



June 2018

*St. John The Baptist  
Patron Saint  
of Masonry*

*by Francis G. Way*

# Connecticut FREEMASONS



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

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Saint John the Baptist.....3

Grand Master's Trestleboard..... 5

Grand Master's Message.....6

The Masonicare Experience.....7

Nightingale Nursing Award.....8

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony..... 9

Murals Unveiled.....10

Grand Chaplain/Organist.....11

Grand Historian's Corner.....11-12

Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit.....13

COCA Grand Lodge Report.....14

Donate Life.....15

Is Tyler Awake?.....16

Welcome New Brothers.....17

District Deputies & Associate Grand Marshals.....18-19

Four Levels of Ritual Fluency.....20

District 1.....21

District 4.....22

Integrity Core Value.....23

Called by the Grand Architect.....24

Valley of Hartford, AASR.....25

Be a CT Freemasons Booster.....26

Craft at Labor.....27

Craft at Refreshment.....28

Boosters.....29

Life Membership Plan.....30

War, An Excuse to Abandon Masonic Principles?.....31

Clarissa Harlowe.....32-33

CT Price Hall Masons Honorees.....33

Self Mentoring.....34

Bruce Ekenbager.....35



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## St. John The Baptist – Patron Saint of Masonry

by Francis G. Way

*“For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”*

- Matthew 3:13

Every Mason has often heard the phrase “this Worshipful Lodge, erected to God and dedicated to the Holy Saints John.” The Holy Saints John, as we are told, refer to St. John the Evangelist and to St. John the Baptist. St. John the Evangelist’s feast day is celebrated on December 27, and St. John the Baptist’s feast day is celebrated on June 24.

St. John the Baptist was born to Zacharias and Elizabeth, advanced in years, and barren, who had prayed for a child for many years. Elizabeth was related to Mary, mother of Jesus. It was foretold that John would be filled with the Spirit of God, and that his role was to prepare the way for Jesus.

Seven hundred years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Isaiah foretold John the Baptist’s birth, “*the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*” John the Baptist was the fulfillment of the “voice crying in the wilderness,” preparing the way of the Lord.

John the Baptist was an ascetic and was zealous in his cause. He was unlike others in Jewish society, wearing a “camel hair” garment, and girded by a leather belt. His diet was “locusts and honey”, hardly the fare of the Jewish upper class. Jesus himself indicated that John the Baptist was somewhat reclusive.

In spite of this, the citizens of Jerusalem were drawn to him as he moved about the Valley of Jordan. He baptized hundreds, if not thousands. In this way, as people accepted his message about Jesus, he prepared the way of the Lord.

John’s death is recorded in the Gospels, and by the historian Josephus. Beheaded by the hand of Herod Anitpas in fulling his stepdaughter Salome’s wish to have “the head of John the Baptist on a platter,” John the Baptist became the first of

the followers of Jesus to be martyred for the faith.

Entered Apprentices are taught about the symbol of “a certain point within a circle, bounded by two parallel lines, with the volume of the Sacred Law at the top.” The symbol itself was astrological in nature – the point represented Earth (then thought to be the center of the Universe), and the heavens that revolved around the Earth were the circle, and the two parallel lines were the solstices – the longest and shortest days of the year and long celebrated by pagans.

In the early years of the Catholic Church, popular pagan feast days were dedicated to the saints. June 24, the longest day of the year was dedicated to St. John the Baptist and December 27, the shortest day, to St. John the Evangelist.

Operative masonry came into being when Catholicism was the main religion and later, the Church of England retained many of the feast days. Trade guilds would often choose a patron saint and Masonry chose the Saints John. As Masonry became less sectarian, some areas removed the dedication to the Holy Saints John and instead dedicated lodges to Solomon and Moses. But in America, the Holy Saints John are retained.

The two parallel lines in the American ritual represent the Saints John. St. John the Baptist was zealous and passionate in his cause, while St. John the Evangelist was considered learned. Each Saint serves as a boundary, uniting passion and knowledge, with the circle encompassing the limits of each. The Volume of the Sacred Law on top reminds a brother to seek knowledge there to achieve the proper balance between knowledge and passion.

As the month of June winds to a close and the Feast of St. John the Baptist approaches, Masons traveling the circle that keeps them within due bounds, will approach the point where the circle impinges on the line. The longest day of the year is dedicated to the somewhat wild man who zealously prepared the way of the Lord, the voice crying in the wilderness that still speaks to the ages.

*Some of the information for this article was obtained from the “Freemasonry for Dummies” blog by Christopher Hodapp.*

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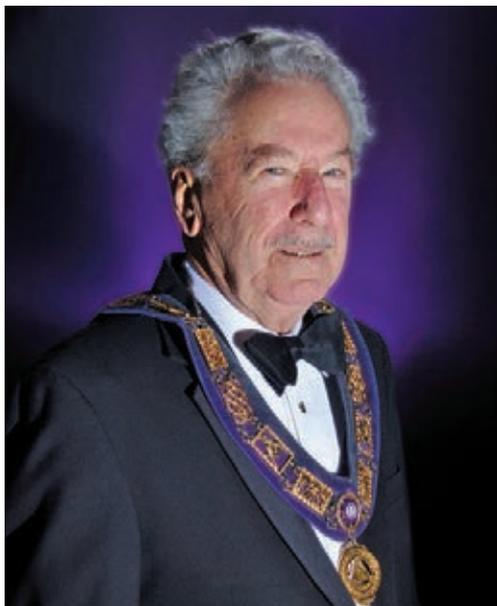
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**JUNE:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place/Address</u>	<u>Dress Code</u>	<u>Stag/Coed</u>
June 1		Royal Arch Masons of CT Banquet		Formal	
June 2		Royal Arch Grand Chapter convocation		Formal	
June 2	5:50pm	DD Presentation	Fidelity-St. Johns #3	Formal	
June 5		50 Year Pin	Seneca Lodge #55	Formal	
June 7		Fraternal Visit	Harmony #42	Suit	
June 8		Dinner at Ansantawae Lodge	Milford	Suit	
June 12 to 14		Grand Lodge of Vermont			
June 15		Wooster Lodge #10,	Colchester	Dress TBA	
June 16	4pm	DD presentation, 4th district	Wallingford	Formal	
June 18		Fraternal visit	Federal #17	Formal	
June 19		DeMolay Golf Tournament	Farms CC, Wallingford		
June 22	6 to 9pm	Wine & Beer Tasting at Hartog	Knapp Auditorium	Suit	
June 23	2pm	DD Presentation	Columbia #25	Formal	
June 23		EA Degree	Outdoor by Civil War Reenactors at W.L.O.P.A. Gun Club, Woodtick Rd., Wolcott, CT by Harmony Lodge #42		
June 24	10am	St. Johns Sunday	Holy Trinity Polish National Church 200 Summer St. Plantsville, CT	Suit	
June 26	4:30pm	CT Freemason Committee meeting	GL of Wallingford	Casual	
June 27		Legal Matters Committee meeting	GL of Wallingford	Casual	
June 27		Grand Lodge Officers Meeting			

# GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

by Marshall K. Robinson



How many of you have never visited a Lodge other than your own? I don't expect an answer; the question is rhetorical, but I must tell you that one of the greatest privileges we have as Masons is the ability to visit other Lodges. All you need is a current dues card and a sense of adventure.

Wherever you go, it's still Freemasonry. The Lodge may look different from yours in terms of basic furniture and decorations, but the layout will be the same. If you are in Connecticut, the ritual might even be the same. But you need to know that even the ritual, which is part of the foundation of Masonry, might be different. The most notable case in point is Hiram Lodge No. 1 in New Haven. Their ritual has some differences from our standard Connecticut ritual. It goes back to their original charter date. They were not chartered by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. So, when the Grand Lodge of Connecticut was formed, Hiram Lodge No. 1, one

of the fourteen Charter Lodges of our Grand Lodge, was already in existence and insisted on keeping their ritual. The Grand Lodge of Connecticut agreed and the tradition holds to this date. Here is a great reason for you to take a road trip to New Haven and visit another Lodge.

Speaking of Connecticut Lodges, take a drive to Newington and visit Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140. I won't spoil the surprise by telling you what it is, but they have a small program at the beginning of every meeting that I think is great. It involves a raffle ticket, which is free, and if your number is drawn, will take a few minutes of your time. It is non-invasive, harmless, and educational - plus, the food is good!

Of the ninety or so Lodges in our state you will find ninety or so different personalities. The personality difference may be subtle or not so subtle, such as different ritual. Sometimes the location might be a challenge, such as Oxoboxo Lodge (the only Lodge in Connecticut whose name is a palindrome) in Montville. If I recall correctly, this Lodge has a flight of stairs to get to the Lodge room on the third floor which consists of fifty-six steps. So, if you are an old, out-of-shape guy like me, you might want to visit another Lodge.

Here's another one for you. Go visit Coastal Lodge in Stonington and look at the Worshipful Master's chair. It is one of the most beautiful chairs in any Masonic Lodge in Connecticut. Legend has it that it was on a ship headed to the southern part of the United States during our Civil War. Somehow, the ship was captured or the cargo was seized and the chair ended up at Coastal Lodge. So there you have it, a challenge! Visit Coastal Lodge and get the true story.

I have been only talking about our grand jurisdiction. The nice thing about being in Connecticut is that we are small and surrounded by three states, all of whom have different rituals. If you live near a state line, you really ought to cross it and visit a Lodge in that contiguous state. They will be glad that you did and so will you. Having said that, I will tell a short story. Every year, Moriah Lodge No. 15 in Brooklyn, CT holds a Table Lodge. Guess who the major attendees are? They are brothers from Rhode Island. Here is another Masonic event well worth attending.

So, it looks like I am trying to send you all over creation to attend Lodges. That is not my intent. I am just trying to get the message out that there are many interesting Lodge meetings, beside yours, that are worthy of a visit.

If I have been able to convince you to visit another Lodge, I first recommend that you visit within your own district. Those are the brothers with whom you will most likely form close friendships and long term interactions. Whatever you do, wherever you go, please do not limit your Masonic experience to your mother Lodge. Get out and travel! I can guarantee you will be glad you did.



# The Masonicare Experience

Inspiring stories from throughout the Masonicare continuum

## *Remembering Friend and Benefactor Cecilia Malin*

*by Adam Raider*

Author Alan Lakein once wrote that the act of planning “is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now.” In that vein, benefactors like the late Cecilia Malin (1943-2016) bring Masonicare’s future into the present by remembering The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut in their wills and estate plans.

Born in New York City, Cecilia grew up in Middlefield, CT and earned degrees from Central Connecticut State University and Wesleyan University. Her strong organizational and communication skills led her to a career as executive secretary for the town of Wallingford for over 20 years.

