



Connecticut FREEMASONS

JULY/AUGUST 2013



Masonicare Celebrates... Grand Masters Day 2013



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



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Doug Thompson
Receives Pierpont
Edwards Medal



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3rd Annual
Chicken
Challenge



PAGE 23

Springfield
Armory and
Freemasonry

Grand Masters Day Parade 2013



The Sun Came Out, and What a Grand Masters Day it Was!

The first named tropical storm of the 2013 hurricane season, Andrea, sped up the coast days prior to Grand Masters Day, leaving everyone with dread of another rainy celebration. On Friday, the storm had made it to Connecticut causing flooding and numerous lane closures on highways as heavy rain poured down.

On Thursday, MW Simon R. LaPlace sought some insurance against the impending catastrophe and ordered 125 disposable rain ponchos, which arrived Friday morning. At 7:00 a.m. Saturday, the Grand Architect of the Universe noticed he left a faucet running, and shut it off, and the rain stopped. The clouds broke and the sun shone down on a beautiful Grand Masters Day 2013.

As usual, the Knights Templar led the parade, followed by Scottish Rite, and bagpipers, then WB Howie Orr, chairman of the board of Masonicare; Bro. Steve McPherson, president and CEO of Masonicare; Grand Master LaPlace; RW Arnold Holmes, Grand Junior Warden, Prince Hall Grand Lodge; and the Grand Lodge officers, and various units of the Masonic family. The music and the sun added to a wonderful day for the residents and patients of the Masonicare Health Center.

When the Grand Lodge officers approached the portico of the Health Center they broke ranks and entered the crowd of resident well-wishers, shaking hands and greeting them. The residents and staff appreciated the gesture, and the greetings by the white jacketed officers continued and spread throughout the Heathcare Center. Grand Master Simon's wife, Debbi, joined them and passed out her Lady's pins until she had no more.

When the parade concluded under the tent, greetings and felicitations followed from Brothers Orr and McPherson. The colors were presented by the Grand Commandery Knights Templar and the national anthem was sung by Bro. Steve Daniels. The invocation was given by RW Bruce R. Bellmore. There were addresses by Bros. Orr and McPherson; The Honorable William W. Dickenson, mayor of the city of Wallingford; and Prince Hall Grand Junior Warden Holmes. Brother Holmes spoke touchingly of the assistance Masonicare gave his family and expressed his appreciation.

MW Simon took the microphone and called on RW Carl Anderson Grand Organist, who he re-titled Grand Organizer, to find Ms. Jennifer King, director of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. While waiting, MW Simon presented Ms. Ali Stamm, Grand Worthy Advisor, 2013-2014, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and State Master Councilor Matthew Lingenfelter, State Master Councilor of Connecticut DeMolay, each with checks from the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation to support their youth organizations in the coming year.

When Ms. King arrived at the dais, MW LaPlace presented her with a check to support the Masonicare Annual Appeal from the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation.

The benediction was given by Rev. and RW Bruce R. Bellmore and the postlude was performed by the Connecticut Alumni Senior Drum and Bugle Corps. Lunch was served, and music followed from a swing band "Tuxedo Junction."

When MW LaPlace went for his lunch he learned that the food service had run out of cole slaw. This was no coincidence. On Sunday, it was learned from Morrison Food Service that a record 1,700 meals were served.

The CTCHIP program was also successful. Forty-seven children were processed, fourteen more than the previous year.

Side attractions included cupcake wars, pony rides, a petting zoo, and karate demonstrations. The residents also enjoyed music and activities inside the Health Center.

What had all the makings of a washout, turned into a beautiful day on the Masonicare campus.



New Hampshire Grand Master Stu Aaronson and wife, Mara enjoy the day.



MW LaPlace with Rainbow Grand Worthy Advisor Ali Stamm.



MW LaPlace with DeMolay State Master Councilor Matt Lingenfelter.

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Office hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., 1:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Monday through Friday
First Saturday of the month: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

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TRESTLE BOARD

Simon R. LaPlace - July/August 2013

DATE	EVENT	ATTIRE	PUBLIC	DINNER
Monday, July 8, 7:00 p.m.	Washington Lodge No. 19, Monroe	C	N	N
Wednesday, July 10, 11:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford	C	Y	N
Thursday, July 11, 6:00 p.m.	Rock Cats Game, Rainbow Majority, New Britain	C	Y	N
Friday, July 12-14	DeMolay Conclave Central Connecticut State University, New Britain	C		N
Tuesday, July 16-18	Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario, Toronto	F	N	Y
Friday, July 19-21	Northeast Grand Master's Conference, Wallingford	C	Y	Y
Tuesday, July 22, 10:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford	C	Y	N
Thursday, July 25, 10:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford	C	Y	N
Saturday, July 27, 9:00 a.m.	Esoteric Freemasonry Seminar Hartog Center, Wallingford	C	N	Y
Tuesday, July 30, 10:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford	C	Y	N
Wednesday, July 31, 10:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford,	C	Y	N
Saturday, August 3, 6:00 p.m.	Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, Entered Apprentice degree Deer Lake Boy Scout Camp, Killingworth	F	N	Y
Tuesday, August 6, 9:00 a.m.	Connecticut Demolay Foundation Golf Tournament The Farms Country Club, Wallingford	C	Y	N
Wednesday, August 7, 10:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford	C	Y	N
Thursday, August 8, 10:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford	C	Y	N
Saturday, August 17-20	Supreme Council Scottish Rite, Washington, D. C.	F	N	Y
Tuesday, August 20, 5:00 p.m.	Masonicare Quality of Life Walk committee meeting Wallingford	C	N	N
Thursday, August 22, 10:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford	C	Y	N
Friday, August 23, 10:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford	C	Y	N
Saturday, August 24, 12:00 p.m.	Connecticut Freemasons Masonic Midway Madness Farmington	C	Y	Y
Wednesday, August 28, 10:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford	C	Y	N
Thursday, August 29, 10:00 a.m.	Office hours, Wallingford	C	Y	N

 **Connecticut
FREEMASONS**
Volume 9 - Number 3

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

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Connecticut Freemasons is the official publication of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut AF & AM. All original articles are subject to editing. All checks for payments and donations should be made out to Grand Lodge Publications and mailed to the Grand Lodge office at PO Box 250, Wallingford, CT 06492.

Connecticut Freemasons (USPS 025-514) Volume 9 Number 3 July/August 2013 is published monthly except August by The Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut, 69 Masonic Avenue, P.O. Box 250, Wallingford, CT 06492-0250. Periodicals Postage paid at Wallingford, CT and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Connecticut Freemasons, c/o The Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut, P.O. Box 250, Wallingford, CT 06492-0250.

Letters and advertisements may be sent to the Editor-in-Chief at slaplace@ctfreemasons.net. or 860-526-4021. All submissions are required by the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. Please note: The Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut, does not endorse any of the products or services contained herein nor imply any warranty of the goods, services, or claims advertised. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all advertisements, Connecticut Freemasons will only be liable to reprint, at no charge, any correction due to typographical error.

WB Doug Thompson Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal

by Michael L. Castroll

Douglas Clifford Thompson was born on September 1, 1938, in Hartford Hospital, the son of Mary Elizabeth "Betty" and Oliver Thompson. He has one sister, Jeann Barker.

Doug's formal education started in a one room schoolhouse in Avon. He finished his elementary education at Cow Path School, and went on to Canton High School, where he graduated in 1956. There was very little extracurricular activity available, and Doug was needed on the family farm, so Doug received his work ethic at an early stage of his life. Then Doug discovered scouting. He became an Eagle Scout at the tender age of 13. He went on to Colby College, graduating in 1960, and earned a MBA from Cornell University, in 1962.

Doug enlisted in the United States Air Force Reserve Corps. He trained at Lackland A.F.B. at Chamte Field, in Bloomington, Illinois.

Upon returning home from his Air Force stint, Doug came back to the farm to work the soil with his Dad. Together, at Sunrise Farm, they raised livestock, but as the profits waned, they diverted to concentrate more on potatoes, hay, corn, and Havana seed tobacco.

Doug started building "Kentucky" (flintlock), rifles from scratch, carving out the stock from a blank. He even studied hand engraving, so that he could engrave scrimshaw maps on the powder horn. Doug's rifles also include unique patch boxes with a secret release known only to the owner.

Doug's military service added to the infusion of his father, Oliver, and his grandfather, Joseph, for his penchant for public and private service. Serving the community seems to be a family trait. Doug joined the Jaycees, and was given a chance to "spread his wings." He is now very proud to be an "exhausted rooster." Doug was appointed to the Avon Planning & Zoning Commission, which he served as secretary for many years.

His popularity in town made him a mainstay on that board, until he decided it was time to let someone else provide their input. Doug continues to serve as treasurer of the Avon Cemetery Association. Talk about public and private esteem, indeed!

It was destined that Brother Doug Thompson join Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville. He was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in 1984. Brother Doug jumped right in the chairs, and became Worshipful Master in 1990. His heart and soul was given to his Blue Lodge, following that of his father, WB Oliver W. Thompson, his grandfather, Brother Joseph C. Thompson, as well as other family members. In 1995, W.B. Doug Thompson was escorted to the southeast corner of the lodge, and he has been secretary ever since! WB Doug turned down several chances to serve our Grand Lodge, but when his good friend, RW Frederick C. "Ricky" Taft was tapped to become a District Deputy, Doug came out of his shell and served as his Associate Grand Marshal for 2004-'06.

After his tour was over, Doug came home to Evening Star Lodge No. 101 to stay. Much like the cats he has nurtured over the years, Doug came home to his old standby, Big Foot, and more recently, by Miss Kitty. For those who are Western fans and remember *Gunsmoke*, you can bet a swig at the Long Branch these remain the mascots of Sunrise Farms.

When I spoke with Doug, he appeared most humble about receiving any kind of award or medal for doing those things he loves to do. He told me that he, at first, shied away from joining Masonry, but as some of his friends in Unionville were becoming part of the craft, he found himself following their lead. However, Doug became the leader, then he became master. In 1995, the lodge needed a secretary. Doug filled in, and he has been filling in ever since. He told me, "I'm waiting for someone to tell me, 'Enough is enough!'" "They haven't come forth yet," he concluded.

Talking about his other

accomplishments, he told me, and "I did what I liked to do, as it came along." Doug is very proud to have spent his entire Masonic career in the Blue Lodge. We are proud of him, as well!

For all that, W.B. Douglas C. Thompson has meant to his family, his nation, his community, to Connecticut Freemasonry, to the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, and Evening Star Lodge No. 101, he was surprised when he was presented with the Pierpont Edwards Medal for Distinguished Masonic Service. We were not!



Then Grand Master Gary W. Arseneau presented WB Douglas C. Thompson the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service at the Evening Star Lodge awards night on March 25.

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"The Two Saints John"

excerpted from a sermon given at the Saint John's Day observance of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Connecticut, June 30, 2013

It is a long established custom among the fraternity of Freemasonry to observe the Feast Days of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist whom Masonic ritual informs us are the Patron Saints of Freemasonry. It may be of interest to note that while they are indeed recognized as the patron saints of modern Freemasonry, they were not universally recognized as such by our ancient and operative brothers.

Craft guilds in the Middle Ages adopted patron saints who were in some way associated with their respective trades. For example, St. Peter and St. Andrew were considered the patron saints of fishermen; St. Luke was the patron saint of physicians, and St. George the patron saint of soldiers. The builders' guilds chose as their patron saints, St. Thomas, St. Barbara, or a group of saints known as the Four Crowned Martyrs.

St. Thomas was recognized as an architect. Since the thirteenth century, St. Thomas has always been depicted with the builder's square and mallet and was recognized as the Patron Saint of Builders and Architects.

St. Barbara was a beautiful young pagan noblewoman from Asia Minor whose father had a tower erected in which to confine his

daughter to prevent her from meeting suitors and marrying without his consent. During her confinement, while contemplating the stars, she was struck by the unmistakable evidence of God's hand in the design of the universe. She exclaimed that only God could have created these "heavenly bodies which roll through the vast expanse and are all controlled by the unerring laws of nature." She converted to Christianity and had the workmen install three windows in the tower representing the Trinity. When her father returned home and learned she had become a Christian, he ordered her to be beheaded. St. Barbara is recognized as the Patroness of Builders and Architects who had her tower of confinement reshaped into a spire of praise to the Holy Trinity.

The "Four Crowned Martyrs" were actually stonemasons who suffered martyrdom because they refused to build a statue of a pagan god. They were the most skilled of the masons in the quarry and were selected by the Emperor Diocletian to build a statue of Aesculapius. Their refusal cost them their lives. They were each chained to a lead coffin and thrown in the river to drown. These four ancient and operative masons chose death rather than betray their sacred trust and faith. They are called in Latin the "Quator Coronati" and it is for these four martyrs that the premier lodge of Masonic Research in the world was named.

The two Saints John were not recognized as universal patron saints of the craft although many individual craft lodges held them as their patron. They were selected by the craft because of the important lessons they exemplified in their lives.

St. John the Baptist was chosen for exemplification of moral rectitude. Hundreds flocked to hear him preach and to be baptized by him. He called for the people of Judea to repent and, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, to "prepare the way of the Lord."

