

*January 2019*



# Connecticut FREEMASONS



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

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



**Bro. Marshall K. Robinson**  
Most Worshipful Grand Master

**Bro. Melvin E. Johnson**  
RW Deputy Grand Master

**Bro. Stephen W. Petri**  
RW Grand Senior Warden

**Bro. William E. Bohman**  
RW Grand Junior Warden

**Bro. Newton Buckner, III**  
RW Grand Treasurer

**Bro. Grant S. Gould**  
RW Grand Secretary

**Bro. Bruce R. Bellmore**  
RW Grand Senior Deacon

**Bro. Joseph J. Porco**  
RW Grand Junior Deacon

**Bro. Edward C. Page**  
RW Grand Marshal

**Bro. Les B. King**  
RW Grand Senior Steward

**Bro. Rinaldo F. Magliano**  
RW Grand Junior Steward

**Bro. Carl H. Anderson**  
RW Grand Chaplain

**Bro. Shane Dufresne**  
Grand Almoner

**Bro. Gary A. Littlefield**  
RW Grand Historian

**Bro. Carl H. Anderson**  
RW Grand Organist

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

**Bro. Robert J. Kovi**  
Associate Grand Tiler

**Bro. Frank R. Mangiero**  
Associate Grand Tiler

**Bro. Brian E. Beals**  
Deputy Grand Treasurer

**Bro. James M. Anderson**  
Deputy Grand Secretary

**MW Bro. Charles W. Yohe**  
Director of Communication

# Table of Contents

A Time to Plant, A Time to Pluck Up .....	3
Grand Master's Message.....	5
Welcome to Our New Brothers .....	5
Frederick W. Bushnell Receives Pierpont .....	6
The Desk of Jon-Paul Venoit.....	7
The Desk of the Grand Chaplain .....	8
National Sojourners, Inc.....	8
Grand Historian's Corner.....	9
Congratulations to Our 75-year Brothers .....	9
The RBCs of Fraternalism.....	10
Congratulations to Our 50-Year Brothers.....	10
Valley of Hartford, AASR.....	11
More Light Now: The Secret Master Returns .....	12
Trinity Commandery No. 3 Christmas.....	13
Scottish Rite Bus Trip .....	14, 15
Called by The Grand Architect .....	16
“Level Steps” by Jonti Marks.....	17
Donate Life.....	17
District 2 & 5 .....	18, 19, 23
Masonic Awareness .....	20
“RE” .....	21
Masonicare's Festival of Trees in 30th Year .....	22
Pyramid Shriners .....	22
Masonicare Hosts Special Visitors.....	24
Master Mason Brings Holiday Cheer.....	24
Craft at Refreshment .....	25
Craft at Labor .....	26
The Elephant in the Lodge Room.....	27
Booster Lists .....	28, 29
Proceedings Order Form for 2017 .....	30
Arabian Shrine Club .....	31
How Many Toys Can Two Ambulances Hold? .....	32,
My Biggest Problem with Freemasonry .....	33
Wolf Pack & CT Freemasons Family Day .....	34
2019 Nutmegger Reunion Invitation .....	35-36



## Connecticut FREEMASONS

**Volume 14 - Number 7**

### Publisher

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

### Publications Committee

Theodore J. Nelson, Chairman

Francis G. Way, Editor

Jeff S. Bartlett

Bud Buckner

Robert Dorr

Rev. Carl H. Anderson, Masonicare

Adam Raider, Masonicare

Margaret Steeves, Masonicare

### Creative/Layout

Pat Kalinauskas

### Contributors

John Amarilios

John Arizzi

Carl H. Anderson

Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Michael Calderone

John Chan

David R. Blythe, Sr.

Richard Denno

Sandie Greene

William L. Greene

Pat Kalinauskas

Gary A. Littlefield

Perne R. Maynard

Thomas Noone

Marshall K. Robinson

Dee A.C. Smith

Robert Stack

Kevin Tate

Jon-Paul Venoit

## Grand Lodge of Connecticut A.F. & A.M.

69 Masonic Avenue • Wallingford, CT 06492

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

1:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

203-679-5903 • 800-529-4161 (in-state only)

Fax: 203-679-5996

email: [grandlodge@masonicare.org](mailto:grandlodge@masonicare.org)

web: [www.ctfreemasons.net](http://www.ctfreemasons.net)

# A Time to Plant, A Time to Pluck Up That Which Is Planted

by Francis G. Way

While January is not the traditional time of planting in the spring, it is the time when officers traditionally move up the line. New Worshipful Masters are installed and they begin to work their plan to grow and improve their lodge. The start of a new year is also a good time for brothers to take stock and contemplate, and to renew one's commitment to the Craft and to the improvement the Craft should be making in the individual brother.

