

November 2017



Connecticut FREEMASONS



Passing the Torch

Where Good Men Relate

*Officers of the
Grand Lodge of Connecticut
A.F. & A.M. 2017- 2018*



Bro. Theodore J. Nelson
Most Worshipful Grand Master

Bro. Marshall K. Robinson
RW Deputy Grand Master

Bro. Melvin E. Johnson
RW Grand Senior Warden

Bro. Stephen W. Petri
RW Grand Junior Warden

Bro. Newton Buckner, III
RW Grand Treasurer

Bro. Grant Gould.
RW Grand Secretary elect/pro-tem

Bro. William E. Bohman
RW Grand Senior Deacon

Bro. Bruce R. Bellmore
RW Grand Junior Deacon

Bro. Francis S. DiStefano
RW Grand Marshal

Bro. Joseph J. Porco
RW Grand Senior Steward

Bro. Edward C. Page
RW Grand Junior Steward

Bro. Carl H. Anderson
RW Grand Chaplain

Bro. Gary A. Littlefield
RW Grand Historian

Bro. Carl H. Anderson
RW Grand Organist

Bro. Richard C. Memmott, Jr.
RW Grand Tiler

Bro. Frank R. Mangiero
Associate Grand Tiler

Bro. Joseph F. Massa
Associate Grand Tiler

Bro. Brian E. Beals
Deputy Grand Treasurer

Bro. James M. Anderson
Deputy Grand Secretary

Bro. Charles W. Yohe
Director of Communication

Bro. Shane Dufresne
Grand Almoner

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication..... | 3 |
| Grand Master's Trestleboard..... | 4 |
| Grand Master's Message..... | 5 |
| 75-Year Brother..... | 6 |
| Insurance Information for Lodges..... | 6 |
| Masonicare Experience | 7 |
| The Desk of the Grand Chaplain | 8 |
| Request to Lodge Calendar Administrators | 8 |
| Grand Historian's Corner..... | 9 |
| Valley of Hartford, AASR..... | 10 |
| The Desk of Jon-Paul Venoit..... | 11 |
| 50-Year Brothers | 12 |
| Tree of Life..... | 13 |
| Laurel Forest, Tall Cedars of Lebanon..... | 14 |
| Districts 1, 5, 9 | 15, 18, 22, 23 |
| Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 • Hartford | |
| Evergreen Lodge No. 88 • Ionic Lodge No. 110 | |
| Masonic Education Seminar..... | 16 |
| Called by The Grand Architect | 17 |
| Semi-Annual Communication Photos..... | 19, 21, 23 |
| Review of Transactions of PLR | 20 |
| Welcome to Our New Brother | 20 |
| When Passions Are Subdued..... | 24 |
| CT Freemasons Family Day Flier | 25 |
| The All Seeing Eye Sees All | 27 |
| Committee on Community Action | 29 |
| Craft at Labor/Refreshment | 30, 31 |
| John Sweeney Named MHC Administrator | 32 |
| A Masonic Bucket List - Rosslyn Chapel..... | 33 |
| CT Freemasons Family Day | 34 |
| Boosters | 35 |



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Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication

by Francis G. Way

If it's October, it must be the Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication. On Saturday, October 14, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons met in Semi-Annual Session. The agenda was full and most all of the Masters, Wardens, and other members of Grand Lodge were in their seats when Most Worshipful Grand Master Theodore J. Nelson congregated the Grand Lodge.

The opening was quick and efficient, and that set the tone for the rest of the morning's labor. One of the first items on the agenda was the election of Grand Lodge officers for next year. To expedite the voting, the Grand Master indicated that the first five ballots should remain as a block and that the craft was to cast their ballots for all five and turn in the one ballot. These were carried to the tellers, and labor continued while they counted.

In the meantime, the Annual Meeting of Masonicare was held, and Brothers Bob Polito and JP Venoit reported on Masonicare's successes in the past year and the challenges faced in the upcoming years as less government money is available and budget challenges are passed along to those who receive government funding. Ballots were cast for three year terms on the Masonicare Board of Trustees and Sister Susan Koty (Order of Amaranth), Bros. Robert F. Polito, Sherwin M. Borsuk, MD and William R. Deickler were all elected.

Following the Masonicare meeting, the results of the first five offices were announced. RWB Robinson was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master, RWB Melvin E. Johnson was



elected Deputy Grand Master, RWB Stephen Petri was elected Grand Senior Warden, and RWB Brother William E. Bohman was elected Grand Junior Warden. RWB Newton "Bud" Buckner was re-elected as Grand Treasurer.

Prior to the balloting for Grand Secretary, MWB Nelson read a statement from RWB Richard Memmott. RWB Memmott, Grand Secretary, announced that he could not give 100% to the position, and could not meet his own high expectations, and thus was not seeking re-election. RWB Grant Gould, filling in in the interim, announced that if elected, he would serve. The ballots were cast and RWB Gould was elected.

Shortly after that, MWB William Greene was elected Grand Lodge Trustee for the next three years.

The Grand Master presented his report, which was accepted by a vote of the Grand Lodge.

RWB Edward Page reported on the progress of the efforts to implement Life Memberships. This is a work in progress but seems very promising. Stay tuned for more on this in the upcoming months.

Budget and Financial reports were presented to the Craft. It is worth noting that the Grand Lodge assessment will not be increasing next year.

Brother Tom Mumford made a presentation on the Masonic Family Day at the Hartford Wolf Pack. Please see the information elsewhere in this issue for this important event.

Legislation from the legal matters committee was put before the Craft. A package concerning the requirement for financial reporting did not pass and will be reworked by the committee. All other legislation passed, with the exception of the Grand Lodge's permission to incorporate. While the legislation was presented, there was not enough time remaining to allow suitable debate, so the motion was tabled.

The Annual Session was announced, taking place on April 9, 2018.

With a presentation for Marje Chick scheduled for 12:30 p.m., and time running out, the Grand Master closed the Grand Lodge in ample form.



Grand Master's Trestleboard

NOVEMBER 2017

| DATE | TIME | EVENT | PLACE/ADDRESS | DRESS CODE | STAG/COED |
|---------|-----------|--|--|------------|-----------|
| 1-8 | | United Grand Lodge of England | Prince Albert Hall, United Kingdom | | |
| Thu. 9 | 5 p.m. | Masonicare Board of Trustees | | | |
| Sat. 11 | 9:30 a.m. | 65-year Pins | Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 at Valley of Norwich | Business | C |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Venison Table Lodge | Washington Lodge No.19 | Business | S |
| Tue.14 | 6:30 p.m. | Reception of French Dignitaries | Grand Lodge of New York, Manhattan | Business | S |
| Wed. 15 | 6:30 p.m. | 50-year Pins/Dinner | Valley Lodge No. 36 | Tux | C |
| Thu.16 | 5:30 p.m. | Grand Lodge Officers Meeting/Dinner | Cafeteria/MHC Board Room | Casual | S |
| Sat. 18 | 9 a.m. | Prince Hall CoD, AASR | Hartog Center, Wallingford, CT | Business | S |
| Sun. 19 | 8 a.m. | 8th District Blue Lodge Council Thanksgiving | Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34 | Business | C |
| Mon. 20 | 6:30 p.m. | EA Degree/Dinner | Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 | Tux | S |
| Tue. 21 | 6:30 p.m. | 50-year Pins/Dinner | Unity Lodge No, 148 | Tux | C |
| Thu. 23 | All Day | Thanksgiving Day | Family | Casual | C |
| Mon. 27 | 6:30 p.m. | Ladies Night/Dinner | Anchor Lodge No. 112 | Business | C |
| Tue. 28 | 6:30 p.m. | FC Degree/Dinner | Composite Lodge No. 28 | Tux | S |

DECEMBER 2017

| DATE | TIME | EVENT | PLACE/ADDRESS | DRESS CODE | STAG/COED |
|--------|------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Sat. 2 | 9:30 a.m.. | Annual Meeting/Lunch | Putnam Lodge No. 46 | Tux | S |
| Mon. 4 | 5:30 p.m. | OB Club | Great Neck Country Club | Casual | S |
| Tue. 5 | 6 p.m. | Bedouin Shrine Club | Groton Townhouse Restaurant | Casual | C |
| Thu. 7 | 9 a.m.. | 8th District Breakfast | Groton Townhouse Restaurant | Casual | S |
| Sat. 9 | 9 a.m. | Consistory Day, AASR | Valley of Norwich | Tux | S |



Grand Master's Message

by Theodore J. Nelson

Passing the Torch

Today I write on the Sunday after our Semi-Annual Communication to say that the session went, in my opinion, very smoothly. Obviously, I could not hear any of side bar comments positive or negative going on in the audience during the meeting, but overall we had an extensive agenda and we were able to get through most of it. Many thanks to the Craft for pointing out to me in real time that my perception of a two-thirds vote was, in fact, not correct. This was proved out when I asked the Craft if they wanted a hand count of the vote. I can't say who, but I clearly heard more than one voice say they wanted a hand count. The results concerned three changes to our rules and regulations that RWB Newton Buckner opted to bundle and they were not accepted by a 2/3 super majority. He then went on to the next piece of legislation.