Cecilia and her husband, Frank, moved from Meriden to a cottage at Ashlar Village in 2003 – in large part because of the ready access to healthcare and other services they would have as Masonicare residents. As her health declined, Cecilia did eventually make use of those services, both in the comfort of her cottage and, ultimately, in the inpatient hospice unit at Masonicare Health Center. But she also took full advantage of the Ashlar Village lifestyle, enjoying any activity that satiated her lifelong passion for learning.

“Ashlar Village fulfilled that need for my mother 100 percent and beyond,” said Wallingford’s Donna Rackie. “She loved to stay busy. Whether it was learning a new language, playing Scrabble with other residents or attending any of the musical programs, she was never bored.”

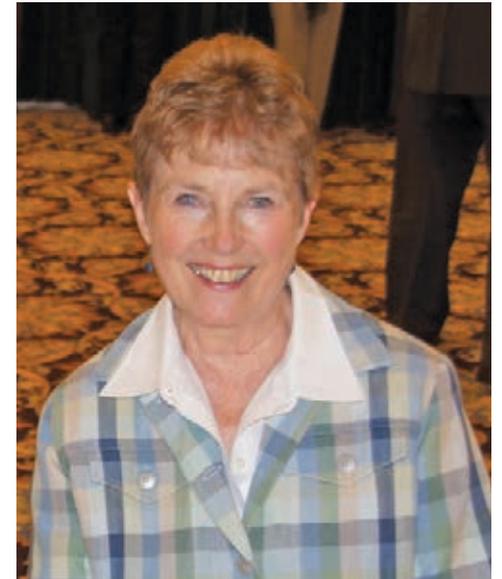
Donna recalls how proud Cecilia was to have been featured with Frank in a marketing campaign for Ashlar Village. A postcard with their photo was mailed to prospective residents.

“My mother thought that was the greatest thing,” Donna said, “because she loved having the opportunity to put in her two cents about all the things she loved about living there. She framed that postcard. It was on her refrigerator for the longest time, and mine, too.”

Seeing friends and neighbors transition from Ashlar Village to long-term care at Masonicare Health Center, and learning that The Masonic Charity Foundation helped subsidize the care of residents whose funds had been depleted, inspired Cecilia to become a Foundation donor. She supported special events of The Foundation and gave to the Masonicare Annual Appeal before joining the ranks of Foundation benefactors with her generous bequest.

“Celia believed very strongly in volunteerism and giving back,” Frank said. “She knew the value of helping those less fortunate. Making a bequest was right up her alley.”

For Cecilia, giving to The Foundation through her will was also part of a broader estate planning strategy that provided for loved ones as well as causes she cared about.



“When I’m no longer here,” she explained in a 2012 interview, “I want to know that my kids will be taken care of and I’ve also made a provision in my will for my church. But The Masonic Charity Foundation will also receive a portion of my estate so that it can continue to do the things that I appreciated while I was here. I want, even with my final gift, to be able to say that I value Masonicare and want to enhance the quality of life of the residents coming along after me.”

Cecilia was such a strong believer in legacy gifts for one’s favorite charities that she invited The Foundation’s Executive Director, Jennifer King, to speak at her church about charitable giving through wills and estate plans.

“One of the things I appreciated the most about Celia,” King said, “was her strong belief that any person can make a difference in the lives of others. She encouraged others to know and understand the charitable causes that meant the most to them, and find a way to support those causes, either through volunteerism, an annual gift, or even a bequest in one’s will. I will always remember Celia as an advocate not only for Masonicare, but for all people aspiring to give back to their communities.”

Gifts of all kinds to The Masonic Charity Foundation help create “Masonicare Experiences” for others. To find out how you can support The Foundation or to make a gift, please call 203-679-5555 or 800-562-3952. You can also donate online at [masonicare.org/mcf](http://masonicare.org/mcf).

## *Three Receive Nightingale Nursing Award*

Three nurses from Masonicare received the Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing last month. This statewide recognition began in 2003 and recognizes dedication, commitment and contributions to the field of nursing.

Carolyn Robinson, LPN, is Charge Nurse on Wooster 3 at Masonicare Health Center. She started at Masonicare 35 years ago as a CNA. Her nomination cited that Carolyn “has an impressive understanding of behaviors of dementia patients, and shows great commitment to her memory care unit.” Martha Obando, RN, BSN is a Wound & Ostomy Specialist at Masonicare Home Health & Hospice. She is “a lighthouse in the storm” to patients and their families who desperately need her knowledge, and some times more important, her quiet reassurance and support. Tanya Leiser, RN, is a Clinical Education Specialist at Masonicare Partners Home Health and is noted for being “tender with people, but tough on standards.” She supports staff to think critically and develop independent thinking, while providing a nurturing learning environment.

*“We congratulate these outstanding nurses on receiving this meaningful award,” said Jon-Paul Venoit, President & CEO of Masonicare, adding that “we are so proud of all of our nurses and the work they do every day for those in our care.”*



**Martha Obando, RN, BSN,**  
Wound & Ostomy Specialist -  
Masonicare Home Health



**Carolyn Robinson, LPN,**  
Charge Nurse  
MHC



**Tanya Leiser, RN,**  
Clinical Education Specialist  
Partners

# *Masonicare at Chester Village Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony*



Jon-Paul Venoit, President & CEO, Masonicare, with Lauren Gister, First Selectwoman, Town of Chester.

(l-r) Robert Polito, Chairman, Board of Trustees; Jon-Paul Venoit, President & CEO; Lauren Gister, First Selectwoman, Town of Chester; Annie Hoefflerle, Executive Director; Peggy Wilson, incoming President, Chester Village Residents Association; Melvin Johnson, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master; Richard Boutilier, President, Chester Village Residents Association; David Gessert, Chairman, Residential Services Board, Jay Polke, Vice Chairman Middlesex Chamber of Commerce; Jeff Pugliese, VP of Middlesex Chamber; Ted Nelson, past Grand Master.

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## *Murals Unveiled at Masonicare at Mystic*

*by Sandy Potter*

These gorgeous scenic Mystic murals were just installed and unveiled in the Bistro area at Masonicare at Mystic! The artist is Mario Pires, a high school art teacher from Plainville who also works at Masonicare at Ashlar Village during the summer.

What an amazing job! Thank you, Mario!



# *Congratulations*

to our Newest  
75 & 50-Year Brothers

## **75-YEAR MASONS**

Jack D. Ramaley	Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3
Adrian E. Offinger	Old Well-St. John's Lodge No. 6

## **50-YEAR MASONS**

Edmund A. Britland, Jr.	Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34
William R. Dolan	Hiram Lodge No. 1
Roger M. Hall	Coastal Lodge No. 57
John F. Hychko	Liberty-Continental Lodge No. 76
John Lorence, Jr.	Day Spring Lodge No. 30
Frank E. Maxim, III	Moosup Lodge No. 113
Anthony L. Milano	Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140
Randolph A. Nielsen	Anchor Lodge No. 112
Luther E. Thurlow	Moosup Lodge No. 113



## *From the Desk and Bench of the Grand Chaplain/Organist*

*by Rev. Carl H. Anderson*

Since June 17 is Father's Day, perhaps we could pause to give thanks for our fathers, and for those who serve as fatherly figures in our lives. We are grateful that our fathers offer guidance that helps us navigate through the twists and turns of life. Whether our fathers are still living, or have passed, their influence continues to provide courage, inspiration and hope for the future as they will always be a part of us.

I include Masonic mentors in this group of fatherly figures, because of our relationship and ties as brothers. Perhaps they have whispered wise counsel when we needed it the most, or offered support in some way in and out of the lodge building. Their example inspires us to pay it forward to another brother who is in need, and we become a mentor for him.

The relationship of father to son is a wonderful analogy that we are taught through scripture. The ancient texts of many faith traditions include references to God as the Father, or Creator of humankind. Included in this universal teaching is that all can experience a close fatherly relationship with the Grand Architect of the Universe by faith. Through the study of ancient texts, prayer, meditation, and many other spiritual practices, all are urged to experience God's presence and to know that His guiding hand is upon them.

So as we take a moment to remember our fathers and fatherly mentors on Father's Day, and throughout the year, we should not neglect to express our gratitude to the Grand Architect, our eternal Father. As Proverbs reminds us, let us always acknowledge God in all that we do and look to Him to direct our path as men and Masons. May the Father of all humankind guide and support us all in our journey through life.



## *Grand Historian's Corner*

*by Gary A. Littlefield*

The 1900 session, labeled the 112th, was held in Hartford at the Masonic Temple commencing at 11a.m. It was a cold January day (January 17) when Grand Master McNall opened the Annual Communication. There was far less pageantry than at current sessions when the meetings conducted substantial business. The introductions of the dozen Past Grand Masters followed the ritualistic opening and opening hymn. All lodges were represented either by the elected officers or their proxies.

The Grand Master noted there was increased interest in the Masonic Home. Edmund Mahon, a past Deputy Grand Master of Nova Scotia, died in his native jurisdiction but was buried with Masonic Honors beside his wife in Ridgefield with the assistance of Jerusalem Lodge No. 49. Luke Lockwood, a Past Grand Master presided over the masonic ritual and "the distinguished dead was not a citizen of our country, and was personally a stranger to our people, yet Freemasons of Connecticut most cheerfully performed the last sad rites with the same heartiness and solemnity as though he had been an official brother of our own Grand Lodge." A few months later, a Past Grand Master of Quebec and a Grand Representative from Quebec to Connecticut died in Hartford after a brief illness and was transported back to Quebec by a large representation of Connecticut Brothers who also had cared for him during his sojourn in Connecticut. Our neighbors to the North were eternally grateful for the showing of kindness of the Brothers in the summer of 1899.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Continued on page 12*

*Continued from page 11*

The summer of 1899 also saw the Grand Master and Grand Lodge officers lay the cornerstone to the new court house in Danbury with the assistance of the Brothers of Union Lodge No. 40. The same summer a total of \$172.32 was collected for the Centennial Anniversary of the death of Brother George Washington. Four Connecticut Brothers traveled to Alexandria (John Rowland, George McNall, Luke Lockwood and John Barlow) to take part in the celebration. The Grand Master reported that the Memorial service was held at Mount Vernon with President and Brother William McKinley in attendance.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Grand Secretary reported that he had spent \$27 on new books for the Grand Lodge library and one member of the craft complained that he spent way too much on “book learning stuff.” We don’t know what those books were.

\* \* \* \* \*

Masonic tramps seem to have been a grave concern to all present as these men traveled from place to place craving in many ways assistance from the fraternity. These men were well versed in Masonic ritual and some may have even taken their Masonic degrees but were suspended from their lodges for either un-Masonic conduct or non-payment of dues. It seemed that even one tried to enter the Grand Lodge session probably trying to obtain the charity of those present. Apparently, the Grand Tiler worked his post and those guarding both the inner and outer door were well aware of the situation and matters were taken care of without incident.

