



Connecticut FREEMASONS

APRIL 2016



THE ALMONER

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

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**CT
 FREEMASONS**

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Encouraging Every Lodge to Have an Almoner

by Shane Dufresne

Ed. Note: RWB Shane Dufresne is the Grand Almoner. In addition to his Almoner duties, he has been spreading the word to brethren and lodges alike on the importance of having an Almoner appointed in a lodge's officer line. RWB Shane recently shared his experiences and some of the questions he is asked...

Over the last few months I have had the privilege of traveling and talking about the role of the Grand Almoner and how appointing a lodge Almoner could benefit the Blue Lodges. I have spoken at several Blue Lodge Councils as well as individual lodges. I have talked with countless brothers. All feel this a "no brainer" and that we all should be pitching in to help our brothers and their families in times of need. After all, we all took the same obligation saying that we would do so.

Some of the questions that arise are fairly common.

First, what does an Almoner do? In a nutshell, an Almoner is the brother who looks out for the welfare of the lodge brothers and their widows. He also establishes communication between the brothers/widows and the lodge. This is done in a variety of ways. It can be as easy making phone calls. Or it can mean sending cards and making home visits or nursing home visits. The sky is the limit as to how a lodge Almoner would do this.

Ideally, we all want to be able to help a brother or widow out before their situation becomes dire. How often have you sat in lodge and heard the secretary read a notice that a brother passed away six months ago? How did the lodge not know this? It is even worse to learn the brother

suffered a long illness. We have all failed in our obligation in that case. If the lodge had a line of communication open with that brother, it would not have happened.

Some might say it's the brother's fault for not letting the lodge know he was sick. However, he might have been too sick or consumed with his illness to reach out. Also, many men have a hard time asking for help or letting people know they have

the Grand Lodge of CT and writes in the memo section, Almoner Fund, the money is earmarked specifically for the Almoner Fund. More so, if it is labeled for a specific person in need, all of that money will go directly to the brother or widow in need.

The lodge Almoner position might be ideal for a brother who does not want to get in the progressive line and start memorizing ritual. This brother, however, should be a "go getter" and proactive in trying to help the brothers or widows. He can help a lodge prepare for the worst case scenario.

The Grand Lodge has no desire to tell individual lodges how to run its Almoner position. In fact, that is another question that is often asked, "does Grand Lodge dictate how this works?" The answer is no. Grand Lodge will offer help, guidance and suggestions. The lodge Almoner will operate under the will and pleasure of the Master of the lodge, its brothers and any by-laws that are in place regarding how to help a member.

Finally, the question has often come up as to whether

fallen on hard times. They are too prideful to ask for help. But if there was an Almoner in the lodge, he could get ahead of the situation.

The Almoner might also be able to prevent some brothers being dropped for Non Payment of Dues. If the brethren don't see a brother at lodge, he can be contacted to see what is happening and find out if he are not coming back for specific reasons. The Almoner might be able to help alleviate some problems and address concerns in a one-on-one manner.

Another common question asked is "if we donate to the Grand Almoner's Fund, does the Grand Lodge take the money and use it elsewhere?" The answer is no. If a brother sends a check made out to

this is just a "check cutting operation?" The answer is no. Many times a brother or widow may need assistance in other ways including, but not limited to, home repairs, yard clean-up, cutting wood, home visits, cleaning out a garage, moving etc. There are many ways to help besides giving money. But a lodge won't know someone is in need until someone asks.

It is our hope to have an Almoner in every lodge and a district Almoner in every district. That way we can form a large network of brothers working together to help others. If you have any ideas or suggestions or would like me to attend and speak at a lodge or Blue Lodge Council meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Campers and Lighthearted Fun!

by Pat Kalinauskas

Just because the weather turns cold in the Northeast, the National Camping Travelers (NCT) don't hibernate. We get together at restaurants during our off-season and, in keeping with the Masonic way, we are always supporting local charities.

In addition to donating to local food banks, we also collect toys during the holiday season that reach needy children in Connecticut by way of the Connecticut State Police Stuff-a-Cruiser program.

When NCT began meeting at the Dakota Restaurant in Rocky Hill and collecting toys, it attracted the attention of the northeast management of the restaurant. The restaurant began to add toys to our collection and has since partnered with us for several years now, resulting in the toy drive becoming much larger than we ever imagined.

Masons began the National Camping Travelers 50 years ago in PA. It grew in popularity and soon it became a favorite pastime for Masons and their families across the U.S. and Canada. Whether you prefer to camp in a trailer, a tent or a big RV, you will be comfortable in the company of like-minded people. Please visit the NCT web site for more information: masonicfamilycampers.org.



Sharing a booth with Travelers Woods (Masonic) Campground, at the annual RV Trade Show in Agawam, MA, we take advantage of seasonal downtime to pass the word about Masonic family camping at its finest. And we have fun doing it! Sporting unique head gear, pictured left to right are: Connecticut's Ray Geer, National Third VP; Ontario Canada's Joe Dawes-Knowles, National President and New York's Bob Coates, 2015 Rally Chair.

We Welcome Our New Brothers to the Fraternity

David C. Abrams..... Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4
 Jason C. Holloway..... Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4
 Danis Mensah..... Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4
 Mark E. Langenheim Jr..... St. Paul's Lodge No. 11

Michael R. Palermo..... St. Paul's Lodge No. 11
 George D. Mateo..... Harmony Lodge No. 42
 Adrian Diaz-Castarneda..... Widow's Son Lodge No. 66

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Grand Master's Message

The time has come for me to pass the torch to my successor, but before I do so, I would like to share some thoughts with you one last time.

I am writing this just after the completion of the Nutmegger Reunions in Florida and I really must sincerely thank Masonicare for the wonderful opportunity to visit with Connecticut Brothers, their wives/family members and Masonic widows who reside in Florida for all or a good portion of the year. These meetings allow us to make face to face contact to bring your greetings, provide an update on Grand Lodge activities, and learn where we may be falling short in serving our members who reside out-of-state. There are some who, though they may have dimitted from CT Masonry and joined a Lodge in Florida, would still like to receive the Connecticut Freemasons in order to stay informed and connected with CT Freemasonry. There are others who we discovered are in need of us extending the hand of Brotherly love and support in one way or another. Finally, there are those Brothers who excitedly received recognition for 25, 50, or 60 years of membership in the Craft. I was humbled and honored to recognize these Brothers for their years of dedication.

I particularly want to thank RWB Carl Anderson for the countless hours of preparation that he puts into organizing and scheduling these gatherings each year and for his dedication to chauffeuring the Grand Master and his wife from location to location. Also, our gratitude to Brother Stephen McPherson, his wife Nancy, and Worshipful Brother Howard Orr, who accompanied us every step of the way and provided their support of this truly wonderful series of events. Finally, MWB Norman L. Getchell, who hosted us during our time in Ocala and who acted as our personal tour guide for that area of Florida and MWB Denny Elkins, who assisted in several of the presentations, deserve special recognition.

On Saturday, February 27, Barbara and I flew into Orlando, where we were

met by RWB Anderson and chauffeured to Ocala to meet up with MWB Getchell. We had dinner that evening and the following day, MWB Getchell gave Barbara and me an extensive tour of the Ocala area with its gorgeous horse farms and other attractions. Later that day, we were driven to Jupiter, Florida on the east coast where we prepared for the first reunion. At the conclusion of that reunion on Monday afternoon, we packed everything and traveled to Naples to be ready for the next morning's reunion. From Naples, we traveled to Sarasota (Wednesday) and held a reunion there. Then it was back to Ocala where we held the largest reunion hosted by Marion-Dunn Lodge on Thursday. That evening, I was honored to attend a stated communication of Marion-Dunn Lodge. Friday morning, we were again chauffeured to New Port Richey for the final reunion. At the conclusion of that reunion, we were delivered to Orlando International airport, where Barbara and I picked up a rental car and drove to Hutchinson Island for a few days of R&R with Barbara's brother and sister-in-law. If the technology works, elsewhere in this issue, you will find some of the photographs that were taken during the reunions.

Sadly, during my travels in Florida, I learned of the hospitalization of MWB Samuel Walker and the death of WB Michael Castroll. WB Castroll was a tireless worker for Masonry and he will be sorely missed. Most recently, he served as a correspondent for the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper, a responsibility that he did not take lightly. Rest in peace, good and faithful servant! Please keep these Brothers and their families in your prayers.

During our extended stay in the Sunshine State, Barbara and I traveled to Hollywood, Florida to visit with Mark and Millie Cohn. Worshipful Brother Cohn was instrumental in introducing me to Masonry and was the recommender on my petition to join Hamilton Lodge No. 54, Sharon, CT in 1973. It was so very nice to spend a few hours reminiscing and sharing lunch with them. In 1973,



he and I had no idea what Masonry was to have in store for me in the intervening years.

There is a part of the 50 year pin presentation that goes like this: "In a span of 50 years, each Mason gives of his substance, many give also of their time, others add loyalty and steadfast devotion, but to each of us, Masonry gives far more than we could give it in a lifetime of service." My Brothers, those are more than just words. Masonry does indeed give us more than we give it. For many years, I've made it a point to tell newly made Masons that Masonry will return to them in proportion to what they put into it. The more effort you put into Masonry, the greater will be the reward that Masonry gives to you. I know that Masonry has been very generous to me and has given me far more than I could have ever dreamed when I first approached the altar in that poor, small, country Lodge in Sharon on a Friday night in October 1973. I am truly humbled by the friendships, the experiences, and the honors that Masonry has bestowed during my journey. I hope that my service to you this year has, in a small way, been a way of giving back to our beloved Fraternity.

Most of all, I thank you, the Brothers of Connecticut, for your kindness,

Continued on next page

Grand Master's Message

Continued from previous page

your cooperation, and your support during this past year. As long as there are human beings, the world will be imperfect, but Masonry teaches that when we err, we should endeavor to make corrections. I'm sure that I have made mistakes this past year, and for those, I apologize. Connecticut Masonry was hurting, and I hope and pray that our leadership provided an opportunity for healing to begin.

Now it is time for me to step aside and for another to assume the gavel and preside over the Craft. I am

confident that the leadership team that you have elected is quite capable of plotting the pathway forward and will continue the healing process. Labor for the good of the Fraternity, my Brothers, and remember that each of us holds the key to Freemasonry's success. Collectively, we can grow Masonry and make a positive impact on the world. Barbara and I humbly thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support and for making this a most memorable journey.

Fraternally,
Charles W. Yohe



MWGM Yohe with Brother Mark Cohn

Correction:

In the March 2016, issue of *CT Freemasons*, it was erroneously reported that the CHIP program was originated by MWGM Clifford F. Stamm during his term. The CHIP program was originated by MWPM

Walter E. Kaechele during his term, gaining approval at the October 2002 semi-annual session, with the first CHIP program being held in January 2003. We apologize for any inaccuracy this may have perpetuated.

*Wishing a
Happy
Birthday*

To our April Birthday Brothers

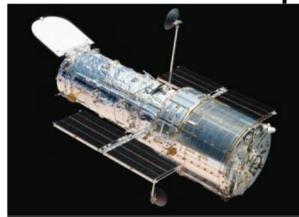
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Harmony Lodge No. 42

531 Highland Ave, Waterbury Ct.

Thursday, April 7, 2016

**Astronomy, that Divine Art, through the eyes
of the Hubble Telescope**



Presented by R.W. Brother David Sharkis
This is a Semi-Public Presentation Beginning at 8:30 PM



Recent Events

*Harmony Lodge officers enjoying themselves
at the George Washington Dinner at the
Kaaban's Shrine Club*



*(L-R) S.W. Bro. Don Wismann, Sr. Steward
Bro. Matt Elwell, Tiler Brother Lou Santos,
W.B. Dan Sharkis, Sr. Deacon Bro. Ken
Tarwood*

Brother Hal's Masonic Trivia

Arguably the most infamous Connecticut Freemason, Benedict Arnold, affiliated with and was active in Hiram No.1 in New Haven until his act of treason when he was expelled and his name inked out of the lodge records.

