

March 2017



# Connecticut FREEMASONS

Where Good  
Men Relate

Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM  
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# Hospitality Lodge No. 128 Five Years On, Celebrations and Lessons Learned

by Francis G. Way

On Wednesday, March 14, 2012, a warm almost spring evening, MWGM James T. McWain and his Grand Lodge officers arrived at the Solomon Welles House in Old Wethersfield, and in the course of their labors they opened Hospitality Lodge UD, chartered the Lodge and installed the officers of Hospitality Lodge No. 128. The officers of Hospitality then held their first Stated Communication. This month, Hospitality Lodge will celebrate its fifth anniversary.

The chartering of Hospitality Lodge filled a vacancy in Wethersfield that existed since Silas Deane Lodge No. 147, itself a consolidation of two lodges, the original Hospitality Lodge No. 128 and Stepney Lodge No. 133, moved out of Wethersfield in 2000. RWB Lawrence S. Elsner and WB Francis G. Way, both Wethersfield Masons, had often discussed bringing Masonry back to the town and regaining the presence that the original Hospitality Lodge once had. In 2011 they began laying the groundwork to charter a new lodge.

While there were many rumors swirling around regarding the new lodge, and how it would be run, the intent in forming the lodge was to bring Masonry back to Wethersfield, and to be a lodge that would do excellent ritual and provide good education to its brethren. These goals have largely been realized. Hospitality Lodge is a regular, and large, contributor to the Town of Wethersfield Food Bank, and is a regular presence at the town's big Fall fair, the Wethersfield Cornfest. Plans are on the table to expand this presence even more this year. The lodge's ritual is top notch, and every meeting features two educational opportunities: a discussion of a particular "Rule and Reg," chosen by a



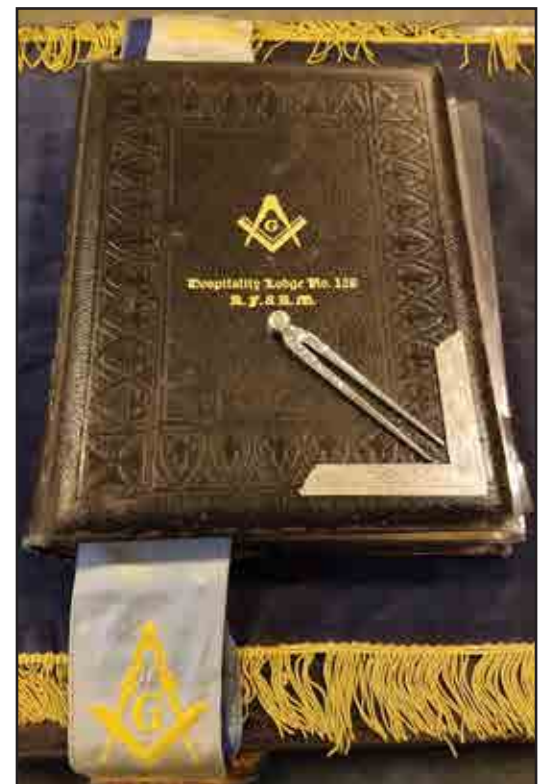
*The Solomon Welles House, home of Hospitality Lodge No. 128*

different brother at each meeting, and a discussion of some other educational topic of interest, again presented by a different brother each month. Both brothers are appointed by the Worshipful Master at the Stated Communication the month before to afford them time to prepare.

Now, five years on, the Lodge is solid and stable. The officer line is composed of senior officers who are Past Masters (and in some cases Past District Deputies) but the junior officers are progressing through the line the first time, learning how to be good officers. Experienced brethren mentor the junior officers and newly made Masons have mentors who stay with them beyond their Master Mason proficiency.

In looking back at these past five years, there are lessons learned in how to form a new lodge, and some might be quite surprising.

**Lesson 1, Choosing Charter Members:** One might think, as Brothers Elsner and



*The original Hospitality Lodge Bible is used at every Stated Communication.*

Continued on page 5



# Website? No! It's a Communications System

by Charles W. Yohe

A dramatic change to the Grand Lodge and associated Lodge websites took place effective February 1, thanks in no small way to the efforts of a small cadre of "Grand Geeks" (Steve Matthews, Doug Barry, Bob Furce, Eric Charette) led by Brothers Pat Trainor, and Stephen Petri. The new Connecticut Freemasons site is designed to be robust and to serve multiple needs.

This communications system is multi-layered and serves a number of purposes. First, it will function as a point of contact and information to the general public. Integrated into the new site is an improved electronic membership request (EMR 2.0) process, much of which is automated to reduce the amount of time and effort that was required in the past to properly process and track the individual requests. Additionally, the website serves as an important communication tool for Masons with special content that is accessible only by logging in to access the 'members only' resources. This improved and expanded capability is hosted on a platform with upgraded protection against ever increasing hacking and other forms of electronic attack. The conversion process was hampered due to a security breach and insertion of malware on a number of the old Lodge websites. Eventually, additional functionality will be added to improve and enhance Lodge secretary/Grand Lodge office interaction as well.

The makeup of this new communications system includes over 100 related websites - one for each Connecticut Lodge as well as websites for each Blue Lodge Council and

Grand Lodge Committee. Information such as that contained in individual Lodge calendars will automatically 'percolate' up to the Grand Lodge site. This will make it easier to populate the At Labor and At Refreshment sections in the CT Freemasons newspaper. Each website is being provided with a Google calendar as part of the Google or G Suite package.

Lodge administrators will now edit their respective Lodge websites using WordPress, which is easier and more intuitive than the old Joomla platform. In fact, it's so easy that even I found that I could edit my Lodge's website with little difficulty. But any website is only as good as the individuals that maintain it and keep it current. There is nothing more disconcerting than to go to a website and find items that are months or years out of date. So what can you do to help?

To date, 31 Lodges and 6 Blue Lodge Councils have not yet provided contact information for a Brother to serve as the Lodge web administrator for their sites. This is crucial, as each Lodge has control over its website and the only way information gets published and updated on your website is through the efforts of your individual Lodge web admin! Additionally, 38 Lodges have not provided contact information for their Electronic Membership Request (EMR) contact person. You can provide this information directly through the new helpdesk function (<https://ctfreemasons.on.spiceworks.com/portal>) or by providing the information to the Grand Lodge Director of Communication at

[grandmaster@ctfreemasons.net](mailto:grandmaster@ctfreemasons.net). Please include the Lodge Number, Brother's name, e-mail and telephone number. Lodges are encouraged to have a backup web admin as well. Once the information above has been provided, instructions will be sent to the Brother on how to proceed.

The good news is that this new communications system is under the complete ownership and control of the Grand Lodge. The bad news is that currently, only a handful of Brothers are involved in creating this new system. They really could use additional assistance from Masons who have an interest and a desire to help in completing the system. Those interested in providing a hand should identify that they want to help and submit their contact information via the helpdesk link provided above. Presently, the emphasis is on getting every individual site established. Priority is being given to establishing Lodge, Blue Lodge Council, and Committee web administrators, who will then be able to start populating content on their specific sites. The next step will be to establish access for senior Lodge officers, who hopefully will be able to assist their respective members. Finally, the Technology Committee hopes to enlist the Lodge secretaries to assist in gathering and providing the necessary information to establish an account and ability to access the new Grand Lodge communications system "Members Only" area for every Connecticut Mason. More information and updates will be provided as new and expanded features and capabilities become established.

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# Hospitality Lodge No.128... Continued from page 3



*After 4 years of searching, the original Hospitality Lodge officer aprons were found in 2016 and presented to the Lodge. RWB Larry Elsner, WB Larry Baker and WB Frank Way model the historic find.*

Way did, that inviting Past Masters and Past District Deputies as charter members would make forming a lodge smoother. While there is some advantage to having a large number of “brother-years” experience, there are hidden pitfalls, because often times there are as many opinions as there are purple aprons. Sifting through and discussing the different facets of a problem facing the lodge will form a crucible from which a solid decision can emerge, but it also takes time, and in the early days, there was not always a lot of time. Brethren from different lodges do things slightly differently, and until “the Hospitality way” emerged, communications and degree work could be interesting.

**Lesson 2, Choosing a Meeting Place:** Various places were considered. Church halls, town meeting rooms, commercial offices, and even the second floor of restaurant in a historic building in Old Wethersfield. Sadly, an informal reconnaissance showed the restaurant

area could not be adequately tiled, and any possible negotiation with the owner died before it ever began, and thus “meeting in a tavern” was out. Commercial spaces, while somewhat more viable, were very expensive, the cheapest costing \$18,000 per year in rent. Considering that the initial lodge treasury was the sum of 22 brothers contributing between \$50 and \$100 each, \$18,000 was out of the question.

Finally, the idea of renting meeting space on a monthly basis in one of the town’s historical buildings was considered. The Solomon Welles House, a town owned home constructed in 1800, served as the Warden’s home when the Wethersfield State Prison was still in existence. On the scenic Wethersfield Cove, next door to the Department of Motor Vehicles, the house was available for \$65 per meeting, for four hours. There was also the added benefit of holding Stated Communications in a colonial era house.

The drawback is that for any degree other than a single candidate EA, there is not enough room. So Hospitality Lodge will travel to other lodges in the area on nights they are not used, to portray a degree.

Hosting Blue Lodge Council can be a challenge, but the same creative approach as used in finding a meeting place can offer some excellent alternatives.

**Lesson 3, Making New Masons:** There were many opinions on how to make new Masons in Hospitality Lodge, ranging from requiring proficiency in open lodge to how best to mentor them. The first two Master Masons from the lodge, Brothers Alberto Dieguez and Douglas Maliszewski, performed their proficiency in open lodge. They also met regularly, on their own, and studied. Open lodge proficiency is a matter of choice and not a requirement, but a strong recommendation can be made for assigning a mentor to a new Mason who will stay with him beyond his MM Degree, and well into his early lodge life. This helps keep the new brother involved.

As the Hospitality brethren began to become a family, the ritual, decent to begin with, really improved and the lodge’s most recent EA degree was something special. While the ritual was excellent, the driving force for the evening was the care that the lodge took to see its newest brother was given a favorable impression of Freemasonry, and an unforgettable impression of his first Masonic experience.

