

Connecticut FREEMASONS

December 2016

*Happy
Holidays*

Where
Good Men
Relate

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



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**CT
FREEMASONS**

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Operative & Speculative Masonic Traditions

by Pat Trainor

Traditions in Freemasonry

When we talk about medieval stone masons, those from whom we attribute much of our ritual, history, and legend, it is important to paint an accurate picture at the start of just what that person was, and how they came to be. Just how did a young boy come to hew stone?

"A medieval Master Mason would be required to undergo what passed for a liberal education in those days. In England, he would leave home at nine or ten years of age already literate in English and French, educated at home or at the petty (junior) school. From then until the age of fourteen, he would attend monastery or grammar school to learn Latin, or as a page in a knightly household, would learn deportment in addition to his studies.

Between the ages of fourteen and seventeen, he would learn the basic skills of choosing, shaping, and combining stone and then, between the ages of 17 and 21, be required to learn by rote a large number of formal problems in geometry. Three years as a journeyman would often finish with

the submission of a masterwork dealing with a set problem in construction or design. At this point, he was considered qualified, but still had a career ladder to climb before attaining the status of Master Mason on a large project.

In his function as architect, the Master

and Master Carpenters sat at high table of monasteries, dining with the abbot." ~ wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Freemasonry & Revd Neville Barker Cryer, *York Mysteries Revealed*, Ian Allen Printing, 2006, pp 71-74



Mason probably made his plans for each successive stage of a build in silverpoint (drawing with a piece of metal—a mix of lead, tin, and silver) on a prepared parchment or board. These would be realized on the ground by using a larger compass than the one used for drafting. Medieval architects are depicted with much larger compasses and squares where they are shown on a building site. Fine detail was transferred from the drawing board by means of wooden templates supplied to the masons.

The Master Masons who appear in record as presiding over major works, such as York Minister, became wealthy and respected. Visiting Master Masons

hard-hewer. And as the term 'freestone' has been around far, far longer than the term freemason, the term should be thought of as worker in freestone. There are details of Mason Guilds in Europe as far back as 1268 in *"The General History of Paris"*, published in 1879 by R. de l'Espinasse.

To say that the term 'freemason' comes from the nomadic lifestyle medieval stone masons led is an easy way out as well. This thought comes from the fact that a single commissioned project would involve 100 or more masons, and the towns of that era imply didn't have that kind of volume. Records

Freemason[ry] as a Term

Are you under the assumption that the term 'freemasonry' refers strictly to the non-operative form of stone masonry? Medieval building accounts detail the differences between freemasons and the rough-mason, or

Continued on next page

About This Holiday Issue....

By Francis G. Way

From time to time CT Freemasons will receive a submission (or two or three) that cannot be run because of size (i.e., not enough room in the current issue) or because there are articles of a time sensitive nature that have to be run instead.

While speaking with Santa Claus

to prepare for this upcoming holiday season, the jolly old fellow informed me that I would be getting a lump of coal in my stocking if I did not rectify that situation, and run some of the articles that have been sitting in the "To be run soon" folder on my computer, or generally fix up some of the omissions that have been made over the past year.

Never one to want to cross the big guy

in the red suit, or promote disharmony by giving brethren grievances to air around the Festivus pole, we dedicate this issue (or some of it anyway) to some articles that good brothers have submitted, but which we have not had a chance to run, or to good brothers that should have been mentioned but through omission were not.

Masonic Traditions *Continued from previous page*

show of expenses incurred from travel all over a country to recruit enough masons to make the work progress at a proper rate. For this reason, one can see the confusion of someone thinking they 'roamed free'.

Interestingly, being nomadic meant that there weren't enough masons local to any town or place to create a permanent *Chapter*, as they were called long before 'lodges'. This made the masons difficult to punish as a whole, or for the church or state to seize funds. For the approximately 100 guilds on hand in the 13th century, 2 of which were sedentary enough to have a permanent location for meeting and organization.

At Westminster Abbey there were sometimes as many as 160 building craftsmen, with 176 laborers. Most of the time, historians refer to the number and count of what are called 'banker's marks' to determine the number of

stoneworkers at a site, but there is significant evidence that not all masons actually marked their stones. In fact, it appears that only those that could not be trusted were required to mark their work to make sure they were producing at a satisfactory rate.

What of the term "lodge"?

The term 'lodge' was first used at Vale Road Abbey in 1278 to describe a workshop erected at a construction site of major work. Only later did the term have a secondary meaning of a community of masons in a particular place. The earliest surviving records of these are the laws and ordinances of the lodge at York Minster in 1352. York Minster is a cathedral in York, England, and is the seat of the Archbishop of York (the second highest office of the Church of England). You might recognize it by its formal name, *The Cathedral and*

Metropolitan Church of Saint Peter in York.

Why didn't they just find work building any old stone structures and not just monastic projects?

My answer is that back in the day, even in large English towns, for example, 1 out of 50, and sometimes only 1 out of 100 were stone. Therefore, as the saddlers or tailors guilds had a local center in each town, and could be organized with standard, guild-wide principles and order, "...the only possible organization for masons was provincial, elastic, and far wider than merely local purport". In addition, there is evidence that none but the wealthiest Mast Mason owned his own tools. They were owned and maintained (repaired, replaced, and sharpened) by the lodge on site, at the lodge's expense, usually by a man

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What Kind of Customer Service Does Your Lodge Have?

By Charles W. Yohe

Society, in general, associates wisdom with age. While it's true that older people have gained more experience in life, that doesn't mean that they are any smarter than younger people. There are plenty of examples of older people making unwise decisions that affect both them and those with whom they associate.

Masonry holds its older members in high esteem. Our fifty year pin ceremony points out that "To those of mature years, we look for wisdom." And while that may be true sometimes, it isn't always the case. How many Lodges have been negatively affected by "mature" past masters who put the kibosh on "new" ideas? How many times have young, enthusiastic officers been told "We've never done it that way!"

One of the things of which I try to be mindful, especially when serving as a Lodge secretary or other officer, is that I'm not the Worshipful Master. I don't run the Lodge. As an older, more experienced member, it is fine to provide counsel and guidance to the Master - to mentor him, if you will. But ultimately, he is the head of the Lodge and the decisions on what to do and how to do it are his.

I believe we are at an important crossroads in Connecticut Masonry. We are very close to reaching a stasis - a balance between the new members we initiate and those that we lose. This is the time of year when Lodges take action on those Brothers who have not paid their dues. Really, the Lodge should have been working

on this problem from the very beginning of the year, but that rarely happens. New, incoming Masters - take note! In reality, Masonry is very similar to a business in this regard, if we don't provide excellent customer service, we will lose customers. How is your Lodge's customer service? If you were to rate your Lodge honestly, would you be able to say unquestionably that it provides good value to its customers? Each member is a customer, and until our Lodges understand that and work to provide excellent customer service, we will continue to lose members as fast as we take in new ones.

It's no secret that I have always been a strong proponent of leadership education. For many years, I've asserted that Masonry has two ships - membership and leadership. I've also said that it is useless to raise one thousand new Brothers unless the leadership is in place that will provide the customer service that those members expect, thus assuring their continued membership. And while it is true that Masonry is largely a self-improvement program, our Lodges must provide the atmosphere that supports and promotes that personal improvement. Masonry, though not a 'service' organization, can build its success only on service. The current Grand Lodge officers understand that concept and have bought into it.

Much as they would like, our Grand Lodge officers cannot make each and every Lodge successful. What they can and are doing is developing a set of core objectives as part of a multi-year long range plan to encourage the improvement

of customer service delivery within each of our Lodges. The plan is not to "mandate" this improvement or, in the terms of some, to "jam it down your throat," but rather to develop a system of mentoring Lodges and Lodge officers, thereby helping them to help themselves. In order for this to succeed, Lodge members must be willing participants. The old saw "you can lead a horse to water . . ." comes to mind, but I can assure you that the Lodges that buy into this will prosper and grow and those that don't will continue to struggle and eventually will wither and die. I urge you to take advantage of the programs that will be offered to each of you very soon.

There is great satisfaction to be gained in serving your fellow man! Indeed, in the Entered Apprentice charge, each new member is admonished with regard to his great duties to God, to his neighbor, and to himself. The true Mason understands that Masonry is not something you join and forget about, it is a way of life and affects how we interact with others on a daily basis. Along with the sacrifices that accompany doing your job well - be it as Worshipful Master, Most Worshipful Grand Master, or the youngest Entered Apprentice - and whether it be doing your part in the ritual, preparing and serving a meal, or otherwise helping out around your Lodge, there is great satisfaction and reward in knowing that you have done your best in whatever part you've been assigned. And for those of 'mature age,' the sum of your accomplishments provide the measure of your Masonic life. So mote it be!

Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 Collects Two Tons of Food for Food Bank



Sequin-Level brothers delivering to Newington Food Bank

by Chris Woodward

As the warm sun filled days of summer began their transition to the vibrant landscape of New England autumn, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 concluded one of their biggest community activities of the year, the annual Fall Food Drive in support of the Newington Food Bank.

When interviewed by the local newspaper, Newington Life, Brother Chris Woodward explained that "Every lodge was chartered to serve the community in which it has been placed. This is one way we have chosen to serve Newington."

The goal of the first food drive in 2014 was to collect 200 pounds in two weeks. On the first collection night, the lodge flew past that goal. Sequin-Level ultimately delivered 750 pounds to the Newington Food Bank, born from little more than a few Facebook posts and the generosity and Brotherly Love what emanates from the lodge.

For 2015, the goal was aggressive, but simple - double the amount from last year. With 1,500 pounds as the goal, the entire month of October was dedicated to the food drive. When the month was over, the lodge had not only doubled the previous year's total but more than tripled it, collecting 2,400 pounds of goods. The passion and commitment to the cause shown by the brothers of Sequin-Level Lodge is something that sticks in every brother's mind.

