



# Connecticut FREEMASONS

April 2017

“Am I  
truly living  
Freemasonry?”

Where Good Men Relate

Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM  
69 Masonic Ave.  
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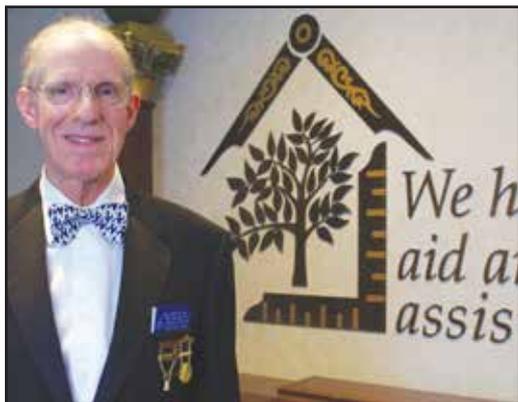
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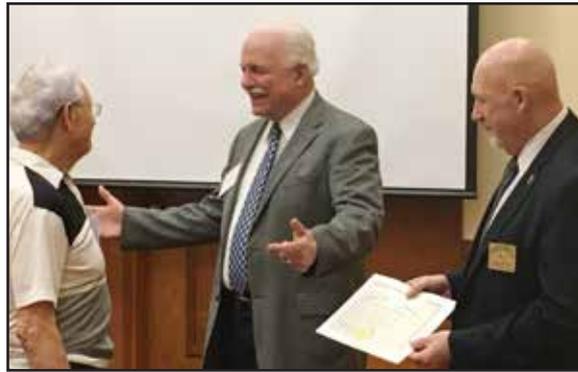
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# Is Your Lodge Living The Tenets of Freemasonry?

by Charles W. Yohe

*Ed. Note: Christians are currently observing the season of Lent, a time of reflection and self-examination leading up to Easter. The Grand Lodge will soon hold their Annual Session and begin a new Grand Lodge year. In that spirit of reflection and new beginnings, the CT Freemasons presents this article by MWPGM Charles W. Yohe.*

According to MWB Roger Van Gordon, Past Grand Master of Indiana, in the late 1860's after the Civil War, Masons came back to their homes and Lodges and proceeded to put their lives back to "normal." In the course of doing so, Lodges (in Indiana at least) became complacent about the mundane business associated with running the Lodge. Additionally, they cared very little about precision in the ritual work. Rather, the emphasis apparently was on being Masons and living Masonry.

As one would likely expect, the Grand Lodge became very concerned that the record keeping and ritual work was not being properly executed and launched a campaign that stressed care and precision in both aspects of Lodge life. Over the next 160 years or so, Lodge members were cajoled into closely conforming to their Grand Lodge's ideas of how Lodges should be operated. Sadly, along the way, the true tenets of Masonry were left behind and largely forgotten. Lodges forgot to live the values that are such a vital part of our institution! No longer did Lodges look out for their members or widows in distress.

Says MWB Van Gordon, "We got from the Lodges what we stressed – good ritual work and good record keeping. But that was at the expense of the tenets that Freemasonry teaches and that are so vital to setting us apart from other organizations." As I listened to what MW Brother Van Gordon was relating, I couldn't help but wonder if something similar wasn't true here in Connecticut.

To be sure, we should all strive to present good ritual work in our Lodges. Each of our candidates deserves nothing less than the best we can absolutely give. But more important than the words and the delivery of those words is reinforcing the meaning behind them through our own actions. Lodge and Grand Lodge officers need to constantly evaluate and ask the question "Am I truly living Freemasonry? Am I a living example of what Freemasonry teaches?" The answer of course many times is "No." While the tenets of Masonry are designed to help make good men better, they, in and of themselves, do not guarantee that positive change will take place. Regardless, we each need to dedicate and rededicate our efforts to improve.

In recent years, I've seen positive and encouraging progress toward this end. But if Freemasonry is to survive and grow, we each need to redouble our efforts. How? By doing the things that dramatically reduce the number of suspensions for non-payment of dues and requests for dimits! And you ask "How do we do that?" It starts with accepting a prospective member's petition. Are we doing a proper job of vetting prospective members? How does your Lodge go about appointing an investigating committee? Does that committee consist of Brothers who have been properly trained and prepared to be good emissaries of the Lodge but at the same time, do a proper and thorough investigation? Do they ask the right questions? Are they truthful and honest about what Masonry expects and demands from its members? Or do they 'soft peddle' our requirements?

Once the investigation is complete and the petition has been balloted upon, how does the Lodge follow through with the candidate? Is a properly trained mentor assigned to the candidate right from the start? Is there good communication with the petitioner to not only prepare him for the initiatory



*The East of St. John's Lodge No. 2, Middletown*

Continued on page 6

# Grand Master's Trestlebaord



## APRIL 2017

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE/ADDRESS	DRESS CODE	STAG/COED
Tue. 4	6 p.m.	Bedouin Shrine - Dinner/Meeting	Groton Townhouse Restaurant, Groton	Casual	C
Wed. 5	6:30 p.m.	Dinner/Meeting	Somerset St. James #34, Preston	Tux	S
Thu. 6	9 a.m.	Breakfast	Groton Townhouse Restaurant, Groton	Casual	
Fri. 7	6:30 p.m.	Dinner/ 50 Year Pins	Ansantawae #89, Milford	Tux	C
Sat. 8	9 a.m.	Grand Commandery	Four Points Sheraton, Meriden	Tux	S
	2 p.m.	Masonic Last Rites	United Federated Church, Stonington	Jacket & Tie	C
	5 p.m.	Dinner/Meeting	New England Brotherhood, Providence		S
Tue. 11	6:30 p.m.	Dinner/ GM Home Coming	Brainard #102, Niantic	Tux	S
Fri. 14	6:30 p.m.	Dinner/ FC°	Cornerstone-Quinnabaug #122, Thompson	Tux	S
Sat. 15	2 p.m.	DD Presentation/Refreshments	Fayette #69, Ellington	Tux	C
Wed. 19	6:30 p.m.	Dinner/50 Year Pins	Cosmopolitan #125, New Haven	Tux	C
Thu. 20	6 p.m.	Dinner/ PDD Annual	Wood 'n Tap, Newington	Jacket & Tie	C
Sat. 22	9 a.m.	New Masons Seminar	Ashlar Village, Wallingford	Jacket & Tie	S
	11 a.m.	32° AASR/Dinner	Scottish Rite Cathedral, Newington	Tux	S
Mon. 24	6:30 p.m.	Dinner/Meeting - 8th District BLC	Coastal #57, Stonington	Casual	S
Tue. 25	4 p.m.	Grand Opening	Masonicare at Mystic, Mystic	Jacket & Tie	C
	6:30 p.m.	Dinner/ MM°	Brainard 102, Niantic	Tux	S
Thu. 27	7 p.m.	Order of the Eastern Star Grand Chapter	Hartford Marriott, Farmington	Tux	C
Sat. 29	3 p.m.	Re-enactment, Battle of Ridgefield	Ridgefield	Casual	C
	5 p.m.	240th Anniversary Battle/Dinner		Tux	C
Sun. 30	2 p.m.	Masonic Last Rites	Preston Masonic Center	Jacket & Tie	C

## MAY 2017

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE/ADDRESS	DRESS CODE	STAG/COED
Tue. 2	6 p.m.	Dinner/Meeting - Bedouin Shrine Club	Groton Townhouse Restaurant, Groton	Casual	C
Sat. 6	10 a.m.	DD Presentation/Refreshments	Unity #148, New Britain	Tux	C
	2 p.m.	DD Presentation /Dinner	Center #97, Meriden	Tux	C
	6 p.m.	Sphinx Potentate's Reception Dinner/ Program	Hartford Radisson, Hartford	Tux	C

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accuracy of all advertisements, Connecticut Freemasons will only be liable to reprint, at no charge, any correction due to typographical error.

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# Reflections *by Theodore J. Nelson*



**A**s I write before the next and hopefully the last snow storm of this winter, I realize that the article that I wrote for last month was not in fact my last as your Deputy Grand Master. MWB Gail's term as Grand Master will conclude on the afternoon of April 3rd and this paper will be in most of our mail boxes before that date. So I decided to share some reflections with you over these past nine years as an appointed and elected Grand Lodge Line Officer.

I started out in 2008 in a little known position called Assistant to the Grand Master that was first instituted or possibly re-instituted by MWB Chuck Fowler in 2006. That appointment was made by my dear friend MWB Bob Stika. At the conclusion of his year he recommended my appointment as Grand Junior Steward to MWB Art Carlstrom. And so, my journey in the Grand Line began. We lost MWB Bob in 2014, though he and Sandy had a full life together, he left us way too soon and we miss him.

I have learned much about our history during my travels. Early on, I stayed close to District 8, my home district and the 9th to the North and 7th to the West. I traveled frequently to Wallingford for GL Officer Meetings with each administration as I ascended in the line. I carried the messages of each succeeding Grand Master and supported his agenda. There were extreme highs, when I was elected Grand Junior Warden to the most despondent of times, when my wife, Grace, and I lost our son and Brother Steve Brewster on February 28, 2011 to a fatal car accident. I will always be indebted to MWB Charlie Buck who rounded up all of his Grand Lodge Officers to be present at Steve's Masonic Last Rites. While I love Freemasonry and will always support our cause, I've dedicated the rest of my life to his memory and his mom, my wonderful wife Grace. I don't make this statement for your sympathy but more to inspire you to walk with your God. He has never let me down.

We never know fully where our travels will take us or what important lessons we will learn along the way. The one constant in my life has been my personal relationship with my God and Savior since April 16, 1978. On that day I received him in my heart and I have thanked Him each day for His blessings. I know that prayers are heard and answered. I have witnessed miracles and I'm continually inspired by His presence in my life and His Divine Providence.

I was recently approached by a dear friend and brother who presented me a proposed plan to shorten the progressive line of the Grand Lodge Officers to 4 years as opposed to the 9 that it can take under our present tradition. "Tradition" my brothers is the operative word to bear in mind. Tradition has been described as a mistaken action that is repeated over 3 or 4 years and then we commit that action to our collective memory as a tradition. A more positive definition is an action or event that has been held over decades, if not centuries, that we cherish only being modified as needed in modern times. As a history buff, I like to look further back than the recent 3 to 5 year history to see in fact how old a given tradition is. I have learned that our 9 year progression to becoming a Grand Master dates back to the early 1900s when our nine Districts became clearly defined in our Rules and Regulations. While nine years seems like a long time, I clearly see two major values in this tradition. One, the opportunity to learn how to be a Grand Master and two, that by selecting a member every year from each district, each district can count on having a GM from their district every 9 years and take pride in a "home town boy making good."

