



Connecticut FREEMASONS

Sam Walker

**A living Example of the
Tenets of the Craft**
by Charles W. Yohe

**A Moment With Most
Worshipful Brother
Sam Walker**
by Francis G. Way



April 2018



Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM
69 Masonic Avenue
Wallingford, CT 06492

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



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FREEMASONS

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Sam Walker - A living Example of the Tenets of the Craft

by Charles W. Yohe



A Moment With Most Worshipful Brother Sam Walker

by Francis G. Way

During the early 1990s, I was privileged to serve in the Grand Lodge progressive line immediately behind Most Worshipful Brother Samuel Walker. Over the years, Most Worshipful Brother Walker has given much to his Lodge, his District, this Grand Lodge, and to Masonry in general. Always interested in seeking 'further Light,' MWB Walker joined the Philalethes Society and was a regular contributor of articles.

While he was progressing through the Grand Lodge line, he developed a multi-page guide entitled *The Successful Worshipful Master*. This was a 'how to' guide chock full of ideas and programs that, if utilized, would assist Worshipful Masters in improving their Lodge. If you happen to be lucky enough to find a copy somewhere in your Lodge archives, I recommend that you take the time to read it and profit from the advice offered therein.

For many years, MWB Walker also served as an active and valuable member of the Committee on Masonic Education. He always gave of his time and talents to this Grand Lodge until his health deteriorated several years ago.

One of the things that I remember most about our MWB, was his excellent contribution to the 7th District in the form of a monthly newsletter. He wrote, printed and distributed the newsletter throughout the 7th District and always included past and present Grand Lodge officers in the distribution. Included in the newsletter were little gems of wisdom and a joke or amusing anecdote here and there.

One of my fondest memories of MWB Walker was from April 10, 1996. That was the date for the Grand Lodge annual session over which MWB Walker was to preside. We were at the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell and a late season Nor'easter hit during the night. It brought with it about 10 inches of heavy wet snow that took down trees and power lines. When we woke up on the morning of April 10, there was no power in the hotel. Breakfast for the guests was by candlelight and there was a big question of how we could hold the Grand Lodge session with no lighting in the ballroom.

MWB Walker was unfazed. He rounded up a number of Brothers with flashlights and decided that Grand Lodge would open at the designated time regardless of whether or not the power was restored. As luck would have it, MWB Sam presided over the opening of Grand Lodge and, at the appropriate time, ordered the Grand Senior Deacon to attend at the altar. Another Brother held a flashlight as the Grand Senior Deacon performed his duties and Brother Walker, in declaring the Grand Lodge duly opened, said "Let there be Light!" Just at that instant, the power to the hotel was restored and all the lights came on in the ballroom. All in attendance had a good laugh about that and MWB Walker received quite a bit of ribbing over his magical powers as Grand Master.

A truly great man and Mason, Most Worshipful Brother Samuel B. Walker was well deserving of the Pierpont Edwards Medal in silver for Eminent Service to Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction.

In the spring of 1997 I had been a Master Mason for about a year. Having been installed as Senior Steward in Level Lodge No. 137 just after being raised in January, 1996, I was, at the time, sitting as Junior Deacon and beginning to do all those things a Junior Deacon should be doing, namely attending the Junior Officers Seminar and beginning to learn the Middle Chamber lecture.

The Junior Officers seminar was held at the Masonic Home and Hospital and the members of the Masonic Education Committee, especially Brothers William Bohman and Charles O'Neill, gave great instruction on how to be a good junior officer. MWPGM Sam Walker also presented that day, and something in his presentation caused a question to form in my mind. Not wanting to interrupt the presentation, I resolved to talk with him after the seminar.

At that point in my Masonic career I was still in awe of any brother with a purple apron. Not that I am no longer in awe, but in those first few months of my Master Mason's journey, working hard to remember everything that I needed to remember, those Brothers of our Craft upon whose shoulders rest the honored purple impressed me with their experiences. But, knowing that even a Past Grand Master is, first and foremost, a Brother, I resolved to approach MWB Sam and ask him my question. Having never actually met him before, I was still just a bit nervous.

After the presentation, out in the parking lot, I caught up with MWB Sam.

"Most Worshipful, my name is Frank Way, from Level Lodge. Now, I'm only the Junior Deacon, but I have question to ask..."

WMB Sam's response is something I have never forgotten, twenty-plus years later. He stopped me, and before I could ask my question, he patiently told that I should never say that "I'm only the Junior Deacon." He went on to explain that the Lodge could not be opened without a Junior Deacon, and that the Junior Deacon, along with the Tiler, has the very important duty of guarding the lodge.

All these years later, I don't remember what my question was, but I do remember the piece of sage advice given me by MWPGM Sam Walker. I never looked at any chair in the lodge as an "only" chair, and, reflecting on his answer, came to realize that each officer chair is important to the functioning of a lodge in its own special way.

I also learned something that day of humility, and of how even a Grand Master is "just a Brother." Brother Sam Walker, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, has, I am sure, educated many brothers over the years, and we all know he has done great service to our Craft. I know that in my Masonic journey, his few minutes of instruction have stood out as a singular circumstance all these years. And if I feel that way, knowing our Brother Sam as we all know him, there are quite probably many other brothers who feel the same way.

GRAND MASTER'S TREASURY BOARD

APRIL GM TED NELSON

Date	Time	Event	Place/Address	Dress Code	Stag/Coed
2	5:30p	OB Club	Langley's Restaurant, Waterford	C	S
3	6:00p	Bedouin Shrine Club	Groton Townhouse Restaurant	Cas	C
4	6:30p	50 Year Pins	Cosmopolitan Lodge #125	Tux	C
6	6:30p	50 Year Pins	Ansantawae Lodge #89	Tux	C
7	5:30p	50th Lodge Anniversary Dinner & Program	Franklin Lodge #20 20 Elm St. Westerly, RI	Tux	C
8	3:00p	Gr.Lodge Seminars & Banquet	Radisson Cromwell	Tux	C
9	9:30a 4:00p	Grand Lodge Annual Installation	Radisson Cromwell	Tux Bus	S C

APRIL GM MARSHALL ROBINSON

Date	Time	Event	Place/Address	Dress Code	Stag/Coed
13	6:30p	Table Lodge	Ansantawae Lodge #89	Tux	S
14	2:00P	DD presentation	Quintessentia Lodge	Tux	
19	6:00P	PDD Ass'n dinner	Manor Inn, Southington	Bus	S
21	5:00P	DD presentation	Bayview Lodge	Tux	
23	6:30P	1st District BLC	Washington 19, Monroe	Bus	S
24	5:30P	G.L.O.	Hartog, Priv. Din. Room	Cas	S
25		Masonicare Board mtng		Cas	
26		Grand Lodge of So. Carolina			
29		Grand Lodge of Maine			

MAY

5	4:00P	DD Presentation	Ashlar Vill.	Tux	
8	4:00P	CT Freemasons Foundation	Gr. Lodge Off.	Cas	S
12	1:00P	DD presentation	Moosup	Tux	
12	6:00P	Shriner dinner at WLOPA Gun Club		Cas	C
16		Awards Night	Columbia Lodge		
17	6:30P	Attend MM Degree	Harmony Lodge #42	Tux	S
19	5:30P	Homecoming	Brownson CC, Shelton	Bus	C
21		Grand Lodge of Rhode Island			
26		DD presentation	Anchor Lodge	Tux	

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

by Theodore J. Nelson

Thank You



Whenever you can't think of what to say next, just say "thank you." Not as a way out but a way to remember how grateful you are for all the wonderful blessings that you have had and shared. I will do my best to demonstrate my thanks in this last article as your Grand Master.

This has been a wonderful journey that you have endorsed by vote, hug, handshake, kind words or your prayers. All have been uplifting and all have been needed and warmly received. This journey, like any worthwhile undertaking, has come with its trials and tribulations as well as its apexes. Through our trials we have the opportunity to grow closer to God. I say that because some make the fateful mistake of blaming God. Please don't ever question His will. Please always seek and then be grateful for the lessons that the Grand Architect of the Universe is trying to teach you. I don't think anyone who has

ever asked the question "why me?" has gotten a satisfactory reply.

The one downside of saying thanks to individuals is to risk leaving someone out. Some would say that it is the testimony of true friendship when you meant to point them out but forgot to. My long suffering wife, Grace, has put up with my travels away from her but has enjoyed the travels that we were able to share together. My thanks and love to her always. I've thanked my parents, Naomi Nelson and Theodore Nelson Jr. many times and they know my love for them. My three younger brothers Ken, Mark and Chris and their respective wives, Stephanie, Carol Ann and Cindy Lou have all played parts in shaping the man who writes to you today. To our late son, Brother Steve Brewster, Jr., you taught me how to be a dad and you will always be remembered and missed dearly. To my daughters, Antonia and Faith, you taught me patience.

The list from here goes on and on. My peers, the Past Grand Masters: Tom Maxwell for standing his ground and sharing his vision with me. Charlie Yohe for offering his humble counsel and wordsmithing. Gail Smith for demonstrating faith amongst adversity. Roger Read for his deep thoughts on Masonry and for the "vocation prism." Bob Stika for KISS. Art Carlstrom for giving me a chance to prove myself. Charlie Buck for his work ethic and steadfast loyalty to the Craft. Ken Hawkins, Sr. as the Standard Bearer of Masonry. Bill Greene for being Mr. Mason and all of his wonderful photos. Gary Arseneau for never giving up on me. Dick Hodgson for his command of our ritual. Sam Walker for his writings and oratory on so many Masonic subjects. Norm Getchell, my first Grand Master and my tour guide in Ocala, Florida.