\* \* \* \* \*

Immediately after the close of World War II, there were Masonic clubs that sprang up in Germany and elsewhere in Europe. Stuttgart-American Lodge UD had its inception in 1946 when they applied for an application for dispensation to at least three different American Grand Lodges. Connecticut considered their application at their meeting in May, 1947. The first meeting was on July 24, 1947 when 24 Master Masons from several jurisdictions in the United States assembled to form a lodge. It was recorded that 14 jurisdictions were represented.

***The first officers were:***

- John A Holbrook of Siloam Lodge No. 32 in Old Saybrook, Connecticut as Worshipful Master
- Melvin F Eierman of Camp Knox Lodge No. 919 in Fort Knox, Kentucky as Senior Warden
- Roscoe C Burr of Green Lake Lodge No. 149 in Seattle, Washington as Junior Warden
- Harold Robinson of Joppa Lodge No. 95 in Stanley, South Dakota as Treasurer
- James C Andrews of Stewart Lodge No. 97 in Geneseo, Illinois as Secretary
- Edward A Northam of Lansing Lodge No. 33 in Michigan as Chaplain
- William T Neel of Island City Lodge No. 586 in New York as Senior Deacon
- Robert W Folkes of Equity Lodge No. 878 in Chicago, Illinois as Junior Deacon
- Elbert M Hartom of Lake of Lakes Lodge No. 545 in Baldwin, Michigan as Senior Steward
- Warren P Aschinger of Pleasant Ridge Lodge No. 282 in Cincinnati, Ohio as Junior Steward
- Lester Hobbie of Adair Lodge No. 365 in Kirksville, Missouri as Marshall
- Robert L Perry of Lodge No. 99 in Wichita, Kansas as Tiler

They worked under a limited dispensation and were authorized to confer degrees only on candidates who apply to and are chartered by the jurisdictions recognized by Connecticut. There is a relationship with the United Grand Lodge of Germany and in 1950 the Grand Master of UG Lodge of Germany, GM Vogel visited the lodge. On November 4, 1950 the lodge went to Heidelberg and there in the 130th Station Hospital conferred the Master Mason degree on an American Brother. The hospital chapel was converted into a lodge room and the committees assigned spent the entire morning examining visitors. There were 94 visitors representing 36 jurisdictions present for this degree. This was also the 3rd anniversary of the Alt Heidelberg Masonic Club. A banquet was held after in the main dining room of the European Command Headquarters.



## *From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit*

*President & CEO of Masonicare*

We had a terrific celebration on May 8 to officially welcome the residents of Chester Village West into the Masonicare family. Several dignitaries were there including MWPGMs Charlie Yohe and Ted Nelson, our Deputy Grand Master Mel Johnson as well as the First Selectwoman of the town of Chester, Lauren Gister. The Masonicare at Chester Village residents are excited about what we have planned for the community. Those plans include adding an 1800-square foot multipurpose room, and renovating the commons building including the dining and pub areas. Best of all, we can bring assisted living and other healthcare services to the campus. To see a video of the festivities, go to [www.masonicare.org/locations/chestervillage](http://www.masonicare.org/locations/chestervillage).

The same week was also National Nursing Week, which recognized the contributions of the nursing profession. In addition, three of our nurses were honored with the Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing. This prestigious award is bestowed during the week that commemorates Florence Nightingale's birthday (May 12). We congratulate Carolyn Robinson, LPN and Charge Nurse at Masonicare Health Center, Martha Obando, RN, BSN and Wound & Ostomy Specialist at Masonicare Home Health and Tanya Leiser, RN, Clinical Educator at Masonicare Partners Home Health.

We expect to close on the sale of our Newtown campus early this month. Everyone there has worked tirelessly to make sure that we are prepared for the change of ownership, including care plans, technology and HR policies.

I hope to see many of you at this year's Grand Masters Day on Saturday, June 9. A great day is planned with Masonic ceremonies, food trucks and an extra special parade. For details and times, please see the back cover of this issue.

Sincerely and fraternally,

### **SPECIAL NOTICE**

On June 1, the sale of Masonicare at Newtown to Athena Health Care was completed. While it was a very difficult decision, strategically it is the best thing for the campus, which will now be known as Newtown Rehabilitation & Health Care Center. Athena has retained all the current employees. Elyse Dent will continue on as Administrator and Kara Taylor as Director of Nursing. We appreciate all they've done to shepherd the campus through the sales process.

It has been a privilege to provide care to so many Masonicare at Newtown patients and residents over the years. While we will no longer have a physical plant in Newtown, we will continue to be a provider of home care and hospice services in that region. Our appreciation and best wishes go to the Newtown community, all our employees there past and present, and the Athena leadership for a bright and enduring future.



# Connecticut FREEMASONS

*"Making A Difference"*

## Committee on Community Action

# 2018 COCA Grand Lodge Report

by Perne R. Maynard

## *Committee on Community Action* by Perne Maynard

COCA will be spending this summer developing the template for the Lodge District communication platforms being designed and implemented by the Grand Lodge Technology Committee. The goal is to improve communications utilizing the new GPS program between COCA and each District coordinator who will then instruct the craft. This will allow two-way dialog to update news, new ideas and calendars from each lodge to all of the lodge members in each district. Each Lodge is tasked this summer with maintaining or installing an active calendar on the lodge website to display all events that planned for this fall.

*COCA's mission has been streamlined for 2018 to include only the following subcommittees.*

**The Masonic Organ and Tissue Awareness Program** Chairman Richard Denno lost his wonderful wife Midge recently, and he is more passionate than ever that this Committee informs the craft of the importance of the organ donation awareness program. As Masons, we do Make A Difference, and COCA will provided the platform to promote and distribute this communication about Organ and Tissue Awareness to the Brothers and the local community at large.

**The CTCHIP Program** Chairman Peter Boychuck is responsible for organizing the district coordinators. Once COCA activates its new social media communication, CHIP will be able to promote community programs and get the message out to the craft and public. This program is a free service provided by the Masonic Fraternity and COCA is committed to promote CTCHIP to daycare programs and local elementary schools as well as at public events. All brothers should consider volunteering and becoming involved in providing this important service.

**The Masonic Veterans Program** The Veterans Committee will be named BOVA, Brotherhood of Veteran Advocates and under my direction. Suggestions for a better name are solicited. "A Few Good Men" are needed who have the passion to volunteer in helping our Veterans. Recommendations are to invite and recognize a deserving local First Responder at the Lodge Awards Night, to sponsor programs at local Veteran Homes and Hospitals, to sponsor a "Night Out with a Veteran" program such as take a Veteran to a Yard Goats game. Watch for an upcoming ceremony to honor Connecticut Masonic Veterans with the presentation of the Connecticut Veterans War Medal.

**Community "Night OUT" Family Program** Tom Mumford has organized the Hockey Night event the past few years and will be involved in expanding this program to more sporting events and outings. This will be a new initiative promoting family and friends attendance at public events advertised as CT Freemasons Family events. Masonry can receive greater exposure in the community when Brothers are seen in the general public enjoying local sporting events. My lodge family is planning to attend a "Night Out at the Yard Goats" this July. If your lodge would like to go to a Yard Goats game, don't procrastinate tickets are very much in demand.

**Community Action Awareness Programs** Many Lodges have community events and programs that are working as successfully. If your Lodge has a successful program, don't keep it a secret, we want to hear about it.. COCA is looking for Brothers who express an interest in a program about which they are passionate. This fall, COCA media tools and videos will be organized and can be found on the COCA website.

*COCA will be listing the following programs with contact information:*

**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 to learn about this program where Lodges 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 Brothers to coordinate between the Red Cross and the Masonic Districts. Their contact information will be on the COCA site in September.

**Tabs for Tots Program** Each lodge should appoint a Shriner or a Brother to be the coordinator for Tabs-For-Tots program who will deliver tabs to the nearest Shrine.

**Open House Program** COCA will promote and take direction from the Masonic Awareness Committee regarding plans for each lodge to have a successful Open House this year.

The major goal of COCA in 2018 is to generate better communications using social media sources and to implement the Grand Lodge COCA programs. The COCA District websites are now authorized and will link each lodge website calendar to the District site. Lodges will only have to keep their website current. The GPS program will now allow COCA members two-way direct communication between brothers and Grand Lodge COCA.

My Brothers, there has been much passing and repassing in this world of late and there is much work on our Trestleboard. It is high time for each Mason to seize this moment of opportunity to inform the world of the valuable tenets of our craft. Worshipful Masters, it is time to put the craft to work.



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



## *So You Registered As An Organ Donor – What's Next?*

*By Richard F. Denno*

After you go to [www.registerme.org](http://www.registerme.org) and register as an organ, tissue, and eye donor, by many people ask what happens next? Here are some answers:

**Q:** What Is The Maximum Time Span Between Recovering Organs/Tissues and Transplantation?

**A:** The approximate maximum time for the following organs/tissues is: Lung (4-6 hours), Heart (4-6 hours), Liver (24 hours), Pancreas (24 hours), Kidney (72 hours), Corneas (14 days), Bone (5 years), Skin (5 years), Heart valves (10 years).

**Q:** How Are Recipients Chosen?

**A:** Recipients are matched with available organs based on strict criteria that include: medical urgency, time on the waiting list, geographic proximity, and blood and tissue type. A national waiting list of recipients is maintained by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), a nonprofit service under contract with the federal government, located in Richmond, Virginia. UNOS was established under the National Organ Transplant Act of 1984 and serves transplant centers, physicians, and donor organizations nationwide.

**Q:** What Parts Of The Body Can Be Recovered For Transplantation?

**A:** Vital organs for transplantation (eight of them) include the heart, liver, pancreas, intestine, two kidneys, and two lungs. Also, tissues can be recovered, including corneas (to help blind people see), bone (to help those who might otherwise face amputation), skin (to help burn patients heal), heart valves (many times used for newborns with heart problems), tendons and veins.

**Q:** Who Is Eligible To Be A Donor?

**A:** Anyone is eligible, from newborns to 80-year olds. However, everyone who wants to be a donor should sign up on their statewide registry ([www.donatelife.net](http://www.donatelife.net)) or when applying for or renewing your driver's license. Transplant coordinators, along with transplant surgeons, evaluate each potential donor and the viability of each organ. They do a thorough evaluation of a donor's social and medical history as well as blood tests. But upfront, everyone is a potential donor, and is encouraged to sign up on their statewide registry ([www.donatelife.net](http://www.donatelife.net)) or nationally at [www.registerme.org](http://www.registerme.org).

When my beautiful wife died in early March, I received a telephone call from Donate Life the next day. She asked me questions such as those asked in "Who is Eligible To Be A Donor?" above. Based on my answers, and Midge's background, she was qualified to donate her corneas. They were recovered shortly after. She was an organ recipient and paid it forward by donating her corneas. That is how special Midge and the other donors are. Won't you PLEASE go online to [www.registerme.org](http://www.registerme.org) and make a difference in someone's life?