Now I love this brother and have worked closely with him. I did not discount his plan when presented. I read it and thought about it. Then, I brought it back to the Grand Master and GL Officers to discuss. I hope that he will continue to develop his plan since it may have merit and support for future GL administrations, especially if the Lodges in our grand jurisdiction continue to merge or close, thereby decreasing the need for 9 districts. It is something to give thought to.

This past February, by the urging of our Director of Communication, MWB Charlie Yohe and our Grand Master, Gail Smith, I led a contingent of GL Officers and we travelled to Omaha, Nebraska for the Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of North America. The business meetings were productive and the breakout sessions were very educational. I highly recommend that our incoming DGM keep funding in our budget for this event. I also want to thank RWB Carl Anderson for his support at the conference since he travels to the event for the trade organization, Masonic Communities & Services Association, that he represents as its Vice-President.

Going forward, as your Grand Master, I intend to appoint an ad hoc committee to devise a plan for Life Membership that our members can purchase to pay their Grand Lodge assessments in perpetuity and thereby lower their annual fees to their respective mother Lodge. I believe that such a plan could reduce the number of members being dropped for non-payment of dues (NPD). If local Lodges were to adopt such a plan, they in turn could offer

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# Is Your Lodge Living the Tenets

Continued from page 3

experience that is to come, but to begin to teach him what Masonry is all about and to show him that the Lodge truly cares about him and values his contribution to our Fraternity? Does the mentor remain actively engaged with the candidate throughout the initiation process and beyond – for at least the first eighteen months to two years?

Further, does your Lodge show concern for the welfare of each of its members? If a Brother does not attend Lodge, is there any attempt to contact him to ask why and to let him know he is missed? Is there proper concern shown for the Brother's welfare as well as that of his family? Do the tenets of Masonry actively shine through your Lodge as evidenced by your Lodge's efforts to provide relief to Brothers or widows in distress?

Does your Lodge have good ongoing communication with all your members – not just once a year when the annual dues notices are sent out? And if a Brother's dues are not promptly remitted, is there a retention committee actively involved in determining why and showing genuine concern in cases of financial difficulty? The proper time for the retention committee to act is early in the year - not in October or November prior to the Lodge voting to drop the Brother for non-payment.

Is your Lodge involved in making its surrounding community better through its active involvement? Does the Lodge sponsor those activities that can potentially benefit the community such as blood drives, organ donor sign ups, child identification events, etc.? Is there Lodge support of other worthwhile endeavors within the greater community?

My Brothers, all of these things are key to reducing the losses we experience each year due to suspensions for NPD. In short, each of us must pledge and work to do a better job of living Masonry. In 2016, 264 members were dropped for non-payment of dues. One Lodge dropped 20 members!

A larger concern is whether or not we met our obligation to help, aid and assist our Brothers who did not or could not pay their dues because of financial hardship. We owe it to each of our members and to Masonry to diligently seek to determine the exact reason why a Brother has not paid his dues and to assist when necessary. Many of our members, especially our older members, are too proud to admit that they can't afford to pay their dues. It is our obligation to assure that this does not happen.

As MWB Van Gordon said in his presentation, Grand Lodges have placed the emphasis on the wrong things – the ritual and the record keeping - for well over 150 years. It will take time to correct the course and get the emphasis where it belongs. But it starts with you and with me. Let's begin today. I would suggest that a good place to start is in contacting those recently dropped for NPD. Conduct an "exit interview" to determine why they have chosen this path and endeavor to restore them as members. Going forward, resolve to emphasize the practice of Masonry – in your Lodge and in your everyday life. If each of us does so, I am convinced we can reverse the declining membership trend. Remember: "If you're not part of the solution, you are part of the problem."



## Reflections Continued from page 5

it to their members and we could be seeing an opportunity for younger life members who would no longer have to pay dues. In fact my Lodge, Brainard Lodge No. 102, just adopted such a plan last year and we already have several life members. Our funds are invested with the Trustees in an endowment used solely for the purpose of paying the Lodge the brother's dues until they reach their 50th year of membership

My theme this year will be Communication, Mentorship and Education. If you have time to attend lodge you will be hearing my thoughts on this theme throughout the year from your District Deputy.

I want to conclude by saying what a blessing it has been to serve MWB Gail Smith. He is a Jewel of a Man that I hope to emulate. I also want to publicly thank MWBs Charlie Yohe and Roger

Read who have been my long time mentors. And yes, my young Brothers out there, even a Grand Master needs a mentor. I also want to thank my dear friend, RWB Marshall Robinson. When I make a mistake he is quick to remind me that the last perfect person to walk the earth was hung on a cross. Let's stay humble and learn and grow from our mistakes and not let them weigh us down. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge RWB C.A. Duke who has shared the commute with me to many Masonic events around the state.

I hope that you are enjoying your life and spending time with your loved ones. If those loved ones are also your Masonic Brothers, then that is a home run in my book.

God Bless. See you in Lodge!

# The Masonicare Experience

Inspiring stories from throughout the Masonicare continuum

## A Proud Mason and Benefactor: WB Stuart Smith

by Adam Raider

It was nearly a decade ago when WB Stuart Smith, then Worshipful Master of Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125 in New Haven, invited RWB Richard Memmott, Sr. to the lodge's annual Thanksgiving dinner to give a talk about Masonicare. At the time, Memmott was Director of Masonicare Community Services, a statewide outreach program.

"I learned a lot more about Masonicare," Stuart recalled, "about how they offer a complete continuum of healthcare for seniors. You're not going to find something like that anywhere else."

Then, in 2016, Stuart experienced the Masonicare continuum firsthand when his now late mother, Norma, transitioned to Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford. Norma was 100 years old and living in a memory care residence near New Haven when she suffered a devastating fall that required hospitalization. Stuart requested that his mother be discharged to Masonicare Health Center for short-term rehabilitation, but soon recognized that it would be in her best interest to remain there in long-term care. At Masonicare Health

Center, Stuart explained, Norma would benefit from a level of care and safety not available at her previous residence.

"I visited my mother every single day throughout her stay at the Health Center," Stuart said. "During that time, I became well acquainted with the staff. In addition to taking such good care of my mother, they continually showed concern for me by asking how I was holding up as I saw my mother gradually deteriorating."

Norma passed away in May 2016. A short time later, Stuart was surprised to receive calls at home from members of his mother's Masonicare Hospice care team.

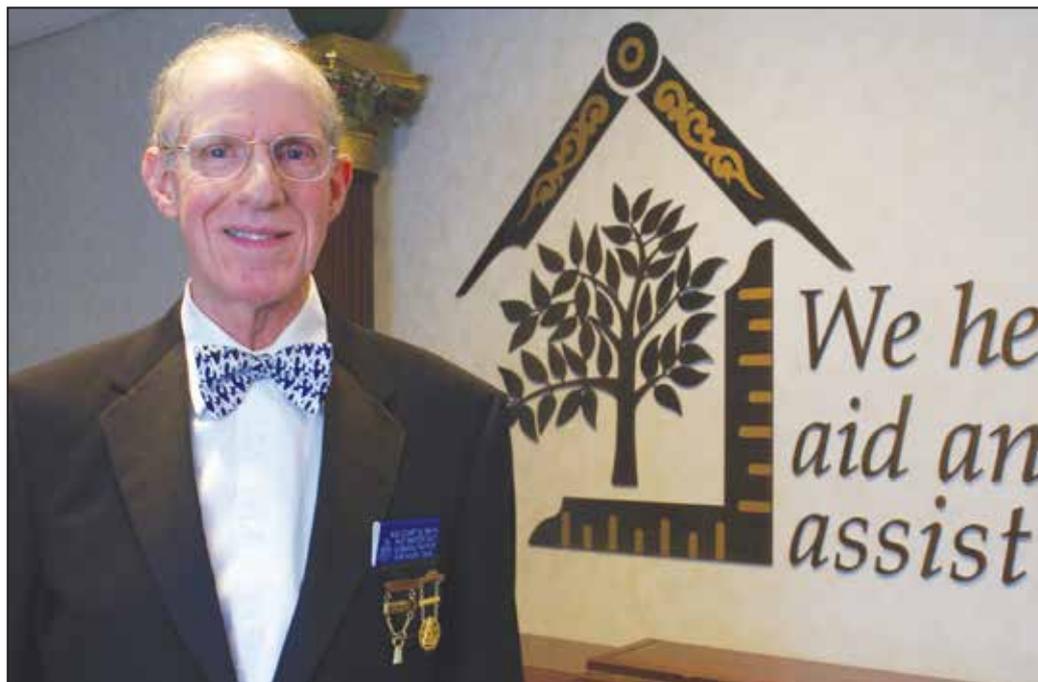
"They told me that I could feel free to call them, or come in to see them, if I had questions or needed somebody to talk

to," he said. "I never would have expected that. I was so impressed by the care given to my mother, and the concern showed to me, that I put my own name on the Masonicare long-term care waiting list. There's no harm in having it there."

Masonicare is very grateful that Stuart has named its Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut as a major beneficiary of his estate. "The Foundation will receive the bulk of my trust," Stuart said, "because I believe in Masonicare's mission of enhancing the quality of life for the elderly residents and patients in their care. I support causes that benefit children and seniors. But unlike children, who generally have a much longer life span to look forward to, the elderly tend to need more immediate physical, emotional or

psychological help. I understand their needs because I'm getting older myself. Also, many older adults cannot afford the care they need, and Medicaid doesn't pay as much as is needed to care for the elderly. I feel like I have a responsibility to step up and help pay for the shortfall."

Legacy gifts from benefactors like Stuart have helped sustain the good work of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut since its



*"I believe in Masonicare's mission of enhancing the quality of life for the residents and patients in their care."*

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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*



Louis J. Algier, Sr.	Coastal Lodge No. 57	Robert A. Gordon	Corinthian Lodge No. 63
Richard Beck	King Solomons Lodge No. 7	Charles F. Houska, III	Granite Lodge No. 119
William H. Bridge	Composite Lodge No. 28	Walter C. Kirschman, Jr.	Meridian Lodge No. 77
Franklin D. Bushwack	Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34	Arthur W. Lerner	St. John's Lodge No. 2
David F. Carlson	King Hiram Lodge No. 12	John MacFadyen, Jr.	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89
Ernest R. Clevenger	Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34	Daniel E. Mack	Washington Lodge No. 70
Edward M. Considine	Temple Lodge No. 16	Richard P. Mack	Hiram Lodge No. 18
Stephen P. Curry	Bay View Lodge No. 120	George E. Mattegat, Sr.	Hiram Lodge No. 18
Franklin R. Daigle	Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 1	Roy H. Olson	Village Lodge No. 29
Robert O. Decker	Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88	Tony R. Pontello	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89
Donald R. Despres	Meridian Lodge No. 77	Richard P. Reynolds	Corinthian Lodge No. 63
Sebastian DiMauro	Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145	M. Wallace Rubin	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89
Earnest W. Elliott	Columbia Lodge No. 25	George Savva	Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88
David A. Ende	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89	Ward E. Wiltse, Jr.	Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140
Dennis G. Erickson	Anchor Lodge No. 112		

## Masonicare Experience Continued from page 7

inception over 120 years ago, and have enabled Masonicare to grow far beyond its humble beginnings as the Masonic Home and Hospital in Wallingford.