My Grand Lodge Officers: Marshall Robinson for strength and support, my Hiram King of Tyre. Mel Johnson for coming to our rescue and your organizational skills. Stephen Petri, for better or worse, we own our website thanks to you and your team. Bud Buckner for righting our financial ship. Dick Memmott for your devotion to duty and your friendship. Grant Gould for your honor and integrity. Bill Bohman for "when is the revolution?" Bruce Bellmore my Director of Decorum. Fran DiStefano you left us too soon but made a huge difference. Joe Porco for your faith in our fraternity. Edward Page for running with the Life Membership. My appointed GL Officers for all the thankless work that you do behind the scenes. Rev. Carl Anderson you are inspirational. Rich Memmott, Jr. for herding the ducks and sharing your insight. Brian Beals for maintaining the Masters Path & Call 'Em All and all that you do for DeMolay. Frank Mangiero and Joseph F. Massa for assisting Rich. Gary A. Littlefield for all of your research and Shane Dufesne for caring for the weakest among us.

To the Office Staff led by Grant Gould, Dick Memmott and Bud Buckner and the day to day operators of Deborah Fowler and Erika Cortezano-Garcia, whom I affectionately refer to as the "dynamic duo." Thank you for never saying "no" but "how can I help?" While both Marje Chick and RWB Russell W. McClelland retired during my year, they were each in their own way a great help over all the years of my ascension to the Grand East and most of all, dear friends.

To my District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals. You were my boots on the ground. Thanks for your dedication and support of your lodges. A special thanks to the lodges and all of the Worshipful Masters who served during my year to make a positive difference in your communities and most especially to those who hosted me at your affairs.

The Past Masters of Brainard Lodge No. 102 and Wooster Lodge No. 10 have been very close and dear friends and most of all, confidants. Ed Sottolano, Jim Kane, Charlie Banky, B J Perkins, Roger Daboll, Willis Snow, Morgan Daboll, Ed Paquette, Ralph Greene, George Jank, Ken Wade, George Mikulka, Bob Wade, Tom Evert, John Perona, Bill Weisert, my first masonic mentor, Axel Mahlke, Jim Moran, Scott Larkham, Ron Magliano, Dick Miller, Frank Rich, Art Bishel, Bob Links, Kieth Wakefield, Ted Volker, Gary Littlefield, and Andrew Warren. All have played a part in shaping my masonic career.

Continued on page 6



GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE *(continued)*

The Past District Deputies of the 8th District have been by my side: C. A. Duke as a traveling companion all over the state and even out of state. Art Richards, Bill Perkins, Lody Morales, Bill Clark, Frank Rebmann, Art Bishel, Ed Childs, George McPherson, Bud Solomon, Cliff Van Dyke, Lou Tew, Bob Veneziano, Craig Pedro, Dave Aiken, Brian Eckenrode, Ernie Greenwood, Bill Milton, Dick Wingate and others.

The Past Masters of the 8th District: Lee Kusterer of Union Lodge No. 31 for breakfast, council and commentary every Friday morning since the mid 1990s. Les King, Ken Bickford, Phil Rathbun, Kris Dorsett, Fred Driscoll, Richard Allen, Frank Bushwack, Kurk Derks, Steve Pudlo, Carl E. B. Mitchell, Dave Costner, Bill Morse, Chuck Clark, Les Culver, Charlie Maxson.

My Scottish Rite Brothers who have always been there for me. My 33rd Degree Classmates of 2002, Dave Sharkis and Bruce Bellmore, we'll always be joined at the hip. "Uncle" Burt Turner for your friendship and guidance. "Cousin" Howard Turner, Bill Breed, Jeff Stober, D John Watkins, Walt Kornacki, Bruce Work, PGM Fred Lorenson, Jr., A. Norman Johnson, Richard Travis, Jim Spencer, Kevin Hecht, Jason Fletcher, Steve Raymond, Al Gloer, Kevin Kelly, John Stogden and others.

My buds and brothers at the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper. Frank Way a humble editor. Do those two words work in the same sentence? They do when it comes to Frank. Mike Castroll for editing the Pierpont Edwards Medal recipient's biographies. Jean Maheu for helping to put the paper back on track after Tom's installation as Grand Master. Eric Lopkin for his layout work. Pat Kalinauskas for her photography and design of the paper even while fighting physical pain. And of course the proof reading team of Margaret Steeves, Carl Anderson, Adam Raider, Bob Dorr and Charlie Yohe.

My brothers on the technology team. From my mother lodge, Brainard, Patrick Trainor for doing the heavy lifting and giving the CT Freemasons web site back to the Grand Lodge. Stephen Petri, Doug Barry, Jr., Don Demaine, Bob Furce and many others behind the scenes.

I know I've probably left scores of names out but not intentionally.

The real deal is that life is a precious gift from God and please be grateful to Him for your loved ones. I leave you with the simple lesson that I learned from the 3rd degree which isn't written in our ritual. Man is born to die. My question is, what will you do with the time that God has given you?

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve you.
See you in Lodge!

We Welcome Our New Brothers to the Fraternity



Nicholas A.J. Cordone	Columbia Lodge No. 25
Casar A. Jerez	Composite Lodge No. 28
Andrew C. Work	Composite Lodge No. 28
Joshua R. Levin	Friendship Lodge No. 33
Justin T. Crane	Village Lodge No. 29

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Words of Thanks for Masonicare Hospice

by Adam Raider

As the philanthropic arm of Masonicare, The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut is honored to accept gifts in memory of patients cared for by Masonicare Hospice. Often, these gifts are accompanied by heartfelt words of thanks from the donors – typically friends and family members of those who have passed. Their praise for the compassionate caregivers of Masonicare Hospice is an inspiration to all of us who work to enhance the lives of seniors across Connecticut. Here, then, are some recent notes received by The Foundation. Keep them coming!

Dear Masonicare Hospice:

The enclosed donation to Masonicare Hospice is made in memory of Ethelinda M., a great lady who will be missed by many. Although I never met Ethelinda's aide, Maggie, four relatives and Ethelinda herself spoke very highly of her. Many thanks for Maggie.

Sincerely,

B. Craver

To our Masonicare Team:

The family of Joan K., who passed away December 2, wants to extend our deep and sincere thanks for your care. The entire team was always professional and attentive. Our nurses from the Norwalk branch of Masonicare Hospice, Dave and Mike, patiently let us ask hundreds of questions. We especially appreciated Dave's companionship and leadership during Mom's last week. We would turn around and there was Dave. He helped us so much.

Many thanks for your mission,

Laura H.

To the dedicated and caring staff of Masonicare Hospice:

The family of Russell C. would like to express our most sincere and heartfelt appreciation for the kindness and attention paid to him during his time under hospice care. The visiting hospice nurses, Gina Sullo and Linda Hill, evaluated assessed Dad's condition and needs so that we could better provide support. Whether recommending devices or providing alternate means of accomplishing tasks that had now become impossible, Dad's nurses enabled him to remain at home for virtually all of his illness. Near the end, they saw what we did not and recommended that Dad be transferred to the in-patient hospice unit at Masonicare Health Center. The whole hospice team provided an environment where staff and family could help Dad spend his last days with dignity and in relative comfort. He meant so much to our family over the course of his 88 years, and saying goodbye was not easy ... but it was possible in the caring environment of Masonicare Hospice. We are forever indebted to the visiting nurses and in-patient staff of Masonicare Hospice for the care and support of our father in his final days.

Our family received donations in Russell's memory that we would like to pass along to Masonicare Hospice to be applied as seen fit to help other families find comfort during their loved ones' final journey.

With sincere gratitude,

The Family of Russell C.

You can help support Masonicare Hospice and other programs and services of Masonicare by making a tax-deductible gift to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. Visit masonicare.org/mcf or call The Foundation at 203-679-5555 or 800-562-3952.

Congratulations

to our 75 & 50-Year Brothers

75-YEAR MASONS

Frederick G. Raymond American St. John's Lodge No. 8

50-YEAR MASONS

Arial W. George	Coastal Lodge No. 57
Carlton R. Cotnoir	America-St. John's Lodge No. 8
Daniel C. Thurston, Jr.	Seneca Lodge No. 55
Daniel J. Katz	Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125
Francis Griffin	Meridian Lodge No. 77
George D. Bathgate	Day Spring Lodge No. 30
George Sayad	Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145
Hans F. Seebo	Wooster Lodge No. 79
Harry N. Mazadoorian	Unity Lodge No. 148
Henry C. Letsch, III	Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3
Henry E. Tuinstra	Valley Lodge No. 36
Howard R. Jimmie	Corinthian Lodge No. 104
Hugo F. Thomas	Uriel Lodge No. 24
John V. Baker	Temple Lodge No. 16
Joseph D. Maher	Wyllys - St. John's Lodge No. 4
Lewis P. Bither	Center Lodge No. 97
Norman L. Wack	Evening Star Lodge No. 101
Norman L. Zercher	Coastal Lodge No. 57
Normand A. Keeney	Composite Lodge No. 28
Paul A. Ogren	Compass Lodge No. 9
Richard D. Schietinger	Washington Lodge No. 19
Roger W. Guild	Warren Lodge No. 51
Vincent A. Celino	Composite Lodge No. 28
William A. Hobart	Coastal Lodge No. 57
William E. Hastings, Jr.	Washington Lodge No. 70
William L. Lyons, III	Meridian Lodge No. 77
Woodrow J. Olsen, Jr.	Union Lodge No. 5
Paul F. Berg	Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88
L. Russell Burgess	Corner Stone-Quinebaug Lodge No. 122
Roger R. Cole	Meridian Lodge No. 77



From the Desk and Bench of the Grand Chaplain/Organist

by Rev. Carl H. Anderson

The 23rd Psalm, "The Lord is my shepherd," is a poignant affirmation for people of differing faith traditions. Its universal metaphor portraying God as the Good Shepherd transcends religious boundaries and theologies. It provides comfort in times of sorrow because it describes God as a Creator who leads humankind through the journey of life. While it is a part of many funerals because it speaks to the assurance of God's care through the valley of the shadow of death, it is also included in a variety of worship services because of its common theme of describing God as loving and benevolent.

