiago. Asked if he'd rather pose with KC101 FM radio personality Michael Maze or some of the other 'Stuff-A-Bus' volunteers, Enio choose 'other', picking Miss Connecticut Teen and Miss Southington...

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# Called to the Celestial Lodge

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

Robert F. West Jr. ....	Adelphi-Momauguin 63	Robert O. Samuelson.....	Hiram 1	Jack K. Watts .....	Oxoboxo 116
Frederick K. Biebel .....	America-St. John's 8	James K. Shaver.....	Ivanhoe 107	John E. Potter III .....	Seneca 55
Richard T. Barringer.....	Ark 39	Charles W. Anderson .....	King Hiram 12	William J. Bradford.....	Sequin-Level 140
Constantino Marko .....	Ashlar-Aspetuck 142	Harvey I. Kornblut .....	King Hiram 12	Saul Dolin .....	Sequin-Level 140
Arthur I. Daniels Jr.....	Center 97	Arthur B. Maybeck Jr.....	King Hiram 12	Paul Kershenbaum.....	Sequin-Level 140
Walter J. Tucker.....	Coastal 57	Donald B. Stone.....	Madison 87	Robert Lassow.....	Sequin-Level 140
Harold A. Knickerbocker Jr. ....	Columbia 25	Howard C. Angell Jr.....	Manchester 73	Charles N. Margolis .....	Sequin-Level 140
Paul A. Nabors .....	Composite 28	Thomas Atamian.....	Manchester 73	Richard W. Franklin .....	Silas Deane 147
Albert W. Randall.....	Composite 28	William J. Sinnamon .....	Manchester 73	Gil Riggs.....	Somerset-St. James 34
Bernard Braverman.....	Cosmopolitan 125	Paul M. Alexander .....	Oxoboxo 116	Lester C. Lincoln.....	St. Peter's 21
Bernard B. Katz.....	Cosmopolitan 125	David D. Beattie Sr.....	Oxoboxo 116	Warren S. Jones.....	Temple 16
David W. Andrews.....	Evening Star 101	Albert C. Eichelberg.....	Oxoboxo 116	Harold R. Ludy .....	Union 31
Alvin Liftig.....	Evening Star 101	Elmer E. Franklin.....	Oxoboxo 116	Elias H. Beeghly .....	Union 5
Sherman R. Slavin.....	Federal 17	Ralph G. Gilbert .....	Oxoboxo 116	Arthur N. Hutchinson Jr.....	Union 5
Orville L. Stebbins.....	Federal 17	John E. Giles .....	Oxoboxo 116	Kenneth N. Hall .....	Uriel 24
Elmer S. Kish.....	Fidelity-St. John's 3	Harry A. Hansen Jr. ....	Oxoboxo 116	Richard K. Ayer.....	Valley 36
William B. Greer.....	Frederick-Franklin 14	Wesley J. Johnson Sr.....	Oxoboxo 116	James W. Desmond.....	Valley 36
Ivor T. Carlson.....	Granite 119	Robert C. Kiser .....	Oxoboxo 116	Robert J. Harris.....	Valley 36
Alexander Damm.....	Harmony 67	Stanley Loulis.....	Oxoboxo 116	Joseph R. Ouellette.....	Washington 70
Edwin T. Knight.....	Harmony 67	Richard C. Sweet .....	Oxoboxo 116	William B. Saunders.....	Washington 70
Albert C. Dudley .....	Hartford Evergreen 88	Peter G. Valakos.....	Oxoboxo 116	Carl B. Ericson.....	Wyllys-St. John's 4

## It's For the Candidates, So They Say

by Tom Accuosti

Every once in a while, the Past Masters – I should get into the habit of saying we Past Masters, now that I am one – are fond of telling the new officers that the ritual is for the candidates. “No slacking off now, brothers,” we intone. “Remember that it’s for the candidates.” And of course, we tell them that because older Past Masters told that to us; and just like most of the other little things that have become traditions, we continue to pass this truism down, as well.

Ritual.

Do it well.

It’s for the candidates.

Our new Entered Apprentices are told right from the start that there are no more excellent tenets or useful instruction than are laid down in our various Masonic lectures. When properly delivered, these lectures are some of the most inspiring speeches ever handed down. Just the fact that they are handed down is in itself an inspiration to those who understand that fellow Freemasons have listened to the same or similar lectures for the last two and a half centuries. The lectures and speeches are filled with symbolism and instruction, and those of us who have put the time into learning them know just how difficult it can be to deliver them with meaning.

All this, just for the candidates?

You mean those new guys standing there in the front of the room with the deer-caught-in-the-headlights look? Those guys?

Really?