In addition to his future bequest, Stuart recently made a very generous outright unrestricted gift to The Foundation in memory of his mother. The Foundation is appreciative of Stuart's present and future philanthropy, and looks forward to inducting him into its most distinguished giving society, The Benefactors, in October of 2017.

"We are so honored by Stuart's generosity," said Jennifer King, The Foundation's Executive Director. "I've come to know him to be very thoughtful and discerning when it comes to his charitable giving, so his excellent bequest to The Foundation is truly a testament to his strong belief in the high quality of our Masonicare facilities and programs.

Stuart is a native of New Haven who worked in accounting and finance for the international oil company formerly known as Conoco before striking out on his own as a personal financial advisor. Now semi-retired, he plans to spend more time volunteering – including offering his expertise as a member of Masonicare's Investment Committee.

A 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason who followed five uncles and his father into the fraternity, Bro. Stuart is a Past Worthy Patron of Golden Rod Chapter No. 34, Order of the Eastern Star, and holds membership in Pyramid Temple, Shriners (Milford), Hejaz Grotto (New Haven), Auvergne Honorary DeMolay Chapter, Holy Land Lodge No. 50 (an international Masonic Lodge in Israel), and the Past Masters Association.

"I've been part of Freemasonry for over 50 years," he said, "and I feel like I fit in well because we share a lot of the same values. These are people of integrity who are concerned for the well-being of others and their communities."

Which helps explain, once again, why the Masonic family has been such an important friend to Masonicare.

*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).*

# Grand Historian's Corner

by Gary A. Littlefield

This Grand Historian was asked to reprint part of my column from 2000. The column referred to a report by the Masonic Charity Foundation in 1905 when it was decided to have a doctor make daily visitations to the facility. The annual cost was \$425.15, and that amount was widely discussed among the Board members and the fraternity. It took until 1922 to make the doctor available for on call purposes. Grand Masters Day had gone back and forth from September to June but in 1922 when that decision was made, Grand Master's Day was on June 10, as it will be celebrated once again this year (2017).



Our Grand Lodge proceedings have expanded to well over 300 pages but in 1801 there were ten printed pages to record all the proceedings of the year. There was 100% attendance of the 45 lodges at the half yearly communication set in Hartford on May 20 when Stephen Titus Hosmer continued as Grand Master. The petition for the division of Moriah Lodge No. 15 was allowed. Moriah was allowed to sit in the First Society of Canterbury with a new lodge, Putnam Lodge No. 46 allowed to sit in the First Society of Pomfret with Lemuel Grosvernor sitting in the East. Eastern Star Lodge No. 44 was allowed to sit alternately in the First Society of Windham and Lebanon. Petitions for lodges in Oxford and Stonington were denied and finally each lodge represented required its delegates to pay twenty five cents and present their returns to the Grand Secretary before being allowed to vote.



George Loomis probably holds the record of service to the fraternity as he served as Grand Tiler of the Grand Lodge for a period of 40 years, some of which was broken up (1905, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1913



and 1915-1949). He also served as Tiler of Lafayette Lodge No. 100 for 45 years, Tiler of St John's Lodge No. 4 for 45 years, Tiler of Hartford Lodge No. 88 for 42 years, Tiler of Tuscan Lodge No. 126 for a mere 26 years and Tiler of Level Lodge No. 137 for only 16 years. He was born in 1860 in West Hartford and moved to Stratford at an early age. He was educated in the schools there and returned to Hartford where he worked in the bicycle manufacturing business and later test drove cars for Pope-Hartford autos. He was raised in Lafayette Lodge No. 100 in 1883 and became Worshipful Master in 1899. Because he enjoyed greeting visitors and members, he was also outside the door for his York Rite bodies and Scottish Rite bodies as well. In 1945 he was awarded the Pierpont Edwards medal in Bronze for his service to the fraternity.

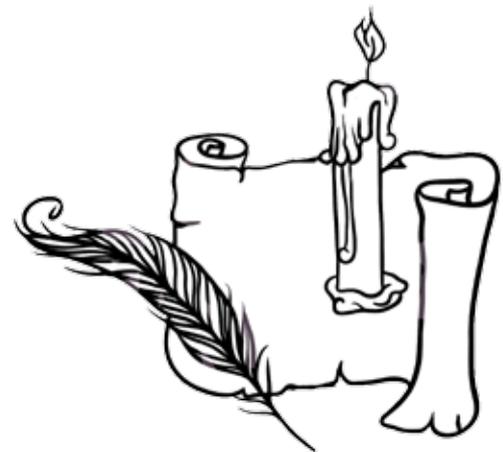


St John Lodge at Stratford, now sitting as number 8 on the Grand Lodge rolls, received their charter from RWB George Harrison, Provincial Grand Master for New York dated the 22nd day of April 1766 and Joseph Clark was appointed first Worshipful Master. According to Grand Lodge records, the first official meeting was held on May 12 when four men were raised. Three days later, the subordinate

officers were elected and appointed. On September 4, the by-laws were formally adopted and signed by the existing members. In 1792, the charter by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut was officially given and presented to the lodge with the designation of the number eight.



As Historian of my own lodge, I have tried to ascertain where all my lodge's Past Masters are buried. A website like [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) is very helpful but is obviously not complete. Some pictures are shown, and sometime detail on a stone might be given. In a couple of instances, the dates on the narrative don't match the dates on the stone but generally that is either a transcription or visual error. A WPA project during the Depression (under the leadership of President and Brother Franklin Roosevelt) transcribed many of Connecticut's cemeteries and gravestones onto paper and now are available through various commercial sites. The Connecticut State Library in Hartford has the complete index on paper, but large cemeteries are transcribed stone by stone and are not in any order (searching for a particular stone requires reading line by line). These are valuable tools for the Historian.



# Donate Auction Items To the Scottish Rite Children's Dyslexia Center of Connecticut

Children's Dyslexia Center Fundraising Auction to be held on Saturday, November 4, 2017, at the Hartog Center in Wallingford during the Annual Wine and Beer tasting event. It will be a fun afternoon. Bring your family and friends. Come to preview the Auction and bid on some great items.

As you clean out or downsize, we are looking for donations of all sorts —  
- *Real Estate - Vacation Homes - Cars - Boats - Furniture - Jewelry of all kinds including Masonic - Fine Books - Masonic Book - Clocks - Art work of all sorts - Old Radios - Handmade Items - Old Photographs - Bells - Antiques - Weekend Stays at Time Share - Week*

*Vacation at your Vacation Home - Car Repair Certificates - Restaurant Certificates - Movie/Theater Tickets - Landscape Services - Home Repair Certificates - Goods or Services from your Business - Cord of Wood - Plants and other Lawn and Garden items - Gift Basket - Fishing Trips - Fishing or*

*Hunting Supplies - Baskets of Cheer - Growing Supplies - Farm Supplies* — whatever you can think of, we will do our best to auction it off to benefit the Center.

The Dyslexia Center is a non-profit 503-c corporation so your donated items may be tax deductible. We will send you paperwork for the amount of money your unwanted item realizes at the Auction as your donation. Tell your friends and family - get everyone involved! Collect your stuff. **Call the Valley of Bridgeport Office 203-375-0064 or email Gary Shepard, [gary\\_shepard@reagan.com](mailto:gary_shepard@reagan.com) or Jack Farkas, [estateart@att.net](mailto:estateart@att.net) to make arrangements to donate your items.**



## The Three Errant Ruffians *by John A. Amarillos*

At the beginning of April, your Consistory is shifting to another portion of the 24 inch gauge (that of refreshment and sleep) and will be providing ample refreshment and fellowship at the Grand Lodge Session. There will be a Scottish Rite Hospitality Suite and information center at the hotel which will provide refreshments, a wide variety of informative materials about the Rite, as well as all of the Valleys throughout the state, and of course trinkets. Please make sure to stop by and say hello to the brothers who will be diligently manning the Suite!

Thereafter, degree work will recommence with performances of the 16<sup>th</sup> degree in New Haven on April 10, the 25<sup>th</sup> degree in Stratford (performed by the Valley of Waterbury) on April 17, and the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree for this season at Newington (hosted by the Valley of Hartford) on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

I had promised you that I would revert to the issue of the symbolic identity of the three ruffians, and this is what I intend to try to do this month. The

names of the three ruffians all contain the word “bel” in the middle syllable. Bel/Baal was a predominantly Chaldean and ancient Semitic diety. Through the vicissitudes of ancient time, the Chaldeans were absorbed into the Persian empire and through the passage of time the word “Chaldean” came to mean a class of men who were masters of the written word, and accomplished in reading, reciting incantations, in sorcery and other dubious magical arts. The long and short of it was that the term Bel/Baal became associated with demonology in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when the name became associated with one of the Seven Princes of Hell according to the 1589 classification of Peter of Binsfeld, who was a German Bishop and theologian.

The symbolism of the murder requires extensive consideration. Coming from a Christian tradition we could see parallels with murder of the Nazarene who accomplished in three days the raising of His body from the earthly tomb. In symbolic allusion the days may be equated to degrees. We thus have a

previously mortal body, raised, so that it might become a higher, more ephemeral vehicle, one worthy of housing an elevated conscience and one which will express the potential of the higher nature of Mankind. This transformative process is what the science of Masonry, the raising of a Master, is all about. The slumbering Master within can only be raised when Man's desires, emotions and acts are consistent and solely focused on this desire, and the environment of personal liberty exists so that these desires to elevate oneself, once stirred, can be expressed without restriction or fear. Indeed, the Masters who founded this great nation enabled this environment by making personal liberty of prime importance to the fabric of our culture for this very reason. Once the candidate begins to think, feel and act right he begins to raise the slumbering but indwelling Christic principal into conscious awareness, and then into the material existence, where this will take

Continued on page 12

# Masonic Scouters Honor Marje Chick

*by Charles W. Yohe*

Seventy Brothers and ladies attended this year's annual Masonic Scouters recognition dinner in the Knapp auditorium at Ashlar Village. In addition to excellent fellowship and great food, the Masonic Scouters Association officers for the coming year were installed by MWB Gail N. Smith, Grand Master.

