

*December 2018*



# Connecticut FREEMASONS



**Not Just A Man.  
A Mason.**

*Officers of the  
Grand Lodge of Connecticut  
A.F. & A.M. 2018- 2019*



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## Connecticut FREEMASONS

**Volume 14 - Number 6**

### Publisher

THE GRAND LODGE  
OF CONNECTICUT A.F. & A.M.

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# The Eternal Cycle Wanes.... And Waxes Anew

by Francis G. Way

**O**ur lives are dominated by cycles. Every 29 days the moon waxes and wanes, new to full and back again. Along with the daily cycle of the sun, the moon had an extraordinary effect on the life of prehistoric man, even into the early ages of civilization, and because of that, these cycles are prominently mentioned in our ritual in the Entered Apprentice Degree.

A few months ago, we experienced the summer solstice, which in the northern hemisphere is often referred to as “the longest day of the year.” This is somewhat erroneous, as all days have 24 hours, but it is the day when daylight hours are the longest. From that point, the daylight period began to get shorter in small increments each day, as our year waned from the warmth and brightness of summer, through the cooler and brilliantly colored autumn, and now, finally, to the dark coldness of winter. In a few days, the winter solstice will occur, and from that point, until late June, the daylight will grow as a new year blossoms through spring and into summer. And so it goes...

These cycles of the seasons, as one might expect, were also prominent in early religion, and even today, some major Christian holidays are celebrated on days that were important to earlier religions.

Easter moves every year, as it occurs on the first Sunday following the first full moon, following the vernal equinox.

Many of our Christmas traditions harken back to pagan celebrations at that time of the year.

Regardless of how exactly it came to be, the circumstance is that Christmas occurs near the close of the year, in the dark and cold of winter. The message of peace and hope, of light coming in the world, reminds us that even under the winter snow, the buds of spring are yet forming, ready to burst forth as the year grows toward warmth and further light.

As this year slows and dies in the darkness of winter, so too our Masonic year is coming to a close. Plans and expectations made last January have run their course, some successful and enriching, and some failing, but providing a learning experience for future endeavors. The man who ascended to the Oriental Chair of King Solomon with such great plans, fresh enthusiasm, and perhaps a bit of nerves, is by this time hopefully wiser, and perhaps even a bit matured by the experience. Even now a new man prepares to take that same journey. Such is life, such is Masonry ready to spring forth, carrying us from cold to warmth, from the burdens of the past year to the promise of the new, from darkness to light, from despair to hope.

As the Angel of the Lord said to those shepherds 2,000 years ago, “Fear not.” The cycle of life continues. Such is life, such is Masonry.

**The Editor and staff of *Connecticut Freemasons* wish you and yours a joyous holiday season and a safe and happy New Year.**



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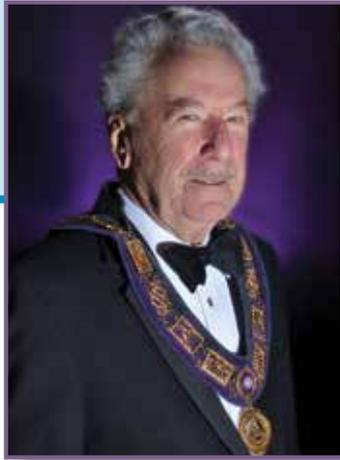
Connecticut Freemasons is the official publication of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut AF & AM. All original articles are subject to editing. All checks for payments and donations should be made out to Grand Lodge Publications and mailed to the Grand Lodge office at 69 Masonic Avenue, Wallingford, CT 06492.

**Letters, articles 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. While every

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

Connecticut Freemasons (USPS 025-514) is published monthly, except August. The Grand Lodge of Connecticut AF & AM, 69 Masonic Avenue, Wallingford, CT 06492. Periodicals Postage paid at Wallingford, CT and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER, Send address changes to: Connecticut Freemasons, c/o The Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM, 69 Masonic Avenue, Wallingford, CT 06492.



# Grand Master's Message

by Marshall K. Robinson

“**M**arshall, nobody comes to lodge.” This was said to me not long ago by a Worshipful Master after he closed his lodge. A common lament and one I’m hearing in one form or another more and more. My reply to that Master was that you need to give the brothers a reason to come to lodge. I’m usually happy just to be with like-minded brothers but also think that some kind of program is critical to the success of any lodge meeting.

A program doesn’t have to be a major production. A program can be as small as asking a brother to speak about his Masonic history or talk about his job or hobbies. Think back to the Sequin-Level Lodge program that I talked about in an earlier article.

May I suggest that there is a wealth of information available to you in the Masonic Service Association of North

America. You may visit them online and see about thirty pages of Short Talk Bulletins and other forms of Masonic communications that are there for you.

Visit other lodges and see what they are doing to stay successful. We know that some lodges are doing better than others – visit them and find out why. It’s not a mystery. If you are going to have a good program at your lodge, get the word out to the surrounding lodges. We all like good programs and would be happy to attend.

Talking about interesting programs, on Saturday, November 10, Friendship-Tuscan Lodge held a Mess Night. My first one. It was an evening of fun and was basically attended by brothers who were, or have been, in the military service. Some wore kilts and others wore suits. The guest speaker wore his Army Master Sergeant uniform. They had a wonderful piper who was the Pipe Major for the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in Scotland, before moving to the US and becoming a police officer. There were many toasts, some serious and some fun. It was a great evening and an outstanding example of a somewhat different program. Watch for it next year.

As I travel around the state visiting lodges, one thing I have noticed is that when some lodges close, the brothers stay around for a while and talk. At some lodges, when they close, the brothers all leave immediately. Sometimes the best communications are made after the lodge closes and all are together downstairs having coffee or something. It is an important part of the lodge meeting and promotes comradeship. It’s all part of the big picture of the lodge meeting and if yours is one of those lodges where every brother “bails out” when the lodge meeting closes then perhaps you ought to think about ways to encourage them to stick around.

If you have never visited a lodge other than your own, make it a point to visit one before years end. May I suggest the York Rite Christmas Carol sing at Ansantawae Lodge in Milford on December 17? See you there.

**Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to you from myself, the Grand Lodge Officers and staff at the Grand Lodge Office.**



# Solicitation of Articles for *Connecticut Freemasons*

Over the past several issues, the number of articles submitted from lodges to the *Connecticut Freemasons* has dropped off.

On the other hand, we see numerous posts on social media of activities from lodges and other bodies. While the internet does have world-wide reach, the *Connecticut Freemasons* has a direct reach to other Masonic jurisdictions all across the country. It also promotes your events to other lodges in Connecticut, and helps disseminate great ideas for great events that help the brothers, lodge and community.

Several years back, after the management change, the staff of the *Connecticut Freemasons* added the “District News” section back into the newspaper by popular demand. Lodges wanted a section of the paper where news of their events would be prominently featured.

Years back it was harder to submit articles for publication. Anyone wanting to take photos at an event had to lug a camera

there, and even if it was a digital camera, the photos needed to be downloaded.

Today, almost every Brother has a camera in his pocket – a cellphone.

If you’re at a lodge event, snap a few photos. Note who is in the photo and what the event was. Send it in. Even if you don’t feel like writing an article about the event, a photo with a caption tells a great story. And don’t feel that your event is too mundane for publication. Brothers across the state look forward to seeing what is going on in other lodges – they have told us that.

The staff of *Connecticut Freemasons* works hard to get great content out to the members of the Craft. But we cannot do it without your submissions.

Articles and photos can be submitted to **submissions@ctfreemasons.net**



# From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

## President & CEO of Masonicare

**W**e are now in the midst of the busy holiday season at Masonicare. Our campuses are buzzing with celebrations. Here are some highlights:

- At our Mystic community, the pub has been turned into a Dickens-themed venue and renamed “Fezzywig’s” for the occasion.
- At Masonicare at Chester Village, the residents will hold an open house and holiday tour, and the resident Cooking Group is whipping up a season’s worth of Christmas cookies.
- The Ashlar Village campus in Wallingford is full of the holiday spirit. Next week there will be a huge resident party with music, dancing and great food.
- The 30th annual Festival of Trees is going on in the Masonicare Health Center lobby. It ends with an auction on December 18 at 2:30. These amazing table-top trees are designed and decorated by employees. For



the third year in a row, WTIC-AM radio host Ray Dunaway will be at the auction on the 18th to announce the winners. Last year, it brought in \$5,300 which the Charity Foundation directs toward holiday gifts and celebrations for our long-term care residents.