The Masonicare Experience

Inspiring stories from throughout the Masonicare continuum

Wallingford Rabbi Connects with Masonicare's Jewish Community

by Adam Raider

Rabbi Baruch Kaplan does not drive on the Sabbath or during holidays like Rosh Hashana (the Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), among others. On those occasions, to provide spiritual care to residents at Masonicare Health Center, he must walk to the campus from his home off Center Street.

Those familiar with the topography of hilly Wallingford know that's a schlep.

Along with his wife, Raizy, Rabbi Kaplan is co-director of Chabad of Wallingford, a Jewish community center offering religious services and adult education. Chabad is a worldwide Orthodox Jewish movement that began in America over 60 years ago and is headquartered in Brooklyn, NY. Chabad families are encouraged to become part of the broader community so they can better understand its people and needs.

A New Jersey native, Rabbi Kaplan comes from a family of rabbis. His grandfather led a large congregation in Brooklyn and his father works in education.

"A mixture of things brought me to Connecticut," he explained. "My wife and I were each offered teaching jobs at Southern Connecticut Hebrew Day School in Orange. But then we wondered, 'What are we going to do with our free time?' We were inspired by the legacy of the late Rabbi Schneerson, leader of the Chabad movement, who opened the door to an idea that makes so much sense and

resonates so strongly with many of us. It's a calling that asks, 'What can you do to help your brothers and sisters?'"

The Kaplans spoke with Rabbi Sheya Hecht, Chabad director for the Greater New Haven area and headmaster at the Hebrew Day

School, about their desire to set aside time to perform the outreach that is central to Chabad. He was receptive to the idea, and in fact mentioned Wallingford as a community that might benefit

Continued on next page



Rabbi Baruch Kaplan leads his students back to class at Southern Connecticut Hebrew Day School in Orange.

Masonicare Experience *Continued from previous page*

from it.

"We began to reach out to Jews from all walks of life," Rabbi Kaplan said, "to see if we can offer anything that might enhance their connection with God or their religion."

In September 2014, the young rabbi decided to take a walk up to Masonicare Health Center to meet with Jewish residents who had been unable to attend Rosh Hashana services.

"In that first visit," he recalled, "I just walked in and asked if there were any Jewish residents who might like to pray or hear the shofar (an instrument, usually made from a ram's horn). There were maybe

four or five people and we gathered in a hallway. The next year, there were 20. It's continued to grow from there, and now I'm at the Health Center every holiday. It started as me wanting to do something extra but has, in my mind, taken on added importance because I've recognized what can be accomplished. You see the wonderful response ... and the need."

Masonicare Health Center may not have a large Jewish population, but Rabbi Kaplan appreciates that Masonicare is committed to accommodating residents and patients of all faith traditions. A meal kosher for Passover was catered

so that he could lead a Seder for residents.

"Sometimes, you make services available because there's a large population," he said. "But, the opposite might be true as well. A smaller group might feel isolated. Even amongst friends, you might feel disconnected. But what are the things that come back to you when you're older? It's the traditions, the history. So I want to do things that will give residents an opportunity to come together and feel Jewish."

Because as many as half the people who attend his services at the Health Center are not Jewish, Rabbi Kaplan explores messages and themes that are more universal in nature.

"A lot of people are coming to learn about the background of Jewish customs," he said. "That's helped me think more globally. Take Hanukkah. It's really about believing in something, about standing up for what you believe. When I'm at Masonicare Health Center, I might tie in the idea of the Hanukkah lights representing kindness. The spreading of light, like the spreading of smiles, can be tremendous."

Rabbi Kaplan's visits to the Wallingford campus have not been limited to holidays. He's offered spiritual support for residents who have experienced loss, and has been asked to hold

regular Bible classes.

Even if not every person who attends one of his services is able to vocalize a question or a word of thanks, Rabbi Kaplan said the experience of helping create a greater sense of community has been rewarding.

"One of the difficulties of working with this population," he said, "especially those who may be suffering from Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, is wondering 'What am I going to say to them?' But what I try to do is not talk down to anyone. Even if someone is only able to zone in on me for a moment, they don't want to be spoken to like a child. I speak to them about ideas, very basic ideas, in a way in which they will feel respected like the mature adults they are. I'm sure to repeat things they might already know. And on those occasions when I don't get any feedback, I might turn to a song. You see the faces light up, and that means a lot to me."

"Rabbi Kaplan exemplifies the spirit of his religion by the way he cares for our residents," said Rev. and RW Carl H. Anderson, Vice President for Mission Effectiveness at Masonicare. "He's innovative and provides wonderful programs for the high holidays, always keeping in mind the residents' needs, and always willing to go the extra mile for them."

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Grand Historian's Corner

by Gary A. Littlefield

One of the granddaughters of Brother David Wooster was Mary Clap Wooster. She married a French nobleman named François Turner. He was born in 1809, in Nantes, France and was destined to become a priest but completed his education and studied law. By 1828, he was in America and he was proficient in languages so he became a teacher and interpreter in New York. Five years later he married Mary Wooster and came to New Haven where he found employment at the Ladies Seminary. After nine years, Mary passed away and Francois became actively involved in the fraternity. He married again, and at the age of 46 he found companionship in a young woman who had just reached the age of 19. He went back to France for a short time but returned to Stratford. He joined Hiram Lodge No. 1 in 1846, and was Master at the centennial observance in 1850. In 1873, he tried to organize a lodge in New Haven that would conduct ritual in French but that never materialized. He was admitted to St. John's Lodge

in Stratford and remained a member there until his death in 1884. He was a member of Franklin Chapter No. 2 RAM and presided in the chair. In the cryptic rite he rose to become Most Puissant Grand Master but records indicate he lost interest and was never in Grand Council after his term ended. He also dropped from the Grand Commandery line after becoming Deputy Grand Commander. Perhaps his more lasting interest was in the Scottish Rite where he became a friend of Killian van Rensselaer. Four years after he was a Mason he was proclaimed a 33rd Degree Member of the Executive Council and the next year was appointed Deputy for Connecticut. This feat was never repeated since in the annals of Masonic history in Connecticut.

Ingoldsby Crawford was born in Union in 1786, to Samuel Crawford, a veteran of the Revolution. He had sustained a back injury at an early age which prevented him from doing hard manual labor (imagine that in the late 18th century). At the age of 14 he desired a pocket dictionary but his father thought that was an unnecessary expense and so our subject trapped mink in neighboring streams

and sold them and was able to purchase the book himself. In 1800, m i n k w a s quoted at 12 c e n t s a p e l t.



Ingoldsby eventually became a school-teacher, was an examiner of teachers and later a "school visitor." He served eight years in the state legislature and held various town offices. In 1810, he married Rhoda Taft. He followed the principals of the party of Andrew Jackson (Democrat-Republican party) and was collector of the Port of New London for almost a decade. In 1818, he represented Tolland County in the drafting of the state Constitution. He was a member of Putnam Lodge No. 46 for almost sixty years having been raised in 1809, and was Worshipful Master for three years. In 1832, he was appointed by MW Thomas Hubbard to draft and distribute the "Declaration of Masons". According to Harold Carpenter a Past Master of

Putnam Lodge who wrote an article on Crawford in the 1950s, Crawford's name appears on a list of Masons from Union Lodge No. 31 but that list was never received by Grand Lodge. During the frenzy of activity that surrounded the Anti-Masonic period, Crawford went around the state obtaining signatures for the Declaration. Crawford told one story about his travels from Union to Pomfret (where Putnam Lodge was meeting) by a team of oxen because the snow was too deep for horse travel. Crawford was a member and Past High Priest of Warren Chapter No. 12 and a member of Montgomery Council No. 2. He was also a member of Adoniram Chapter No. 18 RAM. He rose to become Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter and General Grand King of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. He presided over the triennials in 1838 and 1841. He died in 1867, and is buried in the cemetery in Union. It was said that he could recite any of the ritual of lodge, chapter or council without hesitation,

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A rectangular advertisement for T. J. Nelson Home Improvements. The text is centered and includes the company name, phone number, and website. At the bottom, there are four logos for major credit cards: VISA, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover.

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A rectangular advertisement for Pathways Legal Group LLP. It features a logo on the left and text on the right. The text lists various legal services and provides contact information for Attorney Mike Kaczynski. It also states that all major credit cards are accepted.

Ode to Francis Hopkinson and Other Table Lodge Revelries

by James W. D'Acosta

He designed our national flag, but credit and payment were withheld. His father and grandfather were members of St. John's Lodge No. 1 in Philadelphia, but there is no record of his having been a Mason. His name is Francis Hopkinson.

WB Gary Ecsedi shared his erudition and valuable early American artifacts as keynote speaker at Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3' annual Founders Day Table Lodge, February 27, in Fairfield. Hopkinson's signature on a framed document and a rare 24 star naval flag graced the head table.

Flags were usually produced in times of war, but there was no war after the admission of Missouri in 1821 as the 24th state until the outbreak of the Mexican War in 1846, raising the question, "Why was this flag made?" WB Ecsedi speculated that it was produced for the Marquis de Lafayette's final visit to the United States in 1824-25.

Bro. Lafayette was received with wild adulation as a living representative of the glorious generation of founding fathers whose ranks were thinning with the passing years.

WB Ecsedi's flag, frail and mended but retaining vivid colors, likely flew in salute



WBs Chris Jennings, Gary Ecsedi, Greg Schroeder, Jim D'Acosta, Bill Schueler, Gabe Martin

to Bro. Lafayette from a commissioned US Naval ship in a harbor along the east coast during his tour.

Francis Hopkinson, 1737-1791, was a member of the Continental Congress from New Jersey, signer of the Declaration of Independence, lawyer, musician, author, and as an artist, a strong claimant to the distinction of designing the American flag. Generously, his request for payment was restricted to a single barrel of wine but Congress, working as efficiently

then as now, referred his request to several committees which eventually demanded such an onerous number of receipts and affidavits as to exhaust Hopkinson's patience and interest.

Hopkinson went to his grave without his wine and without official recognition as our flag's designer. Thus thoughts of Hopkinson at the end of WB Gary's account were mixed with an all too familiar malaise when bureaucratic inefficiencies and injustices threaten the equanimity of our spirits.

Masonic Fellowship and All You Can Eat Pancakes

by Fritzner Erauda

On Saturday, March 5, the brothers of Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3 gathered for their biggest community event of the season, the 54th Annual Pancake

Festival. Over 150 people showed up for this event from friends and family of the fraternity to members of the Fairfield community.

Organized by Past Worshipful Master and current Chaplin, Gabriel Martin,

the fellowship spent the entire morning cooking and serving all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausages, and of course, hot beverages. The event was such a success that the guests are looking forward to next year's pancake festival!

Police Master Mason Degree

On Tuesday February 23, the brothers of Shepherd Salem Lodge No. 78 hosted a Master Mason Degree portrayed by the Connecticut Police Degree Team. The lodge was opened on the Master Mason Degree by WB Michael Adams who greeted RWB Marshall Robinson on the level and presented him with his gavel to confer the MM degree. RWB Robinson CSP (Ret.) presided in the east. The Police Degree team is comprised of retired and active members from both the Connecticut State Police and several municipal agencies.