The 2016 Food Drive goal was to build

on the momentum created, and aim even higher. The initial goal was 3,000 pounds for the Newington Food Bank to distribute to the 400-plus families that rely on the town for assistance through difficult times. These are friends and neighbors. What greater exercise in Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth can be had by simply working to make sure a family in need has what they need to be able to eat. It was decided that the Lodge Open House in October would be a focal point of the drive and invited the people of Newington to come to the Lodge with their donations.

At delivery time, the collection totaled

over 4,300 pounds! A group of people working together towards a common goal raised over 2 tons of food for the people in the community who needed help in a difficult time. This is the strength of Masonry.

Places like the Newington Food Bank rely on the support of organizations like ours to assist them in providing what they need to effectively help the community. With the help of friends, families, and community partners, that help is multiplied. Special thanks go out to the President and CEO of Foodshare, the Newington Human Services Department, the Marines of Fox Company, 4th Marines, Price Chopper, as well as employers, friends, and families.

Dozens of Brothers helped along the way. Many donated money, their time, or the contents of their pantry. Watching a sea of Brothers helping load and unload a box truck full of food for those less fortunate is a sight that is as heartwarming as the Food Drive itself.

Lodges are chartered to serve their community. This is one of the ways that the Brothers of Sequin-Level have chosen to support theirs. Freemasonry isn't trying to secretly control the world, but it can get out there and help change it...one meal at a time.



Two tons of foodstuffs taking shape in the Newington Masonic Temple.

The Masonicare Experience

Inspiring stories from throughout the Masonicare continuum

Friends Honored with Gift to The Masonic Charity Foundation

by Adam Raider

For some, named gifts to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut are a wonderful opportunity to honor or remember a loved one, provide important funding for Masonicare programs and services, and demonstrate their support for the Masonicare mission ... all at the same time.

The late Ethel Castles (1919-2015) made a generous gift through her trust to benefit The Foundation in honor of her good friends and former Masonicare residents, the late John and Jean Tracy. This honorary gift has been commemorated on a plaque displayed outside the Gift Shop at Ashlar Village. John and Jean's youngest daughter, Tara Tracy, was Ethel's Goddaughter.

"Ultimately," Tara said, "the gift made from Ethel's trust was in recognition of the care my parents received at Masonicare, and of the relationship she had with my entire family."

Jean Tracy predeceased her husband by eight years. But John, who passed away in July of this year, did live long enough to learn of Ethel's gift. He appreciated the gesture and was pleased with the location of the plaque bearing his and his wife's names.

"He knew how much Masonicare does for its residents and patients," Tara said, "particularly those who

can't always pay their own way."

Ethel and Tara's mother attended New Haven's Hillhouse High School together, but didn't become close friends until they reconnected as coworkers at the Southern New England Telephone Company.

"It's probably accurate to say that, in later years, Ethel saw many of her former SNET colleagues treated very well at Masonicare," Tara said. "My mother and father included. My impressions of how Masonicare cared for both my mom and dad were also very positive, as were those of my four sisters. The system offers such a high quality level of care, especially when compared to the care my mother received at the for-profit facility at which she resided prior to Masonicare."

Not a Masonicare resident herself, Ethel had used the short-term rehab services at Masonicare Health Center and was pleased with the experience. She decided that she would move to our Wallingford campus if the time came that she could no longer adequately care for herself, but very much enjoyed her independence and preferred to live at home in North Haven with her beloved cat, Spencer, for as long as possible.

The Foundation is grateful for Ethel's generous gift made in honor of her good

friends who considered her a part of their extended family.

We're also happy to know that Spencer, Ethel's feline companion, is now living comfortably with Tara and her husband in Pennsylvania.

Your gifts to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut will help create "Masonicare Experiences" for others. To find out how you can support The Foundation or to make a gift, please call 203-679-5555 or 800-562-3952. You can also donate online at masonicare.org/mcf. A monthly giving option is available.



Ethel Castles

Metaphysics and Military Insignia

by John White

In reflecting upon military experience in general, I have developed a theory about the meaning of the insignia for officer ranks in the U.S. military. Since all the U.S. armed forces use the same insignia for their officers, even though the ranks may have different names, this theory is comprehensive in its attempt to state the significance of the insignia. It is yet another indication of America being founded on spiritual principles expressing the Perennial Philosophy/Timeless Wisdom/Primordial Tradition.

In brief, the insignia system symbolizes the metaphysical structure of the cosmos and an increasing degree of spirituality or higher consciousness for a warrior as he or she ascends in rank.

Beginning with the lowest grade, designated O-1 (second lieutenant/ensign), the insignia is a plain and simple bar—a very “down to earth” design. The O-1 insignia implies the lowest plane of reality, commonly called the earth plane, the material plane or the mineral kingdom of existence.

Grade O-2 (first lieutenant/lieutenant junior grade) retains this classification, with only a change of color

from gold to silver. This nevertheless indicates the beginning of transformation.

Grade O-3 (captain/lieutenant) adds a second bar to the insignia, becoming ladder-like in its structure. Thus it implies both “climbing” in rank and ascent toward the next major plane of reality, that of organic life.

Grades O-4 (major/lieutenant commander) and O-5 (lieutenant colonel/commander) are signified by oak leaves, implying the vegetable kingdom within the organic realm of reality. The oak is widely regarded as the mightiest, most majestic form of life in the vegetable kingdom because it is the tallest and strongest of trees. Strictly speaking, the redwoods and sequoias of the West Coast are taller, but the American insignia tradition began by drawing instead upon knowledge gathered from colonial experience on the East Coast, before the redwoods and sequoias were widely recognized.

Grade O-6 (colonel/captain) is indicated by an eagle, and moves the progression of ranks into the animal kingdom of organic life. Like the oak in its kingdom, the eagle is the most majestic form of life in the animal kingdom. Because it is without any

natural predators, the eagle is the most free and the most able to soar skyward, away from the bonds of Earth.

Above Grade O-6, a five-pointed star is used to signify rank. Grades O-7 (brigadier general/commodore) through O-11 (general of the army/admiral of the navy) are indicated by one to five stars. The star is symbolic of a level of reality beyond the mineral, vegetable and animal kingdoms (humans being included in the latter kingdom). It indicates the celestial kingdom, which is higher than the human kingdom. It also indicates the human spiritual potential noted by Jesus to grow “higher than the angels” by “hitching your wagon to a star.” Theoretically, the increasing number of stars for grades O-7 through O-11 implies an increase in spiritual stature—in wisdom, power, majesty and other divine attributes. It implies higher human development toward a godlike condition or enlightenment.

It is no coincidence, therefore, that George Washington—the Father of Our Country—is America’s highest ranked officer. By a special act of Congress in 1976 he was posthumously given the five-star military rank of General of the Armies

of the United States, effective July 4, 1976. No other officer in the history of the nation outranks him, even if they have five-star rank. Washington is so revered—and rightly so—for his magnificent role as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, president of the Constitutional Convention, and first President of the United States of America, that he is pictured in a painting upon the interior of the U.S. Capitol dome as rising in glory to heaven. The 1865 painting by Constantino Brumidi is entitled “Apotheosis of Washington.” Apotheosis means deification or ascension into divine status.

Thus, this theory about the meaning of officer rank insignia in the American military structure is consistent with the metaphysical wisdom traditions of the world, which state that reality is multi-levelled and humans have the capacity to ascend through all the planes of existence to a godlike condition. The insignia collectively symbolize the human journey to enlightenment.

I have not found any references to support or refute this theory, and would welcome reader comment.

We Welcome Our New Brothers to the Fraternity

Zachary J. Holmes
Steven P. Bruner
Tyr W. Mack
Robert A. Roman
Darryle J. Boyd Jr.

Union Lodge No. 5
Day Spring Lodge No. 30
Day Spring Lodge No. 30
Day Spring Lodge No. 30
Meridian Lodge No. 77

Jeffery F. Conway
Michael F. Percy
Allen J. Tankersley
James V. Jennette

Anchor Lodge No. 112
Anchor Lodge No. 112
Anchor Lodge No. 112
Annawon Lodge No. 115

Grand Historian's Corner

by Gary A. Littlefield

Lyon Lodge No. 105 was meeting in the town of Columbia, my hometown, for about thirty years from 1868 to 1898. In 1868, David Buell, George M Woodward and Charles Clark traveled to Hartford on May 18 to attend the annual session of the Grand Lodge and to receive the charter for Lyon Lodge. William Storer, who was seated as Grand Master, had received a petition from Brothers belonging to Warren Lodge No. 50 (of South Coventry and later Andover) and Eastern Star Lodge No. 44 of Willimantic. A sum of \$35 was paid for the charter and the name was to honor Nathaniel Lyon, a General from Eastford who was not a Mason. There were twenty-five members on the rolls as charter members. Measurements had to be taken to determine the distance from Columbia to both Merrow and Colchester and Uriel Lodge No. 24 voiced some opposition to members dimitting to join the new lodge. Meetings were held in a store owned and operated by George Fuller on Columbia Green. The store burned in 1889 and with it the lodge lost all its paraphernalia including the charter. The Master's jewel survived because the Master had the jewel at

home since he had just returned from the annual Grand Lodge session. The building was replaced by Porter's store, still on the Green in Columbia. The fire and lack of interest started the downward spiral of the lodge and on October 4, 1897, Walter Brigham the District Deputy for Tolland and Windham County (currently District 9) closed the lodge with only seventeen members on the rolls.

* * * * *

In 1836, the annual session was held in New Haven on May 11. William Ellis as Grand Master presided in the East. The proceedings reflect that "At 2 o'clock PM the hour designated by the Grand Constitution, the MW Grand Master took his seat in the East and a quorum being present, opened the Grand Lodge in form". A resolution was presented to purchase stock in the Union School Company of New Haven where the first two floors were occupied by a school and the upper floor by the Masonic bodies of New Haven. Some of the stock was owned by individuals but most by the Masonic bodies of New Haven. The committee (acting like Trustees) felt that the purchase of shares (with



rent being paid by both the school and the Masonic bodies) would be a good investment and the resolution was adopted. Because the anti-masonic frenzy had entered East Hartford, Orient Lodge No. 62 surrendered their charter and records to the Grand Lodge for safe keeping. Concern centered around the somewhat mysterious dissolution of the lodge in Harwington (Aurora Lodge No. 35) and a committee was appointed to investigate.