To my delight, the Craft elected RWB Marshall K. Robinson, our Deputy Grand Master, to be our 172nd Grand Master and the remaining progressive elective offices were filled with the immediate subordinate named officer, with the exception of the Grand Secretary. Since RWB Richard Memmott, Sr. could not fulfill the duties of Grand Secretary to his high level of expectations he asked not to be re-elected in his own written statement. I then informed the Craft that RWB Grant Gould would accept the office of Grand Secretary if elected. He was, and the rest, as they say, is history. MWB Bill Greene was soon re-elected to another 3 year term as Grand Trustee.

I mentioned in an earlier article this year that communication is one of the three legs of my administration. I have had an issue with certain forms of communications, as well as, what I was trying to communicate. With regards to the form of communication, I had the Grand Lodge office staff send out 267 letters via U. S. Mail this past August announcing a "Summons" that the recipient was required to respond to if he could not make the meeting in Newington. A three hour meeting was scheduled and led by our Grand Treasurer, RWB Newton Buckner, about the financial duties of the Worshipful Masters and Wardens of all of our lodges. This was so serious a matter that RWB Buckner and I felt that the meeting should be mandatory unless an excuse was requested.

The first problem I discovered was Worshipful Masters asking for proxies for their Wardens or themselves. I responded to each inquiry that each brother who was summoned was expected to be there unless he had asked to be excused, proxies were not an option. Next, I had Worshipful Masters asking that their Warden or Wardens be excused. I responded in the same manner that each brother summoned was duty bound to request to be excused if he could not be there. The next problem I found out after the meeting was that some brothers never got the letter in the mail. This was frustrating since we rely so heavily on the U. S. Postal Service. Going forward, I will recommend that we send in multiple communication formats so that we can insure that all have received any given notice. My greatest problem of all was the lack of understanding as to what a summons is and the need to respond. Some brothers were actually incensed at my statement that the failure to respond was un-masonic. My brothers, this is part of the obligation that we all took and unites all of us as brothers. No one was forced to be there but all who were summoned were, by our rules required to respond.

Many wars have started over miscommunication and many good friendships have ended or have been put on hold for the same reason – a failure to properly communicate. Remember not everyone hears the sincere meaning in what we are saying or writing. Sometimes brothers misinterpret the meaning of what you are saying and take offense at your words. I would ask that before you jump to a conclusion that you have been insulted, to go and ask the brother in question to explain himself. If you ask in a neutral demeanor you may find your opinion changing as to the meaning of his choice of words. If you inquire with haughty or demanding attitude you may meet with resistance and possibly deception for fear of intimidation or retribution. I for one, would respect an honest opinion even if I didn't agree with it.

The financial seminar was a great meeting and I got the chance to shake the hand of almost every one of the 157 attendees and thank them personally for being there. To date we have just over a dozen who have yet to respond. I'm hoping for a 100% response before the end of the month of October.

Continued on page 6

Grand Master's Message

continued from page 5

I continue to travel extensively and since our last writing, I have been to functions in Delaware and Rhode Island. Later in October, Grace and I will be traveling to Europe and ultimately London, England to represent Connecticut Freemasonry at the 300th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England. We are combining this event in our travel plans to Normandy and Scotland. I will be returning with lots of photos and stories of my travels on your behalf.

The harmony in this Grand Jurisdiction is contagious. Everywhere I go, whether by myself or with other Grand Lodge Officers, I am encouraged by the programs and good

will that I see being spread around our lodges. Many thanks to all of you who have had any part in these programs. Most of you are serving and toiling in thankless work that is necessary and I am grateful for all that you do. Please remember that the Grand Architect of the Universe sees all and will reward all accordingly. So as you gear up for your respective annual meetings in December, be prepared to pass the torch on to those who have labored faithfully in the quarries and have the time to serve at higher levels of responsibility.

Best of all, have a Happy Thanksgiving!

God Bless. See you in Lodge!

Insurance Information for Lodges

Directors and Officers Liability Insurance, more familiarly called D&O Insurance, is usually written on a claims made basis. Stated simply, the claim must be made within the effective date of the policy, (e.g., January 1 through December 31 of that year). If a 'tail for reporting' has been purchased it could extend the reporting period a month or two. A policy can also be purchased that covers every lodge member.

Regarding the Temple Corporation, some policies have a way to cover both under certain conditions and can save the Lodge and Temple Corporation a good amount of money.

Call Marilyn at L.H. Breener and she can answer any questions and provide more information. The number is (203) 389-2156.



Congratulations to our 75-Year Brother

Anthony Amendola

Annawon Lodge No. 115

November 29, 1942

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The Masonicare Experience

Inspiring stories from throughout the Masonicare continuum

One Mason's "Trust" in the Masonicare Mission

by Adam Raider

Some benefactors support Masonicare by making major gifts to The Masonic Charity Foundation during their lifetimes. Others make generous provisions for The Foundation in their estate plans, helping ensure that the mission of Masonicare will continue well after their passing.

A few, like Higganum's Bro. Everett Spencer, Jr. are pleased to be able to do both. In addition to having funded two charitable gift annuities, the retired Northeast Utilities accountant also named The Foundation a beneficiary of his trust.

"Masonicare is doing good work," Everett said, "and I know that my gifts to The Masonic Charity Foundation will be put to good use."

A 37-year Mason raised at Granite Lodge No. 119 in Haddam, Bro. Everett took to heart a core Masonic belief that relief of the distressed is "a duty incumbent on all men, particularly Masons, who are linked together by a bond of sincere affection."

It's a bond strengthened through his membership in numerous Masonic organizations, including the Scottish Rite Valley of Hartford, the Royal Arch Masons (Burning Bush-Washington Chapter No. 6), the Royal Order of Jesters (Hartford Court No. 141) and the Sphinx Shriners, where he was a longtime Assistant Director of the Sphinx Hospital & Transportation Unit. The Unit operates vans to assist families in transporting their children to and from the various Shriners Hospitals for Children.

"I've gotten so much out of Freemasonry," Everett said, "including a lot of good friends and good memories. Over the years, I'd visit family members and Masonic friends and brothers living at Masonicare Health Center and the assisted living apartments nearby, and I was really pleased with what I saw."

Everett began to think about his own healthcare needs and considered that there may come a time when he will require additional care.

"Knowing that Masonicare might play a role in my plans as I got older," he said, "I decided that I wanted to support The Foundation's fundraising activities by making a provision for it in my trust, funding the charitable gift annuities and sponsoring

special events like the Masonicare Golf Classic. So far, I have been very pleased with my association with The Masonic Charity Foundation."

"I was delighted to hear that The Masonic Charity Foundation would be profiling in Connecticut Freemasons my dear friend and brother, Everett Spencer," said fellow benefactor and MWGM Theodore J. Nelson. "Everett is a humble man who lives the tenets of Masonry. He's one of those brothers you can count on being there for you. I've only ever known him to give unconditionally from the heart."

"Although Everett has not used Masonicare's services personally," said Masonic Charity Foundation Executive Director Jennifer King, "I know he appreciates the quality of those services and knows people who have benefitted from our care. We're very grateful that Everett looks so favorably upon Masonicare and that he chose to support our gift annuity program during his lifetime and has made such a generous provision in his estate plan for The Masonic Charity Foundation."



Bro. Everett Spencer, Jr.

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



From the Desk and Bench of the Grand Chaplain/Organist by Rev. Carl H. Anderson

November kicks off the holiday season with Thanksgiving. It is a day set aside for humankind to give thanks to God for the many blessings received.

The dictionary describes the word blessing as a special favor, mercy, or benefit, or as a gift bestowed by God, thereby bringing happiness. The sacred Scripture speaks of blessing as both a promise of the Grand Architect of the Universe and as gifts bestowed upon humankind by the loving Creator. In addition, Scripture urges humanity to give thanks for the blessings of God.

The first Thanksgiving meal in 1621, which might have been a three-day event, was a time for the Pilgrims to express their gratitude to God for the bounty of the harvest. This historical event gave the Pilgrims, and their Native American guests, the

opportunity to collectively express gratitude for the bounty of God's blessing and protection the previous winter.

Today, Thanksgiving centers on a large turkey dinner with all the trimmings, football games and the iconic Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. It is far different from the first Thanksgiving meal, where pumpkin pie and stuffing were not served. However, the purpose of the day remains the same for us as it did the Pilgrims, which is being grateful.