Give thanks. Give life.

# Is the Tyler Awake?

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

Lafayette Consistory and its constituent Valleys will be taking a break from degree work in June so that each Valley can hold its Annual Meeting and tend to housekeeping matters. For those brothers looking to start their way down the Scottish Rite path, or for those desiring to take more degrees, a midsummer opportunity exists. On Saturday, July 14 at 11 a.m., the Valley of Bridgeport will be presenting two live degrees, the 13<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, starting at 11 a.m. Lunch will follow the degrees. Reservations are strongly suggested for lunch as space is limited and the summer degrees typically attract a wide audience from several states. For those brothers just starting, a video version of the 4<sup>th</sup> degree will be presented at 10:30 a.m., again with prior arrangements having been made with the office (203) 375-0063.

*“What are you doing?” A man asked three laborers beside a building under construction. The first man replied, “Stone cutting”. The second man grimaced, “Putting in time until a better job comes along”. The third man paused, contemplated his answer and said simply “I’m building a cathedral.”* – anon

If we liken the lodge to an allegorical form of a person, we find that the Tyler plays a critical role in what enters our minds and bodies during the course of our daily living. Very early on we are instructed that we are here in lodge to “learn to subdue our passions and improve ourselves in Masonry.” It is our own personal allegorical Tyler who places a watch on our lips, who sets a guard at the entrance of thoughts into our minds, and who finally posts a sentinel in the way of our actions. This Tyler slumbers and fails to perform his duties in the case of much of humanity who are unaware of his existence. Awakening the Tyler and activating him so as to do his duties for you is an admittedly difficult task. Diety has provided us with many subtle opportunities “to do the work” for a reason. One such opportunity is the existence of mundane chores in our daily lives. These chores, which no one can eventually avoid, are the venues by which we can bring the Tyler residing within into active awareness. By taking a seemingly boring or repetitive chore and converting it into an opportunity to contemplate and meditate on our own personal improvement, we convert the seemingly unimportant activity to one of great personal good. These chores are an opportunity to raise the vibratory level of the seemingly mindless task to a spiritual exercise. With the right attitude, the drudgery of tasks like taking out the garbage, washing or ironing clothes, cleaning the bathroom or mowing the lawn can all become internal rituals where we can learn to execute the task with perfection. Accomplishing a mundane task perfectly will not only yield satisfaction akin to executing ritual well, but it will also have had the salutary effect of coming into active contact with our personal Tyler, and helping him practice guarding the entrance of our thoughts. Mundane tasks are thus a meditative and spiritual opportunity to improve oneself internally – to enable and strengthen our personal Tyler and to attain the right attitude towards all our activities no matter how trivial they may appear. Perfection knows no limitation – it applies to every aspect of life big or small. These tasks are designed to impart a meditative opportunity to the brother who realizes what their higher purpose actually is. The very nature of mundane tasks permits us to utilize our thoughts constructively while executing a necessary but intellectually unchallenging activity. Every task, no matter how trivial or perhaps mind deadening, has a higher mission for the brother who is on the path of personal perfection!

*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

July 14: 13th & 25th degree – Bridgeport (11a.m.)

*R.S.V.P. required.*

Please email: [Office@LafayetteConsistory.com](mailto: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.**

<b>Valley of Bridgeport</b> 2422 Main Street Stratford, CT 06615 <a href="mailto:Office@LafayetteConsistory.com">Office@LafayetteConsistory.com</a> 203-375-0064	<b>Valley of New Haven</b> 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 <a href="mailto:Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com">Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com</a> 203-269-0336	<b>Valley of Waterbury</b> 529 Highland Avenue Waterbury, CT 06708 <a href="mailto:cdoneill@snet.net">cdoneill@snet.net</a> 203-754-8209
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**For more information, contact the Valley near you or email [Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com](mailto:Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com).**



## We Welcome Our New Brothers to the Fraternity



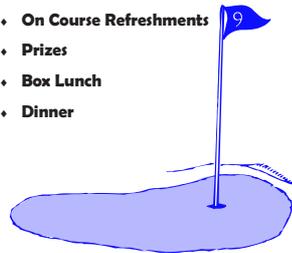
Anthony Catapano	Hiram Lodge No. 1
Richard F. Ezekiel Zarnetske	Hiram Lodge No. 1
Camilo Parra	Hiram Lodge No. 1
Christopher J. Barnes	America-St. John's Lodge No. 8
Jared S. Barnes	America-St. John's Lodge No. 8
Eddie J. Falcon	America-St. John's Lodge No. 8
Joshua I. Laundrau	America-St. John's Lodge No. 8
Carl Bergquist	King Hiram Lodge No. 12
Eric Diederich Iken	King Hiram Lodge No. 12
Raymond C. E. Bushnell	Composite Lodge No. 28
John A. Murphy	Composite Lodge No. 28
Frank E. Pysz	Composite Lodge No. 28
Tony A. Rakich	Composite Lodge No. 28
Stephen A. Thompson	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89
Gary Burton	Corinthian Lodge No. 104



### Grand Master's Golf Tournament Benefit of the Grand Almoner's Fund Wednesday, September 12, 2018 Traditions Golf Course in Wallingford



10 AM Shotgun Start



- 4 Player Scramble
- On Course Refreshments
- Prizes
- Box Lunch
- Dinner

For Registration Form and Further Information  
Contact: Charlie Yohe @ 860.672.0047 or  
cyohe@ctfreemasons.net or download at  
www.ctfreemasons.net website  
Checks should be made payable to Grand Lodge of CT.  
List Grand Master's Tournament in memo and mail to  
Grand Lodge of CT, 69 Masonic Ave., Wallingford, CT  
06492

\$140 Singles / \$500 Foursomes  
Ball Sponsors \$250  
Tee Sponsors \$100  
Par 3 Hole Sponsors \$200  
Dinner Only \$35  
All Sponsors will receive recognition in the CT Freemasons and Tournament Handout

Reservations and Checks must be received by August 22nd

Net proceeds will benefit the Grand Almoner's Fund

### Join us for our annual ★ Grand Masters Day Family Festival ★

Saturday, June 9, 2018  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Masonicare Campus  
22 Masonic Avenue, Wallingford

Activities &  
**FUN**  
for all ages!

- Parade (10:30)
- Free children's rides & activities for toddlers to teens
- Concert under the main tent with Tuxedo Junction Big Band (12:45 p.m.)
- Free horse & carriage rides
- Bloodmobile (9:30 - 1:30)
- Great reasonably priced food including an expanded assortment of food trucks including cheeseburgers, pizza, baked potatoes, barbecue, grilled cheese & more.
- CT Child ID Program (CTCHIP)
- Model Railroad Room
- Health fair with free screenings
- Face painting & crafts
- Vendor booths

**FREE!**  
Admission!



Brother  
Marshall K. Robinson  
Most Worshipful Grand Master,  
Grand Lodge of CT, A.F. & A.M.



Brother  
David Pinkins  
Most Worshipful Grand Master,  
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of CT.

All activities  
including the  
rides are  
**FREE!**

Masonicare  
An Ageless Commitment to Caring

Questions?  
Call 888-679-9997.

Free parking and shuttle service available from the Oakdale Theater.





*District  
Deputies  
and  
Associate  
Grand  
Marshals*

**2018 - 2019**

**1  
A**



R.W. R. Scott Sargeant

**1  
B**



R.W. Christopher S. J. Jennings  
W. B. Adam J. Plotnick

**1  
C**



R. W. David A. Klein  
W.B. Mark H. Hawkins

**2  
A**



R. W. Michael E. Sliech  
W. B. James A. Saraceni

**2  
B**



R. W. Steven M. Hudson  
W. B. John E. Feinson

**3  
A**



R. W. Charles L. Schofield, III  
W. B. Michael A. Adams

**3  
B**



R. W. Martin J. Macary  
W. B. Daniel D. Sharkis (not shown)

**4  
A**



R. W. Jason E. Morse  
W. B. Scott B. Bumps  
(not shown)

**4  
B**



R. W. Rev. Joseph R. Krusienski  
W. B. Shelby P. Jackson III

**4  
C**



R. W. Thomas J. Gondek  
W. B. Kristian M. Maiorino

5  
A



R. W. George A. Frascarelli  
W. B. Christopher G. Ozog

5  
B



R. W. Francis G. Way  
W. B. Matthew F. Griffin

6  
A



R. W. Earl S. Evans  
W. B. David C. Lockard

6  
B



R. W. Robert J. Gresham  
W. B. Richard A. Incorvati

7  
A



R. W. P. David Cross  
R. W. John H. Spencer

7  
B



R. W. Richard E. Boardman  
W. B. Michael B. Schaefer

8  
A



R. W. Brian E. Eckenrode  
W. B. Richard L. Allen

8  
B



R. W. James A. Moran, Jr.  
W. B. John H. Wadsworth III

9  
A



R. W. Christopher T. Carrott  
W. B. Joe T. Fox

9  
B



R. W. Dale T. Cunningham  
W. B. Perne R. Maynard

# *The Four Levels of Ritual Fluency*

*by Francis G. Way*

*This year Hospitality Lodge No. 128 has been running Entered Apprentice Degree rehearsals as a means to give our Junior Deacon and Senior Steward practice towards the chair of Senior Deacon. This article is taken from my closing remarks as District Deputy based on some observations of those evenings, observation of ritual in general in all the lodges I visit, and some (hopefully) helpful advice to the Lodge.*

Looking back over my time in Freemasonry, I have lately categorized all of the ritual performances that I have seen into four levels.

The first level of ritual proficiency is not very proficient at all. The brother trying to perform ritual at this level just does not know the ritual. He needs almost constant prompting, there are long pauses as he tries to remember, and both he and the audience grow more and more uncomfortable, not to mention the candidate, who, hoodwinked, may well wonder just what is going on. Nothing more really needs to be said about this level other than it is not a level of ritual proficiency or fluency to work toward.

The second level of ritual proficiency is both interesting, and a little dangerous. At this level, the brother performing has enough grasp of the ritual that he does not need constant prompts – sometimes, in fact, he does not need any prompting at all. However, while his mouth is saying the words, his brain is revving at 4,000 miles per hour trying to think of the next word, and, unsure, he will grasp at any word at all that is close in meaning.

Every Mason has heard the Worshipful Master say “we receive none knowingly into our Order.” Strangely enough, over the years I have heard variations like, “we welcome nobody into the Fraternity,” or, “we don’t allow anyone in.” Neither these, nor any of the countless other variations on that line, are correct.

Contrary to what a certain Appendant Body has tried to market for the last 10 years, ritual is very important. It is the canonical source, “ground zero” if you will, of all Masonic tenets, philosophy, morality and deportment. All Masonic contemplation, esoteric thought, and philosophical disquisition starts there, and it is the foundation for all Masonic teaching.