Brothers – why isn’t it for us?

Let me ask this again: our fraternity has some of the most morally instructive and spiritually inspiring ceremonies, all of which are delivered from memory at no small personal effort. When did we lose the motivation, the initiative to do it for ourselves?

I’m at the age where I attend almost as many funerals as I do weddings, but for each occasion I have lately discovered that during the ceremony I suddenly “hear” something new. Yes, I may have seen the ceremony and heard the same words a dozen times, but each time I hear something that I never noticed before. Why? Maybe a minister or rabbi delivers a line with more or less emphasis, or maybe because of where I am in my own life’s journey some passage that I’ve heard countless times before will strike me with a new insight.

Who hasn’t been sitting at a wedding and suddenly turned to their partner upon hearing a line that reminds you of your love? Who hasn’t been to a funeral and been

suddenly reminded of your own mortality? That is the purpose of ritual and ceremony – not only to instruct the new members, but to remind us – the old members – of our previous instruction.

Oh sure, after the umpteenth time we’ve heard the charge to the Entered Apprentice or the explanation of the letter G, we stop paying attention. Well, we almost stop paying attention; that is, we stop listening to the lecture and we focus on how many prompts the acting Senior Deacon needs, or we listen to see if the Senior Warden missed a word, or to feel smug when the visiting Past Master mixes up the paragraph order in an obligation... that is, if we, ourselves, can even remember how it was supposed to go.

Did you recognize your brothers? Your lodge? Yourself?

Give this some thought: When did our ritual become less inspiring? When did our degrees become merely a pastime between dinner and desserts? When did you stop noticing something “new” in a lecture?

How many of us have substituted listening for hearing?

And more importantly, why?



# Curious Masonic Words

The "ABIF" of Hiram Abif does not appear in the Bible. The word *Abi* or *Abiw* or *Abiv* is translated in the King James version both as "his father" and "my father" – using the word "father" as a term of respect and not as denoting a parent. Hiram, the widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali, was "my father" in the same sense that Abraham was "my father" to members of the tribes of Israel.

The thought that the two syllables are a surname is obviously in error. The legend gains, not loses, in appeal when Abif becomes a title of honor. Just when and how it came into the Masonic terminology is still a moot point; it does not appear in the *Regius* document (the oldest of our Constitutions, dated approximately 1390) but does appear – only as one name among many – in the Dowland manuscript of 1550. Apparently the term was not in common use until after the King James Bible (1611) had become familiar in Masonic circles.

The story of Hiram Abif as told in the Masonic tale is not found in the Bible, nor is there any meaning in the word which can be construed as part of the story as Masons tell it, except that of veneration.

**"DUE GUARD"** is two words forming one, which scholars fight over and Masons accept as a matter of course.

Every Mason knows what it is. None, apparently, really knows where it came from.

Mackey says that it is a contraction of "duly guard." According to the great authority it is an Americanism and not used abroad now to mean what we mean, even though two hundred years ago it was the name given to a sign.

Some who dare to raise their small voices against the thunder of the great Mackey are convinced that the words are a contraction or alteration of "Dieu-garde" — "God guard" — of the French. Haywood gives both Mackey and the immediately foregoing as a

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## THE SHORT TALK BULLETIN

*The Masonic Service Association of the United States*  
*Vol. 31, August 1953, No. 8*

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choice; Dr. Pease is wholly on the side of Mackey. Authorities with less fame still cling to a derivation from the French words, probably because of their poetic content more than any etymological foundations.

Universally in this country a ritualistic difference is perceived between the due guards and the signs, but as a matter of actual practice a due guard is a sign and cannot be taken from the category of signs by a mere definition; even the ritualistic definition of a sign does not preclude the due guard from the classification.

### **"COMPASSES-COMPASS."**

From the standpoint of the dictionary, these are two words with totally different meanings. A 'COMPASS' is a suspended magnet so balanced that it may turn upon its pivot and orient itself with the North magnetic pole and thus (with the aid of tables and mathematics), point out the true North.

'COMPASSES' is the word used to describe that instrument which draws circles and/or measures small distances; sometimes COMPASSES are called dividers. Like trousers and scissors, COMPASSES is always plural when meaning the instrument, except in six Grand Lodges of the United States which use the word COMPASS in the same way as their neighbors use COMPASSES.

'COMPASS' is from the Latin *com* (with) and *passus* (a step) – an instrument which is used "with a step" – in other words, dividers. Masonically, it appears to be more a measuring than a circle-drawing instrument, although reference to its Masonic use includes "circumscribe desires." But its position, open sixty degrees upon a quadrant, as in the symbol of a Past Master, would seem to indicate that it

is more as dividers than as an instrument to draw arcs of circles that it is important Masonically.