Three Brothers were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason;



Lucien Granica, Yonatan Manzano and Carl Schaaf. Brother Schaaf is an active member of the Naugatuck Police Department.

RWB Robinson also presented a gift

to Brother Schaaf: the Bible on which Brother Schaaf had taken his Master Mason obligation.

Hiram, History & Hollywood

by WB Michael Calderone

On Saturday, February 27, Hiram Lodge No. 1 opened the doors of the New Haven Masonic Temple (of Doom!) for its first Movie & Adventure Night to raise funds for their charity, Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut. This free event invited families from around the New Haven area to a guided tour of the temple's Egyptian Room as if it were an archaeological discovery, Indiana Jones themed carnival games, and a showing of Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark in the building's enormous second floor lodge room. Families brought blankets and lawn chairs and watched the movie "under the stars" while munching popcorn and cheering on Indiana Jones. The event was run by Hiram Brothers with the help of DeMolay, who ran the carnival games and students from Hopkins School who led the archeological tours.

Ronald McDonald House (RMDH) is undergoing a major renovation in New Haven. The organization provides housing not only for critically ill children undergoing treatment at the fine hospitals in town, but also for their families. Families are asked to donate \$15 of the \$100 operating cost per

night to stay at the House but no family is ever turned away if unable to pay. Hiram Lodge No. 1 was proud to raise \$1,000 at the Movie Night to help RMDH continue its good work and expand towards a new facility.

Indiana Jones holds a special place in the hearts of Hiram Brothers. When developing the character of the adventurous professor/archeologist, the film's director and designers looked to real-life models. One such model was the dashing Yale professor,

Hiram Bingham III who discovered the whereabouts of the lost Incan city Machu Picchu in Peru in 1911. The discovery made him an international superstar, and in 1915 he was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in Hiram Lodge No. 1. One hundred years ago, in 1916, Bro. Bingham was appointed Senior Deacon of the Lodge.

Thank you, Bro. Bingham for being a part of Hiram history, contributing to a Hollywood icon, and helping Hiram Lodge No. 1 exceed our charitable goal!



Families enjoying the movie"

District 4

Hiram Lodge No. 1 Marches in New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade

by Michael Calderone

Officers, Brothers and family of Hiram Lodge No. 1 showed their Irish pride at the 174th St. Patrick's Day Parade in New Haven on Sunday, March 13. It was also the first public showing of the Lodge's new parade banner.

I-r: JD Glenn Felton, SW Glenn Jacques, Bro. Gentry McCreary, Bro. Pat Doll, WM Michael Calderone, Bro. Ryan, Bro. Blane Boxwell, SD Cedric Jacobson, SS Fred Marotti, JW Brendan McGann, RWB Sal Ferrigno, M Ben Taylor & son.



District 6

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 Food Drive



On February 6, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 participated in a food drive at Geisslers Supermarket in South Windsor in conjunction with the South Windsor PD, South Windsor FD and the Manchester Ambulance to benefit the South Windsor food pantry. The food drive was able to fill the bed of a South Windsor PD pickup truck, and a significant amount of space inside the Manchester Ambulance.

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 Donates to South Windsor PD



After a second round of \$13,000 donation to the South Windsor police department Mayor Delnicki presented Worshipful Master Jason Elkhay with a proclamation declaring Feb. 1, 2016, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 Day in South Windsor.

Cooking with Chef Jules

Masonicare is excited to announce a new monthly series, "Cooking with Chef Jules," on www.masonicare.org and their Facebook page.

Hosted by Jules Martin, Director of Dining Services for Masonicare at Ashlar Village, this new video series will take viewers on a culinary journey around the Masonicare continuum. The premiere episode celebrated February - Heart Health Month and featured

Chef Jules preparing simple recipes to incorporate healthy oats into your diet. In March, which is National Nutrition Month, Jules' guest was Jenny Starr, registered dietician at Masonicare Health Center, discussing nutritious recipes.

"Mealtime is such an important part in the daily lives of our residents. We hope everyone enjoys this tasty and educational show," said Jules. Let's get cooking!



New Name For Masonicare's Memory Care

For several years, beginning at Masonicare at Newtown, Masonicare has called its memory care assisted living neighborhood "The Hearth." Last year Masonicare learned it would have to discontinue using the name, as other communities had it registered.

A group of Masonicare employees who work with memory care residents

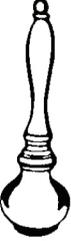
came together to find a new name that would honor the special nature of life in our memory care communities. After much research, a name was found: "Argonauta" (pronounced ARE-go-NAUT-a.) The inspiration for this name was found in the book *Gift from the Sea* by Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

The Argonauta is a distinctive and beautiful

seashell. Created for protection and safety, each one is different. "The Argonauta symbolizes Masonicare's approach to memory care, which is to honor each individual as unique and to discover and celebrate that individuality," said Grace Martha, Memory Resource Coordinator at Masonicare at Ashlar Village's Pond Ridge. She

added, "Our vision is the highest quality of care possible to achieve resident self-actualization in an environment of dignity, kindness and safety."

For more information about Masonicare's memory care services, please call their HelpLine at 888-679-9997.



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Volunteering Vs. Responsibility

by S. Kenneth Baril

Webster's dictionary defines the word "volunteer" as, "one who enters into or offers himself for any service of his own free will and accord." It defines the word "responsibility" as, "a moral, legal or mental accountability, something for which one is responsible."

In Masonry, one often hears the remark, "this is a volunteer organization." Many Masters make that statement when it is time to give constructive criticism to a line officer because a degree was not exemplified as well as it should have been. It might be heard when an officer was not proficient, his lecture was not given properly, or he did not attend rehearsals. "We cannot come down too hard on him because this is a volunteer organization," is often heard.

When a vacancy in the officer line occurs, it is the Master's responsibility to

ascertain if a given brother is the right person for the position. Much damage can be done to the officer line and the lodge if a brother is appointed to the line simply for the purpose of having a "warm body" sitting in that particular chair.

Once the Master has determined that the brother will be an asset to the lodge, he should then ask this brother if he would contemplate becoming a line officer, fully informing him of the duties and responsibilities of that office, his obligation to participate in rehearsals, and regularly attend lodge. If the brother accepts, he is then appointed or elected. Once he has been installed volunteering ends and the assuming of responsibility begins. He is now an integral working member of a Masonic team, obligated to carry out the duties and responsibilities of his office or station. If, after being evaluated at regular intervals, his performance

is less than acceptable, he must be informed that he is not performing his duties nor assuming his responsibilities seriously enough for the position he has accepted. If the situation does not improve, this brother has become a liability. He now must be informed he will not be progressing to the next chair. Allowing this brother to continue causes embarrassment not only to the brother in question, but also to the lodge.

The Salvation Army comprises of approximately 82 per cent volunteer workers. When we see one of those volunteers standing out in the icy, cold weather during the Christmas season guarding that little red kettle, they are not there because of any hourly wage but because they want to be there. The fact they are a volunteer or a paid worker is totally irrelevant. The fact they are volunteers does not justify them from ignoring their responsibility. If they vacate their post without permission, or do not put in the prescribed amount of

time that is to be delegated to that particular post, they are reprimanded or even dismissed.

Certain jobs have to be performed and certain brothers will perform them, and accepting responsibility is attached to those jobs.

The statement that the Masonic Fraternity is a volunteer organization is false! If the individual brother is not made fully aware of what his duties are, what his responsibilities and obligations are for the position he has accepted and what is expected of him, no function within his Masonic Lodge will be performed properly.

This course of action may create problems for the lodge. But isn't it more beneficial to the lodge and to the candidate to have a qualified brother fill an opening in the line than to jeopardize the quality of the ritual work? It should always be remembered that on a degree night, the most important person in the lodge room, IS THE CANDIDATE!



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From the desk of Bro. Stephen B. McPherson

President & CEO of Masonicare

March is a very important month for me. It begins with our annual "Nutmegger" reunions with Connecticut Masons who reside or winter in Florida. This exhilarating and exhausting week - five cities in five days and nearly 2,000 miles - lets us meet old friends and make new ones all the while sharing the good word of the special work of Masonicare.

Florida is soon followed by three days in Washington conferring with LeadingAge colleagues and sharing best practices. Equally important in our nation's capital is time spent meeting with Connecticut's elected representatives, telling our story and making sure that our cause is not forgotten.

As I write this, I've just left the third annual "Great Minds" Gala. This event honors the life of Senator William

Proxmire of Wisconsin who battled Alzheimer's disease for 10 years. This year's honoree was Dr.

Alexander "Sandy" Halperin. A Harvard-trained dentist, he was diagnosed five years ago with early onset Alzheimer's when he was just 60.

Dr. Halperin gave an impassioned speech noting that 700,000 individuals diagnosed with dementia die each year in this country. He noted that only \$2 billion is spent looking for a cure, yet less than two years ago, \$5 billion was spent fighting the 5 cases of ebola in this country. Alzheimer's is an insidious disease that needs a cure. Left unchecked,



16 million Americans will suffer from it or another dementia in 2050.

As Dr. Halperin was speaking, my thoughts went to the numerous Masonicare employees who care for the hundreds of patients with Alzheimer's whom we are privileged to serve. I ask you to join me in giving a prayer of thanks for their efforts and remembering the family members whose loved ones suffer from this illness. It is truly a noble purpose and inspiring to see the level of commitment given each and every day.

Sincerely and fraternally,



National Camping Travelers, Inc

a Masonic Family Camping Club

www.MasonicFamilyCampers.org

Upcoming Events:

April 15-17: Campout @ River Bend Campground-Oneco, CT

April 30: Camp-in @ Carbone's Restaurant-Hopkinton, MA

May 20-22: District Rally @ Travelers Woods-Bernardston, MA

June 12: CT State Rally Camp-in @ Ray & Sue Geer's N.Stonington, CT

June 26: Masonic Family Fun Day @ Masonic Youth Center-Warwick, RI

July 17-21: NCT 51st National Rally @ Herkimer Fairgrounds-Frankfurt, NY

(See Website Calendar For More Details)

18th Degree, Knight of the Rose Croix, The New Temple Within Man

by John A. Amarilios,
MSA, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

The 18th degree will be presented in Stratford on the evening of April 25. Any Master Mason desiring to see this enlightening degree can do so by notifying the Consistory office. New travelers on the Scottish Rite path may begin their journey that evening by watching the 4th degree prior to the start of the 18th. The office can expedite your petition - please contact the office at (203) 375-0064.

The first step in any journey begins with a nascent desire. When that desire is then coupled to the Will, the work towards any goal begins to take on momentum. Accordingly, if we seek to improve ourselves - to become the best we can possible be - we must begin a process of transformation. This is a difficult internal process because it mandates

that what is "old" must die within us before a new life can manifest. Luke 5:37 tells us: "And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish."

So it is with man - whose physical, mental and emotional essence must be transformed into something new before it can accomplish perfection, which is a new and liberating form and way of life.

While this is one of the most profound spiritual degrees in the Scottish Rite, it is by no means dogmatic or religious in any way. It inculcates the methodology by which we can practically achieve true lasting happiness on this mundane plane of existence. It reveals to discerning ears what one must do if one is ready to work towards achievement of true lasting peace within, and with it, the attainment of liberation from the manmade dross

that passes for happiness, and which inevitably proves ephemeral.

Today, very few people long for the nourishment that comes from the Divine. Most desire nourishment of a baser sort - they feed their souls with impressions of violence, dead bodies, movies replete with ingenious ways to kill, violent video games, violent sports, pornography, and the entire HD pantheon of lust, greed, conspiracies and envy. Many people live for the sensations of fear, vengefulness, anger, resentment and lust. The mass media has done its best to disseminate this type of impression for profit and has managed to corrupt most societies in existence today due to the wide and easy access to media.