* * * * *

Several Brothers have asked this Grand Historian why certain things were not recorded in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge. Grand Secretaries usually made their own determination as to what to record in the proceedings and the depth of such recordings. That is the simple answer.

* * * * *

May all have a very happy Holiday season and all the best to those who are readers of this column in the New Year.

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District 1

Washington Lodge No. 19 Annual Computer Award

Every year Washington Lodge No. 19 donates a computer to a worthy Masuk High School Senior. The individual is selected for their character and willingness to help their peers. This year Peyton Northrop is our recipient. The Brethren of Washington Lodge wish her well in her future travels.



Members of Washington Lodge, Sarah's mother, Sarah, and her sister Karley.

Ivanhoe Lodge and Masonic Club of Darien Present Donations

Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107's Junior Warden, and Masonic Club of Darien member Silas Mante (left), presenting a \$ 500.00 check from the club during wreath collections which were manned by members of the Town of Darien's Monuments and Ceremonies Commission. There is an active campaign in the Town to ensure that every grave in the Town's Spring Grove Veteran's Cemetery is adorned with a Christmas Wreath this December.



District 5

Evening Star Lodge No. 101 Holds Ladies' Night



Nothing says Masonic love like Ladies' Night. The brothers of Evening Star Lodge No. 101 gladly opened their doors for an evening of dinner and Military Whist with their ladies.

Hartford-Evergreen Lodge Welcomes Brothers from Turkey

On Monday, November 7, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 had a visitation from Bro. Gokhan Sefa, who was visiting CT for business from Turkey. As it was the lodge's evaluation night, and with no candidate available for the work, it was decided that Bro. Gokhan would be used as the exemplar for the Entered Apprentice degree.

The lodge was opened on the Entered Apprentice degree with two volumes of sacred law: The Holy Bible and the Koran.

Additionally, the lodge has recently welcomed WB Nejat Bilgen from Turkey. A former Dean of Archaeology and Past Master who helped open two lodges under the Grand Lodge of Turkey, he was forced to relocate to Enfield, CT with his family after the

recent unrest in his country.

Both brothers were welcomed with open arms and reinforce that the

tenets of Masonry extend beyond borders and religious beliefs.



(L-R) WM Jason Elkay, Bro. Gokhan Sefa, WB Nejat Bilgen

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

Paul Baron	Meridian Lodge No. 77	David W. Kneeland	Anchor Lodge No. 112
Forrest J. Belcher Jr	Wolcott Lodge No. 60	Ralph P. MacIntyre	Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4
Donald G. Brown	Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140	George C. Monck	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89
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Johnnie W. Foster	Union Lodge No. 31	Waldo W. Robison	Liberty-Continental Lodge No. 76
Ernest W. Frattini Sr	Compass Lodge No. 9	Charles T. Schreier	Wooster Lodge No. 10
Mark E. Furber	Masonic Lodge of Research	Leroy B. Seaton	Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140
Karl W. Garms	Liberty-Continental Lodge No. 76	Herbert Sherman	Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14
Douglas E. Girard	Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34	Richard L. Sorensen	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89
Sidney A. Gold	Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140	Franklin P. Terrell	St. Luke's Lodge No. 48
Ronald M Goldwyn	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89	Charles A. Thurlow	Moriah Lodge No. 15
Frederick A. Ham	Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140	Charles A. West	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89
Warren W. Harple	Corinthian Lodge No. 63	Dudley R. Wheeler	Coastal Lodge No. 57
Ralph E. Holmstrom	Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14	Jerry E. White	St. Luke's Lodge No. 48

For Danielson Staff of Masonicare Home Health, Generosity is an Annual Tradiation

Every year as the holidays approach, the staff of the Danielson branch of Masonicare Home Health & Hospice goes over and above. Aware that some of their home health clients are very much in need, the staff creates Thanksgiving gift baskets for them. The tradition is now in its 18th year. As this Thanksgiving approaches, a total of 14 holiday baskets are being assembled complete with Stop & Shop gift cards donated by employees, along with food and other monetary gifts they've collected. Led by supervisor Terry Wilson RN, their giving spirit doesn't stop there. As soon as

Thanksgiving is over, they put together Christmas stockings for all their behavioral health clients. "The stockings will contain personal hygiene products and handmade gifts," Terry notes, adding "I feel honored to work with such amazing people." Other branches of Masonicare Home Health also pitch in and, as described by Regional Supervisor Helena Vieira, "Danielson's cup overflows with compassion, generosity and love for the patients they proudly serve."



(from left to right) Debbie Hutchinson LPN, Karen Wilson LPN and Brenda Johnson LPN with some of the items that will fill Thanksgiving baskets for their clients in need.



Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*SM



Happy Holidays

by Richard F. Denno

From the Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program - HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

This season, we will be

giving our loved ones many gifts. These will be greatly appreciated. How about giving the 'gift of life' by becoming an organ/tissue donor? This is the gift that

keeps on giving for years. This is the gift that lets the recipient experience those family and personal moments; ones that otherwise will be lost.

That's it - short & sweet.

To learn more and register as a donor, go to www.donatelifenewengland.org.

Again, HAPPY HOLIDAYS to you and yours.



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Annual Silent Auction At Masonicare Health Center Feature Beautiful, One-Of-A-Kind Christmas Trees

Trees on Display from November 28 to December 19

The Twenty-Eighth Annual Festival of Trees will begin on November 30 at Masonicare Health Center, 22 Masonic Avenue in Wallingford. The very popular event features a silent auction of 60 unique, beautifully decorated tabletop trees.

The lighted trees are designed and trimmed by teams of Masonicare employees, volunteers, and residents of Masonicare. The

trees will be on continuous display in the lobby of Masonicare Health Center until Monday, December 19. Everyone is welcome to visit the Center any day between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. to view the trees and place a bid. Bids will be closed at 2:30 p.m. on December 19, when the highest bidders will be announced and winners can claim their holiday tree. Winners will be notified if

they can't be present on that date. All proceeds from the auction will be used to support a host of activities for the residents of Masonicare Health Center.

As always, this year's Festival of Trees features a wide range of unique and imaginative decorations and a variety of themes that will appeal to every taste and delight adults and children of all ages. One of the trees

may be just what you're looking for to complete your holiday decorating or the perfect gift for that very special person. Be sure to stop by and place your bid!

For additional information, contact the Volunteer Services Office, Masonicare Health Center, at 203-679-6253 or the Masonicare HelpLine at 888-679-9997.

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Masonic Traditions Continued from page 4

whose title was "undersmith". After the work was done, and the lodge dismantled, it was off to find more work.

"Every apprentice, when he had served his time and is to be declared *free*, shall promise to the craft by his troth and honour, in lieu of oath, and on pain of losing the craft of a mason, that he will disclose or say to no man the greeting or the [hand-grip] of a mason, except to one whom he would rightly say it; and also, that he will put nothing thereof into writing." ~Janner

The Wander-Fellow and The Three Knocks

As a 'wander-fellow', or *Geselle*, looking for work was nothing less than travelling from town to town until he came upon masons at work. But without his own tools, how would he prove himself without taking a day's pay to ruin a stone? By the "pass-word" and the "sign". In allowing you the reader to find even more similarities, here is how our wandering

mason made himself known:

The travelling mason, upon finding a lodge, knocks three times with his stick/staff on the door, enters bare-headed, and asks "Do masons work here?", and steps outside.

As soon as he has gone out, all the masons that are at work put on their jackets, roll up their aprons, cover their heads with their hats, and retreat to the room beside or over the lodge.

Then one from inside comes to the door, chisel in hand, and bids our 'wander-fellow' welcome.

Our stranger, upon seeing his greeter, grasps his hand and whispers the following greeting in his ear:

Stranger: "God greet the honourable mason."

Mason: "God thank the honourable mason."

Stranger: "The honorable master [his previous master] of [such and such place], his warden, and the pious and honourable masons, send you hearty God-greetings to

you and your honour."

Mason: "Thanks to the honourable master [so and so], to his warden and to his pious and honourable masons; and welcome in God's name, honourable mason."

When they have recognized each other as true masons by hand-grip, greeting and welcome, then the stranger is brought into the room of assembly, where the other brethren (not "brotheren") have meanwhile taken their places in order.

After the wander-fellow has performed his greeting, he says to the master, "Honourable master! I beg thee heartily for God's sake to give me honourable employment."

If the master can give him work, he answers, "With God's help, thou shalt have it."

Otherwise, he excuses himself by pleading impossibility.

How were Taverns involved in Masonry?

The traveling mason would apply to every lodge setup and working in a town. The first he asked at

would recommend another master's lodge, and the greeting above was adjusted accordingly. If no work could be found at any lodge in the town, the travelling craftsman received a night's lodging, supper and breakfast, in the house of the master whose turn it was to receive, and at his departure next morning a small sum of money sufficient to carry him to the next town.

Later on, the masters arranged with some tavern-keeper to afford the necessary board at their expense. This tavern was then the house of call of a particular trade, where the journeyman could at once obtain information if work were procurable, and where the masters could leave notice if they required any extra assistance.

The landlord and his wife were styled father and mother, their children and domestics, male and female, brothers and sisters. Later on still, when the journeymen established their own fraternities, these houses became their places of meeting, and someone, either a journeyman or master, was deputed to call there every day at noon in order to welcome, and

Continued on page 30

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From the desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

I am pleased to congratulate Bro. Robert F. Polito on his election as Chair of Masonicare's Board of Trustees. In addition to being an active Board member, Bro. Bob has been a committed volunteer for many of The Masonic Charity Foundation's fundraisers. He succeeds Bro. Howard W. Orr, who chaired the Board for more than 13 years. Many thanks to Bro. Howard for his years of service.