As a chaplain, I am always amazed when people with severe dementia are able to recite the Psalm during worship services or spiritual care visits. Isaiah's time-honored words continue to provide them with hope and peace amid the ravages of disease. I think that the analogy of God as the Great Shepherd is a source of comfort and peace for many people in times of need.

Although it is often recited in times of sorrow, conflict and spiritual struggle, the 23rd Psalm is also a powerful source of hope throughout life. It contains a theological underpinning of the omnipresence of God within humanity. It describes The Grand Architect as providing protection through a spiritual rod and staff of gentle correction and direction, which ultimately provides one with a greater sense of faith and peace.

For people of faith in times of uncertainty, scriptures such as the 23rd Psalm inform our beliefs and give strength and courage for the future. Psalms and other familiar passages from scripture provide invaluable insights that speak to both past and present circumstances. As Masons who consider scripture to be a "rule and guide" for life, perhaps we should make time to meditate on the sacred texts and allow them to inspire us anew. I believe that this investment in time will be most beneficial as we journey through life as spiritual sojourners and Masons.





Grand Historian's Corner

by Gary A. Littlefield

For some nighttime reading, this Grand Historian has been reading some local lodge histories. In 1933, the death of longtime Tyler William Hathaway who guarded well the

door was recalled. In his first year of service as Tyler a Past Master James Hart arrived late and asked to be admitted. The Tyler did not know him and had never sat in lodge with him. As the "new man at the door", an inquiry was sent inside. Worshipful Brother Steve Goodsell was called out to identify and responded to the Tyler that he had never seen him before (they were good friends) thinking he was playing a practical joke on the Tyler. The poor Past Master had to wait until refreshment for admission into the lodge. Sometimes, practical jokes can backfire and WB Goodsell was admonished for his little "practical joke."

Stuttgart-American Lodge UD was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut to service and assist the various Masonic Clubs that had sprung up in Germany after the close of World War II. In 1946, the groups petitioned two or three Grand jurisdictions and Connecticut considered the matter and granted the necessary dispensation at the 1947 Annual Communication. The first meeting was held on July 24, 1947, with 24 Master Masons from fourteen jurisdictions present. John A Holbrook of Siloam Lodge No. 32 of Old Saybrook was the first Worshipful Master. The Senior Warden was a Brother from Kentucky and sitting in the south was a Brother from Washington state. The lodge worked under a limited dispensation and was authorized to confer degrees only on candidates who applied to lodges who were recognized by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. The Grand Master of Germany visited the lodge on at least one occasion. On November 4, 1950, the lodge was meeting in Heidelberg and at the 130th Station Hospital, the Master Mason degree was conferred on an American Brother in the hospital chapel which had been converted into a lodge room. The examining committee spent six hours examining Brothers and there were reported ninety-four names representing thirty-six jurisdictions. After the degree, a

formal banquet was held with a floor show and dancing in the main dining room of the headquarters of the European High Command. The Junior Warden had plenty to watch for and observe, but he had nothing to come before the lodge at the next meeting.

One of the more interesting decisions of Luke Lockwood when he was sitting as Grand Master in 1874 was that a resolution passed by a lodge "that no Brother shall be buried with Masonic Honors who uses intoxicating liquors" would be highly improper and of no force. Lockwood stated that every Mason in good standing at the time of his death is entitled to a Masonic burial. He further stated that such a resolution would require the trial of a deceased Brother before he could be buried with proper Masonic honors. The Annual Communication that year ordered that 20,000 copies of the Grand Master's address be distributed to lodges. While the number printed was 20,000, there were just under 15,000 Masons in Connecticut. Some were sent to other jurisdictions (perhaps 400) so we wonder what happened to the other 4,000 copies.

When the Waterbury Masonic Temple was opened in 1912, there were Masons from all over Connecticut who attended the cornerstone laying. MWB Justin Holden, assisted by his associate officers, laid the cornerstone on August 10. It was said that it was probably the largest Masonic gathering in the city as at least thirty-six Connecticut lodges were represented. The cornerstone contained some of the material salvaged from the old Temple which had burned ten years earlier. Two years later when the temple was dedicated by MWB Ernest Parkman, the medals given out that day were a gift from the American Brass Company of Waterbury. Since the new Temple was so inviting there was a petition for the establishment of other lodges in Waterbury and Harmony Lodge No. 42 was pleased to support the chartering of Liberty Lodge No. 123.

Our Grand Lodge session is coming up on April 9. Please try to attend and watch as our Grand Lodge officers present reports and the installation of a new Grand Master.





From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

Our 2018 Nutmegger Reunions in Florida last month were great! Masonicare Board Chair Bro. Bob Polito, MWGM Ted Nelson, PGM Charlie Yohe and his wife Barbara, Rev. Bro. Carl Anderson and I truly enjoyed seeing

160 Connecticut Masons in Palm Beach Gardens, Naples, Sarasota, Ocala and New Port Richey. Bro. Bob Polito and I shared an update and answered questions on the goings-on at Masonicare including the acquisition of Chester Village West. Attendees also saw short videos about Chester Village, Masonicare at Mystic and Ashlar Village. One 70-year pin and four 50-year pins were presented by the Grand Master. Be sure and check out the photos from the five reunions in this issue of Connecticut Freemasons. Many thanks to our Nutmegger Reunion hosts: James and Joan Vander Eyk, David and Ann Hocking, James and Agnes Rutushini, PGM Norm Getchell, and John and Patricia Blennerhassett.

After returning to Connecticut, we had three back-to-back Nor'easters. The second one caused the entire town of Chester to lose power, including of course our Masonicare at Chester Village community. When the back-up generator at our newest

community failed, the strength and vigilance of our continuum saved the day – relocating the residents to accommodations at Mystic or Ashlar Village. They were warmly greeted and found friendship, food and shelter until the power was back on 48 hours later.

Events like these shine a light on the work ethic of our employees. Our facility-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.

By the time you read this, we hope Spring will be here and Nor'easters will be a distant memory!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Jon-Paul Venoit





Connecticut FREEMASONS

"Making A Difference"

Committee on Community Action

2018 COCA Grand Lodge Report

by Perne R. Maynard

COCA has tried new programs in the 9th District to determine the most effective events to implement in your local community. COCA will concentrate its effort on the following six Masonic Subcommittees. COCA's mission will be to provide these subcommittees with programs for the new Blue Lodge District social media platforms that are being designed and implemented by the Grand Lodge Technology Committee. Efforts will be made to improve communications by utilizing the new GPS program between COCA and each District coordinator.

The Masonic Organ and Tissue Awareness Program. The major reason this committee is successful is that each member has been involved with a friend or family member who required an organ transplant. Chairman, Richard Denno lost his wonderful wife Midge this past week, but is thankful for the added years they enjoyed together because of her kidney transplant. It is so important to get this message out to our Brothers and the community at large.

The CTCHIP Program. WB Peter Boychuck, Chairman, is responsible for organizing the district coordinators and oversees the program supplies for each of the Districts. Once COCA activates its new social media communication, CHIP will be able to "step it up" by providing community programs through public events as we have done for years and begin new school sponsored programs. The CTCHIP program has made updates to the latest software and we can now record on flash drives or DVD for each child's information.

The Masonic Veterans Awareness Program. We are looking for a "Few Good Men" that are veterans who have the passion to volunteer to help our Veterans as we begin this mission. Grand Lodge has requested that lodges sponsor programs for local Veteran Homes and Hospitals located in Newington, Rocky Hill and West Haven. Lodges can sponsor a "Night Out with a Veteran" by taking a Veteran to a movie or holding a Veterans card night at their Veteran home or lodge. COCA has requested Grand Lodge to sponsor a ceremony to honor Connecticut Masonic Veterans with the presentation of the Connecticut Veterans War Medal and a special Masonic pin.

Open House Program. COCA will suggest each District select one weekend where all lodges provide an event to invite the public to their lodge. Last year the 9th District had a motorcycle rally visiting all the lodges. All visitors at each lodge were given finger food and drinks. This event was a great way to promote an open house as money was raised for local charities. In the future COCA will provide the social media info for the public to discover more about Masonry.

Community "Night OUT" Family Program. This will be a new initiative to promote families and friends to attend Grand Lodge or Blue Lodge public events advertised as "CT Freemasons Family Day" programs. Masonry can receive great exposure once Brothers and the general public know about local events such as the XL Center Hockey Day on March 30. "Night Out at the Yard Goats" events are also possible. They have ticket promotions where lodges can raise money for the organization. But they are very popular, and dates are filling up. If you would like to have a "Family Night event", contact me soon so we can save the date.

Community Action Awareness Program. Many Connecticut lodges have community events and programs that are working successfully. All lodges have a new dynamic lodge website and social media pages to help in developing new programs that are relevant for today's society. COCA will begin a search for Brothers who express an interest in a program about which they are passionate. Later this year, COCA media tools and tutorial videos will be organized on the Grand Lodge website.