**Lesson 4, Fellowship:** Lodge is so much more than degree work and making sure the bills get paid. Hospitality Lodge has taken ample opportunity to provide fellowship for the brethren. One of the first traditions born, in November 2012, was a Thanksgiving meal. The November Stated Communication featured a Thanksgiving meal, to which all the brothers contributed food, and shared while business was conducted. It was not

Continued on page 6

# TAPs and Affirmations *by Theodore J. Nelson*

**A**s I write on a snow-covered day in February, I realize that this will be my last entry to the *Connecticut Freemasons* as a Right Worshipful Brother. I have enjoyed being your Deputy Grand Master and I have learned much under the leadership of MWB Gail Smith. Not only has he taken me under his wing but he has allowed me to soar like an eagle and for that I will always be grateful. My installation will take place just a few short days after the April issue hits the US Mail and, more than likely, in that issue I will be addressing you from the Grand East.

In many ways, no one is more surprised than I to have reached this pinnacle in my Masonic career. From the start of my Masonic journey, I only sought to be a Worshipful Master. During that process I was introduced to the Scottish Rite and the Shriners, of which I am still an active member. Also during those years to the East I turned down many offers to serve in other leadership roles since my lodge needed me more than the district or jurisdiction.

Many times over the years I have stated that we only have TAP's to pay as wages. TAP's stands for "Titles, Awards & Pins." It still amazes me how many brothers will vie for "Titles, Awards & Pins" while rendering the least amount of service to our gentle craft. I'm not picking on anyone in particular, it just saddens me when any brother loses sight of why he got involved in the first place, since in most cases it was to serve our fellow man. I'm equally saddened when I see the ones around us who have worked the longest and sacrificed the most receive so little recognition for their efforts and yet they keep doing that which is right. That is a spirit, my brothers, that is to be admired.

The best leaders that I have sat under since my teenage years were first and foremost servants. They led by example. They never

started out as leaders. They worked at it, sometimes even avoided it, and in time developed into a leader that people admired. Many of my mentors over the years have impressed me with the gift to give. They were truly grateful for the opportunities that were afforded them in life. They remained grounded in their faith in God and humanity. And they kept on giving of their time, talent and treasure. They never said it would be easy and for many it was downright hard, but for them giving up wasn't an option.

Now here I stand, about to receive yet another title. Questions run through my head like, will I be worthy, will I live up to your expectations, will I be fair and just in all the decisions that I will have to make? Well that's when I'll remind myself of the foundation of affirmations that have guided me since I was 12 years old and that I continue to develop as I have aged.

My first affirmation is, "God is." The second is "God is Love." There are many others but the third one that keeps coming back to me and is just as powerful as the first two, is "Everything Always Works Out." As a history student, I have always marveled over leaders of our past who were stuck with what appeared to be insurmountable odds and yet they overcame the trials and tribulations of the task at hand.

So just remember, my brothers, that if you have yet to receive an award that you feel is due or a position that you are sure that you could manage and do a good job – Everything Always Works Out. We don't always know how and it might not work out the way we planned, but they always do work out.

God bless. See you in Lodge!



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## Hospitality Lodge No.128... Continued from page 6

a table lodge, but a Stated built around a meal. This tradition has continued every year since. A St. Patrick's Day dinner and summer picnic are also staples of the lodge calendar. New lodges can be consumed in the tasks of staying up and running, but taking time to share a meal is a much needed respite, and involving brothers' family is critical.

**Lesson 5, Don't Panic:** Five years on, Hospitality Lodge has fewer than 40 members. At one point, there was some worry about not bringing in members fast

enough to grow the roster. Thankfully, that has passed and a steadfast focus on the reasons the lodge formed in the first place fuels a steady progress and provides a satisfying experience for the brethren. The lesson is not to panic, and to keep moving forward. Brothers will come, and a family atmosphere will keep them coming.

**In Conclusion:** Lodges assume a personality, which has as much to do with where they are as who their brothers are. Situated by the Wethersfield Cove, a historic spot that was lifeblood of the

community in the 1630's, and meeting in a historic home, the lodge has definitely taken on a Wethersfield flare. Its involvement in the community is growing, and the future looks bright. The brethren are confident now when they say, "Hey Wethersfield....the Masons are back!"



# The Masonicare Experience

Inspiring stories from throughout the Masonicare continuum

## Ashlar Village Resident Pays It Forward Through Foundation Giving

by Adam Raider

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, the philanthropic affiliate of Masonicare, is fortunate to receive so much support from caring individuals, families and organizations from throughout the state and beyond. Some of the most generous and enthusiastic donors live just minutes from The Foundation's offices in Wallingford.

Foundation benefactor and Annual Appeal donor Anita Shaffer and her late husband, Lee, moved to Masonicare at Ashlar Village from Branford, Connecticut in 2006. Lee was dealing with a number of health issues and the Shaffers felt it was time to move to a place where they would have ready access to medical care without all the burdens of maintaining a house.

Lee's grandfather was a Mason, as was Anita's father ... but that wasn't the primary reason why they chose Ashlar Village over other retirement communities in the area.

"Both of us had grown up on farms in Pennsylvania," Anita recalls. "In fact, Lee was a farmer before he went to work in the steel industry. I knew he'd enjoy working in the big garden on campus. He also loved to refinish furniture, and the blueprints for the villa we were considering had a basement where he could continue his hobby. I knew that's what we needed, even before it had been built."

The year before the Shaffers moved to Ashlar Village was a difficult one for Lee, as he'd been hospitalized five times. But after



*"There are several worthwhile causes that I support, and The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut is certainly among them."*

they arrived, Lee's health improved and he continued to refinish furniture. Sometimes, he would work outside on the patio.

"It turned out to be a better situation for us than we'd had in Branford," Anita said. "We had a nice time here together and were both very pleased that we chose Masonicare."

As Lee's health declined, and his medical appointments became more frequent,

Anita came to rely more heavily on Masonicare Transportation.

"I have to praise the staff there because they were such a help to us," she said. "Now that I'm recovering from hip surgery, I still use Transportation quite a bit."

Lee passed away in 2011 while on hospice care at Masonicare Health Center. His stay there was brief, but Anita said her husband

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

Lloyd C. Anderson	Union Lodge No. 31	Wayne S. Hill	Temple Lodge No. 16
Crawford A. Ashmun	Corinthian Lodge No. 104	Joseph J. Howard	Estuary Lodge No. 43
Andrew A. Barnard	Columbia Lodge No. 25	William R. Leonard	Madison Lodge No. 87
George A. Beyer	Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4	William F. Limber	Coastal Lodge No. 57
Norman D. Boardman Jr	Granite Lodge No. 119	August T. Lindquist Jr	Unity Lodge No. 148
Raymond G. Booze	Corinthian Lodge No. 63	George H. Marks	Temple Lodge No. 65
Fred C. Boyd	Columbia Lodge No. 25	James M. Matthews	Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88
David O. Bredbury	St. Alban's Lodge No. 38	Carl E. B. Mitchell	Coastal Lodge No. 57
Daniel A. Carlson	Warren Lodge No. 51	Elton E. Mitchell	Wolcott Lodge No. 146
Walter Catlow	Corner Stone-Quinebaug Lodge No. 122	Seymore S. Newman	Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4
William K. Clark	Compass Lodge No. 9	Richard J. Oakley Jr	Seneca Lodge No. 55
Frank T. Cleland	Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4	Arthur A. Peterson	Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145
Gerald Cohen	Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125	Robert A. Peterson	Friendship Lodge No. 33
Alfred B. Cournoyer	Corner Stone-Quinebaug Lodge No. 122	Aubrey L. Pharmer Sr	Columbia Lodge No. 25
Joseph Dee	Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4	James G. Pierpont Jr	King Solomons Lodge No. 7
Roderick A. Dole	Ionic Lodge No. 110	George C. Ranslow	Wolcott Lodge No. 146
Robert E. Eno	Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4	Stephen D. Sabecki	Friendship Lodge No. 33
Eberhardt G. Fallenbeck	St. Peter's Lodge No. 21	Leroy F. Schellhardt	Harmony Lodge No. 42
Ivan N. Finkle	Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4	Donald Schorr	America-St. John's Lodge No. 8
Willard H. Fish	Manchester Lodge No. 73	Stanley J. Shaney Jr	Uriel Lodge No. 24
George W. Fraton Jr	Brainard Lodge No. 102	Stillman Shaw III	Anchor Lodge No. 112
John C. Gabelmann Jr	Housatonic Lodge No. 61	Justus E. Sherwood	Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142
William F. Ganzer	Uriel Lodge No. 24	Hugo L. Vilkaitis	St. Paul's Lodge No. 11
Ernest H. Groth	Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140	Frederick E. Wanegar Sr	Fayette Lodge No. 69
Stanley Hendel	Union Lodge No. 31	James S. Waterman	Evening Star Lodge No. 10
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# Grand Historian's Corner by Gary A. Littlefield

One of the lost lodges in the annals of Connecticut is Friendship Lodge No. 81. MWB Theodore Spencer issued a dispensation for the lodge to meet in Birmingham, a hamlet in Derby. Most of the petitioners were from King Hiram Lodge. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of June in 1855, the first meeting was held with Robert Narramore elected as Worshipful Master. Henry Whipple was Senior Warden and William Whitney was Secretary. Narramore had been raised in 1853 in King Hiram. There were recorded 57 communications which resulted in 23 raisings. At the annual communication on May 6, 1856, there was a remonstrance against the granting of a charter by the other members of King Hiram Lodge and the charter was given to King Hiram as the members of the new lodge recanted and all rejoined with King Hiram. The number 81 was quickly reassigned to those who were requesting a charter in Cromwell and as a result Washington Lodge No. 81 took over the already used number.

• • • • •

In 1852 there were issues regarding foreign Grand Lodges establishing lodges within the United States. We find a report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence that says "It is with unfeigned sorrow that your Committee have been made acquainted with the fact of the issuing of a charter by the Grand Lodge of Hamburg in Germany for the



institution of a lodge in the city of New York in spite of the remonstrance of the Grand Master of New York against this invasion of the rights and prerogatives of his Grand Lodge by a foreign power. This act of injustice should be met by a pointed and emphatic rebuke on the part of every American Grand Lodge." A resolution was then passed stating that the Grand Lodge of Connecticut does not recognize or acknowledge the right of any European or foreign power to establish Masonic Lodges in any state.

