



# Connecticut FREEMASONS

JANUARY 2013



## ***Mattatuck Museum Remembers Its Past***



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



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of Research  
Celebrates 70 Years**



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**Sammie Stoddard  
is 75th Grand  
Worthy Advisor**



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**York Rite  
Balloons Bring  
Cheer To Residents**



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Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM

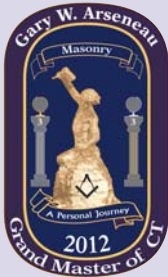
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GRAND MASTER'S  
TRESTLE BOARD

Gary W. Arseneau - January 2013

DATE	EVENT	ATTIRE	PUBLIC	DINNER
Tuesday, January 1	Happy New Year!			
Friday, January 4, 7:45 p.m.	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford, installation of officers	F	N	Y
Saturday, January 5, 4:00	Unity Lodge No. 148, New Britain, installation of officers	F	Y	Y
Saturday, January 5, 5:00 p.m.	Sphinx Shrine, Newington, installation of officers	F	Y	Y
Monday, January 7, 7:30 p.m.	Friendship Lodge No. 33, Southington	F	N	N
Tuesday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.	Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, installation of officers	F	N	Y
Wednesday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.	Hospitality Lodge No. 128, Wethersfield, installation of officers	F	N	Y
Friday, January 11, 5:00 p.m.	Grand Lodge officers meeting, Wallingford	C	Y	N
Monday, January 16, 6:30 p.m.	Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven, Master Mason degree	F	Y	N
Saturday, January 19, 8:30 a.m.	York Rite College			
Friday, January 25, 5:00 p.m.	Grand Lodge officers meeting, Wallingford	C	Y	N
Saturday, January 26, 7:00 p.m.	Daytime Lodge No. 144, Stratford, installation of officers	F	Y	Y
Sunday, January 27, 7:30 a.m.	Friendship Lodge No. 33, Southington, pancake breakfast	C	Y	Y
Monday, January 28	Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville	F	N	N



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# Mattatuck Museum Honors its Makers

by Carl G. Ek

Back in mid-October, *Connecticut Freemasons* received an e-mail from Eloise Mongillo, director of development of the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury. Eloise, who formerly held the same post for The Masonic Charity Foundation, wanted to alert us about a Masonic exhibit opening in the museum in November and invite us to visit and perhaps prepare a story for the magazine.

What prompted the exhibit? The Mattatuck Museum occupies the former Waterbury Masonic Temple, which had its cornerstone laid in 1912. Thus, the Museum would be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the commencement of the building of its home!

With that as an incentive, RW Simon R. LaPlace and I visited the Mattatuck Museum on December 12. For Simon, this was his first time at the building; for me, it was a return to a place I'd visited often as both a DeMolay and young Master Mason.

The Mattatuck Museum sits on the western end of the Waterbury town green, at 144 West Main Street. The exterior of what was the temple's main entry remains unchanged; ornate columns and Masonic emblems adorn the building, and the words "Masonic Temple" remain above the third floor windows. The cornerstone bears the date "1912" and a large square and compasses.

The brochure produced for the Masonic exhibit notes that the cornerstone had been laid in formal ceremonies on August 10, 1912. A photograph of the ceremony shows a number of brothers, doubtless extremely uncomfortable in the heat and humidity all too common in August in Connecticut.

The building was sold to the museum in 1984 as rising expenses and declining membership made it difficult to justify keeping the huge four-story building. This building had replaced an 1888 Masonic Temple on Bank Street that was a casualty of the Waterbury fire of 1902. Its architect was Wilfred E. Griggs, who had designed the city's Odd Fellows Hall. Apparently his work pleased the brothers of the day and he was entrusted with the design of the new Masonic Temple. Mr. Griggs was not a Connecticut Freemason, but this was not a problem to the Waterbury brothers seeking a new and elaborate home.

In 1912, the land that was available to the Masons did not include the corner parcel at West Main and Park Place; thus, Mr. Griggs was left to design a building in the shape of an "L" that would face on both streets. No concern was given to parking at that time since the automobile was only beginning to make its mark on the traveling public.

The building would have a large 'temple hall,' complete with a stage. There would be two lodge rooms, a Commandery asylum, full stage for Scottish Rite ceremonies, and a library for Masons to enjoy, along with a poolroom filled with three regulation tables. By the late 1960's, and probably earlier, all brothers were given building keys allowing them to use the library and poolroom.

While the exterior of the building remained unchanged, we found that the corner lot not available in 1912 and once a home to a service station, among other uses, had become available and been purchased by the museum. A modern exhibit and administrative space had been constructed on that lot and a courtyard developed between the two buildings. The letters "MM" are prominent at the top of this brick structure, representing Mattatuck Museum – or, perhaps, Master Mason?

On entering the museum, we were met by Bro. and curatorial assistant Mike Forino, now the Senior Deacon of Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, one of the former tenants of the building. Mike brought us through the entire structure, starting with the new building's art gallery, and then into the original entry and temple hall.

Other than tables and chairs, the original entryway had undergone little change. Temple hall, once the site of banquets, dances, and acting productions, had been repurposed as a large exhibit hall. Stairs made the former stage accessible as the home to numerous other exhibits.

Modern elevators now run in the space where well-loved senior brothers once ran the elevators manually. Mike took us to each floor, where we discovered many remnants of Masonic construction. The sitting rooms on the second and third floors had been turned into offices. In each, a thorough cleaning of the windows led to the rediscovery of six stained glass panels, each with a representation of Masonic images. The windows were manufactured in New Haven, noted Bro. Forino.

The pool tables are long gone, the long, narrow space being used for restoration and framing. The library remains, although the volumes are somewhat different. Arriving on the upper levels, someone who knew of the Masonic origins of the buildings would recognize the gallery space as former lodge rooms. The north and south access doors



*The cornerstone of the Waterbury Masonic Temple was laid in due form in 1912 by the Grand Master Justin Holden.*

remain, and the high ceilings and large rooms are ideal for the display of art of all types.

Least changed was the topmost floor, where once Clark Commandery No. 7 and the Scottish Rite Valley of Waterbury performed their rituals. The carved wooden columns still surround the room, as do the benches attached to the walls. Recesses in the north and south walls still hold white sculptures as they did when the Masons owned the building, although their subjects are now different.

It seems almost impossible that the stately Waterbury Masonic Temple of 1912 has been the home of the Mattatuck Museum since 1984. Brothers who recall visits to Masonic activities, and those interested in seeing how Masonic buildings of another era were constructed, are invited to visit the museum, where the Masonic exhibit – and several other interesting and varied presentations – will be on display until February 3. The Mattatuck Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, and a nominal admission is charged. Free parking is available behind the museum on Park Place.

For Simon, the visit to Waterbury Masonry's former home was a glimpse into the history of the fraternity; for me, it was a chance to step back into my youth and visits to Doric Chapter, Order of DeMolay on Friday nights and Harmony Lodge No. 42 to confer a Fellowcraft Degree in 1979.

## Our Cover

*Harmony Lodge No. 42's new Senior Deacon Mike Forino, stands at the original entrance to the Waterbury Masonic Temple, now the Mattatuck Museum, where he is curatorial assistant.*



# Grand Master's Message

## Prohibitions and Masonry

While the discussion of politics and religion are strictly prohibited within our lodge rooms, discussions on these subjects are not prohibited elsewhere. So discussions of these subjects may occur whenever there is a gathering of Masons when not specifically in the lodge room, i.e., in the fellowship hall at a dinner, or at an event. Masonry admonishes us to be aware that these subjects are divisive and we should be cautious about them. We must remember that Masonry is made up of men from all walks of life, all social strata, and religions, and this admonition is to allow us to meet in our lodge room in harmony.

How should we approach this? Should we actually refrain from all political or religious discussion at any time? I think our brothers of the 18th century most assuredly discussed politics. If they had not, perhaps the United States would never have happened.

The recent edict of MWGM Jorge Aladro of Grand Lodge of Florida, is, for me, an example of 'agreeing to disagree,' or being open minded enough to accept another man's path. MWGM Aladro states "The question has arisen if certain religious practices are compatible with Freemasonry, primarily Paganism, Wiccan and Odinism, and secondarily Agnosticism and Gnosticism." He decreed that "Therefore, as Grand Master, it is my Ruling and Decision that none of the above mentioned beliefs and/or practices are compatible with Freemasonry since they do not believe or practice one or more of the prerequisites to be a candidate for Masonry listed above." What are those prerequisites for the jurisdiction of Florida? To be a man, to obey the moral law, not be an atheist or an irreligious libertine. Now, while I may disagree with his decision I am able to accept his views and understand that the jurisdiction of Florida is responsible for its requirements.

This is where the notion of 'agree to disagree' comes into play. Masons should learn to be open minded and tolerant of the views of others, be it religious or political. As far as

theological beliefs, Masons (applying agree to disagree) should understand that one man's path to the Grand Architect of the Universe is not necessarily the same as yours. We should respect the beliefs others even though we may disagree, recognizing that the path may not be the right one for you.

Politically we should take the same view and apply the 'agree to disagree' principal in this arena as well. This is especially true of this subject. If your feelings are so strong that you cannot apply the principals of 'agree to disagree,' you should avoid discourse on the subject when in a Masonic setting.

The prohibition of nominations is a process that is often abused. A nomination is defined as the condition of having been proposed or designated as a suitable candidate for appointment or election. Our rules are very specific about nominations. Section 3202 states: "No nominations shall be made in any Lodge." So, for example providing a list of brothers for each elected office would not be a legal ballot because the brothers are being designated (by definition nominated) for an office. A brother who designates himself as willing to serve if elected would also be prohibited as he is again designating himself for an office.

Our elections are and should be open elections with only the restriction on the Worshipful Master's position as this chair has eligibility restrictions (Section 3201 '...no person unless a Past Warden, shall be installed Master...'). The rule allows for elections of any person who has been a Warden or a Past Master. At election time the Master would only be allowed to state that any warden or Past Master is eligible to be elected as Master.



*Gary Arseneau*

## Grand Master Thanks the Extra Effort

Bro. Mike Allstadt's relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Sandy were well documented in the December 2012 issue of *Connecticut Freemasons*.

Bro. Mike enlisted his lodge, Anchor Lodge No. 112, East Hampton, to collect supplies from throughout the town and set up a collection point at the lodge. In less than a week, he and WB Peter Proto had filled a rental van and driven it to a lodge in Bro. Mike's home town of Amityville, New York.

In appreciation of his efforts, MW Gary Arseneau visited Anchor Lodge on Monday, December 10, and presented him with a special recognition pin, designed to be given when a Grand Master notes special effort by a brother.

The pin is a simple square and compasses, but with a carpenter's square with one leg longer.



MW Gary Arseneau presents a special acknowledgement pin to Bro. Mike Allstadt in thanks for his relief efforts following Hurricane Sandy.

# A Brit Makes it to the East in New Milford

by Rafael Figueroa, Jr.

St. Peter's Lodge No. 21, New Milford, held its installation of officers December 9. The lodge room was filled with brethren, family, friends and the lodge's newly sponsored Boy Scout Troop No. 21. What made this installation different was the installation of British citizen as Worshipful Master.

Worshipful Master Richard L. McDonnell first walked into St. Peter's on November 21, 2006, when Rafael Figueroa, Jr. was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. He was raised in Scotland at Lodge Douglas No. 1557 and traveled through out the United Kingdom and Spain visiting lodges. He became very active in St. Peter's and later affiliated them and Housatonic Lodge No. 61, North Canaan. Brother Rick also travels often through District 2, as well as

other lodges in the state and in New York.

When Rafael Figueroa, Jr. was in the East, the Junior Warden had to travel out of state for business and was not available so Bro. Rick filled the seat. He gained the respect and trust of the brothers, proving his proficiency in American ritual and completing all requirements. He was elected in 2012 as Senior Warden and once again he was tested when the Worshipful Master was accepted into the State Police Academy and not available for most of the year.

His election to the Oriental Chair was well earned so the brothers honored him with respect. The lodge, with the assistance of Boy Scout Troop No. 21, presented Bro. Richard with the Union Flag of the United Kingdom and



Brother Richard L. McDonnell is presented for installation by MW Charles W. Yohe, at the installation of officers of St. Peter's Lodge No. 21, New Milford.

after singing the Star Spangled Banner, the entire room sang "God Save the Queen," the national anthem of his country.

He was almost reduced to tears by the gesture. The festivities continued into the evening and all had a great time.

## Bro. Stephen McPherson, President and CEO of Masonicare, Named to Board of National Association

Bro. Stephen McPherson, president and CEO of Masonicare, has been selected to serve a 3-year term on the national board of LeadingAge.

Washington, D.C.-based LeadingAge is an association of 6,000 not-for-profit organizations in the United States focused on advocacy, education, and applied research. LeadingAge promotes home health, hospice, community-based senior services, senior housing, assisted living and continuing care residential communities, adult day services and nursing homes as well as technology solutions and practices that support the overall health and well-being of seniors. Mr. McPherson's term will begin in January.

"Steve brings to our board of directors years of expertise in innovative care and services," said Larry Minnix, LeadingAge

president and CEO. "We are grateful he'll share his talent and insights with our association."

Bro. Steve joined Masonicare in 2000 as chief financial officer and has been its president and CEO since 2005. Under his direction, Masonicare developed a strategic plan involving the modernization and expansion of much of its continuum, including doubling the size of its Continuing Care Retirement Community (Masonicare at Ashlar Village), adding a new state-of-the-art medical office building on the Wallingford campus, partnering with St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center to create Masonicare Partners Home Health in the greater Hartford area, and an expansion of homecare services in Fairfield County through the assimilation of patients from Visiting Nurse

and Hospice of Southwestern Connecticut, which ceased operations last year.

Among his professional affiliations, Bro. Steve is a board member and past president of LeadingAge Connecticut, past president of the Masonic Communities and Services Association, a member of the Policy Congress for LeadingAge, a diplomat of the American College of Healthcare Executives, and an advanced member of the Healthcare Financial Management Association, of which he is a past president of the Connecticut chapter. A former adjunct faculty member in the Master's of Public Health program at University of New Haven, he has served on a number of statewide committees addressing healthcare issues, most recently participating in the State Rightsizing Strategic



Bro. Stephen McPherson

Plan for Long Term Care.