The association also presented several awards, including a certificate of recognition to Mrs. Marje Chick for all the assistance she renders to the Association in its effort to provide Masonic recognition of those scouts who have achieved Eagle Scout status. Each Eagle Scout receives a handsome certificate signed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master together with a congratulatory letter from the Grand Master. Marje coordinates the signing of the certificate and letter and sees that they are forwarded to the appropriate Masonic representatives in a timely manner for presentation at each Eagle Scout Award event throughout Connecticut.



*Marje addresses the Association.*



*Marje receives here award from Brothers Jack Braddock and Tom Transue*

## We Welcome Our New Brothers to the Fraternity



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# The Three Errant Ruffians

Continued from page 10

on the selfless work of erecting, in tandem with others who are awake, the Temple of Universal Brotherhood.

So who would want to stop and kill the architect of such great works? The three ruffians are the ever present agencies of evil — Superstition, Ignorance and Fear. These are the agencies emanating from the evil of “Baal” who seek to murder and extinguish the Light by promising a false kingdom of material pleasures and fleeting possessions, social acceptance and recognition, or by cunningly inducing doubt into the candidate who seeks more than the limitation of the material. These ruffians exploit whatever weakness the candidate has a preferment for.

In the material plane it would appear that the evil will always triumph over the good. Nothing could be more wrong than this assumption. The fate of the three ruffians is certain. The candidate however, must take steps to avoid the fate of Hiram, by being aware of the false promises and wrong thinking that these Ruffians introduce into the Initiatory process. One must remember that after many seasons, the true Master will eventually depart this plane of tears and anguish and will then be faced with the accounting that all souls must go through.

Were you waylaid so close to an eternal accomplishment, by the dulcet tones of the Ruffians and the inviting dross of the material which rusts, fades, decays and is stolen? Were you scared out of accomplishing the work due to the craven need to please the superstitious around you? Did you fall victim to doubt about the existence of your eternal nature?

If you have decided to take on this difficult process you are not alone. The reinforcement and elevation of the spirit required on an ongoing basis, can be attained by listening carefully to the words of the ritual and lectures in your Blue Lodge. Additional reinforcement can be attained through the regular attendance at your Scottish Rite Valley’s degrees. All of which slowly through repetition and digestion of the words, uplift your consciousness and assist in awakening your Eternal Master within.

*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 [membership@lafayetteconsistory.com](mailto:membership@lafayetteconsistory.com), or call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064.*

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Wayne W. Jenkins	Housatonic Lodge No. 61	April 4, 1967
Roger A. Chadwick	Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145	April 6, 1967
Robert A. Hathaway	Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88	April 10, 1967
Franklin J. Davis, Jr.	Columbia Lodge No. 25	April 12, 1967
Robert Buckley	Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34	April 12, 1967
William J. Holland	Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34	April 12, 1967
Robert F. Macaione	Day Spring Lodge No. 30	April 12, 1967
Charles Haigh	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89	April 14, 1967
Carl R. Wheeler, Jr.	King Hiram Lodge No. 12	April 18, 1967
Robert L. Collingwood	Widow's Son Lodge No. 66	April 18, 1967
Raymond F. Brown	Manchester Lodge No. 73	April 18, 1967
Edwin E. Blow	Manchester Lodge No. 73	April 18, 1967
Robert D. Boss	Coastal Lodge No. 57	April 19, 1966
Bill Baker	Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14	April 22, 1967
Allen G. Dugdale	Washington Lodge No. 70	April 24, 1967
Bruce R. Chamberlin	Washington Lodge No. 70	April 24, 1967

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# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD SERVICE

March 15, 2017

To Prospective Board Members:

By this notice, the Board of Trustees of Masonicare hereby issues a Call for Nominations of candidates for election to the Board of Trustees of Masonicare. In addition, Masonicare requests nominations for candidates for appointment to the boards of its affiliates: Masonicare at Ashlar Village, Masonicare at Home, Masonicare at Newtown, Masonicare Health Center, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, Masonic Management Services, and The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. To be considered for service, nominees need not specify in which board they are interested in serving. Interested individuals should request a Nomination Application by completing and returning the questionnaire below.

**Applications should be submitted to me and postmarked no later than April 30, 2017. Applicants will be contacted to schedule interviews.**

Nominees should have qualifications in business, corporate leadership, finance, law or medicine, which qualify them for board service. Candidates should be aware that board members assume fiduciary duties with respect to their service, and that violation of these duties can entail personal liability. Service on our boards requires a considerable time commitment, varying with the needs of each corporation. While Masonicare's board is comprised of those who are specifically members of the Masonic

fraternity or related appendant bodies, affiliate board membership may also contain qualified members of the local community.

**MASONICARE** is the Parent Corporation of our system, and all nominees must be members in good standing of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, with the exception of three who shall be members in good standing, and appointed one each from The Grand Chapter of Connecticut, Order of the Eastern Star; the Order of the Amaranth, State of Connecticut; and Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of Connecticut. The Board of Trustees is composed of no fewer than twelve but no more than fifteen members. Three seats must be filled annually by members in good standing of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, through the nomination and election process. The term of service on this board is three years, commencing in November 2017.

The term of service for each of the following service lines of Masonicare is one year, commencing in November 2017.

**RESIDENTIAL SERVICES** has a board of at least seven, but no more than fourteen, members and governs Residential Services which represents Independent Living and Assisted Living, specifically Masonicare at Ashlar Village and Masonicare at Mystic .

**HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES** has a board of at least three but no more than nine members which represents home care services and home maker and companion services, specifically Masonicare Home Health & Hospice and Masonicare at Home.

**HEALTHCARE SERVICES** has a board of at least seven, but no more than fourteen members which represents skilled nursing, short-term rehab, outpatient clinics, primary care and hospital services, specifically Masonicare Health Center, Masonicare at Newtown and Masonic Management Services.

**THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT** has a board of at least seven, but no more than nineteen members which safeguards and nurtures the system's assets, including the Endowment Fund, and houses our planned giving and development efforts.

The board seats which are not filled through this nomination process will be filled (a) through the appointment of cross-directors from the parent corporation board, (b) through the appointment of the corporation's Senior Administrator to the board, (c) through the appointment of residents to the board, and/or (d) through the appointment of an officer of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, to the board.

Please feel free to address any questions you may have regarding this process to Jon-Paul Venoit, President and CEO, 203-679-5000 or [jvenoit@masonicare.org](mailto:jvenoit@masonicare.org). Thank you for your assistance and participation.

Sincerely and fraternally,

David A. Gessert, Chairman  
Nominating Committee

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATION FOR BOARD SERVICE

Requests for a Nomination Application can be completed by returning the attached request. Once completed, the form should be sent to David A. Gessert, Chairman of the Masonicare Nominating Committee, via U.S. Postal Service to the address listed below; by facsimile to 203-679-5001; or you may send the information electronically to [droemmele@masonicare.org](mailto:droemmele@masonicare.org). A Nomination Application will be sent to all applicants for completion. The Nomination Application may be returned via U.S. Postal Service, Facsimile or electronically. Please indicate your preference.

**David A. Gessert, Chairman  
Masonicare Nominating Committee  
Masonicare  
22 Masonic Avenue, P.O. Box 70  
Wallingford, CT 06492**

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

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer the application to be sent to me via: \_\_\_\_\_

# From the desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

Our 2017 Nutmegger Reunions in Florida last month were great! Bro. Bob Polito, MWBro. Charlie Yohe, MWGGM Gail Smith, Rev. Bro. Carl Anderson and I truly enjoyed seeing 160 Connecticut Masons and updating them on fraternal news and Masonicare happenings. Eight 50-year pins were presented and, to Bro. Ralph Wallen, a 65-year pin! And we were delighted to witness retired Masonicare CEO (1995 – 2005) Bro. Barry M. Spero receive his 50-year pin in New Port Richey. Please check out the photos and details from the five reunions in this issue of *Connecticut Freemasons*.



As I write this – now that we are back in Connecticut – we are in the midst of Blizzard Stella. Storms like these shine a light on the work ethic of our employees. Our facility and community-based staff get on the road early and stay late, past their shifts, to ensure we have adequate coverage. As for our home care staff, they demonstrate outstanding professionalism, anticipating the challenges a storm presents and managing their schedules accordingly. The commitment to our mission is a team effort all-around.

I'm happy to report that our Mystic community is fully open and continues to welcome move-ins. One of our residents there just turned 95 and our staff helped the family throw a party for him, prompting an enthusiastic note of thanks: "Your wonderful staff went above and beyond from assisting with preparations to executing the actual event! You have become

part of our extended family." We do like parties in our Masonicare communities and will be hosting one on April 25 when we have our official ribbon-cutting for Masonicare at Mystic. It is a long-awaited and exciting milestone to look forward to.

I mentioned our mission earlier, and we are fortunate to have outstanding individuals who serve on our Board of Trustees and our Affiliate Boards of Directors. At the February Trustees meeting, Chairman Bob Polito announced the following Chairs of Masonicare's Affiliate Boards: Healthcare Services (Masonicare Health Center, Masonicare of Newtown and Masonic Management Services) – Bro. William Deickler; Home and Community Services (Masonicare Home Health & Hospice and Masonicare at Home) – Janet Berry; Residential Services (Masonicare at Ashlar Village and Masonicare at Mystic) – Bro. David Gessert; and The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut – Bro. Geoffrey Ice. I look forward to working with them as we face the challenges and opportunities ahead. We are deeply grateful to our outgoing Affiliate Chairs – Bro. Robert Simon, Bro. Francis "Biff" Conlon and Bro. J. Arthur Carbonaro – and are pleased that they will continue to serve on our Boards.

Sincerely and fraternally,

President & CEO of Masonicare



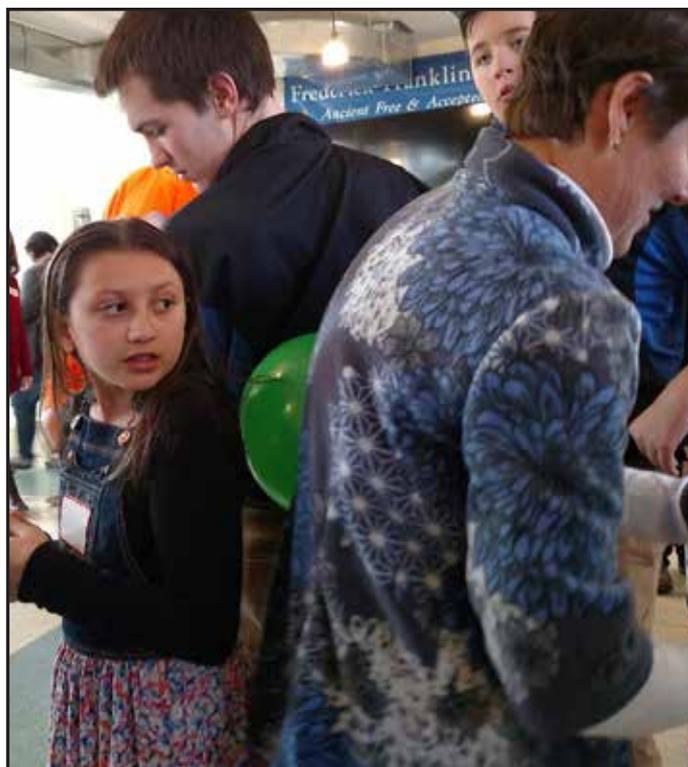
Bro. Robert A. Simon (right) is presented with a plaque of appreciation for his several years of service, chairing the Masonicare Health Center and Masonicare at Newtown boards. With Bro. Bob is Bro. Robert F. Polito, chair of the Masonicare Board of Trustees.