His favorite subject for repentance was Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch of Galilee and Perea and whose immorality was well known. Herod had eloped with the wife of his brother, Phillip, while they were both still married. John's outspokenness against Herod and his wife compelled Herod to have him arrested and imprisoned

out of fear that he might insight a rebellion.

The story of Herod's lust for his own stepdaughter, Salome, and her request to have John beheaded is well known. St. John the Baptist lost his life in defense of all that was good, and noble, and true.

St. John the Evangelist was selected for his devotion to the truth. He and St. Peter appeared before the Sanhedrin at the peril of their lives to testify regarding the divinity of Christ. Jesus called John and his brother James, the "Sons of Thunder" for their fervency and devotion. Johannine legend says that John travelled to northern Europe and England to spread the Gospel before returning to Ephesus and was later banned to the Isle of Patmos. The Gospel, three Epistles, and the Book of Revelation attributed to him, contain his unfaltering testimony and faith. While many evangelicals look at the Book of Revelation as literal, most theologians regard it as a marvelous allegory of tragedy, death, and ultimate redemption and as a striking example of first century Jewish apocalyptic writing.

Freemasons are taught that the Holy Saints John are represented by the picture of an individual point within a circle bounded on the east and the west by two perpendicular and parallel lines, representing St. John the Baptist, and St. John the Evangelist, who were two perfect parallels, as well in Masonry as in Christianity; on the vertex of which rests the book of the Holy Scriptures, and in passing round this circle one naturally touches on both these perpendicular parallel lines, as well as the book of the Holy Scriptures, and while a Mason keeps himself within those bounds he cannot materially err. They are the boundaries of truth, morality, and faith.

The lessons these two great saints embody encompass all the qualities of the original patron saints of the Craft and provide a striking example of the principles that Freemasons are called to exemplify in their work and lives: to be upright in character, unbending in their principles and faithful to their trusts.

God bless!



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Bro. Ferdinand Hartog: An Enduring Legacy

by Adam Raider

The late Bro. Ferdinand (Ferd) Hartog, Jr. was a man who lived modestly, but there was nothing modest about the impact of his generosity. When the former Masonicare at Ashlar Village resident passed away in January 2012 at age 99, he left an extraordinarily generous bequest to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut worth over \$3.2 million.

Through his lifetime generosity and his ultimate legacy gift, Ferd is recognized as a member of The Foundation's "Stars of Giving," a prestigious giving society honoring those who have contributed in excess of \$1 million to The Foundation.

Born in Fairfield, Connecticut, but raised in the Rowayton section of Norwalk, Ferd worked after school as a mechanic in his father's garage. He eventually took over the business before selling it during the Great Depression.

Ferd married Dorothy in 1934. The couple settled in Norwalk, where they spent the next 40 years of their lives.

He proudly served his country during World War II in the United States Navy, and then worked for Southern New England Telephone until his retirement. His professional pursuits also including buying and selling real estate and helping his brother run the family marina business.

Bro. Ferd was a 66-year Mason who belonged to St. John's Lodge No. 6, Norwalk, while Dorothy was a 50-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Together, they watched with tremendous pride as Masonicare, an organization with fraternal origins, grew into the state's leading non-profit healthcare provider for seniors.

When Dorothy became ill, Ferd gently urged her to consider moving to Ashlar Village. But Dorothy preferred to be cared for at home, so Ferd enlisted the help of the agency today known as Masonicare Home Health & Hospice.

After Dorothy passed away in 1999, Ferd sold the couple's home and moved to Ashlar Village, where he enjoyed making new friends and volunteering. He was also among the first residents to join Ashlar Lodge No. 332, Wallingford.

"Ferd was a quiet man and a trusting

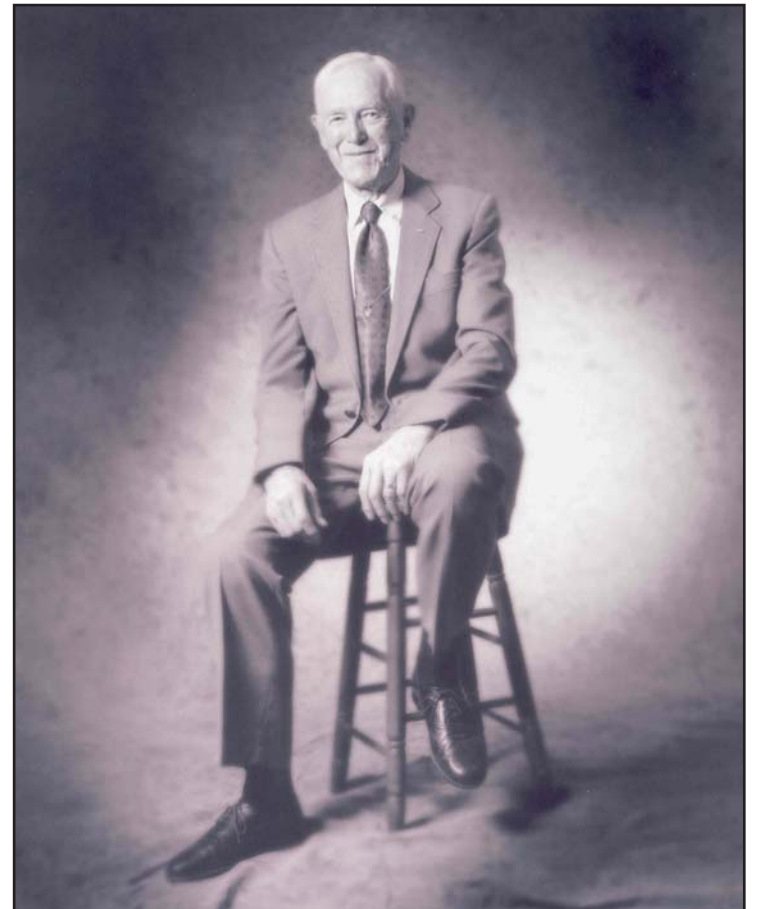
man with loyalties to the people close to him," said longtime friend and neighbor, WB Ken Duncan. "I appreciated that he trusted me as much as he did. He was also a great companion to Grace Bulkley, a resident who lived upstairs from us and who passed away a short time after him. And of course, he was very generous."

During his time at Ashlar Village, Ferd took advantage of services offered by the Masonicare continuum, including the Rehab and Acute Care Units at Masonicare Health Center, Masonicare at Home (for homemaking and personal care) and, in his final days, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice.

Ferd showed his appreciation to Masonicare by becoming an extremely loyal supporter of The Masonic Charity Foundation. His charitable giving to the organization began over 30 years ago with gifts to the Masonicare Annual Appeal and Holiday Appeal, and continued with the funding of 14 charitable gift annuities. He also made donations in support of The Foundation's annual fundraising event at Ashlar Village.

In 2005, Ferd pledged an outstanding gift to The Foundation to help fund the construction of a new Activities Center in the heart of the Ashlar Village campus. In recognition of his generosity to The Foundation, the Activity Center was named and dedicated in Ferd's honor. The Hartog Activities Center was a huge addition to the Ashlar Village campus, featuring a new main dining room, shops, a theater, and a wellness center. Today, the Hartog Activities Center is not only the most visible tribute to the man who shared the fruit of his life's labor, it's also the hub of resident life at the Village.

"Ferd was a really compassionate person who cared deeply about the organization and about the quality of life of the people who lived here," recalled WB Jon-Paul Venoit, Masonicare's senior vice president of residential and community based services. "I can remember dining with him one day and talking about how our amenities at



Bro. Ferdinand (Ferd) Hartog

Ashlar Village were sort of spread out. To his credit, he saw the benefit of centralizing all our amenities in the Activities Center. He recognized there was a demand for it, and that it would be beneficial to the organization."

"Ferd was a great friend of The Foundation who took tremendous satisfaction from seeing how his charitable giving benefitted not only his neighbors at Ashlar Village, but all Masonicare residents and patients in need," said Jennifer A. King, The Foundation's executive director. "He gave very generously during his lifetime, but also felt strongly about providing for Masonicare through his estate plan. Ferd valued highly Masonicare's unique continuum of care, and saw firsthand how his wife, neighbors, and friends had benefitted from Masonicare programs and services. He discovered that, through his generosity to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, he too could have a positive impact on Masonicare residents and patients in need. His excellent legacy gift to The Foundation is greatly appreciated and will help Masonicare to further its charitable mission."

In at least three lodge trestleboards, the Master or Secretary mention their lodge going dark for July and August. No! No! No! Lodges go dark when they have turned in the charters and are not meeting anymore. Lodges that do not meet during the summer months are simply at refreshment, and this Grand Historian cringes when I hear the words "before we go dark for the summer." Lodges still exist, perhaps they may meet, either informally for a picnic or summer event, or formally for a Masonic burial service, or a special communication.

◆◆◆

Two lodges that did go dark, or at least for a significant period of time were Friendship Lodge No. 81 UD and Ashlar Lodge No. 117.

In 1855, MW Theodore Spencer issued a dispensation for a lodge to be created in the town of Derby, as suggested by former members of King Hiram Lodge. He issued it for what was then called Birmingham in the town of Derby. The same dispensation granted a lodge to be formed in Ansonia.

At the close of the annual communication,

the brethren withdrew the petition, for unknown reasons, and applied for a new petition for a lodge in Derby. The first communication was held at the Odd Fellows Hall and Robert C. Naramore was elected Worshipful Master. According to records, fifty seven communications were held with the last being May 6, 1856. At the 1856 annual gathering the dispensation was returned and a petition presented for a charter. Apparently something angered some of the former brothers from King Hiram Lodge and they petitioned to have the original charter of King Hiram returned which had been surrendered in 1854.

A full committee was appointed to hear the testimony and the recommendation was that the petitioners and remonstrators withdraw their petitions. The number 81 was later reused when Washington Lodge in Cromwell petitioned for a charter. The UD lodge that went dark had conferred degrees on twenty three candidates. Most became members of King Hiram Lodge when its charter was finally restored. The 1856 proceedings show



that Friendship #81 UD had sixty-six members listed.

◆◆◆

Another lodge to go dark was Ashlar Lodge No. 117, Rocky Hill. The lodge was granted the charter in January 1876 and was to have concurrent jurisdiction over the town of

Wethersfield with the lodges in Hartford. Charles H. Webster was the charter Master installed by then Grand Secretary Joseph K. Wheeler. A total of twenty four meetings were held of which six were special and five brothers were made Masons.

On October 17, 1876, the last meeting was held at the residence of William Brown. The Grand Treasurer, in January 1877, preferred charges against the lodge on the grounds that the affairs of the lodge were being conducted in a "loose and irregular manner." After an investigation, the charter was revoked on June 2, 1877. Some members took their membership across the river (an easy ferry ride) to Columbia Lodge No. 25, South Glastonbury, while others took their membership to Hartford.

◆◆◆

Norwich had two large Masonic Temples. One is remembered by many still living and active in the fraternity. The idea for the first, dedicated in 1894, was conceived in 1881 when both Somerset Lodge No. 34 and St. James Lodge No. 23 each placed \$300 in the hands of trustees.

A large building was being constructed on the corner of Shetucket and Main Street which would be more convenient than the Water Street facility. Several York Rite bodies and the two lodges decided to build a new building for Masonic purposes. Eventually bonds were issued (\$30,000) and architects hired. Ground breaking ceremonies were held on April 17, 1893. It was said to have been the first building where all the degrees of Masonry, including Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, and York Rite could all be done in the same building.

◆◆◆

As we begin our preparations for the summer, remember that our lodges are at refreshment. We must always act like Masons, look like Masons, and be Masons.

Welcome aboard, Frank!

by Simon R. LaPlace, Editor-in-Chief

With this issue, we welcome WB Francis G. "Frank" Way to our team as Associate Editor of *Connecticut Freemasons*. Brother Frank has previous experience as editor of the *View of the Valley*, the publication of the Scottish Rite Valley of Hartford. He has extensive Masonic knowledge both inside and outside of the historic Fifth District, and is a three time Past Master of Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, and charter Worshipful Master of the resurrected Hospitality Lodge No. 128, Wethersfield. Brother Frank knows Masonry and lives Masonry.

Although a busy brother, he will find the time to report on happenings around the state, and bring his camera to cover many of the events that are making Connecticut Freemasonry great. He is the perfect example of the axiom, "If you want a job done, give it to a busy man."

Compliments have already been received as many people know Frank from his Blue Lodge activities, his terms as Associate Grand Marshal, and his Scottish Rite efforts which earned him the honorary 33° from the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

WB Frank is also active in social media, with many Facebook friends around the state. His comments range from his excoriations and tribulations of Boston sports, to family, health, and technology. Another attribute is Frank's humor, which everyone finds refreshing and often thought provoking. His ease with technology is important as that is the primary method the staff of *Connecticut Freemasons* communicates.

RW Carl G. Ek is irreplaceable. He brought to us extraordinary talents, a historical perspective, and institutional memory unique to him alone. At *Connecticut Freemasons* everyone does what they like to do best, contribute where they can, and pull together as a team to get the job done. Brother Frank Way is the type of worker who will be a significant contributor to the future of *Connecticut Freemasons*.

Welcome aboard, Frank!