We recognize that at this time of year, generations of families are together. You may see relatives you haven’t seen in months or even years. It’s a golden opportunity to make sure your aging loved ones are as well and safe as they can be. If you observe signs of physical, emotional or cognitive change, it could be time to step in. Social isolation, especially in the winter, is a recognized health risk. The Masonicare HelpLine has a free checklist, “The Signs to Look For,” that can help families identify warning signs and assess ability to live independently. Just call 888-679-9997 to learn more.

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!

Sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon-Paul Venoit".

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 75-YEAR BROTHERS!**

Frederick G. Raymond

America-St. John’s Lodge No. 8 ~ 3/14/39

James H. Murphy

King Hiram Lodge No. 12 ~ 11/4/41

Adrian E. Offinger

Old Well-St. John’s Lodge No. 6 ~ 6/17/43





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

by Rev. Carl H. Anderson

The holidays are upon us and once again and we come to the close of another year. During this festive season of gatherings with friends and family, we are reminded of the precious gift of peace and hope. While there are many things that can challenge our hope, the presence of God far exceeds them all. In fact, the peace and hope of God are among the greatest gifts that humankind will ever receive.

Scripture refers to peace as something that passes all human understanding. It is described as a gift of God for the people of God. Likewise, scripture refers to hope as a gift of faith throughout life. While there are many expressions of the peace of God during the holiday season, it is not limited to a certain time of the year. God is with humankind 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and three hundred and sixty five days a year. God is always available for a prayer or even a chat to help one discern their way through the ongoing maze of life. The foundations of peace and hope are in the knowledge that God has given them freely to humanity. They are a blessing of love that exceeds all human expectations. God's gift of unending love is the essence of the holiday season and the source of true peace and hope.

In this holiday season, may we not lose sight of the peace of God amid the frenzied pace of life. Let us take a few moments to remember the many ways that we are blessed by God. As the hymn "O God Our Help in Ages Past" suggests, God has been our help in the past and is our hope for years to come. May you experience this hope and peace during this Holiday Season.



### Grand Lodge U. S. Mail Address Has Changed

Please note that the U. S. Mail address for Grand Lodge has changed.

The post office box address is no longer valid.

All U. S. Mail to Grand Lodge should be addressed to:  
**69 Masonic Avenue  
Wallingford, CT 06492.**





## Grand Historian's Corner

by Gary A. Littlefield

The first column written by this Grand Historian in April, 1989 was included in the mailing sent to all Masters and Secretaries. It talked about Henry Peck who was the first Grand Master to have his address published in the proceedings in 1845. He stressed the temperance of drinking in the lodges and in general among the members of the Craft. He asked that Junior Wardens take note of those who might imbibe a little to excess and report them to the lodge. He also stated that the purchase of spirited beverages by the lodge was embezzlement of lodge funds. This was a marked change to fifty years earlier when lodges met in taverns and spirited beverages including rum and beer were standard fair at the hour of refreshment. Henry Peck was so revered by the fraternity that he was offered both a second and third term which was the last such incident in the history of the Grand Lodge. He was a member of Adelphi Lodge No. 63, a mayor of New Haven and a book publisher. He ordered his address to be printed in the proceedings.



In 1881, John H Barlow began his address, "I welcome you within these walls, solemnly dedicated to Masonry, to Virtue and to Universal Benevolence." Several lodges were given dispensations to omit their stated communications in July and August and recommended that a "blanket dispensation" be given to other lodges who did not request it.



Brother Adam Craig did not serve the Grand Lodge in any capacity nor did he serve in any officer chair at Warren Lodge No. 50 in Andover. He was a physician and would sometimes receive calls from the outskirts of town. The story, as told by Dr Cyrus Pendleton of Wooster Lodge No. 10, was that in about 1860, Brother and Doctor Craig got one such call. As was his custom, he would let his horse trot at an easy gait until he was within sight of the house where he would order his horse go "full speed." He would rush into the house, make a hasty examination of the patient, exclaim that it was lucky he got there when he did and dispense the proper medication. He would then leave quickly until he was outside the view from the house and then trot at the easier gate. One evening he went to a house for an "annual blood drawing" but he had a habit of enjoying his spirited beverages. He went to the house took a bowl from the kitchen and proceeded

to start the blood drawing on the patient. He quickly fell asleep. The patient, growing concerned as the bowl filled (more than it should have) and fell to the floor in a faint. The wife of the patient was in the kitchen, heard the racket and rushed in to save day. Craig later sold his practice in Andover and moved to Hebron where he joined Wooster Lodge No. 10 and died in 1864 of what was then called "brain fever" which was a polite way of saying "dementia." Lawsuits, malpractice and the loss of a license would be the results of a like incident today.



Grand Master's Day in 1992 found that one could have some lodge officers or Grand Lodge officers arrested and placed in a lockup on the grounds of the Masonic center in Wallingford. The "arrested Brothers" would then have to raise money to secure their release. Among those arrested that day were Grand Master Vander Eyk, Past Grand Master Chris Wyld and Masonic Charity Foundation President Carleton Erickson. It seems a subsequent picture showed PGM Wyld talking again with his wife and Kathy Vander Eyk about the Grand Master's trip to celebrate the 275th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of England and Brother Erickson later scoping the grounds.



This Grand Historian wishes all who celebrate the season of peace and joy, holiday wishes and to those of the Judeo-Christian faith, Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas.



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## Gotta Get to Garavel

# Why Are There No Women, In Regular Freemasonry?

by Jaime Paul Lamb

Recently, we have seen a resurgence of the discussion regarding opening the Craft to women. There have also been advances made to this end in the UK, where transgender women (i.e., men now living as women), if made a Mason while a man, may continue to participate, post-operatively; and men (i.e., women now living as men) are welcome to petition for membership in the Lodge, just as those who were born male. The topic has been dissected at the Lodge level, in message boards, on social media platforms, as well as mainstream media publications...but one of the most salient arguments in this debate remains mostly under-employed in Masonic discourse. We'll get to that shortly, but first a look at the most typical.

The reasons for Freemasonry's exclusion of women have a wide range of tenability. One of the most commonly heard about the Lodge is that men need a place where they can be men. This argument is obviously not very well developed, as a man is a man regardless of setting and location (unless, of course, he undergoes gender-reassignment surgery). The general tenor of this statement is that a man needs to be out of the earshot and eyesight of women in order to truly be a man, which is of course preposterous and almost does more to prove the inverse of the argument. One might imagine a dark, smoky room wherein naughty boys, in the absence of the much-dreaded female authority, can drink and curse to their heart's content, likely while playing poker or billiards. While this may seem nice, it's certainly not within the purview of Freemasonry.

Another more persuasive argument involves a clause in both the Ancient Landmarks ["that a Mason be a man..."] and in the Master Mason Obligation ["I will not aid, nor be present at..."]. Relying on the Landmarks to buttress the argument against women joining Regular Masonry is to employ a sort of circular logic, in that it ends where it begins without arguing the root premise. The Master Mason Obligation is another matter, however. This is an irreversible oath, a pact that one has taken with God, the Lodge and themselves. The only way around this binding clause is if the Grand Lodge of the jurisdiction were to remove it from the Obligation. Theoretically, if this clause were removed, and after there were enough Brethren raised in its absence to operate a Lodge of Master Masons, they could initiate, pass and raise a woman. But there is a reason why this is inadvisable.

The most sound case against allowing women to take part in the Regular Blue Lodge experience is that its ritual is specifically masculine in nature and would likely resonate comparatively very little with women, who already have obvious biologically

and socially transformative cues which happen intermittently throughout their lives. Men have segregated into "secret", initiatory societies since time immemorial – any entry-level anthropological work on the subject should put any doubt of this tendency's historical basis to rest. Single-gender socialization is a common and healthy mechanism of the human experience even to this day. Men and women are biologically, physiologically, emotionally and psychologically different. So different, in some regards, that there is little reason to suspect that "a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols" designed by and for men, in order to *initiate* ["to cause something, especially an important event or process, to begin"] them into a process in which they are transported from one psychosocial phase of existence to another, would have any efficacy in promoting a truly transformational effect on women.

As it stands, however, there are plenty of irregular and clandestine Lodges that accept the petitions of women. There are even Lodges that are exclusively female – Masonic sororities, as it were. Not to mention the several organizations, appended to the Regular Masonry: the Order of the Eastern Star, the Order of the Amaranth, the White Shrine of Jerusalem, the Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America, Daughters of the Nile, the Daughters of Mokanna, and the Social Order of Beauceant. But the truth appears to be that women are generally not as interested in what the Fraternity offers or else they would likely join Co-Masonry in roughly similar numbers. Women seem to have their sororal and psychologically transformational needs met through other naturally-occurring outlets, more suited to the feminine temperament – and, reciprocally, these feminine-oriented systems would likely contribute very little meaning to the unfolding narrative of a man's life.