Joining Bro. Bob as officers will be Bro. William R. Deickler (Vice-Chair); Janet S. Berry (Secretary) and Bro. Geoffrey L. Ice (Treasurer.) They succeed Bro. Francis X. Conlon, Bro. J. Arthur Carbonaro and Bro. Robert A. Simon (Treasurer).

Masonicare is fortunate to be a member of LeadingAge, a national association representing nearly 6,500 non-profit organizations devoted to seniors. Katie Sloan is their CEO. She recently visited Connecticut and spoke to the members of the Connecticut Chapter about her priorities. Katie's inspiring words spoke volumes and are completely relevant to our work at Masonicare each and every day:

Mission - to be the trusted

voice for aging in America

Vision - an America freed from ageism

Core Values - courage, community, catalyst and stewardship

Masonicare is adapting to the ever-changing industry and we will continue doing so to better serve those we are entrusted to serve.

We are now in the midst of the busy holiday season. While it is a time of celebration and joy, it is also a time when families are together and have the opportunity to make sure their aging loved ones are as well and safe as they can be. Watch for signs of physical neglect or cognitive changes. Other warning signs that attention is needed include mail or bills in disarray, dents in the car, spoiled food or lack of food in the refrigerator, and social isolation. If you have concerns, call the Masonicare HelpLine for free, confidential help. The toll-free number is 888-679-9997.

As I mentioned at the Semi-Annual



Communication in October, we expected to open our new community in Mystic in November. That became a reality - I'm happy to report - on Tuesday, November 29 when we indeed welcomed our first move-ins. The Mystic staff will be very busy with additional move-ins through the end of the year, as well as working with new and prospective depositors.

In closing, to all Connecticut Masons and especially those who are Veterans, thank you and best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Jon-Paul Venoit

PDDA Brunch



The Past District Deputies Association held its first brunch on Nov 5, to show its appreciation to the District Deputies for their service to the Grand Lodge. This will be an annual event replacing the usual dinner held in previous years. This was a trial of something new, and the officers of the Association hopes this will catch on, and that more DD's will participate. The Association is working to come up with some new and exciting events. Thanks to Jean Maheu for taking pictures. Happy Holidays to all.

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Of Natural Law And The Old Charges of 1722

by John A. Amarillos,
Membership Chairman,
Lafayette Consistory

Once again we are close to the end of another calendar year and the short days culminating in the maximum darkness of the Winter Solstice are upon us. A wonderful time of year for us to be introspective and to recount this past year's activities, our successes, and failures, and to account for how we may have incrementally improved ourselves in Masonry. Before each of us can effect change from within, we must be able to recognize issues affecting us from without, and furthermore to adopt and adhere to a code of conduct or body of law.

As Freemasons, the Old Charges of 1722 obliged us to obey the "natural law." This term "natural law" encompasses the Decalogue of Moses, but is far wider in its scope than what the orthodox ecclesiastical establishment would limit it to. According

to Henry Grove's *System of Moral Philosophy*, The Law of Nature, the Lex Naturae, is "The will of God, relating to human actions, grounded on the moral differences of things, and because discoverable by natural light, obligatory upon all mankind."

This is the Law to which the Old Charges refer to and which they declare to be the law of Freemasonry. It is wisdom exemplified for there is no law less universal, which could have been promulgated for the government of a global institution such as Freemasonry, whose primary characteristic is Universality.

Think about it - can the precepts of the Nazarene be imposed on a Jew? Could the Sanctions of the Koran be willfully applied to a Christian? A Moslem would surely reject the laws of Moses; would a disciple of Zoroaster accept anything but the teachings of the Zend Avesta?

Thus the universal law of nature as set forth in the Old Charges, and which are coined therein as the

"Moral Law" represents, according to *Webb's Monitor of Freemasonry*, "a perfect collection of all those moral doctrines and precepts which have a foundation in the nature and reason of things, and is therefore the only law suited in every respect to be adopted as the Masonic code."

Brothers, the entire function of Freemasonry, as a speculative science, is intended to be the investigation of Divine Truths. Everything else related to Freemasonry is subsidiary to this objective.

I believe Mackey, in his *Manual of the Lodge* puts it forth as clearly as possible: "The Mason is, from the time of his initiation as an Entered Apprentice, to the time at which he receives the full fruition of Masonic light, an investigator - a laborer in the quarry and the temple - whose reward is to be truth (wisdom), and all the ceremonies and traditions of the Order tend to this ultimate design. In Speculative Freemasonry there is an advancement from a lower to a higher state - from darkness (Ignorance) to light (wisdom) - from death to

life - from error to truth (from mortality to Immortality). The Mason living and working in the world as his lodge must seek to raise himself out of it (symbolized by the raising of Hiram from the Grave) to that eminence which surmounts it, where alone he can find divine truths."

During this normally bleak time of the year, I hope every brother will seriously consider the wonderful opportunities for spiritual wealth and attainment that can derive from such investigations.

For those of you seeking further light, the Scottish Rite offers 29 degrees which serve to underpin and illustrate the Six Scottish Rite Core Values of Reverence for God, Integrity, Justice, Toleration, Devotion to Country, and Service.

And, 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.



Contact the Consistory office if you desire to arrange for seating and meals for any of these degree events.

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Sharkis Named Active Emeritus

On Sept 17, at the Connecticut Council of Deliberation session, Ill. Bruce T. Work, 33°, Deputy for Connecticut, announced that the name of Ill. David Louis Sharkis, 33° had been placed in nomination to receive the title of Active Emeritus of the Supreme Council, AASR, NMJ. The nomination was accepted by unanimous ballot of the Active Members present. Ill. Kevin J. Hecht, 33° escorted Ill. David L. Sharkis, 33° to the East, to receive his collar and jewel. Ill. Brother Work, presented the collar and jewel. Ill. Brother Sharkis was deeply moved and grateful.



Ill. Brother Sharkis and Ill. Brother Bruce Work

Masonicare Staffer Honored



Grace Martha Giannini is the Memory Resource Coordinator for Pond Ridge, the assisted living community within Masonicare at Ashlar Village. At the LeadingAge Connecticut annual meeting on October 18, she was presented with the association's Chairperson's Award for her work launching the Quinnipiac University "Students in Residence" program you read about in last month's issue. With Grace is LeadingAge Chairperson Bill Fiocchetta, CEO of Mercy Community Health in West Hartford.

James R. Spencer Receives Medal Of Honor



Ill. Brother James R. Spencer is presented the Medal of Honor by SGM McNaughton while Deputy for CT Bruce Work looks on.

On Sept 17, at the Connecticut Council of Deliberation session, Ill. Brother , John Wm. McNaughton, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander, AASR, N.M.J, addressed the room during the banquet, giving warm heartfelt remarks, and sharing information on the Medal of Honor. He explained how the Medal of Honor may be conferred by the Supreme

Council or by the Sovereign Grand Commander upon any person, whether or not a member of our jurisdiction or a member of any Body of the Rite, in recognition of distinguished service to Freemasonry, country, or humanity. He then presented this prestigious award to Ill. James R. Spencer, Jr., M.S.A., 33°, who was deeply moved and grateful.

Connecticut Masons Visit Mother Kilwinning



(l-r): Marshall Robinson, Right Worshipful Master Charles E. Hughes, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Kilwinning, Brother Tom Wood, and Brother Alan Carlson of Anchor Lodge.

by Marshall Robinson

All summer long, John Spencer, Alan Carlson, and I, planned a trip to Scotland. Our departure date was September 11 or 9-11. My daughter's reaction was "Dad, aren't you afraid to travel on 9-11?" The answer was obvious.

As the trip got closer, John was having some medical problems and couldn't make the trip. It was a shame, because he was the "sparkplug" behind the trip, and also because the tickets were non-refundable.

On September 11, Alan and I set off for Scotland on Icelandair, which, in itself, was a pleasure. We landed in Glasgow and drove down to Ayrshire, the home of Robert Burns. We stayed in a nice small hotel in Kilwinning and, on Tuesday, September 13, we visited Lodge

Mother Kilwinning, number zero.

Mother Kilwinning is the Mother Lodge of Scotland and the oldest in the world. It was granted its

first charter in 1677. All lodges in Scotland have a number except the Mother Lodge. The Worshipful Master, Brother Charles E. Hughes jokingly referred to it as Mother Kilwinning Lodge number nothing.

That evening there were 81 brothers in attendance from 13 different lodges and three foreign grand jurisdictions (Sweden, New Zealand, and the United States). Mother Kilwinning meets twice a month and does degree work at every meeting.

As we traveled throughout Scotland visiting lodges, we learned that our Grand Secretary had notified the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland that we were coming to visit. That may not sound like much, but each lodge, anticipating our visit, scheduled a degree. So each lodge went out of their way to treat us like visiting

Continued on next page



Kilwinning *Continued from previous page*

dignitaries.

Since Mother Kilwinning does a degree at every meeting they didn't need to plan anything special. Mother Kilwinning Lodge considers themselves as a working lodge and the officers and all brothers wear plain white aprons, simply embroidered with "MK 0." I was honored to be received with the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Brother Tom Wood. Imagine this country boy from Connecticut being received in the oldest Masonic Lodge in the world. It is one of the highlights of my Masonic journey.

Alan and I did a lot of driving while touring Scotland. We drove to Perth where we visited The Lodge of St. Andrew at Perth, again to be received. Then up to Aberdeen, which has the largest seaport in the U.K.

After Aberdeen we drove north to a little town on the Moray Firth named Buckie, a typical northern seaside town. Hidden on a sidestreet in Buckie is Lodge Craigenroan which we visited on Saturday, September 17. They portrayed an Entered Apprentice degree for us.