So on this upcoming Thanksgiving day, as you gather with your loved ones, take a moment to offer a word of thanks for the blessings of life which have been bestowed upon us in so many ways.

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

A Request To All Lodge Calendar Administrators

by Francis G. Way

This request goes out to all who administer or add events to the Lodge Calendars on the Grand Lodge website.

When entering the location information, a street address is probably the most helpful to anyone planning on attending an event who may not know the location of the lodge or building. Entering an event for "Some Lodge No. 1000" and setting the location as "Some Lodge No. 1000's Lodge Room" is probably not really helpful.

On a more selfish note, when creating Lodge At Refreshment or Lodge at Labor, having a street address in there enables me to easily distill it down to a town, whereas "Some Lodge No. 1000's Lodge Room" means that I have to go look up the town in my directory. Worse than "Some Lodge No. 1000's Lodge Room" is no location at all. Please fill this in...it really does make a difference.

Also, while you're at it, please ensure that times are entered. Seeing that a Master Mason degree begins at 12:00 a.m. means that I can only guess at the time. If I can only guess at the time, then you may have brothers showing up for dinner as the degree is beginning, of showing up for the degree while you're eating dinner, not realizing there was a dinner at all.

I do enjoy seeing all of the events that the Lodges are running as I create the Labor and Refreshment articles, but if you could all help with the above points, it would be even more fun for me.

Thank you!



Grand Historian's Corner by Gary A. Littlefield

In October 1876, Edward Rowe, as Grand Master, granted a dispensation to Charles Babcock, Frank Dixon and Charles Chester to form a new lodge at Clarks Falls to be called Laurel Glen Lodge and to have jurisdiction over the territory lately occupied by Widow's Son Lodge No. 53. The town was North Stonington. The lodge was meeting on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays. The 1877 annual session resolved to continue the dispensation. There was a question as to the regularity of their meetings and the Grand Master appointed a committee of a Past Master from Asylum Lodge No. 57 and Pawcatuck Lodge No. 90 to examine the affairs of the lodge. The Grand Master visited the lodge on request from the Senior Warden, Secretary and Treasurer because of issues resulting from a rental agreement and the inability or unwillingness of the lodge to pay rent. From the records of the Grand Master it appeared that the lodge was having difficulty finding a suitable lodge room. The Master eventually communicated with the Grand Master informing him that the lodge lease had expired and no suitable facility could be found and the lodge was unwilling to build its own facility. The decision of the Grand Master was that the dispensation for meeting would need to be returned as well as the records. Some of the properties of Widows Son Lodge were in the hands of Laurel Glen and they eventually were returned. Laurel Glenn Lodge was only in existence for about eighteen months but if it had continued, it probably would have received the number 118.

•••••

Ashlar Lodge No. 117 had its start in 1875 when Grand Master William Wallace Lee issued a dispensation to brothers in Rocky Hill. Eighty years previous, the village was called Stepney in the town of Wethersfield and under the jurisdiction of Columbia Lodge No. 25. By 1814, Columbia Lodge moved across the river to Glastonbury but Brothers were concerned about the midnight travels across the river. On February 7, 1876, the Grand Lodge instituted Ashlar Lodge and installed the officers. In September, the Grand Master was informed that the lodge was being conducted in a loose and irregular manner and charges were being preferred against the lodge by the Grand Treasurer. Grand Master

Edward Rowe determined that the charges were so severe that the arrest of the charter was necessary. Another committee was appointed by the Grand Master, which recommended the arrest of the charter be approved by the annual session. Ashlar Lodge left the Grand Lodge rolls after only a few months.

•••••

During the 1870s, it appears that those appointed by the Grand Master to serve as deputies or then proxies for the Grand Master were by county, and each proxy officer was urged to visit each lodge in their respective county and a detailed report was given in the proceedings. Some deputies were verbose while others concise and to the point. The reports do make for interesting reading. Grand Master Rowe saw the need for deputies as he wrote in his address "The duties of the year have been exceedingly burdensome involving a sacrifice of time and labor that can hardly be expected of one man who has individual business interests to claim his attention." One interesting fact from the 1877 proceedings is one that involves the home lodge of our current Grand Master. Brainard Lodge No. 102 had a public installation of officers and it was brought to the attention of the Grand Master who after being advised by some counsel, apparently determined that since the meeting was "called off", it was appropriate to have a public installation.

Time for a year-end investment review.



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Valley of Hartford, AASR *by David R. Blythe, Sr.*

As the fall season wraps up at the Valley of Hartford, we anticipate our current candidates, Brothers Darryle J. Boyd Jr., Micah John Burnside, Victor L. Fettig, Abraham Khalil, John P. Lukens, John R. Main, Lawrence M. Morgret, Erik R. Nivison, John T. Reaves Jr., and Kenneth D. Roach III. completing their required degrees by seeing portrayal the 18th degree on Thursday, November 2, and the 32nd degree on Thursday, November 16.

Congratulations go out to Bro. David S. LaFargue, who is in charge of lighting for our degrees, and Bro. Guy O. Whelchel III, Past Wise Master of the Cyrus Goodell Chapter of Rose Croix and a dual member of several other Valleys, on receiving the Frederick J. Lorenson 33° Meritorious Service Award at the Council of Deliberation annual meeting held in September.

In the September issue of Connecticut Freemasons, many articles dealt with the meaning of Masonry. The Valley of Hartford article explained a little bit about the Scottish Rite, that the degrees, in a theatrical atmosphere, teach lessons based on the core values of Reverence to God, Integrity, Justice, Tolerance, Devotion to Country, and Service to Humanity. There are no demands on one's time, other than occasionally viewing degrees, unless one takes on an active role in degree work. That the degrees required are based on the bookend concept – a new candidate only needs to see the 4th and 32nd as well as three other degrees that teach one or more the core value degrees.

Yet, the Valley does more than just put on degrees. The Valley offers Family Life events, that make the Scottish Rite more than a men's only organization. There are bus trips, dinner dances and entertaining shows, as well as an annual family picnic. Children can apply for college scholarships, as well. The Valley's quarterly newsletter, teach lessons, View of the Valley, as well as the Supreme Council's The Northern Light magazine, supply a great deal of information on Masonry, its history, and what is happening in our Valley.

So if you know a fellow Master Mason who is not a member of the Scottish Rite perhaps you can explain to him what the Scottish Rite is all about and the advantages of belonging. A Scottish Rite Mason feels that to be a good Mason one needs to set an example. Not only in practicing the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, but in how one shows it without it being obvious in one's actions. The Valley of Hartford is now accepting applications for the 2018 Spring Class.

To those brethren who are active in both the Blue Lodge and the Scottish Rite, the Valley asks you to look ahead to Spring 2018. We hope you will seek out members of your lodge to see how they feel seeking more light. Or perhaps you can ask the Worshipful Master of your Blue Lodge and see if he would be interested in having a member of our Membership Committee put on a short program in your Lodge. For more information please contact the Valley Office.

Finally, it is hard to believe that we are almost finished with the Fall Scottish Rite season and that winter is on our doorstep. The Holiday Season begins soon (Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, New Years Eve), and then the beginning the of 2018 Scottish Rite Season. So.....

*From your all Brethren at the
Valley of Hartford to each of you
Happy Thanksgiving*



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

THE VISION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE
*We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our
Masonic obligation to care for our members.*

Fall 2017 Scottish Rite Session
Honoring Class Honoree
Ill. Bro. Arthur J. McKinney, 33°, M.S.A.
Thursday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.
Portrayal of the 18th Degree
Thursday November 16, 7:30 p.m.
Portrayal of the 32nd Degree
Pre-degree dinners served at 6:10 p.m.
(Advanced Reservations Required)
Visit our website: www.valleyofhartford.org
or see the Oct-Nov-Dec issue of the "View
of the Valley" for more information or to
obtain the required reservation forms.

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°, Valley Secretary,
Valley of Hartford AASR
(860) 666-0712 Email: sect@snet.net

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

To help, aid and assist is one of the core tenets of Freemasonry. In keeping with our Masonic values, it has been Masonicare's great privilege to care for the residents and patients of Masonicare at Newtown for the past 34 years.

But over the past decade, as more and more seniors have chosen to age at home, the healthcare industry has seen a dramatic shift in the utilization of facility-based skilled nursing and rehabilitation services. Sadly, declining revenue, cuts in government reimbursement and rising costs have resulted in the closing of several nursing homes in Connecticut with a number of others forced to seek bankruptcy protection. Despite a decade of significant investment with a talented, hardworking staff, the reality is Masonicare has not been able to make Masonicare at Newtown financially sustainable with losses over the years totaling millions of dollars.