The CERT Emergency Shelter Awareness Program. Brother Don Janelle is the contact person and he will meet with any Lodge interested in developing a CERT program. There is a requirement of 20 hours of training for each CERT member. Contact Don if you would like to learn about this program where your lodge can provide relief during storms or emergency.

The Masonic Blood Drive Program. Needs to be restructured to meet today's blood drive quota. COCA needs local District Brothers to coordinate between the Red Cross and the Masonic Fraternity.

Tabs for Tots Program. Appoint a Shriner in your lodge be a coordinator for a tabs-for-tots program with all tabs scheduled to go to the nearest Shriner Temple.

Grand Lodge has provided positive support for COCA, but with the comment to have more committee members implement this initiative. The green light has been given to finalize the development of the COCA Blue Lodge District social media sites. These sites will link lodge websites on the District site. Thus, a lodge will only have to maintain its own website and these sites will give every Brother access to all District and COCA event updates.



Did You Ever Know That You're My Hero?

by Richard F. Denno

If ever there was a person that was best described by the above title, it was my beautiful wife Midge Denno. After all, she was the 'Mother' of the Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program, as well as my beautiful bride for almost 48 years. Had she not received her lifesaving kidney transplant, the Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program would not have been thought of and formed

On Saturday, March 3, Midge lost her battle with end stage renal disease. The immuno-suppressants had also taken their toll on her body. When you must take these drugs to prevent your body from rejecting your transplanted organ, it also can lead to other medical issues with other maladies.

In October 2004, Midge was diagnosed with scleroderma, a disease that shut down her kidneys, forcing her onto hemo-dialysis for over four years. The telephone call that all who are on the organ donor waiting list pray for finally came on December 3, 2008. Transplants are not cures. They can, however, prolong a recipient's life for many years. On March 3, 2018, nine years and four months after her transplant, she succumbed to end stage renal disease. I will always be grateful to the caring person who registered as an organ donor and provided Midge with a much-needed kidney. After a number of years, her transplanted kidney began to fail, culminating with her death in March.



Midge was one of those special people that virtually EVERYONE loved. She was kind, caring, thoughtful, and frugal with finances. She was elected to the Marlborough Board of Finance this past November. And did I say she was a beautiful woman? While she had a warm, sincere smile that attracted people to her, it was her caring that radiated from within that kept them 'coming back.'

We were together for 50 years. In all those years, I never failed to tell her how much I loved her and how special she was. I usually tell folks that they tolerated me to have a relationship with her. In all this time, I never found one person who didn't like and admire her.

In the past 20 years, I have used the title, "Did You Ever Know That You're My Hero?" in only eight of my articles. I've reserved it for only the most special of people. The lyrics are from Bette Midler's song, 'The Wind Beneath My Wings.' Another lyric from that song that describes Midge is 'You're everything I wished I could be.' Every single word of the song expresses just how I feel (not felt) about Midge Denno.

I put up two Donate Life pages. You can check them out at www.registerme.org/campaign/midgedenno to register on the National organ donor website and www.donatelife.net/midgedenno. The second one is to contribute to the lifesaving efforts and save/improve the lives of others.

Fraternally,
WB Richard

New Port Richey 50-Year Presentation



The Grand Master, Theodore J. Nelson, presented a 50-year pin and certificate to WB Randolph Nielson. WB Nielson was accompanied by his daughter and his wife, Jackie. MWB Charles Yohe provided a modified and shortened version of the 50 year presentation ceremony in Ocala and New Port Richey while the Grand Master presented the pins and certificates.



Ocala 50 and 70-Year Pins



*"Starting in the top right corner and moving clockwise," Grand Master Ted Nelson presents a widow's pin to Joyce Edgerton, widow of RWB Carl Edgerton
MWB Norman Getchell introducing the District Deputy Grand Master to MWB Theodore J. Nelson
Presentation of a 70-year pin to Brother Clifford Bulmer
Presentation of 50-year pins to (l-r) Brother Dick McKee and Brother Donald Maehlenbrock*



Sarasota 50-Year Presentation



Grand Master Theodore J. Nelson presented Brother John Speicher with his 50-year pin. Brother Speicher was WB Robert Polito's "oil man" when he lived in CT.



Naples Reunion



Palm Beach Gardens Reunion



John Elliott Pearson Receives Pierpont Edwards in Bronze

John Elliott (“Jack”) Pearson was born on October 3, 1943 in Boston, Massachusetts. He was the third of four children - Robert, Jr., Pricilla, John and David - born to Robert W. Pearson, Sr. and Vera O. Pearson. Jack had large extended family in the area, as his mother and her sisters had emigrated from Nova Scotia, and his father’s parents had emigrated from Sweden. In 1946, the family moved to a farm house in then rural Chelmsford, Massachusetts, where Jack spent his childhood enjoying baseball (an avid Red Sox fan), swimming and hockey at the neighborhood pond. In high school, in addition to his scholastic work, he played football and hockey for Chelmsford High School and graduated in 1961.

Jack enlisted in the U.S. Army after one year in college, took his basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and was assigned to Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. He was later assigned to White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. He completed his service in 1966, and returned to Chelmsford after an extended journey through Alaska, the Midwest and the South. He enrolled at Lowell Technological Institute, pursuing a degree in mathematics.

While at Fort Monmouth, Jack attended St. James Episcopal Church, singing in the choir. There he met Chief Warrant Officer Harry Adams, and later Mr. Adams’ family, including his daughter Penny. Penny and Jack corresponded over the next few years, and saw each other again in 1968, after she had moved to Hartford. They were married June 28, 1969 at All Saint’s Episcopal Church in Chelmsford, one week after Jack graduated from Lowell Tech. They resided in West Hartford, with Jack working for Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company in Hartford, and Penny working for Connecticut General life Insurance Company in Bloomfield. In 1973 they moved to Bloomfield, where they still reside. They have a son Karl, a daughter Kristina, and a granddaughter Chloe. Jack and Penny are now retired.

Both Jack’s father Robert and Penny’s father Harry were Master Masons. Robert was raised at William Sewall Gardner Lodge in Lowell, MA where he served as Worshipful Master. Harry was raised at Caleb Butler Lodge in Ayer, MA while stationed at Fort Devens, and remained a member there for over 50 years, while visiting other lodges throughout the country during his military career. In 1988, Jack was invited to attend a function at Hiram Lodge No. 98. He later petitioned to become a Mason, was initiated an Entered Apprentice on March 13, 1989, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on April 10, 1989 and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on May 8, 1989. In 1992, Jack was elected to serve as Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge No. 98. While his father had passed away by that time, Jack’s mother Vera and Brother Bob, and Penny’s father Harry were all proud to be in attendance on that occasion.

Jack was a member of the merger committee for the merger of St. Mark’s Lodge No. 36, St. Mark’s Lodge No. 91 and Hiram Lodge No. 98. In 2005, after the merger, Jack served as treasurer of the new Lodge and the new Lodge Building Association. As a member of the Building Association he was instrumental in negotiating the sale of the old Hiram Lodge building, closing down the legal existence of the old Lodges and old Building Associations and establishing the new tax exempt documents with the U. S. government and the State of Connecticut under the umbrella of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut. Most importantly Jack developed and made the presentation to the Town of Simsbury Board of Tax Review that secured property tax exemption from the Town of Simsbury and made building a new Freemasons Hall possible.

Jack is also an active member of the Scottish Rite, Valley of Hartford, where he has taken on several large parts and is a member of the Scottish Rite choir. Jack joined the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in 1991. He took his Lodge of Perfection degrees in Charter Oak Lodge of Perfection on October 3, 1991, his Princes of Jerusalem degrees on October 10, 1991 in Hartford Council of Princes of Jerusalem, his Rose Croix degrees on October 24, 1991 in Cyrus Goodell Chapter of Rose Croix and his Consistory degrees on November 9, 1991 in Nathan Hale Consistory. He has regularly served as King Cyrus in the 16th degree.

Jack joined the Ancient Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine December 10, 1994 and is a lead member of the Chanters. Jack is also joined the Philosophic Lodge of Research on October 14, 1994. He was a chapter Dad while Karl was a member of Pleasant Valley Chapter, Order of DeMolay, and was particularly proud to be in attendance when Karl was Raised a Master Mason at Washington Lodge No. 70.

In addition to Masonry, Jack’s interests and activities are far reaching. A lifelong learner and active reader, he received his MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1981, and his certification to teach Mathematics under the Connecticut Alternate Route to Certification in 2002. While Karl and Kristina were growing up, he was very involved in Little League in Bloomfield, serving as coach and board member, and he was instrumental in founding the Girls Softball League. Throughout his life Jack has enjoyed singing in Episcopal Church choirs and he has sung in the Trinity Episcopal Church choir in Hartford for the last 35 years. He is also serving as Treasurer of Trinity Church and a Finance Committee member of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut.

In recognition of his service to our fraternity, to his Lodge and the state of Connecticut, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the state of Connecticut is pleased to present Worshipful Brother John Elliott Pearson the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.