WB Francis G. Way
Associate Editor

What is D&O Insurance?

by Robert G. Fitzgerald

This is coverage for officers and directors. They can be held accountable for 1. any number of illegal or unethical actions during the time they serve as an officer; 2. lack of attention to issues and 3. failure to follow proper procedures. D&O insurance protects directors and officers by paying legal fees and agreed settlements.

Fortunately, in Connecticut, the legislature took steps to minimize the exposure for not-for-profit entities. The statute accomplishing this was apparently first passed in 1986 and appears not to have been changed since 1989. It provides as follows:

Sec. 52-557m. Immunity from liability of directors, officers and trustees of nonprofit tax-exempt organizations.

Any person who serves as a director, officer or trustee of a nonprofit organization qualified as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, and who is not compensated for such services on a salary or prorated equivalent basis, shall be immune from civil liability for damage or injury occurring on or after October 1, 1987, resulting from any act, error or omission made in the exercise of such person's policy or decision-making responsibilities if such person was acting in good faith and within the scope of such person's official functions and duties, unless such damage or injury was caused by the reckless, willful or wanton misconduct of such person.

Note that one cannot be immune from liability for "reckless, willful or wanton misconduct." There is no

insurance which will do that. A common misconception of D&O insurance is that it makes directors and officers able to engage in acts that they know to be wrong; this is not the case. Intentional illegal acts done by the directors/officers/trustees are not covered under most D&O insurance policies. Coverage would only extend to "wrongful acts" as defined under the policy, which may include certain acts, omissions, misstatements while acting as a director/officer/trustee of the organization.

Being "immune from liability" does not mean that someone cannot sue you. They can! And until the court (or their lawyer) tells the plaintiff that not-for-profits Directors/Officers/Trustees are immune, there can be legal expenses for defense of the case. This is why not-for-profit entities purchase this coverage - to protect their directors and officers from the cost of defense.

Who Sues Directors and Officers and Why?

When most people think of D&O insurance, they think of angry shareholders suing irresponsible directors and officers for negligence, noncompliance and other faults. Other parties can sue. The duty of "prudence" requires directors to act on reliable information and with adequate deliberation. At its roots, D&O insurance insures "behavior" in that decisions of directors and officers are the matters which often lead to covered claims. That is, an incorrect decision often leads to discontent and thus, a lawsuit. Also, failure to act prudently can result in injury to a third party. The general liability insurance of the organization would normally be the first to respond, but that would not prevent the injured party from trying to sue its officers/directors/trustees for failure to act properly to

prevent the injury.

Directors/Officers/Trustees have to remember that without this type of coverage - when you are a member of a Board of Directors - what happens is that your personal assets are at risk. In our case, even though immune under the law, the expense of defense can become an issue, especially for individuals.



D&O insurance is written on a "Claims Made Basis." The policies are not a standard form so you have to be careful about the language; some reimburse defense after the case is settled which would mean the insured would have to put those monies out then get reimbursed down the road. Under the conditions of our policy, the insurance company has the "right and duty" to defend "claims" so this is not a problem.

The limit purchased has to cover the cost of legal defense and any settlement judgment. Most D&O claims are settled before going to trial. The key, apparently, is the motion to dismiss stage of civil litigation.

In conclusion, organizations need this coverage to protect the type of people they need to serve as officers and/or to head up their board of directors, and by purchasing such coverage, protect them, individually, and their families assets.

Your lodge secretary will be receiving, shortly, an application form and other information regarding this type of coverage. This is for consideration by lodges and, if applicable, Masonic building corporations. A reply is expected from each of the constituent lodges.

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Andrew Warren: arbiter@cox.net 860-767-2302 / Roger Cole: rogejoan@comcast.net 860-526-2265
Ben Isaacson: bisaacson@ctfreemasons.net 860-309-8620

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FROM THE DESK OF:

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



On June 2, The New York Times ran a front-page story on the high cost of medical procedures in the U.S. The story focused on routine colonoscopies – a colon cancer screening recommended for anyone over 50.

The article pointed out the disparity in costs for the procedure depending on where it was performed. As you may know, insurance companies – including Medicare and Medicaid – negotiate pricing with providers. At Masonicare, our employee health plan is administered by Aetna. Any member of the plan can go on their web site and find out how much procedures or surgeries will cost at different providers. I think this is a great tool. I learned that if an employee in our health plan has a colonoscopy at Masonicare Health Center (where Connecticut GI performs procedures), the cost is \$1,870. Were the employee to go to local hospitals, the cost would jump, ranging from \$3,210 to \$3,759. You get the picture.

Where consumers choose to have this or any other procedure done ultimately affects their employer's cost to provide benefits. I believe a company's budget is a visible statement of its value system. Our goal at Masonicare is to provide benefits following an 80-20 formula, that is, we pick up 80% and the employee pays in about 20%. This year alone, Masonicare's direct medical and dental expenditure will exceed \$15 million. As we develop

our budget for 2014 (the fiscal year will actually begin October 1), we are encouraging our employees to be informed consumers by comparing cost and quality so they can choose a lower cost option without compromising quality.

If you would like to see the entire New York Times piece, it's online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/02/health/colonoscopies-explain-why-us-leads-the-world-in-health-expenditures.html?hp>. The article contains some startling information– e.g. the average hip replacement in the United States costs over \$40,000; in Spain, it's less than \$8,000. The average angiogram in the U.S. is about \$1,000; in Canada, it's \$36. At this rate, "medical tourism" may be more than just a trend.

The Affordable Care Act was intended to make healthcare more consumer-focused. We as consumers need to do our part to be educated and informed.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Male Residents Celebrate "Mothers and Others" at Masonicare at Ashlar Village:

Special Brunch Prepared in Recognition of Mother's Day

Several men who reside at Masonicare at Ashlar Village were quite busy during the days leading up to the eighth annual "Mothers and Others" brunch held recently at the Continuing Care Retirement Community on Cheshire Road.

Eight years ago, resident Jack Kingsbury thought it would be nice to recognize and honor all of the women who live at Masonicare at Ashlar Village on Mother's Day, and the idea of hosting a "Mothers and Others" brunch was born. This year, a few days prior to May 10, the date the brunch was held, approximately thirty dedicated male volunteers got together to prepare the entire menu for more than 200 female guests. The men were busy chopping, baking and mixing, and a delightful menu resulted. The delicious meal included a Smoothie appetizer, 5-bean salad, baked ham with a pineapple dressing, and was topped off with a mouth-watering dessert – rosebud cake with a strawberry drizzle.

To make the day even more special,

all of the volunteers donned white shirts and dark trousers to serve their guests in style. Musical piano selections provided delightful entertainment during the

luncheon. The many "mothers and others" honored thoroughly enjoyed the day and expressed their sincere appreciation for this recognition from their "fellow" residents.



"Waiters," male volunteers from the residents of Masonicare at Ashlar Village prepared to serve nearly 200 female guests.

photo by Irving Pease

134th Council of Deliberation Held in Ansonia

by Francis G. Way

Connecticut's Scottish Rite Masons met at John J Sullivan's Restaurant, Ansonia, on June 21, for the 134th annual Council of Deliberation. The Council of Deliberation is the governing body for the five Scottish Rite valleys in Connecticut. Illustrious Brother David L. Sharkis, 33°, as Commander-in-Chief, presided over the council and its business.

After appropriate greetings and receptions of the invited distinguished guests, a special thanks was tendered to the 200th anniversary committee, chaired by Illustrious Brother Joseph B. Cyr, 33°. Ill. Bro. Cyr and his committee arranged and executed the recent 200th Anniversary Gala at La Bella Vista at the Ponte Club in Waterbury, an evening of dining, dancing and celebration commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Scottish Rite's Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. The evening was much enjoyed by all in attendance.

The report of the director of the Children's Dyslexia Center, Cheryl Sharkis, was particularly moving. After a brief update on the progress of the past year, she played a video shown at a recent graduation ceremony at the center. The video highlighted the reading skills of the twelve graduates, some of whom had increased their reading skill by three or four grade levels after completing the two-year program. The brethren showed their appreciation and pleasure with a standing ovation.

Illustrious Brother Bruce T. Work, 33°, Active for Connecticut, delivered his report, and stressed motivation. He noted that motivation is the key to success in the business world and needs to be the key to success in the Masonic world as well. He cautioned against fear of changing, telling the brethren that "the only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth of the hole." He added that no one

seems to want to rock the boat, but that it is indeed time that the Scottish Rite "do a little rocking." He concluded by saying that the Scottish Rite's "market" has changed, that it is different than it was 20 years ago, and that it is time to motivate with "positive attitudes that create enthusiasm, and become contagious. Our success is more a product of what we are doing than the environment we are doing it in." His report was well received, and provided much food for thought.

The alternate year Council of Deliberation was discussed. This is in response to the decision by the Supreme Council to hold their annual session and conferral of the 33° every other year beginning after this year. The Supreme Council annual session will take place on odd years going forward. In the even years, Connecticut will have the alternate year Council of Deliberation. While all of the details are still being worked out, the alternate year Council of Deliberation will feature a three-day meeting with ladies invited. A Friday evening reception will welcome brethren and their ladies. Saturday will feature the Council of Deliberation meeting, while the ladies enjoy an entertaining program. Saturday evening will bring everyone together again for a banquet, with music and dancing, and the presentation of the Illustrious Frederick H. Lorensen, 33° Masonic Service Award.

The Alternate Year Council of Deliberation for 2014 is planned for September 19 through September 21, 2014 at the Mystic Hilton in Mystic. More information will follow on the Scottish Rite websites, all available via www.ctscottishrite.org or in *Connecticut Freemasons*.

Control of the session was given to Ill. Bro. Work, to preside over the meeting while Ill. Bro. Sharkis delivered the Allocution of the Deputy. Ill. Bro. Sharkis began his allocution with the necrology. Eleven members of the Council passed to the Celestial Lodge Above in the past year.

Ill. Bro. Sharkis continued by discussing the State of the Rite. He noted many accomplishments in the past year. He praised Valleys for working together, particularly noting the cooperation between Hartford and Norwich and saying that it was hard to tell which Valley you were in because so many of the brethren from one Valley would be working with the other Valley. He also was pleased that Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury developed a unified schedule for the fall degrees that takes advantage of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction's "book end"



Ill. Bro. David L. Sharkis, 33°, Deputy for Connecticut receives MW Simon R. LaPlace, Grand Master, into the Council of Deliberation.

concept, and allowing more degrees to be presented.

He reminded the Valleys to plan and fund their almoners funds, stating "though not meant to be an aid society, we are a fraternity obligated to care for our members." He expressed his gratitude to the Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious Brother John William McNaughton, 33°, for his aid to Connecticut from the Supreme Council's almoner's fund, and informed the brethren that a fund-raiser to help replenish those funds would take place on October 11 at the Hartog Center of Masonicare at Ashlar Village. Ill. Bro. Sharkis and Ill. Bro. Work will perform *Martin and Max*, a play that provides a glimpse into the Masonic relationship of two brothers.

Ill. Bro. Sharkis then talked about leadership recognition. He proposed a set of five core leadership competencies that can be measured against – integrity, initiative, perseverance, compassion and altruism – and discussed what each meant in a Masonic environment. He noted that he will be launching a program based on these five principles at the upcoming Supreme Council session. He indicated more information would be forthcoming in September.

The allocution was concluded with his thoughts on communication and plans to improve the Scottish Rite communications in Connecticut. He stressed the need to tailor communications to the audience and to the message being delivered.

The Illustrious Frederick H. Lorensen, 33° Masonic Service Awards were then presented. Brothers Harvey J. Hartin (Bridgeport), Dale T. Cunningham (Hartford) and David M. Robinson (New Haven) were named recipients for 2013. The Norwich recipient will be announced at a later date.

Final remarks before the closing of the Council were made by Grand Master Simon R. LaPlace. The brothers adjourned to the dining room for a festive meal.

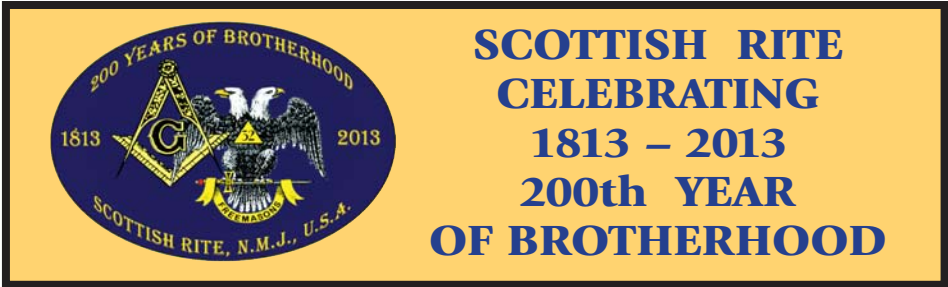


Meritorious Service Award recipients, from left, Brothers Harvey J. Hartin, Dale T. Cunningham, and David M. Robinson, receive their red caps.

Having reached the half way mark of the 200th Anniversary Year of the Supreme Council, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, it's not to late to ask yourself "what have I done to increase membership in the Scottish Rite?" It doesn't take much effort to relate to a fellow Mason why you joined, and then encourage him to submit a petition.