We as Freemasons, are products of our society, and cannot be untouched by what is going on around us. Our minds are affected by this incessant electronic bombardment of destructive images and thought patterns.

Our bodies are likewise affected by the incessant ingestion of impure and destructive foods. Most people no longer desire, let alone are acquainted

with pure food. Most/many in our society will not eat something unless it is processed or boxed. Many will not eat fresh vegetables and (the abomination of Flint aside) will not drink clear unadulterated water, but solely sodas and beers. Most of this industrial fodder has no nutritional value - only chemicals which affect us in the long run, making us eventual victims to the medical and pharmaceutical industries which await us downstream.

It takes a very strong and determined constitution to step aside in this environment in order to undertake the process of reclaiming ones physical, mental and emotional perfection. We must figuratively kill off that which is contaminated, jaded, wrong and perverse, and thus create a new "bottle". Only then, once internal peace and physical health is reclaimed, can the work of attaining spiritual perfection begin.

A Knight of the Rose Croix is on the front lines of such efforts. He fights for perfection by navigating

Continued on page 27



**ATTENTION ALL MASTER MASONS!
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**Monday - April 25
Knight of the Rose Croix 18°
at the Leo Lohrman Scottish
Rite Theatre in Stratford**

**This is a profound degree
which adds to the
lessons of the 17°**

Contact any Scottish Rite Mason or the Valley near you today!

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Back to Washington's Room

by James W. D'Acosta

Shy of his twentieth birthday, Bro. George Washington took his Entered Apprentice degree in Fredericksburg in 1752. His father and older brother dead, the young man was shouldering immense responsibilities as heir to one of Virginia's great plantations.

Throughout his distinguished life, Washington paid tribute to the support and fellowship which enveloped him when he received his lambskin or white leather apron. Two years before his death he wrote to Paul Revere, Grand Master of Massachusetts, "My attachment to the Society, of which we are members, will dispose me to contribute my best endeavors to promote the honor and interests of the Craft." He wore it with equal pleasure to himself and honor to the fraternity.

The lamb skin or white leather apron was the first emblem presented to Bro. Washington and the last. To the best of his ability, he kept it unspotted toward all mankind. Retired to Mt. Vernon, he reflected in Alexandria Lodge upon his life, "I have acted upon the square." Our eminent brother was laid to rest in Masonic ceremony in 1799.

In like manner at the beginning of their Masonic careers, the two newest members of Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3, Jack Erickson and Varun Pande, took their obligation in one of the lodge's earliest meeting taverns in a room almost certainly used by Bro. Washington during an overnight stay in Fairfield. Yes, there is persuasive evidence that "George Washington slept here!"

Thanks to a generous donation from The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, renovations of Fairfield's historic Sun Tavern were advanced sufficiently for The Fairfield Museum and History Center to begin public displays and exhibitions. With enthusiasm and gratitude, they allowed access for a Master Mason Degree during the lodge's 250th Anniversary year in 2012 and a return for this



Varun Pande, WB Chris Jennings, Jack Erickson

Entered Apprentice Degree. The liaison with the historical society, Walt Matis, spoke of the thrill enjoyed by society members when contemplating our use of the tavern for one of its original activities. Brothers, look to your local historical society for similar opportunities.

Torches aflame, the brethren gathered on the steps of the current building to revel in its proximity to the

town green. During the short, moonlit procession, the brethren passed the whipping post where miscreants once met their punishment and the remains of a pond where a poor woman accused of witchcraft was dunked. Passing the memorial to Fairfield's veterans brought Sun Tavern into view; itself still sitting in its original location where it beckoned travelers

Continued on next page



Fidelity-St. John's No. 3, 131 Beach Road, Fairfield

Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association Eagle Scout Presentation



Eagle Scout Philip DiNardo and family with Brothers Guinta and Crumb

by Seth Strohecker

On January 30, the Connecticut Masonic Scouter Association had the honor of making its Eagle Scout presentation to new Eagle Scout Philip DiNardo of

Troop 12 in Stratford, CT. The presentation was made by Brothers Tony Guinta and Brian Crumb at DiNardo's Court of Honor in Stratford.

The Eagle Scout Rank is the highest rank a scout can earn and takes years of hard

work and dedication. Only 4 percent of all scouts ever earn this honor. A scout must show proficiency in several areas including outdoor skill, citizenship, leadership, mentorship and community among others. All of this culminates with an Eagle Scout service project, which is planned and executed by the scout to show his mastery of these skills. Each scout is able to choose his own project and Philip chose to renovate the gathering room at the Ronald McDonald House in New Haven.

As part of the presentation, the brethren give a short presentation that overviews the purpose of Masonry and

the Masonic Scouters. In addition, the Eagle Scout is presented a Certificate of Commendation and a letter of congratulations from the Grand Master.

Any scout in the state is eligible to receive a presentation from the Masonic Scouters Association. All that is required is that a simple form be submitted to the Association. Please see the Association's page on the Grand Lodge's website to download the form, and submit as far in advance of the Court of Honor as possible to ensure the Association can coordinate presenters for the event.

Washington's Room

Continued from previous page

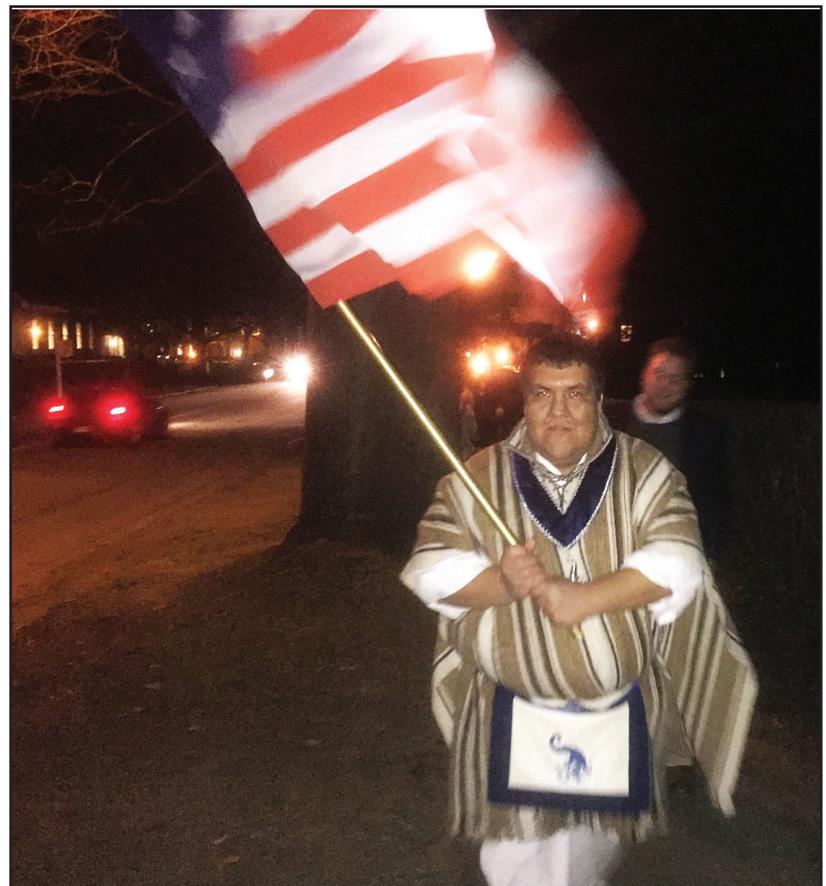
along King's Highway (now Old Post Road) and where, in the early 1800s, it hosted lodge meetings.

In Washington's room the windows were carefully shuttered to guard against cowans and eavesdroppers and the guiding spirit of bygone brothers infused the proceedings with profound solemnity. The signs, words, and perfect points of our entrance mirrored those of our forefathers when the lodge was founded in 1762 and earlier still of guild members in the Middle Ages. The historic setting heightened the sense of harmony with those ancient

brethren.

In parting, the Worshipful Master recited Bro. Thaddeus Harris's popular closing charge published by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1792. All present were summoned to embrace around the altar creating a physical reality to those proclamations of unity which the Master ended thus, "Finally brethren, live in peace, and may the God of peace and love delight to dwell with and bless you."

The burning tapers were extinguished, but the light of Masonry had been kindled once again in the breasts of worthy candidates.



SS Diego Aguillon leading procession

NUTMEGGERS REUNIONS



Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association Awards Banquet

by Seth Strohecker

On January 31, the Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association held its 4th annual awards banquet at the Hartog center in Wallingford. The night started with the annual report from chairman Tom Transue, who highlighted many of the accomplishments of the past year including another successful camp degree at Camp Strang in Goshen and the completion of the 250th Eagle Scout Commendation Award presentation.

WB David Elkodsi, Worshipful Master of Cosmopolitan Lodge 125, along with MWB Charles Yohe then presented the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter award to WB Ken Krasko, Bro. Jay Huggins, and Bro. Mike Abrahamson. They were all presented the award for outstanding service to scouting and Freemasonry. The award was established in 2001 by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and is available to Freemasons throughout the country. The award is named after Daniel Carter Beard, one of the founders of scouting in the United States, and a Freemason in New York. To date, approximately 40 Connecticut Freemasons have received this prestigious award.

Right Worshipful Brother Robert Fitzgerald was the Masonic Scouters Outstanding Service Award recipient



MWB Yohe presenting Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award.

for his years of service to scouting, Freemasonry and the Masonic Scouter Association through participation in presenting several Eagle Commendation Awards to new Eagle Scouts. RWB Fitzgerald's impressive and extensive scouting and masonic resume was read and he was presented with a plaque commemorating his achievement. He was also presented a vintage Boy Scout stamp commemorating the National Jamboree, which it was later

learned, was the same Jamboree that Brother Fitzgerald attended while a youth in Scouting. Brother Fitzgerald made some very moving remarks to how both Scouting and Freemasonry have been a great influence on his life.

The night ended with MWB Charles Yohe installing the officers of the Connecticut Masonic Scouter Association. The officers installed that night were Tom Transue - Chairman, Jonathan Glassman - Vice-Chairman, Seth Strohecker - Treasurer, and Jack Braddock - Secretary. The Grand Master then offered closing remarks where he thanked Brother Fitzgerald for all of his service to Freemasonry, and expressed congratulations to the new Daniel Carter Beard Award Recipients and the Association for a great banquet and continued service to Masonry through its Eagle Scout presentations and Camp degrees.