Bro. J. Arthur Carbonaro (center) is presented with a plaque of recognition for his many years of service chairing the board of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, With Bro. Art are Jennifer King, Executive Director of The Foundation, and Bro. Robert F. Polito, Chair of the Masonicare Board of Trustees.

# Masonic Youth Enjoy a Pizza Party Hosted by Eastern Star

by Pat Kalinauskas



The Worthy Grand Matron, Madolyn Morgan and Worthy Grand Patron, Vincent Kalinauskas and their Grand Officers of Eastern Star recently hosted a pizza party for the members of Rainbow and DeMolay. Mom and Dad Advisors from each organization also enjoyed the fun and games. The game of musical chairs kept everyone laughing. One of the games was a challenge to get air filled balloons down a line of people without touching it with your hands. This required copious amounts of teamwork and dexterity, the later of which seemed to be more geared for the younger crowd.

One young DeMolay ended up with two balloons. Using a bit of ingenuity and taking advantage static electricity, he showed us all up! It makes you wonder what sort of job he will have in the future.

# Pythagoras Chapter R.A.M. Planning Gala 200th Year Asking for Help Locating Artifacts

by William L. Miller

By now, it should no longer be a secret that 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 Facility in Bolton, on October 1, on the actual eve of the official institution 200 years ago in Hartford. Details of the evening will be announced later for those interested in attending, but for now, the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 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 committee has been busy 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 that lasted over 80 years despite two World Wars, suffering through the Depression, and spawning four daughter Chapters. Today Pythagoras Chapter enjoys a modern presence with a re-born spirit. Its 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 that can be shared. We ask ALL Masons from CT, including 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, such as artifacts, news, photos, which we can display. Should you find something, full credit will be given for its origin, it will be cataloged 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, covering the last 90 years, and all of whom, who have moved around from building, truck by truck, are finally now back home.

To make arrangements or forward inquiries, contact Chapter Secretary William 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.

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# District 2

Lodges 13, 18, 21, 39, 40, 48, 49, 61



JERUSALEM 49  
APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> 2017



## Battle of Ridgefield *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 and it is a high-profile showpiece for Freemasonry.

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.

Between April 28 and 29, Main Street in Ridgefield will become the scene of a raging battle. There will be scheduled guided tours during the event and a black-tie gala that evening. Details will be regularly updated on the event website: [battleofridgefield.org](http://battleofridgefield.org).

Jerusalem Lodge No. 49 in Ridgefield is fully immersed in the planning and execution of the reenactment of this historic battle and the events leading up to it. 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.

# District 4

Lodges 1, 9, 16, 22, 30, 38, 63, 66, 77, 79, 89, 97, 115, 125, 332, 500, MLR



## Kitchen Degrees *by Michael Calderone*

You may have seen the online collage, or "meme," of what different people think we do as Freemasons. The series of six photos illustrate what "my friends, my mom, society, and conspiracy nuts think I do" as a Freemason. Each photo is a silly stereotype of Masonry including the Suicide of Socrates illustrating, "What I think I do," reminding me that I often take

myself too seriously at Lodge. The punchline photo is captioned, "What I really do," and is a black and white photo of a man hunched over a sink surrounded by a mountain of dirty dishes.

As a new Associate Steward of Hiram Lodge No. 1 a few years back, this meme made me laugh out loud; it was all too true. How many nights was I stuck at the dishwasher scrubbing plates and pans from that night's dinner? How often was I one of the last of the Brothers to head home that night after making sure everything was squared away in the kitchen? How many times did I have to explain to my wife why I arrived home so late each Thursday night?



If Masonry taught me anything it was to look at the world symbolically, including my time in the temple kitchen. What does this

Continued on page 19

# Kitchen Degrees Continued from page 18

work mean? What is the lesson I am to learn through this action? I remember musing one night hunched over the sink like the man in the photo that there was duty and honor in serving my Brothers thus. That the work I did made their lives a little bit easier and that they were able to enjoy themselves a little bit more when gathered in fellowship. It gave me consolation as I scrubbed, and the Brothers were always very appreciative of my work. I have to admit, though, that after three years as a Steward and later serving the Lodge in the South, I was more than happy to be out of the kitchen and on my way to the East.

Then I noticed something curious happening in Hiram's kitchen. The Junior Warden, Stewards and, oddly enough, random Brothers,

started arriving at the temple early to prepare meals. Raucous laughter could be heard coming from behind the swinging doors that lead to the dining room. Amazing meal after amazing meal started to grace our tables. What is more, the Brothers whose duty it was to plan, prepare, present, scrub and polish, tended to spend most of their Thursday nights in the kitchen. These younger Brothers had transformed what is often deemed the location of lodge drudgery into the place to be! Furthermore, I believe our most familiar Masonic lessons were being put into action, albeit with new symbols: rough ashlar were replaced by raw vegetables; working tools were represented by cutlery; and aprons were converted into smart looking chefs' jackets.



To this day, the kitchen crew at Hiram Lodge No. 1 impresses and delights both the Brothers of their Mother Lodge and our cherished guests. Most importantly to me, my Brothers in the kitchen illustrate a beloved quotation better than any meme ever could. The late mythologist, Joseph Campbell, who first sparked my interest in seeing the world through symbols wrote, "Participate joyfully in the sorrows of the world. We cannot cure the world of sorrows, but we can choose to live in joy." That joy is deliciously demonstrated each Thursday night in a Masonic temple in New Haven!

## District 5

Lodges 14, 29, 33, 36, 101, 140, 147, 148



## Evening Star Lodge No. 101 Initiates Two

by *Bill Mellow*

Junior Warden John F. Hodgdon IV was proud to sit in the East on the evening of February 13, as Joseph W. Yankus and Ismail A. Tezan, were initiated as Entered Apprentices. Bro. Hodgdon and the rest of Evening Star Lodge No. 101 look forward to mentoring their new brothers' progress in Masonry.





## Sequin-Level to Commemorate Bataan Death March 75th Anniversary *by Steve Gorman*

On Sunday, April 8, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 will conduct a remembrance program to honor the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States and of the Philippines who became part of one of the most tragic and forgotten episodes in wartime history, the Bataan Death March. On the same day when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, on the other side of the International Date Line they also attacked and invaded the Philippines, then a colonial territory of the United States.

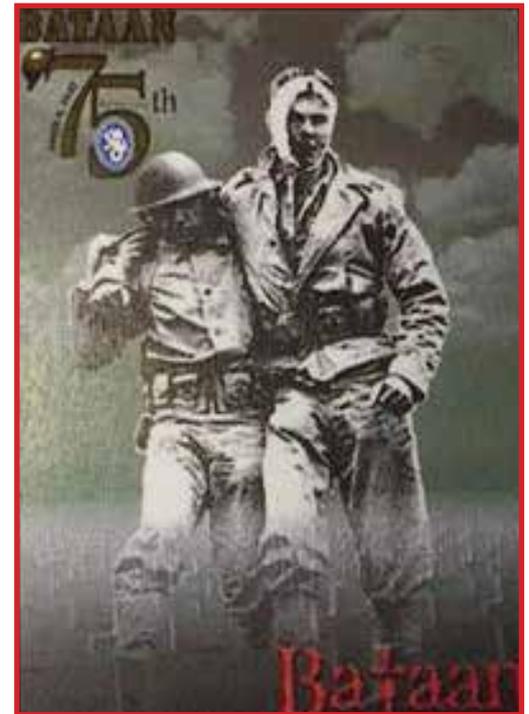
Following the ensuing battles of Bataan and Corregidor, American and Filipino forces surrendered to the Japanese. On April 9, 1942, the Japanese stepped off a forced march of between 60,000 and 80,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war over more than 60 miles of inhospitable terrain, and in temperatures sometimes over 110°, to railheads to transport them to POW camps.

The **Battling Bastards of Bataan**, as these American POWs came to be

known, will be honored in a Sunday afternoon program of commemoration under the leadership of Brother John Chan, who is also a retired US Air Force officer. Guest speaker for this program is Dan Crowley, one of the few surviving veterans of the Battles and Bataan and Corregidor. All brothers are invited to attend and learn more about this tragic and seldom spoken-of event, all too often ignored in classroom history books, as it was not one of the prettiest memories of American military history.

This is the second in a series of WWII 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative events being held by Sequin-Level Lodge during 2016-2020. The first, held on December 7, 2016, was the 75<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The program will begin at 12 noon on April 8, which is the eve of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, at the Sequin Masonic Temple, 80 Walsh Avenue, Newington. All Masons are invited to attend. This public event starts with a free lunch for all



attendees, followed by the program itself at 1 p.m. Among other details, you will hear of some Masonic connections to this episode in world history. Please reserve through [reservations@sequin-level140.org](mailto:reservations@sequin-level140.org).

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# Nutmegger Reunion Roundup

by Charles W. Yohe

Starting on the East coast of Florida in West Palm Beach and crisscrossing the state of Florida for five days, this year's Nutmegger Reunions provided Connecticut Masons and widows who have relocated to the Sunshine State and those who spend the winter months in its sunny climes, the opportunity to meet with the Grand Master, Gail N. Smith, Masonicare's CEO, J.P. Venoit and its Chairman of the Board, Robert Polito. This year's five locations included West Palm Beach, Naples, Sarasota, Ocala, and New Port Richey. A special thank you is due to the hosts for four of the reunions: The Hockings (Naples), the Rutushnis (Sarasota), M.W. Norman L. Getchell (Ocala), and the Blennerhassets (New Port Richey).



*MWB Gail Smith presents his father's 50-year pin to Barry Spero.*

With the exception of Ocala, the ambitious schedule is the same at each location: set up the meeting room, greet the attendees as they arrive, present a multimedia update on Masonicare (Brothers Polito, Venoit, and Anderson), afford the Grand Master the opportunity to update all on what's happening in Connecticut Freemasonry and present 50 year pins, have lunch, pack everything and drive to the next day's location. It is an exhausting week with travel between locations often being in the hundreds of miles.