With the square it forms two of the three Great Lights of Masonry, and has become so universally recognized as a symbol of Freemasonry that courts have forbidden its unauthorized use or its being copyrighted or trademarked for commercial purposes.

There are also variant pronunciations for compass/compasses. Our brothers in the UK often use "compass" in reference to the instrument that we commonly call "compasses."

**"HELE."** Moderns do not go as far as bloodshed over the word "hele" (pronounced 'hail'), but in spite of the determinations of philologists and Masonic authorities who may well be considered final, now and then some more or less learned Freemason wishes to change either the meaning of the word or its pronunciation, or its spelling, or any two, or all three!

**"OBLIGATION."** Few words are more wrongly used, at least in Masonic circles, than "oath". A candidate takes upon himself a solemn obligation to do certain things and to refrain from certain actions. The word "obligation" is from the Latin *of* (to) and *ligare* (to bind). It is a tie, a bond, an agreement, a profession of intention, a responsibility, a duty agreed upon, a constraint of action, a pledge, an acknowledgement of promises made.

In no such definitions can be found any similarity to the meaning of the word "oath," which is the concluding phrase by which the assumer of the OBLIGATION calls upon that which he holds sacred to witness his vow.

In a court of law the witness swears to tell the truth, the

whole truth, and nothing but the truth. That is an assumed OBLIGATION. He usually ends "So help me, God," which is the oath, attesting to the sincerity of his OBLIGATION. In taking both OBLIGATION and attesting it by the oath, the witness is required to raise his right hand, a curious throwback to ancient days in which a man offered his right hand to be cut off if his oath was broken. Still more an oddity is the small boy's attestation "by golly," made without knowing that he is offering the ancient "gol" (hand) if he tells not the truth!

The Masonic OBLIGATIONS are high-minded duties voluntarily assumed by candidates as their part in becoming brethren of the Ancient Craft. The oath which they take is their attestation of the validity of the covenants they thus make. To speak of the whole as a Masonic "oath" is to name the whole for a minor part.

Words change in meaning as the centuries pass. The classic examples are the word "hell" and "hellfire," which in the King James Version (Mark) mean a place where refuse and garbage are burned. In more modern eschatology, they become a place of punishment, somewhat worse than the 'sheol' of the Old Testament.

Masonically, a profane is merely one not initiated, and an "irreligious libertine" is an agnostic or an atheist, and not a man of promiscuous habits.

**"TOKEN."** Anciently the word "TOKEN" (from the Anglo-Saxon *tacn*, a gesture, a sign and art) was properly used as we use it Masonically. But through the years it has changed, in common parlance, and now may be an offering of flowers to a lady or a box of cigars to a man. In Biblical days the word was used to signify a memorial or other reminder of a covenant or promise, as the rainbow was "a TOKEN of a covenant..." In Freemasonry the TOKEN is never a thing, always an act.

# MSA Reaches Out to Veterans

by Michael L. Castroll

After a year and a half hiatus, the Masonic presence at West Haven's Veterans Administration Medical Center seems to be restored. As with all things, there are new challenges yet to meet.

When there was no Protestant chaplain at the VA to lead a service, our mission as escorts was discontinued. Now, as mentioned in November *Connecticut Freemasons*, there has been a rescheduling of the weekly prayer for those willing to take part. An interfaith service lasting no longer than 20 minutes is held every Thursday evening at 6:15 p.m. The order of worship is a simple one, with opening ode from Psalms, Lord's Prayer, Bible lesson, personal concerns, and a discussion from the Bible lesson, and an ending prayer or psalm.

There are also ample opportunities for anyone who attends to learn about the



residents and their challenges. You may even meet with someone you know. It's about the only way to find out anything with patient privacy regulations (HIPPA) in place.

Attendance ranges from four to as many as fifteen residents. Family members and staff personnel round out the flock. Our old friend from Masonicare, Rev. Kurt Shaffert, has been in charge of the service, although a ministry student or intern chaplain may lead

the service.

It may not be possible to return to the time when New Haven are lodges rotated their visits on a weekly schedule, but services are over before 7:15 p.m. However, there are other functions to be performed. Volunteers are needed for activities such as readers in the library, and assisting staff as facilitators.

Other ideas may come to mind after attending services and speaking with some of the recreational and rehab personnel. All regular volunteers take a one-time orientation, although brothers and their families attending the interfaith service – where all are welcome – need not go through orientation.

However you think you can participate, you are always welcome to visit our vets and say thanks for defending us and our way of life!

As we enter a New Year, we wish you the best from the Masonic Service Association.