So while some might say regarding ritual performance, “well, that was close enough,” there are reasons why certain words were chosen over other words. It will not take a lot of contemplation to realize that the connotations and meanings of the word “receive” are subtly different than the word “welcome,” and for that use in the ritual, “receive” is a much more accurate term.

And here is where this level of proficiency becomes a bit dangerous.

This ritual, then, is the basis for Masonic education and that education begins during the candidate’s degree. While the candidate certainly will not remember every line, Brothers should always keep in mind that a seed planted poorly will not grow well. A new Entered Apprentice who hears a poor Steward’s lecture may well have a harder time memorizing it for his own proficiency.

But while we always says the degree is for the candidate, the education

does not stop there! Every brother on the sideline during a degree is having his own Masonic education reinforced. When I personally hear the obligation during a degree, it reminds me of that to which I obligated myself years ago.

But if an officer, or several officers, are stumbling and improvising ritual so as to avoid prompts, the Brothers on the sidelines will tend to be spending more time saying to themselves “that wasn’t right,” or “he missed that word,” than they will having their own education reinforced. There will be no opportunity for that “Eureka” moment when a brother realizes a concept from the ritual in a new, and perhaps more meaningful, way. Not exactly an optimal outcome. And not an outcome where anyone, including the candidate, benefits. In fact, the seeds of much poor ritual may have been planted.

The third level of ritual is much more proficient. The brother knows all the words, and does not need a prompt. But this brother recites his ritual as fast as he possibly can, never pausing except to take a breath, and, perhaps never having learned that punctuation marks are keys to expressive interpretation, skips over commas, periods, semi-colons, and exclamation marks as if they are just extra blobs of ink on the page. Perhaps he is afraid of forgetting a word before he gets them all out.

This level is not dangerous per se; the brother knows the correct words. But on an evening where a candidate is sometimes close to sensory overload, one must wonder how words, recited almost too fast to comprehend, will have any chance to stick. Will there be any part of that ritual that will strike a chord with the candidate, or make him think “wow, that line was profound, and I would like to learn more about it” I doubt it.

The highest level of ritual, the fourth level, is the level where the words meant to inculcate our tenets and philosophy become pleasurable to hear, and engage the candidate and brethren on the sidelines in some meaningful way. The brother at this level knows the words, and has not only memorized them but has really learned the ritual. And in learning it, he can deliver it in an expressive manner, coaxing even more meaning out of the words through his delivery.

What is the difference between all of these levels? While different people learn and memorize in different ways – and that subject itself, how people memorize, is quite fascinating – the common denominator is time. In my years in the Craft I have come across very few people who are actually incapable of memorization, but I have come across a lot of brothers who are not willing to make the commitment to nail down and make their performance iron clad.

Some brothers need a lot of time to hone a part, and some need less. But the brother who makes the commitment of time, and who exceeds mere memorization of words and instead digs into their meaning, that is the brother who can achieve that fourth level of fluency and proficiency. That is the brother who is not only performing ritual but is actually teaching.

And, quite honestly, that is the level of commitment a Lodge should be expecting from its officers. That is what they should expect before advancing an officer to the next chair.

# District 1

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



## ***Stratford Freemasons turn Operative to support Child Abuse Awareness***

by Scott Gleason

The brothers of America-St John's Lodge No. 8 hung up their suits, grabbed their working tools and took to operative masonry for a community service project to support Child Abuse Awareness month in April. Brothers volunteered at Nichols School in Stratford to build a stone patio, sitting area and a firepit-style planter in memory of David Ryan Keely, who lost his life due to domestic child abuse.

The theme of this project is 'Sky Above Me, Earth Below Me, Fire Within Me,' inspired by a painting by a young man with cerebral palsy. A mosaic will be created using a template of this painting, along with other designs created by students at the school.

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Keely's passing and will culminate with an official ribbon cutting at the David Ryan Keely Memorial Garden when school starts in the fall. This patio will be a sustainable sitting area with flowers and a rock garden and can be utilized by both students and teachers to enjoy its serenity.

This incredible project was put together and lead by Mrs. Maria Santo with the help of many members of the local community. The lodge plans to continue supporting the project throughout the summer.



*Excavation of the area by Bros. Rich Faustine and Hamilton Bosse*



*Bro. Paul Longo Sr. working hard*



*Bro. Paul Longo Jr. in his labors*



*WM Darren Loux and Bro. Paul Longo Jr. with their Working Tools*



*Brothers at the job site: WM Darren Loux, Bro. Paul Longo Sr., WB Scott Gleason, Bro. Paul Longo Jr.*



*The completed project*

## ***America-St John's Lodge No. 8 Food Drive with the Stratford Boy Scouts***

For the 18th year in a row, the lodge assisted the Stratford Boy Scout Troop 76 on two consecutive weekends with their "Scouting for Food" food drive. One weekend the group distributed 1,000 bags requesting donations of food. The following weekend they collected, sorted, weighed, and distributed the food to Sterling House Food Pantry and "Homes For the Brave," a homeless shelter for Veterans. In just a few hours, the group boxed approximately 1,200 pounds of food, which is a fantastic accomplishment.

*Photo: Lodge Brothers and Boy Scout Troop 76 ready to distribute the food*



# District 4

Lodges 1, 9, 16, 22, 30, 3, 63, 66, 77, 79, 87, 89, 97, 115, 125, 332, 500, MLR



## Hiram Lodge No. 1 Masonic Education Lectures

by Michael Calderone



Due to popular demand, Hiram Lodge No. 1 has reserved at least one stated communication per month for Masonic education. Luckily for anyone who has attended these lectures, Hiram's Senior Warden, WB Cedric Jacobson, is the Immediate Past Master of the Masonic Lodge of Research. Past lectures included The Four Cardinal Virtues and The Point Within A Circle.

Twice in the last two months, WB Cedric shared the research he conducted with the current Worshipful Master of MLR, WB Leland Moore. The first lecture on April 12, was titled, The Arks, Bees and Scythes of Masonic Emblems, which covered the emblems mentioned but not explained in the traditional Hiram Lodge No. 1 Master Mason degree.

The second lecture, on May 10, hit closer to home, and was titled Homes of Hiram. It covered the various locations around New Haven where Hiram Lodge No. 1 held meetings throughout its history. Starting at founding Brother Jehiel Tuttle's tavern in 1750, the lecture wound its way around town until ending in the lodge's current location on Whitney Avenue. These interesting monthly lectures are open to all Masons.

Refer to the Hiram 1 trestleboard for future presentations.

## Faith, Hope and Practical Charity

Over the past few years, Hiram Lodge No. 1 has made an effort to not only make monetary charitable donations around New Haven, but to also make the direct connection with those charities.

Recently, WM Brendan McGann brought the Brothers of Hiram Lodge to clean out the basement of Life Haven, a shelter for battered women and children in New Haven. Apparently, the contact person at Life Haven did not realize how much help would arrive and the short list of work was completed more quickly than expected. While there, the Brothers toured the facility, met residents and made plans for Life Haven to be the recipient of the proceeds of the Lodge's annual Chicken Challenge (held this year on June 30 at Doody's Totoket Inn, North Branford; start gathering your team now!).

The conversation eventually turn to what Life Haven really needed and, to the Brothers' surprise, it was not toys or food; what they needed most was pillows. Used pillows cannot be accepted, and each new resident receives a fresh pillow.

In an effort to satisfy this need, WB McGann got the word out that instead of the usual \$10 donation for dinner at the Lodge's May 24 Fellowcraft Degree, Brothers could bring two new pillows to be delivered to Life Haven.

Take the time to actually meet your charities if you do not already do so. Get to know those you support by listening carefully to what they actually need. The benefits you receive will match what you give!

## Past District Deputies Association Newsletter

by Lawrence S. Elsner

The Past District Deputies Association held its Annual meeting at the Manor House In Southington on April 19. I, unfortunately, was out of the country, but from all reports it was an excellent event, attended by over 50 District Deputies Past and Present and their Associate Grand Marshals. The following Right Worshipful Brothers were installed: Paul Chapin, President; F. Matthew Heinrich, Vice-President; Brian Beals, Treasurer; and Lawrence Elsner, Secretary. Laurence Hangland was appointed Chaplain.

There was discussion of having a life-time membership established by using a similar formula that the Grand Lodge used, and the response from the members present was to leave the existing system in place.

However, my computer was hacked and all the information in reference to who paid dues and who had not went into the cloud somewhere over the rainbow. Therefore, the records were lost after many hours of transferring them from a 100-year old ledger to the computer. Those brothers that have paid their dues will have a card with my signature, so PLEASE check them!

I know some brothers have paid a few years in advance so don't be offended if I ask again. I spoke to the Treasurer and his suggestion was to start fresh with 2018. Let us know if this works. This would be for brothers that have NOT paid or haven't paid in many years. Current District Deputies are "dues free" for their term in office, then the dues are \$ 5 per year and you can pay as far forward as you wish.

Another matter has surfaced that our flier/announcement did not go out through the Grand Lodge Office as requested. The GL Office is somewhat overwhelmed by requests from lodges. Going forward, if you are a member of the Past District Deputies Association and have a change of address or email that you are sending to the Grand Lodge office, please copy me as well so I can update the Association's records. Also I will do my best to send fliers out to the members with Mail-Chimp, generating our own mailing list.

As always, your input is important to keep the Association going forward.

# *Integrity - A Core Value*

*by Bruce Work*

If I could point to one value to live by it would be integrity. Success will come and go, but integrity is forever. We live in a world where integrity is not talked about nearly enough. Instead, we are bombarded with reminders that this value is in short supply in the world today.

Without integrity, leadership is a façade. It becomes simply a garment one wears depending on what's in fashion. The rare quality of integrity means having a standard of personal morality and ethics that does not sell out to expediency, nor is it relative to the situation. Integrity is an inner standard for judging your performance. The mark of a true leader is uncompromising honesty! There is no such thing as being partially honest.

People who see little or no value in themselves do not operate according to such an internal compass. In fact, a standard of conduct based on integrity may be distasteful to them. Instead of being concerned with self-respect, they try to gain recognition from others through manipulation, half-truths, and “show.”

When you are committed to a life of integrity, you demonstrate time and again that your word is more valuable than a surety bond. You do this regardless of the situation or environment in which you find yourself. It means you do not base your decisions on whether or not you are politically correct.

Instead, you do what you do because it is right. For you, truth is absolute. It is not a relative tool in a “professional bag of tricks” that is used to manipulate others. When integrity is your bottom line, what is especially gratifying is this: you win in the long run. And you win when the stakes are highest. In business, you must consider the bottom line. But profit in dollars or power is temporary. Profit in a world of people who trust you as a person of integrity is forever.