In this increasingly difficult healthcare environment, Masonicare is pursuing a strategic plan to ensure we remain strong in the long term for those who rely on us. While Newtown is not a strategic fit for Masonicare's future, as a mission-driven organization, we are committed to transitioning it to a new owner where it will be better positioned to succeed. Athena Health Care Systems appreciates the investment we have made in the Newtown campus over the years, recognizes the tremendous value of our talented staff there and wants to build upon that solid base. Consequently, the decision has been made



to sell the Masonicare at Newtown campus to Athena and an asset purchase agreement has been signed.

This was a very difficult decision for our organization's leadership. Masonicare at Newtown has been part of our Masonicare family since 1983. "Ashlar of Newtown," as it was once known, filled an important need in an era when the Masonic Healthcare Center in Wallingford (now Masonicare Health Center) had a substantial waiting list. At a time when fewer long-term care and assisted living options existed, our Newtown campus was a desirable destination for older members of the Masonic family. Today, the number of our Newtown residents who have a Masonic affiliation has dwindled to just a few.

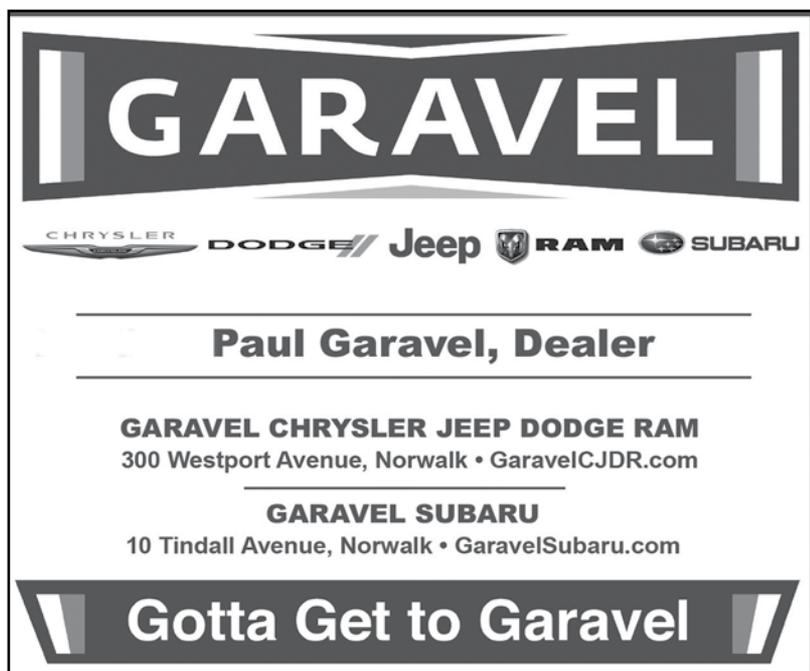
Reflecting on the history of our organization, I can recall other instances when economic pressures and shifting demand for services required making some hard choices. Discontinuing the Masonic Home's orphan program prior to World War II and closing our Second Home adult daycare centers, for example, were done with an eye toward greater sustainability.

In short, the decision to sell the Newtown campus is not indicative of a change in the compassionate mission of Masonicare, which has always been to enhance the quality of life for everyone we serve, regardless of their financial circumstances. Indeed, we are confident that this transition better positions Masonicare to continue that mission well into the future.

Moving forward, I would ask you to recognize that Athena brings many strengths to Newtown, including skilled nursing and assisted living experience. **Remember, too, that Masonicare will continue to maintain a presence in the Newtown area through its home health and hospice service lines.** Our commitment to caring for seniors in need – an enduring link to our Masonic origins – has never been stronger.

Sincerely and fraternally,


President & CEO of Masonicare



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Gotta Get to Garavel

Congratulations to our 50-Year Brothers



| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Maurice N. Blinderman | Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125 | November 1, 1967 |
| Douglas A. Gray | Trumbull Lodge No. 22 | November 2, 1967 |
| William H. Schoeck | Harmony Lodge No. 42 | November 2, 1967 |
| David K. Anderson | Wooster Lodge No. 10 | November 3, 1967 |
| David K. Briner | America-St. John's Lodge No. 8 | November 7, 1967 |
| Donald R. Schuler | America-St. John's Lodge No. 8 | November 7, 1967 |
| E. Paul Grimmeisen | Composite Lodge No. 28 | November 7, 1967 |
| Monte S. Klein | America-St. John's 8 | November 9, 1967 |
| Frank H. Berger | Washington Lodge No. 81 | November 9, 1967 |
| Robert E. Silver | Fayette Lodge No. 69 | November 13, 1967 |
| Robert C. Nelson | Brainard Lodge No. 102 | November 15, 1967 |
| C. Arthur Lantz, Jr. | Wyllys-St. John's No. 4 | November 15, 1967 |
| Delmar G. Cooke, Jr. | Columbia Lodge No. 25 | November 15, 1967 |
| Robert A. Marrotte | Ionic Lodge No. 110 | November 15, 1967 |
| Allen G. Meyerjack | Temple Lodge No. 16 | November 16, 1967 |
| Jon H. Morhardt | Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 | November 16, 1967 |
| James E. Armstrong | Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 | November 16, 1967 |
| Earl F. Korngiebel, Jr. | Corinthian Lodge No. 63 | November 20, 1967 |
| Robert W. Noble | Anchor Lodge No. 112 | November 21, 1966 |
| Ronald F. Bossie | Uriel Lodge No. 24 | November 25, 1967 |
| James S. Tashjian | Washington Lodge No. 70 | November 27, 1967 |
| Lester G. Drew | Center Lodge No. 97 | November 28, 1967 |
| Gordon F. Gibson | Fayette Lodge No. 69 | November 28, 1967 |
| Richard A. Kolle | Brainard Lodge No. 102 | November 28, 1967 |
| John Kopchik | America-St. John's 8 | November 28, 1967 |
| Kenneth L. Edwards | Brainard Lodge No. 102 | November 28, 1967 |
| Kenneth C. Shepherd | Brainard Lodge No. 102 | November 28, 1967 |
| Robert Jeffrey | Unity Lodge No. 148 | November 28, 1967 |

Tree of Life

Benefiting the hospice services of Masonicare

The Tree of Life is a program of live music, words of inspiration and remembrance that culminates with a non-denominational tree lighting ceremony. Tax-deductible donations in support of the Tree of Life enable Masonicare to provide quality, compassionate hospice care to our patients and their families when no other funding sources are available.

Non-denominational tree lighting ceremonies will be held in the following locations:

Mystic

Sunday, November 5, 2017

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Mystic Museum of Art

9 Water Street, Mystic, CT

Program starts promptly at 5:15 p.m.

Reception to follow

Stamford (NEW LOCATION)

Sunday, November 19, 2017

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The Stone House

31 Cascade Road, Stamford, CT

Program starts promptly at 5:15 p.m.

Reception to follow

Greater Wallingford

Saturday, November 18, 2017

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Augusta Curtis Cultural Center

175 East Main Street, Meriden, CT

Program starts promptly at 2:15 p.m.

Reception to follow

Greater Hartford

Saturday, January 13, 2018

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

E. Hartford Community Cultural Center

50 Chapman Place, East Hartford, CT

Program starts promptly at 2:15 p.m.

Reception to follow

masonicare.org/tree

Laurel Forest No. 130, Tall Cedars of Lebanon

by William L. Greene

At the September meeting of Laurel Forest No. 130, Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America, Brother Jon-Paul Venoit, President and CEO of Masonicare and RWB Jason Rieger, Masonicare Retirement Community Administration, along with Brothers Ian Jones and Richard Corey, were initiated into the Forest. Reverend and RWB Carl Anderson and Brother Robert Polito were also initiated at the May 2017 Forest meeting.

Also during the September meeting, RWB James W. Currier was presented his 50 year membership pin and Certificate as a Tall Cedar by MWB William L. Greene, Supreme Director, and Brother Robert T. Goff, District Deputy Supreme Tall Cedar.

Laurel Forest No. 130 now meets at Ashlar Village on the fourth Thursday of the month, except July and August. The Tall Cedars are best known for their support of medical research for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). In 1951, the Tall Cedars was the first organization to offer ongoing financial help to MDA. That support has continued to today, resulting in millions of dollars being donated by Tall Cedars, their families and friends. In addition, the Tall Cedars encourages young leaders by supporting all of the Masonic Youth organizations, awarding scholarships, and underwriting the DeMolay Past Master Councilor's Meritorious Service Award.

There are presently two Tall Cedar Forests in Connecticut, the other being Nutmeg Forest No. 116, located in Manchester, CT.