• • • • •

As we approach the annual Grand Lodge session and some grow weary of the length of the session, we look back to 1853 when the Grand Lodge was opened at 10 a.m., business was conducted until high noon. Labor was resumed at 2 p.m., continued until 5 p.m. and resumed again at 7 p.m. The election of officers was held at 8 p.m. and was called to refreshment. The next morning, at 8 a.m., when various appointments were made and additional reports given until the sun was at its meridian height when the session was finally closed.

Some years, a degree was rehearsed for the benefit of the craft for instructional purposes, usually after the dinner hour.

• • • • •

In 1953, the Grand Lodge was found to have mourned the senior Past Grand Master, Edgar H. Parkman, who had served 39 years previously. MWB Parkman was a teacher and principal in Thompsonville and served as Grand Master just when World War I was breaking out in Europe and the clouds were flowing westward. He had graduated from Amherst College in 1889 and was raised seven years later in 1896 and showed his proficiency by being elected Master three years later. By the time he was elected Grand Master in 1914 he had been a mason for only nineteen years. His skill in leading the craft during some troubling times in the nation is proof that he was ready for the task.

• • • • •

While not a Connecticut Masonic fact, it was in 1796 that a ruler of Sweden issued a decree that in the future all princes of the Swedish royal house would by birthright be Freemasons when they reached the proper age. We are unsure if the ruling was authorized by the Grand Lodge there or if the actual ruling was enacted but that is a subject for future research.

• • • • •

This Grand Historian does not frequent eBay or any of the other "auction sites" available but sometimes is made aware of artifacts, books or items that were recently offered for sale that have a Connecticut connection. We have been asked why didn't we purchase it. Financial considerations do play a part in acquisitions by the Library Committee but we also need to be made aware of items. Until next month.

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# Masonicare Experience

Continued from page 7

received excellent care. She also spent three and a half weeks in the Health Center's short-term rehab unit following her surgery.

As a resident who has used various Masonicare services, Anita has become more familiar with the work of The Masonic Charity Foundation. She knows that gifts to The Foundation make it possible for Masonicare to provide residents and patients in need with items and services that aren't covered by any other sources. Anita considers her giving a way of "paying it forward."

"I worked for the University of Connecticut as an Extension Home Economist," she said. "Because I was fortunate to have a good job, I feel I have commitment to donate to charity. There are several worthwhile causes that I support, and The Masonic Charity Foundation is certainly among them."

Thanks to the generosity of donors like Anita, Masonicare Health Center residents not only have access to transportation services but are also accompanied by a certified nursing assistant (CNA) to their medical appointments, whether on campus or off.

This spring, Masonicare at Newtown residents will enjoy more time outside in the company of a CNA – a program made possible by gifts to The Foundation. Even home-based clients of Masonicare benefit from Foundation support. At Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, donors' gifts have paid for nightlights to reduce the risk of falls, day-of-the-week pillboxes to help prevent medication errors, and large print calendars.

"I know that gifts to The Foundation are helping people with diminished resources," Anita said. "I can see a need in so many situations, and I'm so glad to be able to help."

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](http://masonicare.org/mcf). A monthly giving option is available.

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# Burton Frederick Turner Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal In Bronze

Burt was born on March 19, 1935 in Hartford, Connecticut to Frederick W. and Louise (Olcott) Turner of Ivoryton, formerly of Glastonbury.

Growing up, he was very active in youth programs at the Glastonbury Congregational Church, and his love of scouting led him to become an Eagle Scout.

He is the husband of Sara Jo (Sally) Cameron, whom he married on August 27, 1960 in Agawam, Massachusetts. Together they have two sons, Howard D. Turner, and Steven F. Turner, and a daughter Laura L. Turner. They've also been blessed with six grandchildren Heather A. Turner, Emily C. Turner, Lillian P. Turner, Audrey P. J. Turner, Madeline S. DeLaura and Turner S. DeLaura.

He attended Glastonbury High School and graduated in 1953. He then attended the University of Connecticut and graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor's Degree majoring in Zoology and Bacteriology, and minoring in Chemistry. He continued his higher education by attending the University of Hartford where he received a Master of Arts degree in teaching Biology, graduating in 1970. One last time, he returned to school and attended Southern Connecticut State University where

he received a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration and Supervision in 1989,

In 1957, after graduating from the University of Connecticut, Burt began his career with the United States Army Reserve (Chemical Corps), and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel twenty eight years later in 1995. Burt also graduated from the United States Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. His time with the Army Reserve also coincided with his employment within the Science Department at Robert E. Fitch Sr. High School in Groton, Connecticut.

For thirty-seven years, beginning in 1958, Burt was a Science Department faculty teacher at Fitch Sr. High School. He served thirty-one of those years as a Class Advisor and Chairman of the Graduation Committee, along with serving on various other school and system-wide committees. After receiving his Master's Degree in 1970, he was also the Chairman of the Science Department for twenty-five years before retiring in 1995. Burt is currently employed as a part-time Undertaker's Assistant at the Byles-MacDougall Funeral Service in New London, Connecticut.

His love and hobby of gardening led him once again back to the University of Connecticut where he completed the requirements for and received a Master Gardener's Certificate.

Burt was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on November 28, 1956. He had the rare privilege of being raised by his father, WB Frederick W. Turner, in Daskam Lodge No. 86 in Glastonbury, Connecticut. Burt was extremely instrumental during the early days when Somerset Lodge No. 34 merged with St. James Lodge No. 23. The merger and eventual relocation from the Norwich Masonic Temple on the corner of Washington and Sachem Street, to its



*At a Fort Trumbull Camp Heroes of '76 'Build A Flag' presentation, WB Burt Turner is surprised by MWGM Gail Smith with the Pierpont Edwards Award.*

Continued on page12



## Burton Frederick Turner Continued from page 11

present location in Preston, succeeded in no small part because of the dedicated Masons like Burt who became the Worshipful Master in 2007.

He is very active in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Norwich. His involvement and leadership includes Past Thrice Potent Master of King Solomon's Lodge of Perfection, Past Sovereign Prince of Van Rensselaer Council Princes of Jerusalem, Past Most Wise Master of the Norwich Chapter of Rose Croix, and Past Commander-in-Chief of the Connecticut Consistory, Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret. Burt was coroneted 33rd Degree by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Supreme Council.

We've all heard him tickle the ivories as the organist for countless degrees in Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, and at numerous other Masonic functions.

He's also a Past President & Member in Perpetuity of New London Chapter No. 58 National Sojourners, Past Commander of the Fort Trumbull Camp Heroes of '76, participant in the Build the Flag Program, Member of the New London Masonic Club, and a Life Member of Royal Order of Scotland.

Burt's civic and community involvement includes eight years on the Groton Town Planning Committee, two of which were as Secretary. He's also a State Certified Polling Place Moderator, and served fourteen years as the Poll Manager for the Town of Groton at the SB Butler School in Mystic, Connecticut. He also served on the Board of Directors as Secretary and Vice President for the Shennecossett Beach Company in Groton, Connecticut.

His church involvement with the Groton Congregational Church includes service as a Moderator, Board of Deacons Chair, Board of Trustees Chair, Pastoral Calling Committee Chair, Musical Director's Assistant, more than forty-five years in the Senior Choir, more than twenty years in the Hand Bell Choir, and he still found the time to serve on numerous other ad hoc committees. He was honored for his service to the church by being elected as Deacon Emeritus in 2016.

Brother Burt's zeal for life is reflected in the zeal for his beloved Masonic fraternity. This is the snapshot of a man whose love of family, dedication to friends, and service to the community is to be emulated. Never one to shy away from hard work and responsibility, Burt's commitment in everything he does has vastly

improved the lives of his family, friends, students, co-workers, community, Masonic Brothers, and ultimately revealed the true dignity of his character, which we have all come to know and love. The measure of a man is "revealed" as he walks along his own unique path in life. Brother Burt has truly worked long in the quarries of life with "Masonic ideals" truly in his heart. His contributions of love and support to family and friends are felt every moment of every day by those closest to him. His contributions to his students of thirty-seven years will carry on through many generations yet to come. His contributions to the church and the community at large have been, and will continue to be, of tremendous benefit. We gratefully salute his honorable service to our country. His contributions to Masonry are well known and deeply appreciated by his brothers in the quarries alongside him.

It is for these reasons that Brother Burton F. Turner is awarded the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze.

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In this issue, 75-year and 50-year brethren from January, February and March are listed. Going forward, brothers will be listed in every issue.



## 75-Year Brothers

Frederick G. Raymond

America - St. John's Lodge No. 8

March 14, 1939

## 50-Year Brothers

Bard C. Teigen	Composite Lodge No. 28	January 3, 1967
Norman K. Hutchins	Composite Lodge No. 28	February 9, 1967
William W. Patten	Fayette Lodge No. 69	February 14, 1967
Dwight H. Slocum	Columbia Lodge No. 25	February 18, 1967
Kenneth A. Slocum	Columbia Lodge No. 25	February 18, 1967
Arthur R. Tinsz	Manchester Lodge No. 73	February 21, 1967
John J. Cherepovich Jr	Valley Lodge No. 36	February 22, 1967
Richard C. Memmott Sr	Annawon Lodge No. 115	February 24, 1967
Geoffrey C. Kline	Brainard Lodge No. 102	February 28, 1967
Andrew G. Weimann II	Seneca Lodge No. 55	February 28, 1967
David Hogarth	Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3	March 2, 1967
Ronald G. Mottram	Uriel Lodge No. 24	March 2, 1967
Richard L. Weiner	Wooster Lodge No. 10	March 3, 1967
Frederick R. King Jr	King Hiram Lodge No. 12	March 7, 1967
Franklin W. Renz	Washington Lodge No. 19	March 13, 1967
Paul H. Bahner	Trumbull Lodge No. 22	March 16, 1967
Michael L. Shonta	Washington Lodge No. 81	March 17, 1967
Michael E. Fletcher	Annawon Lodge No. 115	March 17, 1967
Myron W. Van Ness Jr	Bay View Lodge No. 120	March 18, 1967
Edwin J. Phelps Jr	Jerusalem Lodge No. 49	March 20, 1967
Walter F. Plummer III	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89	March 21, 1967
Ralph L. Comstock	St. Paul's Lodge No. 11	March 21, 1967
Albert M. Clark III	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89	March 21, 1967
Robert S. Wallace Jr	Manchester Lodge No. 73	March 21, 1967
James G. DeBisscho	St. Paul's Lodge No. 11	March 21, 1967
George A. Marquardt	Coastal Lodge No. 57	March 21, 1967
Allen M. Sherman	Putnam Lodge No. 46	March 25, 1967
Kenneth B. Sherman	Putnam Lodge No. 46	March 25, 1967
Thomas E. Morton	Washington Lodge No. 70	March 27, 1967
Gustav E. Dessauls Jr	Coastal Lodge No. 57	March 30, 1967
Charles B. Johnson Jr	Warren Lodge No. 51	March 30, 1967
David H. Bell	Warren Lodge No. 51	March 30, 1967

# Christopher D. Mayhew, Sr. Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze

*by Robert S. Eubanks & Peter Rinaudo*

Worshipful Brother Christopher D. Mayhew Sr. was born on 21 March, 1966 in Putnam CT to Brother Russell Mayhew and Nancy Mayhew, as the youngest sibling to older brother Douglas and older sister Diane.