Hiram Lodge Marches in Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade

by Michael Calderone



Worshipful Master Brendan W. McGann led a contingent of Masons from Hiram Lodge No. 1 and a few neighboring Lodges in the 2018 Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade. Twelve Brothers in two columns proudly marched behind a bagpipe regiment and ahead of the local VFW. They waved at the excited throngs of revelers and were occasionally greeted by Brothers along the parade route. Afterwards, a number of the marchers met up with their ladies at Dunn's Irish Pub in Hamden for corned beef sandwiches, beer and good cheer. It was a beautiful day to meet our New Haven neighbors and share our Irish pride! *Hiram go brag!*



Do you or someone you know need a wheelchair ramp?

by John Chan

A widow of a Veteran contacted Brother John Chan with a donation of an expansive wheelchair ramp that needed to be disassembled. Bro. John reached out to the Brothers of Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 for assistance, and the beehive started to buzz with excitement and activity. On Saturday, March 3, eight Brothers and two friends descended on the site and after a quick assessment of how the ramp was put together, went to work.

Armed with tools and working in three small teams to disassemble the railings, the ramps, and the landings, it was down and loaded on RWB Bob Everest's trailer in less than two hours. After cleaning up the site and reinstalling the widow's original stair railing they headed to unload the pieces at Bro. John's backyard.

Brother John is looking to re-donate the ramp to any Mason, widow or orphan who may have a need. There are enough parts to install at least three wheelchair ramps, depending on the height of the doorway.

If you have a need for a ramp, on a permanent or temporary basis, please call him at (860) 518-3553 to make arrangements. Also as a reminder, he also has a constant rotation of donated durable medical goods, including powered wheelchairs, to re-donate. One new recent acquisition is a hydraulic operated patient hoist.



Photo: l-r:

Bro. James Tynan, Michael Jacewicz,
Bro. Cliff Durity, Bro. John Chan,
RWB Bob Everest, WB Jim Bailey,
Bro. Don Adams, Bro. Jason Rodriguez,
Bro. Larry Siedman

The Wave That Is Freemasonry

by Charles W. Yohe

Like a thousand white stallions galloping shoulder to shoulder, neck and neck at break neck speed, the huge waves came thundering to the shore bringing with them large, heavy pieces of coral. The power of the sea is unmistakable. Each individual drop of seawater is, in itself, innocuous and inconsequential. Joined together with millions of other drops, the force exerted by the tides as they pound against the shore is truly awesome to observe. Such was the scene in early March on the Atlantic coastline.

In like manner, each of us as Masons may seem to feel that our efforts are weak and inconsequential, but when Masons join together and unite behind a cause, our efforts can be as powerful as the tidal forces of the sea and can make a decided difference in the world. Never forget, each of us hold the key to Freemasonry's success or failure. Always do what you can to move Masonry forward. Several recent examples come to mind.

Many of us may take for granted things like the publication and delivery of the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper. What I discovered numerous times this past month is that our out of state members really look forward to written communication from both the Grand Lodge and their own local Lodge. I am fully aware that Lodges are always looking for ways to economize and those efforts include electronic communication. That is fine for our younger members who are technologically savvy, but please don't forget our older members. Provide them with regular written news of the goings on within their home Lodge.

Please remember that Masonry is a highly personal thing! Masonry happens Brother to Brother. It is the positive personal interactions that help keep Masonry alive. Those same interactions can be the difference between your Lodge growing or remaining stagnant. When is the last time that the officers of your Lodge visited your local members who are 70 or older or sat down and called each of your out of state members just to say hello and to let them know that the members of their Lodge care about their well-being? Do something special for those members of your Lodge that have attained a particular milestone such as 55, 60, 65, 70, or 75 years as a Mason or a milestone birthday such as 75, 80, or more. Make up a certificate signed by the Worshipful Master and secretary; have all the members who are present at a meeting sign a birthday or thinking of you card. Call the Brother and place the call on 'speakerphone' so that all the members can gather around, hear his voice and collectively wish him well. Little acts of kindness like that can go much further than many realize.

Here is another idea. If your Lodge has a dinner, box up a meal and deliver it to each of your local Brothers who aren't able to attend due to age or infirmity. For your out of state Brothers, perhaps you can recognize their Lodge anniversary or birthday by sending them a restaurant gift card so that they are reminded that their Lodge brothers care for them. I am willing to bet that these small acts of kindness will be returned ten-fold.

My wife, Barbara, and I traveled to Florida again this year to offer our assistance to RWB Carl Anderson and Masonicare for the Nutmegger reunions. For all our Connecticut Brothers and widows who either live in the Sunshine state full time or as "Snowbirds," I heartily recommend that you put the first week of March 2019 on your calendars and plan to attend one of these luncheons that are held in various locations around Florida each year. It is an opportunity to socialize with other Connecticut Masons and to catch up on the news regarding Masonicare and the Grand Lodge and to enjoy a really great lunch. When the dates and locations are announced for 2019, be sure to mark your calendars and then RSVP to RWB. Carl Anderson. Some may think that these reunions are a 'sales pitch,' but they're not. The purpose is simply to inform and to celebrate the awarding of 50-year or greater service pins.

While in Florida for the annual Nutmegger reunions and a short vacation, I had the opportunity to visit with several members of my own Lodge and present service pins. Hopefully the photos of those occasions appear elsewhere in this issue. My wife and I visited a member of my Lodge, Brother R. Webster Newkirk and his wife Natalie, who have lived in Tequesta, FL for many years and I had the great pleasure of presenting him with his 50-year pin and certificate. A few days later, I attended a meeting of Gateway Lodge No. 384 in Mims, Florida where I presented a Past Master of my Lodge, Worshipful Brother Myron Musselman, with his 60-year pin. Brother Musselman was severely injured during a home invasion several years ago and can no longer drive. However, through the generosity and assistance of Worshipful Brother Harold Jones, he is able to attend Lodge at Gateway No. 384 in Mims, Florida from time to time. It was a superb night of perfect Brotherhood. The Worshipful Master, officers and members of Gateway Lodge were very hospitable and accommodating, and I was joined by four other Connecticut Brothers who traveled to the Lodge that evening to help celebrate the occasion. Lodge opened at 7:30 and the very well-run business meeting concluded in one hour, after which all present were treated to dinner in the Lodge dining room. This was a truly memorable evening for the Brother who is wheelchair bound!

Earlier that same day, Barbara and I stopped in Palm Bay, Florida to present a 70-year pin to Brother R. Burton Taylor, a member of Washington Lodge No. 81. Brother Taylor and his niece, Susan O'Hara, treated us to a delicious lunch and Brother Taylor proudly shared with me the certificate for 70 years as a Mason that his Lodge had recently sent him. Words cannot describe what the recognition meant to Brother Taylor who proudly showed me his Masonic ring that he purchased some 70 years ago and wore during the Korean conflict in the early 1950s.

Coming full circle, if we as Masons concentrate on 'doing' Masonry, rather than talking about it, I am confident that we will experience a tidal wave of growth that will insure Masonry's prominence well into the 21st century. Don't rely on the Lodge Almoner or the Lodge Welfare Committee to make contact. Every Brother should take a personal interest and should help, aid and assist whenever possible.

Called By The Grand Architect

Lawrence A. Adkins, Sr.	St. Paul's Lodge No. 11
Donald W. Archer	Coastal Lodge No. 57
Gerald D. Bullock	Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145
Cosmo J. Cianciolo	Liberty-Continental Lodge No. 76
William C. Drexler	Brainard Lodge No. 102
Carl L. Edgerton	Columbia Lodge No. 25
Stephen H. Finney	Hartford Evergreen 88
Elliott Glassman	Annawon Lodge No. 115
Emilio J. Gonzalez	Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3
William J. Jucksch	Brainard Lodge No. 102
Julius Kish Jr	Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142
John J. Kiskunes	Fayette Lodge No. 69
Mitchell Kogut, II	Village Lodge No. 29
George D. Moore	Friendship Lodge No. 33
Edward W. Phillips	King Solomons Lodge No. 7
Gordon W. Roch	Evening Star Lodge No. 101
Robert L. Savary	Fayette Lodge No. 69
Robert F. Smith	Friendship Lodge No. 33
Thomas J. Spears	Hiram Lodge No. 1
Robert C. Thayer	Morning Star Lodge No. 47
Frederick O. Trutnau	Hiram Lodge No. 1
Theodore H. Trutnau, Sr.	Hiram Lodge No. 1
William C. Ulbrich	Ashlar Lodge No. 332
James S. Wheeler	Union Lodge No. 31
William J. Wright	Putnam Lodge No. 46

Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe Sr.

Over the years, a great number of our members have donated their talents performing on stage or behind the scenes, to make sure that candidates enjoyed their experience as the various degrees were portrayed. Over the years many of the 29 degrees of the Scottish Rite have been either updated or replaced, but the core values have not changed.

While many of our members have been performing the same jobs and show no signs of wanting to stop, we are starting to find gaps in some areas.

The Valley is in need of members who to work in the Make-up Room. Ill. Bro. Gordon Willoughby, 330, can teach anyone who is interested but who has no experience. He will need help with the upcoming 32nd degree and other planned degrees. We need help in other areas both on and off stage. We are especially looking for help with our Scottish Rite Choir. If you enjoy singing, and are willing to help, let us know and we will put you in touch with members of the Choir.

We are also trying to find members to work in the several degrees that have not been portrayed in a number of years. We also need understudies for current parts should a brother become sick or get stuck at work. And anyone who has interest in directing a degree is also needed.

Congratulations to those Valley members who have reached membership milestones. For 50 or more years of membership: Brother Jacob E. Adler, Harvey D. Bennett, Marshall W. Elman, Robert L. Hirtle, Jon H. Morhardt, and Carl L. Zettlemoner. For 60 years: Ill. Arthur J. McKinney, 330, M.S.A. and Bro. David J. Webster. For 65 years: Brothers Henry A. Dyson and Joseph A. Kowell. These brothers, along with the Fall 2017 Class, are invited to be our guests on Consistory Day to receive their well deserved Scottish Rite, NMJ, Certificates and to enjoy the our Consistory Day Prime Rib luncheon on Saturday April 21, beginning at 9 a.m.