If anyone would like further information on Tall Cedars, they can contact, William (Bill) Greene, at 860-989-4240 or e-mail GREENEWL@CHARTER.NET



RWB Gary A. Littlefield, SDGTC; RWB J. Arthur Carbonaro, GTC; RWB James W. Currier; MWB William L. Greene, SD; WB Robert T. Goff, DDSTC





Three New Master Masons Raised At Annual Farm Degree

On September 23, Brothers Steve Tramosch, Kraig Gray, and Adam Faillace were all raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason at Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142's Annual Farm Degree. This was the 11th Annual Farm Degree for Ashlar-Aspetuck and was held at the Monroe, CT farm of RWB David Klein, current District Deputy.

For those who have never attended the Farm Degree, it certainly is a sight to see. The degree takes place on an actual working farm and is conducted by torch light by some of the best ritualists in the state. Those involved in the degree, as well as many of the guests, are clad in overalls and boots to add to the ambiance.

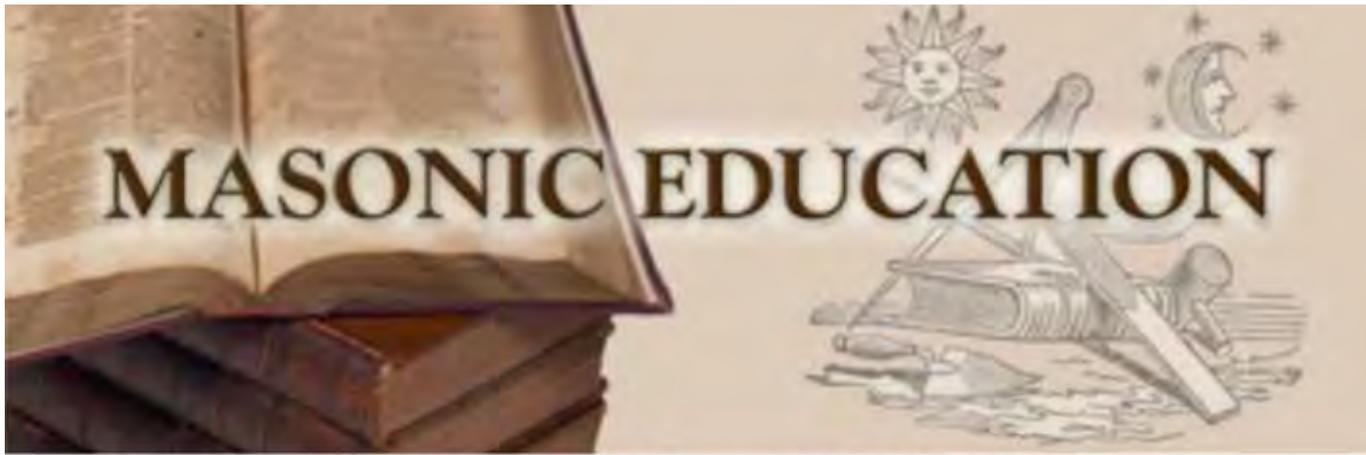
One of the best parts of the degree, beside the portrayal of the Conspiracy and Tragedy, is the preparation room, as well as how the candidates are transported to and from the "lodge room" (one will have to attend to find out). This year's degree had something even more special as Brother Ernst Tramosch, 89 years old, was able to make the trip from New York City and assist in the raising of his son Steve. This was a very emotional moment for both of them, as well as those in attendance.

Congratulations to our new Master Masons and a big thank you to those involved in putting on one of the finest degrees in Connecticut.



Brothers Kraig Gray, Steve Tramosch, and Adam Faillace





Committee on Masonic Education

Masters and Wardens Seminar

December 16, 2017

**Masonicare at Ashlar Village - Hartog Center
74 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT**

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Will you be a Master, Senior Warden or Junior Warden for 2018?

If so, then this seminar is for you. Please mark your calendar for this informative and relevant seminar. Attendance is highly encouraged, and we hope the top three officers will be able to attend.

Topics will include leadership, planning, resources and communication.

Network with other incoming senior officers!

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*We offer our condolences to the families
and friends of our brothers who have passed.*

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Glenn N. Arthur, Jr. | Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 |
| David W. Burns | Corinthian Lodge No. 63 |
| Glenn A. Colby | Sequin Lodge No. 140 |
| Mr. George G. Krause | Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 |
| Thomas I. Mead, Jr. | Hiram Lodge No. 18 |
| Edward J. Montambault | Federal Lodge No. 17 |
| Robert C. Nelson | Brainard Lodge No. 102 |
| Glenn W. Payne | Coastal Lodge No. 57 |
| Richard D. Silverman | Columbia Lodge No. 25 |
| John H. Sniffin | Washington Lodge No. 70 |
| Richard E. Tomac, Sr. | Somerset Lodge No. 34 |
| Kenneth B. Warner, Jr. | Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 |
| Charles B. Whiting, Jr. | Seneca Lodge No. 55 |

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Ionic Lodge No. 110 Hosts Irish Dancers

On September 21, the Golden Harp Irish Dancers from Bolton, Connecticut performed at a special meeting of Ionic Lodge No. 110 in North Windham. This was the sixteenth year in a row that the dancers have performed for the Lodge, ladies, parents and guests. Following the performance, all in attendance were treated to the traditional spaghetti dinner by Ionic Lodge. This is an annual event that is looked forward to and enjoyed by both the Lodge and the dancers.



Semi-Annual Communication



New Leadership (elect)



Farewell Marje Chick



Perfect Ashlar Awards

Semi-Annual Photos continued on pages 21 & 23

Review of “Transactions of the Philosophic Lodge of Research: A Selection from 1943 to 2017”

edited by **Chuck 2.0 Landau and Justin A. Duffy**

submitted by Kirk C. White, Past Grand Senior Deacon, Vermont

Let's face it — not all Masonic research papers are created equal. Some are well researched but poorly written, some are well written but abandon all pretext of scholarship, and others are well researched and written but on such an obscure topic that the appeal is very limited. And on occasion, a brother produces a finely crafted and polished gem. Staying with this analogy, *Transactions of the Philosophic Lodge of Research: A Selection from 1943 to 2017*, edited by Chuck 2.0 Landau and Justin A. Duffy, is a treasure trove of gems.

The editors have done a masterful job of choosing well-crafted papers from a wide range of topics. The transactions logically begin with a history of their own Philosophic Lodge of Research. Then to keep the reader's attention, they present us with four newer papers on the Qabalah, aspects of ritual, esoteric components of ritual openings and closings, and nonverbal lessons from the degrees. From that point on, we are treated to a blend of topics including historical events and people, reflections on Masonic symbols and emblems, esoteric topics, and various components of Masonic ritual. For history, we get lectures on topics such as American Indians and Masonry, the Comacines, the lives of Francis Bacon, Benedict Arnold, and Benjamin Franklin, and my personal favorite; “To Bigotry No Sanction: Letter to the Hebrew Congregation from President Washington.” Besides the Qabalah, the esoteric contributions explore the lost sacred feminine and Rosicrucianism. The symbol and emblem offerings are by far

the most numerous. They discuss topics including; the Golden Fleece, and Star and Garter, Rhetoric, the apron, the number 5, the Lost Word, the mythic persons of Hiram Abiff and Tubal Cain, and the due guard. There is much to reflect upon and discuss in this book. It would be a useful tool for those lodges looking for something to stimulate and educate their members.

While some of the papers are a little outmoded by current scholarship and clearly products of their time, that is in itself one of the book's charms. Collectively, these 30 papers written over a 73 year span and covering a wide range of interests, are both a glimpse into the Philosophic Lodge of Research's esteemed past and its promising future.

Ed Note: Transactions of the Philosophic Lodge of Research: A Selection from 1943 to 2017 can be purchased at <https://www.createpace.com/7066876> or by going to Amazon.com and searching for 'Philosophic Lodge of Research'

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to the Fraternity*

Michael Beman

St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64



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Semi-Annual Communication

Photos continued from page 19



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Semi-Annual Photos continued on page 23



Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 Fifth Annual Barn Raising

On September 30, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 held its Fifth Annual Barn Raising Master Mason Degree in an old barn in South Windsor. On this rainy morning, three brothers were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. In attendance was the MWGM Theodore Nelson and RWB Marshall Robinson, Deputy Grand Master. The three brothers were raised in a unique setting that has become a hallmark of Hartford Evergreen Lodge No 88's traditions.



District 5 continued on page 23

(Aerial photo by Bro. Micah Burnside of Composite Lodge No. 28, professional drone pilot. www.heliouas.com)





Elected at the Semi-Annual Communication: RWB Newton Buckner, Grand Treasurer; RWB William E. Bohman, Grand Junior Warden; RWB Marshal K. Robinson, Grand Master; RWB Melvin E. Johnson, Deputy Grand Master; RWB Stephen W. Petri, GrandSenior Warden; RWB Grant Gould, Grand Secretary; MWB William L. Greene, Grand Trustee. Installation will be in April.