Bro. Steve received a Bachelor of Arts degree from New England College and an MBA from the University of New Haven. He and his wife, Nancy, are Orange residents.



## I hereby resolve to ..... keep my New Year's resolutions!!



Riiight!! Yes, it is that time of year when we resolve, or rather make resolutions, that we are going to improve ourselves as well as our lifestyles. The world has never been paved with such good intentions as New Year's resolutions. Of course, every year, for the most part, the same questions and statements arise over our concern of being able to achieve the goals which we have set for ourselves. Thus we view these resolutions of self-improvement as ways of breaking ourselves of bad habits, or habitual behavior, and hope that our past failures of trying to improve ourselves will not be repeated.

The practice of making promises or vows is not a new concept of the modern world and it can be traced back a few millenniums. At the start of each year the ancient Babylonians made promises to their gods that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts. The Romans made promises to the god

Janus as each year began. The knights in the Medieval era took the "peacock vow" at the end of the Christmas season to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry. Other religious parallels to this tradition can be drawn from the watch night services where many Christians prepare for the year ahead b+++y praying and making resolutions. Rosh Hashanah, Judaism's New Year, through the High Holidays and culminating in Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), one is to reflect upon one's wrong-doings and seek and offer forgiveness. The Christian fasting period Lent also led to the practice of New Year's resolutions.

Of course the most "popular" and yearly resolution is to improve self-well-being by losing weight, exercising more, quitting smoking, drinking less alcohol or none at all, stop biting nails, and do much less procrastinating. All are noble and attainable goals which require commitment, sacrifice, and self-discipline.

Reflecting upon some of these, I am reminded of a couple of phrases which may help dissuade these habitual cravings. "Move a muscle and change a thought." "If you always do what you've always done—

you'll always get what you have always gotten." No matter what we have resolved to do, we must realize that attainment will take time, patience, fortitude, and not allowing discouragement to get in the way.

Possibly the most meaningful resolutions to Masons were already made by us when we took our obligations on the Sacred Book of Law and promised to live by them every day. Of course it never hurts to remind ourselves of our great commitment to brotherly love, relief, and truth every day.

At a recent holiday gathering our Most Worshipful Grand Master Gary Arseneau remarked how December is truly a Masonic month because of the good will and assistance which is demonstrated by others more than at any other time of the year. Wouldn't it be wonderful to extend that Masonic month into a Masonic year for thousands of years to come, and be assured of peace and harmony throughout the world? For now let us continue to be thankful for what we have been blessed with and reach out to help, aid, and assist all of those in need.

**We thank our Masonic  
family for their  
continued support.**



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**Remember to include:**

**Who? What?  
When? Where?  
Why? How Much?**



# Masonicare's Community Connection

by Adam Raider

If extreme weather is indeed the "new normal" as some meteorologists predict, urban and rural communities alike will need to find new ways of sharing resources to ensure public safety.

Increasingly, Masonicare at Newtown is proving itself to be a valuable resource to the community it serves. As it did during Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011 and the freak blizzard that pummeled Connecticut just two months later, the facility again opened its doors to the public in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

"We were able to let the town know well in advance that our facility was available to help in any way that we could," said Masonicare at Newtown Administrator John Sweeney. "Thank goodness this storm had enough warning. We knew a few days in advance what was coming."

In the early hours of the late October storm, when the first

strong winds swept through Connecticut, all of Newtown's main circuits went down. A community of just under 30,000 residents was quickly plunged into darkness – some for as long as a week. Tending to the needs of the elderly and frail was one of the immediate challenges facing town emergency service personnel.

Health District Director Donna Culbert, who is also the town's deputy emergency management director, coordinated efforts to identify residents in need of additional care and have them transported to Masonicare at Newtown, which was on generator power until electricity was restored.

In an interview with *The Newtown Bee*, Culbert – whose mother-in-law is a resident of Lockwood Lodge – praised Masonicare as "a truly monumental partner" with the community.

"Whether it was residents who needed a place to stay," she said, "or even just to take a warm shower, Masonicare opened their doors and their hearts to us."

"It's in the areas of personal care and providing comfort that Masonicare really steps up," said Newtown First Selectman Patricia Llodra. "This is the third time in recent memory that our area has been hard hit by storms, and every time, Masonicare has come forward as a really generous and positive presence within the town. The service they provide is so meaningful and so important and has to be executed by people who have a genuine concern for others. That elevates Masonicare to beyond being just a good partner. They're integral to how Newtown sees itself as a caring community."

Residents were informed that they could take refuge at

Masonicare at Newtown via the town's Reverse 911 Emergency Notification System. Sweeney, who had Masonicare at Newtown's gym converted into a makeshift shelter, estimates that just under 20 residents required overnight lodging while hundreds more took advantage of the shower facilities. Others stopped by to grab a meal in the café or warm up in the lobby with a cup of coffee. There, they chatted with Masonicare residents, who seemed to enjoy the extra company.

"An older resident mentioned to me that she was so grateful to be able to go to Masonicare," Llodra said, "because it feels more private, more personal, and more comfortable. After her shower, she sat out in the lovely sitting area there and had a cup of tea. She said it really gave her the internal reserves she needed to face another couple of days without power."

Sweeney, who also delivered four pallets of bottled water to another facility in town, says these efforts are part of being a good neighbor.

"A woman brought her son over so that he could shower," Sweeney recalled. "He had some special needs and was confined to a wheelchair. So we brought him up to one of our larger showers which is typically reserved for rehab patients. His mom wrote a really sweet note to the local paper thanking us for our help, but we don't do these things for the press or for marketing purposes. We're a big employer and a big commercial presence, but in a small town where everybody knows everybody, it's easier to make connections with people and other businesses. The town knows it can call on us if it needs anything."

Your gifts to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut will help create "Masonicare Experiences" for others. To find out how you can support The Foundation or to make a gift, please call 203-679-5555 or 800-562-3952. You can also donate online at [www.masonicare.org/mcf](http://www.masonicare.org/mcf).

*The Masonicare family joined with the rest of the nation in mourning the irreplaceable loss of life that took place on December 14 at the Sandy Hook Elementary School. The school is located just a few miles from Masonicare at Newtown.*

*In the days that followed, Masonicare at Newtown Administrator John Sweeney made the facility available for lodging or other support for emergency medical and safety workers.*



*The Masonicare at Newtown team has drawn praise for its efforts on behalf of the local community. From left are Susan Sonnati, Deborah Smeriglio, Christine Ambrose, Dolores Ruscoe, Peter Francis Jr., Ernest Footman, John Sweeney, Laura Santoro, Jacqueline Murillo, and Elizabeth Xavier.*



Brother Adam Craig did not serve the Grand Lodge in any capacity other than a Master Mason in Connecticut. He was simply a member of Warren Lodge No. 50, Andover. However, an interesting story was told by Cyrus Pendleton, longtime secretary of Wooster Lodge No. 10, Colchester, in somewhat dramatic form.

Brother Craig was a medical doctor who made house calls between 1854 and 1861. He was extremely busy and had many patients. Whenever he received a call on the outskirts of town, he would let his horse travel at a very easy gait until he was just outside the reaches of the house and then would gallop in, rush in, examine the patient, and announce it was lucky he got there when he did, dispense medication, and give instructions to the family. He would run out, gallop at a very fast pace, again, until he was away from the house and then let the horse trot at its normal pace. Brother Craig also like that liquid refreshment that might make people somewhat impaired.

These were the days when many men got their "annual bleeding," a time when the

doctor would come in take a pint of blood to cleanse the body. It was a recipe for good health. On a given day, the doctor had already had a couple of shots of his favorite liquor when a familiar patient came to the house for his annual ritual. Dr. Craig and his wife were both home, but Dr. Craig was "finally" able to locate a vein and start the blood flowing into the bowl below. Well, our good Brother and Doctor promptly fell asleep. The patient, becoming a little worried, tried to get up, but feeling weak from the blood draw, fell to the floor in a thud.

Mrs. Craig heard the racket and rushed in and according to the story, "saved the day." Brother Craig was an educated man, but sold his practice in Andover and moved to Colchester about 1863, where he became associated with the lodge there, and was pro-tem secretary for a while. In July of 1864 he died and the cause of his death was listed as "brain fever" a polite way of saying that the doctor was "delirious." The 1860 census had him being born in New York. Apparently his wife's name was Emily and they had two children. He may have been born about 1832. When in Colchester

he was assessed \$10 tax for payments to fund the Northern effort during the Civil War.

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In a continuing effort to discuss various appendant bodies of Masonry as well as those that require Masonic membership or have a Masonic affiliation, we continue this month with the Tall Cedars of Lebanon of the United States of America. Currently in Connecticut there are two forests located in Manchester and Windham. The organization is strong on the East Coast and mostly in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. Formed in New Jersey in 1902, the required membership is that of a Master Mason. Two degrees are included in the rite, the Royal Court and the Sidonian.

The purpose of the group is to provide social entertainment and innocent recreation and to promote wider acquaintance and friendship with men that have fraternal bonds. The Muscular Dystrophy charities are the recipients of the forest charities. In Connecticut, Nutmeg Forest in Manchester was a founder of the famous Thanksgiving Day road race through the streets of Manchester.

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Pawcatuck Lodge No. 90, a daughter lodge of Asylum Lodge No. 57, now combined to form Coastal Lodge No. 57, Stonington, was chartered in 1863 with some who defected from Asylum. It is the only Connecticut lodge which met (formally) out of state for much of its tenure. In 1866 the lodge was meeting at the Pawcatuck Hotel and then the Brown and Ripley Building, but that burned in 1868 and the charter, furnishings, and belongings all were lost in the fire. The lodge had just recently moved to the building. In 1879 they began to meet in Westerly, Rhode Island at the Champlin Block just across the Pawcatuck River.

From 1894 until 1910 they met at the Barber Memorial Building, but once again the lodge suffered a loss due to fire. For just over a year the lodge met in the Odd Fellows building until the Barber Building was rebuilt. When the time came to move back across the border, it was in 1957 and Pawcatuck Lodge constructed their own building. They met there until their merger with Asylum Lodge No. 57 and Charity & Relief Lodge No. 72. The three lodges chose the Stonington building to be their meeting place.



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## Order of the Eastern Star sponsors a Rainbow and DeMolay Fun Event

**Saturday, February 9 • 3:30 p.m.**

**New Haven Masonic Temple • 285 Whitney Avenue, New Haven**

The Rainbow Grand Officers and State Officers of DeMolay will present several degrees including a salute to our Connecticut Masonic Family

**5:30 p.m. - mystery dinner**

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# Depression and Anxiety in the Elderly

Currently, there are 35 million people over the age of 65 in the United States, and by 2050, this population will double to more than 70 million. Unfortunately, in addition to dementia and Alzheimer's disease, behavioral health disorders such as depression and anxiety are not uncommon in older adults. Here, Dr. Rajesh Tampi, director of behavioral health for Masonicare and an expert in the field, discusses these disorders and explains how identifying and treating the symptoms can greatly improve a person's quality of life – and his or her family's as well.



Dr. Rajesh Tampi

Clinical depression in the elderly is a widespread problem, but only about 10% of individuals receive treatment for their depression. There are a few reasons. One is that symptoms of depression in the senior population can be displayed in a variety of ways, making it harder to diagnose, or the symptoms can be confused with illnesses and the affects of the array of medicines used to treat them. As a result, early depression may be ignored or mistaken for other conditions common in the elderly. It is very important to address these symptoms, however, as they can lead to poor healthcare outcomes.

Anxiety disorders are the most common of all psychiatric disorders across the life span. Among seniors, clinically significant anxiety is seen in about one-fifth of the population. Phobias (irrational fears) are the most common of all anxiety disorders in older adults, followed by generalized anxiety disorder (excessive worry) and posttraumatic disorder (significant worry after a trauma). In later life, anxiety often occurs along with depression. A third of seniors have both clinically significant anxiety and depression.

Depression and anxiety are more common in older women. These two disorders also tend to be genetic, with certain families having a greater prevalence. Risk factors include social problems, psychological disorders, medical illnesses, and the use of substances such as alcohol, cannabis, and cocaine. Higher rates of these disorders are seen in older adults who have suffered from personal losses, moved from their place of stay to a nursing home or hospital, and have limited financial or social support. Medical conditions, such as thyroid disease, heart attack, or stroke are known risk factors. The use of prescription drugs such as those used to treat thyroid disease or cancer, can lead to depression, and

asthma medications, for example, can cause significant anxiety in the elderly.

If untreated in older individuals, depression and anxiety can have serious consequences. Evidence indicates that without appropriate treatment, older adults with these disorders suffer from significant physical and cognitive decline. Untreated depression and anxiety increases the rate of suicide in older adults. When untreated, these conditions can be extremely costly to the individual and society in terms of loss of productivity, overall cost of care, and the loss of life from suicides.

Most older adults who want treatment for their depression and anxiety tend to seek it from their primary care providers, not from a behavioral health specialist, and only one half are correctly diagnosed. Only one third of the elderly with depression or anxiety are evaluated by a behavioral health specialist. Common screening tools, such as the SF-36 health survey, can help identify symptoms of depression and anxiety and is recommended for use during routine visits to the primary care physician.

Once the symptoms of depression or anxiety have been identified, clinicians can use specific rating scales as diagnostic tools and have several options available to treat these conditions. Psychotherapies (also

known as talk therapies) have been effective, and antidepressants can be useful, either alone or in combination with psychotherapy. When symptoms are severe, combinations of medications with or without psychotherapy may be needed to treat the symptoms. Electroconvulsive therapy (also known as shock therapy) is another treatment option, and evidence indicates it can be as effective as it is in younger adults. More than three quarters of seniors with depression and anxiety show significant improvement with treatment. Because these are recurring disorders, however, regular follow-up visits with a healthcare provider are essential to properly monitor progress.

Depression and anxiety are common conditions among older adults, and if left untreated, they can cause significant problems. Early diagnosis and treatment of these conditions will reduce unnecessary suffering – for the individual and for his or her family as well.