On Sunday, September 18, we began our journey south toward Glasgow. We passed through the battlefield of Culloden where the "45" was fought in 1745. That was the battle where Bonnie Prince Charlie fought the British for the crown of Scotland, and lost. He fled to the Isle of Skye and later France where he died in old age. The battle of Culloden is perhaps the most famous battle fought in



Exterior of the lodge. Note the words "Mother Lodge" in the brickwork above the second floor

Scottish history and well worth a goose bump or two while touring it.

We drove through Inverness and to the Dark Isle where we stayed in the town of Fortrose. We had some extra time so we visited the Glenmorangie Distillery, among other points of interest.

Interestingly, the bed and breakfast we stayed in in Fortrose was owned by Brother Morris Downie, past Provincial Grand Master of Ross and Cromartie. On Monday September 19, Brother Alan, Brother Downie, and I, walked to Lodge Seaforth No. 854 in Fortrose and enjoyed a Master Mason Degree. The secretary of Lodge Seaforth is Brother Ramsay McGhee, the Deputy Grand Master of Scotland. Ramsay is a great

Mason and a true gentleman.

The following day, Alan and I set out for points south. We stayed in historic Fort William before heading to Glasgow and our return trip.

The focus of this trip was visiting masonic lodges with the highlight being visiting Mother Kilwinning Lodge. I have said it many times in lodges that one of the great privileges we have, as masons, is visiting lodges other than our own. I have visited lodges in several countries other than the United States and can tell you that where ever you visit, you will be received and accommodated the same as if you were in your mother lodge.

I cannot overemphasize that Freemasonry knows no bounds in this respect.

Shriners Hospitals for Children – Springfield Receives “2016 Employer of Choice” Award



Meredith Wise, President of EANE and Lee Kirk, Hospital Administrator

Springfield recently received an Employer of Choice Award from the Employers Association of the NorthEast (EANE). The award was presented to a team of hospital employees at EANE’s Employment Law and HR Practices Conference luncheon at the Springfield Marriott on November 3, 2016

“To receive this award confirms what our staff already knows that Shriners Hospitals for Children – Springfield is a great place to work. Our staff is so honored for the hospital to be the

recipient of this award and proud of the role they play each day in transforming the lives of children. The hospital has created a “family-centered” culture where clinical outcomes are outstanding and children are cared for in the safest environment possible. Our metrics speak for themselves including data-driven scores of a highly dedicated and engaged workforce, which is demonstrated both by the exceptional care given each day and their respect for one another,” stated, Lee Kirk, Hospital Administrator.

‘Tis the Season to be Caring for Children at the Shriner Hospital

by Donald M. Casey

Members of the Pyramid Shrine Temple Clown Unit were invited to participate at the Trinity-St. Michael Episcopal Church Christmas Fair, in Fairfield, Connecticut. The clowns made balloon twisting crafts for patrons at the fair.

The youth choir, along with Santa Claus, clowns, and visitors, all sang Christmas Carols.

In addition, the clowns collected monetary donations and toys were donated by the Trinity-St Michael church staff, to assist needy children at the Shriner Hospital.



Sphinx Shriners: Calendar of Events

December 2016

Fall Ceremonial at Pyramid Shrine Center, Stratford: Saturday, December 3, 2016

Illustrious Sir David J. Herbert and the 2016 Divan cordially invite all Nobles and their Ladies to join them in inducting new Sphinx Shriners. The Ceremonial will be held at Pyramid Shrine Center, Stratford. Call the Recorder's Office 860-666-5449 to make your reservations for you and your lady. Dress Code: Gray jackets and 120th Anniversary ties (not tuxedo) for Divan members and jacket and tie or business suit for the Nobility.

Sphinx Hot Lunch: Friday, December 9, 2016

Come and enjoy some good food and warm fellowship with your lady or a friend! December's hot lunch buffet will be served starting at 11:30 a.m. Menu to be announced. \$10 per person. Make reservations by 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 10 through the Shrine office at 860-666-5449 or through John Taylor (860-966-3441 or

jodamailbox-shriners@yahoo.com).

Children's Christmas Party: Saturday, December 10, 2016

All Nobles, their families, and friends are cordially invited to join in the holiday festivities at the Children's Christmas Party from 2-4 p.m. at Sphinx Shrine Center. There will be photo opportunities with Santa and Sphinx Funsters. Children under 12 will receive a present from Santa. Cost is \$5 per child. Reservations through the Recorder's Office 860-666-5449. Dress Code: Divan Shirts/Shrine Casual.

Kaabans Club's Ladye K Christmas Party: Sunday, December 11, 2016

"The Best Little Shrine Club in North America" invites all Nobles and their Ladies to its Ladye K Christmas Party. Festivities begin at 5 p.m. with Gourmet Hors-d'oeuvres, followed by Christmas Dinner. Maybe Santa will visit if you were good this year! You will always find a warm welcome and enjoy great hospitality

at Kaabans Shrine Club, 115 Wilton Road in Plymouth. Call Walter Sherman at 203-437-0860 for Christmas party details.

Stated Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, December 21, 2016

6 p.m. – Social Gathering [cash bar]. 6:30 p.m. – Dinner served. Menu to be announced. Call the Recorder's Office 860-666-5449 by December 16 for dinner reservation. 7:30 p.m. – Business Meeting: Election of Officers to serve for 2017. Approval of the Budget for 2017. Light refreshments served at the conclusion of the meeting. Dress Code: Divan Suit/Business Attire.

January 2017

Installation of Officers: Saturday, January 7, 2017

3 p.m. – Photographs: Individual and Group. 5 p.m. – Installation Ceremonial for Sphinx Officers and Units and Clubs Officers, Scottish Rite Cathedral. 6:30 p.m. – Reception and Dinner Dance. Please make your reservations

by 10 a.m., Tuesday, January 3, 2017, through the Shrine office at 860-666-5449.

Sphinx Hot Lunch: Friday, January 13, 2017

Come and enjoy some good food and warm fellowship with your lady or a friend! January's hot lunch buffet will be served starting at 11:30 a.m. Menu to be announced. \$10 per person. Please make your reservations by 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2017, through the Shrine office at 860-666-5449.

Stated Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, January 18, 2017

6 p.m. – Social Gathering [cash bar]. 6:30 p.m. – Dinner served. Menu to be announced. Call the Recorder's Office 860-666-5449 by 10:00 a.m. on January 17, 2016 to make your dinner reservation. 7:30 p.m. – Business Meeting. Light refreshments served at the conclusion of the meeting. Dress Code: Divan Suit/Business Attire.

*Wishing a
Happy
Birthday*

To our December Birthday Brothers

Evan Apanovitch	William Arquett
Kenneth Block	Leon Finke, Sr
Bruce Frost	Allen Goldman
Raymond Gordineer	Louis Guariglia
Ryan Heller	John Lawlor Jr.
John Lawlor Sr.	Ernest Malafronte Jr.
Andrew Neblett	Robert Raad
Ramon Rios	James Savickas
Leroy Shellhardt	Walter Sherman

Harmony Lodge No. 42

531 Highland Ave, Waterbury Ct.
Zindah Grotto Christmas Party
Tuesday December 13th – 6:00 PM

Open to all members and guests of the Valley of Waterbury A.A.S.R., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Liberty-Continental No. 76, Zindah Grotto and the Children's Dyslexia Center.

RSVP to Russ Griswold 203-755-9179 or Dennis Cyr – 203-982-9261

Please bring a non-perishable food item, or a gently-used clothing item to be given to our local food banks and shelters



Recent Events

Brother Kenneth E. Block receives his 50 year membership citation from R.W. Marshall K. Robinson during Harmony Lodge's Awards and Necrology night.





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.**

DECEMBER 2016

02	ME		F	Columbia 31 RA, Collinsville.
04	ME	MP	U	St Johns 11 KT & Palestine 06 KT, Christmas Observance, North Windham, 2 p
06	ME			Franklin 02 RA, Holiday Dinner, North Haven Masonic Hall. 6:30 pm
06		MP	RE	U Washington 01 KT, East Hartford. Inspection, Order of the Temple
06				Keystone 27 RA, Meriden. Table Chapter, 6:15 pm
07	ME		F	Halleck 44 RA, Madison. 8 p
08	ME		F	Grand Chapter RA of PA. (Tentative)
09		MP	U	Palestine 06 KT, Preston. Dinner 6:30 pm
09			U	New Haven 02 KT, New Haven. Christmas at Masonicare HC 6:30 pm
11			U	St Elmo 09 KT & Cyrene 08 KT, Christmas Observance, Merriden. 4:30 pm, Din after:
12	ME	MP	F	Union 07 RA & Cushing 04 SM, Preston. Mark Master deg, Din 6:30 pm
13	ME		F	Harmony 08 SM, New Haven. Royal Master deg
14	ME		F	Pythagoras 17 RA, East Hartford. RAM deg
14			F	Pulaski 26 RA, Branford. Past Master deg
16	ME		U	New Haven 02 KT, New Haven. Christmas Observance, 8 pm
18		MP	U	Hamilton 05 KT, Stratford. Christmas Observance
19	ME	MP		Milford 49 RA, Milford. Carol Sing. Dinner 6:30 pm
20	ME	MP	U	Washington 01 KT, East Hartford. Christmas Observance, 8 pm. Refreshments after.
25	ME	MP	RE	MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL !!!
31				New Year's Eve

NOTE >> >> >> **When there is a dinner, reservations are usually req'd.**
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

01-01 **HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!**

01-03 ME @ Franklin 02 RA, New Haven

01-09 Union 07 RAM / Cushing 04 SM, Preston. RM Degree (Inspection), Dinner 6:30pm

01-10 ME @ Harmony 08 SM, New Haven

01-11 ME @ Hiram 01 RA, Sandy Hook

01-12 ME @ Rittenhouse 11 RA, East Norwalk

01-13 MP @ 13 Hamilton 22 SM, Meriden

01-21 ME @ York Rite College, East Norwalk, 9 am

01-25 ME @ Pulaski 26 RA, Branford

01-26 MP @ Palestine 06 KT, Preston. Dinner 6:30 pm

01-28 Tri-State SM Festival (NY/MA/CT). CT to perform SEM, Poughkeepsie, NY 8:30am

DARIEN YORK RITE BODIES NOW IN NORWALK

Starting last September, the York Rite Bodies which were meeting in Darien have relocated to the apartments of Old Well-St. John's Lodge No. 6 at 5 Gregory Boulevard in Norwalk. This includes Rittenhouse Chapter No. 11, Washington Council No. 6 and Trinity Commandery No. 3.