It has been the purpose of this article to attempt to challenge the standing beliefs and opinions on what has been a controversial subject, particularly as of late. If one, as a Mason, is of the opinion that Freemasonry should remain exclusively male, or whether it should initiate women, then it is important that one develop a reasonable support of your claim – a rational argument that is free from logical fallacies and can withstand critique. We, as Masons, should feel more comfortable than most with the idea of challenging our philosophical standards and perspectives to see if they hold up to scrutiny – and it is always preferable for one to scrutinize one's own opinions, lest another come and dash our beliefs upon the rocks of their superior reasoning powers.

# Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr.

It's December again, and the end of 2018. December means, among other things, looking ahead to the gathering of family members celebrating the upcoming holy of holiest holiday season.

For the Valley of Hartford it means the end of the first half of the Scottish Rite Year. Thank you to all the brethren who helped as we portrayed the degrees for our new candidates, and a hearty welcome to Brothers Donald R. Adams, Richard L. Beebe, Danubio "Don" E. Blen, Michael R. Charland, Peter A. DiMauro, Rick G. Klimowicz, Umar "Eddie" Abdul-Mutakabbi, Norbert M. Placide, David D. Stapleton, Andrew C. Work, and James B. Young. They completed their degrees on November 17 when they received the 24th and 32nd degrees on Consistory Day.

Once again, attendance at the Valley's "All-You-Can-Eat" buffet dinners before the Thursday night degree continues to grow in numbers, and the Consistory Day Prime Rib luncheon is still very popular, not only with our candidates, but also with our fellow brethren.

As part of the "Path Forward" initiative of the Supreme Council NMJ in November, the Valley presented "Friday Night At the Movies", showing four seasonal movies on the large screen in the auditorium. The favorites *Elf*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Christmas Story*, and *Miracle on 34th Street* were all part of this first time event.

Family Life Chairman Bro. Ed Schilke, MSA, has a bus trip planned for Sunday, December 9 to experience "Christmas in Newport". A tour of two of the Newport Mansions and Sunday Brunch are on the itinerary.

Since the Valley's newsletter *View of the Valley* is only published quarterly, it important that the Valley has your current email address on file, so that you can receive any last minute updates on events like these. Please contact the Valley Secretary, Bro. Tony Angelica, at [sect@snet.net](mailto:sect@snet.net) to update your informaiton.

We will soon be celebrating the holidays, and the Valley of Hartford wishes each of you the gift of FAITH; the blessing of HOPE; and the PEACE of his Love at Christmas and ALWAYS.

We wish you all Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanzaa and a safe and happy New Year!

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Masonic obligation to care for our members.*

**Seasons  
Greetings**

**HAPPY CHANUKAK, MERRY CHRISTMAS  
HAPPY KWANZAA  
FROM THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS  
OF THE VALLY OF HARTFORD  
TO ONE AND ALL**

**Visit our website: [www.valleyofhartford.org](http://www.valleyofhartford.org)  
for more information and for forms.**

**For more information about becoming a member  
of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, or to  
receive a Scottish Rite informational DVD,  
contact Tony Angelica, 32', Valley Secretary,  
Valley of Hartford AASR  
(860) 666-0712      Email: [sect@snet.net](mailto:sect@snet.net)**





# Brother Alfred Paul Chapin IV Awarded Pierpont Edwards Medal In Bronze

**A**lfred Paul Chapin IV, born April 8, 1962, is known by most as Paul, but his family calls him Fred. Right Worshipful Brother Paul grew up with his grandparents, helping out on the family dairy farm in Watertown. His father Paul, and grandfather Al, gave him a petition in 1984 for him to become a Mason. Alfred Paul Chapin I and Alfred Paul Chapin II were both members of Federal Lodge No. 17 in Watertown and Alfred Paul Chapin III was a member of Union Lodge No. 96 in Thomaston.

Both father and grandfather helped in Paul's raising in 1984, and both served as Masters of their lodges.

RWB Paul graduated from Watertown High School in 1980, and received an Associate's degree in Chemical Technology from Waterbury State Technical College in 1982. He went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Clarkson University in 1984 and an Associate's degree in Industrial Management in 2002, followed by a Master's degree in Occupational Health and Safety Management in 2006.



*Continued on page 15*

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## Daniel Carter Beard Award Presentation

*by Thomas M. Maxwell II*

**J**ohn Alphonse Deer was born October 17, 1948 in Bridgeport. John was only ten years old when his father suddenly died. He truly became a widow's son. John's mother told him that anything he wanted, he would have to earn on his own. His mother placed him in Scouting with the hopes that it would teach him self-reliance and other qualities that his father was not there to provide. Little did she know her son John would go on to provide the same opportunities to hundreds of boys throughout his adult scouting career.

Young John joined his Cub Scout Pack in 1956 and his Boy Scout Troop in 1959.

His Scouting years of service include Merit Badge Counselor (teaching Scouting and life skills to hundreds of Boy Scouts), Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster (both numerous times, Wood Badge trained and also served as a staff trainer. Brother Deer has

served on numerous District and Council Committees including Unit Commissioner, District Commissioner and District Chairman.

His Scouting Awards include Order of the Arrow (Brotherhood member), Scoutmasters Training Award, Scouters

Key, Commissioner's White Arrowhead Award, Commissioner's Key & the District Award of Merit.

Brother Deer is a Lifetime member and Past Master of St. John's Lodge No.6 in Norwalk. He is also a Lifetime member of Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge. No.142 in Easton, serving as Director and Secretary of their Temple Corporation. For many years he served as



*(l-r) WB William Schueler, WB John A. Deer, MWB Marshall K. Robinson and MWPGM Thomas M. Maxwell II*

*Continued on page 23*

# Eric W. Manner (1955-2018)

## “But Mostly, I Just Miss My Friend...” *by Francis G. Way*

*“And even in our sleep, pain that cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart and, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom to us by the awful grace of God.”*  
– Aeschylus

I can clearly remember when I first met any of my best friends – where we were, what we were doing, who we were with. But try as I might, I just cannot remember when I first met Right Worshipful Brother Eric Manner. I know it was at Scottish Rite in the Valley of Hartford. And I know we were rehearsing a degree. But that’s about all I can remember. And in a way, that is very, very fitting. As I think back on it, it seems to me that Ric had just always been there, always been my friend...for as long as I could remember. Almost for forever.

Ric and I worked on a lot of degrees. He, more than I, in fact. In one season he was in every degree that Valley of Hartford portrayed! There were many rehearsals, many nights standing in the parking lot in Newington after those rehearsals solving all of Masonry’s problems, discussing the nuances of Masonic ritual, and then talking about all sorts of other things – comedy, sports, music. We had a lot of common interests, and could always talk for hours.

Our wives hit it off, and with a couple of other Masons and their wives we had some epic times. Sometimes it was Trivia Night at the 99, other times it was at Shenny Yacht Club for an evening on their boat. Yet other times, it was just over dinner. Wherever and whenever, there was always friendship, laughter, and a deep, growing brotherly love.

Perhaps my favorite memory that involves Ric is from Providence in 2008 and, at first, he wasn’t even there. I had been a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason

for all of a couple of hours when, at our Connecticut Banquet, Illustrious Brother Jim Spencer, 33°, Deputy for Connecticut, announced that Ric’s name had been placed into nomination to receive the 33rd Degree in 2009. What an amazing moment. I was ecstatic that my friend and brother had been so honored and I couldn’t wait to congratulate him when we got home. With Howard Turner and Rich Jones, we enjoyed watching Ric progress through that next year leading up to his degree. It was an even more joyous occasion that summer in Boston watching Ric receive the degree, and sharing that time with him and Diana.

Before long, Ric was a District Deputy and our discussions began to include some of his experiences in that office. I learned so much listening to him talk about how to approach various problems and issues lodges may have. When I was named District Deputy, it was an honor to have Ric read my biography, and participate at my DD Presentation. His experiences and lessons learned were never far from my mind. And he was always there if I needed advice or suggestions.

In the late spring of this year, Ric missed a couple of lodge meetings and other events because he didn’t feel well, but it did not set off any alarm bells. Kim and I bumped into him and Diana at 99 in late summer. He looked great and we ended up sitting with them and talking for a couple of hours. All seemed well, and Ric and I talked Masonry, and solved all the fraternity’s problems for perhaps the millionth time. I did not know then that it would be the last time we would ever do that.