If you or a loved one is having prolonged feelings of stress, grief, or sadness, have trouble sleeping, or have lost interest in life's daily pleasures, help is available through Masonicare Behavioral Health. The practice is conveniently located in the Medical Office Building on the Masonicare campus in Wallingford. For additional information or to schedule a confidential evaluation, please call 203-265-5720.

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FROM THE DESK OF:

## Bro. Stephen B. McPherson President & CEO of Masonicare



The Sandy Hook Elementary School is located just a few miles from our Newtown campus, where we interact with hundreds of patients, residents, and volunteers, and employ over 300 people. Horrified at what was happening so close by on December 14, we were also extremely concerned about employees' children who attended the school.

By that fateful Friday afternoon, our hospice and bereavement professionals were mobilized to offer support and comfort to employees and the community. Masonicare at Newtown's administrator, John Sweeney, quickly reached out to First Selectman Patricia Llodra to offer lodging or other support for emergency medical and safety workers.

The following Monday, the Lodge Room at Lockwood Lodge was the scene of support for staff and families throughout the day. That afternoon, Chaplain Joe Blotz held a worship service open to all residents, staff, and visitors in one of the third floor dining rooms. In Wallingford, 28 memorial tea lights were placed on the altar in the Health Center chapel. Open as always, the chapel was offered as a particular destination for staff, residents, and families to use for prayer or contemplation. Chaplains Thayer Quoos and MaryAnn Purtill were available to minister to staff as well as residents and patients. The week before Christmas, ecumenical services were held on both the upper and lower campus. At 9:30 a.m. Friday, December 21, the carillon in front of the Health Center was rung 26 times, joining bells at Masonicare

at Newtown and across the state.

Given the intense desire among our employees to "do something," we identified the Sandy Hook School Support Fund, created by the United Way of Western Connecticut and Newtown Savings Bank, as a way to do so. The fund will provide support services directly to affected families and the community. Masonicare matched employee donations and Bro. Carl Anderson presented the entire amount to the United Way at the end of December.

Circumstances such as this are a test of our ability to believe in good. As Susan Adams, vice president at MHH, said to her staff, "As homecare providers, we all strive every day to do good in this world, to help others, and make things better for them. The true test comes when we are at a loss for how to even try to make it better. We must continue to do what we do best – care." And we did. I am very proud and grateful to all of our employees for their compassion and support throughout this difficult time. All of us continue praying for the families, school staff, and first responders as they do their best to go on.

Sincerely and fraternally,



## Tree of Life Stands for Residents, Patients of Masonicare

The Tree of Life, an event benefiting the programs and services of Masonicare, was recently held at the Augusta Curtis Cultural Center in Meriden and the Italian Center of Stamford.

Organized by The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, the philanthropic affiliate of Masonicare, the Tree of Life is a celebration for all those who have lost loved ones and want to honor them at a non-denominational tree-lighting ceremony. The names of honorees are also added to the Tree of Life Honor Roll.

Rev. Dr. Robert Childs, Hospice Spiritual Care Coordinator at the Norwalk branch of Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, offered words of inspiration at both Tree of Life events. The lights, he said, symbolize eternal life and provide an opportunity to remember those who are no longer with us. He

acknowledged our commitment to "refuse to forget" those who have passed, and the importance of dedicating our own lives so that others will light a light for what we have meant to them. He encouraged everyone to commit themselves to lives that contribute to the betterment of mankind, so that others will "refuse to forget."

Collectively, over 250 people attended both tree-lighting ceremonies, raising over \$45,800 in the process.

"The Tree of Life has been a community tradition in Fairfield County for many years," said Patricia L. Morgan, The Foundation's director of development, "and we hope this marks the beginning of a new tradition in Meriden. We're so grateful to everyone who made gifts in support of the Tree of Life, or were able to attend one of our tree-lighting ceremonies."

A tradition for over 25 years,

the Tree of Life was originally a fundraiser of the former Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care of Southwestern Connecticut, Inc. (VNHC), which ceased operations in 2011. At that time, Masonicare was identified as the nonprofit organization best qualified to assume the care of VNHC's patients, hire VNHC staff, and continue to provide the highest quality care to the area once served by VNHC.

Tax-deductible donations in support of the Tree of Life enables Masonicare to provide quality, compassionate home health and hospice care to our patients and their families when no other funding sources are available.

The Tree of Life was sponsored



*Dr. Susan F. Adams, regional vice president/administrator, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, delivers remarks on behalf of Masonicare Home Health & Hospice during the Tree of Life event at Meriden's Augusta Curtis Cultural Center on December 1.*

by Pitney Bowes, Morrison Senior Living, First Niagara Foundation, Acacia Lodge No. 85, AMC Health, Commercial Furniture, Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107, the Masonic Club of Darien, Lavalette Landscaping, Leo P. Gallagher & Son Funeral Home, Medline, and Union Lodge No. 5.



# Masonicare's 2012 Festival of Trees Fundraiser a Huge Success



Masonicare's Twenty-fourth Annual Festival of Trees held at the Masonicare Health Center was, as always, an exciting and very successful fundraising effort. A total of \$6,531.50 was collected this year from the lucky individuals who were the top bidders on the trees of their choice.

The 57 unique, beautifully decorated tabletop trees, all designed and trimmed by teams of Masonicare employees, volunteers and residents, were on continuous display in the lobby from early December through the afternoon

of December 18, when the highest bidders were announced.

This year, the tree that raised the most money - \$400 - was "Snow Day," created and submitted by staff in Masonicare's Food Services Department. Wallingford resident Donna Terrell was the lucky bidder.

The funds collected will be used throughout the coming year to support a host of activities and programs for residents of the Health Center.

*Donna Terrell of Wallingford was the lucky recipient of the festive tree "Snow Day." The tree received the highest bid of \$400 in this year's Festival of Trees at the Masonicare Health Center.*

## Masonicare Names Steven J. Angelo, MD, Vice President of Medical Affairs

Dr. Steven J. Angelo of Branford has joined Masonicare as vice president of medical affairs. He will be responsible for overseeing the full spectrum of Masonicare's physician services, providing

clinical leadership and medical direction throughout the entire continuum to maintain a well-integrated and high quality medical staff.

In making the announcement, Bro. Stephen McPherson, Masonicare's president and CEO, said, "Given the medical model at our skilled nursing facilities, our growing medical presence in area nursing homes, and the rising aging population, the time was right to establish a vice president of medical affairs. We welcome Dr. Angelo's many years of experience and expertise. He'll be a valuable addition to our executive management team."

Dr. Angelo is a summa cum laude graduate of Fairfield University. He earned his medical degree from the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey and completed his residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Prior to joining Masonicare, Dr. Angelo was the director of hospitalist services for the St. Raphael Campus of Yale-New Haven Hospital and is a clinical instructor at Yale University School of Medicine. In 2008, ACP-Hospitalist placed him on their Honor Roll of Top Hospitalists nationally. He has authored or co-authored a number of healthcare-related publications. Dr. Angelo lives in Branford with his wife and daughters.



*Dr. Steven J. Angelo*

### Milford Gives to Toys for Tots



WM Robert Thomas of Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford, left, presented fire fighters of the City of Milford with a check for \$1,500 for their 2012 Toys for Tots program. The money was raised by Milford's York Rite bodies' breakfast.



## We welcome our new brothers to the fraternity.

Michael J. Fiumidinisi .....	<i>Ansantawae</i> 89	Kyle L. Canning.....	<i>St. Andrew's</i> 64
Eric R. Schneider .....	<i>Ansantawae</i> 89	James E. Dietlin .....	<i>St. Andrew's</i> 64
Douglas M. Stolze.....	<i>Ansantawae</i> 89	Allen W. Fritzing .....	<i>St. Andrew's</i> 64
Robert A. King.....	<i>Corinthian</i> 104	Robert C. Flemming III.....	<i>St. John's</i> 6
Julio E. Rosado.....	<i>Corinthian</i> 104	Fazlul Karim.....	<i>Temple</i> 16
John F. Fisher.....	<i>Corinthian</i> 63	Robert W. Lewonka.....	<i>Temple</i> 16
Thomas V. Farrelly .....	<i>King Solomons</i> 7	Stephen W. Doughty II .....	<i>Village</i> 29
Gerard R. Houle.....	<i>Seneca</i> 55	Paul G. Senecal .....	<i>Warren</i> 51
John R. Anderson.....	<i>St. Andrew's</i> 64	Maynard D. Williams Jr.....	<i>Warren</i> 51

## Masonic Commendation to Scout Meehan

The Grand Lodge and the Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association extend congratulations to Thomas J. Meehan on advancing to the rank of Eagle Scout. Thomas, a Boy Scout in Troop 721, chartered to St. Mary's Church in Milford, was presented the Eagle Scout award at a special Court of Honor convened on April 29. At the court of honor RW Scott Sherrick, assisted by Bro. Jonathan Glassman, presented Thomas with the Masonic Eagle Scout Commendation from the Grand Lodge and the Masonic Scouters Association.

Thomas began his Scouting career as a Cub Scout in Pack 922 at Peck Place School in Orange. After earning the Arrow of Light Award he crossed over into Boy Scout Troop 721 and started on the trail to earning the Eagle Scout Award. Thomas has served his troop in leadership positions including as assistant patrol leader, troop guide, assistant senior patrol leader, and now as junior assistant scoutmaster. He has earned twenty-seven merit badges and was also awarded the Bronze Eagle Scout Palm. Thomas has gone to summer camp at Camp Sequassen every

year since joining the troop, and attended the 2010 National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia. He is also an active member of Sea Scout Ship 721, where he holds the apprentice rank and serves as boatswain's mate.

Thomas's Eagle Scout service project brought him to the Race Brook Tract in Orange, where he completely renovated the Howard Brooks Trail and surrounding areas. Giving leadership to a large group of volunteers made up of Scouts from the troop and many community members in over 725 man-hours of work, Thomas led the way in removing substantial amounts of overgrowth and poisonous plants, adding over 115 new plants and trees, creating a new map of the trail, and power washing park benches, thereby revitalizing the area for public use.

The Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association (CMSA) is a group of Connecticut



Thomas J. Meehan holds the certificate presented to him by Bro. Jonathan Glassman, left, and RW Scott Sherrick at his Court of Honor.

Masons and Scouters, coming together in the bonds of Scouting and Masonic brotherhood to promote and build upon the long standing positive relationship between Freemasonry and the Boy Scouts of America. For information contact CMSA Chairman Tom Maxwell at [maxwelltm@charter.net](mailto:maxwelltm@charter.net).

## JD Would Be 'Piqued' by this Article

by Carl G. Ek

Brothers who remember the late RW JD Krell of Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 75, Versailles, can testify as to his skill at ritual. A retired Navy captain, JD delivered the Middle Chamber lecture hundreds of times, generally with the New London Subase Degree Team. His skill at this difficult piece was legendary, but JD also mastered many other pieces of Masonic work.

Decades ago, as installation season approached, he submitted a brief article

to the existing publication of the day, the *Connecticut Square & Compasses*, concerning an uncommon word found in the Ancient Charges read when installing a Master.

The Master promises not to become involved in "private piques and quarrels..." – but few know what a 'pique' is, much less how it's properly pronounced.

Webster's tells us that pique is a noun pronounced so as to rhyme with beak, or cheek, or Greek, or peek. Its use goes back before 1600, and means "a transient feeling

of wounded vanity." Its meaning is related to resentment and offense; in the context of the installation, the Master is reminded not to become involved in private matters as this can impair the harmony of the lodge.

Another use of 'pique' as a synonym for "provoke," as in 'piquing one's curiosity.' Perhaps it would be JD's wish to pique the curiosity of those installing lodges this year, as well as that of all who attend to support their brothers!



# Susan Adams of Masonicare Elected to CAHCH Board of Directors

Susan F. Adams, RN, BSN, MHSA, PhD, regional vice president and administrator for Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, has been elected by the membership of the Connecticut Association of Home Care & Hospice (CAHCH) to serve as a member-at-large on the association's board of directors. The two-year term begins on January 1. The announcement was made at CAHCH's annual meeting in November.

The mission of CAHCH is to support its members in providing exceptional quality and accessible home health and hospice services to individuals and families throughout Connecticut through

collaboration, leadership, provision of information, advocacy and education. With healthcare reform now a reality, home health will play an even greater role in healthcare delivery.

"I've been a member of CAHCH for many years," Ms. Adams said, "and I believe strongly in their mission and ability to lobby on behalf of home health and hospice care. I'm pleased to have been elected by my peers in the field and look forward to representing Masonicare as a board member."

Bro. Stephen B. McPherson, Masonicare's president and CEO, said, "Susan's impressive background and many years of

managerial, strategic, and hands-on experience in the healthcare field have been a wonderful asset to Masonicare. Her leadership



*Susan F. Adams*

skills, dedication, and strong commitment to the delivery of quality home health and hospice care will make her a valuable addition to the CAHCH board."

Ms. Adams received a BS degree in nursing from the University of Connecticut, a Master's in Health Services Administration from St. Joseph College, and a PhD in Health Services Management from LaSalle University. She serves as a bereavement support facilitator for the Hygeia Foundation and is a volunteer for Yale-New Haven Hospital's Books for Babies Program. Ms. Adams and her husband are residents of Madison.

# WB Jon-Paul Venoit of Masonicare Named Chairman of the Connecticut Assisted Living Association

WB Jon-Paul (JP) Venoit, senior vice president of residential and community-based services for Masonicare, has been appointed chairman of the Connecticut Assisted Living Association (CALA). Formed in 1995, CALA promotes and supports assisted living providers and associated members through educational programs, legislative and public policy advocacy, and other initiatives. The announcement was made at the organization's annual dinner in December.

Bro. JP is a past master of Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, as well as a member of Cosmopolitan No. 125, New Haven, and Ashlar Lodge No. 332, Wallingford.

Bro. JP began his career with Masonicare at Ashlar Village as a waiter while still in high school. After graduating from the University of Hartford with a B.S. degree in finance, he moved into positions of increasing responsibility, including his tenure as chief administrator

for Masonicare at Ashlar Village for several years and recent promotion to wsenior vice president of residential and community-based services. In 2003, through the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA – now LeadingAge), he earned his Certified Aging Services Professional license from the University of Texas and, in 2007, his AAHSA Fellow certificate.