Many people are able to look beyond the “big talk,” flashy looks, media popularity, or expensive possessions. They are not fooled by the empty trappings. Sadly, many move through adulthood thinking the externals in life are what count, and they end up living a shallow life. The paradox is that the people who try to impress others the most are truly the least impressive.

In everything we do in life we are looking for products, services, and individuals who represent the real thing. In friends and partners we value sincerity. Integrity is something we should expect from our leaders—and it is a quality we must demand of ourselves.

## **I would submit to you there are three principles that form an integrity triangle:**

1. Stand firmly for your convictions in the face of tremendous personal pressure.
2. Give others credit that is rightfully theirs. Do not diminish others who may have a better idea or may be smarter than you.
3. Be honest and open with who you really are. Be yourself!

Integrity allows us to face up to unpleasing or especially challenging aspects of who we are, rather than trying to cover them up. When it's tough, get tough! This means facing reality and being adult in our responses.

Remember, that, as a leader, those around us see what we do and take note. The challenge of being a role model worthy of emulation is an enormous responsibility. But the payoff is beyond measure. Integrity strengthens our inner value system—and that is the real bottom line in life. You're either honest or dishonest. You can't have it both ways!

A life lived with integrity at the core will allow you to resist the daily pressures of giving in to an easy, relative morality. It is how authentic leaders serve now in the 21st century—and have through time immemorial.

# *Called By The Grand Architect*

Edwin R. Abrams	Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125
Lynn R. Anderson	Harmony Lodge No. 42
William V. Baroni	Ashlar Lodge No. 332
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Christian F. Winkle III	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89
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# Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe Sr.

The Valley officers wish to thank the nearly 60 brethren who helped portray the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree for our 2018 Spring Class Candidates and to welcome the new brothers and hope that they will find a home here at the Valley.

Also, congratulations to Bro. Steve Aldi who just completed his third Passport book, and who has already started on the fourth as he continues to travel to the other Scottish Rite Valleys to experience how they present the various degrees. He is looking forward to his upcoming move to Florida so that he can see how the Southern Jurisdiction portrays the degrees.

On Thursday, May 3, the Valley held its Annual Meeting. The election of officers for 2018-2019 was held. Bro. Mark E. Blackaby was elected as Thrice Potent Master of the Charter Oak Lodge of Perfection; Bro. Dale T. Cunningham, MSA, was elected Sovereign Prince of the Hartford Council Princes of Jerusalem; Bro. Maroun G. Zoghbi was elected Most Wise Master of the Cyrus Goodeel Chapter of Rose Croix; and Ill. Bro. John F. Kessler, 33<sup>o</sup>, was elected to serve a 2-year term, as Commander-in-Chief of the Nathan Hale Consistory. In addition, Ill. Bro. Anthony F. Keegan, 33<sup>o</sup>, was elected Treasurer, and Bro. Tony Angelica was elected Secretary.

Ill. Bro. Kessler., 33<sup>o</sup>, was elected as the Chairman of the Valley of Hartford Executive Council for the upcoming year.

On Thursday evening, May 10, the Valley held its Annual Worker's Night Banquet and Installation. Not all who were eligible to attend the affair at the Wethersfield Country Club were there, but 146 members and their ladies attended. The installation of the officers was performed by Ill. Brother Bruce T. Work, 33<sup>o</sup>, Deputy for Connecticut, assisted by Ill. Brother Kevin J. Hecht, 33<sup>o</sup>, Active for Connecticut. This event is held annual in appreciation of those brethren who had served the Valley of Hartford in the portrayal of degrees in 2017.

On Sunday, June 10, the Valley of Hartford will hold its Family Life Summer Picnic from 4-7 p.m. on the grounds of the Scottish Rite Cathedral (rain or shine). The 2018 College Scholarships will also be presented to recipients, who are invited with their family members. The picnic is open to all Valley members and their families (as well as Masonic friends and families) and is free to all who attend. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish to share. The Valley will provide soft drinks, hamburgers and hot dogs, plus desserts. Please note: advance reservations ARE REQUIRED. The RSVP deadline is noon, Thursday, June 8.

The annual Summer Officer's Planning meeting will take place on Thursday, July 19, at the Galley Restaurant in Glastonbury. All elected and appointed officers, including support heads should reserve the date now. Highlights and dates of the 2018-2019 will be presented.

On Saturday, July 28, the Valley will hold its Annual 5K Race/Walk to raise funds for Children's Dyslexia Center of Connecticut. Come and join in the fun, bring the family, either to help, run or walk. For more information contact the 5K Race/Walk Chairman: Tony Angelica, at the Valley Office (860) 666-0712). For those wishing to run or walk a reservation form can be found on the Valley website [www.valleyofhartford.org](http://www.valleyofhartford.org).

Also, we are now accepting candidate applications for the Fall degree season. Full details will be forthcoming on special events that will be taking place, not only for our candidates, but for all our members of the Scottish Rite, in the next issue of the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper. On behalf of the officers of the Valley of Hartford, I want to wish you and your family, a happy and safe summer.

## Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Hartford

207 Deming Street, Newington, CT

### UPCOMING JUNE EVENTS

**Sunday, June 10** - Annual Picnic & Scholarship Awards Night

**Thursday, July 19** - Annual Summer Officer's  
Planning Meeting

**Saturday, July 28** - Annual 5K Race/Walk

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See what we have to offer by visiting our website:

[www.valleyofhartford.org](http://www.valleyofhartford.org)

**Applications for the 2018 Fall Class are now being accepted**

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<sup>o</sup>, Valley Secretary, Valley of  
Hartford AASR

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

[www.valleyofhartford.org](http://www.valleyofhartford.org)

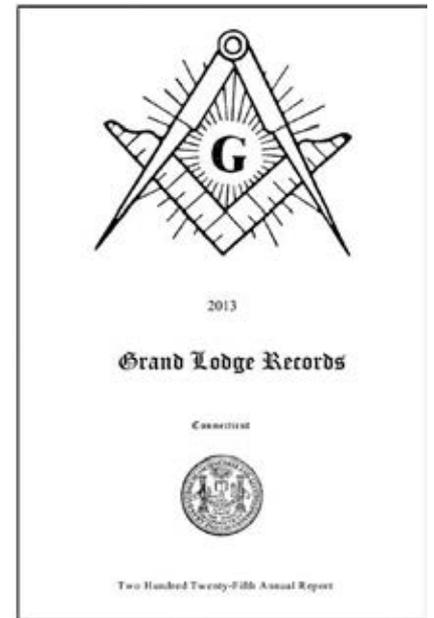
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# Craft at Labor

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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.

## ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREES

**Fri June 1 7:30 p.m.**, Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford, Dinner

**Wed June 6 7:30 p.m.**, St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, Litchfield

**Mon June 11 5:30 p.m.**, Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor, Dinner

**Tue June 12 6:30 p.m.**, Shepherd-Salem Lodge No. 78, Niantic

**Thurs June 7 7:30 p.m.**, Friendship-Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester, Dinner at 6:30pm

**Mon June 18 7:00 p.m.**, Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford

**Sat June 23 6:00 p.m.**, Harmony Lodge No. 42, Wolcott Landowners Protective Association, Civil War EA Degree, Dinner 6 p.m. Degree follows \$10 to May 31, \$15 RSVP to vader2nd@hotmail.com

**Tues June 26 5:30 p.m.**, Fayette Lodge No.69, Ellington

## FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES

### Master Mason Degrees

**Mon June 11 5:30 p.m.**, Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor, Dinner (at break)

**Tues June 12 6:30 p.m.**, Shepherd-Salem Lodge No. 78, Naugatuck, Dinner

**Wed June 13 8:30 p.m.**, Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107, Darien

**Sat June 16 10 a.m.**, Putnam Lodge No. 46, Woodstock, Lunch

**Tues June 19 6:30 p.m.**, America-St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, Dinner

**Wed June 20 7:30 p.m.**, Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven

**Fri June 22 6:30 p.m.**, Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, Dinner will be at 6:30 pm with the degree beginning at 7:30. Suggested donation for dinner is \$10.00.

**Thurs June 28 6 p.m.**, Bay View Lodge No. 120, Niantic, Dinner

# Craft at Refreshment

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

All times are supplied by the lodges. The 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 06477**

**Second, Fourth Wednesday of the Month**, Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, 7p.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**, 7 p.m., Anchor Lodge No. 112, East Hampton, Setback Bring a friend

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

## RECURRING BREAKFASTS

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

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

**Third Sunday of the Month**, Washington Lodge No. 19, Monroe, 8 a.m., Country breakfast  
**First Thursday of the Month**, 8<sup>th</sup> District Lodges Niantic, 9 a.m., District Breakfast Groton Townhouse, Rt 12, Groton CT

# Craft at Refreshment *(continued)*

## EVENTS

**Sunday June 3 1 p.m.**, Annawon Lodge No. 115, Woodlawn Duckpin Bowling, Platt Ave., West Haven, Duckpin Bowling Fundraiser, *Contact Dennis Frosolone 203-233-2328 or Frank Mangiero 203-606-4959 to enter.*

**Sunday June 3 2 p.m.**, Putnam Lodge No. 46, Woodstock, Cigars and Apps, \$35/pp. *Masons and Friends of Masons Welcome*

**Monday June 4 6 p.m.**, Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Awards Night, Dinner

**Thursday June 7 6:15 p.m.**, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, Awards Night, Dinner

**Saturday June 16 12 p.m.**, Montgomery Lodge No. 13, Lakeville, Lobster Sales, Call Montgomery Lodge at 1-860-435-9722 to place your order.

**Saturday June 16 12 p.m.**, Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, 3rd District Picnic Sponsored by Zindah Grotto, *Open to all brothers and male guests. Free of charge.*

**Saturday June 16 6:00 p.m.**, Composite Lodge No. 28, Suffield, Table Lodge

**Monday June 18 6 p.m.**, Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville, Fellow Craft Picnic: Steak Outing,

**Tuesday June 19 6:30 p.m.**, Union Lodge No. 40, Danbury, Awards Night, Dinner

**Thursday June 21 7:30 p.m.**, Friendship-Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester, Awards Night, Dinner at 6 p.m.

**Saturday June 23 7 p.m.**, Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Luau Night, *Open to the public - over 21 only. RSVP at compass9jw@gmail.com*

**Sunday June 24 11:30 a.m.**, Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor, Ladies and Widows Brunch

**Sunday June 24 11:30 a.m.**, Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, West Haven, Fellowcraft Picnic, *Open to Masons and Non-Masons - Male, 21 years and older.*

**Sunday June 24 2:30 p.m.**, Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven, Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen

**Monday June 25 6:30 p.m.**, Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor, Stewards' Cookout, *Bring the family and join us for hot dogs and hamburgers*

**Monday June 25 7:30 p.m.**, Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville, Stated Communication: Strawberry Night,

**Tuesday June 26 6:30 p.m.**, King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury, Awards Night/ Strawberry Festival

**Wednesday July 4 12:00 a.m.**, Independence Day,

**Wednesday July 4 5 p.m.**, Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, Independence Day Fireworks, Join us as we view the Waterbury Independence Day fireworks over Holy Land from the comfort of our driveway! Picnic meal will be provided for a small donation.