NEW GRAND COUNCIL RITUALS AVAILABLE

After being out of print for a while, the Second Printing of the Ritual

for the Grand Council is now available from Grand Recorder Fowler. A few minor errors were corrected in this printing, but all previous editions may still be used. Cost for the new books is \$6 and must be ordered through your own Council Recorder.

FROM MEGHP MARTIN EDE

Greetings Companions,

After our rather contentious election season, I wish all my companions and brothers the best for the upcoming holidays and remind us all that our Chapters are and should be a place of friendship and contemplation. Our forebears gave us the guidance that our meetings should be free from all political and sectarian discussion and strife. We should rededicate ourselves to greeting all our Companions as brothers this season regardless of personal beliefs and welcome all back to Chapter.

It is one of the great pillars of Freemasonry that we accept all worthy brothers of all different faiths and political persuasions, and we are always stronger together with our differences. As we head towards the New Year, we should dedicate ourselves anew to Capitular Masonry, and endeavor to continually increase our knowledge and understanding of the Royal Arch. In the coming months, I hope to have more information on an upcoming educational program in the spring with the PGHP of NY, Piers Vaughan. I urge all Companions to attend if they are able.

FROM MPGM J. ANDREW BIRDSALL

Companions,

'tis the season of giving, please consider donating to the Cryptic Masons

Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF); this is the official charity of the Grand Council - this fund helps to provide grants in the field of Vascular Biology which helps to effect a wide range of medical issues, such as heart disease, diabetes, COPD, erectile dysfunction, and more. CMMRF is a 501c(3) charity.

The Tri-State Festival will be on January 28, 2017 in Poughkeepsie, NY. A blanket dispensation is being issued for any Council wishing to take candidates to the festival, allowing them to receive their degrees as portrayed by our sister jurisdictions. CT has agreed to portray the SEM Degree; this is a spectacular show, one that shouldn't be missed.

A call for all Super Excellent Masters to attend the Tri-State Festival has been requested by TIM McCollum. The Council of Super Excellent Masters, will be holding a special meeting (during the Tri-State Festival, under dispensation, for the purpose of amending the by-laws to change the Annual Assembly. You are so called.

My lady Maryann and I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

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/gckt/ct

Common to all three YR bodies: www.yorkrite.com/ct

Scottish Rite Freemasons

5K Run/Walk News

This year's 5K Run/Walk results are in! It was another good year - great weather, plenty of volunteers, and the best group of runners yet! Thanks to the support of our Sponsors and of course our 5k Runners/Walkers, we raised just over \$10,000 for the Connecticut Children's Dyslexia Centers, Inc.

We had many Volunteers, the make-up of which was Masons, DeMolay, Spouses, and Friends. We had 89 Runners/Walkers (1 from FL and 1 from Germany) start and complete our 5K event. Timing & Results were provided by Platt Systems (plattsys.com).

Here are some of this year's Trophy

Winners. There are also many photos on the Valley of Hartford website: www.valleyofhartford.org:

TOP FEMALE FINISHER

Annmarie Tuxbury - 18:41

TOP MALE FINISHER

Troy Stegman - 18:10

FEMALE RESULTS: 13 and under

Katherine D-Aresta - 31:54

Anna McGoldrick - 35:10

FEMALE RESULTS: 14 to 19

Gabriella Tosone - 25:52

Katie Lindberg - 26:20

FEMALE RESULTS: 20 to 29

Christen Walsh - 30:26

Kristen Wartschow - 30:39

FEMALE RESULTS: 30 to 39

Destiny Vince - 26:29

Kim Nyquist - 27:18

FEMALE RESULTS: 40 to 49

Tracy Zagata - 24:45

Gina Kline - 30:10

FEMALE RESULTS: 50 to 59

Betsy Bielefield - 31:34

Laurie Adams - 35:08

FEMALE RESULTS: 60 to 69

Sandy Wade - 47:29

MALE RESULTS: 13 and under

Jack O'Brien - 37:49

MALE RESULTS: 14 to 19

Michael Vesci - 19:17

Stephen Buden - 22:36

MALE RESULTS: 20 to 29

Paul Conant - 28:39

Cameron Aiken - 35:55

MALE RESULTS: 30 to 39

Mario Vazquez - 18:20

Heath Leber - 23:47

MALE RESULTS: 40 to 49

Paul Baldini - 23:36

Henryk Gudelski - 24:09

MALE RESULTS: 50 to 59

Ken Clark - 20:59

Miguel Ramirez - 22:22

MALE RESULTS: 60 to 69

Thom Shea - 27:14

Robert Caplin - 27:34

MALE RESULTS: 70 to 79

Donald Smith - 25:06

Carl Fuller - 30:34

MALE RESULTS: 80 and over

Tom Butterfield - 31:27

Overall, this was and continues to be a great event, promoting good health, building local relationships, and creating smiles all around. It was an event to remember, as always, thanks to everyone involved!

WE NEED YOUR HELP! The Committee Chairman is asking for anyone who has Fundraising/Telemarketing experience to consider helping this event grow. Please contact Tony Angelica (203) 623-9576 for more information.

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:
valleyofnewhaven.org*



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

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

by David R. Blythe, Sr.,
33^o, Valley Secretary

It's hard to believe that we are now half way though our Scottish Rite year. Our Consistory Day reunion took place on Saturday, November 12, as all five Connecticut Valleys joined together to put on the 32nd degree for candidates from all Valleys. November wrapped up with Thanksgiving. It is hoped that everyone had a pleasant and safe holiday with family and friends

Now is time a brief time Valley officers and members to spend quality time with family and friends during the upcoming Holiday Season. The Valley will open the second half of the Scottish Rite year on a revised schedule as it appears in the current edition of the 2016-2017 Calendar of Events and Directory. The spring season starts on February 9 with the portrayal of the 4^o and the 14^o. The rest of the schedule will be forthcoming in January. The Spring Class is named in honor of Bro. John Boyce, known to his friends and brethren as Jack.

In an effort to make sure that Valley records are as up to date as possible, please advise the Valley of your telephone number and e-mail address. If you have changed your primary mailing address, preferred telephone contact number or your e-mail address recently, we also need that information. Please e-mail us at sect@snet.net or via US Mail at P.O. Box 310198, Newington, CT 06131-0198.

I like to leave with you a little message and a poem that I received from a good friend.

From Our House to Your House.....

Merry Christmas
Happy Hanukkah
Happy Kwanzaa

The older I get
The simpler my holiday preparations become

The closer I feel to old friends as I write my Christmas cards

The more I cherish the oldest ornaments

The more fondly I remember Christmas past

The longer I hold onto a holiday hug

The more I realize Christmas is a matter of the heart

The tighter my throat gets when I sing silent night

The more I enjoy giving than receiving

The more I try to see Christmas through the eyes of a child

The longer I sit at night in the glow of the Christmas tree

The more wondrously beautiful the Christmas story is

The deeper my awe of God's infinite love

The more I love Christmas with family and friends

Have a safe and Happy Holiday, and a prosperous New Year....

FROM THE OFFICERS OF THE VALLEY OF HARTFORD

If you know of a brother Mason who would like to become a 32^o Scottish Rite Mason please have him contact the Valley Office any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday morning between 9 a.m., and noon, at (860) 666-0712 or via e-mail at sect@snet.net for more information about joining. Informational DVD's are available



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



**Have a Safe
and
Happy Holiday,
and a Prosperous
New Year....**

**From the
OFFICERS OF
THE VALLEY OF
HARTFORD**

For more information about becoming a member of the
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite,
or to receive a Scottish Rite Informational DVD....
Contact David Blythe Sr., 33^o, Valley Secretary,
Valley of Hartford AASR
(860) 666-0712 Email: sect@snet.net
www.valleyofhartford.org

Fred, Not Jack, Frost Nipping At Our Memory, or Lack Thereof, This Year

by Francis G. Way

WB Fred Frost, AGM of Masonic District 7B, was one of the brothers to whom Santa was referring when he told me I would get a lump of coal if I didn't fix the situation we at *CT Freemasons* created over the past year and half.

It began, perhaps inauspiciously enough, when the paper ran photos of the 2014-2016 District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals. This is not a difficult task, just run some photos with names underneath. But for whatever reason, one name was wrong, and unfortunately, it was under Fred's picture. This provided fodder for good natured banter between Fred and Jean Maheu over the ensuing months.

More recently, *CT Freemasons* ran an article about brothers helping to roof a widow's house in Bristol. One of the "movers and shakers" in that effort,

according to several brothers, was WB Fred Frost. He helped organize the labor and direct work in an efficient manner. The article was prominently featured because of the involvement of the Grand Almoner's Fund. What was not prominently featured, or featured at all, was Fred Frost's name.

WB Fred, a brother of Warren Lodge No. 51, is described by RWB Richard Washburn, his DD, as an "awesome Mason, family oriented" and always willing to help, both Masons and non-Masons alike. RWB Washburn also signed Fred's petition for Masonry.

In putting together issues of *CT Freemasons* there are many opportunities for errors to creep in, and, no doubt, errors do get made. It is rare, however, that so many errors are made regarding one particular brother, especially one as devoted to the Craft as WB Fred Frost. In publishing this article, we hope we have put

paid to these omissions and made WB Fred smile for the holidays.



Fred Frost a true brother and the father of Jack Frost.

Masonicare recognized as a WE HONOR VETERANS partner.