Chris grew up in Eastford, attending Eastford Elementary school and graduating from Woodstock Academy in 1984. At Woodstock Academy, Chris was a very active and talented athlete playing varsity soccer, basketball, and baseball and subsequently he was awarded the most outstanding 4-year athlete accolade at graduation. Chris also played American Legion baseball for Putnam American Legion Post No. 13, where his team won the Zone Championship, with Chris earning co-MVP honors.

Chris continued his education at Springfield College, in Springfield MA, where he majored in physical education. Chris played varsity baseball all four years before graduating with his Bachelor of Science degree, which he then followed up with at Master's degree in Physical Education.

Following college, Chris returned home and got his first job teaching physical education in the Eastford/Union School district. His second and current position is at the Woodstock Middle School, in Woodstock, CT.

Over the years, Chris has spent a lot of time working with Connecticut youth through his active coaching career, coaching girls soccer and boys baseball at the Woodstock Middle School, and basketball, baseball and soccer at Woodstock Academy, the Brooklyn recreation league, and Brooklyn Little League. Chris has also served as the Athletic Director for the Woodstock Middle School and is an active member of the Booster club.

Through all these activities, Chris has been a positive role model for hundreds of children, teaching them about winning, losing and fair play while encouraging an active and healthy life style. He has worked tirelessly to support his students' needs through his administrative and fund raising activities.

Following the murder of his friend and co-worker Judy Nilan, Chris worked hard to help establish a charity fund in partnership with the Woodstock Middle School in Judy's memory. Chris has served as the co-chair of the "Jog With Judy" event which annually raises money to support that fund. Monies raised are used to augment the traditional curriculum and enhance outreach and social programs in the school.

Through his efforts and commitment to the community, Chris was recently honored by being inducted into both the Eastford Elementary School and Woodstock Academy' Athletic Halls of Fame. Chris continues to support the local athletic programs by producing good, quality athletes who have excelled at the high school level.

Chris is blessed with three children—Christopher Jr, Cara and Marissa. Chris and his wife Karen married 5 July 2003 and live in Woodstock CT, across the street from Putnam Lodge No. 46.

In June of 2005, Chris became the 4th generation of his family to

be raised a Master Mason and as luck would have it, a member of Putnam Lodge No. 46. Three of Chris' great grand fathers were Masons — M. Darwin Lewis, Ira Pray and George Young (Master of Putnam Lodge in 1925 and 1926). Chris' great grandmother Eleanor K. Lewis was Worthy Grand Matron of CT in 1951. Both of Chris' grandfathers, M Keith Lewis and Russell H. Mayhew, Sr. were Masons, as is his father Russell H. Mayhew Jr. Many of Chris' uncles, cousins and great uncles have been members of the craft, including WB Raymond Anderson, and WB Dean Bunnell, both Past Masters of Putnam Lodge. Thus it was that when Chris petitioned in 2005, the question was "what took you so long?"

Chris immediately jumped into the officer line and ultimately served as Master in 2011. During his advancement through the line, Chris was honored with the Mason of the Year award for District 9A in 2009 for his outstanding contributions to his lodge and his district. Chris is currently the ritual coach at Putnam



Continued on page 16



# From the desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

By the time you read this, we will have just completed our 2017 Nutmegger “road trip.” I’m looking forward to the opportunity to visit with Connecticut Masons in the Sunshine State with Bro. Bob Polito, Masonicare’s new Chair; Bro. Gail N. Smith, Grand Master; Past Grand Master Charlie Yohe and Rev. Bro. Carl Anderson. In next month’s Connecticut Freemasons, there will be a nice collection of photos from this year’s reunions. A much-anticipated highlight of the gatherings will be the awarding of seven 50-year pins!

Back-to-back snowstorms in February kept us busy, but our staff’s dedication to our patients and residents never wavered. Many put in extra hours, extending their shifts and some even slept over. I’m so proud and appreciative of every one of them.

I’m happy to report that our Mystic community is doing very well. The Assisted Living side of the campus is now open and several move-ins are scheduled. On the Independent Living side, more than 45 residents have moved in. We’re planning the grand opening and ribbon-cutting for April 25. If you or a loved one would like more information about Masonicare at Mystic, just call our toll-free Mystic number which is 888-502-8859.

We continue to establish relationships with several Managed Residential Communities whereby we provide Assisted Living services to their residents. Our most recent contract is with Tower

One Tower East, a 328-unit complex of independent living and assisted living in New Haven. This brings our total number of contracts around the state to seven. Interestingly, all of them approached us – so I think that speaks volumes about Masonicare’s reputation.




On a less sanguine note, the proposed Connecticut state budget reflects a sobering reality. Already our reimbursement for patients on Title 19 is inadequate and the state has decreased its “fair market rent” share for our skilled nursing rates in Wallingford and Newtown. Now Gov. Malloy, after cutting aid to cities and towns, has proposed that towns levy taxes on hospitals within their footprint. A hospital tax will only exacerbate our losses at Masonicare Health Center where we have a total of 59 hospital beds. The reality is we are heavily reliant on governmental reimbursement. To address these shortfalls, our strategy going forward will require both divestiture and expanding in businesses not dependent on the government for reimbursement or funding.

The phrase “may you live in interesting times” certainly applies here.

Sincerely and fraternally,

*Jon-Paul Venoit*

President & CEO of Masonicare




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## Christopher D. Mayhew, Sr. Continued from page 14

Lodge No. 46, and also serves on the Building Temple Corporation. Chris belongs to the York Rite Bodies in North Windham CT – Trinity Chapter No. 9, Montgomery Council No. 2 and St. John's Commandery No. 11, having served as an officer in several chairs.

Chris has worked tirelessly on lodge events, both at the mother lodge and at other lodges throughout the district and the state, such as maintenance projects, coordinating annual fundraisers and mentoring new brothers. Chris not only lives by the

tenets of Freemasonry, but he has a distinctly unique way of being able to instill these tenets in others, with private counsel and quiet guiding capable hands. Great leaders inspire with action, and the trestleboard and structure of Chris' masonic edifice is one that any brother would be lucky to behold and imitate.

Chris is an outstanding man and Mason. Chris is a great friend and Brother to all and carries the respect and admiration of his brothers, colleagues and peers.

In a packed lodge room last spring, WB Christopher D. Mayhew Sr. was presented with The Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze.

## Masonicare at Mystic Opens Assisted Living Side



*The lobby area features a stunning fireplace which provides a cozy place to lounge.*

Having already opened for Independent Living in late November, Masonicare at Mystic opened its Assisted Living section on February 8. "We are very excited to have the entire community now welcoming move-ins," says Perry Phillips, Executive Director. "The place looks great and has a special 'vibe' specific to the Mystic area," he adds.

Located at 45 Clara Drive, the community is just off Coogan Boulevard near the Mystic Aquarium and just a few minutes from I-95. The range and choice of apartments and floor plans vary. "We've got something for almost everyone," adds Jamie Cornell, Marketing and Sales Manager for Masonicare at Mystic.

The community will have its grand opening celebration on April 25.



*Masonicare at Mystic Executive Director, Perry Phillips, was joined by staff and residents as he cut the ceremonial ribbon officially opening the Assisted Living & Memory Care communities on February 8.*



# Clowning Around At The Connecticut Kids Fair

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.



Master Masons from the Pyramid Shrine Temple Clown Unit participated at the 13th Annual Connecticut Kids Fair. This event was held in Hartford, Connecticut. The clowns dazzled patrons with balloon twisting hats and animals. In addition, the clowns collected donations. All funds will be donated to the Shriner Hospital Sneaker Fund. The Sneaker Fund provides assistance to children receiving medical care from burn injuries at the Shriner Hospital.

## District 1

Lodges 3, 5, 6, 8, 19, 65, 67, 85, 104, 107, 142, 144, 149



## Washington Lodge 19 Proudly Donated to Project Warmth of Monroe

by Roy Nealon

WM Anthony Agosto presents the donation to Kim Cassia of Project Warmth. Project Warmth is the Home Energy Assistance Fund in the Town of Monroe. Recipients receive grants based on State of Connecticut and Federal guidelines. Their motto of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" really resonates amongst the brothers of Washington Lodge No. 19.





## St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 Celebrates Robert Burns Night

by Charles W. Yohe with contributions from Ricky McDonnell

More than 60 Brothers, ladies and friends enjoyed a sold out Robert Burns Dinner event in St. Peter's Lodge No. 21, New Milford on Friday, January 27. Those in attendance included the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior and Junior Wardens together with Brothers from throughout the jurisdiction of Connecticut. One attendee was visiting from her home in Ireland.