On Thursday, May 3, the Valley will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, at 7:30 p.m. A social hour will be held after the meeting. On Thursday, May 10, the Valley will hold their Workers Night Dinner at the Wethersfield Country Club and is by invitation only. Installation of Officer will also take place that evening.

On Sunday June 10, we will hold our Annual Family Picnic. The event is free to all Valley of Hartford members and family. Each family is asked bring a side dish to share with others. We will supply the soda, water, hamburgers, hot dogs, etc. So come join us for the fellowship, entertainment, and a few other surprises. Our 2018 College Scholarship recipients and their families are invited to join us to receive their Scholarship awards.

Remember, if you know a fellow Mason whom you feel would make a great Scottish Rite member, or if you are not a member but might want to be, we have informational DVDs available upon request. If your Blue Lodge is looking for a meeting program, we have members who will travel to your Blue Lodge and put on a Scottish Rite program. Contact Ill. Brothers Ric W. Manner, 330, at ric@sandshark2.com, Ill. Brother Jeff A. Flynn, 330, at jedge60@yahoo.com, or Bro. Frank Dlugoleski, M.S.A, at fdlugoleski@gmail.com. Our next class will begin in the fall of 2018.

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Hartford

207 Deming Street, Newington, CT

Remaining 2018 Spring Schedule

April 21.....Consistory Day. 19th and 32nd degrees 9:00 a.m.

Registration & Pick-up of luncheon tickets 7:30 a.m.

Degrees followed by a Prime Rib Luncheon about 12 p.m.

May 3.....Annual Meeting and Election of Officers 7:30 p.m.

May 10.....Annual Worker's Night and Installation Of Officers

June 10.....Annual Family Picnic and College Scholarship Presentations

Reservation forms for the Picnic can be found in the View of the Valley
or on the Valley website: <http://www.valleyofhartford.org>

For more information about becoming a member of the
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite,

or to receive a copy of a Scottish Rite informational DVD....

Contact David Blythe Sr., 33^o, Valley Secretary, Valley of Hartford AASR

(860) 666-0712 Email: sect@snet.net

www.valleyofhartford.org

Clowning Around At The Connecticut Kids Fair

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.



Master Masons from the Pyramid Shrine Temple Clown Unit participated at the 14th Annual Connecticut Kids Fair, in Hartford.

The clowns dazzled patrons with balloon twisting hats and animals. In addition, the clowns shared an awareness of supporting children receiving medical care at the Shriner's Hospital.

Masonicare Supports Alzheimer's

by Margaret Steeves

As a leader in treating and coping with Alzheimer's and other dementias, Masonicare is a strong supporter of the Alzheimer's Association CT Chapter. "One very visible way we demonstrate this is through the Walks to End Alzheimer's," says Audrey Grove, Director of Community Services and Social Accountability for Masonicare. "Even though the Walks are in the fall, our fund-raising efforts are year-round." With teams participating in two of the six walks in the state – New Haven and New London – Masonicare has been recognized as the top corporate fundraising team for the New Haven Walk. The total raised by Wallingford campus team of families, friends and co-workers was \$10,719. The New London team of 67, spearheaded by the Masonicare at Mystic staff and residents, brought in over \$4,000. "Our goal is to honor our residents who have dementia and to raise awareness of the disease in the hopes of one day putting an end to it," Audrey notes, adding, "Thank you to all!"



Photos: The Mystic team poses for a picture by the boardwalk at Ocean State Park in New London.
The Wallingford team gathers at the lighthouse at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven.

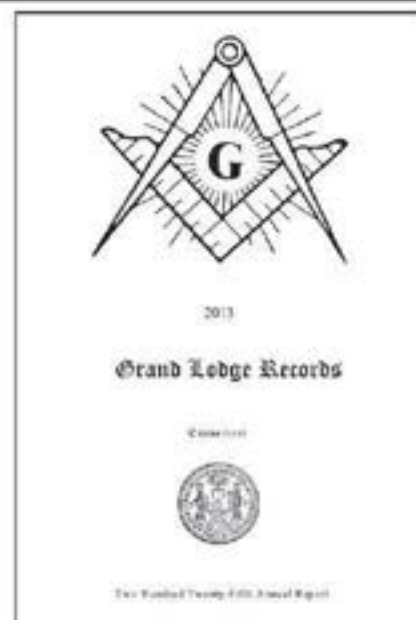
THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Grand Lodge Proceedings for the Year 2014
for Bro. Thomas M. Maxwell II, MW Grand Master

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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 Freemason Newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events and to inquire about dinner reservations.

GRAND LODGE ANNUAL SESSION

Monday, April 9, 8 a.m., Cromwell, Crown-Plaza Hotel

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREES

Tue April 3 6:30 p.m., Coastal Lodge No. 57, Stonington, Dinner

Tue April 17 6:30 p.m., America-St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, Dinner

Fri April 20 7:45 p.m., Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford

FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES

Wed April 4 7:30 p.m., Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven

Tue April 10 6:30 p.m., Shepherd-Salem Lodge No. 78, Naugatuck, Dinner

MASTER MASON DEGREES

Mon April 16 7:00 p.m., Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Dinner

Wed April 18 6:30 p.m., Columbia Lodge No. 25, South Glastonbury, Dinner

Mon April 23 7:00 p.m., Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville

Thu May 3 6:15 p.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, 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 CT 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 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

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

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

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

Every Friday, 7p.m., Anchor Lodge No. 112, East Hampton, Setback Bring a friend

Second Saturday of the Month, Day Spring Lodge No. 30, Hamden, 7p.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, 8a.m., Country breakfast

First Thursday of the Month, 8th District Lodges Niantic, 9 a.m., District Breakfast Groton Townhouse, Rt 12, Groton CT

Continued on page 27

Craft at Refreshment *(continued)*

EVENTS

Wed April 4 6:30 p.m., St. Paul's Lodge
No. 11, Litchfield, Potluck Dinner

Sat April 7 6:00 p.m., Columbia Lodge
No. 25, South Glastonbury, *Festive Lodge
1793 Similar to a Ladies at Table, in
homage to 1793*

Fri April 13 6:30 p.m., Ansantawae
Lodge No. 89, Milford, *Table Lodge*

Saturday April 14 8 a.m., America-St.
John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, *America
St John's & Boy Scouts food drive - Food
pickup*

Wednesday April 18 7:30 p.m.,
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125,
New Haven, *Ladies/Awards Night*

Saturday April 21 11 a.m., King
Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury,
CHIP Program at Earth Day

Friday April 27 8:30 p.m., Fayette
Lodge No. 69, Ellington, *Fayette Lodge
Veteran's Dinner*

Tuesday May 1 6:30 p.m., America-St.
John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, *Dinner &
Awards Night*

Wednesday May 2 7:30 p.m.,
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New
Haven, *Cinco de Mayo Celebration*

Saturday May 54 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 55 p.m., Columbia Lodge
No. 25, South Glastonbury, *Kentucky
Derby Night, 5 p.m. to 10p.m., Featuring
Live Blue Grass Music by Grass Routes
\$30 PerPerson RSVP to Erik Roberts*

Monday May 77 p.m., Compass Lodge
No. 9, Wallingford, *Ladies at Table*

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Valley Lodge No. 36

The form to renew your subscription is on the previous page.

Can you imagine? The Challenge and Rewards of Becoming a Volunteer Chaplain at Masonicare

by Garret Post

What if you could find a way of converting a few hours a week into an opportunity to participate in an activity that would provide caring service to others, become part of a great team, improve yourself, and actively carry out your Masonic Principles at the same time?

Approximately eighteen months ago I responded to a notice in the *Connecticut Freemasons*, opening an opportunity to participate in one of the most rewarding things I have ever done in my 75 plus years. I became a Volunteer Chaplain at Masonicare. No, I am not ordained clergy. I am not holier than thou. I am hardly able to walk on land, let alone water. I am, however, convinced that I make a positive change in the lives of folks I visit regularly, in the name of our great fraternity.

After a brief training period, three of us embarked on our Volunteer Chaplain journey. We were each assigned a group of residents in a long-term-care section of the Masonic Healthcare Center and began our visits. Imagine introducing yourself to 25 or so strangers, ranging in age from 50 to 100-plus as their new Volunteer Chaplain. Once I got over the stark terror of that, it is amazing how quickly I became attached to those former strangers. More amazing, how quickly they became attached to me.

My task is to be a friend to some who have few, if any, friends who can or will visit them. I tell them about things outside of Masonicare, in the world they inhabited, but no longer visit. Telling them about things happening in my life sparks memories of their former healthier times. I listen intently as they tell me about their family, friends, joys and disappointments. I rejoice in their seemingly little triumphs, and commiserate in their seemingly big defeats. I empathize with their health frustrations, and encourage them in their struggles with various therapies.

I also help, when appropriate, to assist many in reconnecting with their faith roots. While I am always willing to pray with my friends, it is not in any way a compulsory part of my visits. I have served as Volunteer Chaplain to Catholics, Protestants and Jews alike. I have prayed with, or not prayed with, each. I have even been asked to participate in the funeral service of

a person of a faith different from that which I profess. I have shared communion, and administered ashes. Amazingly, none of these things now seem strange, or overly challenging.