A recent posting in Brother Chris Hodapp's "Freemasonry for Dummies" blog caught my eye, and the story he told put me in mind of that contemplation and renewal. I thought it worth sharing for the start of the new Masonic year.

As Brother Chris informed his readers, on the Grand Lodge of Alberta's website there is a description of the "Ideal of a Freemason":

*"If you see a man who quietly and modestly moves in the sphere of his life; who, without blemish, fulfils his duty as a man, a subject, a husband and a father; who is pious without hypocrisy, benevolent without ostentation, and aids his fellow man without self-interest; whose heart beats warm for friendship, whose serene mind is open for licensed pleasures, who in vicissitudes does not despair, nor in fortune will be presumptuous, and who will be resolute in the hour of danger;*

*"The man who is free from superstition and free from infidelity; who in nature sees the finger of the Eternal Master; who feels and adores the higher destination of man; to whom faith, hope and charity are not mere words without any meaning; to whom property, nay even life, is not too dear for the protection of innocence and virtue, and for the defence of truth;*

*"The man who towards himself is a severe judge, but who is tolerant with the debilities of his neighbor; who endeavors to oppose errors without arrogance, and to promote intelligence without impatience; who properly understands how to estimate and employ his means; who honors virtue though it may be in the most humble garment, and who does not favor vice though it be clad in purple; and who administers justice to merit whether dwelling in palaces or cottages.*

*"The man who, without courting applause, is loved by all noble-minded men, respected by his superiors and revered by his subordinates; the man who never proclaims what he has done, can do, or will do, but where need is will lay hold with dispassionate courage, circumspect resolution, indefatigable exertion and a rare power of mind, and who will not cease until he has accomplished his work, and then, without pretension, will retire into the multitude because he did the good act, not for himself, but for the cause of good!"*

(Source: The Canadian Craftsman, March 15, 1868. M.W. Bro. Otto Klotz)

After reading, and re-reading this several times, it seemed to me a near perfect description of what every brother should strive to be – combining his religious faith with the tenets of Masonry and turning his rough ashlar into a better representation of the perfect ashlar. Truly, if every brother who reads this uses it as a measure of what he, himself, is, and can see his shortcomings, then that brother will begin the new year with a plan to better himself as a brother, and also, of necessity, as a person.

But, as is often the case with Masonic learning, there is more...much more. Brothers who remember the late Paul Harvey might, rightly so, imagine him intoning his famous "And now, the rest of the story."

Brother Chris was contacted by brothers from Canada, who read his post and who informed him that the fragment he posted in his blog is part of a longer piece, "Address to the Brethren," that is often given as the Charge to the Brethren at officer installations in Canada. The entire "Address to the Brethren" may be found at [http://www.freemasonry.bcy.ca/texts/address\\_to\\_brethren.html](http://www.freemasonry.bcy.ca/texts/address_to_brethren.html). It is well worth looking up and reading.

The Address to the Brethren is somewhat similar to parts of Connecticut's installation of officers, but the segment on the ideal of a Freemason is a hidden jewel.

And one final facet of this jewel reveals itself as an object on which to marvel. The author of this wonderful little piece was a German, Otto Klotz. English was Brother Otto's second language, and in that language he has produced prose the like of which many native speakers are unable to produce.

As 2019 begins, turn inward and contemplate what the ideal Freemason should be. Contemplate what a lodge of ideal Freemasons might accomplish in their community. Contemplate what many lodges of ideal Freemasons might accomplish in the world, "for the cause of good."

*Ed Note: We wish to thank Brother Chris Hodapp for allowing us to use excerpts from his blog posting, and for the inspiration he provides. If brethren are not reading the Freemasonry for Dummies blog ([freemasonsfordummies.blogspot.com](http://freemasonsfordummies.blogspot.com)) they should be.*

*Finally, further information on the origin of the address itself can be found at: <http://www.freemasonry.bcy.ca>*