Bro. JP is a past chairman of the Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce, secretary of the Wallingford Planning and Zoning Commission, a vice chairman of the Wallingford Education Foundation, and a member of the Board of Governors at MidState Medical Center. He is also a surveyor for CARF/CCAC (Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities/Continuing Care Accreditation Commission) and a member of the Young President's Organization.

A past recipient of a Distinguished Alumni Award

from the Wallingford Education Foundation, Bro. JP was recognized in 2005 as one of the "Forty Under 40" by New Haven Business Times. He and his wife, Chris, and their two sons live in Wallingford.

Outlined below are some interesting facts and recent recognition of Masonicare that you might not know:

Masonicare has become an acknowledged leader in assisted living by providing close to 200 assisted living apartments in innovative and customized assisted living communities in Wallingford and in Newtown. Both communities include specialized programs of care and support for individuals with mild to moderate dementia. In 2009, Masonicare received an "exemplary" citation for their assisted living-memory care program from CARF-CCAC (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities – Continuing Care Accreditation Commission). Masonicare was recently recognized as a "Great



*WB Jon-Paul (JP) Venoit*

Place to Work" by Connecticut Magazine and earlier this year, readers of the New Haven Advocate voted that Masonicare provided the "Best Assisted Living Facility." The Connecticut Law Tribune recognized Masonicare's assisted living with "The Best - Gold" award for 2012.

To learn more about Masonicare's assisted living, please call the Masonicare HelpLine at 888-679-9997.



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

It may be hard to draw a comparison between looking at a farmer's newly cut hay field and being a Mason, but if you look at it from two different angles you might see the comparison. A farmer's animal sees the bales of hay out in the field in either of two forms. It is either gathered up in a square bales or a round bales. More specifically, the animal sees it as either a square meal or a well rounded bale. At the same time, if we, as Masons, see that square bale as representing the Blue Lodge, we than can

see it as the solid foundation of the basic principles and that of our brotherhood. On the other hand, we might then see that the round bale would then represent the rounding out of our Masonic teachings by being members of the Scottish Rite.

We might even go as far as to say that "The Scottish Rite Mason is a gentleman. He cultivates genuine friendships with good companions. He is a worthwhile citizen who strives to promote the common good by serving God, his country,

and his community. In a word, a man of faith and honesty, of strength of character though self-mastery, of respect for family and a lawful authority, of leadership in the pursuit of good – that is a Scottish Rite man."

The month of February represents the beginning of a new journey for our spring class of candidates who want to receive more light in Masonry and learn the core values of the lessons of our degrees. It also gives us another chance for our Scottish Rite brethren to renew old acquaintances and perhaps see the portrayal of a degree they may have never viewed or has been updated.

An Open House/Candidate Information Night will be held on February 7 for Master Masons who are considering becoming a member of the Supreme Council's (NMJ) 200th Anniversary 2013 Spring Class. On February 21, the Valley will portray the 4° and the 14°. Then on March 7, the Valley will portray the 10° and 16°. The starting time for the Open House/Candidate Information Night and the degree nights all start at 7:30 p.m. Pre-degree dinners will again be served this season on both February 21, and March 7, starting at 6:10 p.m.

at the Sphinx Shrine Facility next door to the Scottish Rite Cathedral.

The 2013 Spring Class candidates also need to set aside two Saturdays in order to complete their Scottish Rite Degrees.

On Saturday, March 23, the Valley of Hartford, along with the other Valleys located in our state, will be joining forces to present the 17° and 18°. A luncheon is being planned for that day to follow the degrees.

The Valley of Hartford will then wrap up the spring 2013 degree schedule on Saturday, April 27 with the presentation of 25° and the new 32°. Once again the valley is planning on holding its customary prime rib luncheon following the portrayal of the degrees.

Please check the Valley's latest copy of the "View of the Valley," or visit the valley's website [www.valleyofhartford.org](http://www.valleyofhartford.org), for pre-degree dinner registration form and luncheon meal reservation forms.

If you are not a Scottish Rite Mason and would like more information about our part of the Masonic family, informational DVD's are available from the Valley of Hartford office at 860-666-0712 or [sect@snet.net](mailto:sect@snet.net).



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or, see what Scottish Rite has to offer by visiting our website:  
[www.valleyofhartford.org](http://www.valleyofhartford.org)

**Applications for the 2013 Spring Class are now being accepted**

If at you would like more information about becoming a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, or would like a copy of Scottish Rite Informational DVD Contact David Blythe Sr., 330, Valley Secretary, at the Valley of Hartford Office 860-666-0712, or [sect@snet.net](mailto:sect@snet.net) or visit our Valley Website: [www.valleyofhartford.org](http://www.valleyofhartford.org) to obtain an application, or to obtain more information about the Valley of Hartford.

## Called to the Celestial Lodge

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

Jack Salowitz.....	Coastal 57	George W. Hatfield.....	Granite 119	George Pineman.....	St. Peter's 21
William C. Smith .....	Columbia 25	Robert P. Boardman .....	Hartford Evergreen 88	Joseph Turner .....	Temple 65
Theodore F. Sundberg .....	Corinthian 103	Kenneth H. Williams .....	Hiram 18	Albert F. Anderson Jr .....	Union 40
David E. Dixon.....	Day Spring 30	Daniel A. Dwyer .....	Jerusalem 49	John G. Koukos .....	Union 40
George H. Poulos .....	Day Spring 30	Charles E. Howard .....	King Hiram 12	William Monos .....	Union 5
Joseph R. Kablik.....	Eastern Star 44	John M. Arnold .....	Moriah 15	Lawrence S. Carlton Jr.....	Village 29
Robert B. Galbraith Jr.....	Evening Star 101	Warren J. Blessing.....	Silas Deane 147	Thomas P. Rainey .....	Washington 19
Albert J. Elderkin .....	Fayette 69	C. Donald McKelvie Jr .....	Silas Deane 147	Valentine H. Everson III.....	Widow's Son 66
Robert T. Harper .....	Federal 17	Rudi E. Neumann.....	Silas Deane 147	Robert D. Jonah.....	Wooster 10
Raymond G. Bunn.....	Frederick Franklin 14	Robert E. Utterberg.....	Silas Deane 147	Gilbert H. Ford Jr.....	Wyllys-St. John's 4
Keith D. Graham Jr .....	Frederick Franklin 14	Charles G. Wood .....	Silas Deane 147	Thomas S. George .....	Wyllys-St. John's 4
Henry N. Paine.....	Frederick Franklin 14	Frank R. Allen.....	Somerset-St. James 34		



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

Happy New Year! We hope this New Year brings all of your hopes to fruition. May it truly be a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year for all of us! It is more than a new year for the Valley of New Haven, it is the time to buttonhole those very special brothers in all of your places, stations, and ways. Our Spring

Reunion is a heartbeat away. It is also the bicentennial of our Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. To commemorate this milestone, a special medallion has been created to be given to each member of the class during our bicentennial year. Hand out those petitions, get them signed, earn your black caps. It just takes five top-line signatures

in a year to earn yours. Help to make this the biggest class we've seen. The time is now!

Our labors continue on Monday evening, January 7, at 7:30 p.m. with a stated meeting. Our next event, held on Monday evening, January 14 is a doozy! A night of food, rock 'n' roll nostalgia, humor, and history awaits. Brian Gillie's performance: *The Roots of Rock 'n' Roll* features costumes, sound bites, stand-up piano playing, radio commercials, and impersonations reveal the sound of this genre through its first fifteen years. Brian Gillie is a full-time performance/educator.

It all starts off with the heartiest of Italian cuisine at 6:30 p.m. Showtime is at 7:30 p.m. It all takes place at The New Haven Masonic Temple, 285 Whitney Avenue, New Haven. It's a give away at \$15 per couple, and reservations are a must! Make your checks out now to New Haven Scottish Rite, and send them to: James Kleinkauf, 1635 Long Hill Rd., Guilford, CT 06437. Tell Jim how many are in your party.

The deadline for reservations is January 7. In case the weather is too inclement, the alternate date is January 28. Both of these dates are Candidate Information Nights. Let this kick-off to our Spring Reunion be a triumph for the bicentennial of our Northern Masonic Jurisdiction!

Next month, a wreath laying will take place at the grave of our first Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious Brother Daniel D. Tompkins. More events will follow and we will have more opportunities to reach our goal of 10,000 Scottish Rite Brothers. So, carry those petitions on you. Let's make this bicentennial one for the record books! If you need petitions, you can get them from our Illustrious Secretary Vernon K. Cleaves, your Lodge Ambassador, or on line. On February 4, E. G. Storer Lodge of Perfection takes center stage, once again, to bring on new Master Travelers. On Saturday, February 20, we will have our Seventh Annual Winter Picnic.

See you in the Valley...

## ATTENTION MASONS

### Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

#### THE VALLEY OF NEW HAVEN

Masonic Temple, 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven

**Monday, January 7 • 7:30 p.m. - Stated meeting**

**Monday • January 14**

**The Roots of Rock 'n' Roll dinner and show  
Dinner - 6:30 p.m. • Showtime - 7:30 p.m.**

New Haven Masonic Temple, 285 Whitney Avenue, New Haven

Reservations to to New Haven Scottish Rite, c/o James Kleinkauf

1635 Long Hill Rd., Guilford, CT 06437 - Reservations deadline January 7

**Saturday, February 20 - Seventh Annual Winter Picnic**

For further information, please contact

Valley Secretary Ill. Vernon K. Cleaves, 33° at 203-269-0336  
or any member of the Valley.



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



## #26actsofkindness and the Masonic Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Program

by Richard F. Denno

Having heard of the horrific tragedy at Sandy Hook, one can appreciate a warm idea expressed by NBC's Ann Curry. While covering the genocide of Darfur in 2007, she felt that she had to do 'something' in the face of such suffering. She went to her van, and returned with a Polaroid camera and began taking pictures of the local women.

Seeing only a gray blank page, the women looked questionably at Curry. She raised her index finger to indicate, 'wait just one minute.' As their photo appeared, smiles melted across their faces.

Remembering back five years to that time made Curry think, "What if people did one act of kindness for every life lost in Newtown on December 14?" Curry reasoned, "If you do good, you'll feel good." She tweeted her thoughts to some folks and the rest is history... and growing.

What does this have to do with becoming a registered organ/

tissue/eye donor, you ask? We, at the Masonic Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Program, think that the #26actsofkindness idea is a wonderful way of paying tribute to those lives tragically lost in Newtown.

By the time you receive this edition of the *Connecticut Freemasons*, the number of patients on the organ transplant waiting list will exceed 117,000. As of this writing, the waiting list totals 116,882 patients.

Each day, approximately 18 patients die waiting for the transplant that could save or vastly improve their lives. The list keeps growing each and every day.

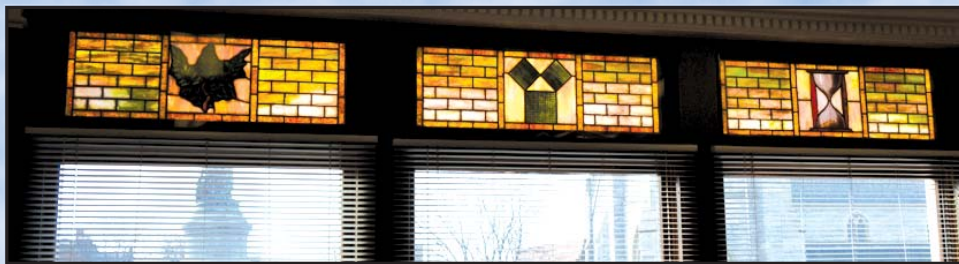
Please consider making one of your #26actsofkindness by going to the [www.donatelifenewengland.org](http://www.donatelifenewengland.org) website, learning of the lifesaving power of becoming a registered donor, and registering online. Another wonderful act of kindness would be to encourage your family and friends to do the same.



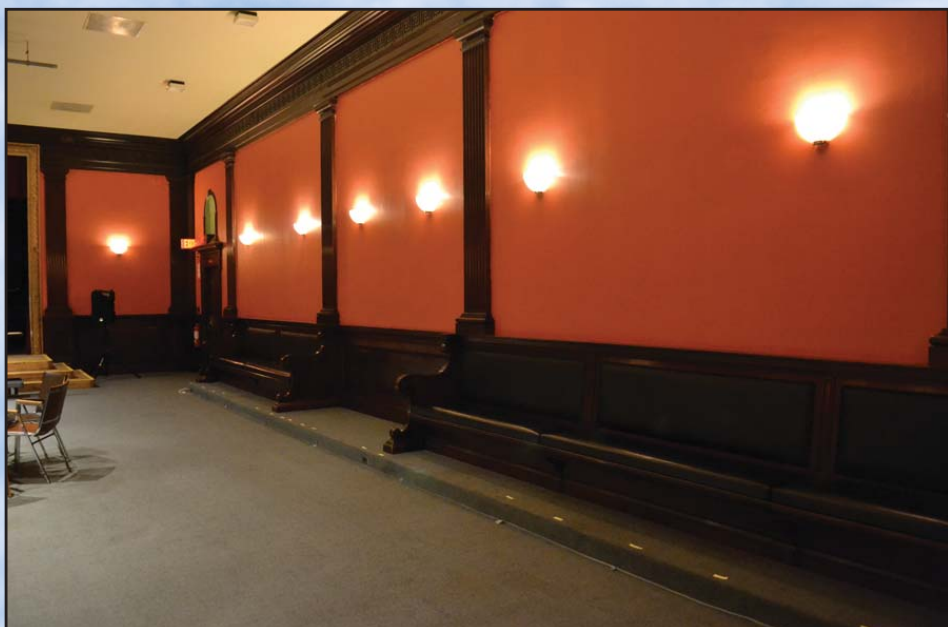
# Freemasonry Remains in Mattatuck Museum



A case displays some of the Masonic memorabilia now in the possession of the Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury. The photo shows a Harmony Lodge No. 42 Fellowcraft Club dinner filling the former Temple Hall with hundreds of brothers.