MWB Yohe installs CMSA officers Transue, Glassman, Strohecker and Braddock

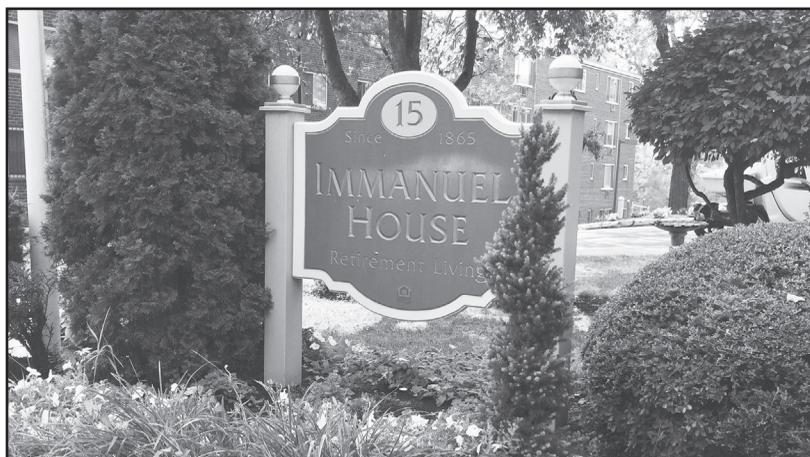
We offer our condolences to the families and friends of those brothers who have been called by the Grand Architect of the Universe

Allan E. Acker.....Columbia Lodge No. 25	Malcolm B. Pearce Jr.....St. John's Lodge No. 2
John Bammann.....Temple Lodge No. 16	Steven E. Price.....Solar Lodge No. 131
E. Eugene Belcher Jr.....Columbia Lodge No. 25	Myron P. Reed.....Meridian Lodge No. 77
Donald W. Cann.....King Hiram Lodge No. 12	Arthur F. Rockwell.....Liberty-Continental Lodge No. 76
Burton F. Christensen.....Washington Lodge No. 70	Ronald J. Shea.....Day Spring Lodge No. 30
Theodore P. Coitrone.....Center Lodge No. 97	Robin H. Stack.....St. Peter's Lodge No. 21
Wilfred G. Douglas.....Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145	John R. Sullivan.....St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64
James E. Elliott Jr.....Manchester Lodge No. 73	Roy W. Tidmarsh.....King Hiram Lodge No. 12
David G. Hass.....Anchor Lodge No. 112	Francis C. Trotter.....Composite Lodge No. 28
Charles Malis.....Temple Lodge No. 16	Marvin L. Tuthill.....St. John's Lodge No. 2
Anthony T. Mangone.....King Hiram Lodge No. 12	William B. Tuttle.....Valley Lodge No. 36
Eugene F. Miller.....Valley Lodge No. 36	John H. Wadsworth.....Bay View Lodge No. 120
Richard G. Nelson.....St. Peter's Lodge No. 21	Craig O. Weed.....Wolcott Lodge No. 60
John P. Osgood.....Day Spring Lodge No. 30	M. Clyde Whirly.....Village Lodge No. 29
Joseph F. Passarelli Jr.....Meridian Lodge No. 77	Paul F. Whitten Sr.....Composite Lodge No. 28

Masonicare Welcomes Immanuel House Employees

In addition to all the services Masonicare offers on its own campuses and through homecare, Masonicare also provides Assisted Living Services to subsidized senior housing complexes. The first such contract was with The Marvin in Norwalk several years ago. The newest one is with Immanuel House, a 200-unit apartment in Hartford not far from Saint

Francis Hospital. "We are pleased to welcome 35 new Masonicare employees at Immanuel House. Their roles there include Registered Nurses, LPNs and Resident Care Assistants. It's been wonderful to partner with an organization where our cultures and values align," says Bro. Jason Rieger, Assistant Administrator for Assisted Living for Masonicare.



BLVE LODGE SHRINE NIGHT

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016



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**Please contact: SPHINX SHRINERS OFFICE FOR RESERVATIONS
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Noble Name: _____

Guest(s) Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Total: _____ **@ \$10.00 (Shriners only)** _____

Payment due at time of the event: Cash: _____



Connecticut York Rite Opportunities

Information to be included in York Rite Opportunities must be submitted by the 8th of the preceding month to the Grand Secretary/Recorder, Charles B. Fowler, 525 Stillwater, Windsor CT 06095-3842 or ctramrsm@gmail.com. NOTE: All dates and visitations are subject to change without notice.

APRIL 2016

01				APRIL FOOL'S DAY
01-03	ME	MP	RE	U Grand Commandery KT of CT. Sheraton Htfd South, Rocky Hill
05		MP		U Washington 01 KT, East Hartford
05	ME			Keystone 27 RA, Meriden. Annl Mtg
06	ME			Halleck 44 RA.
09	ME	MP	F	Tri-State Cryptic Festival, Poughkeepsie NY
10	ME	MP	F	Grand Lodge Banquet, Cromwell, 6:00 pm
11	ME	MP	F	Grand Lodge AF&AM of CT, Cromwell. 9:00 am
12	ME			Hamilton 22 SM, Meriden. Annl Mtg
12		MP		Wolcott 01 SM, East Hartford. Annl Mtg
13		MP		Pythagoras 17 RA, East Hartford. Annl Mtg
16	ME	MP	F	CT York Rite College 17, Madison
19	ME		U	St. Elmo 09 KT, Meriden
19		MP	U	Washington 01 KT, East Hartford
21	ME	MP	F	Grand Chapter CT OES, Public Opening
22-23	ME	MP	F	Grand York Rite of Maine
25-26		MP	F	Grand Council SM of PA
27	ME		F	Crawford 19 SM, Branford. Select Master deg
27		MP	F	Pythagoras 17 RA & Wolcott 01 SM, East Hartford. Installation.
29		MP	F	Connecticut 28 KYCH, Stratford
30	ME		F	CT Convention Anointed High Priests, East Hartford.

NOTE >> >> >> When there is a dinner, reservations are usually required.
 ME indicates attendance by the ME Grand High Priest
 MP indicates attendance by the MP Grand Master
 RE indicates attendance by the RE Grand Commander

COMING UP

3-4 JUN Grand Chapter RAM of CT & Grand Council R&SM of CT. Meriden

Elections Reminder

With Annual Meetings coming up in Chapters and Councils, the Companions are reminded that dispensations will be needed for a High Priest or Thrice Illustrious Master to serve a third consecutive year in office. This is new for Chapters, enacted at the last Grand Session, but unchanged for Councils. Word to the wise!

Grand Commandery

Right Eminent Grand Commander Randy S. Stevens will reconvene the Grand Commandery of Connecticut Knights Templar at 9 am on Saturday, 2 April at the Sheraton Hartford South hotel in Rocky Hill. Ladies Boutique and the Hospitality Room will be open on Friday and Saturday. After the business session on Saturday, Knight

Crusaders of the Cross will receive candidate Past Commanders, and the Installation of the new officers of the Grand Commandery will occur. The Grand Banquet will be Saturday evening. A memorial service and farewell breakfast are scheduled for Sunday morning. Make your reservations NOW with SK William Miller!



FROM MEGHP EPPLER

My Companions:

By the time you receive this, your Chapter will have, or will shortly be selecting and installing the Chapter officers for 2016-17. I congratulate the new officers for being willing to lead your Chapter with fidelity and zeal. This past year most Chapters have made some progress in improving their ritual work and developing their fellowship. I trust that the new officers will build upon what has been done and continue to develop their fellowship and improve their ritual work, so that the Companions will want to come out and participate.

FROM MPGM SEAMON

Greetings to my Brothers and Companions,

As I travel about the North East, I see how other States are doing in their Grand Councils. It was nice to see New Jersey issue a Charter for a new Council. It reminds me of the work we need to do in our Jurisdiction to promote York Rite! I will be attending a meeting with the other York Rite leaders in Brooklyn CT in a couple of days; this will bring the Light of York Rite to more Master Masons. We should all make it our mission to share this great gift we have and spread the word that there is further light to

be had in York Rite. I wish all my Brothers, Companions, and Sir Knights a Happy Easter which brings all the joys of being together at this special time of Renewal. Spring is always a wonderful time to enjoy Creation and its beauty.

YORK RITE WEBSITES

Grand Chapter RAM of CT:

<http://yorkrite.org/gcramct/>

Grand Council R&SM of CT:

<http://yorkrite.org/gcrsmct/>

Grand Commandery KT of CT:

www.knightstemplar.org/gckct/

Common to all three YR bodies:

www.yorkrite.com/ct

Washington Commandery No. 1 Installs Officers, Continues 100 Year Old Tradition

by Francis G. Way

On Tuesday, February 16, Washington Commandery No. 1 installed its officers for the year 2016-2017. SK William E. Bohman joined the long and distinguished line of Sir Knights who have been elected to lead the oldest extant Commandery in the western hemisphere.

Other Sir Knights installed were: SK Charles Weiss (G), SK Francis G. Way (CG), SK Charles Fowler (Rec/Treas), SK Charles Jewart (JW), SK Edward Varjabedian (W), SK Robert Nordstrom (SwB), SK Rohit Sukhram (G), SK Richard R. Jones, Jr. (Sent.) SK David Soderberg (Music Director). Several other elected and appointed officers were unable to attend and will be

installed at the next conclave.

The installing suite was composed of Past Right Eminent Grand Commanders from Washington Commandery: SK William L. Miller II was installing commander, SK William A. G. Mackey installing marshal and SK Charles B. Fowler, Jr. was installing chaplain.

REGC Randy Stevens attended and was received before the installation ceremony, and also present was RW Grand Senior Warden Ted Nelson.

While there were many presentations and congratulations that evening, one presentation was very special. EC John McAloon and PC Michael Quigley of Bethlehem-Crusader Commandery No. 53 of

White Plains, NY, traveled to East Hartford to present the Bethlehem-Crusader Commandery Cross to EC Bohman. This tradition, which includes a reciprocal visit by Washington Commandery in

June, began in 1916, and he continued for 100 years.

The officer and Sir Knights of Washington Commandery No. 1 look forward to a great year.



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80 Walsh Ave - Newington
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NIGHT OF THE LIVING & DEAD
MASONS OF COMEDY
7 Courses of Comedy & Feasting in Table Lodge format
(aka StoneCutters' 1500th Anniversary)
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Bud Abbott (& Costello), Mel Blanc, Foster Brooks,
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Harpo Marx, Richard Pryor, Red Skelton

Tickets: \$25 (seats limited)
Tickets &/or info contact WM Steve Gorman at 860-916-1162 or
JW Lee Martin at reservations@sequin-level140.org

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

by Charles Tirrell

The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite was once known as the "University of Freemasonry." Master Masons would seek further light in our sacred valleys by exploring the deep symbolism of our ceremonies and the rich allegories of our dramatic degrees. The title of Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret meant that a man looked deep into himself in search for the hidden mysteries of life and found solace in laboring in that spiritual temple with this brethren. It is this tradition that the Valley of New Haven seeks to continue.

During our reunions, we explore the deeper meaning of Freemasonry by witnessing lessons from our past, conversing with well informed brethren from lodges across the state, holding

discussions about morality and righteousness, and by joining together in fellowship. We offer an opportunity to broaden our collective Masonic horizons by asking profound questions about Freemasonry and its role in our lives.

Twice a year, in the spring and in the fall, we welcome Master Masons to join with us in one of our reunions (a term used for the several meetings that we hold during one of these seasons) and become a member of the Scottish Rite. To become Scottish Rite, a Master Mason in good standing must first receive the 4th Degree, which can be conferred at any of our Valley Degree evenings. He will then continue on to witness three or more degrees (non-sequential) before proceeding to the 32nd Degree and becoming a Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret. This spring we have many opportunities to begin your Scottish Rite journey with the following degrees.

16th Degree - Monday, April 11th
 20th Degree - Monday, April 18th
 27th and 32nd Degree - Saturday, May 7th

During each of these evenings, we hold a fantastic dinner followed by the portrayal of the degree. During these

evenings, there is no unnecessary business meeting. We focus entirely on the degree and on our candidates' Masonic experience. After the degree, our brothers typically get together for refreshments and a discussion of the deeper meaning and lessons of the degree.

Additional degrees can be experienced across Connecticut at any of our five Valleys throughout the season. If you are interested in joining the Scottish Rite, please contact our Membership Development Chairman, Brother Steve Allinson ([203.687.7984](tel:203.687.7984) - jambalaya369@hotmail.com), who will assist you in determining which degrees to attend and how to start your journey. We hope to welcome you to our valley and join with you on your search for further light in Masonry.