## Beatrice Coulombe Joins Masonicare Home Health

Beatrice H. Coulombe, RN, BS, MSN, MBA, has been named vice president for administration at Masonicare Home Health. She was most recently vice president for administration at Masonicare Health Center. "Bea will be an asset to the leadership team of Masonicare Home Health and Hospice," said Bro. William Piper, president of Masonicare Health Center and senior vice president for Masonicare Continuum Services.

Ms. Coulombe joined Masonicare

Health Center as vice president for patient care in 2005. She had been director of nursing at several healthcare facilities and, immediately prior to joining Masonicare, was the administrator at Hewitt Health & Rehabilitation Center in Shelton.

A Wallingford resident, Ms. Coulombe received her RN training at Sacred Heart Hospital in Manchester, New Hampshire, and her BS in health care administration from St. Joseph's College, Maine. She has also

earned her MSN and MBA from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. Throughout her career, she has served on the boards of many community service organizations and as a member of several professional associations.



Beatrice H. Coulombe

## Deborah Hazzan-Dudzik Joins Masonicare at Newtown

Deborah Hazzan-Dudzik has joined the admissions staff of Masonicare at Newtown as the admissions coordinator for the facility. She comes to Masonicare with over 25 years of admissions experience. Her background includes positions with Apple Healthcare and Healthbridge Management, with which she was the admissions liaison to several major Connecticut hospitals, including St. Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport, and Griffin Hospitals, Yale-New Haven Hospital, and the Hospital of St. Raphael.



Deborah Hazzan-Dudzik

Dudzik is a graduate of the Hannah Harrison School of Nursing in Washington, D.C. At Masonicare at Newtown she will build relationships with staff, residents and their families, and with referral sources. Her primary focus will be to grow the inpatient rehabilitation census, provide tours, and manage the waiting list for long-term care. "I believe that Deb

will complement the wonderful staff and excellent outcomes that already exist here at Masonicare at Newtown," said Lenore Consiglio, director of admissions for Masonicare.

### FREE ORGAN TO 'TRANSPLANT'

Any lodge in need of an organ is asked to please contact Adelphi-Momauguin Lodge No. 63, North Haven, as soon as possible. They have an organ that is taking up space in storage to give to a lodge. E-mail [Hardyt1@gmail.com](mailto:Hardyt1@gmail.com) or call Tom Hardy at 203-623-0655.

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# York Rite Opportunities



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

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, 525 Stillwater, Windsor CT 06095-3842 or [yrctramrsm@yahoo.com](mailto:yrctramrsm@yahoo.com).

*NOTE: All dates and visitations are subject to change without notice. Please note this corrected email address for the Grand Secretary/Recorder. Please also note the change of snail mail address for Companion Fowler.*

**Friday, January 1, (ME) (MP) (RE),** HAPPY NEW YEAR !

**Tuesday, January 5, (ME),** F, Keystone Chapter No. 27, Meriden

**Tuesday, January 5, (RE),** Harmony Council No. 8, New Haven

**Thursday, January 7, (ME),** F, Eureka Chapter No. 23, Danbury

**Thursday, January 7, (MP),** F, Wooster Council No. 28,

Danbury

**Friday, January 8, (ME),** F, Baldwin Chapter No. 13, Stratford

**Friday, January 8, (RE),** U, Crusader Commandery No. 10,

Danbury

**Sunday, January 10, (RE),** F, Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

New Haven, installation of officers

**Tuesday, January 12, (RE),** Franklin Chapter No. 2, New Haven

**Tuesday, January 12, F,** Milford Chapter No. 49, Milford, Royal Arch Mason degree

**Wednesday, January 13, (ME),** F, Cyrus-Meridian Chapter No. 15, Winsted

**Thursday, January 14, (ME),** F, Rittenhouse Chapter No. 11, Darien, Table Chapter, 7:00 p.m. dinner

**Thursday, January 14, (RE),** F, Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, installation of officers

**Friday, January 15, (MP) (RE),** U, New Haven Commandery No. 2, New Haven, Order of Red Cross, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**January 16, (ME) (MP),** F, Connecticut York Rite College No. 17, East Hartford, 10:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, January 19, (ME),** F, Burning Bush-Washington Chapter No. 6, Middletown, Mark Master degree