A month later we got the awful news that no one ever wants to hear, either for themselves or for a best friend. Ric had



pancreatic cancer. Time seemed to slow, and yet also speed up all at once. There was hope, and prayers – prayers for healing, prayers for comfort, prayers for peace... prayers for a miracle.

But all too soon we were hearing it was just a matter of days, days that seemed to stretch on with the agony of knowing that the friend to whom you looked so forward to seeing, and to whom you looked so forward to laughing with, was going to be gone.

And then a moment of gut wrenching finality: the brother who always did such a splendid job with the long form apron presentation in our Lodge, who was always ready with a joke or a laugh or a wisecrack, who was always one of the first to step up and shoulder the responsibility of Lodge or Valley, but most of all, who was one of my very best friends, came at last “to the end of life’s toilsome journey.” The roll of the workmen had been called and one Master Mason, and a brother whom I loved, had not answered to his name.

Life moves along, sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly, but the rhythm of my life has, for over 20 years, included Masonic functions, and most of that time those functions included Ric. That they will no longer do so saddens me greatly,

*Continued on page 14*

# Myth, Magick & Masonry

## by Jaime Paul Lamb *Reviewed by John A. Amarillos*

For those brothers who have developed an interest in the Western Mystery Tradition, Brother Lamb's new text will be an informative addition to their library. Between the covers of this nicely indexed 133 page reference, which also includes a meaningful bibliography, a brother can begin, with some sourcebook direction, his own research into the topic of ceremonial Magick and Freemasonry.

The book is subdivided into three discreet parts – Part 1: “The integral Relationship between Freemasonry and Ceremonial Magick”, Part 2: “Solar and Astrological Symbolism in Freemasonry” and Part 3: “Elements of Classical Mythology in Modern Freemasonry.” The book sheds light on a myriad of important concepts and delves into symbolism that one runs into in Freemasonry. The book glances off the differences between Low Magick (Natural) and High Magick (Ceremonial) and the references to Goetic and Solomonian Magic in the first section are treated with a fleeting brush stroke. The author relates that many of the motifs found in these traditions are also present, although unrecognized, within the Blue Lodge ritual and its floorwork. The book covers thoroughly the correspondence between Mithraism and Freemasonry, Mythological Archetypes and Lodge officers as well as correspondence with their jewels. The Solar Myth and the Hiram legend is also handled in an exceptional manner. The astrological symbolism and its correspondence in Freemasonry are also satisfying, if succinct. The book is very much a starting point for nascent explorers. What you have here is a book, ostensibly, of short essays assembled in related sections. It is a brief but very wide excursion through Western esotericism and will serve the reader quite well by providing an awareness of the litany of topics which the Western Mystery tradition encompasses and how they

manifest subtly in various facets of Freemasonry.

The book and its thorough bibliography are slanted towards a preponderance of sources that are ensconced in a “left handed” path. Since the target audience would appear to be neophytes with an interest in delving into the esoteric realms, I believe a caveat is in order. For the most part, the left handed path is concerned with the forces and cycles of nature and their employment for purposes of attaining an advantage or desired effect on the mundane plane. These operations can be fraught with karmic peril, as they might be misemployed for numerous reasons, but mostly by not being actuated and guided by the “Royal Secret.” Those who have had the privilege of taking the Scottish Rite 32nd degree are in possession of this great Truth.

The right handed path is the path followed by those who desire to be initiated into the heavenly mysteries and whose entire reality of being is directed towards the Kingdom of Heaven, the path promulgated by the Nazarene. There is no concern given to advantage on the mundane plane on this path as the goal is to awaken the spiritual element within, with the goal of eventually achieving personal Transfiguration. These are clearly two very divergent paths, and the reader should realize that only the former is being addressed in this book.

Caveats aside, the book in and of itself is informative, well written and easy to read, and does an excellent job in giving the reader a concise survey of the Western Mystery tradition. Where you go from there requires significant and careful consideration.

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**Eric W. Manner** *continued from page 13*

and the thought of not having him there makes the thought of those functions seem just a little hollow and just a little less fulfilling...at least for a while.

I have always found solace and peace in the works of great writers, and those divinely inspired, and there are two sources to which I always turn for comfort: The Bible and the Immortal Bard.

In the Bible, our rule and guide of faith, Jesus tell his disciples, “In my Father's house there are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you, that, where I am, there ye may be also.” I have a feeling that Ric is in one of those mansions right now, perhaps

looking out a window over a heavenly ocean, thinking about finding a boat somewhere and taking to those waters, and perhaps dropping anchor off an island to take a swim. Yes, I think that is just about right.

In the works of Shakespeare, where one can find almost any situation of the human condition, Hamlet speaks of his father, the late king, and his words describe how I will always think of Ric: “He was a man. Take him, for all in all. I shall not look upon his like again.”

Farewell and Godspeed, my friend.

## Chapin Pierpont *continued from page 12*

RWB Paul started his professional career in 1985 at the Upjohn Company in North Haven as a Production Foreman. In 1992, he moved to Hampford Research in Stratford as the Plant Engineer, responsible for all aspects of plant maintenance and operations. In 2007, he moved to King Industries as Operations manager where he is still employed.

RWB Paul has two daughters. Heather, 18, is a student at Central Connecticut State University and Holly, 16, is a student at Watertown High School. His hobbies include bowling and music, and he is an accomplished song writer and past president of the Connecticut Songwriters Association. Paul enjoys going to festivals and fairs, and is a big sports fan, especially football. He attends Watertown Congregational Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Torrington.

RWB Paul was raised in Federal Lodge No. 17 in 1984. While initially not very active in the Lodge he became the Junior Steward in 2001. He then served as Worshipful Master in 2007 and 2008, receiving the Master's Achievement Award each year. He has since served as Chaplain in 2010, received the Ashlar Blakeslee Lodge Service Award in 2012, and is currently Senior Warden.

RWB Paul, seeing that Saint Paul's Lodge No. 11 was having difficulties finding officers, affiliated in 2006. He served as Senior Deacon in 2007, Senior Warden in 2008, and Worshipful Master in 2009 and 2010. RWB Paul expanded active Lodge participation, and set up a progressive officer line. In 2011, RWB Paul then went on to affiliate with Seneca Lodge No, 55 where he served as Junior Warden in 2012 and Worshipful Master in 2013

and 2014, doing for Seneca Lodge as he had done for Saint Paul's. While at Seneca Lodge, Paul helped foster an environment of Masonic brotherhood by introducing regular potluck dinners and encouraging brothers to become more involved in lodge activities, ritual, and lecture. His excellence in ritual was an inspiration to the brothers of Seneca Lodge and he set an example that all should strive to emulate.

RWB Paul has served this great fraternity in many other capacities. He served the Blue Lodge Council 3rd Masonic District as President in 2009 and 2010. He then served the Grand Lodge as District Deputy 2013 and 2015. Brother Paul is a member of the Caledonian Degree Team, serving as Senior Steward, Senior Deacon, Senior Warden, Worshipful Master, and King Solomon. As a member of the York Right College, Brother Paul served on the degree team as Worshipful Master and King Solomon.

In summary, Right Worshipful Brother Paul Chapin has been an exemplary Mason and has inspired the Brothers he meets to be better and more active Masons. He is always ready and able to assist wherever he is needed and he has a true heart of service for his brothers and Freemasonry. Through his hard work and leadership he has touched the lives of countless brother masons and has helped the Third Masonic District to become vibrant and grow masonically.

In recognition of his service to our fraternity, to his Lodges and the state of Connecticut, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the state of Connecticut is pleased to present to Right Worshipful Brother Alfred Paul Chapin IV the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.



# District 1

Lodges 3, 5, 6, 8, 19, 65, 67, 85, 104, 109, 107, 142, 144, 149



## Wreaths Across America Collections Continue

by Karen Kreitzberger Polett

Wreath sponsorships at \$15 a wreath were collected at the Noroton Heights Stop and Shop by Monuments and Ceremonies Commission member Sharon Bixler with VFW Post No. 6933 members Donald O'Connell, Allan Bixler, Dennis Clayburn, Sr. and Post Commander Lenny Hunter. Wreaths Across America 2018 sponsorships were also collected on Saturday, October 20, at Darien Dunkin' Donuts by Veteran Jim Baker, Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107 Brother Mark Lindsay, VFW Post No. 6933 member Scott Vanderheyden, and John Carter.