Although there is no higher degree than that of Master Mason, the 29°'s of the Scottish Rite enrich the philosophy of the symbolic lodge. By becoming a Scottish Rite member, the individual you recruit not only expands his knowledge of Freemasonry but widens his circle of friends, and is better enabled to serve humanity in unique ways. Men like Albert Pike, Buzz Aldrin, Gerald Ford, Harry S Truman, Bob Dole, John Wayne, Arnold Palmer, Henry Ford, and John Glenn are just a few Masons that have followed the same journey.

That journey can begin when the Valley starts its fall season on open house and candidate information night, September 26, at 7:30 p.m. at our Scottish Rite Cathedral, 207 Deming Street, Newington. The candidate and his family will experience the I.C.E. concept (Inspiration – Convenience -- Enjoyment) that



we stress in all our programs and degrees. They will perceive their time and money are well spent. Information on our programs can be obtained on our valley website: valleyofhartford.org, or in our quarterly publication "View of the Valley."

The Valley of Hartford congratulates Brother Dale T. Cunningham, our recipient of the Ill. Frederick H. Lorensen, 33°, Meritorious Service Award. Brother Dale was honored at the Council of Deliberation meeting on June 21. Bro. Dale has worked very hard supporting the Valley in many ways over the years and is currently in charge of our robe room.

In June, the Supreme Council and the Valley of Hartford awarded their annual college scholarship awards to the children and grandchildren of our brethren who qualify. This year the Valley was able to award four Supreme Council Abbott College scholarships. They were awarded to: Nicholas F. Flynn (University of Hartford); Jason

Tanner George (Boston College); Hannah E. Forsyth (Georgia Tech); and Andrew J. Pogg, (University of

Southern Maine). The Valley of Hartford presented their own scholarships to eleven students who represent the highest ideals of academic achievement and participate in many extra-curricular activities. These were awarded to: Jonathan D. Blythe (Worcester Polytechnic

Institute); Cailyn Blonstein (Quinnipiac University); Alexia P. Bouffard (University of New Haven); Danielle C. George (Villanova University); Eve O. George (Georgia Institute of Technology); Rebecca George (Wellesley College); Albin J. Jenuska (Manchester Community College); Joseph A. Mallespini (Penn State); Hillary M. Maxson (Fairfield University); Victoria K. Maxson (Salve Regina University); and Alyssa M. Merrill (Southern Connecticut State University).

The Valley of Hartford congratulates all the recipients, and wishes them success in the coming year.

The annual officers planning meeting and dinner is planned for Thursday, July 18. Our annual ballgame and picnic at the New Britain Rock Cats baseball game is on Saturday, July 13, and the annual 5K Race/Walk to raise funds for the Children's Dyslexia Center on Saturday, July 28.

The summer season means a rest from lodge labor and degree portrayal for a short while. It is a chance to recharge our batteries for the upcoming fall season. No matter what the start of summer means to you, have a safe and happy summer.

We welcome our new brothers to the fraternity.

Darren S. Mallette	Federal 17
Kevin W. Breton.....	Liberty-Continental 76
Michael E. Augustine	Meridian 77
Luke G. Boyd	Meridian 77
Damian P. Mierny	Meridian 77
Sandesh V. Sekhara	Meridian 77
Lee R. Martin	Sequin-Level 140
Daniel R. Mosor	Sequin-Level 140
Scott D. Roden.....	Sequin-Level 140
Dean T. Yalanis	Sequin-Level 140
Brian J. Tardif.....	Unity 148
Jeffery D. Cheshire	Washington 19
Matthew D. Whidder	Washington 19
Jordan G. Farrell	Wooster 10
Christopher E. Thompson	Wooster 10

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate this brother who has achieved 50 years of Masonic membership.

Alton G. Hudson..... Corinthian 63

Calling All Tainters

Tainters Tavern is on its way — Brothers, the time is long over due to call the Tainters to meet. We are trying to get a complete account of all are brothers who answer the Tainters' call. If you have been to a Tainters Tavern before, you are a Tainter.

Please send us your name and contact information, and if you remember, the year you became a Tainter and who brought you.

Please send your name and contact information to Eric Charette at broeric33@gmail.com or Ryan Carlson at rcarlson618@sbcglobal.net.

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

The Spring Reunion is behind us. Our class has received the Royal Secret and our camp is secure. The search for the Fall class should have already started! We congratulate our new Sublime Princes. We also look forward to their participation in our degrees and other events in the future.

In May, we elected our leaders for the coming year. To provide the high quality of performance that has been our benchmark, the Valley of New Haven needs your help. Whether or not you can act, there is always room for a new face. There are many walk-on parts, scenery, makeup, lighting, sound, etc. Carry petitions with you, or direct any future stars of the Valley of New Haven to our Illustrious Secretary Vern Cleaves 33°. All of our degrees start with a dinner.

In June, our Connecticut Council of Deliberation met, and the "I. C. E." was put on the cake. That is, "I.C.E." for inspiration, convenience, and enjoyment. It is the theme of Illustrious John Wm. McNaughton, 33°, our Sovereign Grand Commander. It emphasizes the bicentennial celebration of our Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

The Meritorious Service Award is when every valley in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction taps a worthy brother whose participation has been exemplary. Originally sanctioned by the Supreme Council in 1949, it was adopted by the Connecticut Council of Deliberation in 1954, and named for our late MW and Illustrious Arthur M. Brown, 33°, and given every year since. Two years ago, our Supreme Council approved the request of the Valley of Waterbury to rename our MSA for the late MW and Illustrious Frederick H. Lorenson, 33°. This year, the Valley of New Haven is proud to congratulate Brother David Robinson as our newest M.S.A. No one was prouder than his dad, Don Robinson, a recipient of the Ill. Arthur M. Brown, 33°, but these awards are not inherited; they are earned.

Everyone looks forward to our annual Summer picnic. Rain or shine, no one ever goes away hungry. One of our highlights is the reception of our scholarship awardees. This year we welcome Valley Awardees Megan Mauser, Mathew Montano, Christopher Rompe, Lauren Rompe, Ann Marie D'Eugenio, Sarah E.

Eppler, and our Sepreme Council Awardee Ashley M. Chello.

A clambake, wine trip, and another cigar and scotch night were all geared to add to the roster of our Fall Reunion, and provide some rest and relaxation to our current membership.

Our summer respite is merely a preparatory for the upcoming Fall Reunion. The Valley of New Haven is getting ready to produce the new 5°. Brothers who have become Scottish Rite Masons in

the Valley of New Haven in the last five years, are invited to take a part in this degree.

There is no better time to "speak Scottish Rite." The incentives, which are provided by our Supreme Council during this Bicentennial year, and your personal efforts to keep our membership strong in the Valley of New Haven cannot be overemphasized. The time is now!

See you in the Valley...

ATTENTION MASONS

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

THE VALLEY OF NEW HAVEN

Masonic Temple, 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven



Saturday, July 20
Valley of New Haven
Summer Picnic
Masonicare at Ashlar Village
Wallingford

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

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.

Adam Ritchie	America-St. John's 8
William R. C. Milne	America-St. John's 8
Donald P. Markham.....	Anchor 112
George A. List	Ansantawae 89
Clyde C. Ingram Jr.....	Brainard 102
C. Douglass Alves Sr.....	Coastal 57
George W. Andrews.....	Coastal 57
Paul E. Lanford.....	Compass 9
Edward A. Potter.....	Compass 9
Carl G. Ek.....	Corinthian 63
Shepard N. Cohen.....	Cosmopolitan 125
Hawley W. Lincoln III	Day Spring 30
Richard A. Johansen.....	Evening Star 101
Gilbert A. Larson	Friendship Tuscan 145
John L. Von Deck Jr.....	Friendship Tuscan 145
Oneal Cyr	Harmony 42

William Jay	Harmony 42
Thomas P. Murphy Jr	Madison 87
Richard T. McLeod.....	Seneca 55
Wayne E. Fox	Sequin-Level 140
John A. Newton.....	Sequin-Level 140
Lewis A. Steinberg	Sequin-Level 140
Robert J. Zaleski.....	Sequin-Level 140
Norman W. Henderson.....	Temple 65
Robert R. Goodfellow	Union 40
Henry R. Syskowski.....	Unity 148
William Naden Jr	Uriel 24
Luzerne S. Holcombe.....	Valley 36
Adam Ritchie	Valley 36
Ernest C. Collins.....	Washington 81
John R. Bland	Wyllys-St. John's 4
Carl I. Swanson	Wyllys-St. John's 4

Masonic Chicken Challenge: Try a Little Tender-ness

by Adam Raider and Kate Tedford

The third annual Masonic Chicken Challenge, held June 29 at Kelly's Pub in New Haven, raised over \$4,000 for the Quality of Life Fund at Masonicare.

Billed as an afternoon of "gluttony, camaraderie, and charity," the chicken-eating competition included brothers from Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven; Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford; Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven; Corinthian Lodge No. 103, North Haven; Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven; Meridian Lodge No. 77, Meriden; Trumbull Lodge No. 22, New Haven; Widow's Son Lodge No. 66, Branford; and for the first time, a team of Masonicare employees.

Each lodge held a raffle based on the number of chicken tenders they expected to eat. The winner of each raffle was to receive \$150 with the remaining proceeds earmarked for the Masonicare Quality of Life Fund. Many winners elected not to accept their prizes, resulting in a larger gift to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

"This event continues to get bigger and more successful every year, said Hiram Lodge's WB Steven M. Allinson, an event organizer and member of The Masonic Charity Foundation's

Board of Directors and Quality of Life Committee. "Everybody came out with the goal of spreading the message of The Masonic Charity Foundation, showing their pride in Freemasonry, and doing something to improve the quality of life for the residents and patients of Masonicare."


The Foundation helps Masonicare to bridge the gap in funding between Medicaid reimbursement and the actual cost of delivering care by underwriting important programs, services, and equipment to benefit Masonicare residents and patients when no other funding source is available. These purchases include transportation, spiritual services, and recreational activities, as well as items such as hearing aides, dentures, wheelchair batteries, and low-vision items.

"I am so pleased that the participating lodges have again chosen to direct proceeds from the Chicken Challenge to The Masonic Charity Foundation," said Jennifer A. King, The Foundation's Executive Director. "This is an event that blends great fun with a great cause. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated to raise much-needed dollars to benefit our residents and patients."

The Chicken Challenge called for teams of six people to eat as many boneless chicken tenders as possible within 30 minutes. There were several gut-busting flavors to choose from: plain, teriyaki, mild/hot buffalo, and sweet and sour. A surprise twist to the rules this year: every team had to eat 12 hot buffalo tenders.

Hiram extended its undefeated streak, taking top honors for the third consecutive year with 138 tenders consumed, or about 23 tenders per person. Bro. Michael Odenwaelder led the way with 31.

Bro. Allinson expressed his gratitude to the staff at Kelly's Pub for hosting the Chicken Challenge and for their tremendous support of this event.



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LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE IN MASONARY

Unlock the journey into Scottish Rite Freemasonry
Join us Thursday, September 26 at 7:30 p.m.
as the Valley hosts an Open House
and Scottish Rite Information Night

If 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., 33°, Valley Secretary, at the Valley of Hartford Office 860-666-0712, or sect@snet.net or visit our Valley Website: www.valleyofhartford.org

Chicken Challenge 2013



The tenders are ready!



The eaters are ready!



The judges are ready!



Teams of six each face off.



On your mark — Get set —GO!



How many can you eat?



What's your limit?



Organizer Steve Allinson, right, eats his share.



Chicken's Revenge!



The winning team — Hiram No. 1 with Kelly's Pub owner, Patrick Hogan, left, who donated all the chicken.

Grand Masters Day 2013



Masonicare CEO and president Steve McPherson.



Masonic Charity Foundation Director Jennifer King with Grand Master LaPlace.



Masonicare chairman of the board Howie Orr.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

At the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, then Grand Master Gary Arseneau, on behalf of the Connecticut freemasons foundation, presented a donation to MW Earl Washburn representing the National Masonic Foundation for Children. Their signature program is the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program (MMSAP) designed to prevent addiction and destructive behaviors.

MMSAP is an intensive workshop for educators to learn how to identify, intervene with, and create appropriate referrals for students that may be at risk for substance abuse, depression, suicide, or violence. This workshop trains a Core Team of five to eight educators from a school building in how to intervene early and effectively with students that display patterns of behaviors that threaten their success at school.

Tax deductible donations to the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation are distributed to worthy charities supported by the Masons of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.



Royal Arch Masons Install New Officers



The 215th Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Connecticut was held on June 1, in Rocky Hill with Most Excellent Grand High Priest William L. Miller II presiding. A joint banquet with the Most Puissant Grand Council Royal & Select Masters of Connecticut kicked off the weekend's events the evening before.

The joint banquet featured a presentation of the colors by a joint color guard of Sir Knights from Washington Commandery No. 1 and Hamilton Commandery No. 5.

At the Friday night banquet, Most Excellent Edmund D. Harrison, General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter RAM, at the podium, presents the General Grand Chapter Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Service to PGHP Paul L. Chello, left of GHP Miller, as Paul's wife Emily proudly watches.



Most Excellent Grand High Priest William L. Miller, II presenting the Ephraim Kirby Citation for Distinguished Masonic Service to Raymond G. Tomlinson and William Lang, right.



MEGHP Abrames and the 2013-2014 Grand Chapter officers take the obligation of their offices.