A wonderful traditional meal consisting of haggis & neeps, choice of beef or chicken stew, and tipsy laird for dessert prepared by Jeanette McDonnell was enjoyed by all present. This was the fourth year for this event which serves not only to celebrate the immortal memory of the ploughman poet, Brother Robert Burns, but is also a fundraiser for the Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen in New Milford.



*Head Table (l-r) Vanessa Gronback, Mayor & Brother David Gronback, MWGM Gail Smith, Cindy Stimmel, WM Mel Stimmel, RWB Ted Nelson, WB Peter Dolce, Lori Dolce and RWB Marshall Robinson.*

This event is organized and successfully executed under the enthusiastic direction of RWB Richard McDonnell and his wife, Jeanette. Toward the conclusion of the program, the Worshipful Master, WB Melvin Stimmel, presented a check in the amount of \$1600 to representatives from Loaves and Fishes.

The evening saw the enjoyment of the traditional piping of the haggis, the address to the haggis, and a number of delightful toasts. The Immortal Memory to Rabbie Burns was delivered by MWB Charlie Yohe. It was followed by a toast to the Lassies by WB Peter Dolce and a reply toast to the Laddies by his wife, Lori.



*All brothers who attended in kilts, including RWB Marshall Robinson and RWB Ricky McDonnell (kneeling)*





## Hiram Lodge No. 1 Portrays Colonial Degree

by Michael Calderone

One of the goals of an Entered Apprentice Degree is to make a lasting impression on the newly made Brother's mind that marks a significant transformation in his life. On January 26, Hiram Lodge No. 1 kicked off 2017 with a Colonial EA Degree for four candidates with over fifty Brothers in attendance.

The Officers, Guides and Lecturers were clad in Colonial garb, provided by Lafayette Consistory of the Scottish Rite through the efforts of WB Jack Farkas and Bro. Raymond Dolyak of America-St. John's Lodge No. 8. The costumes suited the old Hiram ritual that dates back, at least in written form, to 1810, making it a true Colonial Degree.

The New Haven Temple's Egyptian room was illuminated by candles on candle holders on loan from the Order of DeMolay through WB Kirk Trofatter Jr. The assembled brethren also held candles.

Hiram Lodge No. 1 welcomed brothers from Daytime Lodge No. 144, America-St John's Lodge No. 8, Annowan Lodge No. 115, Corinthian Lodge No. 63, and Ionic Lodge No. 110.

Afterward, one of the new Brothers told Hiram's WM Glenn Jacques that the experience was so amazing that he thought he had gone back in time. Hiram Lodge No. 1 plans on a repeat performance on Thursday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. Check the lodge website for dinner and degree reservations at <http://www.hiram1.org>.







## Masonicare Staff Wears Red

Masonicare staff throughout the state wore red on Friday, February 3 in support of American Heart Month and women's health. Great job everyone - red looks really good on you!





# Battle of Ridgefield: The Masons Are Coming

by Jeff S. Bartlett

History comes alive on April 29, when Ridgefield's Main Street is closed half a day for the reenactment of a key battle in the Revolutionary War. Costumed soldiers representing the British and the Continental Army and militia will march and fire on this thoroughfare, giving the community a peek through the veil of time at the valiant efforts made by patriots for our freedom. This event is the centerpiece of a full weekend of activities that celebrates "Father of Freemasonry in Connecticut" Brother Gen. David Wooster and his contemporaries, and it is a high-profile showpiece for Freemasonry.

Jerusalem Lodge No. 49 in Ridgefield is organizing a series of events to commemorate the battle's 240th anniversary, starting with two speaking engagements at Keeler Tavern, just a minute past the lodge on Main St. The historic 300-year-old tavern still has a cannon ball embedded in a post from that battle. The cannonball hit with such force that it turned the building from a rectangle into a parallelogram. Plus, the tavern has hosted a number of the initial Masonic gatherings in Ridgefield, including the then newly chartered Jerusalem No. 49.

On April 2, at 4 p.m., Vincent DacQuino will present "Sybil Ludington: The Paul Revere of the Battle of Ridgefield." And on April 9, Nick Ives will speak on "Masonic Leadership during the Revolutionary War" at 4 p.m. Wine and cheese will be served at both events, which are open to the public. A tax-deductible \$10 donation to the "1777 Wooster – Sons of Liberty Foundation," 501(c)3 educational charity, is suggested. Additional lectures and events will be conducted throughout April. Details will be regularly updated on the event website: [battleofridgefield.org](http://battleofridgefield.org).

On April 28, reenactors from the Fourth and Fifth Connecticut Regiments will bivouac in Ballard Park and at Keeler Tavern, building up to the battle, no doubt stirring local interest. At 11:30 on

the 29th, the Boy Scouts of Ridgefield will parade down Main Street. From noon to 2:00 p.m. on the 29th, the battle will rage on Main Street, complete with drama and musket fire.

From 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the 29th, the battle will rage on Main Street, complete with drama and musket fire. "We will see history brought to life in this reenactment," said Ben Morehead, WM of Jerusalem No. 49. "It will give us all a chance to reflect on the very real sacrifices made by our forefathers that enabled us to be a free people."

Guided history tours will be available through the day, on the hour, moving along the thoroughfare from Casagmo to Keeler Tavern — except for during the battle itself.

That evening, there will be a black-tie gala at the nearby Lounsbury House, a large historic home built for Connecticut Governor Brother Phineas C. Lounsbury. This dinner and dance will feature swing music from the Glenn Hansen Orchestra and VIP guests of local and national prominence. A strong attendance would bolster fellowship and help defray the costs for this ambitious weekend.

On that fateful day in 1777, General Wooster fought his last on Main Street, where he was shot from his horse and mortally wounded. Wooster was taken to Danbury, where he died on May 2. Honoring his bravery, heroic sacrifice, and historic contributions to the nation and Freemasonry, Jerusalem Lodge will join Union No. 40 Lodge in a graveside memorial service in Danbury at 11 a.m. on April 30.

Combined, these activities represent a massive undertaking for a small lodge. Participation and support from the Masonic community would be much appreciated by Jerusalem No. 49, as the brothers seek to commemorate past patriots and elevate the visibility of Freemasonry.

Even with the generous logistical support from the town, this will be an expensive undertaking. Custom T-shirts and gala



tickets are being sold to raise funds. Shirts and gala tickets can be purchased at: [battleofridgefield.org](http://battleofridgefield.org). Also, tax-deductible donations may be made to "1777 Wooster--Sons of Liberty Foundation," a 501(c)3 educational charity.

If you or your lodge want to be involved, contact WM Ben Morehead at [ben@battleofridgefield.com](mailto:ben@battleofridgefield.com).

All brothers can assist by spreading the word at their lodges and on social media. (Follow Jerusalem 49 at [www.facebook.com/Jerusalem49/](http://www.facebook.com/Jerusalem49/).) Lodges are encouraged to organize carpools to show up en masse. This would make it more fun and ease parking congestion.

Of course, all Masons, their families, and friends are invited to witness the Main Street melee and proudly show their Masonic affiliation.



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



# These Times They Are A Changing!

*by Richard F. Denno*

**T**he year 2017 will be remembered by Freemasons as the year Connecticut Freemasonry stepped into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This especially applies to your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program. Thanks to the efforts of our more technically savvy Brothers, Lodges and districts will have access to tools we never had before, tools designed to spread the word of Freemasonry's good works throughout the state and beyond.

Using blogs, websites and secure emails, every lodge will have, at their finger tips, the capability of reaching out to Connecticut Freemasonry at all levels, including Blue Lodge Councils, Districts the Grand Lodge. Timely information will be efficiently distributed statewide.

Every lodge's calendar will be available on a website. For example, the Committee for Community Action, aka COCA, will have its own website. The Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program will have a page on this site. Organ

donor stories, told by actual recipients and donor families will powerfully explain the benefits to you and yours of registering online at [www.donatelifenewengland.org](http://www.donatelifenewengland.org). Links to other informative organ donation websites will be offered.

Each lodge will be asked to designate a brother as their lodge's Donate Life liaison to our committee. These brothers will be the first to receive news of exciting transplant breakthroughs and share them with their lodge brothers. These new liaison brothers will form the basis of a new, expanded committee; bring with them their ideas on how to better serve both Freemasonry and Donate Life America.

Yes, 'these times they are a changing' – and for the better. Stay tuned, as this innovative program demonstrates how Connecticut Freemasons can better communicate.

Remember – 'Don't take Your Organs to Heaven – Heaven knows we need them here.'



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

### ATTENTION ALL MASTER MASONS! LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY ANNOUNCES

The three Valleys are looking for brothers with acting talent, as well as sound and lighting backgrounds.

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

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203-375-0064

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203-269-0336

**Valley of Waterbury**  
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# So, Wait, I'm Not Paying \$15 A Year For The Paper???... *by Francis G. Way*

Some years back, at a Grand Lodge session, the assembled Craft voted to pay a \$15 annual assessment, collected as part of the Grand Lodge assessment, to subsidize the jurisdiction's newspaper. Many brethren, including myself, have been under the assumption that \$15 of their Grand Lodge assessment each year goes to support the newspaper. However, I recently learned that this is not true, nor has it been true since 2011, in Grand Master James T. McWain's year.

As you may recall, Grand Master McWain created several funds, one of which is the CT Freemasons Foundation, and the subsidy of the newspaper began to be drawn from there. It is true, however, that in cases where a widow, or some other family member, would like to keep receiving the newspaper after a brother's passing, we do ask for a \$15 per year donation (a very modest \$1.36 per issue) to help defray the cost.

So, if every brother in the jurisdiction is not being charged \$15 per year for the paper, how is the paper supported? Some of the cost of the paper is defrayed by two important sources of revenue: advertising and boosters.

Advertising in the paper, as is quite evident, comes from a variety of sources. Some ads are from businesses who feel that they can reach a particular audience in a publication like the CT Freemasons. Other ads come from Masonic bodies in return for the guarantee of a full page of the paper.

Boosters are those brethren and Masonic organizations who contribute yearly to the newspaper, and there are several levels of individual contribution and one level of organization contribution.

As the new Grand Lodge fiscal year begins (on March 1, 2017, when this issue should be starting to appear in mailboxes across the state), there will be some slight changes in the Booster category names and levels of giving.