All these wonderful folks, who have turned their custodial and healthcare needs over to our incredible Fraternity near the end of their worldly journey, need a friend to share their walk, someone they can confide in and trust. In most cases they could care less about the color of my skin, the denomination I belong to, or how successful I may have been. They need a friend who is not judgmental, who will hold their hand, share a laugh, let them know they are still valued and maybe, just maybe, add a spiritual connection to comfort their ever-shortening days.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Volunteer Chaplain Program, call
Chaplain Thayer Quoos at
(203) 679-6259
or myself, WB Gary Post
(203) 768-4177.





Grand Lodge U.S. Mail Address has Changed

The post office box address is no longer valid.

All U.S. Mail to Grand Lodge should be addressed to:
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Masonic Renewal.

What It Means Now And In The Future.

by James Wade D'Acosta

Masonic renewal is the renewal of brotherhood, both as an organization and as an individual. To our fraternity, it is the challenge of declining participation. To the brother, it is the cancer of a faltering spirit. Strengthening and sustaining fraternal bonds rooted in the rich soil of virtuous character answers both.

We can renew ourselves spiritually by directing our minds through habit, to life's blessings. Discipline and practice can temper our judgments to allow a Brother, Lodge, and Grand Lodge their faults so that we may be fortified by their strengths and ideals. Finding ourselves in the shadows on a cloudy day we can walk into the light. We have the power to choose. Signposts are visible when the spirit weakens. Warnings can be met with action. Friendship and community are catalysts for renewal.

Ascending the chairs of succession in Blue Lodge is a promising act. The lessons of the chairs begin with the most difficult because it assails one's status and requires a reformation of attitude. The Junior Steward's lowly, dirty job of preparing meals and cleaning dishes continues for a second year and then returns as the chief responsibility of the Junior Warden as acknowledgment in our training system of the difficulty of humbling our pride. The servant's experiences cause his heart to see beyond the veil of appearances, to perceive the giving spirit of the brother who volunteers to do the work that allows us to break bread together.

The team building, time management, and event planning skills required in the stations are more easily taught, and their success in enriching the life of the lodge depends on the attitude with which they are performed. The Worshipful Master who does not recognize the high value to the lodge of the labor of the Junior Steward has little chance of achieving harmony. On the other hand, the Worshipful Master who communicates from the East his gratitude for all manner of work spreads the cement of brotherly love. He at once displays, acknowledges, and honors character.

When we meet upon the Level in Lodge, we do so in an idealized world guarded by a tyler. This oasis of respect and charity among men of differing creeds pleases The Grand Architect of the Universe through the display of sacred texts which rarely appear together in the profane world. In our world, each book enjoys pride of place in the center of the lodge. Praying at an altar upon which may rest, among others, The Bible, The Torah, The Koran, and The Book of Mormon has the power to be a trans-formative experience for the participant that cannot be

replicated in conversation or by observation. Worship is felt. The bigoted attitude is challenged. Intolerance vacates the heart. Experiencing lodge can renew the spirit.

The aura of brotherly love and affection is carried forth from our buildings by almoners and by brothers conducting charitable activities. We recognize a great impetus for this work in the words of Jesus, "The righteous will answer Him saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink?' ... And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me'" (Matt. 25: 37-40), but we miss the promise of interaction with God as stated in this familiar passage. In the act of giving, we encounter God. We experience the Divine Presence. We are infused with the peace and joy yearned for beyond the grave.

There is no replacement for in-person contacts, nor for participation in events with one's brothers. The five senses are engaged at Table Lodge, during work projects, at parades and during innumerable other activities. Each sense informs the heart and strengthens the bonds between us. Therefore, technology's role is to facilitate our coming together in person and in commemorating our gatherings as an aid to memory. Now and in the future, technology helps us maintain contact with our brothers and reminds us of our times together when other responsibilities take precedence and when misfortune restricts our movements.

Only when we cannot gather with our fellows should a digital surrogate be accepted. The warmth of a machine's battery is no substitute for the grasp of the hand of a brother. Neither can the glare emanating from a screen hope to simulate the divine light in the eyes of a brother approaching with a hearty greeting.

Spiritual discipline is learned through repetition, through the development of habits that can sustain our Order in periods of decline and the individual facing life's tribulations. As an organization, this is quickly detected in the negative. Blue Lodge officers will attest to the depressing impact of a District Deputy's inspection report which focuses on deficiencies in ritual while failing even to inquire about the range, depth, and quality of the Lodge's exertions to involve its members in activities, to help the widows of its departed brothers, or to engage in charitable work benefiting its neighbors.

Continued on page 32

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For the individual, promising habits include analyzing and reflecting upon the precise wording and rhythmic cadence of our ceremonies and degrees. The power of recitation, a neglected and thoughtlessly maligned educational process from the past, is revealed to the practitioner. Intense word-by-word consideration of our diligently prepared lectures reveals layers of historical references and meanings which escape casual exposure. The tour de force of the Middle Chamber lecture is a sufficient example. Just picking up the single strand of analyzing classical Greek architectural forms can lead a brother to appreciate, for the first time, the sublime beauty of mankind's finest buildings. Its championing of liberal arts education may yield years of fruitful labor to the brother who comes to the degree without such a background.

Radiating outward from the great fountainhead of philosophy and ethics which are our Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason Degrees are those of our appendant bodies. Experiencing and then studying the morality plays of the Scottish Rite and the participatory dramas of the York Rite further illuminates our history and values. Optional lectures such as the profound exposé on the Bee Hive add more avenues to enlightenment. Verily, our rituals offer a lifetime of exploration, as do the musings of past and present Masonic authors including Albert Pike, Joseph Fort Newton, H. L. Haywood, Carl H. Claudy, S. Brent Morris, Arturo De Hoyos, and Christopher Hodapp. While the sole purpose of time together should not be perfect degree work, the soothing benefits of contemplative study promises renewal to the individual and enrichment to his lodge.

Contrasting form and content is also instructive. A Grand Master who infuses his personal interactions and his grand jurisdiction with affection and concern projects and promotes a loving fraternity invested in individuals and in the communities they strive to improve. Unfortunately, a leader constantly engaged in the minutia of parliamentary procedure, precise dress, handsome accoutrements, and word perfect rituals may present the debilitating spectacle of a handsome façade to an empty building. Habit in managing life's demands makes it tempting to seek balance between competing goals which could be visualized by a pie graph with only a certain amount of time and energy devoted to character. But the spirit cannot be divided with successful results.

Masonry begins and ends with the individual's character as revealed in social interactions in lodge and without. Our mission is to make good men better, as a craftsman breaks off the corners of rough stones. We begin our work by searching for a quarry of suitable building material. Granite is welcomed. Shale is rejected. With our ballot boxes we elect men of good character

whom we support in their efforts to improve themselves and on whose strength we depend in our own quest. Our work is that of a tree, the roots of which save it from destruction and whose blossoms inspire poets.

To improve its strength, a tree directs its roots in the direction of water and nourishment. To improve our character, we seek the company of good men and an environment of wholesome activities and instruction. We operate in society, not apart. We seek community, not the hermit's isolation. We encourage the better angels of our nature and keep our passions within due bounds. As an old adage holds, we "watch our thoughts, for they become words. Watch our words, for they become actions. Watch our actions, for they become habits. Watch our habits, for they become character. Watch our character, for it becomes our destiny."

Past, present, and future, the appeal and strength of Masonry is its roots in character development as essential to all relationships. One thing is emphasized, all others are subordinate. We meet upon the level, judge men according to their character, and support each other as we strive to improve ourselves and our communities. Meeting in person and attending to our own spiritual discipline will forever renew us and our fraternity.



Should I Join the Royal Arch?

by Martin Ede

As I have traveled around to various Masonic meetings and events, I am often struck by the lack of knowledge of the Royal Arch Degree and the York Rite by extension. As Most Excellent Grand High Priest for our state, my message has been and is one of education and understanding for both brothers and companions (as Chapter members are called). I write this column to clear up some misunderstandings and provide some answers as to the place of the Royal Arch degree and Chapter in our fraternity and answer questions that may arise (any chapter questions can be sent to me at mede@snet.net).

The Royal Arch Chapter is open to all brothers – there are no requirements other than to be a Master Mason in good standing who wishes to seek further light in Masonry. Too often now I have heard of brothers, and some companions, who believe that the York Rite is for Christian Masons only or that you need to be in the Knight Templar Commandery to “complete” the York Rite. This is not the case. The York Rite is composed of three separate and sovereign Masonic bodies: the Royal Arch Chapter, the Council of Royal and Select Masters and the Knight Templar Commandery. The degrees of the Chapter and those of the Royal & Select Master complete the Hiram Legend, taking the Mason from the building of King Solomon’s Temple to its completion and beyond to the second Temple and the discovery of the real word and grip. The Commandery is for those Christian Masons who wish to emulate the virtues of knightly chivalry, moving through the Orders of the Red Cross, Malta and the Temple.

The Chapter degrees are those of Mark Master Mason, virtual Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Mason. The Mark complements the Fellowcraft Degree and involves lessons from the construction of King Solomon’s Temple, where, for example, you learn how the Senior Warden pays the Craft. The Most Excellent Master shows the brother lessons from the completion of King Solomon’s Temple with the placing of the keystone in the principal arch. The Royal Arch degree dramatically informs the brother as to why Hiram Abif was unable to communicate the Master’s Word, why it was lost and how it was found again and given once more to the brother as the capstone to the Chapter. The Past Master degree remains in the Chapter as, historically, the degree of Royal Arch was only available to those who had passed the Master’s chair. Now, in conjunction with the Actual Past Master degree, it still serves to instill responsibility in lodge for a brother. The virtual PM degree allows any brother the benefits of the lessons and philosophy of the Chapter without having presided as Master.