This year's WAA wreath laying ceremony will be held on December 15, at 12 p.m. in Darien's Spring Grove Veterans' Cemetery. Spring Grove is one of three official veterans' cemeteries in Connecticut. The other two CT cemeteries are in Rocky Hill and Middletown.

Last year, a wreath covered every one of the 2,184 graves in the veterans' section of Spring Grove Veterans' Cemetery. The public is encouraged to purchase wreath sponsorships and to attend the ceremony to help in the placement of the wreaths.

Wreaths can be ordered directly from Wreaths Across America, with the Group ID code of CT0007 and the Location Code of CTSGVD noted on the check /order form so that the wreaths arrive at the Darien location. The mailing address is WAA, P.O. Box 249 Columbia Falls, Maine 04623. Wreaths can also be ordered from the WAA website: [wreathsacrossamerica.org](http://wreathsacrossamerica.org).

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit founded to expand the annual wreath laying at Arlington Cemetery. In addition to Arlington, wreaths are placed at over 1400 sites throughout the world-wide.



Brother Mark Lindsay of Ivanhoe Lodge presents a check from the Masonic Club of Darien, Inc. in the amount of \$500 for Wreaths Across America to VFW Post No. 6933 member, Scott Vanderheyden and Jim Baker. (photo by David E. Polett)

# District 5

Lodges , 29, 33, 36, 101, 128, 140, 146, 148



## Village Lodge No. 29 – Neighbors Helping Neighbors

by George A. Frascarelli

Brothers from Village Lodge No. 29 in Collinsville pitched in to help their neighbors in need by raking leaves, cleaning out gutters, flipping mattresses, cleaning windows, and making dump runs in the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" program for Canton seniors.

Masonic charity is not limited to Brother Masons or their widows. The Brothers at Village Lodge feel strongly about helping the community where they meet and giving Freemasons a real face in the community.

(l-r) Brothers Dan Bristol, George Frascarelli, Clinton Sosna, Ron Spellman and Dave Hadd spent a wet day helping seniors in Canton.





## From Tragedy To Hope – A Brother of Washington Lodge No. 70 Stages Benefit Concert *by Robert McKay*

A Marine veteran takes out a pistol, puts it to his head and fires...at 7 p.m. on July 5 the world went black for Vinnie Manganello.

The bullet moved through his lower jaw near his eyeball, missing his brain. Laying in a mortal balance between life and death, Vinnie was bleeding his life away.

Unknown to him, his brother, Dominic had been able, at the near fatal moment, to hit Vinnie's arm and thus slightly deflect the bullet's path. Dominic saved his brother's life!

Vinnie was not dead, but neither was it certain he would live. The first rays of earthly light he saw were from his hospital bed at the Hartford Hospital. He could barely see and his head was wrapped like a mummy. He could not talk. Vinnie was surrounded by friends and family.

Forty days and forty nights – July 5 to September 16 -- he was in the Hartford Hospital. During this time great things happened. Vinnie grew in strength while his long time partner, Sarah gave birth to their first child. On August 13, Sophie was born.

Friends of the family who visited Vinnie at the hospital included Brother Steve McKay, of Washington Lodge No. 70, and Kathee Speranza-Ryan, a graphic designer from Overabove Marketing. Kathy called Steve and asked, "What can we do for Vinnie?"

Steve plainly saw the plight of Sarah, Vinnie and the baby, Sophia: Vinnie, unemployed and at death's doorstep, a young mother with an injured partner and a new baby girl to care for. Picturing the financial difficulties Vinnie's family faced was very tough on Brother Steve, as he has four children of his own. He wanted to do something for this young, new family, but his seasonal business was keeping him busy seven days a week. The answer to Kathy's question was easy...a benefit concert!



*Bro. Stephen McKay conceived and organized Vinnie Manganello's Benefit Fundraiser.*



Several regional bands practiced at Brother Steve's Windsor warehouse, while lighting and staging people worked events with him. The idea of a Benefit Concert Fundraiser for Vinnie's family was underway. He thought if they could provide 300 tickers with an average donation of \$25 per ticket, the family could benefit from upwards of \$7500.

Thus, the Vinnie Manganello Benefit was born. The "Warehouse Benefit" featured three great bands -- The Neybas, Steelhead, and So Long Liberty. Included was a silent auction with donated items such as TV's, grills, jewelry and services -- a total of 80 items donated. There was also a 50/50 raffle

from which the winner also donated his winnings to the benefit. Free food for all from Ken's Corner Restaurant supplemented a dozen other contributors who made food for a great evening. Outside a fire blazed to warm the party.

At the end of the benefit, hundreds of people watched as Brother Steve stepped on stage to present a huge check to a now mostly recovered Vinnie Manganello and his family.

Tears flowed.

Though not a Masonic Fundraiser, all saw the faith of a family finding new hope through the charity of a Masonic brother and numerous other people who also felt the urgent need to love and care for their fellow neighbors.

The future is not certain. Vinnie is still dealing with difficult issues, but he is realizing that Sarah and his baby Sophie rely on his being a healthy, responsible Dad. They need his help.

# Lodge Culture *by Melvin E. Johnson*

The start of a new year is a time for taking stock and setting goals. This is certainly true for Worshipful Masters. Consider starting with an examination of which Masonic needs or expectations of your Lodge's Brothers need your greatest focus.

There are many ways to define those expectations. One way which appears regularly in Masonic books and articles is to think of them in terms of Ritual, Fellowship, Community Service, Charity and Masonic Light. Each is important and plays a role in helping good men to become better. Take time to learn which dominate the expectations of your members.

There may have been a time when each individual Lodge had sufficient manpower and wealth to engage in all of these simultaneously and with a wide range of activities. The ritualists ensured that ritual rehearsals were well attended and nearly flawless ritual delivered. Others could ensure that the dinners were exceptional, the trips exciting and other fellowship events well executed. Others organized and supported community projects. Others could focus on raising money for both Masonic and public charities. Still others organized rich and varied programs to inspire, illuminate and meet the needs for spiritual and intellectual growth of the Brothers. Each Brother found his expectations and needs were met.

All of this is still happening throughout Connecticut Masonry. We are weaving a rich and beautiful tapestry of Masonic activity and growth, continuing the process begun hundreds of years ago. Each of our Lodges and Appendant Bodies is contributing to this work in their own way. However, in your individual Lodge you may have to focus your activities on those that best meet the needs, expectations and capabilities of your Brothers and are within your financial resources.

For example, you may discover meeting Masonic Light expectations is your Lodge's natural strength. Then focusing your resources on exceptional educational programs would best help define your Lodge, attract members and attendees for whom those are especially important and avoid squandering your resources on a plethora of half successful unsatisfying activities.

I am not suggesting you ignore the other expectations of your Brothers, just that you may need to focus on what makes you special as a Lodge. If so, don't despair of what can't be done and do well what can be done. The scope of your activities will grow with Lodge growth. In the meantime, you can focus on turning your Lodge's natural strength into an overwhelmingly positive experience for those primarily seeking that element or elements of Masonry.

For Brothers who wish, for example, to participate in fellowship activities your Lodge cannot provide, you can arrange to join

in with a neighboring Lodge's Table Lodge, family day or trip, thereby, meeting their needs and enhancing the success of both Lodges' efforts. Within a 30 minute drive of almost every Lodge in Connecticut is at least one other Lodge. No one Lodge has to be all things to all people.

I had the pleasure recently of visiting a Lodge that is doing an exceptional job by most any measure. In talking to the Brothers, it was clear that one secret to its success has been a single-minded focus on serving the needs of young people. This focus has created an excitement that is creating sustainable growth and fulfillment and is allowing an expanding range of activities.

For this process to work well, your Lodge should ensure that your activities are well publicized in a timely manner. Distribute your Trestleboards to neighboring Lodges, invite non-member Masons to sign up for email notices and be sure to include your DD and Grand Lodge Officer. Note visitations to the activities of neighboring Lodges in your Trestleboard. Create a calendar that can be shared with the *Connecticut Freemasons* and posted on your website and Face Book page. (All of which should become easier as we unroll our Grand View initiative.) Encourage your members to attend Blue Lodge Council. Support your neighboring Lodges' activities and allow them to support you. Have a great year.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!**

George S. Weted, Jr.  
Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 ~ 12/4/68

Roger E. Traver  
Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 ~ 12/6/68

Charles R. Vanderscoff, III  
Ionic Lodge No. 110 ~ 12/9/68

R. Webster Newkirk  
Montgomery Lodge No. 13 ~ 12/11/68

Alan P. Diamond  
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125 ~ 12/11/68

James S. York  
Valley Lodge No. 36 ~ 12/16/68

Richard I. McKee  
Compass Lodge No. 9 ~ 12/19/68

# Straight is the Gate and Narrow is the Way

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

Lafayette Consistory will be presenting the crown jewel of the Scottish Rite degrees on the morning of Saturday December 1, following the live presentation of the 19th Degree at 11 a.m. The theatre is located next to the Metro North Train Station in Stratford which affords a comfortable, stress free parking and driving alternative. As the fall season draws to an end, the Consistory plans on a holiday trip to the Boston Pops Holiday Concert at Symphony Hall in Boston on December 8. To make reservations, or for further inquiries, please contact the Office at (203) 375-0064.