For individuals, the "Booster" level will encompass any individual yearly donation from \$25 to \$49.99. The "Grand Booster" level will encompass any individual yearly donation of \$50 to \$99.99. And finally, the "Grand Master's Circle" will encompass any donation over \$100 per year. For Masonic organizations (lodges, appendant bodies etc.) the "Masonic Lodge/Organization Booster" level is \$75 or greater.

Also new for this fiscal year, the newspaper is dropping the requirement that a lodge seeking to place a flier for an event (especially an event that supports a charitable cause) pay for advertising for the flier. While priority will be given to any lodge that is a "Masonic Lodge/Organization" booster, there will be no charge for the flier itself.

Since each brother is no longer being assessed \$15 per year to support the paper, we would urge all brothers to become a Booster, or better yet, a Grand Booster, and to encourage their lodges to do the same. And there is still plenty of room in the paper for advertising, so we encourage the Craft to place ads and encourage local businesses to do so as well.

Going forward, if you hear a brother saying that we all pay \$15 a year to support the paper, please whisper good counsel and correct him. Then invite him to be a Booster or to join the Grand Master's Circle.



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FREEMASONS

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# 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.**

## MARCH 2017

03-04	MP	RE	F	Grand York Rite of NJ
04	ME		F	Grand Chapter RAM of New York. Albany
07	ME	RE	F	Keystone 27 RA, Meriden. Mark Master Mason deg, 7 pm
07		MP	F	Adam Sattig 35 SM, Milford
09	ME		F	Cyrus-Meridian 15 RA, Torrington
09-11	MP	RE	F	Grand York Rite of DE
13		MP	F	Union 07 RA & Cushing 04 SM, Preston. Dinner 6:30 p
14	ME		RE	Harmony 08 SM, New Haven. Royal Master deg
14			F	Hamilton 22 SM, Meriden. Royal Master deg. Dinner 6:30 pm
14		MP	F	Wolcott 01 SM, East Hartford
15	ME		F	Hiram 01 RA, Sandy Hook.
17	ME		RE	New Haven 02 KT, New Haven. Order of Malta, Dinner 6:15 p
18			RE	St Thomas of Acon, Albany NY
21			RE	St Elmo 09 KT, Meriden. Dinner 6:30 pm
23		MP	RE	Palestine 06 KT, Preston. Inspect Order of Temple. Dinner 6:30 p
24	ME			Philosophic Lodge of Research, West Hartford. 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniv Din 6p
25	ME		F	CT York Rite College 17, Ashlar Village. 9:30 am
26		MP		CT Freemasons Family Day @ Hartford Wolfpack
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

04-01	ME @ Grand Chapter RA of Rhode Island	04-15	ME @ CT York Rite College
<b>04-2,3</b>	<b>Grand Lodge AF&amp;AM of CT, Cromwell</b>	04-21	ME @ New Haven 02 KT, New Haven. Din 6:15 pm
04-04	ME @ Franklin 02 RA, New Haven. Annual	04-21,22	MP @ Grand York Rite of Maine, Bar Harbor
<b>04-8,9</b>	<b>Grand Commandery KT of CT,</b>	04-22	ME @ Grand Chapter Education Session with PGHP
	<b>Four Points by Sheraton, Meriden</b>		of NY Comp. Piers Vaughan, New Haven 2pm,
04-10	MP @ Union 07 RA & Cushing 04, Preston.		Dinner 5pm
	Dinner 6:30 pm	04-23,24	MP @ Grand York Rite of Pennsylvania, Grantville
04-11	ME&MP @ Harmony 08 SM, New Haven. Annual	04-27	MP @ Palestine 06 KT, Preston. Dinner 6:30 pm
04-13	MP @ Buel 20 SM, Torrington	04-29	ME @ Anointed High Priests, East Hartford. 9 am
04-14	ME @ New Haven 02 KT, New Haven. Order of		
	Temple. 12:30 pm		

Continued on next page



# Connecticut York Rite Opportunities

Continued from previous page

**ROYAL ARCH RITUALS OUT OF STOCK** Our supply of Royal Arch ritual books is exhausted, and we will need to print some more. If anyone knows of any errors or omissions in the latest books (2015), please let the Grand Secretary know. Please be specific as to location and nature of the error. After approval by the Committee on Ritual, we will print another batch.

**PYTHAGORAS CHAPTER PLANS GALA 200TH YEAR – ASKS FOR YOUR HELP** By now, it should no longer be a secret that the Companions of Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, Royal Arch Masons will soon be in full celebration mode for its 200th Anniversary. Yes, 200 years old. Any group, Masonic or otherwise, that can boast 200 years these days, says something right there. Plans are well along for an active year, culminating with a celebration banquet to be held at Georgina's Banquet Facility in Bolton on October 1, 2017, on the actual eve of official institution 200 years ago in Hartford. Details of the evening will be announced later for those interested in attending, but for now, the Committee is working hard on an evening filled with music, commemorations, entertainment, and a trip down memory lane. All of our CT Masonic family will be welcome. The historical landscape of Pythagoras, from the view of Masonry, but set against a backdrop of Hartford of 1800-1980's, is at the core of a proud longevity. The Chapter committee has been busy with tracing roots from St. John's Lodge No. 4, through various Hartford locales and other Masonic bodies, amassing a vibrant presence at the Hartford Ann Street Masonic Building (Civic Center area) that lasted over 80 years, despite 2 World Wars, spawned 4 daughter Chapters, suffering the Depression, and as time has shown, given the Chapter a modern presence enjoyed today with a re-born spirit. The history is filled with notable Masons who faithfully served CT Masonry, backed

up by a proud collection of artifacts and remembrances. All this will be on display.

The Committee, however, is not satisfied that it has uncovered all the memories we can share. We ask ALL Masons from CT, or those from prior years with memories of their times at Pythagoras, regardless of affiliation, to look in their basements, closets, Lodge attics, local libraries etc for any items of worth - artifacts, news, photos, which we can display. Should you find something, full credit will be given for its origin, and it will be catalogued and returned to the owner in perfect condition. Areas of specific interest include Pythagoras of course (1817 to now), and daughter Chapters, Gideon Welles No. 50 (East Hartford), Delta No. 51 (Manchester), and West Hartford No. 53 the last 90 years, and all of whom, who have moved around from building to building, truck by truck, are finally now back home. To make arrangements or forward inquiries, contact Chapter Secretary William L. Miller ([william.l.miller@snet.net](mailto:william.l.miller@snet.net)) or any East Hartford York Rite member or officer. Help us celebrate so you, too, can be a part of this.

## CMMRF DAY

To All Cryptic Masons Wheresoever Dispersed over the Face of the Earth. In remembrance of the chartering of Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation, the CMMRF Board of Trustees declared Monday, March 6, 2017 as CMMRF DAY, calling on all Cryptic Masons to donate five dollars, (\$5.00) to their home Council as tribute to this philanthropy and its great works. Council Recorders are to accumulate all donations and send one check on behalf of the Council, to CMMRF, PO Box 1489, Nashville IN 47448-1489 by May 15, 2017. Connecticut Companions are reminded that CMMRF is the officially adopted charity of The Most Puissant Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Connecticut.

## NOMINATIONS NEEDED

Is someone in your Chapter or Council doing great service to the Order?

Nominate him for one of the following available awards:

\* ***RAM General Grand Chapter Bronze Medal Award for Distinguished Masonic Service***

\* ***Ephraim Kirby Citation for Meritorious Service***

\* ***RSM Grand Council Philip J. Jones Award for Distinguished Masonic Service***

\* ***Knight of Ish Sodi Award for Meritorious Service,***

## FROM MEGHP MARTIN EDE

A few things of note this month: First, after having come across this situation again, it is necessary to stress again that the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and the Council of Royal & Select Masters are open to ALL brothers regardless of their religion. Once again, Brothers, in this case Jewish, were told that they couldn't join Chapter and apparently had been misinformed by Companions as to the nature of the York Rite. My Companions, this apparent undercurrent in the Chapter must be refuted, and it must be addressed in and out of Chapter through education and better understanding of who we are as Royal Arch Masons. The degrees, philosophy and lessons of the Royal Arch are the right of all Master Masons and, in fact one could say, a necessity for all Brothers.

Second, the plans are finalized for the Grand Chapter education seminar on April 22nd, starting at 2 pm, with a buffet dinner at 5 pm. This will be led by Companion Piers Vaughan, PGHP of NY, author of the Capitular Development Course. I would like dais officers or representatives from each Chapter to attend, as well as Grand Chapter officers who are available. More information will be sent out soon to the Chapters via the Grand Secretary.

Continued on next page

## Connecticut York Rite Opportunities Continued from previous page

I was also asked to provide a reading list for Masonic history and origins to follow on from the list I gave for the Royal Arch. I will complete it next month, but will leave you with a few recommendations to get you started. Tobias Churton's *Freemasonry, The Reality and The Golden Builders: Alchemists, Rosicrucians and the First Freemasons*. The *Complete Idiot's Guide and Dummies* books are also good introductions, especially for friends and family. Historical works from William Preston's *Illustrations of Masonry* plus the Webb and Cross monitors to both editions of Anderson's Constitutions will also provide a good foundation. A number of books that place Freemasonry in the larger context of the Western Esoteric Tradition include Jay Kinney's *The Inner West*, Richard Smoley & Jay Kinney's *Hidden Wisdom: A Guide to the Western Inner Traditions*, Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke's *The Western Esoteric Tradition*, Joscelyn Godwin's *The Golden Thread* and, given our upcoming education seminar, Piers Vaughan's *Renaissance Man & Mason*. Happy reading!

### FROM MPGM J. ANDREW BIRDSALL

I would like to thank all the Companions that took the time to attend the Tri-State Festival on January 28 in Poughkeepsie NY. Everyone was able to witness degree work performed in the unique way our jurisdictions (CT, MA, & NY) call for the work to be portrayed. What a packed house we had! To those that came to perform the Super Excellent Master Degree, you did an awesome job, and your work and travel is very much appreciated.

As a reminder, if any changes to our Constitution or Laws are desired, they should be submitted to the Grand Recorder for distribution to the Jurisprudence Committee 60 days in advance of our Annual Assembly. The deadline this year is April 4, 2017.