Masonicare Home Health & Hospice and Masonicare Partners have achieved the highest level - Level 4 - in the WE HONOR VETS program. The program is a collaboration between the Veterans Administration and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. (L to R): Hospice Social Worker Dennis Farrar and Hospice Volunteer Coordinators Sue Laughlin and Wendy Worley attended the November 1 WE HONOR VETS annual ceremony celebrating this achievement.

Evening Star Lodge No. 101 Passes Three



On October 24, Evening Star Lodge No. 101 passed three brothers to the Fellowcraft Degree. With SD Michael Hunter presiding in the East, Brothers James Astarita, Brian Bergin, and Timothy McCarthy took their Fellowcraft obligations, after which the Middle Chamber Lecture was flawlessly delivered in long form by WB August Pfaff.

100 Gallons Of Tabs In The Hall



WM Chip Seagrave III and the brothers of Anchor Lodge 112 presented Past Potentate Jean Maheu with 100 gallon dums filled with can tabs for the Shriners Hospital For Children. The tabs are turned in for recycling by the hospital and used to their transportation services to get children in need to and from the hospital.



Sequin-Level Lodge #140 AF&AM

80 Walsh Ave., Newington, CT 06111



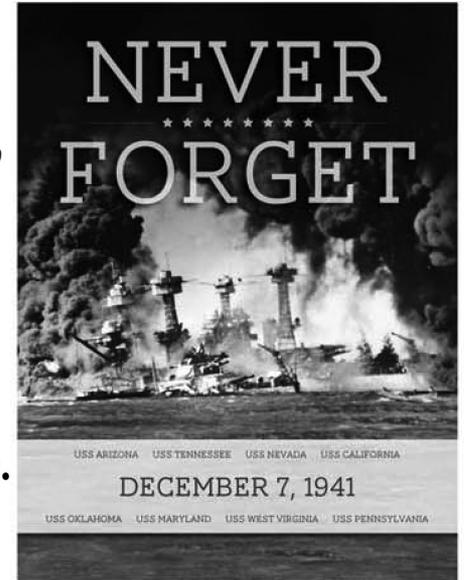
75th Commemoration of Attack on Pearl Harbor

All Brothers, Families, and Friends:

On Weds, Dec. 7, 2016, honor the 2,335 Military and 68 Civilians, who gave their lives for our Country, 75 yrs. ago.

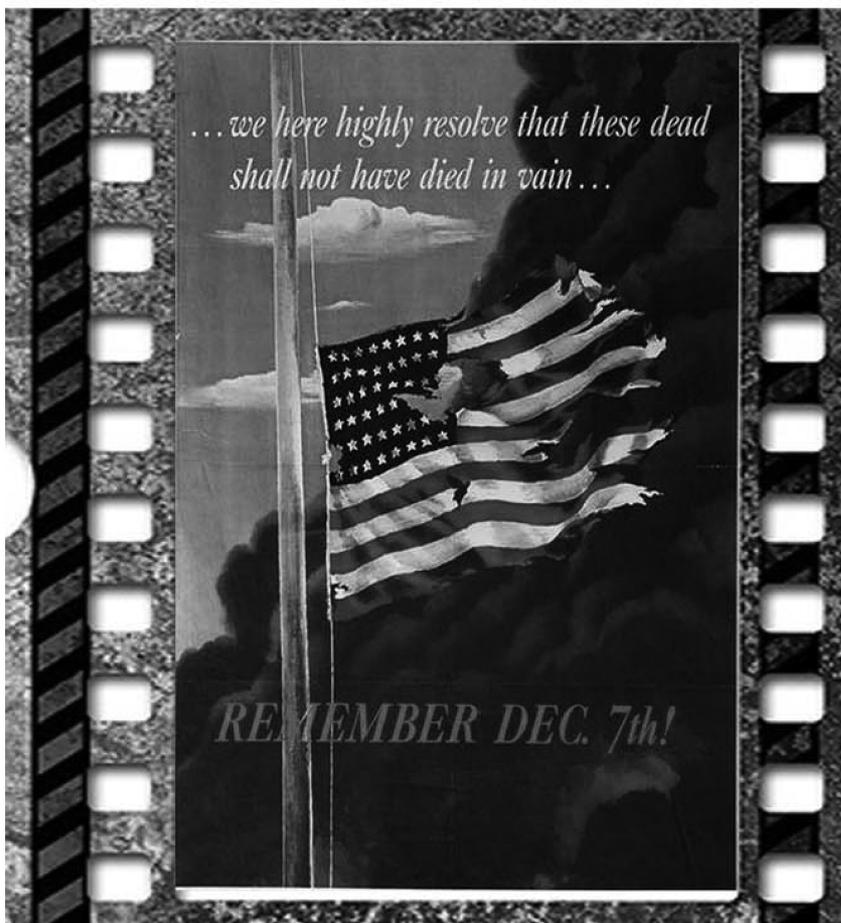
In their remembrance and in honoring the 1,143 that were also wounded, two videos will be presented at the Sequin-Level Lodge. Dress will be casual attire.

Desserts and Coffee will be served, commencing at 1845 hrs.



Please RSVP by
Friday, Dec. 2nd at
reservations@sequin-level140.org

for more information,
call Br. John Chan (860) 518-3553



These two Documentaries were edited from Home Movies, Broadcasts from Hawaii and Oklahoma TV Stations, Photos, Interviews with the Survivors, and Archival Films; and Remastered with Sound Tracks.

Showing Time: 1900 hrs

Pearl Harbor 66th Commemoration
Ceremony, Hawaii (2007)
Running Time: 59 mins

Dedication of USS Oklahoma
Memorial, Hawaii (2007)
Running Time: 1:28 hrs

Masonic Traditions *Continued from page 14*

provide for, new arrivals, of if such was not possible, to attend to their bodily comforts by partaking *with* them of a stoup of liquor. The supper and bed were furnished at the expense of the fraternity, to whose treasury, however, the masters also contributed.

The newcomer, unless work were found for him, usually received a small sum of money to carry him forward as mentioned earlier. This was called the *Geschenk*, meaning "the donation"; or "present". This was how masons travelled, and they did so without feeling guilty for abusing charity. (~Gould; paraphrased)

Taverns continued to be used as meeting places-especially for speculative masons, who feared reprisals of death from the Catholic church for heresy in discussing the Seven Sciences. We all know that later, in 1717, taverns played a key role in forming the first Grand Lodge of speculative masons.

How to enter a Lodge of Masons

I will also enjoy upon you the method of greeting and knowing heretics in the late 13th century as recounted by David of Augsburg, a great Franciscan mission-preacher from a confession of a heretic:

A: "Take him by the ear."

B: "Welcome! Will you speak, or shall I?"

A: "Speak; for it is my pleasure that you should speak."

B: "When we pray, we speak to God; when we meditate, God speaketh unto us."

A: "Now speaketh again, for this pleaseth me well."

B: "St. Paul saith, *Lie not*. St. James saith, *swear not*. St. Peter saith, *Render not evil for evil, but rather contrarywise*."

All guildsmen were sworn not to betray not only the secrets of their craft, but the structure of their organization. In a practical sense, knowing the inner workings of how labor was distributed during a significant project could jeopardize the earnings and profit

should the 'customer' become aware.

Did secrecy apply in other cases than the above? Knowing the nomadic nature of the mason's gild(s), you can now understand why Parliament, attempting to fix flat *maximum* rates of wages, found its toughest group to do so was the masons.

Why would the Catholic church not like the Masons?

Around 1380, Wyclif was very concerned by the 'self-seeking' of the masons, of which he wrote, "*men of the subtle craft(s), as freemasons and others*

[who would] conspire together to refuse statutory wages and insist upon a raise" (~Wyclif).

In 1424, Henry VI approved a statute to the effect that "*masons shall not confederate themselves in Chapters and Assemblies, since as a result the Statutes of Labourers be openly violated and broken*"; "*The holders of such chapters shall be judged as Felons*."

So here we find a reason for a loose, dispersed organization, as if the Tailor's Gild had "confederated" to enforce higher wages (strike?) than the Statute of Laboruors allowed, the local authorities

Continued on next page

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

Masonic Traditions *Continued from previous page*

could at once have clapped the offenders into prison and confiscated their gild funds.

But the masons were here, there, and everywhere; And only in the largest towns-if at all-had they a gild hall and sizeable funds. In this they had a tremendous advantage over the more common gilds. Unfortunately, this was also a liability, as they could not remain entirely invertebrate and yet follow along with the growing tendency of the day to form into larger and larger associations (to yield, ironically enough, more power in the setting of wages).

To this end, in 1424 the medieval masons were holding 'central assemblies', or 'chapters', designed partly to protect, partly to control, the otherwise scattered groups or individuals-just as the Miners' Federation dealt with its own members.

G.G. Coulton writes "It is significant that in Germany, which thenceforth becomes rich in masonic records, the first chapter for which we have documentary evidence is that of 1459, held in Regensburg, after preliminary meetings at Strassburg and Speyer. It was attended by nineteen masters and twenty-five journeymen, apparently the largest medieval numbers on record."

Others were held alternately at Speyer and Strassburg in 1464, 1466, 1467, 1468, and 1471. The whole empire was divided into four (4) provinces, grouped around the 'lodges' of Strassburg, Vienna, Berne, and Cologne. The statutes of 1459 were confirmed in 1563 at a great Strassburg chapter, by 72 masters and 30 journeymen.

Statues In Lodges

Now you remember how I stressed the word 'chapter' earlier. Reading the above, you see how the word *chapter* in the *gilds* is treated not unlike the *chapter* of a book. "It happens, and it is gone-on to the next". Some might confuse this term with a place that is stationary, like a 'lodge', or permanent grouping of masons, i.e. "New London Chapter",

but we've already seen that the original term 'lodge' was simply the workshop in existence next to a contracted building, existing only during its construction.