The Lodge Room is an allegorical depiction of the Human organism. The Mysteries of Freemasonry take place in the lodge room – and are reflective of the mysteries that take place within each of us. Each one of us has a lower physical part which is animalistic, earthy and physical, and which like the lower part of Jacob's ladder rests upon the surface of the earth. Our higher self (which lies dormant and slumbering in various degrees of most all of humanity) is spiritual and reaches to the heavens. This duality, present in all persons, is in a perpetual tug of war – the spiritual and carnal in combat against each other. The wise Freemason, who has awakened to this reality, and who has learned to master this duality, has become adept at striking a perfect balance between them. Further, he has developed sufficient internal strength so that he understands and masters the unique weaknesses and temptations which affect him.

Jachin and Boaz stand before our preparation rooms. In the human physiognomy they allude to our two legs which we, at a very young age, learn to stand upon, so that we may achieve our ability to stand upright. The verity of Masonic initiation is that it is a process of spiritual awakening and rebirth – an arduous and painful process for anyone who undertakes it seriously and of immense sacrifice if he truly has the intention of completing it. This process of rebirth is much unlike the greatest of all mysteries – that of actual child birth – and one that each and every one of us has experienced. Every child born is quite unaware of what is happening to it until it ages, and begins to develop its consciousness, as a result of its unique experiences

and the vicissitudes of life, which are visited upon it. The kaleidoscope of frustrations, infirmities, pains, triumphs, losses and trials of an infinite variety serve to develop its personality and its level of consciousness.

In essence, life is a veritable lodge room where every child enters into the rigors of initiation after having passed through a straight gate and narrow way between the pillars that support it's mothers temple. This reality foreshadows the allegorical rebirth that the candidate with a clean heart goes through when he departs, blindfolded and unknowing, from the preparation room (the allegorical womb), and passes through the straight and narrow path that lies between Jachin and Boaz (the legs which support that womb). He then begins his Masonic travels within the lodge,

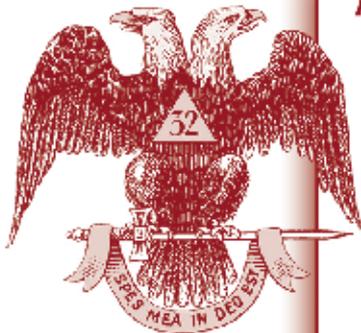
his circumambulations allegorically alluding to the aforementioned vicissitudes of the physical plane. Every candidate has the option of exploring this potential if he has the interest, drive and will to do so. If he chooses to walk the path of becoming an actualized regenerated man – not merely in some ceremonial form – but in actual physical worldly experience, he alone will become worthy of the title "Master Mason." He will have eventually

erected an actual temple that is not made by hands, but which has been fashioned with great care and immense pains by the soul of a just man who has made himself perfect.

Shortly, we will examine the beneficial spiritual impact of attaining such a rarified perfection as I have alluded to above, and will remind you now of the Hermetic Axiom "As Above, so Below".

*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.*

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**Attention all Master Masons!**  
**UPCOMING SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES**

Sat., Dec. 1, 2018 - 11 a.m.  
19th Degree (live) followed by  
32nd Degree (live)

Mon., Jan. 21, 2019 - 7:30 p.m.  
Secret Master  
(open to all Master Masons)

All of these are at the  
Leo H. Lohman, II, Theatre  
in Stratford

*R.S.M.P. required.*  
Please email: [Office@LafayetteConsistory.com](mailto:Office@LafayetteConsistory.com)  
or call 203-375-0064.

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

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**For more information, contact the Valley near you or email [Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com](mailto:Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com).**

# A Divergent Perspective On Freemasonry's Membership Decline

by Jaime Paul Lamb

There has been an ongoing debate regarding the decline in Masonic membership for some time now. From what I have read and heard firsthand, in and around the Lodge, most of the proposed solutions to the matter involve making Freemasonry somehow easier and more accessible to a greater number of men. These proposed solutions involve initiatives like the abolishment of the "2B1ASK1" rule, the acceptance of short-form or minimum proficiency, and one-day classes in which one may be conferred all three Blue Lodge degrees in a single day.

I think it's important to view the "problem" in the context of the Fraternity's recent history. Looking at the numbers, there was an unusually large swell in Masonic membership in the mid-20th century (peaking in 1959 at 4,103,161), which was probably largely due to soldiers coming home from wars overseas who desired an instant social life, in addition to some of the same regimented order to which they had grown accustomed in their military experience. The father would join the Blue Lodge (often as a stepping stone to the Shrine), his wife might join the Order of the Eastern Star or Amaranth, his daughter would join (or be coerced into) Job's Daughters or Rainbow Girls and his son would join (or be coerced into) DeMolay. Note that, apart from the Blue Lodge, none of these orders practice Regular Masonic Ritual and are therefore tangential to the Work of the Fraternity. Though it is outside of the scope of this article to argue merits and value of Masonic appendant bodies, it should be clear which of these bodies offer "further Light in Masonry" and which are merely peripheral social or philanthropic pursuits.

Regarding philanthropy, it is obvious that one doesn't have to be a Freemason in order to write a check to one's favorite charity – anyone can do that. While philanthropy is an aspect of what the Craft offers the community, it does not in itself define Freemasonry. Let us also remember that we are obligated to offer assistance to our fellow Masons, their widows and orphans – not the world at large. What we offer the world at large is the product of a Fraternity that transforms men and, in doing so, disseminates its principles into society by the good, square work of individual Masons. Merely participating in a vote at a Stated Communication that contributes X-amount of dollars to the Toys For Tots program, for example, is not the only sort of altruism of which we, as Masons, are capable.

Freemasonry is not a diner's club; it is neither a social order, nor is it a service order. Freemasonry is an ancient and exclusive initiatory system, teaching sublime truths by symbol and allegory woven into a suite of transformational initiatory rituals – that's what we have that is our own; everything else can be found in the profane, quotidian world or in other fraternal orders, which

share neither our antiquity nor our priceless heritage of ageless Wisdom, Strength and Beauty. Initiation is something that defines the Masonic experience. Classically, initiatory rites of passage are meant to transform the individual from one state-of-being or social role, through a liminal process, and on to another more exalted station in life. The roots and tributaries to Freemasonry's initiatory lineage are of inestimable antiquity, as elements of our Work may be found, through a modicum of anthropological research, disappearing into prehistory.

I, for one, have no fear for the future of our Fraternity – providing we safeguard and retain its value. What I find concerning are the recent efforts to make Freemasonry easier and more-accessible, which will almost certainly devalue the Craft. Now more than ever, we should seriously consider how we can properly guard the West Gate. There simply is no need to populate our Lodges with warm bodies. Freemasonry is not elitist, but it is exclusive. Freemasonry makes good men better – not faulty men good. We don't need more Masons – we need the right Masons.

If the current decline in membership means that the Fraternity must downsize, consolidate and merge its Lodges – as is obviously underway, whether we like it or not – then so mote it be. If this means that there is a smaller, tighter core of true and faithful custodians of the Craft, whose primary interest is in preserving the integrity of Freemasonry's legacy – unadulterated by peripheral pursuits and concerns – then we need to embrace the ideas of those who would pass on an intact and pristine edifice. Freemasonry will move inexorably onward if we, as its present guardians, don't dilute its transformational potency, which is its Strength.

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# Washington Commandery No. 1 News & Happenings *by Francis G. Way*

It has been a busy couple of months for the Sir Knights of Washington Commandery No. 1 in East Hartford. Over the course of two months, they have portrayed all three Orders of Templary (albeit one in short form) and wrapped up this period of great activity by knighting five new Sir Knights.

It began in late September with preparations for Washington Commandery's signature Order, the full form Order of Malta. Portrayed on October 2, the Commandery's cast created five new Knights of Malta, four from Washington Commandery and one from Palestine Commandery No. 6 in Preston.