Lastly, one of the great honors that this position affords is being able to present honors and awards to deserving Companions. If your Council has nominations for the Knight of Ish-Sodi or the Phillip J. Jones Awards, please submit them to the Awards Committee (me) as soon as possible.

### FROM REGC CLYDE W. KAYSER, II

My term as Grand Commander of Connecticut is quickly drawing to a close. By the time you receive the April edition of *Connecticut Freemason*, Sir Knight Charles A. McCollum, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, will have been installed to lead Templary in Connecticut for the next year. This has been a very memorable year for me, and I, as well as Lady A. J., thank all the Sir Knights for the courtesies extended to us this past year, as well as all the assistance you have given us. Without your assistance it would have been a more difficult journey. I believe we have made progress; for the first time in several years I am pleased to say that we have eight working Commanderies in Connecticut, and that all stood for inspection this year. I am most pleased with the turn-around that has occurred in Palestine Commandery No. 6. The relocation from Stonington to Preston has renewed the interest in some of the Sir Knights, and this Commandery appears to be headed in the right direction.

At the start of the year I stirred up a hornet's nest by initiating a radical change in the inspection protocol. In proposing the elimination of a Grand Inspector in favor of having the four dais officers combine for the inspection, I rationalized that it would give the junior officers a better perspective of the state of a Commandery and what needed to be done to improve its operation. It does appear to me to have been a success, and I hope it continues in the future.

Again, I thank all of you for your assistance, and I really wish I could have a second year. Actually, I will soon be back because in June, I will be installed as Most Puissant Grand Master of the Grand Council.

### 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](http://www.knightstemplar.org/gckt/ct)

Common to all three YR bodies: [www.yorkrite.com/ct](http://www.yorkrite.com/ct) [www.knightstemplar.org/gckt/ct](http://www.knightstemplar.org/gckt/ct)

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# From The Valley of New Haven

by Charles H. Tirrell, [chtirrell@gmail.com](mailto:chtirrell@gmail.com)

In the 14th Degree, we are admonished to “Live worthily the high profession you have made, and let your life reflect the love of God, that the world may be a better and happier place because you have been its citizen.” As Freemasons, our labors are meant to glorify and exemplify the pure and holy love of Deity.

During our ceremonies and fellowship, we focus our minds on the transcendent attributes of the Lord, so that when we escape the safe confines of our fraternal temples, we may live our lives enriched by the examples of brotherly love, relief, and truth that we have witnessed. Once internalized, these lessons form the building blocks of our personal, spiritual temples.

The principles of Freemasonry are known to the profane world through the character of individual Masons. The spiritual temple that we labor to perfect is the only product of note that Freemasonry produces. As we progress in personal enlightenment, the world at large is bettered by the quality of our actions that have been enriched by our love of God.

The modern world affords us many opportunities to congregate and engage in fellowship that will serve to broaden the scope of our personal journey of enlightenment. Unfortunately, the modern world affords far more opportunities for acts of divisiveness, ignorance, and disharmony. Today, it is too common for

religious and political discussions to end in argument and strife, attributes unbefitting the character of a Freemason.

As Freemasons, we must transmute the raw material of Masonic allegory into the perfected substance of understanding, love, and kindness in the real world. Our labors do not end as we pass by the Tiler guarding the West Gate. That is where our true labors begin.

In the 18th Degree, we learn that “Charity is Love in action.” With this simple message, I ask each and every one of you to go forth into the profane world, take our simple message of love, and transmute it into action.

## Upcoming Events of the Valley of New Haven

**King Solomon Presentation** - Monday, Mar 13 (6 p.m.)

Brother Justin Duffy will give a fascinating presentation on two very different views of King Solomon. Both views are taken from bedtime stories read to him as a child. One is taken from the Illustrated Holy Bible. The other is the description of King Solomon in The Arabian Nights. Open to all Master Masons.

**11th Degree** - Monday, Mar 20 (6 p.m.)

**18th Degree Discussion** - Monday, Apr 3 (7 p.m.)

Brother Brad Cooney and several other officers from our Chapter of Rose Croix will give a deeper dive into the symbolism and meaning of the 18th Degree. Open to all Scottish Rite Masons who have taken the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree.

**16th Degree** - Monday, Apr 10 (6 p.m.)

*If you are interested in starting your Scottish Rite journey in our Spring Class, please contact our Membership Development Chairman, Brother Wayne Murray (203.393.5518 - [wmurray2629@gmail.com](mailto:wmurray2629@gmail.com)).*

### Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

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For further information, please contact  
Charles D. O'Neill: (203)-770-4818, [cdonell@snet.net](mailto:cdonell@snet.net)  
or any member of the Valley.

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

by David R. Blythe, Sr., 33<sup>o</sup>, Valley Secretary

Following WWII, the United States saw an ever increasing growth in church attendance, in the size of families, in membership in civic organizations, and in men joining the Masonic fraternity. Children joined scouting and Little League, movies seemed more wholesome, and TV was in black and white with comedies and westerns being the main attractions.

During the Vietnam era, though many brave men took part in this conflict, many youths and even older citizens became protesters instead. Church attendance declined, once thriving civic organizations, including Masonry, saw membership level off. Movies became more violent and vulgar language became a way of life. Drug use became more prevalent, and violence began to rise. Later, technology arose with computers and cell phones becoming a major way of communicating. Slowly, Blue Lodges started to decline as deaths began outnumbering the number of men joining the fraternity. Lodges either closed or were forced to consolidate.

When I saw in the February issue of this newspaper that more men were raised as Master Masons than passed away, it gave some hope that the trend is reversing. This information followed a report that at the recent nationwide Consistory Day, the Scottish Rite, NMJ created 2,580 Sovereign Princes.

Any Master Mason in good standing can become a 32<sup>o</sup> Scottish Rite Mason by taking the 4<sup>o</sup> and the 32<sup>o</sup> plus three additional core value degrees, known as the bookend concept. However, the Scottish Rite offers a total of 29 degrees. So although one only need see five degrees to become a Scottish Rite Mason, one does not experience the true value of membership until he sees the other degrees. In reality, the bookend concept

is just the first step in membership. As a new member, a brother is expected to come back, to see the portrayal of the other degrees to experience the full value offered in joining the Scottish Rite. This can be done by traveling to other Valleys or returning to his home Valley. In most cases a Valley portrays all degrees over a 5 to 6 year period.

Since a brother does not experience the true Scottish Rite experience and fellowship until he has gone beyond the bookend concept, why not come to the Valley this month and next as the spring schedule concludes the Scottish Rite year?

There will be a portrayal of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Degree (DVD) on Thursday, March 9, and "Knight of the Rose Croix of H.R.D.M.," on Thursday March 23; both start at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, April 22, a historical play will be presented, followed by the portrayal of 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree, "Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret."

On March 9 and March 23, a Pre-Degree dinner will be served 6 p.m., and on April 22, following the play and degree, a Prime Rib luncheon will be served. Advance reservations for all meals are required.

Some additional reminders: Scholarship applications, with supporting documents, are due March 31.


The Valley of Hartford's Annual Meeting and election of officers for 2017-2018 will be held on Thursday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m.

The Annual Worker's Night Banquet and Installation of Officers will be held on Thursday, May 11 (Note for those who qualify: to receive an invitation, your 2017 dues need to be paid by April 1).

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For more information, contact the Valley office. Also, there are informational DVD's available upon request. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday, or Friday between 9 a.m. and noon. Phone (860) 666-0712, email [sect@snet.net](mailto:sect@snet.net).



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

**OUR 2017  
SPRING SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, March 9**  
22<sup>o</sup> DVD & Portrayal of the 16<sup>o</sup> @ 7:30 p.m.  
Pre-degree dinner available @ 6 p.m.

**Thursday, March 23**  
Portrayal of the 18<sup>o</sup> @ 7:30 p.m.  
Pre-degree dinner available @ 6 p.m.

**Friday, March 31**  
Deadline for submission of College Scholarship Applications, both Abbott and Valley

**Saturday, April 22nd**  
Consistory Day @ 9 a.m.  
Historical Masonic Play - Award Presentations  
Portrayal of the 32<sup>o</sup> - Luncheon

**Advance reservations required  
for all meals.**

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See what we have to offer by visiting our website:  
[www.valleyofhartford.org](http://www.valleyofhartford.org)

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<sup>o</sup>, Valley Secretary,  
Valley of Hartford AASR  
(860) 666-0712 Email: [sect@snet.net](mailto:sect@snet.net)





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# We Welcome Our New Brothers to the Fraternity



Rayallen F. Bergman	Compass Lodg No. 9
John F. Elwood III	Compass Lodge No. 9
Rafael Martinez	Compass Lodge No. 9
Patrick M. Kilby	Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14
Kenneth A. Boundy Jr.	Moriah Lodge No. 15
Keith A. Maximowicz	Moriah Lodge No. 15
Leo A. Remillard	Moriah Lodge No. 15
Brett Chapman	Valley Lodge No. 36
Patrick J. Greiten	Valley Lodge No. 36
Michael L. Jordan	Valley Lodge No. 36
Michael K. McLaughlin	Valley Lodge No. 36
John K. Rush	Valley Lodge No. 36
Michael J. Beebe	Estuary Lodge No. 43
Michael Polchaninoff	Estuary Lodge No. 43
Wildy T. M. Aubin	Seneca Lodge No. 55
William T. Shopey	St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64
Jonathan L. Collingwood	Widow's Son Lodge No. 66
Steven F. Martin	Shepherd-Salem Lodge No. 78
Christopher Ragunauth	Shepherd-Salem Lodge No. 78
Louis Lamphear	Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88
Khamphiou Phimvongsa	Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88
John K. Basil	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89
Daniel T. Reynolds	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89
Eric Bolanis	Moosup Lodge No. 113
Mark H. Homburg	Annawon Lodge No. 115



**March 26th**  
**5:00pm**  
*Doors Open at 4pm*



**All Seats \$15**  
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[www.CTFreemasonFamilyDay.org](http://www.CTFreemasonFamilyDay.org)

# Connecticut Freemason Family Day

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Showcase Freemasonry in State Capital
- Discounted tickets bought online support your lodge
- Masonic Color Guard
- Attending Lodges to be Recognized
- Masonic Trivia on Jumbotron
- Great Opportunity to Bring Candidates
- Special Pricing Available for Groups
- The Place to be on 3/26



## Two Ways to Get Your Tickets

### 1. Complete the Form Below and Mail it to:

CT Freemason Family Day  
 c/o Hartford Wolf Pack  
 One Civic Center Plaza  
 Hartford, CT 06103

### Questions? Contact:

WB Tom Mumford  
 860-305-7755  
[tom.mumford@trixaxis.com](mailto:tom.mumford@trixaxis.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check

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☐ AmEx / MC / Visa

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(circle one)

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge w/ #: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizing Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Go Online to: [www.CTFreemasonFamilyDay.org](http://www.CTFreemasonFamilyDay.org) and complete the custom form.