**Thursday, January 21, (ME) (RE),** U, Hamilton Commandery No. 5, Stratford, Order of the Temple, inspection

**Wednesday, January 27, (ME),** F, Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, East Hartford

**Wednesday, January 27, (MP),** F, Crawford Council No. 19, Branford

**Thursday, January 28, (MP) (RE),** U, Palestine Commandery No. 6, Stonington, official visit

**Saturday, January 30, (RE),** C, York Rite Coordination Committee, Wallingford

**Wednesday, February 3,** Menunketuck Council No. 36, Madison, inspection by RIGPCW Bellmore

**Wednesday, February 10,** Hiram Chapter No. 1, Sandy Hook, MEGHP visit

**Wednesday, February 10,** New Haven Commandery No. 2, New Haven, installation of officers

**Thursday, February 11,** Adoniram Chapter No. 18, Ellington, MEGHP visit

**Wednesday, February 24,** Pulaski Chapter No. 26, Branford, MEGHP visit

**Saturday, February 27,** Royal Arch Festival, New Haven, 8:30 a.m. registration, lunch

**Friday, March 5-6,** Grand Commandery Knights Templar of New Jersey

**Saturday, March 13,** Royal and Select Masters and Knights Templar Festival, New Haven. Registration 8:30 a.m., lunch

**Wednesday, March 17,** Suffield Council No. 23, Suffield, inspection by RIGPCW Bellmore

**Friday, March 19,** New Haven Commandery No. 2, New Haven, Order of Malta in full form

**Friday, April 2,** Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford, Order of the Temple, 2:00 p.m.

**Friday, April 2,** New Haven Commandery No. 2, New Haven, Order of the Temple

**Saturday, April 10,** Tri-State Cryptic Festival

**Monday, April 12,** Grand Lodge of Connecticut AF & AM annual communication

**Saturday, April 17,** Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Connecticut

## YORK RITE FESTIVALS

Plans are in the works by the York Rite Coordination Committee for statewide festivals. On Saturday, February 27, 2010 in New Haven, the Royal Arch degrees will be conferred. Registration will be at 8:30 a.m. with the work starting at 9:00 a.m. This is an opportunity for busy candidates to receive the Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason degrees, all in one day. All candidates must have passed the ballot in their Chapters and must be escorted by an avoucher from the Chapter. There will be a luncheon for a nominal cost. Watch for further details as the date approaches.

The date for the Council Festival has been set for March 13, 2010 in New Haven. Registration will be at 8:30 a.m. with the work starting at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be available. At this Festival, the first two Commandery orders, Red Cross and Malta, will be conferred to enable candidates to be ready for the Order of the Temple in their own Commandery on Good Friday. As with the Capitular Festival, candidates must have been elected in their Council and Commandery and must be escorted.

# Craft at Labor...

## **ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREES**

**Wednesday, January 6,** Somerset-St. James No. 34, Preston

**Wednesday, January 6,** Cosmopolitan No. 125, New Haven, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Thursday, January 7,** Union No. 31, Niantic, inspection

**Thursday, January 7,** Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Friday, January 15,** Ansantawae No. 89, Milford

**Saturday, January 16,** Bay View No. 120, Niantic, 6:30 p.m., inspection

**Monday, January 18,** St. John's No. 2, Middletown, 7:30 p.m., dinner

**Monday, January 18,** Meridian No. 77, Meriden, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Tuesday, January 19,** America-St. John's No. 8, Stratford, 6:15 p.m. dinner, Senior Warden Tim Quinn in the East

**Tuesday, January 19,** St. Peter's No. 21, New Milford, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Wednesday, January 20,** Hiram No. 18, Sandy Hook, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Wednesday, January 20,** Estuary No. 43, Old Saybrook, inspection

**Wednesday, January 20,** Widow's Son No. 66, Branford

**Wednesday, January 20,** Cosmopolitan No. 125, New Haven

**Wednesday, January 20,** Ashlar-Aspetuck No. 142, Easton, 6:00 p.m. dinner

**Thursday, January 21,** Wolcott No. 60, Stafford, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Thursday, January 21,** Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Saturday, January 23,** Putnam No. 46, South Woodstock, Junior Warden Dean E. Bunnell presiding

**Tuesday, January 26,** Manchester No. 73, Manchester

**Tuesday, January 26,** Brainard No. 102, Niantic, 6:30 p.m. dinner, inspection

## **FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES**

**Monday, January 4,** Oxoboxo No. 116, Montville, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Tuesday, January 12,** Manchester No. 73, Manchester

**Tuesday, January 19,** Unity No. 148, New Britain, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Thursday, January 21,** Union No. 31, Niantic

**Monday, January 25,** Washington No. 70, Windsor, inspection

## **MASTER MASON DEGREES**

**Monday, January 18,** Wylls-St. John's No. 4, West Hartford, 6:15 p.m. dinner

**Tuesday, January 19,** Harmony No. 67, New Canaan, 6:00 p.m. dinner

**Wednesday, January 20,** Union No. 5, Stamford, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Thursday, January 21,** Temple No. 16, Cheshire, Arabian Shrine team

# The Organ and Tissue Donor Registration 'Checkup'

by Richard F. Denno

Are you a registered organ and tissue donor? A quick way of determining that is simply to check your driver's license. If you have signed up through the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), there should be a red heart on your license. You would have filled out a card from the DMV requesting to be registered.