District 5 *Continued from page 22*

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 - Third Annual Bissel Ferry 5k

For the third straight year Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 held its Bissel Ferry 5k Run in South Windsor. The event takes place on Old Main Street with the purpose of raising scholarship money for the South Windsor Dollars for Scholars program. This year the race was met with great weather while raising over \$5000.



Masons Helping the Community

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 has made it a mission to use its resources to help those in need for a good cause. The Lodge was approached by a family friend of the Lodge to assist with the building of a memorial playground in honor of Derek Denfeld, a former volunteer firefighter in South Windsor.

The playground is complete, and very popular.

When Passions Are Subdued, Civility Ensues.... Or It Should *by Charles W. Yohe*

“To learn to subdue your passions
and improve . . .”

Masonry is different and Masons are, likewise, supposed to be different. And although, as men, each of us is inherently imperfect, our Masonic experiences are designed to help guide us to a better life – for ourselves and for those around us. Take a moment to reflect on the variety of situations (mostly disturbing and negative in nature) that we face in the world today and consider how you, as a Mason, can contribute in a positive way.

Masonry, very wisely, prohibits open discussion of two subjects that can be equally divisive – religion and politics. Now I grant you that politics is inherent in just about everything associated with day-to-day living these days. It’s in the office/workplace, in our schools, and even in our personal relationships with others. And, unfortunately, it exists in some of our Lodges as well.

When I first joined Masonry back in 1974, it was ingrained and reinforced that never was politics to be discussed in a Lodge setting. I used to naively think that applied only to within the walls of the tiled Lodge room, but several incidents in the past few years have underscored the fact that, any time we meet as Masons, be it to eat, to participate in a fundraiser, to socialize, or to actually hold a Lodge meeting, it is advisable that we keep our political views to ourselves.

Now I’m not suggesting that Masonry trumps one’s First amendment rights of free speech. As an individual Mason, you ought, of right, to be able to express your views. But when you are doing something that is directly related to Masonry, please consider what is best for our Fraternity. For example, I had contact several years ago with a young man who expressed an interest in the Fraternity. After several meetings with him over coffee and lunch, I invited him to attend a Lodge dinner prior to a stated meeting. As I was busy preparing and serving the meal, I put the young man in the care of a Brother with whom I thought he could relate. After the meal was over and the young man left, I never was able to make contact with him again. He wouldn’t even respond to my calls or e-mails where I inquired as to what happened. The conclusion I came to, based on overhearing some of the conversation at the table, was that a Brother who was very open about stating his political views made a strong and very wrong impression on the young man. After I had told him during our private meeting that Masons don’t discuss religion or politics, the experience at the dinner table indicated otherwise and Masonry lost a potential member.

Recent events, and the actions of some well-known people, suggest that our world is becoming increasingly uncivil. The Grand Lodge of California recognized that this was happening

a number of years ago and created a program of awareness, with the hope of having Masons make a positive impact in combatting the problem. All too often as we go about our daily lives, if we’re not careful, we can react to situations in a less-than-civil manner. It could be in dealing with a company agent over some technical or service issue, such as lost luggage or a billing issue. It could be in response to the chaos and long wait times associated with something like the CT DMV, or a hundred other things that we experience in life. There are two points to consider when dealing with others: generally, the person to whom you are speaking did not create the problem and, like you, probably seeks resolution. The agent at the airline’s lost luggage window didn’t place your bag on the wrong flight, so what good does it do to become angry and threaten and scream at him/her?

In like manner, how many times do you receive an invitation to attend a Masonic dinner or event and neglect to RSVP? In preparing Lodge meals, my largest problem is planning for those Brothers who are too rude to make a reservation, but expect to be accommodated when they show up for dinner. Each of us swore in our obligation that we would answer and obey “all due signs and summons” but, as the Grand Master found out last month, even Masters and Wardens are sometimes neglectful of their duty to follow through. Doing so is not only a serious breach of Masonic protocol, but it is patently rude. As adults, we should know better and do better.

Similarly, most of us have had lapses when driving where we’ve done something that has almost caused an accident. Maybe we’ve followed too closely, cut back in too soon when passing, forgotten to dim our high beams, or maybe we’ve gone before it’s our turn at a 4 way stop or a rotary. In any event, when we are on the ‘receiving end’ of one of these transgressions, it’s good to remind ourselves that the ‘guilty’ person probably did not intend to transgress. So, be civil about it. It is far better to let it go and move on rather than to do something that risks escalating into a road rage incident.

In all these things, we owe it to the world, as Masons, to take the high road and to set a good example. Let’s each and every one of us make a concerted effort to practice civility in our daily lives and do our part to make the world a little bit better than it otherwise might be.

But above all, please remember: When we come together as Masons – no discussions on religion or politics. Let’s work to keep our Lodges as the ultimate safe havens – sanctuaries from the uncivilized world without. And please respond to any request for reservations – it’s the civil thing to do.

2018 Connecticut Freemason Family Day



WOLF PACK vs. W-B/SCRANTON

FRIDAY • MARCH 30 • 7:00PM

www.CTFreemasonFamilyDay.org

- What is it?** An annual celebration of Freemasonry in Connecticut with the express purpose of creating awareness in the community at large and fellowship amongst brothers and sisters alike.
- Who is it for?** All Freemasons and appendant bodies, their friends and families.
- Where is it?** Veteran's Memorial Coliseum, XL Center, Hartford
- How do we Participate?** Complete instructions are on the back side of this, including ideas on how to make the most of this once-a-year awareness opportunity.



Harmony is the strength and support of all societies, most especially of ours.

- Who is Event Contact?** WB Tom Mumford at tom.mumford@triaxis.com or 860-305-7755
- Who should attend?** Blue Lodge and Prince Hall brethren, the ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star, and the future of our worthy societies from DeMolay chapters and Rainbow Girl assemblies, their friends and families.



Lots of Fun Activities



Ten Lucky Kids will Watch the Wolf Pack Warm-up from the Team Bench

Three Lucky Kids will Win a Zamboni Ride



Tickets \$15



Ten Groups will Have Two Members form the Pre-Game "High-Five" Tunnel

Masonic Veterans will Wave Our Flag During the National Anthem



Prior to the Game, Salute the Masonic Color Guard

Maximize the Event for Your Group

Tickets are \$15* ea - \$5 Gets Donated Back to your Group

Idea 1: Sell 100 tickets—Raise \$500 (\$5 x 100) for the Charity of your Choice (*just 10 members selling 10 tickets*)

Idea 2: Donate 40 tickets—help a local group participate

Idea 3: Purchase 50 tickets—Go as a group with family and friends to this fun outing

Other Ideas: Contact Tom Mumford for other Ideas at tom.mumford@trixaxis.com or 860-305-7755

Ready to Purchase? Either go online at www.CTFreemasonFamilyDay.org or call James Warner at 860-241-4227



The Grand Master will Drop the Puck then be Interviewed Live



The ALL Seeing Eye Sees All

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

Lafayette Consistory and the Valleys of Bridgeport, New Haven and Waterbury have a very active calendar scheduled for November. Bridgeport will present the 27th degree on Monday, November 13, New Haven will perform the 28th degree on Monday, November 6, and Waterbury the 14th degree on Wednesday November 15. The 32nd degree will be offered by the Consistory at the Statewide Consistory Day on Monday, December 4.

The Annual Connecticut Children's Dyslexia Center Wine & Beer Fundraiser and Auction will be held at Ashlar Village on Saturday, November 4, a dinner theater outing to "Annie Get Your Gun" at the Westchester Dinner Theater is planned for Saturday November 11, the 16th Annual Turkey Trot to support the Children's Dyslexia Center will be held on Thanksgiving morning, November 23, and finally a day trip to Boston to see the Boston Pop's Holiday Concert at Symphony Hall is planned for Saturday, December 2.

Brothers who wish to embark on the Scottish Rite path can begin at any degree evening with prior arrangements having been made with the office.

For degree and related meal reservations, as well as more details and reservations for the social events please consult the Lafayette Consistory ad in this issue, or call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064.

We continue our survey of significant and profound Masonic symbolism today, by turning our attention to the all seeing eye.

"May the sublime idea, that thou walkest before the Eyes of the Omnipresent, strengthen and support thee" - Masonic Exhortations, from the German.