The Council degrees of Royal Master and of Select Master complete the legend between the Most Excellent Master and the Royal Arch showing how the secrets of a Master Mason were preserved for posterity until those three of our Ancient Brethren brought them to light again.

The Commandery in the Order of the Red Cross exemplifies the perennial story that runs through the various rites of Masonry of what is truly great and prevails over all. The Orders of Malta and of the Temple exemplify the Christian virtues and history of the Knights Hospitaller (later of Malta) and the Knights Templar protecting pilgrims in Outremer.

Returning to the Chapter, the history of the Royal Arch Degree is complex, and suitable for future discussion on its own, but some have seen it as part of the MM degree that was split off, others that it was a higher or separate degree that was brought in to teach the Master’s Word. Whatever the details of its creation, it has been and is seen as an essential degree for a brother. In the Union of 1813 when the Antients and Moderns Grand Lodges merged together to form the current United Grand Lodge of England, one key part of the agreement was to define that “Ancient Craft Masonry shall consist of the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason, together with the Holy Royal Arch”.

As you, my brothers, contemplate seeking further light in Masonry I would hope that you will consider the Royal Arch Chapter carefully. The philosophical, esoteric and alchemical lessons of the Lodge and Chapter (with, for example the point within the circle representing alchemical gold and the triangle in the circle representing the alchemical furnace) are there for all brothers and seeker of further light who would but knock at our doors.

The English Royal Arch jewel contains a number of Latin mottos. Relevant to my thoughts here are two of them – “Si talia jungere possis sit tibi scire satis”, if thou canst comprehend these things, thou knowest enough. Our Masonic studies and meditations will always be ongoing to achieve this understanding. The other quote is “Nil nisi clavis deest”, nothing is wanting but the key. Indeed, the Royal Arch degree provides part of the key, or keystone, to the understanding and education of the Master Mason and is there ready to unlock our lessons.

I hope this has been of interest to you and, again, if any brother or companion has questions on the Royal Arch Chapter and its degrees, please feel free to contact me.

Ancient Mysteries – Modern Perfection

by John A. Amarilios, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

This is a quick reminder to all Scottish Rite Masons, to any student related by blood line or other legal means, or to any student who is a member of any male or female youth organization sponsored by the Masonic Fraternity, that applications for the Leon M. Abbott Scholarship Program are due in early April. High school seniors, undergrads and grad students must have maintained a minimum 2.75 GPA on a scale of 4.0 in order to qualify. If you or someone you know is interested and who can satisfy the criteria listed above, you may download the application at: <https://scottishritenmj.org/downloads/forms/AbbottScholarship2018.pdf>. You may mail or overnight the application to: Ill. Jack Farkas, 33 MSA, Secretary, Lafayette Consistory, PO Box 339, Stratford CT 06615.

The degree schedule this month consists of one degree in each valley:

April 16 – 24th degree Bridgeport

April 18 – 7th degree Waterbury

April 23 -- 13th degree New Haven

Remember, in order to attain the 32nd Degree, you must attend the 4th degree and any other three degrees from the 5th to the 31st Degree. Once you have completed these 4 degrees you can then go on to sit for the 32nd. The 4th Degree is presented at each degree night by prior special arrangement for those brothers who are beginning their Scottish Rite journey in the middle of the degree season. Contact the Consistory office any time day or night at (203) 375-0064 to make arrangements or inquiries. If you leave a message speak slowly and clearly and remember to leave a number.

The Ancient Mysteries have always been associated with ancient temples, rites and ceremonies that played a role in Initiation and Probation. In all the various Mystery Schools of antiquity, the ever present themes of sacrifice, death and a new life could be found. Perhaps the most profound schools were those of ancient Egypt where the mythos of Isis and Osiris was a centerpiece – and which later emigrated to Greece at about 1400 BC.

In Greece, these Mysteries were adopted by various schools and become known as the Orphic, Bacchic, and Eleusinian Rites. The Eleusinian especially was known as a great system which was at once philosophical, mystical and ethical. The candidates of the Eleusinian Rites were divided into two groups – the lesser – known as Mystae and the Greater. The Lesser took an oath of secrecy and then received instruction for a year. At the completion of these year long studies the candidates for the Greater Mysteries attended a festival of several days in duration where yet another oath of secrecy was taken, and they they were advanced and raised into the Greater Mysteries, which were read to them out of the “Petroma.” Petroma is derived from the Greek word Petra meaning stone – as the book was made of “two stones fitly cemented” (see: *Sons of God*, Archarya, S. p.470). Afterwards, the candidates had questions put to them which were answered in a prescribed form. They were then led from darkness to light where they allowed to witness a proscribed ritual, whose subject was that of a being who suffered and died and who afterwards triumphed over death. Similarly, in the Bacchic rites, a statue was laid out on a couch as if dead.

All these mystery schools employed secret signs of recognition for their initiated brothers. (see *Goulds History of Freemasonry Vol 1*. Pp 19-20). Later all the Grecian rites were supplanted by the Rite of Mithras that began in Rome in 68 BC which adopted many of these very same teaching methods, flourishing until the breaking up of the Roman empire. As we can see, our current day Masonic degree system, ritual and methods of recognition harken back to antiquity and share in the same goal – The enlightenment and perfection of the individual candidate. In many ways, the system employed by today's Blue Lodges, albeit greatly reduced in rigorousness, advance a system of self improvement and enlightenment which was perfected by these ancient mystery schools. How are you doing in your personal efforts to rebuild your allegorical temple?

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.

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention all Master Masons!

SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2018

April 16: 24th degree – Bridgeport
April 18: 7th degree – Waterbury
April 23: 13th degree – New Haven
May 7: 32nd degree – Bridgeport
July 14: 25th degree – Bridgeport (11am)

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_Trofetter_Jr@yeshoo.com 203-295-0330	Valley of Waterbury 529 Highland Avenue Waterbury, CT 06708 edonw@llnnet.net 203-754-8209
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For more information, contact the Valley near you or email Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com.



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MASONICARE'S CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

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<p>CAMPUS BASED HEALTH CARE</p> <p>Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation • Acute Care Senior Hospital • Acute Care Senior Behavioral Hospital • Geriatric Outpatient • Hearing Center (outpatient) <p>Masonicare at Newtown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation <p>HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES (STATEWIDE)</p> <p>Masonicare Home Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skilled Nursing • Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy • LSVIT certified for Parkinson's and other neurological disorders • Social workers • Behavioral Health and other specialties <p>Masonicare at Home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal care attendants • Homemaker companions • Live-in caregivers • Lifeline and other assistive technology <p>Masonicare Hospice & Palliative Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospice and end-of-life care and support • Palliative care for patients continuing aggressive treatment <p>Masonicare Community Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home visits & outreach • Assistance understanding Medicare, Medicaid, eligibility and planning • Volunteer and community projects 	<p>RESIDENTIAL LIVING</p> <p>Masonicare at Ashlar Village</p> <p>A Life Plan Community (entrance fee) in Wallingford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Living apartments, cottages and villas • Assisted Living apartments • Memory Care Assisted Living apartments • Respite and Adult Day <p>Masonicare at Mystic</p> <p>Rental apartments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Living • Assisted Living • Memory Care Assisted Living • Adult Day and Respite <p>Masonicare at Chester Village</p> <p>A Life Plan Community (entrance fee) in Chester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Living cottages • Assisted Living and home care services <p>Lockwood Lodge</p> <p>At Masonicare at Newtown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted Living apartments • Memory Care Assisted Living apartments • Respite <p>Hawkins, Johnson & Wells</p> <p>Rental apartments at Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Living <p>Wright Residence</p> <p>At Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furnished apartments and three meals a day • State of Connecticut licensed for "residential care" • Income-restricted welcoming individuals who qualify for the State Supplement Cash Assistance Program or Title 19 (Medicaid) • For Seniors who don't need hands-on personal care but have health conditions that leave them concerned about living alone
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For information about any of our services or The Masonic Charity Foundation, call us or visit www.masonicare.org

Masonicare HelpLine 888.679.9997
MasonicareCONNECT 866.678.1155
24-hour access to all the care you need, when you need it.

Norma J. Brandt

Nursing Scholarships Available at Masonicare

Applications for the Norma J. Brandt Nursing Scholarship for the **2018-19** academic year are now available at Masonicare. Applicants must be:

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



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

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

Application deadline is Friday, May 4, 2018



The Masonic Charity
Foundation of Connecticut
The Philanthropic Affiliate of Masonicare

WANTED



DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Did he raise you when you took your Master Mason Degree? Over the past 35 years, Bro. Marshall has raised dozens of Masons, and in his home lodge, and in other lodges, as Master of the Connecticut Police, Caledonian and Pyramid Pipe Band Degree Teams. We're compiling a list of brothers raised by Bro. Marshall. If you are one of these brothers, please email us by April 30.

Provide your full name; date; lodge and/or degree team.

Please email us at: kinghiram12afam@gmail.com

You will be entered in a drawing for a Masonic Thank You Gift.



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6:00-9:00 PM

MASONICARE AT ASHLAR VILLAGE
74 CHESHIRE ROAD, WALLINGFORD

- ☞ Fine wines and beers
- ☞ Pasta and carving stations
- ☞ Hot hors d'oeuvres
- ☞ Live music by classic rock band **HARD ROAD**
- ☞ Raffle prizes
- ☞ Souvenir wine glass

\$45 PER PERSON
OR \$50 AT THE DOOR

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*Must be at least 21 years
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