Since the late summer of 2009, there has been an exciting new way of registering through Donate Life New England. By going online to [www.donatelifenewengland](http://www.donatelifenewengland), you can learn all about organ and tissue donation, and make an informed decision about becoming a registered organ and tissue donor. But this website is so much more. There are three new unique features.

First, you now have the ability to dedicate your donation 'in memory of,' or 'in honor of' a loved one or friend.

Second, if you want to exclude any organs or tissues from donation that is now possible through this website signup.

Third, and possibly the most important feature, involves two emails you receive upon completion of your registration. One is a confirmation of your generous registration. The other is an informational piece to be shared with loved ones. Because your signup is considered 'first person consent' in Connecticut, it is very important for your family to 'be onboard' and in agreement with



**Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to DONATE LIFE<sup>SM</sup>**

your decision.

If I already have a heart on my driver's license, should I also register online at [www.donatelifenewengland.org](http://www.donatelifenewengland.org)? The answer to that is probably yes. Look at it as a double check to be sure that your wishes regarding donation upon your death are carried out. You can read more on this on the website.

Finally, there is a place on the online registration form that asks where you heard about registering. When you click on that box, please click civic organization. Then clicking on the next box will reveal (currently) only one name, the Freemasons. Clicking onto 'Freemasons' is our (Masonic Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Program) way of determining our effectiveness in getting the organ and tissue donor message out to the fraternity.

During the coming year, we will continue to inform the fraternity about the life saving value of organ and tissue registration, through a variety of methods. You'll find the message online, through [www.donatelifenewengland.org](http://www.donatelifenewengland.org), and by visits from our committee members

speaking at lodges, and in *Connecticut Freemasons*.

Remember, "Don't Take Your Organs to Heaven - Heaven knows we need them here!"

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# Craft at Refreshment...

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**Saturday, January 2**, St. John's No. 2, Middletown, 2:00 p.m., installation of officers

**Saturday, January 2**, Temple No. 16, Cheshire, 2:30 p.m., installation of officers

**Saturday, January 2**, Bay View No. 120, Niantic, 6:30 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Sunday, January 3**, Anchor No. 112, East Hampton, 1:30 p.m. dinner, installation of officers, East Hampton VFW

**Sunday, January 3**, Estuary No. 43, Old Saybrook, 5:00 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Monday, January 4**, Valley No. 36, Granby, installation of officers

**Tuesday, January 5**, Union No. 40, Danbury, 7:00 p.m., installation of officers

**Tuesday, January 5**, Adelphi-Momauguin No. 63, North Haven, Masonic themed game

**Tuesday, January 5**, Unity No. 148, New Britain, 6:30 p.m. dinner, budget approval

**Wednesday, January 6**, Union No. 5, Stamford, 7:00 p.m. dinner, installation of officers, Unitarian Universalist Society, Stamford

**Wednesday, January 6**, Widow's Son No. 66, Branford, 7:45 p.m., installation of officers

**Thursday, January 7**, St. John's No. 6, Norwalk, 6:30 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Thursday, January 7**, Somerset - St. James No. 34, Preston, 9:00 a.m. breakfast, breakfast at the Groton Townhouse Restaurant

**Friday, January 8**, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford, installation of officers

**Saturday, January 9**, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 1:00 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Saturday, January 9**, Temple No. 16, Cheshire, 4:00 p.m., lighting of candles along Route 10 in front of the lodge

**Saturday, January 9**, Adelphi-Momauguin No. 63, North Haven, 2:00 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Saturday, January 9**, Washington No. 70, Windsor, 3:00 p.m., installation of officers

**Saturday, January 9**, Madison No. 87, Madison, 1:00 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Saturday, January 9**, Brainard No. 102, Niantic, 4:00 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Saturday, January 9**, Ivanhoe No. 107, Darien, 2:00 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Saturday, January 9**, Granite No. 119, Haddam, 1:00 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Saturday, January 9**, Ashlar-Aspetuck No. 142, Easton, 6:00 p.m., installation of officers

**Sunday, January 10**, Fayette No. 69, Vernon, 3:00 p.m., installation of officers

**Sunday, January 10**, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 5:00 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Sunday, January 10**, Temple No. 65, Westport, 12:00 noon, installation of officers

**Sunday, January 10**, Cosmopolitan No. 125, New Haven, 2:00 p.m., installation of officers

**Sunday, January 10**, Silas Deane No. 147, Newington, 2:00 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Monday, January 11**, St. Peter's No. 21, New Milford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Blue Lodge Council