A short hike in the hills of our state should make it very clear that the wonderful works of Diety are to be found abundantly everywhere. The heavens where illuminated and reflecting orbs fill the night sky with evidence of the existence of planets, galaxies and consciousness that we are incapable of fathoming, at this point in our collective development. From the vast oceans which cover the majority of the surface of the orb we inhabit, to the hundreds of thousands of minute inhabitants of the oceans, and still further to the varieties of creatures that inhabit the terrestrial portions of our globe. Consider further, the functioning of our bodies and the perfect mechanisms which enable us to perform actions with predictive exactitude and with underlying reason. The materialist and the atheist would have you believe that all of this is merely a fortuitous accident, and that all of these creations bear no relationship to each other. Sadly these individuals would attribute the

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention all Master Masons!

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING DEGREES

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| 28th Degree | Mon., Nov. 6 | New Haven |
| 27th Degree | Mon., Nov. 13 | Stratford |
| 14th Degree | Wed., Nov. 15 | Waterbury |
| 32nd Degree | Mon., Dec. 4 | Stratford |

R.S.V.P. required.

Please email: Office@LafayetteConsistory.com
or call 203-375-0064.

Those desiring to start their Scottish Rite journey should notify the Consistory Office to arrange for the video of the 4th Degree prior to the 5th Degree.

Contact the Consistory Office to arrange for seating and meals for any of the degree events.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Valley of Bridgeport 2422 Main Street Stratford, CT 06615 Office@LafayetteConsistory.com 203-375-0064 | Valley of New Haven 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com 203-269-0336 | Valley of Waterbury 529 Highland Avenue Waterbury, CT 06708 cdoneill@snet.net 203-754-8209 |
|--|---|--|

For more information, contact the Valley near you or email Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com.

perfection of all these realms of existence and activity, to mere chance, or to some "scientific" process which the mind's logic can deduce.

The faculty of intuition however is resident with the soul, and if one is to effectively meditate on the perfection of form and operation of all aspects of nature in this physical world, one can only conclude that a superior consciousness and intelligence does in fact exist, and that it alone could have been so fruitfully creative so as to have enabled the perfection that surrounds us. It is a fundamental first step in Masonry that the Candidate must recognize the existence and truth of this Omnipresent Consciousness which we term Diety. The All Seeing Eye is symbolic of Diety's unceasing and ever operating powers of observation. No matter where we are, what we are doing, or what we are thinking, the All Seeing Eye observes us. The obligations that are made at the lodge room altar, are not drivel or some proforma niceties which can be wished away with the crossing of ones fingers. Every pledge or promise, every obligation made or taken, in the lodge, or elsewhere, is a pact between the All Seeing Eye and the soul that inhabits the physical vehicle that it is temporarily housed in, which enables it to give voice to the promise.

As Masons we have undertaken certain obligations during our degrees, and the symbol reminds us that we are to act strictly in accordance with these obligations in a fervent and zealous manner. By doing so Diety bestows upon us benefits, which accrue to our present and future welfare. The habit forming

Continued on page 28

The All Seeing Eye *continued from page 27*

practice of reinforcing one's habitual obedience to the moral precepts in our obligations, acts upon our consciousness to slowly effectuate change within us.

These changes are part of the process which I alluded to in September when I broached the topic of Epigenetics in these pages. The All Seeing Eye is everywhere. Physical barriers do not affect it. Should some day, you find yourself unjustly incarcerated like Joseph the son of Jacob, rest assured that All Seeing Eye is there – and observing. Where there is licentiousness and debauchery – the All Seeing Eye is there. Where there is plotting and skullduggery – the All Seeing Eye is there. Where there is malevolence and Mass Murder – the All Seeing Eye is there. Where there is injustice and wrong committed – the All Seeing Eye is There. The All Seeing Eye hears the cry of the virtuous who are oppressed – and will with certainty intervene at the proper time. Nothing is hid from it, and the law as set down by the Nazarene “As you Sow, So Shall you Reap” is always, invariably operative. The All Seeing Eye has complete dominion over the Creation and Destruction

of Souls, a reality which we must incessantly remember by avoiding the most popular mistake that much of humanity constantly makes, by confusing the Soul with the Body, which it uses strictly for a limited time, to garner experiences on the physical plane.

Masons generally thrive on mnemonics. I would suggest that each of us affix a Seeing Eye Symbol, or decal in locations which we constantly interact with, such as the dash of our car, the cover of our folios, computer monitors and so on, so that every time we see it, we can vow internally to TRY to adhere to our Masonic vows and to conform to the high and lofty principles which will serve us well into eternity.

As always, Lafayette Consistory, and the Valleys of Bridgeport, New Haven and Waterbury stand ready to help further your understanding of the three degrees of Freemasonry. Should you have questions about the Scottish Rite, please feel free to contact me at the email address above, or call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064.





Connecticut FREEMASONS

“Making A Difference”

Committee on Community Action

A recent article in TIME Magazine expresses the essence of what we should be doing as Masons in our communities. It is about new ways to become happier and healthier. New research suggest that happiness can really make you healthier, that positive vibes are linked to a stronger body and mind as well as a more satisfied life. Will the COCA programs in your lodge provide happiness for you and your Brothers by helping others in your community?

Here are a few science-backed tips you need in order to find more joy in your life.

Explore life by limiting Social Media - studies link frequent social media sites like Facebook to poorer physical health. When in lodge, turn phones off and enjoy the Brotherhood as you plan for your 2018 years projects.

Embrace your offbeat emotions – studies show that people who feel the widest range of positive emotions have the lowest levels of inflammatory markers in their blood. The next time you feel enthusiastic, interested or inspired, take action. Plan to do something that will help a Brother and develop community programs.

Let go of grudges - Forgiving yourself and others can protect against stress and the toll it takes on your health. Spend your valuable time in lodge to plan positive projects that will involve many and helping your senior Brothers.

Take a perfectly imperfect vacation - Time away from normal work can help you de-stress, feel happier and become more productive as long as you spend it doing something productive. Make an effort to do something interesting and different than what you have been doing.

Deploy random acts of kindness – Just doing a favor for your spouse, a family member, a friend or a Brother will boost your emotional well-being even if this good deed goes unrecognized. Make a Feel-Good day happen in your lodge.

Last and most important, Keep your friends as close as family - Friends become more important to your health and happiness as people age. Research has found that both family and friend relationships are associated with better health and happiness overall. But as we age, this link remains primarily for people who maintain strong friendships. The important thing is having people you can rely on for the good times as well as the bad. It is friendship and Brotherly Love that Masons should be cultivating.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

The Grand Lodge is looking for a new home for several gently used items of office equipment:

Equipment available:

- Minolta Bizhub 250 copier, scanner
(out of warranty but serviceable)
- Minolta Bizhub 601 copier, scanner
(still covered by warranty)

The Minolta Bizhub copiers were maintained via annual maintenance contracts.

Equipment is offered on an “as is” basis at no cost to our Lodges and Appendant bodies on a first come basis. You are responsible for pick-up. If interested, please email Debbie Fowler at DFowler@Masonicare.org.

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

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m
Composite Lodge No. 28
Suffield
Dinner

\FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES

Thursday, Nov. 2, 6:30 p.m.,
Friendship-Tuscan Lodge No. 145,
Manchester
Dinner

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 6:30 p.m.,
King Hiram Lodge No. 12,
Shelton, Dinner

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m.,
Columbia Lodge No. 25,
South Glastonbury
Dinner

MASTER MASON DEGREES

Monday, Nov. 6, 7 p.m.,
Compass Lodge No. 9,
Wallingford
Dinner

Thursday, Nov. 16, 6:15 p.m.,
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140
Newington
Dinner

Saturday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m.,
Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14,
Plainville

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

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 5:30 p.m.,
Coastal Lodge No. 57,
Stonington
Dinner

Monday, Nov. 27, 7:30 p.m.,
Evening Star Lodge No. 101,
Unionville



Connecticut
FREEMASONS

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Craft at Refreshment

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

All times are supplied by the lodges. The Connecticut Freemasons 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 any 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 Road, Orange, CT

**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

Friday, Nov. 3, 6 p.m.,
Washington Lodge No. 70,
Windsor, PM Appreciation Night

Monday, Nov. 6, 6:30 p.m.,
Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14,
Plainville, Master Roundtable,

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m.,
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140,
Lodge Night Out, J's Crab Shack,
2074 Park St, Hartford

Saturday, Nov. 11, 9 a.m.,
Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14,
Plainville, Veteran's Honorary Breakfast

Saturday, Nov. 11, 4 p.m.,
King Solomon's Lodge No. 7,
Woodbury, Ladies Table Lodge
Details TBD

Monday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m.,
Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor
Stated Communication/Game Night, We
will convene in the dining room with our
ladies and friends for an evening of games
and refreshment. Please bring a dessert or
appetizer.