A thorough cleaning of decades of coal and oil soot and the smoke of brothers' cigars revealed six stained glass windows, each with Masonic symbols, above the operable windows on the second and third floors of the building.



The architecture of the upper level Commandery asylum and Scottish Rite theater has changed very little in the 28 years since the Mattatuck Museum has owned the former Waterbury Masonic Temple. Dark wood paneling and fraternal columns adorn the walls and frame the door.



From across the street, the façade of the 1912 Waterbury Masonic Temple, whose cornerstone was laid in 1912.



The large lodge room is now an art gallery. More photos of the Mattatuck Museum can be found at [www.ctfreemason.net](http://www.ctfreemason.net).



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OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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GRAND SECRETARY  
PO Box 250  
Wallingford, CT 06492



BUSINESS PHONE  
(203) 679-5903  
FAX NUMBER  
(203) 679-5996  
[grandlodge@masonicare.org](mailto:grandlodge@masonicare.org)

Dear Masonic Family, Wheresoever Dispersed:

To those of you who have contacted this Grand Lodge or our Hiram Lodge No. 18 in Newtown, we express our profound thanks for your generous offers and prayers.

The Brothers of Hiram Lodge No. 18 are devastated, as we all are. It is a tragedy which has touched everyone in Newtown. How they and we as a nation will recover from such senseless violence is a question yet to be answered or resolved.

We can be proud of our local DeMolay members. They are keeping vigil at the small shrines that have popped up around the school. They have been keeping the candles lit and watching over the area where folks have been paying their respects. A small service, but they are helping in any way they can and we can be proud of these young men and their devotion to their community.

We are attaching a letter from the Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge No. 18 which outlines what they are doing and indicates how we in Connecticut plan to handle any donations intended for the relief of the distressed families.

Please feel free to distribute this information within the Masonic Fraternity as you see fit.

We take solace in the thought that, though this holiday season may be saddened by the loss of twenty six beautiful souls, they have been welcomed by the Grand Architect where they enjoy eternal peace and love with their Heavenly Father.

Fraternally,

Grand Lodge AF&AM of Connecticut

---

Brethren,

On behalf of Hiram Lodge No. 18, A.F.& A.M. of Connecticut and its officers, I wish to communicate our deepest gratitude for the immediate outpouring of love that the Masonic Community is expressing. The heartfelt conveyance of condolences and the wish to express kindness to the families of the victims is flooding in from many jurisdictions in the United States and even beyond our shores.

Words cannot express the sadness that the entire community is feeling. Our love and prayers are lifted up daily for the families of these precious children, teachers and others who were slain.

We ask at this time, that any intended relief funds be directed to the Grand Lodge of Connecticut's 501(C)(3) subsidiary, the "Connecticut Freemasons Foundation," P. O. Box 69, Wallingford, CT 06492-0069, which is setting up a separate account called the "Newtown Family Relief Fund" for any donations.

Any monetary donations should be made payable to the "Connecticut Freemasons Foundation" with the notation "Newtown Family Relief Fund."

Hiram Lodge No. 18 is working directly with local Newtown officials to determine how best to assist the involved families.

Fraternally,

Joseph Porco, Worshipful Master  
Hiram Lodge No. 18  
Newtown, Connecticut



# Masonicare Expands Adult Day Care Program

## *Specialized model at The Hearth for those with dementia*

Starting this month, Masonicare is opening its Adult Day Program to the general public. Opened in 2007, The Hearth is a state-licensed memory support residence on the Masonicare at Ashlar Village campus in Wallingford. Its adult day program was created as an extension to provide specialized programs in an assisted living environment for Masonicare residents with dementia. The community-at-large is now being offered the same quality care from a recognized leader in the field of senior services.

The benefits of an adult day program are far-reaching and can help the whole family. "This type of program can provide not

only a supportive and caring environment for those with memory loss, but also a well-needed rest for their caregiver also," says Deb Lavalley, R.N, supervisor of assisted living services at Masonicare. "It's very important to find a balance between being a caregiver to a loved one with dementia and maintaining your relationship as a spouse or an adult child," says Lavalley. "Too often, I see these relationships become fractured from the stress of caregiving. An adult day program can be a great help."

The Hearth at Masonicare embraces a "social model" format that features a secure but home-like environment and

many opportunities for socialization and therapeutic recreation through exercise, music, arts and crafts, entertainment and more to stimulate thinking and problem-solving. The Masonicare staff receives specialized training in caring for those with dementia. They also can provide some nursing services such as medication reminders, first-aid, toileting assistance and incontinence care, if needed. One hot nutritious meal and snacks are provided daily.

The Adult Day Program at The Hearth offers a half-day (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.) or full-day schedule (10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Rates



*Adult day participants enjoy a variety of group activities including arts and crafts classes lead by trained professional staff.*

are \$75 for full-day and \$50 for half-day. Weekends, holidays and extended hours are also available at an additional charge. Transportation services are available within a defined mile-radius for a nominal charge.

For additional information, contact the Masonicare HelpLine at 888-679-9997 or visit [www.Masonicare.org](http://www.Masonicare.org).

## *The Parallels are Apparent: Steven Alvarez, Soldier and Brother*

by Benjamin Simon

Brother Steven Alvarez of Sequin-Level 140, Newington, stood in front of his squad of infantryman soldiers on Sunday December 2, following two nights of a cold and tough duty weekend at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He wanted to discuss the weekend's events, marksmanship training and rifle qualification, but his soldiers, mostly all combat veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, had other things on their mind. They wanted to talk about Freemasonry.

"Staff Sergeant Alvarez," one of them began. "How did you get into Freemasonry?"

"Well," he answered, "I first heard about Masons in the book *Angels and Demons* by Dan Brown. And then sometime later, I met Staff Sergeant and Brother Joseph Paoli. I noticed a Masonic decal on his car. I asked him what the square and compasses symbolized, and then the flood gates opened."

The flood gates did open for Brother Alvarez, and they included a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. He said that he met many fellow Masons during his deployment, and was unhappy that he was unable to visit meetings at Bagram and Jalalabad Airbases, home of two small military Masonic lodges.

On January 20, 2011, after returning home, at Sequin-Level 140 in the company of his friend and mentor, Brother Joseph Paoli, he was raised.

"I love the camaraderie," he told his squad members. "I love the history."

Due to his 14 years in the Connecticut Army National Guard, in the 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion, he has grown to understand many parallels between the military and Freemasonry. He said that the similarities are apparent. "The respect for our work, the respect for each other; it's the same in both institutions."

"Have there been a lot of Masons in the military?" another of his squad members asked.

Brother Alvarez smiled. "My favorite historical Mason is General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander the Allied Powers on the Pacific Front during World War 2. He inspires me daily. He led his men through multiple campaigns and battles on multiple fronts from Veracruz to the Philippines, where he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, then to the Korean Conflict."

"Freemasonry runs strong through our military," he continued, "and to know that there are brothers who are as distinguished as General MacArthur makes me proud to be a Mason and to be here with you guys."

Another of Brother Alvarez's infantry squad members raised his hand, "Well... what does the square and compass symbolize..."



*Brother (Staff Sergeant) Steven Alvarez answers questions from soldiers about Freemasonry in the Norwalk Connecticut National Guard Armory.*



# Masonicare's Norwalk Office Hospice Volunteers Visit Area Nursing Homes

On December 4, Santa and Mrs. Claus and their merry "elves" paid a visit to nursing homes in Greenwich and Stamford to bring a little Christmas cheer to patients and staff alike.

Paula Bruns, community liaison and volunteer coordinator for the Norwalk office of Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, says her hospice volunteers look forward to this annual event because it gives them the

opportunity to spread a little holiday cheer. "Our volunteers are very special people, who give their time and talent throughout the year to bring comfort to hospice patients and their families. This annual holiday event is simply another way for them to go that extra mile to bring a smile to others."

The facilities visited this year were Nathaniel Witherell Rehab and Nursing Center, Fairview of Greenwich and Greenwich

Woods - all in Greenwich, and The Smith House in Stamford.



Santa (Volunteer Bill Dexter) and Mrs. Claus (Sheila Tinch, Expressive Arts specialist ) greet CNA Betty Gabriel when they visit hospice patients at Nathaniel Witherell in Greenwich.



Volunteer Coordinator Paula Bruns and Barbara Grey, "Elf" and Hospice Volunteer, visit hospice patients.



Mrs. Claus (aka Sheila Tinch, Masonicare Expressive Arts specialist) greets "Dr. Santa" at Nathaniel Witherell in Greenwich prior to visiting hospice patients.

## Perfect Ashlars of St. Alban's Recognized

by Lawrence Anvik

St. Alban's Lodge No. 38, Branford, began a new tradition at its annual meeting and awards night on December 18. The lodge's first three recipients of the Grand Lodge

Perfect Ashlar Award were recognized by having their names inscribed on a perpetual plaque to be displayed in the lodge building. This award is given to Master Masons who have completed at least 10 specific requirements, as set forth in the award submission form, within one year of their date of raising.

Examples of the requirements include giving a lecture at a degree, attending Blue Lodge Council meetings, and visiting communications of lodges outside their district. Completion of

the requirements necessitates involvement by both the new Master Mason and various mentor brothers who accompany them on excursions and attest to the completion of the requirements throughout the year.

The inevitable result is a new Master Mason who is fully engaged in the formal and informal workings of the lodge and Freemasonry in Connecticut.

The first St. Alban's Lodge recipient of this award, Brother Michael Ganci, has taken on the task of being program director for others working toward this award.



Recipients of the Grand Lodge Perfect Ashlar Award are, from left, Bros. John Kelley (2012), Gordon Walters (2012) and Michael Ganci (2011) with Worshipful Master Chris Neary.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Junior Officers Seminar**  
**Saturday, February 16 8:30 a.m.**  
**Hartog Center, Ashlar Village, Wallingford**



# A Message from the Past Which Resounds Today

MW Gail L. Smith, 1969

Included in my message to Connecticut Masonry of April 4, 1968, to be delivered to the lodges by Grand Lodge officers and more particularly by the District Deputies, was the statement: "No brother dropped for non-payment of dues this year."

Certainly no one could conceive of that as anything but an ideal, a goal to strive for, hardly attainable in practice. It was said most deliberately as a means to shock one and all into serious consideration of the problem which has concerned Grand Masters for years and in many places. To be pragmatic, I then added that no brother who lived within a day's travel from his lodge was to be so dropped unless he had received a personal visit from some member(s) of his lodge, with the details of that visit recorded

in the minutes of the lodge.

I volunteered to write to any brother about to be dropped for N. P. D. whose name and address were furnished to me. The response to my request has been dismal. Less than forty lodges sent names and addresses to me, and some of those were after being dropped.

Of course, the returns to the Grand Secretary, particularly after January 1, revealed the true numbers of those dropped, and investigation showed personal contact had been made with far too few, and on a most casual basis too often.

Investigating committees of the quality and ability for which we continually strive would have prevented a number of the men being raised who had no interest in the Craft, and of some of those who couldn't afford dues or had little responsibility when it came to paying obligations.

But - it was absolutely frightening, and a little sickening, to contemplate the number dropped who are in dire need, in some instances need of

financial assistance but more especially of the helping hand of lodge or brethren in a time of illness or other distress.

What a great impression we Masons must make upon the non-Masonic friends and relatives of a seriously ill, or even dying, Brother, who receives nothing but dunning letters and finally that last registered mail! This very thing has occurred more times than I care to consider, and having it happen just once is cause for all of us to be ashamed. A personal contact is an absolute necessity before a member is dropped for non-payment of dues.

The proven lack of communication between lodge and members, in too many instances, was an appalling sidelight revealed in the study of the N. P. D.s. "I never heard from my lodge in X number of years while I was a member except for dues notices", "I called our secretary and he said he couldn't waste postage for other notices as I never went to lodge anyway". Those are typical of comments from Brethren wishing to receive Trestle Boards and all the other lodge mailings - to which they are entitled.

A lodge which is selective in its mailings, or the officer who decides on that action, may well be unMasonic; every member,



Gail L. Smith

wheresoever dispersed, has an inherent right to receive all that which is sent to one. How often during "the drive" was a generous check accompanied by a plea for some information on, or from, the donor's lodge?

The attempts to arrive at some workable solution to the N. P. D. problem also turned up a great number of Brethren totally unfamiliar with procedures used in dimits and N. P. D.s; but of worse implications, the number of lodge officers unwilling, probably unable, to explain. Certainly a Mason in good standing in a lodge out of Connecticut who wills a substantial sum to his Mother-Lodge in this State couldn't have known he was not in

good standing here, dropped for N. P. D. some twenty years previously; he thought he had "transferred."

A considerable number of the Brethren about to be dropped for nonpayment of dues, with whom I was allowed to communicate, were obviously pleased to hear from me and many paid their dues with a renewed interest in Masonry because somebody cared.

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# Daytime Lodge Celebrates a Golden Anniversary

by Michael L. Castroll

Just about fifty-one years ago, a movement began within the existing Stratford and Bridgeport Masonic lodges to rectify a dilemma which was taking several key brothers from their ranks. The lodges were forced to pro-tem some of their officers, whose work shifts were changed in the factories where they were employed.

In those days, factories were working around the clock. Life was not the same, and working second shift meant missing out on lodge meetings.

It was the brainstorm of WB Walter Leach of St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, to create a day time lodge that would embrace not just the displaced brother who had to comply with new work hours, but also the growing number of brothers, who were not able to get out at night for one reason or another. In 1956, brothers working in a couple of major factories in the Greater Hartford found themselves in a similar situation. They gathered together, and petitioned the Grand Lodge for dispensation to form a new lodge, allowing them to meet during the day. Just before dispensation was to be granted

these brothers, once again, found their hours changed, or transferred out of the area. The petition was withdrawn.

WB Leach's cause did take hold, however. Two future Grand Masters, William Campbell and William C. Neu, and others, lent a hand and helped to foster the lodge's popularity. On June 9, 1962, Daytime Lodge No. 144 received her charter from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

Since her inception, Daytime Lodge had been the only Connecticut lodge, whose charter gave her the right to meet during daylight hours. The lodge was welcomed into a consortium of other "daylight lodges," in other Grand Jurisdictions in the United States and Canada.