**Saturday July 14 6 p.m.**, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, 3rd Annual Steak, Scotch & Stogie Event, Open to Masons, Prospective Masons, Family and Friends (Males Only) 21 or over.

Connecticut Freemasons is the official publication of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut AF & AM. All original articles are subject to editing. All checks for payments and donations should be made out to Grand Lodge Publications and mailed to the Grand Lodge office at 69 Masonic Avenue, Wallingford, CT 06492.

Letters and advertisements may be sent to the Editor Frank Way at [submissions@ctfreemasons.net](mailto:submissions@ctfreemasons.net) or 860-659-7416. All submissions are required by the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. Please note: The Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut, does not endorse any of the products or services contained herein nor imply any warranty of the goods, services, or claims advertised.

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# *Life Membership Plan*

*by Theodore J. Nelson*

Are you familiar with the term “critical mass?” It’s a term used in the sciences, economics, industry, and mathematics. I particularly like it when critical mass is applied to finances. In the financial world one can have enough money invested that the annual interest earned far exceeds one’s annual expenses and still have enough interest left over to invest back with the principle to hedge against inflation. Ideally it is what most retirees hope to achieve during their working careers so that they can have a comfortable retirement without worrying about running out of retirement funds before they lay down the working tools of life.

This is the concept that drove my desire to introduce a Life Membership Plan to the Masons of my lodge, Brainard Lodge No. 102 and ultimately the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. So here is some math based on some historical averages: since the crash of the stock market in 1929, the market has increased on average over 10% per year.

In the following equations I’ll keep expectations low and only count on 5% annual interest and dividends per year on investment funds.

Lodge XYZ needs \$100 per year per member to meet their Lodge’s annual expenses at their current level of membership. Add to that the Grand Lodge assessment of \$65 per member to manage the annual expenses of Grand Lodge. The total dues of \$165 dues  $\div$  0.05 interest = \$3,300 principle. So a member who prudently invested \$3,300 could expect \$165 annual return. Historically he could expect even more than that during the higher differences in good markets which feed the lower differences in down markets. This is a simplistic view of how a life membership plan would be implemented but it will only work with brothers participating.

Last year I appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to research a Life Membership Program and at our recent Grand Lodge Annual Communication they presented a change to our Rules and Regulations that would institute such a program. The simple formula that I posed above could be risky on that small amount but with enough contributors it could be overwhelmingly successful.

That’s where you come in. The Grand Treasurer is in the process of creating an application form for any member to apply for a Life Membership. We need 300 to 400 applicants to apply for Life Membership in order to sign up 75 to 100 members, which will make the plan financially sustainable, able to grow for future use, and to make it attractive to members going forward. Even if you don’t think you can afford the plan, it costs nothing to apply and you are not obligated to join once your quote has been provided.

This program is a win-win for the Lodges that can’t afford their own program by retaining members without the need to collect dues from them ever again. Also the Lodge won’t have to collect Grand Lodge assessment from Life Members. It will help for those members who might come on hard times in the future so that they won’t have to choose between paying dues or a necessity like a drug prescription. Upon the passing of a Life Member, the plan continues to compensate the Lodge with his dues amount for 10 years after his passing. Also while this member still would have the right to dimit if requested, he could never be dropped for non-payment of dues.

It can be a wonderful plan if we participate. Please, if you have been a member for one year or 40 years, send an email today to [grandtreasurer@ctfreemason.net](mailto:grandtreasurer@ctfreemason.net) and request your application. Once it is filled out and returned, it will set in motion a system to send you back an exact quote, based on your years of membership for a Lifetime Membership. It will help your Lodge, your Grand Lodge and best of all, it will be one less bill that you will ever have to pay again. Thanks for your consideration.

God Bless. See you in Lodge!

# *Is War an Excuse to Abandon Masonic Principles?*

*by Stephen Thal and John Chan*

***“Wonderful!” “Incredible!” “I learned things I never knew!”***

Those were some of the reactions by the more than fifty Masons and guests who attended Brother John Chan’s presentation at the Philosophic Lodge of Research No. 400, Semi-Public Stated Communication at Ashlar Village on April 20.

Brother John Chan, Captain USAF (Ret.), presented a multi-media lecture on the little known facts of WWII and the events leading to the attack on Pearl Harbor and the Battles of Bataan & Corregidor in the Philippines. Emphasizing the Masonic connections of Brother & Shriner President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Brother & Shriner General Douglas MacArthur, Brother General Jonathan Wainwright, General Edward King, and PGM & Shriner President Harry S Truman, Bro. John analyzed their decisions that resulted in the tremendous loss of life and sacrifices of American and Filipino troops, ending with the question: Is War an Excuse to Abandon Masonic Principles?

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor left more than 2,400 Americans dead and nearly 1,200 wounded. Eighteen ships had been sunk or damaged with more than 300 aircraft damaged or destroyed. The casualties and damage would have been mitigated if Washington D.C. had shared their knowledge of the impending Japanese attack with the commanders in Hawaii, allowing them to prepare for and to counter the “surprise” attack.

In the Battles of Bataan and Corregidor, Philippines, our military were abandoned by their President and their country. In President FDR’s words, they were “sacrificed for the benefit of the whole war effort.” When the diseased and starving troops ran out of food and ammunition, a combined American and Filipino force of over 75,000 had to be surrendered to the Japanese. This was the largest surrender of military forces in American history. Thousands of those soldiers would die under Japanese captivity during the ensuing Bataan Death March and imprisonment.

For this historical lecture, the Philosophic Lodge of Research traveled to Ashlar Village in Wallingford, making it possible for more brothers to attend the lecture. WB Stephen Thal, PLR Secretary Emeritus, made this venue possible, coordinating with Ashlar Village for the facilities and the catering for the wonderful dinner and with Ashlar Lodge No. 332 for the use of their Lodge. Brother Stephen’s wife, Eleanor, helped with the arrangements, and his guide dog, Keenan, provided direction and safety.

Other Brothers attending included MWGM Marshall Robinson; WM Fred Wintsch (Ashlar Lodge) and his wife, Ruth; WM Justin Duffy (PLR); WB Carleton Erickson and his wife, Georgia; RWB “Uncle” Lew Bither RWB Roger Cole ; WB Matt Griffin, and Brother David Gessert.

Twelve other Ashlar Village residents, including veterans, were in attendance and commented on how much they had learned from this program. The success of this program should encourage other Lodges to share programs with Ashlar Village and other Masonicare residents.

It is in a central location in the state and is a great opportunity to serve our elders in that area, many of whom served in the military during World War II and whose sacrifices gave us the liberty we enjoy today. One such Brother attending was WB John O’Neill from Wallingford, a WWII Navy veteran, who was serving aboard the U.S.S. Missouri, in Tokyo Bay, and witnessed Japan’s surrender to the Allies, bringing an end to World War II, on Sunday, September 2, 1945.

*If you missed this event, you will have another opportunity to attend this presentation. Brother Chan has been invited by American Legion Post 187 and The Veterans Coffee House, both of Wallingford, to do an encore presentation on July 24 at Ashlar Village Theater from 10 to 12 noon. The American Legion will provide the refreshments of punch and cookies. This is a free public event. Dress will be casual.*



## *Clarissa Harlowe “CLARA” Barton Teacher, Relief Organizer, Nurse, Author, Friend* *by Candace Marston*

Clarissa Harlowe Barton was born on Christmas Day, 1821 in (North) Oxford, Massachusetts and died on April 12, 1912, at the age of ninety in Glen Echo, Maryland. The Maryland house and surrounding land was designated a National Historic Site in 1974. Her parents Captain Samuel (Veteran of Indian Wars in the Northwest Territory) and Sarah Stone Barton and her two brothers--David and Stephen, two sisters—Sarah and Dorothea (Dolly) and at least four cousins (children of a deceased member of Samuel’s family) lived on the family farm. Clara was the youngest. It was said that she was very shy. The family was, however, very close-knit.

Clara’s mother was an independent woman known for her thriftiness, volatile temper, and eccentricity.

Her father was Captain of the local militia, a selectman and a Master Mason, probably Oxford Lodge, North Oxford, MA.

The Captain taught Clara geography, military tactics, and the importance of keeping an army equipped with arms, food, clothing and medical supplies through his stories of Indian War in Ohio and Michigan

Most of her early playmates were her brothers and male cousins. Much to their surprise, she could keep up with them. She was an excellent horsewoman. Of her four siblings, Sarah was the closest to her in age. However, Sarah was ten years older than Clara. Both sisters were instrumental in teaching Clara to read and write. Stephen taught her math. And David taught her how to ride a horse.

It could be said that she learned nursing from him as well. He became Clara’s first patient after suffering a serious injury in a farm accident. In 1833, he fell from the rafters during a barn raising. Eleven-year-old Clara became David’s nurse. She administered medicine and changed bandages. It was a custom for doctors to prescribe the use of leeches to “bleed” a patient. Clara took that chore upon herself—applying and removing them with skill. Clara stayed home from school for two years to take care of David. David was cured after the family contacted a steam doctor who treated patients with vapor baths.

As a young adult, she taught school in Massachusetts and New Jersey.

In a man’s world, she became a clerk in the U.S. Patent Office in 1854, but lost the job when the Democrats won the presidency in 1856.

With the Civil War approaching, Clara wanted to serve in some capacity, but was fearful of her reputation as a lady in close proximity with soldiers. Her father encouraged her shortly before his death that she was “the daughter of an Accepted Mason, soldier and patriot.” As such she should “seek and comfort the afflicted everywhere.” He further charged her “with a dying patriot’s love to serve and sacrifice for country in its peril and strengthen and comfort the brave men who stood for its defense.” With this blessing from her father, she became vital in obtaining and distributing supplies and nursing the sick and wounded.

She went to places that many men would not have strayed. And stayed through gunfire when many men left. Nursing and befriending soldiers—some of whom had been her students—she raised morale even to those close to death. Many lived longer lives due to her care and diligence. She provided food, often soup she made onsite, and tender loving care with her nursing ability.

At Antietam, she was so close to the battle, that, while giving a patient water, a bullet pierced her sleeve, killing her patient. She saved the dress and never mended the hole.

After the War, along with Dorence Atwater (a prisoner at Andersonville, Georgia, who maintained meticulous records of those who died) she identified and marked the graves of more than twelve thousand soldiers. These men would not have been identified otherwise. This gave relief to many families who would have wondered if their loved one was dead or alive. If dead, the family would at least know where their loved one was buried.

She took part in the International Committee on the Red Cross in the Franco-Prussian War and was founder and President of the American Red Cross. She was President until 1904, when she retired at age 82. She also authored the American Amendment providing that “the Red Cross shall distribute relief not only in war but in times of other calamities.”