**Tuesday, January 12**, Brainard No. 102, Niantic, lodge of instruction - balloting

**Thursday, January 14**, Hiram No. 1, New Haven, 7:00 p.m., installation of officers

**Saturday, January 16**, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 10:00 a.m., Masonicare tour, private lunch

**Saturday, January 16**, Trumbull No. 22, New Haven, 3:00 p.m., installation of officers

**Saturday, January 16**, Washington No. 70, Windsor, 7:00 a.m., Red Cross blood drive

**Saturday, January 16**, Corinthian No. 104, Fairfield, 12:30 p.m., installation of officers

**Sunday, January 17**, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 8:00 a.m. breakfast, country breakfast

**Sunday, January 17**, Adelphi-Momauguin No. 63, North Haven, 6:00 p.m. dinner, Mason/Non-mason night, JRoo's Restaurant, North Haven

**Monday, January 18**, Valley No. 36, Granby, Rich Correa - talk on Simsbury

**Monday, January 18**, Oxoboxo No. 116, Montville, 7:30 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Tuesday, January 19**, Adelphi-Momauguin No. 63, North Haven, Masonic Pictionary

**Wednesday, January 20**, Center No. 97, Meriden, 6:00 p.m., lodge of instruction

**Thursday, January 21**, Manchester No. 73, Manchester, 7:00 p.m. dinner, Joint Table Lodge with Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Grand Master in attendance

**Thursday, January 21**, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, 7:30 p.m. dinner, Joint Table Lodge with Manchester Lodge No. 73, Grand Master in attendance

**Saturday, January 23**, Anchor No. 112, East Hampton, 6:30 p.m. dinner, District 7 Table Lodge at Granite Lodge 119 in Haddam

**Monday, January 25**, Union No. 5, Stamford, 7:30 p.m. dinner, Robert Burns dinner

**Monday, January 25**, Temple No. 65, Westport, 7:30 p.m., Blue Lodge Council

**Tuesday, January 26**, America-St. John's No. 8, Stratford, 6:00 p.m. dinner, Past Masters dinner

**Wednesday, January 27**, St. Peter's No. 21, New Milford, 7:00 p.m., Build a Brother

**Wednesday, January 27**, Center No. 97, Meriden, 6:00 p.m. dinner, "Polish the chrome" lecture by WB Lemuel Johnson

**Wednesday, January 27**, Silas Deane No. 147, Newington, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Blue Lodge Council

**Thursday, January 28**, Columbia No. 25, South Glastonbury, Sixth District Blue Lodge Council, location TBA

**Saturday, January 30**, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 8:00 p.m. dinner, Robert Burns Dinner

Activities for *Lodge at Labor* and *Lodge at Refreshment* are taken from calendars on lodge websites. Please visit the lodge websites for updates and more information. For a directory of all lodge websites visit [www.ctfreemasons.net](http://www.ctfreemasons.net).

# MASONIC FAMILY BOOSTERS

Adelphi-Momauguin No. 63.....	North Haven
America-St. John's No. 8.....	Stratford
Anchor No. 112.....	East Hampton
<b>Ark No. 39.....</b>	<b>Danbury</b>
Ansantawae No. 89.....	Milford
<b>Ashlar No. 332.....</b>	<b>Wallingford</b>
Ashlar-Aspetuck No. 142.....	Easton
<b>Bay View No. 120.....</b>	<b>Niantic</b>
<b>Brainard No. 102.....</b>	<b>Niantic</b>
Center No. 97.....	<b>Meriden</b>
Coastal No. 57.....	Stonington
<b>Columbia No. 25.....</b>	<b>South Glastonbury</b>
<b>Compass No. 9.....</b>	<b>Wallingford</b>
Composite No. 28.....	Suffield
Connecticut York Rite College.....	
Corinthian No. 103.....	North Haven
Cosmopolitan No. 125.....	New Haven
<b>Daytime No. 144.....</b>	<b>Stratford</b>
<b>Estuary No. 43.....</b>	<b>Old Saybrook</b>
Evening Star No. 101.....	Unionville
<b>Federal No. 17.....</b>	<b>Watertown</b>
Frederick-Franklin No. 14.....	Plainville
Friendship No. 33.....	Southington
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
<b>Hiram No. 18.....</b>	<b>Sandy Hook</b>
Ionic No. 110.....	North Windham
Ivanhoe No. 107.....	Darien
Jeptha No. 95.....	Clinton
King Solomon's No. 7.....	Woodbury
Madison No. 87.....	Madison
Manchester No. 73.....	Manchester
Masonic Club of New London.....	
Meridian No. 77.....	Meriden
<b>Morning Star No. 47.....</b>	<b>Seymour</b>
MP Grand Council R&SM.....	
<b>Orange No. 143.....</b>	<b>Milford</b>
Police Square Club of CT.....	Naugatuck
<b>Putnam No. 46.....</b>	<b>South Woodstock</b>
Seneca No. 55.....	Torrington
<b>Sequin-Level No. 140.....</b>	<b>Newington</b>
Silas Deane No. 147.....	Newington
Somerset-St. James No. 34.....	Preston
St. Albans No. 38.....	Guilford
St. Luke's No. 48.....	Kent
St. Paul's No. 11.....	Litchfield
St. Peter's No. 21.....	New Milford
Temple No. 16.....	Cheshire
Temple No. 65.....	Westport
Third Masonic District.....	
<b>Union No. 5.....</b>	<b>Stamford</b>
Union No. 40.....	Danbury
Unity No. 148.....	New Britain
Uriel No. 24.....	Merrow
Valley of Hartford, AASR.....	
Valley of New Haven, AASR.....	
<b>Village No. 29.....</b>	<b>Collinsville</b>
Warren No. 51.....	Portland
Washington No. 19.....	Monroe
Washington No. 70.....	Windsor
<b>Widow's Son No. 66.....</b>	<b>Branford</b>
Wooster No. 10.....	Colchester
Wooster No. 79.....	New Haven
Wyllys-St. John's No. 4.....	West Hartford