You might be interested to know that virtually no records of how stone was worked in a lodge at a site exist. There are two panels in one of the thirteenth century windows at Chartres Cathedral that show the masons' lodge (see accompanying photo). All the tools used until the 20th century's modernization are visible. But the positions of the two statues being hewn are not what you probably would have expected. Where you would have expected each statue to be positioned upright before the workers, they are lain flat (on their backs, so to speak) on what was called 'bankers' (a horizontal apparatus to support the stones at a good working height, and facilitate later movement; a table, if you will).

Why would a statue be worked on the horizontal instead of upright?"

To answer this question, you have to understand that the mason working the stone was keenly aware that the piece would be viewed from 100 feet or more *below* the statue, and not frontal at the same height. Were the statue upright, the carver could never gauge how it would actually appear one placed. The wise mason simply opened the door of his lodge and paced out the distance from which the stone would be observed once *in situ*. No matter how tall the final precipice, that distance could be accurately paced off.

So this word *chapter* is significant to us. The word 'chapter' is exclusively a *monastic* term (of, or pertaining to monasteries), like the word *parliarier* (the word used in German statues for the "Lodge-Master's Deputy", i.e. the warden). On this, G.G. Coulton (~Coulton) writes "Each separate lodge may well have had, for many generations past, its own particular chapters.

But it is difficult to escape from the conclusion that the General Chapter

system was in fact an innovation. For instance, in 1356, two generations before we have record of any General Chapter, the Mayor and Alderman of London were obliged to legislate for the masons of that great city, 'because that their trade has not been regulated in due manner, by the government and folks of their trade, in such form as the other trades are.'

"So a series of disputes which endangered the King's peace and the tranquility of the city came to pass" (~Riley). Out of these, our earliest ordinances of freemasonry, dating from the early 15th century, come to speak of the Chapter system, they claim a "hoary antiquity for it" (~Cooke).

According to one of these ordinances, the fourth chapter of Genesis shows masonry to have been the first art that was founded; for Jubal, Lamech's son, invented masonry, and is called in the Bible *Pater habitantium in tentoriis atque pastorum*. And he was Cain's master mason, and governor of all his works when he made the city of Enoch, that which was the first city that was ever made, so to speak.

The Curious Case of Crucifixion

In closing, I will relate to you the account events in and around 13th century in Spain. (*While enjoying this rarely discussed aspect of a major religious symbol, I ask the reader to remember that medieval Master Masons were robed. Freemasonry as practiced today forgoes this head-to-toe attire for a simple apron, or cover, about the loins.*)

There is a passage in the *De Altera Vita of Luke*, Bishop of Tuy in Spain, written between 1260 and 1280, when the artistic movement was still strong. The earliest Christian crucifixes had shown Christ clothed and fashioned to the cross by four nails, i.e. with feet apart.

Gradually, sculptors found it more

Continued on page 33

Masonic Service Association Names Simon LaPlace New Executive Secretary

The Masonic Service Association of North America has announced that Simon R. LaPlace has been selected as their new Executive Secretary.

Brother LaPlace is a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

He succeeds George O. Braatz, who is retiring after five years of service in the position. The selection of Brother LaPlace was made by the MSA Board of Commissioners at its Mid-Year Meeting in September.

The MSA, formed in 1919 and now headquartered in Burtonsville, MD, provides educational material, statistical reports, disaster relief, and administers a Hospital Visitation Program across North America.

Brother LaPlace, who is completing his term as a member of the Board of Directors of the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA, has been active for many years in Masonic

activities at local, state and national levels.

The Executive Commissioners of MSA began the search for a new Executive Secretary in the spring of 2016 after Brother Braatz announced his upcoming retirement.

After reviewing submitted resumes and utilizing an interview process, the Executive Commissioners selected Brother LaPlace. He began working at MSA on October 1.

Thomas H. Galyen, Chairman of the MSA Commissioners, said MSA is excited by the change in leadership and looks forward to the continuing service of MSA to all member jurisdictions and Masonry in general.

Brother Braatz, a Past Grand Master and Past Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, will conclude his service at MSA at the end of the year.



**CT
FREEMASONS**

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State _____ Zip _____

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\$60 listing for 11 issues

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\$25 Listing for 11 issues

Grand Booster
More Than \$25

Makes Checks Payable to: Grand Lodge Publications • P.O. Box 250 • Wallingford CT 06492

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.

For recurring events and breakfasts, they may not take place during the summer months - call to check.

Recurring Events

First Sunday of the Month, Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, 8 a.m., Masters Round Table & Field Day **Join our Master for breakfast and help clean up our home**

Every Sunday, St. Peter's Lodge No. 21, New Milford, 12 p.m., Build a Brother **Go over and ritual or questions you may have on masonry. Prospective candidates and new brothers welcome.**

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

First Wednesday of the Month, Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford, 7

p.m., Mason Night @ OAH, **Orange Ale House 517 Boston Post Rd Orange CT 06477**

Second and Fourth Wednesday of the Month, Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, 7 p.m., Fellowship Night at the Lodge. **Open to all brothers, friends. Refreshments and discussion. Please call to verify.**

Third Thursday of the Month, Day Spring Lodge No 30, Hamden, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Information Night **Open to all who may be interested in Masonry, with interesting presentations and discussion.**

Every Friday, St. Peter's Lodge No. 21, New Milford, 7 p.m. 3XB in the Chapel **Brothers, Beverages and BS every Friday night at 7p.m.**

Second Saturday of the Month, Day Spring Lodge No. 30, Hamden, 7 p.m., Movie Night **Films, Snacks and beverages will be provided.**

Recurring Breakfasts

First Sunday of the Month, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, 7 a.m., SBA Breakfast Fundraiser

Third Sunday of the Month, Washington Lodge No. 19, Monroe, 8 a.m., Country breakfast

First Thursday of the Month, 8th District

Lodges Niantic, 9 a.m., District Breakfast Groton Townhouse, Rt 12, Groton CT

Events

Saturday, Dec 3, Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor, 6 p.m., Past Master Appreciation Dinner

Saturday, Dec 3, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, 11 a.m., Ladies' Tea & Tour at Harriet Beecher Stowe House

Sunday, Dec 4, Coastal Lodge No. 57, Stonington, 2 p.m., Ladies at the Table Dinner

Sunday, Dec 4, Housatonic Lodge No. 61, North Canaan, 4 p.m., Joint Christmas Party **Held at Montgomery Lodge No. 13 in Lakeville**

Sunday, Dec 4, Jephtha Lodge No. 95, Clinton, 9 a.m., Open House Christmas in Clinton

Thursday, Dec 8, Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven, 7 p.m., Annual Whisky Tasting **Annual Whisky Tasting Silent Auction and Dinner at the Trinity Bar and Restaurant, 175 Orange St New Haven at 7pm. \$30 per person, open to the public.**

Saturday, Dec 10, Village Lodge No. 29, Collinsville, 5 p.m., Holiday Party with Santa!

Saturday, Dec 10, Day

Spring Lodge No. 30, Hamden, 1 p.m., Annual Children's Christmas Party

Saturday, Dec 10, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88, South Windsor, 2 p.m., Senior Holiday Dinner

Wednesday, Dec 14, Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, 7 p.m., Masonic Book Club

Wednesday, Dec 14, Temple Lodge No. 65, Westpor, 1 p.m., Blood Drive

Saturday, Dec 17, Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor, 8 a.m., Poinsettia Delivery

Friday, Dec 23, Corinthian Lodge No. 104, Fairfield, 7 p.m., Annual Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, Dec 25, FIRST DAY OF CHANUKAH

Tuesday, Dec 27, Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, 7:30 p.m., Stated Communication & Christmas Party **Santa may make an appearance!**

Sunday, Jan 1, NEW YEARS DAY

Saturday, Jan 14, Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor, 7 a.m., Blood Drive

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.

Actual Past Masters

Thursday, Dec 15, Friendship Lodge No. 33, Southington, 7:30 p.m. Hartford County Lodge of Actual Past Masters

Thursday, Dec 15, Ionic Lodge No. 110, North Windham, 7:30 p.m. 9th

District Actual Past Masters Windsor, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec 16, Jephtha Lodge No. 95, Clinton, 7:30 p.m., 7th District Past Masters

Entered Apprentice Degrees

Monday, Dec 5, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88, South Windsor, 6:30 p.m. Dinner

Monday, Dec 26, Washington Lodge No. 70,

Fellowcraft Degrees

Wednesday, Dec 7, Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34, Preston, 7:30 p.m.

Master Mason Degrees

Saturday, Dec 3, Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, 10 a.m., Lunch will be provided at 12 noon. The builders lodge will begin at 1 p.m.

Masonic Traditions

Continued from page 30

artistic, and perhaps more suitable for 'arousing devotion', to drape the loins only, and to bring the feet together with a single nail (~Male). This movement was evidently new in Spain at the time, and Luke writes in horror of the "heretics" who attempt to shake the Orthodox Faith by "painting of carving ill-shapen images of Saints; In order that by gazing on such images the devotion of simple Christian folk may be turned to loathing. In derision and scorn of Christ's Cross, they carve images of our Lord with one foot laid over another, so that both are pierced by a single nail, thus striving either to annul or to render doubtful men's faith in the Holy Cross and the traditions of the sainted Fathers, by superinducing these diversities and novelties." This 'version' of the crucifixion then spread

to England and Germany, and beyond, in the early 1300's. (~Bishop)

So much for the concept of the Trinity in the three nails-it was just the doing of artful masons! Looking at the result of a few strokes of hammer on chisel, it should serve as reminder to us that all momentous works start out as the humblest of deeds.

Referenced Authorities

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site), from p. 23.

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Janner, F. - Hildesheim/ New York, Georg Olms (1876) *Die Bauhiitten des Detttsche*

Male, E. - this evolution is described in detail in Emile Male's *L'art religieux du XII^e siecle en France*, Paris, 1922

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The Masonic Discussion

and Research Group - <http://tinyurl.com/MasonicResearch>, and associated free library.

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