Although Daytime Lodge has a history of attracting affiliates to her ranks, she also confers the three degrees upon her own candidates. It happens too often that a candidate for Masonry is saddled with the burden of finding a lodge when his work hours are shifted. Daytime Lodge has always been a beacon of light enabling officers in other lodges, displaced by their work schedules and family obligations, to continue their

pursuit towards the East.

Daytime Lodge also has a great reputation for community involvement. In 1998, WB David B. Urban entered upon a fundraising endeavor that has reaped huge dividends towards the lodge's relations with the community. A 5K race was generally held in the summer or early fall in the Lordship end of town. WB Urban, known to be a distance runner, kept Daytime Lodge within a network of other area races. The initial "Race for Love, Hope, and Charity" attracted forty-five competitors. In 2001, Daytime moved the race day and venue to Thanksgiving morning, with the center of Stratford being mapped out from the Stratford Theater, the home of the Valley of Bridgeport and Lafayette Consistory.

With the help of Illustrious Leo H. Lohrman and Illustrious Edward R. Ham, the partnership between the Scottish Rite and Daytime Lodge has given the race an infusion of volunteers, as well as a place for awards to be distributed. When Daytime's Run for Love, Hope, and Charity began, the proceeds provided a handsome gift to the Bridgeport Children's Holiday Fund. Today,

the race generates a great deal more, enabling the lodge to provide our youth groups with support. The lodge provides support for a De Molay to attend conclave and help to support the Scottish Rite Learning Center in Waterbury.

Recently, WB Jack Farkas was pleased as he spoke about the results of Turkey Trot #11. He said, "All records were broken as 1,000 runners displaying the square and compasses ran through the streets of Stratford. We had an awesome crew as Masons, family members, friends, and even public volunteers helped to make this one such a huge success."

Thirteen years ago the lodge hosted a Table Lodge Breakfast. Recently, on November 10, co-hosts America-St. John's Lodge No. 8 and Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149 helped to fill the hall. Seven toasts brought on seven courses, and brotherhood abounded.

In January, Daytime Lodge will see a new officer corps installed, and on February 9, MW Gary W. Arseneau and his Grand Lodge officers will attend to rededicate the lodge.

If you haven't been to Daytime Lodge, try it, you'll like it!

## Oxoboxo's Busy Time of Year

by Dave Foret

On October 27, Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116, Montville, participated in the 2nd annual Montville Trick-or-Trunk event at the local middle school. The event provides a safe, family friendly opportunity for the children of the community to gather for trick-or-treating and fun. An estimated 1,000 children came out this year, and 53 vehicles were registered to hand out candy and prizes. In addition, Steve Elci, a local children's musician from Waterford, was on hand to provide entertainment. Several of the brothers dressed for the occasion, and a great time was had by all.



Oxoboxo brothers, from left, Bill Weisert, Gary Blackstone, Dave Foret, Jamie Pearson, and Joe Aquitante get ready for the arrival of trick-or-treaters at the 2nd Annual Montville Trick-or-Trunk event.

Several of the brothers dressed for the occasion, and a great time was had by all.

On November 10, Oxoboxo held a food drive at the Montville Tri-Town food store to benefit the Montville Food Bank. They received \$130 in donations and had four overflowing shopping carts of food to support needy families in the community during the holiday season.

Oxoboxo, very proud of the mutually beneficial relationship that they have fostered with their community, encourages other lodges to seek out these kinds of opportunities wherever they may be located. The lodge gets a lot out of them, and has a ton of fun in the process!



Rob Krawic, Worshipful Master of Oxoboxo Lodge, left, and Bros. Gary Blackstone, Joe Aquitante, and Adam Hillyer work a shift at the food drive held on November 10 to benefit the Montville Food Bank.



# PLR Celebrates 70 Years

by Carl G. Ek

According to Jim Desmond, PGM and Past Master and long-time secretary of Philosophic Lodge of Research, two Past Grand Masters and a Past District Deputy conceived the organization in the back seat of a car returning from the Grand Lodge session in Hartford in 1938. Bro. Desmond would have had inside knowledge of this story since his father, also a PGM, Thomas M. Desmond was one of the three involved, and he became the charter Master of Connecticut's first research lodge.

That was one of a number of anecdotes related at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary rededication and dinner of Philosophic Lodge of Research by RW Carl G. Ek, who was asked to be the guest speaker for the event by lodge Junior Warden and program chairman John Forlenza-Bailey. Brother Ek, noting his appreciation of the honor, indicated understanding that his choice was in part due to his being the lodge's senior-most living Past Master not retired to Florida....

Bro. Ek noted that eight Past Grand Masters, including the father-and-son Brothers Desmond, had led the lodge. Two other father-and-son Master teams were the RW's Austin and Richard Backe and RW Carl and WB Sam Edgerton.

The lodge has also been a frequent stop for more than a dozen PGM's who never ascended to PLR's Oriental Chair – including charter member Louis S. Thomas, Conrad M. Hahn, later head of the Masonic Service Association of the United States, John Gonsalves, George W. Pangborn, Jr., Samuel B. Walker, past president of the Philalethes Society, and Roger W. Read, plus several Prince Hall Grand Masters.

Also, five brothers took the helm of PLR twice, beginning with RW Grand Secretary-emeritus Russ McClelland in 1991 and 1992 due to the illness and withdrawal of the Senior Warden. Also on that list are current Master Don Tansey and Mike Castroll, the first brother to serve both PLR and Masonic Lodge of Research as Master. Sadly, that list is rounded out by brothers called home by the Supreme Grand Master – William Bryce and Dana Brochu.

For most of its history, PLR met in hotel meeting rooms after a pre-meeting dinner. Now that PLR has moved to the apartments of Washington Lodge No. 81, Cromwell, dinners are usually held in the lower level of the building at ABC Pizza, owned by Bro. Sokol Selimaj. Other meeting sites included Hartford's Hotel Bond, the Wethersfield Clam Box and the Steak Club at the Ramada Inn, and even Willie's in Manchester.

In 70 years, members of PLR have produced over 200 papers about various aspects of Masonry – historic, esoteric, biographic, operational, and unique. Most are still available for reprinting and presentation in lodge rooms, including PM and secretary Stephen M. Thal's work on *Guide Dogs in Masonry*. Brothers memorialized have included George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, the cowboy stars of the early movies and television, and those less honorable, including Casanova and Benedict Arnold. Those new to PLR receive a copy of a paper about "How to Write A Paper" should they seek to become research (voting) members of the lodge.

The most important paper ever delivered in PLR? In Bro. Ek's opinion, that could only be *Prince Hall Freemasonry in the United States* by the late Raymond



Following the dinner and rededication of Philosophic Lodge of Research on its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, WM Donald Tansey (standing foreground) presented to all of the Grand Lodge officers and lodge District Deputy and Associate Grand Marshal a pewter "PLR" pin featuring the lamp of knowledge, the symbol of Philosophic Lodge.

H. Dragat. WB Ray became a Mason in Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven, in 1923 while a student at Yale. He served for more than 50 years as the secretary of Level Lodge No. 137 and PLR – sometimes simultaneously – and as PLR's Master in 1959. (This was three years after he received the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service!) Eventually an 80-year Mason, Ray lived to see the premise of his paper adopted and embraced.

Brother Ray's key point in his groundbreaking research was that the charter of African Lodge No. 458 obtained in London by Brother Prince Hall was as Masonically lawful as the charters received from Provincial Grand Masters in North America in the pre-Revolutionary era, such as Hiram Lodge No. 1's 'Oxnard Charter.' Thus, there was no Masonic reason why AF&AM and Prince Hall Masons could not meet together and share brotherhood.

This paper was the best seller of a series of ten PLR papers sold at CME seminars and Grand Lodge sessions as an educational fund-raiser begun under the terms of RW Carl L. Edgerton and WB Frank H. Icaza and continued for several years thereafter. As a result, postulated Bro. Ek, those brothers who were voting lodge officers in 1989, when MW Gail L. Smith proposed joint recognition with Prince Hall Masonry, had read Bro. Dragat's work were more than ready to explode with approval of the motion. PLR was able to enhance its relationship with its Prince Hall brothers and went to great lengths to create as research members the late MWPGM Preston M. Pope and MWPGM Lewis W. Myrick, who was present for the celebration.

For all of its great work in Masonic education, Bro. Ek noted in closing that Philosophic Lodge of Research is a fun place to meet interesting brothers and learn more about the various aspects of Masonry. He looks forward to attending the lodge's centennial celebration and to many more valuable works done by the brothers of Philosophic Lodge.

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# Sammie is 75th Grand Worthy Advisor

by Carl G. Ek

Sister Samantha Rose Stoddard – know to most Connecticut Rainbow Girls simply as ‘Sammie’ – is coming into the home stretch of her term as the 75th Grand Worthy Advisor in the state since the inception of Rainbow in Connecticut.

Sammie left her installation late in March 2012 to go to the Grand Lodge annual communication, where she made her first address to a grand Masonic body. No, she wasn’t really nervous appearing before a gathering of perhaps 500 Masons. “I was overtired from my session,” explained the freckled, smiling redhead. “So I wasn’t nervous at Grand Lodge. I was nervous at the others, though.”

At her Grand Lodge ‘debut,’ Sammie spoke warmly of the sponsors of her assembly, Unity Lodge No. 148 of New Britain, where her father, Bro. Fred Stoddard, has just completed two years as Worshipful Master. “The lodge is like a family, we see them, we know each other. They help us in any way, support us any way they can.”

It was in New Britain Assembly No. 6 that

Sammie has been a member, but she was initiated in May 2003 in Southington Assembly No. 27. She has served her assembly in most of the offices and held the office of Worthy Advisor during several terms. On the Grand Assembly level, she held bow positions before jumping from Grand Drill Leader to Grand Worthy Associate Advisor in 2011. That gave her a year to prepare for term before being installed.

Sammie chose as her year’s theme “You’ve Got a Friend in Connecticut Rainbow,” making use of the “Toy Story” movie trilogy for her themed assembly visits. During her “amazing” term, she has officially visited every assembly but her own. That will happen on Sunday, January 20 at 2 p.m., and Master Masons are welcome to attend.

In a term described as “everything I’ve dreamed it could be,” Sammie and her grand



*Grand Worthy Advisor Samantha Stoddard*

officers have traveled beyond Connecticut, as well. In addition to the Supreme Assembly session in Grand Rapids, Michigan – where she enjoyed the opportunity to visit the (Brother) Gerald Ford Presidential Museum – Sammie visited Grand Assembly sessions in Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and even Canada, underscoring the true scope of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls.

During her visits, especially in Connecticut, Sammie has collected toys for her charity, the Toy Closet at Yale New Haven Hospital. The toys will be delivered at the end of her term, and Sammie is grateful that there will be a large donation. She notes, “There are so many people out there to support you.”

Sammie is a 20-year-old sophomore at Central Connecticut State University, where she is majoring in secondary education and history. A graduate of New Britain High School in 2011, she expects to graduate Central in 2015 and become a high school teacher. Also in her resume is a year of service as the State Sweetheart of Connecticut DeMolay.

As her term moves toward its close in mid-March at the 76th annual Grand Assembly, Sammie continues to reach out to the younger members and the many new initiates during her term. She is also excited for current Grand Worthy Associate Advisor Ali Stamm, who will succeed her at the next session. With Ali a friend for many years, Sammie stands ready to assist her in any way possible.

Asked for any closing thoughts, Sammie said, “Thanks to everybody for an awesome 8 months! I hope to see you between now and our March 15-17 Grand Assembly at Coco Key in Waterbury.”

Sammie has made ‘75’ a year to remember.

## Unity Committee Plans for Summer ‘Masonic Family Night’

The Unity Committee, which is sponsored by the Grand Lodge, has been holding regular meetings over the past two years in the Hartog Activities Center. Its purpose is to help coordinate activities between the various appendant bodies and the Grand Lodge in order to bring more Masonic resources to bear in ensuring the success of statewide Masonic events being held in Connecticut.

At its meeting held on October 25, 2012, the Unity Committee initiated planning for a “Masonic Family Night” at a New Britain Rock Cats baseball game in July 2013. A night will be picked in which food and refreshments can be provided in addition to the excitement of watching some great baseball. More details will be forthcoming once the Rock Cats publishes their 2013 schedule. Net proceeds from this Masonic Family Night will be donated to the Connecticut Rainbow for Girls Majority Association Scholarship Fund.

A lively and informative discussion ensued on the importance of including representation from all appendant bodies in the invitation list to annual meetings and other important gatherings. Members agreed that invitations to annual meetings and important gatherings should be extended to all appendant Masonic bodies in Connecticut. Inclusive participation is not only appropriate but also adds to the success of such occasions. Budgetary constraints mean that certain bodies will not be able to cover out-of-pocket expenses of the representative being invited. Each invitation will state whether or not expenses are being covered.

Members also discussed publishing a booklet to describe the various Masonic bodies that are active in Connecticut. Each appendant body will be asked to submit a short description of its mission and qualifications required for membership.

This column is intended to become a regular feature in *Connecticut Freemasons* in order to provide readers with latest updates on statewide events being planned and coordinated through the Unity Committee. Please feel free to share your thoughts and suggestions on the work of the Unity Committee with the Grand Lodge so that they may be incorporated in plans for future statewide Masonic events.



# "Kindness and Consideration" Are the Words

by Carl G. Ek

"Every action done in company ought to be with some sign of respect, to those that are present." Those words, from the nation's first etiquette author, provided the background for much of the work of etiquette consultant Joan K. Hopper of Bloomfield at an early December dinner hosted by Most Worshipful Grand Master Gary and wife Chris Arseneau.

Invited guests included Grand Lodge officers and their ladies, Rainbow Grand Worthy Advisor Samantha Stoddard and several of her officers, DeMolay State Master Councilor Matthew Lingenfelter and his suite, Rainbow Supreme Deputy Anne K. Needham and State Mother Advisor Caroline Maselli, and DeMolay Executive Officer Harry E. Needham, III and members of his staff.