MEGHP Abrames presents a PGHP Jewel to PGHP Miller. This jewel was first worn by Brother James McCormick.



Lisa Miller pins Julie Abrames with a GHP's wife lapel pin at the banquet.

Have Fun in the Sun – But Protect Your Skin While Doing It

Amy Davis, MSN, APRN, is a nurse practitioner at Masonicare primary care physicians in Wallingford, where she specializes in general medical dermatology for adults. Ms. Davis treats a variety of skin disorders and performs biopsies and the excision/destruction of lesions. With the summer here, Ms. Davis gives us some practical information on how we can best protect ourselves from skin damage caused by excessive sun exposure.

Exposing your skin to the sun causes premature aging and leads to wrinkles, age spots, dilated blood vessels and changes in skin texture. Unfortunately, it also increases your risk of developing skin cancer, and as we know, some forms of skin cancer can be deadly. It's vitally important that we protect our skin from harmful ultraviolet rays, and the use of a high-quality sunscreen plays a major role in providing that protection.

What type of sunscreen should I use?

If you've looked around the sunscreen aisle at the supermarket or drugstore these days, you know that choosing a sunscreen can be overwhelming. The shelves are loaded with gels, sticks, sprays and oil-free versions in addition to the traditional lotions we grew up with. The best sunscreen to buy depends on you, because it must be one you'll be willing to use every day. Ask yourself the following questions to help you make the right choice:

Are you active or involved in sports? Gel based sunscreen is best.

Do you have trouble with acne? Oil free is for you.

Is your skin dry? Use creamy sunscreen.

Is your skin sensitive or do you have rosacea? Look for sunscreen with zinc oxide or titanium dioxide.

Do you have a lot of body hair? The sprays and gels will be best for you.

Looking for sunscreen for children? Buy stick sunscreen – its waxy formula doesn't drip into eyes.

Once I choose my sunscreen, what's the best way to apply it?

Research shows that most people aren't applying enough sunscreen to be adequately protected. Once you have a sunscreen that feels good on your skin, you want to make sure you're applying it correctly. Be sure to apply it to dry skin 15 to 20 minutes before you go outside, putting it on all areas of your skin that will be exposed to the sun. This includes face, ears, neck and hands – and don't forget your scalp if you're bald!

How much sunscreen should I apply?

You need a lot more than you think – a full shot glass worth for your entire body. And you need to re-apply it at least every two hours, and especially after swimming or sweating. Water resistant sunscreen can lose effectiveness after 40 minutes in the water. Also, don't forget to reapply the sunscreen after towel drying off.

Do I need to use sunscreen when it's cloudy?

Yes! Even on a cloudy day, up to 80 percent of the sun's UV rays can pass through the clouds. Sand and snow also reflect ultraviolet light, and it passes through glass as well.

How does sunscreen work?

Sunscreens with zinc oxide or titanium dioxide act as a physical sun block. They reflect UV rays and tend not to irritate sensitive skin. Sunscreens with avobenzone or oxybenzone absorb UV radiation and can be irritating for people with sensitive skin. The SPF label stands for "sun protection factor" and refers to how well the sunscreen protects against UVB radiation. Sunscreens labeled broad spectrum block both UVB and UVA rays. A sunscreen with an SPF of 15 protects against about 93 percent of ultraviolet light and an SPF of 30 protects against 97 percent. No SPF can block 100% of UV rays.

What are some other ways I can protect my skin?

Seek shade when possible and avoid direct sunlight when the sun's rays are strongest – between 10 am and 4 pm. Remember that ultraviolet light bounces off sand, water, pavement and decks, so umbrellas are a good idea, although they don't provide full protection. You should use sunscreen daily along with protective clothing, wide



Amy Davis, MSN, APRN

brimmed hats and sunglasses. Clothing can absorb or reflect some ultraviolet light, but light colored and loose knit fabrics are not protective enough. There are companies that have developed clothing lines with an ultraviolet protection factor; there are also laundry additives you can put in the washer with your clothes to increase their ultraviolet protection factor.

To sum it up, sun exposure is the most preventable risk factor for skin cancer and signs of premature aging. Be sure to

follow the guidelines below to decrease your risk:

Generously apply broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30.

Re-apply every 2 hours, even on cloudy days, and after swimming or sweating.

Wear protective clothing and a wide brimmed hat and sunglasses when possible.

Avoid direct sun exposure when the sun's rays are strongest – between 10 am and 4 pm.

Remember – play it safe. You won't be sorry!



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Tuesday, August 6
at the Geoffrey Cornish-designed The Farms Country Club
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\$800 - Silver Sponsor (Includes 4 golfers)	\$1000 - Lunch sponsor
\$500 - Bronze Sponsor (Includes 2 golfers)	\$750 - Gift bag sponsor
\$250 - Closest to the pin sponsor	\$500 - Breakfast or Beverage sponsor
\$250 - Longest drive sponsor	\$150 - Tee sponsor
\$700 - Foursome and tee sponsor	\$150 - Individual player
\$400 - Twosome and tee sponsor	\$50 - Non-golfing social

For registration flyer, please contact:
Chris Earle, The Campaign for Connecticut DeMolay
P.O. Box 8832, New Haven, CT 06532
203-789-2822 or Fax 203-784-5049
christopher.earle@fnfg.com

Make checks payable to:
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REGISTRATION WITH PAYMENT DUE BY JULY 20



Why, How, and Why Not?

Freemasonry is a team sport. No one Mason can revive our beloved fraternity alone. Debate and open discussions help all to grow and give insight as to where one is coming from. I don't believe that the system of a one year term for our Grand Masters is the cause of our declining membership. As we look around the state, we see the lodges that are growing and thriving. They are the lodges that are practicing brotherly love and engaging their newest members in the cause of Freemasonry. That engagement is infectious. My endorsement to retain the one year term for our Grand Masters is as follows:

Every Grand Master has many plans and prerogatives. Among them they make decisions, edicts, and recommendations. As Most Worshipful James McWain was going out of office, he made a recommendation that the Grand Lodge should move towards having Grand Masters serve for a two year term.

I have had the pleasure and honor to serve twenty-seven different Grand Masters since I was raised in 1987. In all that time I have watched Grand Masters come and go. Some worked well with their subordinate officers while others either didn't get along or just politely ignored each other. In all this time I witnessed a very close relationship develop between then Right Worshipful Brothers Gary Arseneau and Jim McWain, so it did not surprise me when Most Worshipful Gary decided to act on one of MW Jim's recommendations.

Bro. Gary charged his Grand Junior Warden, RW Donald W. Dean, and some of the Grand Lodge officers to form a committee that would report back to him on not just how a two year term would work, but why we should move towards this concept. The committee went to work doing research of other Grand jurisdictions with multiple year terms for Grand Masters, interviewing Past Grand Masters, and produced an informative video. What impressed me the most about their presentation was the wisdom of MW Gary who kept asking them to explain "why" we need a two year term for the Grand Master, and his assertion that "how" would naturally follow. To drive his point home he coined the phrase "give me the why," while the committee continued to address "the how" to move to a two year term.

At face value, I wasn't convinced of the "why," so I assumed that the "how" was moot. Further, I don't believe a multi-year Grand Master's term would guarantee improvement in our craft. I didn't give it too much thought until I read the latest articles in the *Connecticut Freemasons* addressing both the "why" and the "how." So in this light, allow me to explore the "why, how, and why not" to have Connecticut Grand Masters serve two years.

Why we should: The rationale is so that a Grand Master can develop a thorough plan or program which in most cases takes more than a year to implement. This begs the question of what was he doing the last eight years in the progressive line? Another rationale is a Grand Master spends his first three months going to District Deputy presentations, award ceremonies and Grand Lodge meetings in sister Grand Jurisdictions. Then the lodges break for summer. In September he has six weeks of Blue Lodge meetings to spread out his plans, and then it's off to the semi-annual meeting to vote on his successor. At that point, all know that he has six more months left in office until his "retirement." If he had been voted in for two years, he could charge his officers and District Deputies with getting his message out to the rank and file, and promote his agenda. These could be programs that might turn around our declining membership.

How we should: A Deputy Grand Master gets elected at a given semi-annual communication to be Grand Master and he immediately respectfully declines. This would leave the office of Grand Master open and the voting members of Grand Lodge would have the opportunity to re-elect the current Grand Master by voting again, or, at the conclusion of the annual meeting, the just installed Deputy Grand Master announces that he will not accept the position of Grand Master if elected at the semi-annual in six months, because he believes the just installed Grand Master should be re-elected then. Or the Committee on Legal Matters could draft legislation that states that at the semi-annual communication the positions of Grand Junior Warden, Grand Senior Warden, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Master will be elected to serve 2 years. This draft would then have to lay over until the

next Grand Lodge communication and the voting members then approve or disapprove it by ballot.

Why we should not: Politicking will increase! One could consider this article or the visit of a designated Grand Lodge officer traveling to lodges to present a point of view as forms of politicking. Only our financially well off brothers would be able to seek the office or afford to be Grand Master because of the years of extensive travel it would take to become known by the voting members across the state. The brothers from smaller districts and the border towns of our state would never get the chance to hold office against the larger populated areas of the state because the larger districts could rule by sheer strength in voting members. The founding fathers of our country established our federal government with checks and balances. Each state, no matter how large or small, has two representatives in one half of the legislature so that tiny Rhode Island has just as much influence as the larger Texas. Currently our smaller districts have a Grand Master once every nine years just like our larger districts and as a result, shared influence.

Our nine districts, while disproportionate in numbers and geography, have a history and, as a result, an identity. The larger districts have the most politics due to the number of brothers to choose from. While the smaller districts may lack quantity they still have quality. To say that no one from a certain district is qualified to be a Grand Lodge officer is an insult to the dedication and integrity of all of the dedicated brothers from that district. The system that we have of an outgoing Grand Master recommending to an incoming Grand Master that "this is the brother recommended by the permanent members from my district" is fair. The incoming Grand Master can then say, "Thanks" or "No, thanks, do you have any other suggestions?" While other potential appointees in his district didn't get that opportunity, those that didn't get chosen have another opportunity in nine years for feelings to heal and more time to serve. This is based on the progression through the appointed and elected offices to the Grand East. The overlooked appointees may still have a chance in the future to be appointed

...continued on page 21

Why, How and Why Not?

continued from page 20...

to the Grand Lodge line of officers. I have seen this happen.

The system that our forebrothers set in place over 100 years ago, works! Our progressive line of Grand Lodge officers from Grand Junior Steward to Deputy Grand Master gives a respected brother eight years to know the district leaders, committeemen, Grand Lodge's financial status and to develop his program for his year in the Grand East. Our system is considered very unique among our immediate sister jurisdictions. I think we should be proud of our heritage and our system for choosing leaders. Why should we be jealous of other Grand Lodge jurisdictions?

They too have problems. Their memberships have been declining. They have attendance issues. They have money problems too. Their Grand Masters have been serving for two or three year terms for over 100 years and they still have these problems.

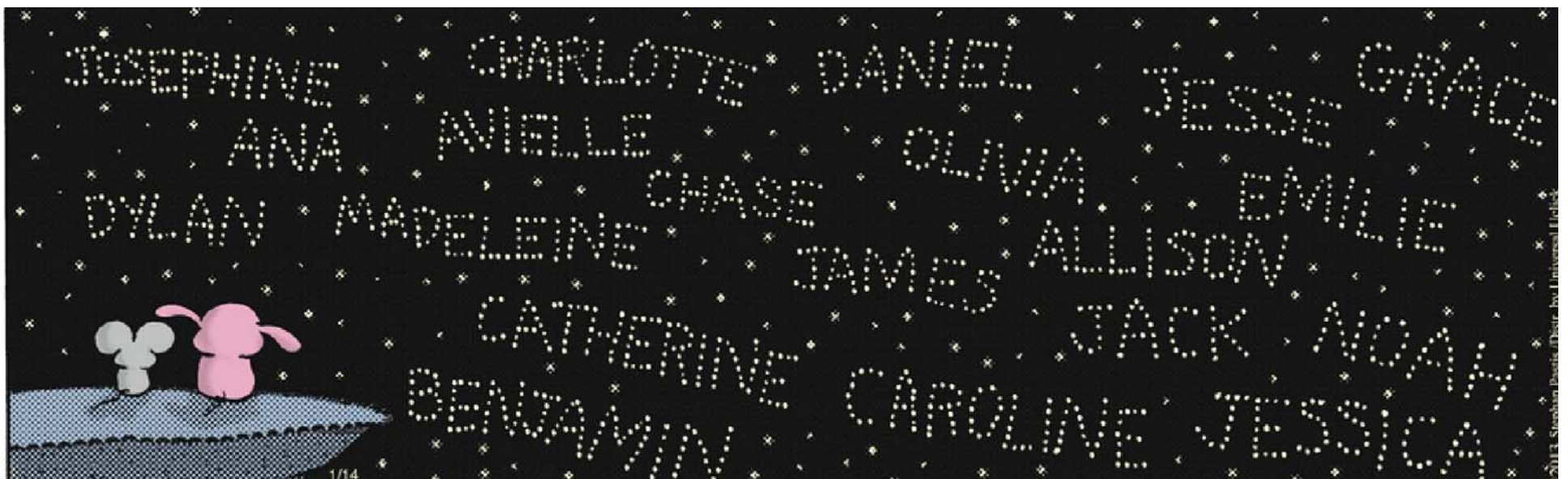
I believe in the autonomy of the individual lodge and the authority of its Worshipful Master. I believe that our Grand Lodge is the caretaker of our Ancient Landmarks and gives us the authority to make Masons and codify our rituals. It is there to regulate our rules and regulations, as well as to conduct business with each other and with other Grand jurisdictions. Our Grand Lodge and our Grand Masters should be promoting harmony. They should emulate the charge to

the Worshipful Master at the conclusion of the installation ceremony when he is given his gavel and told: "Use it not autocratically, but with firmness and justice, ever remembering that to reign sovereign in the hearts and affections of your brethren is far more gratifying than to rule over their lives and fortunes."