On a sad note, the Valley of New Haven mourns the loss of Brother Michael L. Castroll. Brother Mike was our Valley Historian for many years and was our primary correspondent with the Connecticut Freemasons Newspaper. He was an active member of our valley, who gave of himself selflessly to preserve the history of the Rite. He will be deeply missed.

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

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE IN MASONRY?

Applications for the upcoming Scottish Rite Class are now being accepted...

See what we have to offer by visiting our website: www.valleyofhartford.org



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

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

by David R. Blythe, Sr.,
33°, Valley Secretary

On behalf of the entire Masonic family, and especially the Valley of Hartford, we would like to wish a very Happy Birthday Bro. Ralph E. Holmstrom who celebrated his 102nd birthday on February 28. Bro. Holmstrom has been a member of the Valley of Hartford since 1952.

We also recognize the following 50 year members of the Valley of Hartford: Stanley M. Baskind, William A. Cook, Herman O. Hunt, Stephen P. Shapiro, and William Sloat, as well as our 60 year members: Adrian A. Buck, Daniel George (who is a member of the Valley's Choir and a soloist in the 18th degree), and James Massio.

The Valley's newest members are Paul J. Bregonzio, Jeffery L. Davis, Curtis J. Dynak (the son of Robert Dynak who is an active cast member in our degrees), and Billie Ray Keene II. We welcome them to Valley of Hartford and hope that they too will one day be recognized for their longevity as a Scottish Rite Mason.

In March, the spring degree schedule came to an end. However, a nationwide Consistory Day will take place on Saturday, November 12, as both the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions will hold 32° portrayals and special events to mark the day. In Connecticut, the event will be hosted by Lafayette Consistory and while the Valleys portray

the degree there will also be a ladies program. All will then gather for a social hour, dinner and dancing.

A special commemorative medal will be presented to all candidates and will be available for purchase by members of the Scottish Rite at a cost of \$25.

We call your attention to the Valley of Hartford's insert in the April issue of the CT Freemasons newspaper. The purpose of the insert was to publicize to Masons and their family members that the Scottish Rite is a place where family members can become involved and have fun. Family Life Events like bus trips, picnics, dinner dances, musical performances in our Scottish Rite auditorium, award night dinners are open to more than just the individual Scottish Rite brother. Perhaps that is why the Scottish Rite is the Fraternity of Choice for many of us.

On Thursday May 5, at 7:30 p.m., the Valley will hold its Annual Meeting and election of officers. On May 14, the new officers will be installed at the Workers Night banquet at the Wethersfield Country Club.

To those brethren who are not members of the Scottish Rite but would like more information, we have informational DVD's available. If your Blue Lodge is looking for a meeting program, we have members who are willing to travel to your Blue Lodge and put on a Scottish Rite program. The

My First Year

by Jeffrey Potter

I put in my petition with Ionic Lodge No. 110 in North Windham in September. I felt a little out of place not knowing anyone, but being a senior DeMolay I knew that I would be welcomed. It was nice to start meeting some of the brothers. I was investigated and voted on and received my Entered Apprentice in October. It was great because my father, who is a member of Somerset-St James

Lodge No. 34, was able to conduct me.

With the help of the brothers, I was able to study and prove my proficiency and was passed to a Fellowcraft in November. This was another special night for me as a DeMolay brother, WB Chris Buck, was able to come and do the Middle Chamber lecture for my degree. And, of course, my father was there to conduct me while I was still in the dark.

It was at this point where the year

Continued on page 30



Master or his representative, should contact a member of our Membership Committee: Ill. Brother Eric W. Manner, 33°, at ric@sandshark2.com, Ill. Brother Jeffery A. Flynn, 33°, at jedge60@yahoo.com, or Bro. Frank Dlugoleski, M.S.A, at fdlugoleski@gmail.com.

ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE
The Valley of Hartford
207 Deming Street, Newington, CT 06111

**Our 2016
Spring Schedule**

Thursday, May 5
@ 7:30 p.m., the Valley will hold
its Annual Meeting and
election of officers.

Thursday, May 12
The new officers will be installed at
the Workers Night banquet at the
Wethersfield Country Club.

*For more information about becoming a member
of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite,
or to receive a copy of a Scottish Rite
informational DVD....*

Contact David Blythe Sr., 33°, Valley Secretary,
Valley of Hartford AASR
(860) 666-0712 Email: sect@snet.net
www.valleyofhartford.org

Michael Castroll In Memoriam

by Francis G. Way

"In the midst of life, we are in death."

Friday morning, as I was preparing to go to the funeral of a close friend and former co-worker, who, at 50 years old, had passed suddenly and way too young, I received the news from RWB Bruce Bellmore that Brother Mike Castroll had laid down the working tools of life and passed to the Celestial Lodge

above. It was not, like my co-worker's passing, unexpected, but it was still a sobering moment, filled with loss and sadness, when I read Bruce's email.

I never formally met Mike until I began working for the *CT Freemasons* newspaper, but over the years, if you traveled anywhere in Connecticut, to almost any Masonic event, you'd bump into Mike. Like another stalwart from the newspaper, Carl Ek, Mike was everywhere, and I often had a chance to

say hello.

Having edited many a piece from Mike, I can tell you his writing style was much like himself - down to earth, without pretense, but oh so full of wonderful fact and knowledge. It was often folksy, filled with colloquialisms and expression that, sadly, were often edited out for space considerations, but which gave his pieces the feel of sitting down and listening to him tell you the story.

Mike was amazing in his ability to retain and recall historical fact. What I personally found fascinating was how effortlessly he could work those facts into an article, giving a little bonus education to his readers. For example, a date that was mentioned for an upcoming Scottish Rite degree, would be tied to a lesser known historical event from the American Revolution, or an item of Connecticut history.

Perhaps my favorite experience working with Mike was when we did the cover story about the 25th Anniversary of the formal recognition of Prince Hall Masonry. Because Mike was there, it was a no-brainer to have him do the story, and it was fascinating going through the process.

Many brothers know Mike from Lodge or the Research Lodges. I never had the privilege of sitting in lodge with him (unless you count Grand Lodge sessions) but you did not need to sit in lodge with him to know several very important things. First, he was brilliant, and had probably forgotten more about Connecticut Masonry than some of us will ever know, and second, he was a just and upright Mason.

As Masons, we don't dwell on our loss. We cherish the memory of a departed brother, knowing we will meet again, and, in some ways, that takes a tiny bit of the sting out of it. In Mike's case, we have lost a brother, but sadly we have lost a brother whose extensive knowledge of our fraternity, our history, and our genealogy was unparalleled. We will miss that loss of knowledge almost as much as we miss our brother

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Come and Taste some of the region's best Craft Beers from our finest local breweries and wines especially selected for the evening.

Enjoy Complimentary Munchies and a Great Selection of Items in a Silent Auction and Drawings throughout the evening. Prizes and Items will include:

- UCONN sports tickets
- Regional Theater Tickets
- Artwork

Sponsorship opportunities are available at Patron (\$50), Bronze (\$250), Silver (\$500) and Gold (\$1000) Levels. Opportunities are available for names and logos on tickets, publications and glassware as well as for other recognition; see us at Grand Lodge where we will have a presence.

**Saturday June 25
6pm-8pm**

**Hartog Auditorium at Ashlar
Village| 74 Cheshire Rd,
Wallingford, CT**

Tickets are:

\$20.00 in advance; \$25.00 at the door -Tickets will be available on May 1st, see subsequent notices for details

FIRST 50 REGISTRANTS RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY, LIMITED EDITION TASTING GLASS!!

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE CHILDREN'S DYSLEXIA CENTER OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

A SCOTTISH RITE CHARITY
529 Highland Avenue, Waterbury, Connecticut

*Ashlar Village and the entire
Masonicare Campus is a smoke free
environment; we thank you for not
smoking.*

Continued on next page

Lafayette *Continued from page 16*

the chasms of dishonesty and populist prejudice, by not giving up hope that Freedom will prevail over Tyranny. He exhibits faith by not compromising to societal pressure to consume and act in ways which contradict Diefic laws. He exhibits charity by helping others without ulterior motivations. He helps alleviate the suffering of others who cannot help themselves. He knows that Love is a tonic - and that by helping others he is helping himself, if properly motivated.

How much better would today's Society be if its leaders were Knights of the Rose Croix?

Ask yourself - Would Captains of industry increase critical life saving drug prices a thousand fold "because they can"?

Would tens of thousands of refugees streaming away from a war torn environment become political footballs in squalid infested camps?

Would there be a war torn environment in the first place?

Would leaders in an impoverished state, with periodic famines spend

prodigious amounts on missiles and Nuclear warheads?

In a world of Perfected individuals such examples would never exist. If we are to improve the world and make these types of stories a dark footnote in our distant past, it is critical that we all begin the process of self improvement, regardless of our age or status. The Knight of the Rose Croix shows the way and provides the keys to beginning your own personal liberation, one step at a time.

Just a quick reminder that the "Bookends" concept was fashioned to help Scottish Rite Candidates work towards a quick fulfillment of their 32nd degree. Candidates need only complete

the 4th and three other degrees before they may sit for the 32nd degree. Once they complete the 32nd degree, they may work at a pace convenient to them to complete the balance of the degrees. Your Consistory offers many opportunities during the year to complete as many of these degrees as you please!

As always, your Consistory stands ready to help further your understanding of the Three degrees of Freemasonry. Should you have questions about the Scottish Rite, please feel free to contact me at the email address above, or call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064.

Castroll

Continued from previous page

himself.

We don't often talk religion in our fraternity, but on this occasion I will say that my faith firmly tells me that our late brother is, right now, sitting with Carl Ek, in that Celestial Lodge, discussing some important fact of Masonry, waiting for some event to begin. When it does start, Carl has his camera, and Mike has his notebook, and I think that whatever publication that passes for the *CT Freemasons* in Heaven is going to have one hell of an article submitted from the two of them.

I will close with a line that Mike always liked to use at the end of any Pierpont award article: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Rest in peace, my brother Mike.

Norma J. Brandt Nursing Scholarships Available at Masonicare

Applications for the
Norma J. Brandt Nursing
Scholarship for the **2016-17**
academic year are now
available at Masonicare.

Applicants must be:

- A Masonicare employee
or
- A child or grandchild of a
Masonicare employee
or
- Affiliated with a Masonic
organization, either as a
member or as a child or
grandchild of a member.



The late Norma J. Brandt's legacy of caring lives on through the scholarship established in her name through The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, the philanthropic affiliate of Masonicare

For more information about eligibility requirements, interested parties are asked to contact the Administration Office at
Masonicare Health Center at 203-679-5924

Application deadline is Friday, May 20, 2016

 **Masonicare** 

The Masonic Charity
Foundation of Connecticut 
The Philanthropic Affiliate of Masonicare

A Mason's Wife

by Wendy A. Memmott

What does it mean to be the wife or lady of a Mason? A Mason's wife and a Mason's Lady are often used interchangeably. However, they are very different. A Masonic wife could simply mean that you are married to a Mason. A Mason's lady though, is someone who supports a Mason and Freemasonry. This can be any woman in the Mason's life; mother, wife, girlfriend, etc. Being a Mason's lady is truly something to cherish.

This takes a strong woman in her own right. It takes patience and understanding. Whether she got married after her husband became a Mason, or he has become a Mason since, there are many things that will come into play in her relationship.