Ms. Hopper – available online as [msprotocol@comcast.com](mailto:msprotocol@comcast.com) – took the intentionally mixed tables through a number of the pitfalls of manners that can befall anyone in a dining situation. She explained how to assist a lady with her chair before explaining the sometimes-dizzying array of silverware and glassware that can greet a diner at a formal dinner.

One of the points made by the group leader was that name tags make it easier for people to greet one another by name – and that if these were worn on the right side rather than the left, it would be easier to see as people extend the right hand in greeting. Of course, individual organization protocols are to be observed, and if these dictate that a nametag be worn on the left, that should be followed.

Before the first course was served, Ms. Hopper discussed toasts and the etiquette of toasting, noting that there were many occasions at which toasts are offered. She emphasized that a toast can be given or participated in with

any beverage, including soda or even water. Alcohol is not required.

Another of the tips that she offered was that once used, silverware should not be placed on the table; rather, it should be returned to the bread-and-butter plate, or to the dinner plate. Specific placement of the utensils on the plate offers signals to the serving staff as to whether the diner has concluded their meal and makes it easier to clear the service from the table.

Continuing under the watchwords of 'kind and considerate,' Ms. Hopper warned the younger people, especially, of the potential pitfalls of job interviews conducted over a meal. An applicant invited to join members of the firm for lunch, for example, is being judged on the way they handle themselves in a social setting. Recommendations include ordering foods easy to eat and not messy, and to being certain that the cell phone is off so



Consultant Joan K. Hopper gives etiquette pointers to Grand Lodge officers, and state officers of Rainbow and DeMolay.

that there is no temptation to commit that all-too-common social error.

With all of the courses eaten, Ms. Hopper returned to her earlier reference, *The Rules of Civility*, written by others would make mealtime a happy experience for all concerned.

After brief remarks by Grand Master Arseneau and thanks to Ms. Hopper and Bro. Bryan Anderson for arranging her visit, the group of almost 50 left the restaurant with the admonition that good manners are not difficult, and make life better for everyone.

## St. Peter's Lodge No. 21, New Milford, will be hosting a Burns Supper on the birthday of the Bard

### THE MASTER'S APRON

By Brother Robert Burns

Ther's mony a badge that's unco braw;  
Wi' ribbon, lace and tape on;  
Let kings an' princes wear them a'  
Gie me the Master's apron!

The honest craftsman's apron,  
The jolly Freemason's apron,  
Be he at hame, or roam afar,  
Before his touch fa's bolt and bar,  
The gates of fortune fly ajar,  
'Gin he but wears the apron!

For wealth and honor, pride and power  
Are crumbling stanes to base on;  
Fraternity suld rule the hour,  
And ilka worthy Mason!  
Each Free Accepted Mason,  
Each Ancient Crafted Mason.

Then, brithers, let a halesome sang  
Arise your friendly ranks along!  
Guidwives and bairnies blithely sing  
To the ancient badge wi' the apron string  
That is worn by the Master Mason!

Saturday, January 25, 7:00 p.m.

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### MENU

Haggis, bashed carrots and neeps, gravy  
Beef or Chicken with seasonal vegetables  
Tipsy Laird Scottish Trifle, or ice cream  
Cheese and crackers - coffee

*Please RSVP with choice of main menu to  
Richard L. McDonnell  
237 Kent Road South  
Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754-1216  
[ricky30091@gmail.com](mailto:ricky30091@gmail.com)*



# Meriden Rainbow shares the holiday spirit with guests from homeless shelter

By Gwen Rochette

On December 23, Meriden Assembly No. 11 International Order of the Rainbow for Girls held their 11th Annual Homeless Shelter Christmas Party at the Meriden Masonic Lodge. Each year the assembly invites the women and children from Shelter Now in Meriden to a holiday celebration. The girls took great pride in wrapping gifts and decorating the hall in a Christmas theme.

A total of 30 residents from the shelter enjoyed a fabulous turkey dinner with all the fixings. Traditionally, all food is donated and prepared by the members and advisors of Meriden Assembly. After dinner, Santa arrived and gifts were distributed to all the women and children who attended.

A special thanks to Corner Cafe in Wallingford, Lady Washington Chapter No. 45 OES, Meridian Chapter No. 8 OES, Westwood Court No. 5 Order of the Amarnath, the Bjornberg family and Smith & Bishel Hardware of Middletown for their generous donations to this holiday celebration.



Members of Meriden Assembly No. 11, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls serve the holiday meal for the residents of Shelter Now.

# Day Spring Lodge hosts Surf and Turf before a Hurricane

by William Edgeworth

The steaks were grilled to perfection, the lobster succulent and the Day Spring Lodge No. 30, Hamden, hall was filled with brothers and friends enjoying the music of Elvis.

Day Spring Lodge hosted their steak and lobster dinner on Friday, October 27. Brothers took to the kitchen to prepare lobster dinners with baked potato. Other brothers assisted

in manning the flames of the grills at the front of the lodge, only days before the arrival of hurricane Sandy.

Sisters of the Eastern Star assisted and welcomed reserved guests and even found room for welcomed walk-ins. Over 70 hungry patrons filled the hall.

WM Bob Behler manned the door while son Jon Behler organized the raffle table. The kitchen service and grills were busy throughout the evening.

Dessert included sweets of guests packed up their leftovers, Halloween decorated cup cakes adjusted their belts, collected and soft serve ice cream their goodies from the raffle,

By evening's end, staff and and said a hearty thank you.



WB Bill Bonaminio takes a break from the arduous kitchen duties.

## DeMolay Honors GM Arseneau



Annually, Connecticut DeMolay hosts a degree class honoring the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut. This year, the degree was conferred in honor of MW Gary W. Arseneau in his home Friendship Lodge No. 33 and Marcus Holcomb Chapter, Order of DeMolay, Southington. DeMolay State Master Councilor Matthew Lingenfelter presented a framed "Certificate of Esteem and Appreciation" to the Grand Master for his support of DeMolay, beginning as a local advisor and into his term as Grand Master. Immediately thereafter, Grand Master Arseneau presented to Connecticut DeMolay a check for \$2,000, funds collected at the August 'Masonic Jamboree' held in his honor. See photo on front cover.



# Christmas Balloons Bring Cheer

About twenty years ago, Companion Don Sause of Halleck Chapter No. 44, Royal Arch Masons, Madison, began the chapter's Operation Smile. Twice a year, at Easter and Christmas, he and his fellow companions bring balloons to the residents of the Masonicare Health Center. Companion Nick D'Ambrosia, owner of N & D Sports in Hamden, supplies the balloons and inflates them up.

About ten years ago Companion Don teamed with his daughter Cindy, troop leader for her Hamden Girl Scout troop. Halleck Chapter is the smallest chapter in the state, so the addition of the Girl Scouts was a big help.

The girls sing Christmas carols and along with Santa, handed out stuffed animals and ornaments.

For 98 year old resident Esther Leonard (on our cover), a couple of balloons and a visit from some Girl Scouts made her holiday season a cheerful one.

Halleck Chapter has also done Operation Smile at Hospice in Branford and the Apple Nursing Home in Guilford. Operation Smile is funded basically by the members digging into their pockets and donating whatever they can.



*With the balloons inflated and gift baskets full, Companion Don Sause and his fellow Royal Arch Masons and Girl Scouts gather in the lobby of the Masonicare Health Center before moving on to the residents.*

# York and Scottish Rite Heads Let Their Voices Be Heard

by Carl G. Ek

It's happened for 43 years, had four masters-of-ceremonies, performers of all kinds, and served a couple of tons of meatloaf. Yes, the Milford Chapter No. 49, Royal Arch Masons Christmas sing-along has passed the definition of 'tradition' to become an 'institution.'

In his second year as the event's emcee, RW and Past Most Puissant Grand Master Scott T. Sherrick moved the program along, interspersing brief remarks from Masonic dignitaries with group caroling, special performances, and a history of the program, begun by then High Priest Arthur F. Simpson. Bud Simpson was, at the time, also in the Grand

Lodge line, becoming Grand Master in 1977. When Bud invited people to attend his sing-along, people came.

The format has never varied. A meatloaf dinner is served in the dining hall, and at 7:00 p.m., the singing begins. Heads of or proxies for the York and Scottish Rite bodies brought holiday greetings and best wishes for the new year. The five also sang as a quintet to close the evening, doing a fine job with *O Come All Ye, Faithful*.

Brothers Simon R. LaPlace and Bruce T. Work did double duty as a song by the 'seconds-in-command' – this year, *Away in a Manger*. Joining that group were Deputy Grand Commander

Stuart K. Drost, Deputy Puissant Grand Master Charles A. McCollum, and Grand King David Abrames. They were accompanied, as were most of the singers, by WB Richard Kassey, who played both organ and guitar, soloing on the latter with *Old Toy Trains*.

Bro. Sherrick brought back memories of sing-alongs past, recalling Margaret Simpson's annual recitation of *What Shall We Give the Children*, and WB Peter Brockett's skill on the glass harmonica. Long-time performer Caroline 'Charley' Walls, a Majority Rainbow, was again present to offer a pair of flute solos. Also, Rev. and Bro. Bruce Bellmore offered his stirring *a capella* solo of *I Wonder as I Wander*.

Five Past Grand Masters were present, allowing Bro. Sherrick to assemble a quintet of MW Brothers Gustaf R. Bodin, Charles A. Buck, Charles B. Fowler, Kenneth B. Hawkins, and Joseph J. Howard.

Another new addition to the evening was a trio dubbed the 'Scottish Rite-ous Brothers.' RW Brothers Bellmore, Bradley K. Cooney, and Carl G. Ek offered a song with roots in the Middle Ages and later popularized by Peter, Paul, and Mary: *A Soalin'*. Armed with lyric sheets and seven minutes of rehearsal, the group's effort was well received.

RW DGM Simon LaPlace was the last speaker. Noting the tragedy in Sandy Hook, he urged all present, "Let us never forget, because by remembering them, we honor them." A particularly poignant singing of the three verses of *Silent Night* closed the singing until the 44<sup>th</sup> annual event on December 16, 2013.



*An annual treat is the 'heads of bodies,' with substitutes when necessary, song. Shown here are, from left, Right Eminent Grand Commander Charles D. O'Neill, Most Excellent Grand High Priest William L. Miller, II, RW Deputy Grand Master Simon R. LaPlace, Active for Connecticut Ill. Bruce T. Work, 33°, and Most Puissant Grand Master Edward R. Ham. That's Ed's grandson in the foreground.*



# Connecticut York Rite Opportunities

Information to be included in York Rite Opportunities must be submitted by the 10th of the preceding month to the Grand Secretary/Recorder, Charles B. Fowler, 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.



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

<b>Tuesday, January 1 (ME) (MP) (RE)</b>	HAPPY NEW YEAR !
<b>Tuesday, January 8 (F)</b>	Keystone Chapter No. 27, Meriden, Royal Arch degree, 6:00 p.m. dinner
<b>Tuesday, January 8 (F)</b>	Franklin Chapter No. 2, New Haven. Mark Master Mason degree
<b>Wednesday, January 9 (ME) (F)</b>	Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, East Hartford. Royal Arch Mason degree
<b>Friday, January 11 (U)</b>	New Haven Commandery No. 2, New Haven. Red Cross of Malta, 6:30 p.m. dinner
<b>Saturday, January 12 (ME) (I)</b>	Grand Chapter Royal Arch officers meeting, East Hartford, 9:00 a.m.
<b>Saturday, January 12 (MP) (I)</b>	Grand Council Royal and Select Masters, officers meeting, East Hartford, 1:00 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, January 15 (ME) (U)</b>	Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford
<b>Tuesday, January 15 (F)</b>	Hamilton Council No. 22, Meriden, Royal Master degree
<b>Friday, January 18 (U)</b>	New Haven Commandery No. 2, New Haven, Red Cross of Malta
<b>Tuesday, January 22 (U)</b>	St. Elmo Commandery No. 9, Meriden, Order of the Temple, 6:15 p.m. dinner
<b>Wednesday, January 23 (ME)</b>	Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, East Hartford
<b>Saturday, January 26 (ME) (F)</b>	Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, East Hartford, Table Chapter with Grand Chapter, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, January 29 (U)</b>	St. Elmo Commandery No. 9, Meriden, Order of the Temple, 6:15 p.m.

## COMING UP

February 12 Wolcott Council No. 1, East Hartford, Royal Master degree  
February 19 Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford, installation of officers  
February 23 Capitular Festival, New Haven, 8:30 a.m., lunch

## FROM THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST

We are now moving into the second half of our year together and I am pleased to report that, with the talent and support of your officers and chapter leaders, we have made great progress toward our initiatives but still have some much needed work to do. Having completed my fraternal visits to our chapters, your response to our programs has been energetic thus far, ranging from renewed interest in our pocket rituals, Grand Representatives (we could still use some more), efforts to promote RARA and our education programs, and expand our publicity and news through the RA and Freemason magazines, to name a few.

The quarries are busy and most chapters report success in bringing in new candidates and preparing them for their advancement through the York Rite. To aid even further in this quest, there will be a Grand Chapter Degree Festival in New Haven on Saturday, February 23, followed by another festival in March for the Council degrees and Commandery orders preparatory to

Good Friday Orders of the Temple.

To take full advantage of this extra opportunity, I encourage and enlist your support to spread the news of the York Rite and bring petitions from your lodge brethren to your chapters for processing. It cannot be stressed enough that the young Master Masons and lodge leaders of today are the future leaders of our chapters and York Rite and are invaluable to the prosperity of your chapters.

And once again, I as well as your grand officers stand ready to continue to assist your chapters, and remain open to your comments and suggestions in our as we continue to serve you.

May you all, and your families enjoy and happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

— Most Excellent Grand High Priest  
William L. Miller and Lady Lisa

## GRAND OFFICERS MEETINGS SET

The officers of the Grand Chapter will meet with MEGHP Miller in East Hartford on Saturday, January 12 at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will follow, then at 1:00 p.m. the officers of the Grand Council will gather with MPGM Ham. All are welcome to enjoy lunch; just let MEGHP Miller know you are coming for lunch.