Those names in **bold** are new or renewing Boosters. Thank you for your support.

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## SEVENTY YEARS AGO....

*At the 1939 Grand Masters' Conference held in Washington, D.C., the following "Declaration of Principles" was adopted. The text was included in Bro. Alphonse Cerza's book, A Masonic Thought for Each Day of the Year, and again brought to our attention by Bro. Ed Halpaus, lodge education officer for the Grand Lodge of Minnesota and editor of the e-mail notice More Light!*

### DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

"Freemasonry is a charitable, benevolent, educational and religious society. Its principles are proclaimed as widely as men will hear. Its only secrets are in its methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction.

It is charitable in that it is not organized for profit and none of its income inures to the benefit of any individual, but all is devoted to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of mankind.

It is benevolent in that it teaches and exemplifies altruism as a duty.

It is educational in that it teaches by prescribed ceremonials a system of morality and brotherhood based upon the Sacred Law. It is religious in that it teaches monotheism, the Volume of the Sacred Law is open upon its altars whenever a Lodge is in session, reverence for God is ever present in its ceremonial, and to its brethren are constantly addressed lessons of morality; yet it is not sectarian or theological.

It is a social organization only so far as it furnishes additional inducement that man may forgather in numbers, thereby providing more material for its primary work of education, of worship, and of charity. Through the improvement and strengthening of the character of the individual man, Freemasonry seeks to improve the community.

Thus it impresses upon its members the principles of personal righteousness and human welfare, and inspires them with that feeling of charity, or good will, towards all mankind which will move them to translate principle and conviction into action. To that end, it teaches and stands for the worship of God; truth and justice; fraternity and philanthropy; and enlightenment and orderly liberty, civil, religious and intellectual. It charges each of its members to be true and loyal to the government of the country to which he owes allegiance and to be obedient to the law of any state in which he may be.

It believes that the attainment of these objectives is best accomplished by laying a broad basis of principle upon which men of every race, country, sect and opinion may unite rather than by setting up a restricted platform upon which only those of certain races, creeds and opinions can assemble.

Believing these things, this Grand Lodge affirms its continued adherence to that ancient and approved rule of Freemasonry which forbids the discussion in Masonic meetings of creeds, politics or other topics likely to excite personal animosities.

It further affirms its conviction that it is not only contrary to the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, but dangerous to its unity, strength, usefulness and welfare, for Masonic Bodies to take action or attempt to exercise pressure or influence for or against any legislation, or in any way to attempt to procure the election or appointment of governmental officials, or to influence them, whether or not members of the Fraternity, in the performance of their official duties. The true Freemason will act in civil life according to his individual judgment and the dictates of his conscience."

It is well to remember that expedients are for the hour, but principles are for the ages.

*Editor's note: Bro. Halpaus welcomes subscribers to his various e-mail publications. More Light – Mehr Licht®, Masonic Matters®, and T.F.S.® are sent out by e-mail at no charge to anyone who would like to receive them. To subscribe to these publications just send an e-mail to [erhmasonic@gmail.com](mailto:erhmasonic@gmail.com) with "Subscribe" in the subject line and you will be added to the list to receive the publications.*



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