Just prior to that portrayal, in an upstairs room in York Masons Hall, Sir Knight James McNeely and Sir Knight Ed Varjebedian executed a superb Illustrious Order of the Red Cross for one candidate who had been unable to attend the previous full form portrayal in May.

Almost as soon as the banners, props, and Malta uniforms were put away, the Sir Knights began preparing in earnest for the crowning jewel of Templary, the Order of the Temple. Portrayed on November 6, the portrayal was part of Washington Commandery's annual inspection that includes portrayal of the Order, opening and closing the Commandery, and the reception of the Right Eminent Grand Master and his staff.

Many evenings of rehearsal, much studying, and honing for floor and sword work took place in the month between Orders. The Sir Knights worked hard, many learning parts for the first time, and with some Sir Knights who had never before participated in the Order of the Temple.

On the evening of the inspection, the Sir Knights arrived early to put the finishing touches on the setup, and for "uniform inspection" by the inspecting officers – the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery officer line. All Sir Knights and candidates had an opportunity to eat dinner before the Commandery opened, as an ample spread of pizza and soda was laid out in the dining hall.

By evening's end, after a fine portrayal of the Order, Washington Commandery added five new Sir Knights to their rolls: SK Steve Matthews, SK Jack Ranney, SK Kevin Zorda, SK Jim Devanney and SK Richard Balboni.

The portrayal was also the first opportunity for the three Washington Commandery holders of the Knights Templar Cross of Honor, Sir Knights Michael E. Seamon, James McNeely and Francis Way, to pose for a photo.

Next up for Washington Commandery No. 1 is their annual



*Washington Commandery's three holders of the Knights Templar Cross of Honor (l-r): SK Michael E. Seamon, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, SK Francis G. Way, EC and Grand Sword Bearer, SK James McNeely, Grand Generalissimo.*



*New Sir Knights of Washington Commandery No. 1 (l-r): SK Jack Ranney, SK Steve Matthews, SK Kevin Zorda, SK Frank Way (Eminent Commander), SK Jim Devanney and SK Richard Balboni.*

Christmas Observance and a short but well-deserved rest for the Christmas season.

If any Master Mason would like more information about joining the York Rite, please contact SK Francis G. Way at fgway33@gmail.com, or any York Rite brother.



2017

# Grand Lodge Records

Connecticut



Two Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Annual Report

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

### Grand Lodge Proceedings for the Year 2017 for Bro. Theodore J. Nelson Most Worshipful Grand Master

This is to advise you that going forward all copies of the Proceedings must be ordered and paid for in advance. If you wish a PDF, it must also be ordered. We are only printing the number of copies for which we have reservations.

Check or money order and form must be returned to the Grand Lodge Office by January 31, 2019 to place your order.

Book cost: \$26 including postage. A PDF version of the 2017 Proceedings will be emailed to you at no cost if requested.

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## Beard Award *continued from page 12*

organist during degrees and semi-public programs.

As a 32° Scottish Rite Mason, Brother Deer is a recipient of the 'Gold Passport' which verifies witnessing all Scottish Rite degrees from the 4th Degree through 32nd Degree.

In 1968, at 20 years of age, Brother Deer joined the U.S. Army and his years of service qualified him for free college level study. In 1974, Brother Deer began his college journey and in five years earned his Associate Degree with cum laude honors, Bachelor's of Science Degree and his Masters Degree in Environmental Science. The depth of his education qualified him for a rewarding career with several major American corporations.

Brother Deer's resume presents a host of most noteworthy community service activities including serving as Past Deputy Chief of the Naugatuck Volunteer Fire Company and a member of the Naugatuck Emergency Management Committee.

On September 13, 2015, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut awarded Brother John A. Deer the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.

He is an active member of the Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association, which is a group of Connecticut Masons and

Scouters, coming together in the bonds of Scouting and Masonic brotherhood to promote and build upon the long-standing positive relationship between Freemasonry and the Boy Scouts of America.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania states that "Freemasonry is based on service and the exemplification of moral truths, which is essential for good role models." The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, in cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America, created the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award as a national award program for Masons who exemplify Scout Law and Masonic Virtues, in service to the Scouting Program.

The award consists of a Masonic Medallion suspended from a blue and silver neck ribbon, a formal certificate, and a traditional Scouting knot patch authorized by the Boy Scouts of America as the "Community Organization Award."

It is an honor and pleasure to present Brother Deer the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award.

## ***WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!***

Seth H. Beebe	Bay View Lodge No. 120	Ali M. Makhzongi	St. Albans Lodge No. 38
Mark F. Gonzalez	Bay View Lodge No. 120	Anthony Marks	St. Albans Lodge No. 38
Robert Lyle Baird, III	Ionic Lodge No. 110	Colin C. Souney	St. Albans Lodge No. 38
M. Marc Doremus	Ionic Lodge No. 110	Thomas P. Bavaro, Jr.	Unity Lodge No. 148
Jarod M. McCarthy	Ionic Lodge No. 110	Shaw R. Harrigan	Unity Lodge No. 148
Dean P. McKusick	Ionic Lodge No. 110		



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



## Happy Holidays!!! *by Richard F. Denno*

**I**t's that time of the year again. Time for Thanksgiving turkey, fixings and pumpkin pie. December brings Christmas, Chanukah and other religious celebrations. And of course, then it's time to ring in the New Year.

The holidays are a time for reflection. A time to remember wonderful times spent with loved ones — memories to be treasured and shared with family and friends. Your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program Committee wishes you and yours the best of the Holiday Season.

Another Holiday Tradition is the giving of gifts to loved ones. The process is both a frustrating and joyful experience. Frustrating, as we search both our minds and stores for just the right gift. Have you ever given your loved ones just the perfect EXPENSIVE gift, only to have it become the latest “dust catcher” in the house? You can almost always tell if you chose the right color, size or style of clothing by the expression on their faces as they open the not so perfectly wrapped gift. Another dead giveaway is when then they discreetly search through the box for the return slip for the item.

For many, the most joyful part of the process is the search for that perfect gift as well the beautiful expression on their faces when they open the gift you so lovingly went to the trouble of picking out. Every time they wear or use that gift, the warm memories you had when you purchased it bring a loving feeling in your heart that can't be matched.

Or can it? What if you could give your loved ones the gift of life or a much greater quality of life? Isn't that the gift that keeps on giving? How would you feel if you were responsible for another person enjoying more holiday moments with loved ones, that otherwise would have not been possible? You can do that in two ways. You can register online to become a member of the organ/tissue/eye donor waiting list. Simply go online to [www.registerme.org](http://www.registerme.org). Upon your death, your kind donation may impact up to 50 lives. That's the number of parts that may be recovered from you for transplantation.

More kidneys are transplanted than any other organ in our bodies. We can live a healthy life with only one kidney. If it would save the life of a loved one, would you donate one of your kidneys or a lobe of your liver to them? This is referred to as a Living Donation. To learn more, contact [www.neds.org](http://www.neds.org). Imagine the satisfaction and thrill of watching the recipient prosper, thanks to your generous gift.

If you decide to also give a wrapped and boxed gift, I am now down to a size medium and my favorite color is blue.

Happy Holidays!



# Craft at Refreshment

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

*All times are supplied by the lodges. The CTFreemasons 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

**Every Sunday, St. Peter's Lodge No. 21,** New Milford, 12 p.m., Build a Brother. *Go over any ritual or questions you may have on Masonry. Prospective candidates and new brothers welcome.*

**Every Tuesday, Day Spring Lodge No. 30,** Hamden, 7 p.m., BINGO. *Open to the public, all Masons and Eastern Stars. Refreshments*

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

**First Wednesday of the Month, Ansantawae Lodge No. 89,** Milford, 7 p.m., Mason Night @ OAH, *Orange Ale House 517 Boston Post Rd Orange CT*

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

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

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

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

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

## RECURRING BREAKFASTS

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

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

**Third Sunday of the Month, Washington Lodge No. 19,** Monroe, 8 a.m., *Country breakfast*

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

## EVENTS

**Sun., December 2, 8 a.m.,** Washington Lodge No. 81, Cromwell, *8th Annual Holiday Breakfast, \$8 for adults, \$5 for children under 12, Children 5 and under 5 are free. All proceeds support the scholarship fund.*



**Mon., December 3, First Day of Hanukkah**

**Sat., December 8, 7 p.m.,** Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, *Scholarship Fundraiser. Looking for auction items so please reach out to Sam Maurer if you are able to attend, donate or help. Refreshments will be served. Hard RSVP Date of December 1, 2018. BYOB*