Depending on how many appendant bodies he belongs to and if he's an officer

he may be out several nights a week. This can include rehearsals for degrees or volunteer projects. Some of these projects encourage family participation and can be a great way for the entire family to share in what their Mason does. Masonic ladies can join organizations open to woman such as Eastern Star and Daughters of the Nile (for wives of Shriners, by invitation only). Participating in lodge events or belonging to her own organization will give her the opportunity to be as busy as she'd like and to get more out of what her Mason does. An added perk is some of the events even require her get dressed up. What woman does not like to buy a new dress now and then?

Some of the ladies at these events are truly amazing women in their own right. Wives, mothers, grandmothers, business women and yet they still find time to

support their Masons. Whenever there is an event where an award or recognition is given, the Masons usually take time to thank the women in their lives, for behind every great man is an even greater woman.

The hardest part of being a Mason's lady is not being able to participate in what goes on at lodge. She cannot attend degree work. Knowledge of lines and stations only comes in time, as well as distinguishing one appendant body from another and the difference between them. However, all this discipline and teaching are what makes them the men they are. There is a dedication to learning and personal enlightenment. There is brotherhood, care, concern for others as well as faith. To be a Mason is to be an upstanding man with a deeper understanding of himself than most men will know in a lifetime. In my few years as a Mason's lady, I have come to know these men as men of integrity. They are the kind of men who come to the aid of their brethren in good times and bad. I personally find that an appealing quality in a man.

My husband Richard has been a Mason for almost 50 years. He raised his sons to be Masons. His father, grandfather and great grandfather were Masons. I was not raised in a Masonic family so this whole concept was a bit strange to me. It was only when I married Richard that I found out that several of my relatives were Masons. Some of the ladies that I have met through Masonry are involved in the aforementioned organizations. Many of us, however just support our Masonic men. That is actually no small undertaking. Richard has been master of his lodge twice, is currently Grand Tiler and will be installed as Grand Secretary this April at Grand Lodge. He has also been honored as a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason. These achievements have not come without sacrifice. This is where the lady plays her most important role. Only with our support can our Masons truly become the best they can be.

My one wish is that Masons' ladies were able to get together to support a cause outside the organized women's groups. There is a disconnect in this area. I don't know what method to use to reach out to the other women. I would love to see what they think about this and to see if they would be interested in connecting to support a cause, each other, and Masonry.

Pyramid Shrine Clowns - Stepney Elementary School Winter Carnival



The Pyramid Shrine Temple Clowns from Stratford, Connecticut were recently invited to participate at the Stepney Elementary School Seventh Annual Winter Carnival. The Clowns dazzled students from the school, located in Monroe, with balloon twisting crafts. In addition, the Clowns raised funds to support needy children receiving medical services through the Red Sneaker Fund.

Deadlines, Deadlines, Guidelines, Complaints, Suggestions, Deadlines

by Francis G. Way

Deadlines: These are some important deadlines to remember. The deadline for submission is the 10th of the month prior to publication (i.e., April 10, for the May issue). Please note this also applies to calendar posting. We will dump the contents of the lodge calendars on the 10th of the month prior, not the 15th, so please ensure lodge events are posted by the 10th.

Guidelines: Please submit, as a Word document, to submissions@ctfreemasons.net. I get so many emails every day to my personal email that it is entirely possible I will miss your article if you send it to my personal email. Please submit photos as attachments to the email and not embedded in the article. All of these guidelines exist to try to streamline what can be a very labor intensive process.

Complaints: Send them to me, on either email address (submissions or personal). There are times we miss things, there are times we don't get it right, there are times we just flat out make mistakes. If you think something is amiss, by all means let us know. We really do welcome hearing the complaints, because while it might seem a cliché, they really are opportunities to improve.

Some who submit complaints may be asked what I sometimes ask brothers who are complaining in Lodge, Council, or Commandery - "what are you doing to help solve the problem?" As an example, we recently heard there are not enough articles on Rainbow, Eastern Star,

DeMolay etc. As these groups hardly ever submit articles on their events, accomplishments, etc., there's nothing to put in the paper. The response to that would be "what are you doing to help fix that? Can you submit an article or help them to submit?" Believe it or not, we all have skin in this game....

Suggestions: Always open to suggestions. Just like complaints, they are opportunities.

Deadlines: Again, 10th of the month prior to publication...and that includes when we grab the calendar dump.

Widowers Support Group

~ A Group for Men who are Grieving the Loss of a Spouse ~

Every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the Month

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

This "On-Going" Widowers support group will provide a place for men to process their grief experience in a safe and supportive way with other grieving men. We will explore some of the common gender-specific reactions experienced by men as they transition through their grief journey.

Location: Masonicare Home Health & Hospice
104 South Turnpike Road
Wallingford, CT

Date/Time: Every 2nd and 4th Thursday
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Cost: No charge.

Availability: Open to the public.

Registration/Information:

Facilitator: Dennis Farrar, MSW/Hospice Social Worker
Masonicare Home Health & Hospice
104 South Turnpike Road
Wallingford, CT 06492

Pre-registration is recommended.
For more information or to register, please call 203-679-5395.

www.masonicare.org

Masonicare
Home Health & Hospice

My First Year *Continued from page 25*

got interesting. In January, another of my DeMolay brothers was receiving his EA degree at America-St John's Lodge No. 8 in Stratford. WB Buck was there to vouch for me and I was able to see the degree from the other side, which made it so much more enlightening. Mother Nature was not being kind to me for my Master Mason degree. It seemed that every time it was scheduled, it would snow. When trying to take the degree with another lodge, it would snow. I was able to go back to America-St John's in February to see my good friend receive his FC degree.

After a few more snow storm cancellations, I was finally able to take MM at Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 in Milford. This was very special for me for several reasons. First, it is the mother lodge of my DeMolay chapter and it is also the lodge where my brother is a member. As expected, it snowed that day, March 20. I barely made it to the lodge in time. My mother had to meet me there to pick up my daughter so she could watch her while I went through the degree. I will admit I was frazzled. I couldn't remember the signs. It was nerve wracking. But I knew I was surrounded by brothers and took a deep breath and everything came together. My father and brother were both there to help raise me and I can honestly say, Ansantawae does do some amazing degree work. It was

the perfect night.

Shortly after being raised, I received a package in the mail from Grand Lodge. I opened it and one thing that caught my eye was the Perfect Ashlar award. I had heard some talk about it but this was the first time I had seen the paperwork and I decided I wanted to do my best to receive this award. Once I received my dues card, I was ready. But it was summer and it would have to wait until September. But the summer was also full of brotherhood as I started riding with the Widow's Sons and got to meet many new brothers.

September arrived and I was ready to begin my labor towards the Perfect Ashlar. Thanks to the CT Freemasons paper, I located a lodge locally that had a Master Mason degree scheduled. I was a nervous about my first time traveling. However, I kept my faith and walked in to Friendship-Tuscan Lodge No. 145 in Manchester a proud, yet new, Master Mason. They asked to see my dues card and I was welcomed with open arms. It truly taught me the meaning of brotherhood. I enjoyed an amazing meal and watched the degree which was excellent.

Later that month, I was able accompany my father to his mother lodge, Somerset-St James Lodge No. 34 as he received his 45-year pin. After the meeting, they allowed my father and I to look in their archives where we were

able to locate the minutes entry of his raising. It showed my father and uncle being raised with my grandfather, a Past Master, sitting in the East. I hope to be able to get back to see if I can locate the entry of my grandfather's raising and his installation as master.

A few days later was Grand Lodge. It was a wonderful experience to witness Grand Lodge. It was very special to be able to be there to see a member of my lodge, who is also my cousin, Gail N Smith, elected by the craft to be our next Most Worshipful Grand Master.

It has truly been an amazing first year. I have been able to attend several Blue Lodge Council meetings and several table lodges. Coming in to Masonry, I thought I knew what to expect from my years as a DeMolay. I waited many years to join because I refused to just be a name on a piece of paper somewhere. I wanted to wait until I could devote the time to the fraternity. I can say that every thought I had of what Masonry is was totally blown away by this first year.

If I can give a piece of advice to any new brothers, it would be to immerse yourself in it for the first year. It can be a little rough at times, but the rewards will be well worth it. I have learned more this year than words can describe. I thank each and every brother I have met in a lodge or out in the world who saw my hat or sweatshirt and greeted me as a brother.

 <p>STAMM EDDY</p> <p>39 EAST CEDOR ST. NEWINGTON 860.666.1449</p> <p>40 Years of Service to Newington</p>	 <p><i>Now in Two Locations</i></p> <p>Thinking of listing? Have you outgrown your home or need to downsize? Not sure of your home value? Whether you're just curious or would like to list. Call us Today for a Free Consultation. <i>We provide you with a market analysis, suggestions on preparing your home and educate you on the complicated process of selling in today's market.</i></p>	 <p>STAMM NEIL</p> <p>532 MAIN STREET, CROMWELL 860.635.5974</p> <p>30 Years of Service to Cromwell</p>
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Grand Historian

Continued from page 9

forethought or advanced notice.

In 1783, the flurry of activity that was a cornerstone of Revolutionary military companies began to wain. The forces were being discharged and officers scattering around the country. In the spring of 1783, American Union Lodge, Independent Royal Arch Lodge and St John's Regimental Lodges were continuing to work but AUL only recorded five meetings with an average attendance of 12 including visitors. It was soon up to the lodges in various Connecticut communities

to commence or start up again. After an eleven year period, St John's Lodge at Middletown resumed work in September of 1783, and King Hiram Lodge at Derby was chartered under the Massachusetts Grand Lodge in January 1783. Montgomery Lodge was also chartered by Massachusetts in 1783. Lodges in Colchester and Litchfield had already been chartered as soldiers came home after long battles elsewhere. There were initial steps taken in 1783 to establish the Grand Lodge of Connecticut but it would take six more years for the process to conclude.

Masonicare at Newtown Welcomes Mary Salley



Mary Salley has joined Lockwood Lodge Assisted Living as Resident Services Coordinator. In her role, she works with prospective residents giving tours and assisting with move-in as well as with current residents to ensure a customer-centered experience. A Newtown resident, Mary comes to Masonicare from Apple Rehab where she was an Admissions Director.



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Craft At Refreshment

For more details about any of these events, please contact the Lodge directly. In many cases, reservations are required, and they may or may not be open to the public.

All times are supplied by the lodges. The CT Freemason Newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events.

Sunday, Apr 03, Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, Masters Round Table & Field Day, 7 a.m. Join our Master for breakfast and help clean up our home

Sunday, Apr 03, Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven, PASSOVER TABLE LODGE, 5 p.m., \$15 Open to family and friends. RSVP to Wayne Murray 203-393-5518 wmmurray2629@gmail.com

Sunday, Apr 03, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, SBA Breakfast Fundraiser, 7 a.m.

Tuesday, Apr 05, Day Spring Lodge No. 30, Hamden, BINGO, 7 p.m., Open to the public, all Masons and Eastern Stars. Refreshments

Wednesday, Apr 06, Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford, Mason Night @ OAH, 7 p.m. Orange Ale House, 517 Boston Post Rd, Orange, CT 06477

Thursday, Apr 07, Somerset - St. James Lodge No. 34, Preston, 8th District Breakfast, 9 a.m Groton Townhouse, Rt 12, Groton CT

Thursday, Apr 07, Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116, Montville, 8th District Breakfast, 9 a.m Groton

Townhouse, Rt 12, Groton CT

Thursday, Apr 07, Bay View Lodge No. 120, Niantic, 8th District Breakfast, 9 a.m Groton Townhouse, Rt 12, Groton CT

Friday, Apr 08, Day Spring Lodge No. 30, Hamden, Mohegan Sun Bus Trip, 5 p.m., Open to ALL Brothers and family Cost \$30 per person includes \$15 voucher for food or gambling

Saturday, Apr 09, Granite Lodge No. 119, Haddam, Free Fisherman's Breakfast, 5: a.m.