There are inconsistencies in the timing and whereabouts of her initiation into the Order of the Eastern Star. Toward the end of her life—it is believed to be when she was 84-- she joined the Order. In reflecting upon her father’s love for the Masonic Order, she knew that she would like to be part of Eastern Star. The Chapter in her home town claims that she was initiated on June 29, 1906 in the Chapter room. The Chapter Secretary stated in her minutes, “After a short intermission this Chapter received the great honor of being allowed to confer the degrees of this Order upon our illustrious namesake, Miss Clara Barton. It was an occasion long to be remembered as with feelings of pride and pleasure we witnessed the work so impressively and gracefully rendered and received. It was with quite reverential feeling that at this close we were privileged to take her by the hand as our sister.”



*Continued on page 33*

*Continued from page 32*

However, Rob Morris' son claims that Rob Morris "gave the beloved Clara Barton the degree. He was making a tour of Massachusetts, lecturing. When he reached Oxford he received a message from Clara Barton, expressing a desire to receive the degree. In the parlor of her home, father communicated to her the Order of the Eastern Star." Eastern Star was the first of three degrees at that time, so the singular is appropriate. Today's five degrees were – in Rob Morris' mind – one with various parts. The other two degrees were the Southern Cross – now lost in history – and Amaranth, which became a separate Order.

Both could be possible in that Rob Morris could have "communicated the degree." This probably would have been done by giving the lectures in her living room without the floor work. Perhaps, even at her advanced age, given her strong personality, she wished to have the "real deal," thus accounting for the Secretary's minutes.

There are also a couple of different references as to the renaming of the Chapter. Minnie Keyes, Grand Secretary, states that Clara gave permission to the Chapter as early as 1898, which would have been several years before she was initiated. Another reference indicates that it was renamed shortly after her death. Nonetheless, Clara Barton Chapter #63 is her home Chapter and was named for her.

**Legacy:**

In addition to her home Chapter, North Oxford, MA, of the Eastern Star and Chapters in several other jurisdictions, endless places, modes and venues carry her name. Schools in various states ranging from elementary to high schools, to a college residence hall at Towson University, Towson, MD and Barton Hall at Montclair State University, Upper Montclair, NJ; Barton Hall, Iowa State University; and of course, many in her home state of Massachusetts. Streets, avenues, and boulevards in numerous cities and states. Towns, cities, and counties. Various Health and Medical Facilities. Homeless Shelters. Community Centers. A service area on the NJ Turnpike. Woods. Parks. Lakes. Babies by the thousands. **And a crater on Venus.**

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## *Connecticut Prince Hall Masons Honor Five for Their Service to Youth*

*By Dwight Bachman*

On April 21, the Prince Hall Masonic Foundation of Connecticut and Composite Lodge No. 22's Willie B. McLendon Scholarship Fund presented the James Ralston/David G. Carter Sr. Youth Education Innovator Award to five individuals for creating, developing educational programs and engaging in activities to support young people. The event took place at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Bloomfield.

Honorees included the late Dr. David G. Carter (posthumously), retired chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and University System; Clifford Stamm, engineer at Stanadyne, founder of the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation and the Masonchip International Child Identification Program; Walter Luckett, corporate executive at Unilever Home and Personal Care, North America (HPCNA) and Hall of Fame basketball player who established the Walter Luckett Foundation to develop young people; Rufus Jones, Travelers Insurance vice president and president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Greater Hartford and the BSL Educational Foundation; and Eastern Connecticut State University Public Relations Officer Dwight Bachman, who has written numerous feature stories over the years lifting young African American students, along with organizations in the community that support young people.

Stamm, who has worked tirelessly to establish the Child Identification Program, which started as a local/state effort and has become national in scope and focus said, "True brotherhood is the work for common good. I truly appreciate the recognition and will continue our work with Prince Hall Masons to enhance the Child Identification Program (CHIP) nationally. I'm blessed to have the complete support of my lovely wife, my queen, Cindy!"



*Prince Hall Masonic winners: Walter Luckett, Clifford Stamm, Rufus Jones and Dwight Bachman*



*Clifford and Cindy Stamm  
Photo by: Salim Bachman*



*Past Grand Master Floyd Bagwell  
Presents Award to Clifford Stamm*

## *Self-Mentoring*

*by Melvin E. Johnson*

You have recently become a Master Mason and are seeking to further your knowledge of Masonry. You have a lifetime of enlightenment ahead of you and are eager to get started.

Hopefully your mentors have been explaining the degrees and answering your questions. However, you may find that it is up to you to “knock” to open that door and “ask” so further Light may be received. Don’t despair.

Attending Lodge regularly and the educational programs and speakers it provides is the first step.

A solid understanding of the first three degrees including the obligations and charges is vital. Attend all the degrees given in your Lodge and ask to attend the rehearsals. Even if you are not ready to participate, there is much to learn from the rehearsals and the men who are the active participants. Also, check out the *Connecticut Freemasons* list of Lodges at Labor for degrees in Lodges near you and also attend Blue Lodge Council in your District to hear of them. You will be more than welcome on the sidelines and at the dinners. The more often you witness the degrees and even eventually participate, the more meaningful they will become.

For readers, another good place to expand your understanding is your Lodge’s library. Chances are good that you will find several books there that will get you started on your path. If there is no library, you have just found a valuable mission for yourself in getting one established.

One of the best lists of books to consider can be found in the Macoy Publishing and Supply Company catalogue. There are 10 pages dedicated to books on Masonry, including the Lewis Masonic Books from the UK. Many deal with history, some are highly esoteric and/or mystical, others are reference books, but many are specifically written to help the newly raised Mason understand and get the most out of his Masonic experience. At least one deals specifically with how to most easily memorize ritual. Some of the titles may be available at nominal cost through

Amazon as ebooks. I like the Macoy list as it is not apt to have any truly bogus works listed and that is a real danger in relying on the internet for suggestions. If you go this route, think about forming a book club with some of your Brothers. Ask Brothers in your Lodge for suggestions and books they may have in their personal libraries and can recommend.

There are two Lodges of Research in Connecticut. The Philosophic Lodge of Research which meets in Hartford County and the Masonic Lodge of Research in New Haven. They present papers regularly at their meetings on topics of interest to Master Masons and the Philosophic Lodge of Research has published a book of its papers. They will be happy to welcome you to their meetings and the members are a rich source of guidance on how to progress in your desire for “more Light in Masonry.”

The Committee on Education conducts seminars throughout the year and you will find attending them rewarding. They are listed on The Grand Lodge website.

The Masonic Service Association at [msana.com](http://msana.com) publishes a monthly “Short Talk Bulletin” for its members and has a catalogue of past issues and other publications and materials available. Membership is \$12/year and well worth the investment. The Philaethes Society publishes a quarterly journal of papers, book reviews and articles and is dedicated to those seeking Light in Freemasonry. Their website is [freemasonry.org](http://freemasonry.org). It may prove a bit advanced for those of you who are new, but keep it in mind.

Both the Scottish and York rite bodies are sources of further Light and the Northern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite has implemented a great internet-based course for that purpose.

This is by no means exhaustive, but once you get started you will soon find the possibilities limitless and the rewards immeasurable. Always feel free to reach out to your Lodge Brothers with your questions and for other useful suggestions.

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## *Bruce Ekenbarger Awarded the Pierpont Edwards In Bronze*

WB Bruce Ekenbarger received his Entered Apprentice degree on March 20, 1986, was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on April 8, 1986, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on May 15, 1986. WB Bruce hit the ground running by joining the officer's line in 1987 and served as Master of Wolcott Lodge No. 60 in 1992 and 1997.

Over his 30 years as a Mason, Bruce could always be counted on to assist the Lodge whenever the need arose. Bruce attended work parties, assisted with meal preparation prior to meetings and was there for the dreaded clean-up afterward. Bruce was and still is, always willing to "put in the time" to help make Wolcott Lodge successful.

WB Bruce participated in nearly all of the fund raisers during his years of service. His dedication to the Lodge is evident in several events. He chaired the annual chicken BBQ for ten years, which has historically been the biggest fundraiser for the Lodge year after year. WB Bruce not only chaired the event, but many times he was the Brother with the greatest number of tickets sold. Bruce also spent many years doing one of the toughest jobs, cooking all day on the hot grills. After all that, WB Bruce, along with his Lady Peg could still be found at the end of the day helping to clean up.

Because of WB Bruce's effort to lead events like the chicken barbecue, Wolcott Lodge has been able to give back to the community. One example is the annual Children's Christmas Party that was started in 1989. Working with the local Family Services department, Wolcott Lodge provides a day of fun, entertainment, food and presents for local children to help enhance their holiday season. WB Bruce has been a part of this wonderful event since the beginning, providing his outstanding musical talents to make this event the success that it has become. Bruce's sing-a-long rendition of "Here Comes Santa Claus" is always the highlight of the day, as is the introduction of the star of the show, Santa Claus, to the children's delight.

WB Bruce has served on the Wolcott Lodge Temple Corporation for many years. Through his efforts, Bruce has helped maintain the Lodge as one of the most respectable and well-maintained buildings in the Stafford Hollow Historic District.

WB Bruce has been and continues to be a key participant in the Wolcott Lodge degrees and is a skilled Craftsman in the Master Mason degree as the 1<sup>st</sup> Craftsman WB Bruce provides a very unique presentation style to the joy and delight of those Brothers who have seen him in action. WB Bruce has also served as the Installing Officer for the Installation of Officers of Wolcott Lodge.

A few years ago, when a void was created in the Lodge's degree work, WB Bruce volunteered to memorize the Charges and now presents the charges at all three degrees. As previously stated, WB

Bruce can always be counted on to step up and assist in keeping Wolcott Lodge moving forward.

WB Bruce is a Past Secretary of Wolcott Lodge. He first agreed to fill in as Interim Secretary about six years ago, and his term continued to be extended through this past year so that his permanent replacement, WB Peter Kelly, could finish his year as Master.

He is a dedicated family man which is very evident during his many family summer picnics. Bruce's love for music is shared by his family. During a typical evening around the fire, it is not uncommon for Bruce to be surrounded by family singing together. Bruce and his sister Margaret will be delighting all with a beautiful duet or accompanying his daughter Deanna on the guitar, as she provides an outstanding solo. Bruce's many grandchildren will be close by with Nana, as the entertainment goes on to the delight of all.

Not only is WB Bruce dedicated to Wolcott Lodge but the same dedication can be seen in his membership at the Second Congregational Church of West Stafford where Bruce and Peg have been long-time members. Bruce has served in various positions within the Church and served them with the same passion to see the Church flourish as he does with Wolcott Lodge.

In recognition of his service to the 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 Bruce A. Ekenbarger the Pierpont Edwards medal in bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.





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