"Freemasonry...It's a Team Sport!" is not only a motto but how I believe we should promote our fraternity and work with each other. Keep the faith, my brothers, and retain the one year term for our Grand Masters.

*Ted Nelson, Past Grand Junior Deacon,
Past District Deputy 8-A,
Past Master, Brainard Lodge No. 102*

Prints Offered to Raise Funds for Sandy Hook Families



Hiram Lodge No. 18, Sandy Hook, announces the availability of 250 Giclée prints of a poignant cartoon that originally ran on the one month anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. Donations from these prints will be given to surviving family members on behalf of Hiram Lodge No. 18, as a thank you gift for those who specifically participate in their second round of fund raising for the benefit of the families of the victims of the December 14 Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy.

Renowned cartoonist, Stephan Pastis the creator of the syndicated comic strip, *Pearls Before Swine*, generously donated the print, then provided permission to do a run of 250 Giclée prints. The prints are not being sold, but rather presented to individuals who contribute a minimum donation of \$500 specifically to The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation; ear-marking the funds to Sandy Hook Family Relief Fund. As with Hiram Lodge No. 18's initial fundraising efforts, 100% of the funds raised will go to the families of the victims of the tragedy.

Individuals interested in making a donation or obtaining further information may contact Hiram Lodge No. 18's chaplain, Anthony S. Neri who serves on the committee for distribution. Anthony can be contacted via email or phone at, asneri@aol.com, or 914-525-1685.

The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation is a 501(c)3, not for profit charitable organization. Those making a donation will receive a thank you correspondence from the foundation acknowledging their gift. These prints were made possible by the additional generosity of Still River Editions of Danbury.

Please make tax-deductible donations for the Sandy Hook Family Relief fund through the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation.

Connecticut Freemasons Foundation
c/o Grand Lodge of Connecticut
P.O. Box 69
Wallingford, CT 06492
203-679-5903

Jean Kaas: "Minor League Mama"

The following article is an excerpt from a 2003 Sage Voices column by Jean Kaas, who was 79 years old and a resident of Masonicare at Ashlar Village when it was originally published in the Meriden Record-Journal. Before her recent move to Masonicare Health Center, Jean lived at the continuing care retirement community in Wallingford for more than 12 years. Jean, who will turn 90 on July 30, is just one example of the many amazing men and women who reside throughout the Masonicare continuum. Their lives have been full and rewarding, and they've contributed much to their families, their communities, and their country.

Excerpt from Meriden Record-Journal, June 2003:

Jean Kaas and her husband, Ove, raised three children in their home on the water in West Haven. After her children were grown and out on their own, she became a 'Mama' again, opening up her home to young baseball players who played for West Haven's Double A Yankees farm team. Her home at Ashlar Village is filled with baseball memorabilia, including her unpublished book, "Minor League Mama," also on display at the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York.

I've always loved baseball. I like the game – the preciseness of it. People say, 'Oh, it's such a slow game,' and they prefer hockey and things like that. But you can follow baseball, and you can know the strategies and see it develop. The game is beautiful no matter who is playing.

When I was a child, I became involved with baseball because my father played semi-pro ball in the New Haven area. He taught me

how to score, so I would always be sitting there keeping score of the games.

When I was older, I worked at the telephone company, where I met and married my husband, who was born in Denmark. He was a Brooklyn Dodgers fan, and I was a Giants fan, but we still stayed married for 51 years. We moved to West Haven in the '50s, and from 1972 to 1979, the Yankees had a Double-A farm team there. It was very exciting for people who knew baseball, because you could see stars in the making, and you knew some of the boys would make it to the big leagues.

One of the big names who passed through West Haven on the Yankees team was Ron Guidry, who is probably one of the best Yankee pitchers there ever was. Back then, you'd look at him and you'd never predict he was going to be a big leaguer, because he was a skinny, scrawny kid, and he was a relief pitcher with a high earned run average.

Around 1975, my husband and I began having the players to dinner or providing housing for them. We had a two-story, older home right on the water with a glassed-in porch all the way across the front of the house. The games would always be played on weekends, at 2:00 p.m., and I would say to one or two of the players,

"Dinner after the game, pass the word." I never knew how many were coming. Before I went to the park I would peel ten pounds of potatoes. I would prepare salad and put it in the fridge, and cut up fresh fruit for them to eat after the game. My kitchen was in the back of the house facing the road, so as I was cooking after the game I'd say, "Oh, there's two more, there's three more," and I'd count them as they came around the bend. Usually we had between 15 and 20 players.

They made little money, and no one



Jean Kaas and CNA Ruthellen Killbride, one of the many warm, compassionate and caring employees who work at Masonicare Health Center.

supplied housing for them. Usually four or five of them would get a rent and split it up, but there is a lot of motion during the season. They might be moved to a Triple-A team, or players from other teams might be moved to West Haven. So we began to take them in, just telling them they could stay with us until they got situated. My kids were all out of the house by then, and we could host five players at a time.

Doug Melvin was at our house quite often. He never played in the big leagues, but today he's the general manager of the Milwaukee Brewers. I never saw anybody eat as much as Dave Righetti could. Another guest was Buck Showalter, who is now the Rangers' manager. The Sox are managed by another of my "kids," Grady Little.

I never imposed on them. We talked a lot, but I left them alone. I held some of them in my arms, and I'll cry if I tell you those stories. Some of them Steinbrenner hurt very badly. There was one who was getting a divorce. Another needed dental work, so I took him to my dentist, and the dentist never charged him a penny.

During those years in West Haven, I think what I did was provide them with a memory, so they could look back and say they were made comfortable at a hard time in their lives. For me, it might have been a substitute for taking care of my children, who were gone by then. The ball players needed a little maternal care, and I got the satisfaction of seeing them do well. Whenever they hit a home run, they'd look up to me in the stands. We sat in the same seats behind home plate for 11 years. I look back on it as a real great time in my life.

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Springfield Armory and Freemasonry

by Jamie Bernier

The brethren of Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, with a love of American history, a love of country, and a desire to learn, found themselves on the lush green lawns of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site in Springfield, Massachusetts. The armory's Greek revival tower with American flag waving proudly on its top, cast a welcome shadow in the heat of a cloudless day. With family and friends, the day was perfect for this Craftsman's Club educational event.

Greeted by park ranger and site historian, Richard Colton, a gentle soul with an obvious passion for his chosen craft, he made all feel welcome. Knowing the group to be Freemasons, he made mention of the numerous Masonic connections throughout the history of the armory.

The Masonic superintendents and commandants exercised a degree of influence that brought marked changes to the armory, the city of Springfield, the nation, and the industrial world. In the course of their tenure, these brothers did more than just lead the National Armory. Among them were inventors, social reformers, and dedicated citizens who wished to leave more than a

balanced account ledger at the Armory. Many of their lasting gifts remain as visible features in Springfield and in modern precision manufacturing.

The spirit and vision of these Freemasons are seen today as monuments, places of worship, improved working conditions, public parks, and stately homes. In these ways, Springfield Armory brought cohesion to the ever-growing city of Springfield.

Ranger Colton first suggested the group take a short walk, during which he continued to present the history of the armory, and his pride of Massachusetts was obvious. Passing the cast iron fence, forged from melted down ordinance from both the Revolutionary and the War of 1812, the destination came into view.

The Wait Monument was commissioned in 1763 by Bro. Joseph Wait as a marker to help travelers passing through Springfield find their way to Boston. Wait had been making his way toward his home in the winter of 1762 when he became disoriented in a snowstorm. Close to death, he wandered for hours through the dense woods that surrounded the area. Wait hoped this marker would spare subsequent travelers of his harrowing ordeal.

Brother Wait decorated the marker with Masonic symbols, the sun, moon, stars, twin pillars and seven steps. The marker reads: "BOSTON ROAD. This Stone is Erected by Joseph Wait, Esq. of Brookfield For the Benefit of Travelers AD 1763."

On January 25, 1787, when the Massachusetts militia fired artillery at the men of Shay's Rebellion who were attacking The Springfield Arsenal, grapeshot hit the west side of the monument. The impact craters left by the one inch diameter iron balls are still visible. The Wait Monument is the only surviving artifact from the Arsenal directly



Brothers and families of Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, enjoyed their tour of the Springfield Armory.

connected with that action.

Once inside the museum, Mr. Colton gave a quick short tour, and pointed out items of interest. After viewing a short film, the group was then free to examine all the displays at leisure.

Freemasons and this institution made an immense contribution to the freedoms we all enjoy. This was an inspirational visit for all, in particular one brother's daughter who plans on submitting a school report.

There is no cost associated with the tour and it is well recommended.

For information on setting up a tour for your lodge, please contact jamiebernier00@gmail.com.



The Wait Monument helps travelers find their way.

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Masonicare at Ashlar Village Residents' Scholarship Fund Helps 25 Young People Further Their Educations

More than 200 people attended the ninth annual Masonicare at Ashlar Village Residents' scholarship fund presentation held on Sunday, June 2, in the Hartog Activity Center at Masonicare at Ashlar Village.

Twenty-five young men and women, who are either employees of Masonicare at Ashlar Village or the children of employees, were honored during the presentation. More than \$28,000 in scholarship funds was raised this year and distributed at the special awards ceremony. WB Jon-Paul Venoit, Masonicare's senior vice president of residential

and community-based services, and Hilde Sager, assistant administrator for Ashlar Village, offered welcoming remarks, and scholarship recipients were introduced by Bro. David Gessert, chairman of the Ashlar Village board of directors.

The young men and women receiving scholarships this year are Elizabeth Akier, Casey Barry, Devyn Brewster, Kristen Chaney, Jackson Doyle, Timothy Fengler, Stephanie Griffin, Briana Hernandez, Asia Hutchins, Marissa Jankowski, Samantha Lawrence, Amanda Mendoza, Lindsay Mongillo, Thomas Murray, Olivia Ney, Xaolane

Nhatavong, Brandon Rusczek, Melissa Rusczek, Amanda Smith, Adrian Villagra, Sarah Willis, Jeffrey Zakrzewski, Kristen Zakrzewski, AnnMarie Zielinski, and Elizabeth Zielinski.

Some of the colleges they will be attending include Central Connecticut and Eastern Connecticut State Universities, Lasell College, Excelsior College, Gateway Community College and Quinnipiac University.

Special thanks were extended to resident Mike Johnson, residents Phillip and Donna Lint and Al and Marie Scharf, and the family of deceased resident Donald F. Warner for their

generous donations of special memorial and appreciation awards.

Masonicare at Ashlar Village residents established the scholarship fund in 2004 to provide educational scholarships for young people who either work at Ashlar Village or are children of employees. The funds are raised in a variety of ways, but mainly through the sale of unique, handmade craft and clothing items in the Ashlar Village specialty shop. The items are made by residents of Ashlar Village, and the specialty shop is manned and stocked solely by resident volunteers.



Dave Gessert, Ashlar Village Residents' Scholarship Recipients are flanked by WB. Dave Gessert, left, and Hilde Sager and WB JP Venoit, right.

Masonicare at Newtown Employees "Walk to the Beat" with Residents

A new program called "Walking to the Beat," initiated by Jacqueline Murillo, director of nursing at Masonicare at Newtown, has really taken off. Employees in the program volunteer to "adopt" a resident and help that resident walk and exercise for 15 minutes each day. The program began at the end of April and already has more than 20 employees participating.

Administrator John Sweeney said, "Not only are the residents involved very pleased, but their families are as well. And it provides employees with a unique opportunity to spend quality, one-on-one time with a resident while giving residents something special to look forward to in their daily routines. It's a win-win for everyone."

**When one learns HOW to think,
their heart becomes free to act with God's love.
As long as we accept being told WHAT to think,
we are slaves to the will of others.**

— RW Ken Greenhill

Masonicare at Newtown resident Roger Tavella with employee Terri Ahern, RN.



The Secret Psychology of Freemasonry by Cliff Porter

a review by Bro. Anthony Misano

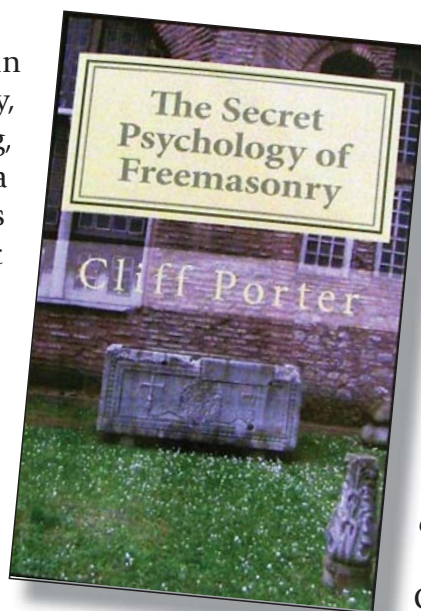
The Secret Psychology of Freemasonry is a book published in 2011 by Starr Publishing, Colorado. Its subtitle is "Alchemy, Gnosis and Science of the Craft." From the beginning, accomplished masters of Freemasonry are cited with a heavy contextual backbone of Jungian Psychology. Jung's terms are applied to outline various stages of Masonic degree work and phases of Masonic development.