Sunday, Apr 10, Grand Lodge Banquet, 6 p.m.

Sunday, Apr 10, Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Compass Lodge Fellowship Breakfast., 8 a.m.

Tuesday, Apr 12, Day Spring Lodge No. 30, Hamden, BINGO, 7 p.m., Open to the public, all Masons and Eastern Stars. Refreshments

Thursday, Apr 14, Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester, Work Detail - 24 Golway St, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Apr 16, Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, Plainvilled Food Pantry Food Drive @ Gnazzo's, 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, Apr 17, Washington Lodge No. 19, Monroe, Country Breakfast, 8 a.m.

Sunday, Apr 17, Friendship Lodge No. 33, Southington, Pancake Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Apr 19, Day Spring Lodge No. 30, Hamden, BINGO, 7 p.m., Open to the public, all Masons and Eastern

Stars. Refreshments

Wednesday, Apr 20, Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Hiram No. 1Masonic Book Club, 7 p.m. 2nd floor lounge.

Tuesday, Apr 26, Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, Annual lodge of Sorrow & Awards Night, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Apr 26, Day Spring Lodge No. 30, Hamden, BINGO, 7 p.m., Open to the public, all Masons and Eastern Stars. Refreshments

Tuesday, Apr 26, Shepherd - Salem Lodge No. 78, Naugatuck, Awards Night, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Apr 27, Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107, Darien, Fraternal Social Hour, 07:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Apr 27, Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven, Monthly Fellowship Night, 7 p.m. Star of India 157 Boston Post Rd Orange CT 06477

Thursday, Apr 28, Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester, Final Move- 24 Golway St, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Apr 29, Montgomery Lodge No. 13, Lakeville, Pot Luck Supper, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Apr 29, Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester, Final Move- 24 Golway St, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Apr 30, Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, Painting @ Scene Art Bar Unionville, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Apr 30, Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester, Final

Move- 24 Golway St, 9:00a.m.

Sunday, May 01, Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, Masters Round Table & Field Day, 8 a.m.,

Sunday, May 01, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, SBA Breakfast Fundraiser, 7 a.m.

Tuesday, May 03, Day Spring Lodge No. 30, Hamden, BINGO, 7 p.m., Open to the public, all Masons and Eastern Stars. Refreshments

Wednesday, May 04, Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, BEEF & BEER, 6:30 p.m. The Annual Fellowcraft Club Beef and Beer. On the menu this year will be BEEF and BEER.

Thursday, May 05, Bay View Lodge No. 120, Niantic, 8th District Breakfast, 9 a.m Groton Townhouse, Rt 12, Groton CT

Saturday, May 07, Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3, Fairfield, Habitat for Humanity, 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 07, Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116, Montville, CT Chip Event at Fair Oaks School, 9 a.m.

Sunday, May 08, MOTHER'S DAY

Tuesday, May 10, Day Spring Lodge No. 30, Hamden, BINGO, 7 p.m., Open to the public, all Masons and Eastern Stars. Refreshments

Sunday, May 15, Washington Lodge No. 19, Monroe, Country breakfast, 8 a.m.

Sunday, May 15, Friendship Lodge No. 33, Southington, Pancake Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.

To have your lodge events appear in the newspaper, please update your lodge website calendars prior to the 10th of the previous month. If your lodge needs assistance accessing the website please have the Master or Secretary contact Grand Lodge.

All times are supplied by the lodges. The CT Freemason Newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events and to inquire about dinner reservations.

Grand Lodge Annual Session

Sunday, Apr 10, Grand Master Lodge No. 0, Wallingford, Grand Lodge Annual Communication, 8:00 AM, Annual Meeting, ,

Monday, Apr 11, Crowne

Plaza, Cromwell, 8 a.m.

Entered Apprentice Degrees

Monday, Apr 18, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88, South Windsor, 6 p.m., Dinner

Tuesday, Apr 19, America-St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, 6:30 p.m., Dinner

Thursday, Apr 21, Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester, 6:30 p.m., Dinner

Wednesday, May 11, Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107, Darien, 7 p.m., Dinner

Fellowcraft Degrees

Wednesday, Apr 6, Somerset - St. James Lodge No. 34, Preston, 6:30 p.m.,

Dinner

Wednesday, Apr 6, Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven, 7:30 p.m.,

Thursday, Apr 7, Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3, Fairfield, 6:30 p.m., Dinner

Tuesday, Apr 12, Shepherd - Salem Lodge No. 78, Naugatuck, 6:30 p.m., Dinner

Monday, Apr 18, Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4, West Hartford, 6:30 p.m., Dinner

Tuesday, Apr 19, Coastal Lodge No. 57, Stonington, 6:30 p.m., Dinner

Tuesday, Apr 19, Unity Lodge No. 148, New Britain, 6:30 p.m., Dinner

Wednesday, Apr 20, Day Spring Lodge No. 30,

Hamden, 6:30 p.m., Dinner

Monday, Apr 25, Washington 70 Lodge No. 70, Windsor, 6:30 p.m., Dinner

Thursday, Apr 28, Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, 7:30 p.m., Refreshments to follow

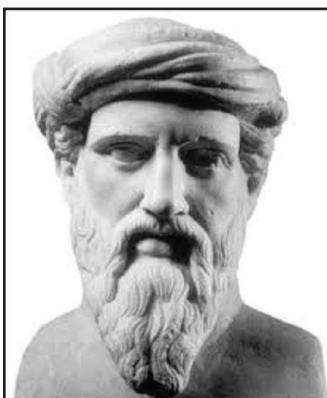
Master Mason Degrees

Monday, Apr 18, Federal Lodge No. 17, Watertown, 6:30 p.m., Dinner

Monday, Apr 25, Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 3, King Hiram Lodge No. 12, Shelton, 6:30 p.m., Dinner

Saturday, May 14, Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, 10:30 a.m., Lunch



PYTHAGORAS: The Man, Myth and Mage

by WB Chuck 2.0 Landau

Lecture and slide show,

open to wives and the public....

Wyllys Sts. John # 4 April 15th, 6:30 PM

RSVP for Greek dinner

the evening before the FIAT LUX

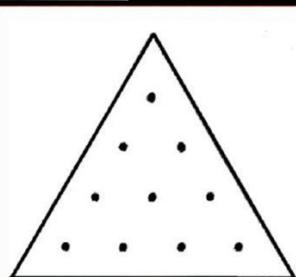
full day of open lectures by:

Tim Wallace Murphy on

The Hidden Wisdom;

Kirk White on The Golden Dawn;

Martin Ede on The Rosicrucians



THE TETRACTYS

Boosters

After reviewing all of the receipts for Boosters, the following list are the Boosters who are current (i.e., within the 11 issue window). If your name does not appear and you feel that you should be on the list, please contact us. But for now, these are the Boosters we show as valid.

Boosters *Thank you for contributing \$25*

Mario L. Accornero
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Richard L. Beebe
Lewis Bither
David Blackall
Richard C. Burke
Lowell H. Cantor
James V. Cesario
Ray N. Cooley, Jr.
George W. Coulston
Harold S. Curtis, Jr.
John P. Dilks
James Dobie
Samuel M. Dunlop

William Field
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Frank J. Godwin, Jr.
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Kenneth H. Hartwick
Donald W. Hick, Jr.
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Grand Boosters *Thank you for contributing more than \$25*

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Ryan G. Hunt
Benjamin J. Issacson
Kenneth H. Johnson
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William E. Sunblade
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Samuel B. Walker
Robert G. Waller
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Masonic Family Boosters

Anchor Lodge No. 112
Robert & Diane Andrews
Ansanawae Lodge No. 89
Brainard Lodge No. 102
Elizabeth Brown
D.M. & G.D. Chase
Children's Dyslexia Centers, Inc.
Coastal Lodge No. 57
Columbia Lodge No. 25
Compass Lodge No. 9
Composite Lodge No. 28
Corinthian Lodge No. 63
CT Chapter of DeMolay

Thomas & Janice Delmastro
Fidelity - St. John's No. 3
Aubrey & Carol Fisher
Friendship Lodge No. 33
William F. Hart
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88
Hospitality Lodge No. 128
Ionic Lodge No. 110
King Solomon's Lodge No. 7
Alan & Shirley Knofla
Lafayette Consistory AASR
Ronald & Barri Lapierre
Manchester Lodge 73

Robert & Jane Maclellan
Masonic Club of New London
National Camping Travelers
Anton & Diane Petras
Albert & Corinne Redway
Edward Schilke, Jr.
Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34
St. Peters Lodge No. 21
Temple Lodge No. 16
Union Lodge No. 5
Valley Lodge No. 36
Valley of Hartford, AASR
Valley of New Haven, AASR

New Home for Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145



24 Golway St, Manchester, new home of Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

by Jim Wilson

Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 has a new home, and will be residing at 24 Golway Street, Manchester, CT as of April 1.

The Lodge looked into the building as a future home, and a building committee was formed to pursue a purchase from the former owner. Many members worked months to research all the details. Would the building fit the needs of a Masonic Lodge for meetings, degree work, dinners, public functions and so on? Would the membership accept a move from the lodge's home of fifty years?

With those matters resolved, it was decided to pursue this idea of

purchasing a new home. As the tasks relating to the purchase became more numerous, sub-committees were formed. Building, banking, legal and all necessary approvals, needed to be researched.

The first hurdle encountered was that the lodge was not empowered to do business in its own name. More time and effort resulting in the creation of Friendship Tuscan Lodge Masonic Title Holding Company, LLC.

Even more work and effort went into finding a loan or a mortgage that could be approved by the vote of the membership. The sub-committee worked with several entities and found one that suited the lodge's plans and future needs. Then

followed meetings with the legal experts to be sure that a title search, proper deed wording, terms regarding what exactly came with the building, and many other items were in order.

Finally, the day that had been the dream and effort many Past Masters and members for fifty years had arrived. It was finally time to sign the documents that would give the brethren of Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 their new home.

Since the deal was sealed, 24 Golway Street has become a beehive of activity and there is much to be accomplished. Manual labor includes painting the walls and ceilings, new lighting, cleaning, some remodeling, adding comfortable seating, as well as the moving of the lodge's furniture and property from its former home. Much of this has been accomplished, and plans to improve the kitchen area are underway.

The property has off street parking for about fifty cars, and additional on street parking. There are front and rear entrances. A sign will be installed as soon as the town requirements are determined.

WM Dennis Bellamy has scheduled second and fourth Thursdays as "Work Party" days starting at 5 p.m. and all members are welcome to stop by.

The Grand Opening will be held on May 5. Future announcements will include start time and more information, so watch for a flier.

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QUALITY OF LIFE WALK

Saturday, May 14, 2016
Great River Park, East Hartford
Check-In: 8:30-9:45 AM
Walk Begins: 10:00 AM

Register or donate today at:

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Walk with other members of the Masonic family!

The Masonicare Quality of Life Walk, one of the premier fundraising events of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, returns in 2016. Proceeds from the Walk benefit the residents and patients of **Masonicare Health Center**, **Masonicare at Newtown** and **Masonicare Home Health & Hospice**.

Join hundreds of enthusiastic walkers and volunteers for a scenic trek along the Connecticut River. Choose from half-mile, mile, or three-mile routes. **Registration:** \$25 for adults or \$12 for kids under 12. Registration fees include a Quality of Life T-shirt, a light breakfast, and a light lunch. **For more information:** please contact Patricia Morgan, Director of Development at The Foundation, at 1-800-562-3952, 203-679-5572 or pmorgan@masonicare.org.