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# Craft at Labor...

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## Entered Apprentice Degrees

**Wednesday, January 2**, Corinthian No. 63, North Haven

**Wednesday, January 2**, Ashlar-Aspetuck No. 142, Easton

**Thursday, January 3**, Trumbull No. 22, New Haven, 6:15 p.m. dinner

**Monday, January 14**, Anchor No. 112, East Hampton, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Wednesday, January 16**, King Solomon's No. 7, Woodbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Wednesday, January 16**, Columbia No. 25, South Glastonbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Wednesday, January 16**, Somerset-St. James No. 34, Preston

**Thursday, January 17**, Union No. 31, Niantic, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Thursday, January 17**, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 6:15 p.m. dinner

**Monday, January 21**, Compass No. 9, Wallingford, 6:00 p.m. dinner

**Monday, January 21**, Meridian No. 77, Meriden, 7:30 p.m. dinner

**Thursday, January 24**, Hiram No. 1, New Haven

**Saturday, January 26**, Putnam No. 46, South Woodstock, 6:30 p.m. dinner, JW Peter A. Rinaudo presiding

## Fellowcraft Degrees

**Tuesday, January 15**, America-St. John's No. 8, Stratford, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Tuesday, January 15**, St. Peter's No. 21, New Milford

**Tuesday, January 22**, Brainard No. 102, Niantic

**Wednesday, January 23**, Ivanhoe No. 107, Darien, 7:00 p.m. dinner

**Monday, January 28**, Washington No. 70, Windsor, 6:30 p.m. dinner

## Master Mason Degrees

**Monday, January 21**, Wyllys-St. John's No. 4, West Hartford, 6:15 p.m. dinner

**Tuesday, January 22**, Acacia No. 85, Greenwich, 6:30 p.m. dinner

**Wednesday, January 23**, Center No. 97, Meriden, 6:00 p.m. dinner

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# Craft at Refreshment...

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**Wednesday, January 2**, Union No. 5, Stamford, 7:30 p.m., dinner, installation of officers

**Wednesday, January 2**, Estuary No. 43, Old Saybrook, installation of officers

**Wednesday, January 2**, Widow's Son No. 66, Branford, installation of officers

**Wednesday, January 2**, Cosmopolitan No. 125, New Haven, 6:30 p.m. paid up members dinner

**Thursday, January 3**, Temple No. 16, Cheshire, installation of officers

**Thursday, January 3**, Somerset - St. James No. 34, Preston, 9:00 a.m. district breakfast at Groton Townhouse Restaurant

**Friday, January 4**, Wooster No. 10, Colchester, 6:45 p.m. dinner, family night  
**Friday, January 4**, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford, installation of officers

**Saturday, January 5**, Compass No. 9, Wallingford, 4:00 p.m., visit to Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven installation

**Saturday, January 5**, Washington No. 70, Windsor, 11:30 a.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Saturday, January 5**, Evening Star No. 101, Unionville, 2:00 p.m., installation of officers

**Saturday, January 5**, Ivanhoe No. 107, Darien, 2:00 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Saturday, January 5**, Bay View No. 120, Niantic, installation of officers

**Saturday, January 5**, Ashlar-Aspetuck No. 142, Easton, 5:00 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Saturday, January 5**, Unity No. 148, New Britain, 4:00 p.m., installation of officers, dinner to follow

**Sunday, January 6**, King Solomon's No. 7, Woodbury, 2:00 p.m., Twelfth Night celebration at WB Albin Weber's home

**Sunday, January 6**, Corinthian No. 103, North Haven, 8:00 a.m. fellowship breakfast

**Sunday, January 6**, Anchor No. 112, East Hampton, 2:00 p.m., installation of officers

**Sunday, January 6**, Cosmopolitan No. 125, New Haven, 2:00 p.m., installation of officers

**Monday, January 7**, Wyllys-St. John's No. 4, West Hartford, Masonic funerals and memorials

**Monday, January 7**, Compass No. 9, Wallingford, 6:00 p.m. dinner, annual reports and memorial service

**Monday, January 7**, Friendship No. 33, Southington, mentoring training

**Monday, January 7**, Jerusalem No. 49, Ridgefield, Places and Stations

**Monday, January 7**, Meridian No. 77, Meriden, WB Robert Simon presents: communicating effectively in the job acquisition process

**Monday, January 7**, Solar No. 131, East Hampton, 6:30 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Tuesday, January 8**, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, installation of officers

**Tuesday, January 8**, Acacia No. 85, Greenwich, 8:00 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Tuesday, January 8**, Brainard No. 102, Niantic, 6:30 p.m. dinner, installation of officers

**Wednesday, January 9**, Granite No. 119, Haddam, installation of officers

**Saturday, January 12**, America-St. John's No. 8, Stratford, 7:00 p.m., poker night, non-Masons welcome

**Saturday, January 12**, Trumbull No. 22, New Haven, 1:00 p.m., installation of officers

**Saturday, January 12**, Washington No. 70, Windsor, 8:00 a.m., blood drive and breakfast

**Saturday, January 12**, Moosup No. 113, Moosup, 5:00 p.m., Shirley Martel Memorial-Moosup Lodge 113 Scholarship banquet at Pachaug Outdoor Club, 178 Banjo Sullivan Rd, Griswold

**Sunday, January 13**, Moosup No. 113, Moosup, 8:00 a.m. all you can eat breakfast

**Monday, January 14**, St. John's No. 2, Middletown, 7:00 p.m., lodge of instruction

**Saturday, January 19**, Hiram No. 1, New Haven, 3:30 p.m., installation of officers, dinner at 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday, January 19**, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 7:00 p.m., poker night, non-Masons welcome

**Saturday, January 19**, Corinthian No. 63, North Haven, 1:00 p.m., installation of officers, memorial service

**Sunday, January 20**, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 8:00 a.m. country breakfast



# Craft at Refreshment...

**Monday, January 21,** Jerusalem No. 49, Ridgefield, landmarks and Fellowcraft

**Tuesday, January 22,** King Solomon's No. 7, Woodbury, 6:30 p.m. Fellowcraft dinner - Life of Robert Burns

**Tuesday, January 22,** Village No. 29, Collinsville, refamiliarize with the signs, grips, words, and obligations of each degree

**Tuesday, January 22,** Manchester No. 73, Manchester, 6:30 p.m. joint Table Lodge with Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, guest speaker: MW Gary Arseneau

**Friday, January 25,** America-St. John's No. 8, Stratford, 6:00 p.m., Station House restaurant, Stratford

**Friday, January 25,** St. Peter's No. 21, New Milford, 7:00 p.m. Robert Burns dinner

**Saturday, January 26,** Anchor No. 112, East Hampton, 6:30 p.m. Seventh District Blue Lodge Council and Table Lodge

**Saturday, January 26,** Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 8:00 a.m. blood drive and charity breakfast

**Sunday, January 27,** King Solomon's No. 7, Woodbury, 2:00 p.m., home-to-home bowlathon

**Sunday, January 27,** Friendship No. 33, Southington, 7:30 a.m. pancake breakfast

**Sunday, January 27,** Moosup No. 113, Moosup, 8:00 a.m. all you can eat breakfast

**Monday, January 28,** St. John's No. 2, Middletown, 7:00 p.m., lodge of instruction

**Monday, January 28,** Anchor No. 112, East Hampton, 7:30 p.m., celebration of Bro. Robert Burns

**Tuesday, January 29,** King Solomon's No. 7, Woodbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner, lodge visitation to Morning Star Lodge, Seymour

**Wednesday, January 30,** Corinthian No. 63, North Haven, Fourth District Blue Lodge Council

**Wednesday, January 30,** Hospitality No. 128, Wethersfield, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Fifth District Blue Lodge Council, at William J. Pickett Community Center, 30 Greenfield St, Wethersfield

**Thursday, January 31,** Manchester No. 73, Manchester, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Sixth District Blue Lodge Council

**Thursday, January 31,** Ionic No. 110, North Windham, 7:00 p.m., Ninth District Blue Lodge Council

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)

## December Installations



WM Michael E. Hudson is shown taking his obligation as the 2013 Master of Columbia Lodge No. 25, South Glastonbury, from Installing Master WB Walter Grube during installation ceremonies on December 19. WB Hudson also served as the Lodge 2012 Master.



A full lodge room saw WM Thomas DuClos and officers installed at Composite Lodge No. 28, Suffield



Steven R. Bouffard and his officers were installed at Wyllis-St. John's Lodge No. 4, West Hartford.



# MASONIC FAMILY BOOSTERS

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Union No. 40.....	Danbury
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Those names in **bold** are new or renewing Boosters. Thank you for your support.

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# A Brother's Persistence Pays Off For Me

by Simon R. LaPlace

After I saw my father receive his fifty-year pin, I didn't think much more about Freemasonry. He didn't say anything more about it, and there wasn't any request on his part for a Masonic funeral. Of course, he never admitted his time was getting short, either.

One of the fellows I worked with would mention that he needed to get out on time to make a lodge dinner, or because his lodge was having a degree. This interested me only slightly. I didn't know why he was cooking, or what a degree was, but it did seem a pretty important thing to him, so I made every effort to keep him on his personal schedule.

One night he stopped by when my store was open late, and he was all dressed up in a tuxedo. It was very impressive and quite a change from the usual work clothes he wore. I remarked that he cleaned up nicely. He commented what a good time he had at his lodge, and he thought I would enjoy the Masons, too, but he never asked me to join, or hinted that I had to ask first.

Then an interesting fellow came into the store looking for me. His name was John Benker, and while he lived in East Hartford, he came to visit and lay flowers at his parents' graves here in Deep River.

He told me about his Deep River connection and that his parents and my grandfather knew each other long ago. He longed to return to Deep River, but knew that probably wasn't going to be the case. The best he could do was visit, and bring flowers.

I don't know why he ever came to the store and asked for me, but I thought it was

because he was lonely and didn't know anyone else, so was looking to make an acquaintance. Then he dropped the bomb on me. "You know, your whole family were Masons, and I'm sure your father would be really proud if you joined." Why would I join, I thought? If my father was looking down on me, I doubt I'd ever know he might be proud of me for that.

John Benker persisted. "You know it would be a great thing if you and your brother and his son joined, too!" Well, I assured him, that wasn't going to happen. Not only was it unlikely that I was going to join, but I knew they sure weren't going to. I wasn't the type, and they sure weren't, and besides, why would we?

"If they signed a petition, would you sign one?" he persisted. John Benker was like flypaper. He would call me late at night, before caller-ID, and talk and talk. He wasn't one to easily get off the phone, and I was too nice to just cut him off and hang up. John Benker was persistent, and I saw him more often as he stopped by his parents' graves more often.

Finally, he came to me and said, "Well, your brother and his son signed their petitions. Here's yours!" I couldn't believe it. Was he just as persistent with them, and were they just too nice to him? How did he ever talk them into signing their petitions, when I knew I could never have done that? I was stuck, and not wanting to go back on my promise, I filled out the application to join something I had no idea about.

Having served for a few terms on the local ambulance board, and some time with the Jaycees, I had stayed away from joining anything else. I saw the negative effect my father's involvement with politics had on his business. Chairing the board of education, board of finance, town moderator, and everything else he joined, took him out of the house to "another meeting," then another and another.

Pretty soon my brother and nephew, and I, met three men at the lodge for our "investigation." It was pretty cut and dry as we all pretty much knew each other, or at least had knowledge of each other, except for this Englishman I had never seen before, then I found his wife worked for my dentist. He mentioned that Masonry was a lifetime membership, and that



*The small preparation room was barely large enough for the three of us. The door to the right entered into the lodge room.*

to leave the fraternity should only be done through the "dimit" process, whatever that was, and not by failing to pay the annual dues. With this he cast a glance at the wall and at someone's photo who had left the fraternity just that way. No, there's honor involved here.

A couple of weeks went by and I received a post card announcing I had been balloted on favorably, and that I was "to present yourself at the lodge" to take the first degree of Masonry. How quaint. How demanding, like a summons.

When my co-worker was told of my election, he said he had just been to another degree at my lodge for someone who was taking his degrees ahead of me. I was surprised that he would go to a degree for someone he didn't know, but he just smiled, and said I would enjoy Masonry.

The big night came and the three of us "presented" ourselves at the lodge. There were quite a few others there, all quite busy, seemingly with a lot to say to each other, and a few polite introductions. Generally, they were all older men wearing coats and ties.

We waited downstairs for a while, and then were led upstairs to a small room. We stood with our backs to another door which opened and a loud, clear, brusque voice told us in no uncertain terms what we were to do, "... as all Masons have done before you!"

When the door closed and I began to take my shoes off, I said to my brother and his son, "I don't believe what you've got me into." "Us!" they said, "We only signed our petition because you signed yours."

John Benker had fulfilled his personal mission. Once again, very soon, all of my family would be Masons.



*My place of initiation, Trinity-Mount Olive Lodge No. 43, Deep River.*





## Masonicare cordially invites you and a guest to the **2013 Nutmegger Reunion**

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### March 4, 2013

Vero Beach Hotel & Spa  
3500 Ocean Drive  
Vero Beach, Florida

### March 5, 2013

7165 Olde Cypress Club  
Treeline Drive  
Naples, Florida

*Hosts: Bro. David P. and Ann Hocking*

### March 6, 2013

Hilton Garden Inn  
8270 North Tamiami Trail  
Sarasota, Florida

### March 7, 2013

Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19  
1846 SE 36th Avenue  
Ocala, Florida

*Hosts:*

*MW Bro. Norman L. Getchell, PGM*

*MW Bro. John Gonsalves, PGM*

*Checks for this location are to be made out to Norman Getchell and mailed to Bro. Getchell.*

### March 8, 2013

Timber Greens Country Club  
6333 Timber Greens Blvd.  
New Port Richey, Florida

*Host:*

*RW Bro. John L. Blennerhassett, PDD*

*If you will be receiving your 50-year pin this year at these locations, please contact Bro. Carl Anderson at 800-982-3919. Checks should be made out to Masonicare and mailed to Bro. Anderson.*



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