**Tue., December 11, 6 p.m.,** Union Lodge No. 40, Danbury, *Lodge Christmas Party, Pizzeria Mazzo 32 Newtown Road Danbury, CT*

**Sat., December 15, 11 a.m.,** Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, *Installation of Officers & Holiday Party*

**Sun., December 16, 8 a.m.,** Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford, *Masonic Family Breakfast & 10 a.m. Childrens Christmas Party*

**Wed., December 19, 6:30 p.m.,** King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury, *Installation of Officers*

**Wed., December 19, 7:30 p.m.,** St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, Litchfield, S.C. & *Installation of Officers,*

**Wed., December 19, 7:30 p.m.,** Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, *Stated Communication: Annual Table Lodge, Dinner 6:30 p.m. Gavel Down 7:30 p.m. Must RSVP to the Junior Warden by 12/5."*

**Thu., December 20, 6:30 p.m.,** Harmony Lodge No. 42, 531 Highland Ave Waterbury, *Stated Communication & Holiday Gathering. Join us for a holiday party after the meeting! Dinner begins at 6:30, with meeting following at 7:30. Dress is jacket & tie.*

**Fri., December 21, 6:30 p.m.,** Hiram Lodge No. 1, Branford, *Holiday Party/ Woodwinds, Annual Holiday Party at The Woodwinds. See our web page for details.*

*Continued on page 26*



**Tue., December 25, 12 a.m.**, Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven, **Christmas Day**,

**Thu., December 27, 12 a.m.**, Union Lodge No. 5, St. John the Evangelist,

**Thu., December 27, 7:30 p.m.**, Hiram Lodge No. 1, Holiday Dinner - Quick Meeting, Holiday Pot Luck Dinner and Ugly Sweater contest.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**Tue., January 1, 12 a.m.**, Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven, **New Year's Day**,

**Sat., January 5, 2 p.m.**, Hiram Lodge No. 1, Installation of Officers with Dinner afterwards.

**Sat., January 5, 2 p.m.**, Village Lodge No. 29, Canton, Installation of 2019 Officers



## Craft at Labor

*To have your lodge events appear in the newspaper, please update your lodge website calendars prior to the 10th of the previous month. If your lodge needs assistance accessing the website please have the Master or Secretary or Calendar Admin contact the Help Desk: <https://ctfreemasons.on.spiceworks.com/portal>.*

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

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

### ACTUAL PAST MASTERS

**Thur., December 20, 7:30 p.m.**, Village Lodge No, 29, Canton, Dinner at 6:30

### ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREES

### FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES

### MASTER MASON DEGREES

**Fri., December 7, 6:30 p.m.**, Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford, Dinner



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to the families and friends of  
those brothers who have been called  
by The Grand Architect of the Universe*

Jonathan S. Arnold	St. John's Lodge No. 2
Donald August	America-St. John's Lodge No. 8
Mrs. H. William Day, Jr.	St. Paul's Lodge No. 11
George A. Dumas	Composite Lodge No. 28
Joseph L. Edmondson	Montgomery Lodge No. 13
Lawrence E. Emmons	Anchor Lodge No. 112
Stewart B. Fritts	Corinthian Lodge No. 63
Robert S. Gardner	Corinthian Lodge No. 63
William F. Grunewald	Village Lodge No. 29
Alfred J. Languerand, Jr.	America-St. John's Lodge No. 8
John P. Lawlor, Sr.	Harmony Lodge No. 42
Leo H. Lohrman, II	America-St. John's Lodge No. 8
Craig T. McClellan	King Solomons Lodge No. 7
Frederick J. Miller, Sr.	Day Spring Lodge No. 30
Raymond W. Mussen, Jr.	Anchor Lodge No. 112
Richard T. Oberg	Hiram Lodge No. 18
James G. Pierpont, Sr..	King Solomons Lodge No. 7
John-James W. Sargent	Union Lodge No. 40
George M. Shaw	Coastal Lodge No. 57
Andrew C. Stone	Coastal Lodge No. 57
William J. Svihovec	St. John's Lodge No. 2
Andrew E. Turner, Jr.	Corinthian Lodge No. 63
Robert W. Wagner, Jr.	Warren Lodge No. 51
Herbert W. Wentworth	Hartford Evergreen 88

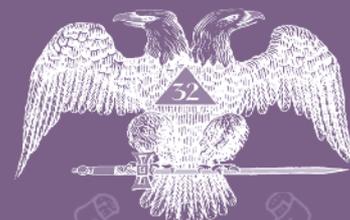
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# Pyramid Shriners Help Students Make Blankets For Needy Children *by Donald M. Casey, Jr.*

Students from religious education classes at St. Luke's Church in Westport recently conducted a community service project. Students met with Master Masons from the Pyramid Shrine Temple Motor Patrol and Clown Units. They made decorative blankets that will be given to needy children receiving medical care at the Shriner's Hospital. In addition, the students participated in a multi-media educational program with the Pyramid Shriners to learn more about services provided at the Shriner's Hospital for Children.



*(l-r) H.L. Jeanne Moore; H.L. Diane Pierce, Royal Matron; H.L. Gwen Rochette, Grand Royal Matron in Connecticut; S.K. William Greene, Royal Patron*

## Connecticut Amaranth History Made *by William L. Greene*

At the 2017 Annual Session of the Supreme Council, Order of the Amaranth Incorporated, a revision to the Supreme Constitution was approved to accept petitions for membership from ladies of the age of eighteen (18) or over not related to a Master Mason in good standing, upon the recommendation of two Master Masons in good standing in their Masonic Lodge both of whom shall be acquainted with the applicant.

Under this new provision, Mrs. Jeanne Moore, petitioned Rainbow Court No. 20, in North Windham to become a member. After the normal processing of her petition, she was elected to become a member of the order at a special meeting of Rainbow Court on November 11, 2018, H.L. (Honored Lady) Jeanne received the degrees of the Order and became the first non-Masonic affiliated woman in Connecticut to become a member of the Order of the Amaranth. All members of the Order of the Amaranth are excited about this new change in the rules and our new member. We look forward to hopefully having more new Honored Ladies becoming members who would have no other way of joining and participating in our Order.







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# COCA ~ December 2018 *by Perne R. Maynard*

In last month's article, we learned that one of the reasons for poor attendance in your lodge could be television. But the major consideration, in my opinion, is that lodge Brothers need better Masonic communication. Freemasonry is a speculative art, and we must change our mode of informing the craft and the public at large.

In 2019, that concept will finally become a reality for the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. The new software is being implemented now, and you can begin to see the fruits of our technology committee's labors. Go to <https://ctfreemasons.net/> to see this transformation in progress. I will not discuss any specifics, but the secretaries in all lodges will now have many new tools to communicate with the craft, collect dues payments on line, and no longer need to prepare written reports. This is because all secretaries can import all input for their respective lodge into the Grand Lodge database. The committee structure will be evaluated and changed as required to help train and implement these new lodge procedures.

The theme for next year will be "Not Just A Man. A Mason."

In today's world, now more than ever before, the world needs men of honor and integrity. Men who unite and not those who divide, who seek truth and share brotherly love with all, no matter their race, religion, gender or creed. Men who live with virtue and

character, always striving to be even better men.

I want to take this moment to wish all my Brothers a very safe and Happy Holiday season. Next year I look forward to helping you realize all the new possibilities that will be available to your lodge so that you may thrive and become a more vibrant and active lodge.

Once again our COCA mission should be to expand Masonic awareness in our communities. Let

us work on expanding our Masonic COCA programs:

- We need a new CTCHIP Chairman to expand our successful CHIP program
- We must support the Masonic efforts to make people aware of the importance of the Organ Donation program.
- We must continue to help local Veteran programs and volunteer in community Veteran homes.
- Support and donate to the Grand Master's Masonicare appeal program to help a Brother in need.
- The Grand Lodge of Connecticut will be celebrating their 230th anniversary in 2019. Mark July 21, 2019 on your calendar for a very BIG PARTY!



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*Boosters continued on next page*



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*The form to renew your  
subscription is on page 29.*



# 2018

## NUTMEGGER REUNIONS

Please join us

at these wonderful Nutmegger Reunion luncheons at one or more of our locations.

Take this opportunity to meet and greet Bro. Theodore J. Nelson, Grand Master; Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit, Masonicare's President and CEO; and, Bro. Robert F. Polito Jr., Board of Trustees Chair; and to reconnect with many of your valued friends at this year's reunion!

For questions or if you plan to be in Florida and would like to attend a reunion, please contact **RW Brother Carl Anderson** at **203-679-6917**.

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