This year's reunions were marked with several notable occasions. A total of seven 50 year pins were presented to Connecticut Masons. Additionally, the Grand Master, Gail N. Smith, made a

special presentation of his father's 50 year pin to Brother Barry M. Spero, retired CEO and President of Masonicare and a 65 year pin to R.W. Brother Ralph Evans.

The largest reunion this year was in New Port Richey where attendance topped out at fifty-four. As is customary, the Ocala reunion was hosted by the Brothers of Marion-Dunn Lodge in Ocala. Later that same day, the Connecticut delegation attended dinner and the stated communication of Marion-Dunn Lodge. Early the following morning, the delegation made the nearly two hour trip from Ocala to New Port Richey and set up for the final reunion.

*More photos from the 2017 Nutmegger Reunion on pages 30, 32 and 35.*



*J.P. Venoit with retired CEO and President of Masonicare, Barry M. Spero.*



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



## April is Donate Life Month

by Richard F. Denno

**O**VER 28,000 LIVES HAVE BEEN SAVED BY ORGAN DONORS in the past year! Now, that's something to be cheer about. Was someone you know one of the fortunate/lucky ones to receive a lifesaving or life changing transplant? Perhaps it was one of your family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers – or even yourself. In many cases, the lives that were saved or improved were perfect strangers; recipients that never knew their donors. As wonderful as that is, there is a “however” built into those figures. A year ago, over 120,000 patients were on the organ donor waiting list. One might assume that the number on the waiting list, by simple math, would drop to 93,000 patients, right? WRONG!

Many patients who have not been previously eligible to be included on the waiting list have, thanks to organ transplant research developments, been added to the list. Therefore, the numbers on the waiting list keep increasing, rather than decreasing. Even with the 28,000 successes, and the unfortunate

patients who simply run out of time while waiting for the organ that would save their lives, the waiting list keeps growing.

So, what is the solution? The solution is YOU! By the simple act of going online to [www.donatelifenewengland.org](http://www.donatelifenewengland.org), learning by your registration as an organ donor is so important, and registering as an organ donor, you take an important step in reducing and ultimately eliminating that waiting list.

On January 1, New Year's Day, many of us make New Year's Resolutions. These resolutions are goals we set to improve our lives. How many of those resolutions do we keep? April 1 is the beginning of Donate Life Month. You could say it is the beginning of a new year in organ donation. Why not resolve to register as an organ donor at [www.donatelifenewengland.org](http://www.donatelifenewengland.org). Keeping that resolution could save a life, even your own.

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.

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

**Valley of Bridgeport**  
2422 Main Street  
Stratford, CT  
[consistory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:consistory@sbcglobal.net)  
203-375-0064

**Valley of New Haven**  
285 Whitney Avenue  
New Haven, CT  
[sphinx97@juno.com](mailto:sphinx97@juno.com)  
203-269-0336

**Valley of Waterbury**  
531 Highland Avenue  
Waterbury, CT  
[cwk@juno.com](mailto:cwk@juno.com)  
203-754-8209

Or simply contact: [MEMBERSHIP@LAFAYETTECONSISTORY.com](mailto:MEMBERSHIP@LAFAYETTECONSISTORY.com)

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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.**

## APRIL 2017

01	ME		F	Grand Chapter RA of Rhode Island
02	ME	MP	F	Grand Lodge AF&AM of CT, Cromwell. Banquet 6 p.m.
03	ME	MP	RE	Grand Lodge AF&AM of CT, Cromwell. 9:30 a.m.
04	ME		F	Franklin 02 RA, New Haven. Annual Mtg, Past Master deg.
07		MP	F	Lee 25 SM, Collinsville.
08-09	ME	MP	RE	U Grand Commandery KT of CT, Four Points by Sheraton, Meriden
10		MP	F	Union 07 RA & Cushing 04 SM, Preston. Dinner 6:30 p.m.
11	ME	MP	F	Harmony 08 SM, New Haven. Annual Mtg, Select Master deg
12	ME		F	Hiram 01 RA, Sandy Hook. Annual Mtg,
13		MP	F	Buel 20 SM, Torrington
13			RE	F Rittenhouse 11 RA & Washington 06 SM. Installation
14	ME		RE	U New Haven 02 KT, New Haven. Order of Temple, 12 m lunch
14			RE	U Trinity 03 KT, East Norwalk. Good Friday Observanc
14			RE	U Hamilton 05 KT, Stratford. Good Friday Observance
16			RE	U Grand KT Easter Service @ Masonicare, 8 a.m.. Breakfast
18			RE	U St. Elmo 09 KT, Middletown.
21	ME			U New Haven 02 KT, New Haven. Din 6:15 p.m.
21-22		MP	RE	F Grand York Rite of Maine, Bar Harbor
22	ME			Grand Chapter Education Session with PGHP of NY Piers Vaughan, New Haven 2 p.m., Dinner 5 p.m.
23-24		MP		F Grand York Rite of Pennsylvania, Grantville
25		MP		F Montgomery 02 SM, North Windham
25				F KYCH, Stratford. Dinner 6:30 p
26	ME	MP		F Pulaski 26 RA & Crawford 19 SM, Branford.
26				F Pythagoras 17 RA & Wolcott 01 SM, East Hartford. Installation
27		MP		U Palestine 06 KT, Preston. Dinner 6:30 p.m.
27			RE	U Trinity 03 KT, East Norwalk
29	ME	MP		F Anointed High Priests, East Hartford. 9:30 a.m., Lunch

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

			May 11	ME @ Joseph Andrews 46 RA, West Haven
May 02	ME @ Franklin 02 RA, New Haven		May 12-13	Grand York Rite of NH, Concord
	Past Master deg		May 16	SM @ Columbia 09 SM, Middletown
May 03	SM @ Menunketuck 36 SM, Madison. 8:30 p.m		May 19	ME @ New Haven 02 KT, New Haven. Dinner 6:15 p.m.
May 06	Mohawk 28 Knight Masons, East Hartford. 1 p.m.		May 25	SM @ Palestine 06 KT, Preston. Dinner 6:30 p.m.
May 08	SM @ Union 07 RAM / Cushing 04 SM, Preston 7:30 p.m. – Dinner at 6:30 p.m.		May 25	Ascension Day. Hillside Cemetery Chapel, Torrington 6 p.m.. Then dinner at Kaaban's.
May 09	ME @ Harmony 08 SM, New Haven. Select Master deg			
May 09	SM @ Hamilton 22 SM, Meriden			

Continued on page 24



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## York Rite Continued from page 23

### ASCENSION DAY OBSERVANCE

Once again, the Clark Commandery Association of New Haven Commandery No. 2 will sponsor the annual Ascension Day Observance on Thursday, May 25. Beginning with a memorial service in the beautiful Chapel at Hillside Cemetery in Torrington at 6 p.m, the evening continues with a dinner at Kaaban's Shrine Club in Plymouth. Reservations for supper should be made with SK Arthur Carlstrom at [acarlstrom01@att.net](mailto:acarlstrom01@att.net).

**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.

### 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

Greetings Companions and Brothers, As I have traveled around the state some trends are becoming apparent. Often the chapters rely on elderly or long term members (though young at heart I am sure!) to bear the burden of the ritual in the degrees. There are new members coming in as well, but there are fewer members in my age range that are forming a bridge between this "new guard" and the "old guard" that is, unfortunately, diminishing in numbers. We all have seen the renewed interest in our degrees that is growing among the brothers together with a growing interest in the York Rite. We do, however, find ourselves in a potentially precarious position of losing some of these newer companions if we do not provide them with education and interesting programs. Some chapters have altered their schedules to allow for more educational and discussion meetings in between degrees – some effectively going for a two year progression for the York Rite degrees and orders – and this works well and

should be considered by other chapters. Involving new companions in the degrees with smaller parts at first is also crucial to engender interest. Lectures can also be broken down so that they can be given by two or three companions.

As I have said before, education and understanding is a continual need in the chapters. Working off the book list I gave, as well as, hopefully, good attendance at the seminar on April 22<sup>nd</sup> should give a good start for subject matter for discussion. In the Mark degree, for example, bring out the old Mark books and go through them and discuss why you think a particular companion picked the Mark that he did – most chapters should have decades worth or more of Marks to look at. For the MEM degree, there are many representations of King Solomon's Temple that can be looked at for discussion and connection to the Blue Lodge degrees. The alchemical symbolism of the RA degree can also be looked at.

As Royal Arch Masons, we should only be limited by our imaginations as to what we can discuss and become better educated. The General Grand Chapter also has a comprehensive study program that would be well worth looking at.

Continued on page 26

# Past District Deputies Association

by Lawrence S. Elsner

As we advance in age, the clock seems to spin even faster and another Grand Lodge session is upon us.

The Past District Deputies Association would like to welcome all newly appointed District Deputies, and of course the current District Deputies who are in their 2nd or even 3rd terms. Congratulations also to the Associate Grand Marshals.

There is one important meeting on the horizon for the Association, and that is the annual meeting of the Past District Deputies Association. It will be held on April 20, at the Wood N' Tap Restaurant, 3375 Berlin Turnpike Turnpike Newington, CT (next to

Raymour & Flanagan). There is plenty of free off street parking.

We will hold the meeting and honor two Past District Deputies for their Masonic Service: William L. Greene PGM and Irving M. Pease PDD.

We are trying something new and instead of a sit down dinner, we will have our social at 6 p.m. and will be served "Party Platters" at 6:30 p.m. The platters will consist of chicken wings, fresh pizza mini-bites, shrimp cocktail and coffee and dessert. There will also be a cash bar in the room for faster service. A flier should have been received by all dues card members.

We would also like to invite the current Associate Grand Marshals to this event.

It would be great to see Past District Deputies who have not attended in the past. This way our new District Deputies will have a chance to meet with their peers and may even get an idea or two for a great year.

Space is limited so please don't wait – we need your paid reservation by April 10.

There will other events throughout the year where we will be inviting wives or significant others but for this event it is only open to past and current District Deputies and current Associate Grand Marshals. Together we can make Masonry great again.

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# York Rite Continued from page 24

As we gain a better understanding of where we came from and what we, as Royal Arch Masons, stand for, we can better spread the cement of brotherly love to our Blue Lodge Brothers and show them the path to further light in Masonry through the Royal Arch to receive their true initiatic right of the real grip and word of a Master Mason. We need to better communicate to our new companions and to our lodge brothers the benefits of Chapter and Council to receive the complete Hiram Legend, and for those that choose, the chivalric values of the Commandery of Knights Templar.