Deadline: March 22nd



# A Fellowcraft First – and Open Tryouts!

by John A. Amarilios, [membership@lafayetteconsistory.com](mailto:membership@lafayetteconsistory.com)

Excitement abounds at the Scottish Rite theater in Stratford as members of the Consistory prepare for another history making first. This time the Consistory's Colonial Fellowcraft degree team has obtained dispensation to perform the degree and pass seven candidates on Saturday March 18. The degree will be performed in the Scottish Rite theater following a luncheon at noon, and all Fellowcrafts and Master Masons are invited to attend.

It is highly recommended that you make lunch reservations by contacting the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064. The luncheon will be held at the Pyramid Shrine Building right next door to the theater. This will be a memorable afternoon with a very seasoned cast working on their home turf. I hope as many of you as possible will come out to watch this as the theater has significant capacity. For those of you who have access to Metro North, I will remind you that the Stratford Train Station is also situated within a few hundred feet of the theater.

On Saturday March 18 and April 1, all brothers (EA, FC and MM) are invited to read for a part in "THE LAST FULL MEASURE" a Scottish Rite play centered around President Lincoln that will be portrayed during an evening performance on June 24 at the theater in Stratford. The play will be performed in front of spouses, significant others and the community at large, so as to give everyone, including the cast, a flavor of how a Scottish Rite Degree is performed. We are also looking for sound and lighting volunteers who would like to work alongside our current crew. All you have to do is show up, sign in, and read a few paragraphs in front of our directors who will contact you in April if you have been chosen.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that a New Civil War Master Mason Degree team has formed and they will be ready to perform degrees through mid summer in Blue Lodges starting in mid to late May. If any lodge is interested in having team perform please contact the Consistory office at the number above to make arrangements or inquiries.

That is not to say that the Consistory is ignoring its Scottish Rite degrees. Another fabulous first for the Consistory will be the presentation of the 22<sup>nd</sup> degree on Monday March 27 in Stratford. This musical degree will be performed by singing brothers who will fill the theater with a tribute to the merits of hard and conscientious work. A meal at 6 p.m. will precede this live degree. Reservations are highly recommended at the number above.

We will continue our review of Masonic Symbolism with a closer look into our most visible symbol, and one which our fraternity is best known for - The White Apron. The apron

mystically has always been decreed to be a simple square of white lambskin with an appropriate flap symbolizing attainment. Unfortunately many Masonic aprons are frequently decorated with impressive embroidered figures and designs. Pike wrote that the symbolism of the apron is lost when it is defaced or desecrated with ornamentation, or if it is made of silk, cotton or linen and not solely lambskin.

This requires some explanation:

The ancient Chaldeans assigned that portion of the heavens in the constellation of Aries as the diurnal throne and Scorpio as the nocturnal throne. Both constellations are ruled by Mars which imbues power and strength and underpins the initiation of physical effort. Those men who are not raised to the spiritual life by the process of initiation are said to "die from the sting of the Scorpion" for they operate in the dark or negative side of divine power. Those who awaken to the mystery of the Paschal Lamb and who go further and attain the Golden Fleece are raised into the positive and constructive realm of the daylight power of Mars – in Aries – the symbol of Diety.

The apron, when worn over the area related to the animal passions, must be pure unadulterated lambskin so that it might clearly signify the regeneration of the procreative forces and their consecration to the service of Diety. Thus the white apron is a symbol of personal salvation and transmutation of the animal passions and desires. Accordingly, the brother who is truly cognizant of the significance of this universally recognized symbol should perhaps insist on nothing less than a pure white apron made of lambskin, which is to remain unadorned. Vanity and pride only serve to adulterate the symbol of the White Apron and detract from its function as a mnemonic to curb our animal passions and to seek to substitute them with constructive endeavors – from the realm of daylight power - which will benefit not only ourselves, but humanity as a whole.

***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***



# Craft at Refreshment

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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 Connecticut 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

**Every Thursday, Putnam Lodge No. 46**, Putnam, 7 p.m., Thursday Night Meeting Socializing, Rehearsing, Prepping.

**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, 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

**Second Sunday of the Month, Compass Lodge No. 9**, Wallingford, 8 a.m., Fellowship Breakfast (8 a.m. to 10 a.m.)

**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

**Sunday, March 26, 4 p.m. Masonic Family Day at the Hartford Wolfpack** - Hartford Civic Center, Hartford CT

**Sunday April 2, 5 p.m. Grand Lodge** Hospitality Suites, Crown-Plaza Hotel, Cromwell

**Saturday March 4, 10 a.m.**, Village Lodge No. 29, Collinsville, Open House and Games, Open to the public. Kids welcome!

**Sunday March 5, 1 p.m.**, Friendship Lodge No. 33, Southington, Dart Tournament, Annual Tournament with Sequin Level Lodge No. 140

**Thursday March 9, 6:30 p.m.**, Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, St. Patrick's Day Table Lodge

**Friday March 17, 6:30 p.m.**, America-St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, St Patty's Day Fellowship, This event is open to brothers, friends, family 21+, Potluck style for food, BYOB

**Saturday March 18, 6:30 p.m.**, Brainard Lodge No. 102, Waterford, RWB Theodore J. Nelson Roast, Langley's Restaurant, Cocktails 6:30, 7:30 Dinner

**Monday March 20, 7 p.m.**, Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, St. Patrick's Day, Table Lodge

**Tuesday March 21, 6:30 p.m.**, King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury, Fellowcraft Dinner

**Saturday March 25, 6 p.m.**, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88, South Windsor, Ladies at the Table

**Monday March 27, 6 p.m.**, Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor, Table Lodge

**Thursday March 30, 7 p.m.**, Hiram Lodge No. 1, Location TBD, Wild Card Thursday. This is a fifth Thursday of the month. Enough work, lets play. How about some billiards. Details to come.

**Friday March 31, 6:30 p.m.**, Montgomery Lodge No. 13, Lakeville, Fifth Friday Pot Luck Supper, Bring your favorite Potluck Dish.

**Sunday April 9, 8 a.m.**, Friendship-Tuscan Lodge No. 145,, Manchester, Annual Pancake Festival, Children \$3, Adults \$5





# Craft at Labor

*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 or Calendar Admin contact the Help Desk: <https://ctfreemasons.on.spiceworks.com/portal>.*

*All times are supplied by the lodges. If there is a dinner, the time in the heading reflects that. The Connecticut Freemasons 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

**Monday, April 3, 8 a.m.,**  
Cromwell, Crown-Plaza Hotel

## Entered Apprentice Degrees

**Monday March 13, 6:30 p.m.,**  
Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor,  
Dinner

**Monday March 20, 7:30 p.m.,** Hartford  
Evergreen Lodge No. 88, South Windsor

**Saturday April 8, 7:30 p.m.,** Putnam  
Lodge No. 46, Woodstock

## Fellowcraft Degrees

**Monday March 6, 6 p.m.,** Compass  
Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Dinner

**Monday March 13, 6:30 p.m.,** Annawon  
Lodge No. 115, West Haven, No dinner –  
Refreshments after.

**Monday March 13, 7:30 p.m.,** Evening  
Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville

**Tuesday March 14, 6:30 p.m.,** Village  
Lodge No. 29, Collinsville, Cajun Dinner

**Monday March 20, 7:30 p.m.,** Friendship  
Lodge No. 33, Southington

**Tuesday March 28, 6:30 p.m.,** Brainard  
Lodge No. 102, Niantic, Dinner

**Tuesday April 4, 6:30 p.m.,** Coastal  
Lodge No. 57, Stonington, Dinner

**Thursday April 13, 7 p.m.,** Temple  
Lodge No. 65, Westport, Dinner, 8 p.m.  
degree

## Master Mason Degrees

**Wednesday March 8, 8 p.m.,** Ivanhoe  
Lodge No. 107, Darien

**Tuesday March 21, 6:30 p.m.,** America-  
St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, Dinner

**Thursday March 23, 6:30 p.m.,** Hiram  
Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Dinner

**Monday April 3, 6 p.m.,** Compass Lodge  
No. 9, Wallingford, Dinner

## Masonicare Recognized at 'Thank you' Celebration for New Haven Walk to End Alzheimer's

**M**asonicare and our fundraising team, Masonicare Memory Keepers, were honored to receive recognition at the 'Thank You Celebration for the 2016 New Haven Walk to End Alzheimer's' held on January 23 at Ashlar Village.

Our group effort showed and resulted in the following awards:

Top 5 Corporate Fundraising Team – First Place  
Team with the Most Supporter Fundraising Events  
Team with the Most Champion Club Members  
Three Largest Teams – Second Place with 55 Walkers  
Team with the Most Spirit

"This past year's fundraising success was a team effort. Our Walk team, our corporate fundraising team and our supporters (friends, family, co-workers, and community members) helped us make a strong statement about our commitment to Alzheimer's legislation, research and care. It is an honor to partner with the Alzheimer's Association to help them find a cure for this disease," said Audrey Grove, Director, Masonicare Community Services and Social Accountability.





# Boosters

Update: February 12, 2017.



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## GRAND BOOSTERS *Thank you for contributing more than \$25*

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CT Chapter of DeMolay  
Evening Star Lodge No. 101 A.F. & A.M.  
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Valley of New Haven, AASR  
Warren Lodge No. 51 AF & AM

*After reviewing all of the receipts for Boosters, the above 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.*



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\$50 per person

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