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.,
Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14,
Plainville, Table Lodge,

Saturday, Nov. 18, 5 p.m.
Village Lodge No. 29, Collinsville,
Single Table Family Dinner - PUBLIC,

**Thursday, Nov. 23
Happy Thanksgiving!!!**

Saturday, Dec. 2, 11 a.m.,
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140
Ladies' Tea,

Sunday, Dec. 3,
Jeptha Lodge No. 95, Clinton
Christmas in Clinton
Jeptha Open House,

Monday, Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m.,
Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14,
Plainville, Masters Roundtable,

Friday Dec. 8, 6 p.m.,
Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor,
Ladies at Table/Widow's Night

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.,
Coastal Lodge No. 57, Stonington,
Fellowship Dinner (open to guests)

John Sweeney Named Administrator at Masonicare Health Center

John Sweeney of Prospect has been appointed Administrator at Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford. In this role, he will be responsible for the Masonicare Health Center and its ancillary services. He succeeds Thomas Gutner who retired on September 30 after thirty-four years with the organization.

“John is well-suited to step into this challenging role,” said Jon-Paul Venoit, President & CEO of Masonicare. “We will benefit from his many years of experience and his familiarity with our organization as well as his knowledge of skilled nursing and rehabilitation services.” Masonicare Health Center has more than 360 beds, including short-term and outpatient rehabilitation, long-term and dementia care, two hospital-licensed units, an outpatient GI suite and hearing center.

Sweeney joined Masonicare in February of 2011 as Administrator of the organization’s Newtown campus. In 2013 he moved into Corporate Services overseeing capital projects, most notably the construction of Masonicare’s new campus in Mystic. The 179-unit independent and assisted living community opened late last year.

A licensed nursing home administrator, Sweeney graduated from UCONN with a B.S. degree in health systems management and he has a M.S. degree from University of New Haven in healthcare administration.



In October Masonicare’s Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Robert F. Polito, Jr., was initiated into the Order of the Eastern Star at Ashlar Chapter No. 116 in Wallingford. It was also the Official Visitation of the Worthy Grand Matron. Left to right: MWB Gail N. Smith, Worthy Grand Patron and Shirley L. Hungerford, Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star; newly initiated member Bro. Robert F. Polito, Jr.; Laura Michnowski, Worthy Matron and MWB William L. Greene, Worthy Patron of Ashlar Chapter No. 116.

A Masonic Bucket List – Rosslyn Chapel

by Jeff S. Bartlett

This being the 300th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England--the mother lodge that has anchored and guided the fraternity around the globe for three centuries – served as inspiration to visit some United Kingdom sites on my “bucket list.” A long-overdue family trip meant a whirlwind tour of England and a wee bit of Scotland. Between the myriad castles, we visited a few sites that have special meaning to Masons. I hope by sharing them, it inspires reflections and potentially a trip of your own, whether abroad or here Stateside to the many notable, historical landmarks.

Rosslyn Chapel

Any fan of “The DaVinci Code” by Dan Brown, or viewer of the movie, is familiar with Rosslyn Chapel, the Scottish church rumored to be erected by descendants of the Knights Templar who escaped the Friday the 13th purge that brought an end to the order in 1307. Rosslyn Chapel was founded in 1446 by Sir William St. Clair, and it was never truly completed. The tale of the chapel is one of ambition, abandonment, and resurrection.

Many Masons may be familiar with story of the Apprentice Pillar, created by an understudy while the Master Mason traveled abroad for inspiration. Upon his return, the Master Mason found an ornate column, carved in a sophisticated twisting design. Details abound,

With a goal “to building a house for God’s service, of most curious work,” artisans from other regions and kingdoms were assembled to create something truly special. Master Masons were paid wages of 40 pounds per year. All others were given 10 pounds. Today, the St. Clair family openly acknowledges and appreciates the attention Dan Brown’s work has brought to the chapel, enabling the restoration and ongoing support. More than 100,000 people visit the chapel a year. More than a living museum of classic craftwork, Rosslyn Chapel is an operating church. Part of the Scottish Episcopal Church, Rosslyn Chapel has routine services and is available for weddings.

including eight dragons circling its base. Struck with envy, the Master Mason hit the apprentice with a mallet and killed him on the spot. This column is just the beginning of the visual treats that cover every surface of the chapel’s interior. Much to my delight, there is a modern visitor’s center for the chapel, and guests are able to fully explore the building. Unfortunately, interior photography is not permitted. Located in Roslin, about a half hour south of Edinburgh, Rosslyn Chapel is a rewarding destination. Those who are interested will find much information and imagery available on the chapel’s website: www.rosslynchapel.com.



The Knights Templar connections are deep, with Grand Master Hugues de Payen having married Katherine St. Clair. According to official materials, two St. Clairs were allegedly grand masters of the Priore of Scion in the 13th and 14th century. Modern visitors will note the tomb of another William St. Clair, who died in 1330 Spain while bringing Robert Bruce’s heart to the Holy Land. There are many more stories to be told here. But perhaps the deepest experience is carefully studying the dizzying array of carvings on the inside, drawing your own interpretations. Visitors may well see some symbolic connections to the Templars and even Freemasonry.

Connecticut Freemason Family Day

by Tom Mumford

For the fourth year in a row, the biggest indoor venue in the state, the Veterans Memorial Coliseum at the XL Center in Hartford, will host the “Connecticut Freemason Family Day” on March 30, 2018.

As this Community Action awareness event is being held in such a large venue, there is great potential to affect a positive change on a wide scale. Thousands of people will be at the venue, and with our presence, we can show them who we are, what we stand for and prove that we are a force for good that will not be hidden nor denied.

Awareness. That’s the “why.” The “who” is all of you. If you’ve seen the flyer in this issue you will notice this event includes Blue Lodges and Prince Hall Lodges, Eastern Star and DeMolay Chapters, Rainbow Girl Assemblies and all other groups that owe their worthy existence to Freemasonry. This is not just for your membership – it’s for your families, your friends, potential candidates, and members that may have become inactive.

It’s a great opportunity to promote to both the general public and to the Fraternity awareness of our goals and values.

The event centers around a Hartford Wolf Pack hockey game. But even if you’re not a hockey fan, it’s not about hockey. It’s about coming together as one to celebrate who we are and putting the best face possible on Freemasonry.

Here are some of the highlights to look forward to:

1. Ten children will be chosen to sit on the Wolf Pack bench during the pre-game warm-up.
2. The top ten groups in ticket sales will each get two spots in the “High Five Tunnel”, on the ice where the players enter at the beginning of the game.
3. Three children will have an opportunity to ride on one of two Zambonis that resurface the ice between periods.

4. All Brethren who’ve served honorably in the military are invited to hold the giant U.S. flag as it waves during the singing of “God Bless America.”

5. We will have a Color Guard present during our National Anthem.

6. Our Grand Master will be participating in the ceremonial puck drop and be briefly interviewed on the Jumbotron.

7. The Jumbotron will also list and recognize all groups that participate and will display Masonic trivia at various times during the game.

8. There will be two information tables out in the concourse.

There are three other reasons to participate: to raise money for a worthy cause, to build fellowship within your membership, and to make donations. There are two ways to accomplish this:

Go online, to www.CTFreemasonFamilyDay.org, and order tickets. You can select any available seats in our assigned section. Tickets are \$15 each, plus a small service charge. For every ticket purchased in this manner, \$5 will be rebated back to your group after the event.

The second way is to call the Wolf Pack representative assigned to the event (see contact info on the flyer). When you call, tell him to which group you belong and how many tickets you want. Those tickets will cost \$10 each with no service charge. With these, you can build fellowship by going to the event with members of your lodge, your family and friends, and candidates. Or the tickets can be donated to a worthy charity.

Together, we can make this a successful event. We can raise awareness in our community and, through our collective action, do good work. I encourage all of you to take full advantage of the Connecticut Freemason Family Day opportunity on March 30.





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Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: October 11, 2017

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| Composite Lodge No. 28 | Knights Templar of CT | Valley Lodge No. 36 |
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2017 GRIEF AND THE HOLIDAYS SEMINARS

Holidays can be stressful even in the best of times.

If you are grieving the death of a loved one, you may be feeling added stress over the effort needed to plan or participate in holiday events. Come and talk together about how you can hold on to your memories and create new meaning, while coping with your loss and finding a balance that works.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017, 1:00 P.M.

Comprehensive Women's Health Center Conference Room
ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL
114 Woodland Street, Hartford, Connecticut

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017, 10:30 A.M.

WINDSOR SENIOR CENTER
599 Matianuck Street, Windsor, Connecticut

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017, 1:00 P.M.

EAST HARTFORD SENIOR CENTER
70 Canterbury Street, East Hartford, Connecticut



Masonicare Partners
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A partnership of Masonicare and Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center

If you have questions regarding these seminars or need directions, please call Bereavement Services at (860) 528-5195

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The Masonicare Hearing Center

We'll help get you back into the conversation!



An Ageless Commitment to Caring



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