As we become better educated, so those around us will also. As we move forward the Grand Chapter is committed to expanding the educational opportunities available, and we hope that you will be eager to pursue them and expand upon them,

## FROM MPMG J. ANDREW BIRDSALL

Companions, April... the start of our new Cryptic year. Please assist your Recorders by checking to be sure your Dues Card is current (good through March 31, 2018), and renew your membership as soon as possible.

I would like to congratulate all who have (or will be) been elected to serve each of our Councils for the coming year. Please remember, that a TIM may only serve 2 consecutive terms per Section 211 of our Grand Council Laws.

During this new year, 6 Councils (Wolcott #1, Montgomery #2, Cushing #4, Washington #6, Harmony #8, and Colombia #9) will be celebrating their bicentennials. This can lead to renewed interest in your Council, and Cryptic Masonry. Please make every attempt to plan for this celebration. The Grand Council can also assist in ceremony, or in promoting your event.

If the Grand Council can assist your Council in any way, please let us know, we are here to serve you, and help wherever, and whenever needed.

**FROM REGC CHARLES A. McCOLLUM** Sir Knights, My theme this year is "Be the Change You Want to See". In order to try and help you and I do that I have chosen to use Brother Benjamin Franklin's Thirteen Virtues as a guide. When he was 20 years old he resolved to try to arrive at moral perfection. To do so he selected 13 virtues which he would strive to live up to. He would focus on one a week for 13 weeks, then start over again at the top of the list.

As my term covers 13 months I would like each of us to focus on one of the virtues a month as we strive ourselves, for moral perfection. As Brother Franklin never arrived at this lofty goal, we know that we too shall not. But if we make a serious effort we will improve ourselves, and hopefully our own Commandery and even the Grand Commandery.

Temperance – Eat not to dullness; drink not to elevation.

This was the first virtue selected by Bro. Franklin because "it tends to procure that coolness and clearness of head which is so necessary where constant vigilance was to be kept up". It is unsurprising to me that he also selected the first of the four cardinal virtues of Masonry.

The brief description of the virtue Bro. Franklin gives



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mentions only food and drink, but it is important for us all to remember that we are taught in the Entered Apprentice Degree that "Temperance is that due restraint upon our affections and passions which renders the body tame and governable, and frees the mind from the allurements of vice." Remember the answer to the question, "What come you here to do?" Focus this month on subduing your passions.

Next month we will have a new virtue to work on, but since nothing worthwhile is cheaply earned, you must continue to remember this virtue as well and each one in succession for the entire year. So, you see, by the time you get to the last virtue, you really have a lot to think about.

## YORK RITE WEBSITES

Grand Chapter RAM of CT:  
<http://yorkrite.org/gcramct/>

Grand Council R&SM of CT:  
<http://yorkrite.org/gcrsmct/>

Grand Commandery KT of CT:  
[www.knightstemplar.org/gckct/ct](http://www.knightstemplar.org/gckct/ct)

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

# From The Valley of New Haven

by Charles H. Tirrell

Spring has sprung and so has the Valley of New Haven. We began our recent reunion with two great social events; our Winter Picnic and Beer Tasting. We would like to thank Brother Jim Kleinkauf for organizing the Winter Picnic and Brothers Wayne Murray and Kirk Trofatter for the Beer Tasting. Our degree work began with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> degrees, on Monday, February 27, where we welcomed several new brothers into the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

Our degree work will continue this season with the 16<sup>th</sup> Degree on Monday, April 17 at the Stratford Scottish Rite Theatre. On Monday, April 3 at 7 p.m., we will host a discussion focused on the symbolism and meaning of the 18<sup>th</sup> Degree. This program is open to all Scottish Rite Masons who have taken the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree. Our spring class will conclude with the statewide 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree on Saturday, April 22 at the Newington Scottish Rite Building. If you are interested in starting your Scottish Rite journey, please contact our Membership Development Chairman, Brother Wayne Murray (203.393.5518 - [wmurray2629@gmail.com](mailto:wmurray2629@gmail.com)) and he can assist you with your first opportunity to join the Scottish Rite.

On Saturday, May 13 from 12-4 p.m., we will be changing things up and having a late Cinco de Mayo celebration. We will host an outside party at the Wallingford Polish National Alliance Park, 171 N Plains Industrial Rd, Wallingford, CT 06492. This event will

include authentic Mexican food prepared by a local restaurant, several fun activities (yes a piñata will be there), and Mariachi style music. You definitely don't want to miss this event! If there is any inclement weather the party will be brought inside the park's dining hall. The event is free and open to friends and family of our members, but reservations are a must! Please contact Brother Wayne Murray (see contact info above), if you are interested in attending.

Our Executive Committee recently moved forward on approving a Past Dues Forgiveness Program for brothers who have previously been dropped from our rolls for non-payment of dues. If you or a brother you know have been dropped from the rolls of the Valley, we can now forgive your past dues and reactivate your membership by simply paying the current year's dues. If you would like to take advantage of this program and get active in our Valley again, please contact our Thrice Potent Master, Brother Charles Tirrell (203-215-5305, [chtirrell@gmail.com](mailto:chtirrell@gmail.com)) and our Secretary, Brother Charles O'Neill (203-770-4818, [cdoneill@snet.net](mailto:cdoneill@snet.net)). For members of our Valley, we will hold our Annual Meeting on Monday, May 8. Our elections for the ensuing year will be held at this meeting. If you are interested in serving the Valley as an officer, please contact Brother Charles Tirrell to propose your name to our nomination committee.

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For further information, please contact  
Charles D. O'Neill: (203)-770-4818, [cdoneill@snet.net](mailto:cdoneill@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

The Valley of Hartford's schedule is back on track following adjustments for inclement weather in February. Consistory Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, starting at 10 a.m. The other two Consistories will again join with Hartford and members of Prince Hall Scottish Rite.

Registration and meal ticket pick-up will start at 8:30 a.m. Portrayals will begin with a historical presentation of "Secret Master," followed by the portrayal of the 32<sup>o</sup> and also introductions and special presentations. A social gathering and prime rib luncheon begins at 1 p.m. at the Shrine facility. Advance reservations are required for the luncheon and must be received no later than noon on April 19. Meal choices are Prime Rib, Salmon with apricot glaze, or a Vegetarian option.

Luncheon reservation forms are on our website: [www.valleyofhartford.org](http://www.valleyofhartford.org).

Members of the Valley of Bridgeport, the Valley of Norwich, or Prince Hall, should contact and register through their Valley Secretary. Note that their deadline maybe a little earlier since they need to pass the reservations on to the Valley of Hartford.

The Valley of Hartford would like to recognize those members of the Valley who have reached a milestone in their Scottish Rite Masonic career. For 50 years of membership: Brothers Edwin E. Blow, Noah J. Edelstein, John H. Fahnstock, David R. Gaston, Aaron L. Gersten, Robert M. Hadley, Alphonse A. Major, Stephen R. Phillimore, Richard G. Sagan, and Laurence R. Smith. For 60 years of membership: Brothers John R. Boyce, Donald R. Clark, James S. Griswold, and Arne J. Johnson; And for 65 years of membership: Brother Wilfred H. Bulmahn. It is the hope of the Valley that they will be able to join us on Consistory Day for the degree portrayal and luncheon as our guests, and to be received and recognized for their years of membership. The 2016 Fall Class will receive their Scottish Rite certificates as well.

On Thursday, May 4, the Valley will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers at 7:30 p.m. There will be no dinner, but a social hour will be held after the meeting.

On Thursday, May 11, the Valley will host the Workers Night dinner for those members who assisted the Valley of Hartford in 2016 as an officer, in a degree portrayal (on-stage or behind the scenes), or in some other capacity. The dinner will be at the Wethersfield Country Club, for those members and a guest, and is by invitation only. Installation of newly elected officers will also take place that night.

The Annual Family Picnic will be on Sunday June 11. The event is free to all Valley of Hartford members and their families. The Valley asks that each family bring a side dish to share with others.



The Valley will supply soda, water, hamburgers, hot dogs etc. So come join us for the fellowship, entertainment, and a few other surprises. The 2017 College Scholarship recipients and their families are also cordially invited that day to receive their scholarships.

For those Master Masons who are not members of the Scottish Rite, we have informational DVD's available upon request. If any Blue Lodge is looking for a program, we have a Scottish Rite informational program available. Contact Ill. Brothers Ric W. Manner, 33<sup>o</sup>, at [ric@sandshark2.com](mailto:ric@sandshark2.com), Ill. Brother Jeff A. Flynn, 33<sup>o</sup>, at [jedge60@yahoo.com](mailto:jedge60@yahoo.com), or Bro. Frank Dlugoleski, M.S.A, at [fdlugoleski@gmail.com](mailto:fdlugoleski@gmail.com). Our next class will begin in the fall of 2013 and it will be your last chance to become a member of this historic 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year's Class.

"The Scottish Rite Masonic Man" is as a gentleman. He cultivates genuine friendships with good companions. He is a worthwhile citizen who strives to promote the common good by serving God, his country, and his community. In a word, a man of faith and honesty, of strength of character though self-mastery, of respect for the Christian family and a lawful authority, of leadership in the pursuit of good – that is a SCOTTISH RITE MAN."



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**REMAINING 2017  
SPRING SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, April 22nd**  
*Consistory Day Activities 10 a.m.*  
*Registration & Pick-up Lunch Tickets 8:30 a.m.*  
*Prime Rib Luncheon about 1 p.m.*

**Thursday, May 4**  
*Annual Business Meeting & Election  
of 2017 - 2018 Officers at 7:30 p.m.*

**Thursday, May 11**  
*Annual Worker's Night Appreciation  
Dinner & Installation of Officers*

**Sunday, June 11,**  
*Annual Family Picnic - College  
Scholarship Award Presentations*

**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)**

# Conference of Grand Masters of North America *by Charles W. Yohe*

**W**hy would anyone travel to Omaha, Nebraska in the middle of February? This year, the answer to that question was to attend the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. Anticipating cold, snowy weather in Nebraska, the attendees were pleasantly surprised with temperatures in the 70s and no snow during the duration of the conference which ran from February 18 through February 21. Connecticut was fortunate this year to have three of the top elected Grand Lodge officers attend. The delegation was headed by Deputy Grand Master Theodore "Ted" Nelson. He was accompanied by Right Worshipful Brothers Marshall Robinson and Melvin Peterson.

The principle value of conference attendance is two-fold. First, there is great value which results from each officer being able to meet his counterparts from other jurisdictions and to share issues and possible solutions. Second, in recent years, the conference has adopted a structure that includes numerous breakout sessions to

address a variety of topics of interest. Having multiple attendees from Connecticut provided the capability of attending three different breakout sessions simultaneously.