Brother Porter encourages an over-arching application for direct use in lodge management, self and group improvement. The main pages of the book outline the paradigm model. The final chapter and appendices have the direct symbol and esoteric interpretations that brothers continually ask for.

The silver cord throughout *The Secret Psychology of Freemasonry* is an astral treasure walk to determine the secrets of Masonry, and their locations. Bro. Porter explains that it is not his intention to give any classic secrets away, only to give direction to thoughts previously written by authors more famous than him. Bro. Porter embeds concepts written by Pike, Fellows and Manly Palmer Hall. He also posits a theory by Greek work which Elder of Plautus summarized by the familiar thought of how to make good men better. The secrets may never be found, or known, but the journey is the value of the pursuit.

Bro. Porter chooses the self, the shadow, the persona, the anima and/or the animus as outward personality manifestations. His subconscious constructs seek to answer the questions of why [yellow bile], when [black bile], what [phlegm], and who [blood]. These alchemical references translate classically to the fire, earth, water and air types, respectively. This paradigm presents a handy cross-reference to begin to map degree work and what different levels of focus reveal at points in time.

The view from the window first shows the mosaic pavement overlaid on a rock we call reality, and gradually uses different lenses to extract as much information from Masonic process as possible. Like



the good Masonic library that every Mason accumulates, classical key points are touched upon to build deeper levels of structure. Authors and titles are cited to lead the ambitious reader on future journeys, both internal and external.

Bro. Porter's analysis depicts a biblical wrap around the Masonic timeline, encompassing (but not inside of) what we think of 'The Mystery Schools.' It is Bro. Porter's opinion that the church, as represented as the Holy See, gives eternal chase to the Masonic quest for knowledge. It is the bible that contains all the food to sustain Masonic life, and it is the church that causes Freemasons to cherish and protect free thinking.

For Bro. Porter, life begins with the chapters of Genesis, and all of man's achievements and rituals flow from there.

A third construct Bro. Porter illuminates is of the human mind, its quadrants and various dormant or passively expressed shapes, inlaid and overlaid. These shapes are tied to classical geometry, cross-linking alchemist drawings with the five stages of denial. Porter lists these as denial, anger, bargaining and acceptance. There are plenty of picture plates to view, which should create, and illustrate to the reader a system of how to think about spongy emotional concepts.

The Secret Psychology of Freemasonry challenges lodge brethren to better themselves, their lodges, and even their cooking, by thinking, feeling, and caring about their work. Porter uses the description of degree work, coupled with his knowledge as a senior major crimes detective, to chalk out an outline of how to view the old self left behind, its decomposition, and the beginnings of creation of a new Masonic temple.

This book is most definitely not an endpoint or a tome, containing the one ineffable. Brother Porter lays out a classic cold case mystery with definite evidence and a few tools to develop the reader's powers of analysis, and a fresh way to think, speak, and feel about learning.

Like Jung, Bro. Cliff Porter believes man as a Mason can be improved when his conscious and unconscious thoughts and actions are understood. Through self-realization the reader will become more comfortable with the quest for personal and inter-personal development. A welcomed invitation to discuss in any way the reader chooses.

RW Peter Arnold's Travels



MW LaPlace has given RW Peter Arnold Grand Master's pins to present on his travels throughout the United States. Here he is giving 98 year old WB Chester Rogers a pin at 'Old Geezer's Coffee Hour' at the Masonic Temple in Great Falls, Montana. Follow Bro. Peter at <http://arnoldserendipity.blogspot.com/>.

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Landmarks 8 and 9: Clarifying Intentions

Last month the Committee on Landmarks offered the first of its recommendations for the consideration of our brothers. This month, we are offering our suggestion on Landmarks (viii) and (ix) (8 and 9 for those of us who are Roman numeral challenged.) They have been the topic of discussion in several lodges.

Landmark (viii) which currently states: "That the Grand Lodge is the Supreme Governing Body within its territorial jurisdiction."

The Committee suggestion is: "That the Grand Lodge, which is comprised of all Master Masons within its Grand Jurisdiction, is the Supreme Governing Body within its territorial Grand Jurisdiction."

The intent of our recommendation is twofold. The first is directed at clarifying that the Grand Lodge authority excludes authority over the recognized Prince Hall Grand Lodge which co-exists within our state. This actually shouldn't cause much, if any, debate.

The second intent is to reinforce the notion that every brother in Connecticut makes up the Grand Lodge. Being represented

by the Masters, Wardens, committeemen, and permanent members, we collectively determine the path that our Fraternity will take. The Committee feels that insertion of this language will serve to remind all brothers that we participate in the process, and that we are not dictated to by a select group as some might suggest. There is not an "us and them." There is simply a "we," meeting and parting on the level. We do not naively believe that this will solve the problem of misguided thinking, but, over time, it will hopefully, allow us to look at our fraternity as a true brotherhood of men with common values.

The second Landmark for this discussion is (ix) – The current Landmark states: "The Lodge has the power to make Masons, and to administer its own private affairs." Again, in an attempt to clarify some misinterpretations of this Landmark, the Committee is suggesting the following:

"That the Lodge has the power to make Masons and to administer its own private affairs, in accordance with the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge."

Here it is important to explain that the Committee does not believe that the representatives of Grand Lodge should ever have the right to arbitrarily intervene into the private affairs of an individual lodge, but equally important is to understand that the Rules and Regulations of our jurisdiction are made by us. These are the things we, over time, have conceded to each other as a means to maintain harmony and fairness within our fraternity. It is the absolute right of each lodge to govern its own private affairs, so long as that operation does not violate the broader directives to which we have all agreed to abide. One might argue that this is "understood" within the current language, but clearly this has not been the case. This language clarifies any attempt to allow a lodge to abuse the true intent of the Landmark.

As with the other sections, the committee is asking for a vote on these suggestions at the October session. The committee encourages a dialog on all of its recommendations, and invites and expects your input. Feel free to contact the committee at landmarks@ctfreemasons.net.

Master Mason Portraits for History and Charity

Everyone who is a Freemason knows about President George Washington being a Mason, and almost every lodge in the United States has a painting or a print of our nation's first President in full Masonic regalia. The father of our country has been memorialized not only by Freemasons, but by nearly every town and city in the United States. Indeed, Hattie E. Burdette painted George Washington in his famous full-length Masonic portrait, a print of which hangs in nearly every lodge room. Today Brother Mark Smith, Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142, Easton, is trying to do the same with photographs.

Bro. Smith is currently Junior Deacon and he's trying to bring a little bit of that tradition back to Freemasonry by offering Master Masons full-length and three-quarter length Masonic portraits. Brother Smith, a part-time commercial photographer, is offering any lodge in Connecticut an opportunity for professional quality individual portraits and officer group photos. "My objective was two-fold, one to raise money for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) charities, and to create beautiful family heirlooms for Brother Masons to hang in their home. I want this generation of Masons to be able to have a portrait of themselves that they could be proud of and would want to share with their family and friends with the hope to passing the print and the tradition on to the next generation," says Brother Smith.

Brother Smith has been a photographer for over 30 years as both a hobbyist and a professional, photographing for private and commercial clients. Though his full-time career is as a financial professional in the investment management industry, he finds photography to be a great balance for him.

Proceeds raised will be going to both Masonic causes and Veteran causes dealing with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Bro. Smith, a veteran wants to help other Vets and Freemasons as well. "As a former Marine I feel compelled to help out my fellow veterans, some who are Masons in my lodge and other lodges around the state. PTSD is an issue that needs to be actively addressed and supported and I feel this is one way of helping that cause and helping Freemasonry" he said.

If you or your lodge is interested in having an heirloom quality portrait, contact Bro. Mark Smith at 203-258-4850 or at fan4photos@gmail.com.



This Masonic portrait, photographed by Bro. Mark Smith, placed third in the recent Scottish Rite photography contest.

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.
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

Thursday, July 11 (MP)(F)	Rittenhouse Chapter No. 11, Darien, Mark Master Mason degree and Virtual Past Master degree
Sunday, July 14 (ME)(MP)(F)	Connecticut DeMolay Conclave, Central Connecticut State University
Wednesday, July 20 (MP)(C)	Valley of New Haven, New Haven, Scottish Rite picnic, Masonicare at Ashlar village
Thursday, July 25-28 (MP)(F)	York Rite Sovereign College, Tampa, Florida
Thursday, August 1 (MP)(F)	Rittenhouse Chapter No. 11, Darien, Most Excellent Master degree
Friday, August 2 (MP) (C)	Valley of Waterbury Scottish Rite family life baseball game, New Britain
Friday, August 16-18 (MP)(F)	Grand Council Select Masters of New York
Thursday, August 22 (MP)(F)	Rittenhouse Chapter No. 11, Darien, Royal Arch Mason degree in Danbury

COMING UP:

September 17, Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford, Order of Malta
September 25, Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, East Hartford, Mark Master Mason degree

Companion David C. Abrames is New Grand High Priest

At the annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons held on June 1, Companion David C. Abrames of Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, East Hartford, succeeded Companion William L. Miller as Most Excellent Grand High Priest. Recipient of the General Grand Chapter Medal in Bronze was Companion Paul L. Chello, and receiving the Ephraim Kirby Citation for Meritorious Service were Companions Raymond G. Tomlinson and William C. Lang. Legislation included the elimination of the Grand Custodian position. Proceedings are completed and have been distributed.

Companion Charles A. McCollum now heads the Cryptic Masons

The Annual Assembly of The Most Puissant Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Connecticut was held on June 1 with MPGM Edward R. Ham presiding. The Philip J. Jones Award was presented to Companion Charles D. O'Neill, and Knight of Ish Sodi Awards were presented to Companions Anthony Pipitone and Leonard H. Bucher. Elected and installed as the new Most Puissant Grand Master was Companion Charles A. McCollum of Washington Council No. 6, Danbury. In other action, the Grand Council adopted a revised ritual, and work is underway to produce printed copies in a pocket size. Per capita was set at \$12, but the separate assessment for insurance was eliminated. The proceedings have been distributed and posted on the website.

York Rite Websites

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Connecticut: <http://yorkrite.org/gcramct/>
Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Connecticut: <http://yorkrite.org/gcrsmct/>
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Connecticut: <http://knightstemplar.org/gckt/ct>

Bowling for Brotherhood

by Rafael Figueroa

It was a bright sunny day on June 9 at the Thomaston Bowling Lanes when brothers from five different lodges took the challenge and did battle. There were past and current District Deputies, past and two seated Masters, a fifty year member, and a past Grand Lodge officer scattered among the men.

Joe Garahan at the front desk did a yeoman's job helping find shoes and the right balls for those of us who were clueless. Gutter balls seemed to out number the strikes, and with Lady Luck laughing, more than one miss was filled with a strike.

In fairness to the good bowlers, there were scores of 201 and 197. It was a great afternoon and everyone hopes to do it again soon.



Brothers bowled for fun and brotherhood at the Thomaston Bowling Lanes.

Craft at Labor...

Entered Apprentice Degree

Saturday, August 3, Cosmopolitan No. 125, New Haven, 1:00 a.m., alumni of the Boy Scouts of America will perform the degree

Fellowcraft Degree

Wednesday, July 31, Estuary No. 43, Old Saybrook, 6:30 p.m. dinner, air conditioned

Master Mason Degree

Wednesday, July 10, Ivanhoe No., 107, Darien, 7:00 p.m. dinner

Surprises at Friendship Tuscan Awards Night

by Andy Zeidler

On the evening of June 20, the officers, brothers and guests of Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester, gathered for their annual awards night dinner and strawberry festival. This continued a tradition of over twenty-five years. What was different, this year, was that the menu consisted of Mexican food, and was enjoyed by all.

The evening is traditionally one of the best attended meetings of the year with this year being no exception. Almost one hundred attended, including honored guest MW Simon R. LaPlace, and almost all of the Grand Lodge officers.

At the start of the festivities, Miss Crystal Reid and her family presented one of the medals she had received at the Special Olympics, to Worshipful Master Russell Scull.

WM Scull accepted the medal on behalf of the lodge and turned it over to the historian for the lodge's display case.

Then pins were presented to brothers for years of service. MW LaPlace congratulated each recipient, and presented his Grand Master's pin to those who did not already have one. It was noted that the largest group of brothers who were eligible to receive pins were those who were celebrating their five year anniversary.

After the presentations were completed, MW LaPlace asked all the Past Masters of Friendship Tuscan Lodge to form in front of the podium and line up by year in which they served. Sixteen past masters were present, representing 2013 to 1979. Grand Master Simon then recognized WB Jim Wilson



MW Simon R. LaPlace joins sixteen Past Masters of Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 at awards night on July 20.

as our oldest, in terms of age, Past Master. While WB Jim was enjoying the adulation of his Brothers, MW Bro. LaPlace pulled out a biography of WB Jim, and proceeded to read it.