Of particular interest were sessions on Guarding the West Gate, Best Practices in Grand Lodge Leadership, Building Masonic Leaders, Improving the Lodge Experience, and Rethinking the Stated Meeting. Your attendees from Connecticut were enthused with the ideas brought forth in the presentations on Improving the Lodge Experience and Rethinking the Stated Meeting. You can expect some of the proposed solutions to be publicized here in Connecticut and brought forward for your Lodge's consideration to improve the experience afforded to each of our members.

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April 9th 2017 Palm Sunday

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# Nutmegger Reunions 2017

More photos from the 2017 Nutmegger Reunion on pages 16, 31 and 35



# Connecticut Brothers in Florida Enjoy Nutmegger Reunions

More than 160 Connecticut Masons gathered at one of five reunions hosted by Masonicare in Florida February 27 through March 3. "This tradition has been building momentum over the years, and with so many Connecticut brothers either living in Florida full-time or there for the winter, it's a little like 'old home week,'" said Rev. Bro. Carl Anderson, VP for Mission Effectiveness at Masonicare.

Starting on Monday in Palm Beach Gardens and then on to Naples, Sarasota, Ocala and New Port Richey through the week, each Nutmegger reunion luncheon included the presentation of 50-year pins. This year, the following brothers received their 50-year pins: Bro. Robert Collingwood, Bro. Delmar Cooke, Bro. Rodney Gray, Bro. Harry Harris, Bro. David Long, Bro. Emil Mack, Bro. George Metaksa and Bro. Barry Spero

Of special note was the presentation of a 65-year pin to Bro. Ralph Wallen. Also, in presenting retired Masonicare CEO Bro. Barry M. Spero with his pin, the pin MWGM Bro. Gail N. Smith selected had been his father's – the late PGM Bro. Gail L. Smith. Each reunion included a brief program:

MW Bro. Gail N. Smith updated the group about the fraternity and the plans going forward.

WB Jon-Paul Venoit, Masonicare's new President and CEO, gave an update about Masonicare. He shared three videos related to Masonicare's newest community, Masonicare at Mystic: the August 2 traditional Masonic Cornerstone Ceremony, the November 29 first move-in day, and a recently shot video of residential life at Mystic.

WB Robert Polito, Masonicare's new Chairman of the Board of Trustees, reviewed Masonicare's new board structure.

RW Rev. Bro. Carl Anderson brought attendees up to date on the admission process for Masonicare services. Bro. Carl added, "A 'road trip' like this doesn't

happen without a lot of help. We are very appreciative of our hosts and others who provided assistance." This year's reunion hosts were MW Bro. Norman Getchell, PGM (Ocala), RW Bro. John and Pat Blennerhassett (New Port Richey), Bro. James and Agnes Rutushni (Sarasota), and Bro. David and Ann Hocking (Naples.) In addition, MW Bro. Charles and Barbara Yohe lent a helping hand at all the events and Bro. Roy and Betty Huckle helped with pre-reunion needs. A big thanks to all – we hope to see you next year!

More photos from the 2017 Nutmegger Reunion on pages 30, 35 and 16



# Pyramid Shrine Clowns At Stepney School Winter Carnival

by Donald M. Case

Master Masons from the Pyramid Shrine Temple Clown Unit participated at the 8th Annual Stepney Elementary School Winter Carnival in Monroe, Connecticut. The clowns dazzled patrons with balloon twisting hats, animals, and magic tricks. In addition, the clowns collected donations. All funds will be used to assist needy children receiving medical care at the Shriner Hospital.



## 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

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

**Monday, Apr 10, 7:30 p.m.,**  
Anchor Lodge No. 112, East Hampton

**Tuesday, Apr 18, 6:30 p.m.,**  
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, Dinner

**Wednesday, Apr 19, 6:30 p.m.,**  
Montgomery Lodge No. 13, Lakeville, Dinner

**Friday, Apr 21, 7:45 p.m.,**  
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford, Dessert after

**Thursday, Apr 27, 7:30 p.m.,**  
Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Colonial EA Degree, Dinner after

### Fellowcraft Degrees

**Tuesday, Apr 4, 6:30 p.m.,**  
King Hiram Lodge No. 12, Shelton, Dinner

**Wednesday, Apr 12, 6:30 p.m.,**  
Moriah Lodge No. 15, Brooklyn, Dinner

**Thursday, Apr 13, 7 p.m.,**  
Temple Lodge No. 65, Westport, Dinner

**Tuesday, Apr 18, 7:30 p.m.,**  
Coastal Lodge No. 57, Stonington, Dinner

**Thursday, Apr 20, 6:15 p.m.,**  
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Dinner

**Monday, Apr 24, 7:30 p.m.,**  
Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor, Dinner

**Saturday, May 6, 11:30 a.m.,**  
St. Peter's Lodge No. 21, New Milford, Colonial Fellow Craft Degree, Lunch

**Saturday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.,**  
Putnam Lodge No. 46, Location TBD, Check with WM before attending

### Master Mason Degrees

**Monday, Apr 3, 7 p.m.,**  
Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Dinner

**Monday, Apr 17, 7:30 p.m.,**  
Friendship Lodge No. 33, Southington

**Monday, Apr 24, 7:30 p.m.,**  
Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville

**Tuesday, Apr 25, 6:30 p.m.,**  
Brainard Lodge No. 102, Niantic, Dinner

**Wednesday, Apr 26, 7:30 p.m.,**  
Hospitality Lodge No. 128, Wethersfield, Degree to be held at Valley Lodge No. 36 in Simsbury

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

# Craft at Refreshment

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

All times are supplied by the lodges. The 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, 7 p.m., Anchor Lodge No. 112,** East Hampton, Setback. Bring a friend

**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

**Thursday Apr 6, 6:15 p.m.,** Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, Table Lodge, *Tickets are \$25 available from any Lodge Officer*

**Saturday Apr 8, 12 p.m.,** Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, Bastards of Bataan: A WWII 75th Anniversary Remembrance, Lunch followed by the presentations at 1 p.m. *Please RSVP by 4/1/2017 email the number in your party and "Bataan Event" as the subject to reservations@sequin-level140.org.*

**Saturday Apr 8, 4 p.m.,** Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, 5th District Blue Lodge Council Spaghetti Dinner to Benefit Make-A-Wish, At Sphinx Shrine, Berlin Tpke, Newington *Cost: Adults \$10, Children: \$5, Family: \$25.*

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

**Wednesday Apr 12, 4 p.m.,** Jephtha Lodge No. 95, Clinton, United Methodist Church, Commerce Street in Clinton, Easter Soup Kitchen, An Easter meal is prepared and served to all who come.

**Saturday Apr 15, 9 a.m.,** America-St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, Easter Pancake Breakfast, Annual Easter Pancake Breakfast for family and friends. Kids of all ages welcome. Easter egg hunt. The Easter Bunny will be in attendance.

**Saturday Apr 15, 10 a.m.,** Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford, Ansantawae Lodge Easter Egg Hunt, The hunt will be held on the Milford Green with snack foods and games afterward back the lodge hall

**Saturday Apr 15, 4:30 p.m.,** Putnam Lodge No. 46, Woodstock, Southern BBQ Fundraiser, Annual Southern Barbeque Dinner Fundraiser

**Friday Apr 21, 12 p.m.,** Composite Lodge No. 28, Suffield, Eastern Star Tag Sale

**Saturday Apr 22, 11 a.m.,** King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury, CHIP Program at Earth Day

**Thursday Apr 27, 6 p.m.,** Moriah Lodge No. 15, Brooklyn, Steak Dinner Fundraiser, \$15

**Friday Apr 28, 5 p.m.,** Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor, Shad Derby Lobster Dinner, First sitting 5pm, second 7pm, takeout available. Tickets must be purchased in advance, *See WB Dave Shaw or Br. Kerry Ruiz for more info.*

**Saturday Apr 29, 12 p.m.,** King Hiram Lodge No. 12, Redding, Battle of Ridgefield

**Friday May 5, 6 p.m.,** Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, Beef & Beer - FC Club. On May 5 we will hold our semi-annual "Beef & Beer" event in the Lodge Hall. *Tickets are \$20 donation and will help us to fund future social events.*

**Saturday May 6, 12 p.m.,** Purity Lodge No. 150, Stonington Cemetery Work Party

**Saturday May 6, 4 p.m.,** King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury, Derby on the Rock, Break out the fancy hats and Mint Juleps it's the Kentucky Derby!

**Saturday May 6, 5 p.m.,** Columbia Lodge No. 25, South Glastonbury, Derby Day: Bourbon & Bluegrass, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Featuring Music by The Grass Routes Band Live Telecast of the 142d Kentucky Derby, Post Time 6:34 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and Barbecue Dinner Served. BYOB (Derby Casual Dress) \$30 *Per Person RSVP to Erik Roberts*

**Sunday May 7, 8 a.m.,** Putnam Lodge No. 46, Woodstock, Mother's Day Breakfast

**Saturday May 13, 8 a.m.,** Composite Lodge No. 28, Suffield, A. Ward Spaulding School, 945 Mountain Rd, West Suffield, Suffield PMC Bike Ride, Join us in helping out the Jimmy Fund to fight childhood cancer.

**Sunday May 14, 8 a.m.,** Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford, Masonic Family Breakfast, All you can eat breakfast \$8. *Brothers, families, friends, and neighbors are all welcome.*



# BOOSTERS

Update: March 16, 2017.

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.

## BOOSTERS *Thank you for contributing \$25*

Mario L. Accornero	Earl Evans	Roger Knickerbocker	Martin Rudnick
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## GRAND BOOSTERS *Thank you for contributing more than \$25*

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## MASONIC FAMILY BOOSTERS

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AnsanawaeLodge No. 89	Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88	Sequin Level Lodge No. 140
Ruth & Richard Bell	Ionic Lodge No. 110	Sphinx Shriners, Newington
Coastal Masonic Lodge No. 57	Jerusalem Lodge No. 49 A. F. & A. M.	St. Peter's Lodge No. 21
Columbia Lodge No. 25	Phillip, Paul, Jack, & Ted Kepler	Temple Lodge No. 16
Compass Lodge No. 9	Knights Templar of CT	Unity Lodge No. 148
Composite Lodge No. 28	LaFayette Consistory, A.A.S.R.	Valley of Hartford, AASR
Corinthian Lodge No. 63 A.F. & A.M.	National Camping Travelers	Valley Lodge No. 36
CT Chapter of DeMolay	Royal Arch Masons of CT	Valley of New Haven, AASR
Evening Star Lodge No. 101 A.F. & A.M.	Royal & Select Masters of CT	Warren Lodge No. 51 AF & AM

## GRAND MASTER'S CIRCLE *Thank you for contributing \$100 or more.*

Newton Buckner III  
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# Nutmegger Reunions 2017

More photos from the 2017 Nutmegger Reunion on pages 16, 30 and 31.



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