At the end of the reading of his biography, a thoroughly surprised WB Jim was presented the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for

distinguished Masonic Service. A future issue of Connecticut Freemasons will include the biography and more details as to Bro. Jim's good work.

WB Jim spoke a few words after which his Brothers gave him a rising thanks of applause and replied to him with the only words that really applied to the evening: "Gotcha!"

Valley of Norwich presents Scholarships to Local Students

by Bill Breed

On Monday, July 1, brothers of the Valley of Norwich gathered at the Preston Masonic Center to honor young men and women from Scottish Rite families and Masonic related-youth groups with scholarships. Ill Bro. Theodore J. Nelson, 33°, hosted the awards ceremony and made the presentations.

The Supreme Council, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction awarded Scottish Rite Abbott Scholarships, named after Leon M. Abbott, Sovereign Grand Commander from 1921 to 1932 to Dakota Eckenrode, Marissa Peck, Emily Turner, Heather Turner, and Samantha Wilson.

Dakota Eckenrode will be a freshman at Duquesne University, Pittsburg Pennsylvania. He is the son of Brother Brain E. Eckenrode, 32°, Valley of Norwich.

Marissa Peck, will be a senior at Union College in Schenectady, New York. She is the daughter of Brother Gregory B. Pack, 32°, Valley of Norwich

Emily Turner will be a junior at Southern Connecticut State University. Heather Turner

will be a second year graduate student at the University of Connecticut, majoring in Speech and Language Pathology. They are the daughters of Ill Brother Howard D. Turner, MSA, 33°, and the grand daughters of Ill. Brother Burton Turner, 33°, both from the Valley of Norwich.

Samantha Wilson will be a junior at Eastern Connecticut State University, majoring in Psychology. She is the daughter of Brother Jonathan Wilson, 32°, Valley of Norwich.

The Valley of Norwich awarded scholarships funded by the Valley to Gunnar Eubanks, Nathaniel Eckenrode, and Jacqueline Jaskiewicz.

Gunnar Eubanks, will a sophomore at the University of Connecticut. He is also a Master Mason and a member of the Valley of Norwich. Gunnar is the son of Brother Robert Eubanks, 32° of the Valley of Norwich.

Nathaniel Eckenrode will be a sophomore at



Recipients of Scottish Rite scholarships were, from left, Heather Turner, Emily Turner, Nathaniel Eckenrode, Dakota Eckenrode, Gunnar Eubanks, Samantha Wilson, Marissa Peck and Jacqueline Jaskiewicz.

White Mountain Community College, Berline, New Hampshire. He is the son of Brother Brain E. Eckenrode, 32°, Valley of Norwich.

Jacqueline Jaskiewicz will be a senior at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia majoring in criminology and society. She is the grand daughter of Brother DJohn Watkins, 32°, Valley of Norwich.

Craft at Refreshment...

Wednesday, July 3, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 7:00 p.m., Masonic enlightenment and instruction, especially new members

Wednesday, July 3, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford, 6:00 p.m., Masons night at the Orange Ale House

Monday, July 8, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 6:30 p.m. dinner, laptop award presentation

Tuesday, July 9, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 6:00 p.m., bingo fun for everyone

Wednesday, July 10, Corner Stone-Quinebaug No. 122, Thompson, 6:00 p.m., fellowship night

Thursday, July 11, Union No. 31, Niantic, 6:00 p.m., picnic atmosphere

Saturday, July 13, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 6:00 p.m., chicken bar-b-que fundraiser

Saturday, July 13, St. Peter's No. 21, New Milford, 6:30 p.m., lodge fundraiser party, Hawaiian theme, at Bro. Roberto Medieros, camping available, live music

Saturday, July 13, Anchor No. 112, East Hampton, 10:00 a.m., Old Home Days parade, East Hampton High School

Saturday, July 13, Ashlar-Aspetuck No. 142, Easton, 11:00 a.m., annual summer picnic

Sunday, July 14, Madison No. 87, Madison, 12:00 p.m., bar-b-que at the motel East of the lodge

Sunday, July 14, Moosup No. 113, Moosup, 7:00 a.m. all you can eat breakfast

Monday, July 15, Annawon No. 115, West Haven, 6:00 p.m., 2nd annual bike night at Valley Diner

Tuesday, July 16, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 6:00 p.m., bingo fun for everyone

Wednesday, July 17, Corinthian No. 103, North Haven, 6:30 p.m., WB Al Chapman: Women Freemasons

Thursday, July 18, Hiram No. 1, New Haven, 6:30 p.m., Hawaiian shirt night

Thursday, July 18, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 6:15 p.m. dinner, casual dress

Saturday, July 20, St. Alban's No. 38, Branford, 1:00 p.m., lodge picnic, Jacobs Beach, Seaside Ave., Guilford

Saturday, July 20, Oxoboxo No. 116, Montville, 1:00 p.m., Oxoboxo community party, 632 Fire St., Oakdale, live music

Sunday, July 21, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 8:00 a.m., country breakfast

Sunday, July 21, Housatonic No. 61, North Canaan, 9:00 a.m., flea market

Tuesday, July 23, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 6:00 p.m., bingo fun for everyone

Wednesday, July 24, Corner Stone-Quinebaug No. 122, Thompson, 6:00 p.m., fellowship night

Friday, July 26, St. Peter's No. 21, New Milford, New Milford, Village Fair Days fundraiser

Sunday, July 28, Moosup No. 113, Moosup, 8:00 a.m. all you can eat breakfast

Tuesday, July 30, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 6:00 p.m., bingo fun for everyone

Thursday, August 01, Union No. 31, Niantic, 6:00 p.m., picnic atmosphere

Thursday, August 01, Somerset - St. James No. 34, Preston, 9:00 a.m. district breakfast at Groton Townhouse Restaurant

Monday, August 05, Oxoboxo No. 116, Montville, 5:00 p.m., ice cream social, 632 Fire St., Oakdale

Tuesday, August 06, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 6:00 p.m., bingo fun for everyone

Tuesday, August 06, Seneca No. 55, Torrington, Mike Burn in the East

Wednesday, August 07, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 6:00 p.m., Masonic enlightenment and Instruction, especially new members

Wednesday, August 07, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford, 6:00 p.m., Masons night at the Orange Ale House

Wednesday, August 07, Corner Stone-Quinebaug No. 122, Thompson, 6:00 p.m., fellowship night

Thursday, August 08, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 5:00 p.m. picnic and scholarship presentations

Saturday, August 10, Composite No. 28, Suffield, 3:00 p.m. picnic, Sunrise Park, Suffield

Saturday, August 10, Village No. 29, Collinsville, 9:00 a.m. picnic

Saturday, August 10, Coastal No. 57, Stonington, Mystic outdoor art festival

Sunday, August 11, King Solomon's No. 7, Woodbury, 1:30 p.m. picnic, Woodbury Hollow Park

Sunday, August 11, Coastal No. 57, Stonington, 8:00 a.m., Mystic outdoor art festival

Sunday, August 11, Housatonic No. 61, North Canaan, 8:00 a.m., flea market

Sunday, August 11, Moosup No. 113, Moosup, 7:00 a.m. all you can eat breakfast

Sunday, August 11, Moosup No. 113, Moosup, 7:00 a.m., VJ-Day parade

Tuesday, August 13, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 6:00 p.m., bingo fun for everyone

Wednesday, August 14, Corner Stone-Quinebaug No. 122, Thompson, 7:00 p.m., fellowship night

Thursday, August 15, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 5:15 p.m., Craftsmen Club dinner, Jay's Crab Shack, West Hartford

Friday, August 16, Annawon No. 115, West Haven, William A. Soderman golf tournament

Saturday, August 17, Federal No. 17, Watertown, 11:00 a.m. picnic at the Canfield house

Saturday, August 17, Columbia No. 25, South Glastonbury, 11:00 a.m. picnic, 24 Bayside Ave., Noank

Saturday, August 17, Putnam No. 46, South Woodstock, 5:00 p.m., picnic

Sunday, August 18, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 7:00 a.m., country breakfast

Sunday, August 18, Wolcott No. 60, Stafford, 8:00 a.m., Wolcott motorcycle/auto run

Sunday, August 18, Annawon No. 115, West Haven, 11:00 a.m. picnic

Tuesday, August 20, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 6:00 p.m., Masters roundtable

Tuesday, August 20, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 6:00 p.m., bingo fun for everyone

Wednesday, August 21, Corner Stone-Quinebaug No. 122, Thompson, 6:00 p.m., fellowship night

Saturday, August 24, Wolcott No. 60, Stafford, 5:00 p.m. chicken bar-b-que

Saturday, August 24, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, 1:00 p.m. picnic, WB Phil Gorman, 7 Arbor Meadow Dr., Prospect

Sunday, August 25, Moosup No. 113, Moosup, 7:00 a.m. all you can eat breakfast

Tuesday, August 27, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 6:00 p.m., bingo fun for everyone

Wednesday, August 28, Corner Stone-Quinebaug No. 122, Thompson, 6:00 p.m., fellowship night

Saturday, August 31, King Solomon's No. 7, Woodbury, 9:00 a.m., Woodbury food pantry, Labonne's Market

Saturday, August 31, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 11:00 a.m. picnic

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

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The Last Word...

When astronaut Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, was asked what her launch in the Space Shuttle was like, she replied, "That was definitely an E-ticket!" She was referring to Disneyland's old admission system where an E-ticket was for the newest, most popular, and exciting ride. Today, it refers to something unusually interesting or thrilling. That's what the last three months have been for me since I was installed as Grand Master.

The month of May ended with a trip to the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, hosted at a fabulous resort in Digby, after a ferry ride from St. John, New Brunswick. The session, itself, was held in a hockey rink, which actually made a lot of sense and seemed appropriate.

The heavy rain that was forecast for Grand Masters Day, gave way early to a beautiful, cloudless, and breezy summer day; the best Grand Masters Day in years, at least from my perspective. Everyone congratulated me on changing the weather pattern, but I thought it was a friend of ours looking out for us up above after just settling in.

After the Vermont Grand Lodge session in Burlington, Vermont, where I was honored to bring the greetings of the visiting dignitaries, I flew to the DeMolay International Supreme Council and Congress in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Connecticut DeMolay staff headed by Executive Officer Harry Needham III, and including MW George S. Greytak, helped me to enjoy a wonderful time with the boys. I was humbled to be presented with an honorary membership in DeMolay International.

The next week, I had the pleasure to present two surprises, Pierpont Edward Medals in Bronze to two deserving brothers, RW Mort Katz, and WB Jim Wilson, each at their lodge's awards night. Future issues will include stories about these worthy brothers.

Also, that week included a visit to the surf and turf Table Lodge at Hiram Lodge No. 18, Sandy Hook. The only thing better than the steak and lobster was the brotherhood. I was privileged to be presented with an honorary membership in Hiram 18 by WM Joe Porco. I have a lot of friends at that lodge, and now I really feel a part of it.



Worshipful Master Joe Porco liked my Hawaiian shirt and my parrot.

For the second year, I was fortunate to speak at the Council of Deliberation of the Scottish Rite of Connecticut. This annual meeting reviewed the gratifying successes of their center to treat children suffering with dyslexia. I thank Illustrious Brother Dave Sharkis, 33° for his welcoming hospitality.

That night, I fulfilled one of my wishes. I attended the synagogue of Temple Beth David in Cheshire. Several years ago, near the time of our St. John's Sunday, I also attended

the Friday night service there. I found it to be a wonderful experience, and I wanted to return, only as Grand Master this time. Thanks to the efforts of WB David Berger, my wish was realized.

June 23 was St. John's Sunday, and I knew I had to attend a service somewhere but wasn't certain where.

Years ago the Grand Chaplain would host

the Grand Master, but Rev. and RW Bruce Bellmore was



slated to entertain the Knight Templar at his church the following Sunday. Then an email came my way from Anchor Lodge No. 112 with the announcement that they would visit RW Stan House's church for a St. John's service. So I showed up and had a wonderful time with brothers who I had not seen in a



I went to St. John's Day services with Anchor Lodge No. 112 at RW Stan House's Second Congregational Church in Cobalt.

while. Brother Stan is rightfully proud of his lodge, and his brothers turned out for him.

One of my most electrifying days was Saturday, June 29, at Kelly's Pub in New Haven, at the 3rd Annual Chicken Challenge. Talk about energy and fun! I had signed up with organizer WB Steve Allinson to be a judge, and while I had heard about more teams than last year, I wasn't prepared for eight six-man teams ready to chow down to see what team could eat the most chicken tenders. Everyone had a cheering crowd to urge them on, and everyone was cheering for everyone else. What a great time! My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed our selves. Everyone was a winner for raising funds for the Quality of Life fund of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. I know next year will be bigger, and more lodges will produce teams to give Hiram Lodge No. 1 a run for the championship.

I have a lot of fun posting photos from some of my experiences on Facebook. It's fun when someone enjoys something I've done, or makes a comment. It's my way of sharing my adventure, and that's what this year really is; an adventure. I hope you can enjoy it with me. It's only just beginning.



Simon R. LaPlace
Most Worshipful Grand Master



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