**NEVER  
PAY DUES  
AGAIN!**

## The Grand Lodge has adopted a **Lifetime Membership Plan.**

- ★ Once purchased, you opt out of your local Lodge dues and Grand Lodge assessments.
- ★ Your Lodge, through the Plan, receives your dues until your 50th year of membership.
- ★ Upon your passing your Lodge still receives your dues benefit for an additional 10 years.
- ★ Regardless of your financial situation, once the Plan is purchased, you can't be dropped for non-payment of dues.
- ★ Applications and quotes for the Lifetime Membership Plan are **FREE**.
- ★ **Never pay dues again. Apply today!**
- ★ Contact your Lodge Secretary or Grand Lodge for an application. Grand Secretary: [grandsecretary@ctfreemasons.net](mailto:grandsecretary@ctfreemasons.net)

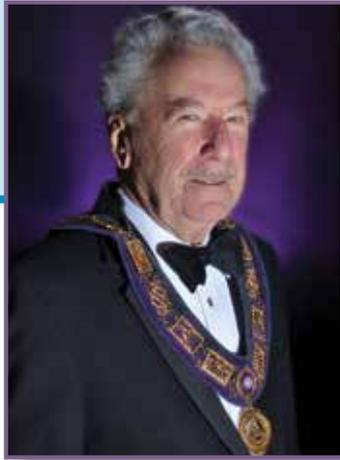
Connecticut Freemasons is the official publication of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut AF & AM. All original articles are subject to editing. All checks for payments and donations should be made out to Grand Lodge Publications and mailed to the Grand Lodge office at 69 Masonic Avenue, Wallingford, CT 06492.

**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

**A** new year and new beginnings. We hear it every year. For most of us, January 1 is another day. Yes, it's a holiday and the start of the new year, but for those of you who are new masters of your lodges, it is truly something new. It's an opportunity to do all of those things that your predecessors didn't do but you wished they had. It is your opportunity to shine, so to speak.

You can do that table lodge that your lodge hasn't done in years. You

can take a delegation from your lodge to visit a neighboring lodge. You can have an awards night and honor a first responder or other active member of your community. I know I am playing off my last article but it's a great time to do that. There are all kinds of neat programs that can be satisfying to those who run them and fun for those who attend.

I know that every now and then, I'll mention a lodge that has an interesting program or has done a one-time interesting program, so here's my latest one. In the 3rd District, one of the lodges hosted a Ladies at Table in a local restaurant and bore all of the costs. A free evening for those who availed themselves of it.

Sounds crazy, you say? As might be expected, the turnout was very good and everyone loved it. What it also did was bring the brothers and wives closer together and rejuvenated lodge interest in some of the brothers who attended. It helped bring the Masonic families closer together which is what we are about.

Doing things that involve the families of Masons helps strengthen our lodges. If you think of us Masons as strictly a "club" for men then you have lost sight of Freemasonry.

So my Brothers, I wish you all a happy and successful new year and look forward to visiting your lodge.

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

John P. Mizzone	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89	Michael J. Cross	Temple Lodge No. 16
James H. Ashburner	Estuary Lodge No. 43	Eric M. DiNicola	Temple Lodge No. 16
Erik P. Anderson	Granite Lodge No. 119	Michael R. Dyer	Temple Lodge No. 16
Peter N. DiGioia	Granite Lodge No. 119	Marquise Ramos	Union Lodge No. 31
Maxwell A. Thomas	Hiram Lodge No. 1	Rithya Claude	Village Lodge No. 29
Patrick H. Venetz	Hiram Lodge No. 1	Clinton J. Sosna	Village Lodge No. 29
Eddie C. Worthy II	Hiram Lodge No. 1	Ronald W. Spellman II	Village Lodge No. 29
Aidan D. Neely	Jeptha Lodge No. 95	Abdullrahim M. Jajeh	Washington Lodge No. 19
Charles J. Metzler III	St. Albans Lodge No. 38	John S. Papp	Washington Lodge No. 19
Christopher Redman	St. Albans Lodge No. 38	Louis A. Rondinello	Washington Lodge No. 19
James C. Christensen	Temple Lodge No. 16		



# Frederick W. Bushnell Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal In Bronze

Brother Frederick William Bushnell was born on June 4, 1963 in Sharon, the son of George and Delores (Fitting) Bushnell. Fred has two older sisters, Linda Jane and Patricia. Fred is a life-long resident of Northwestern Connecticut, having grown up in the town of Salisbury and attending Salisbury Central School and Housatonic Valley Regional High School where he graduated in 1981. During his formative years, Fred was active in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts where he rose to Senior Patrol Leader. He also helped establish the Junior Fire Fighter program in the Lakeville Hose Company located in the Lakeville section of Salisbury. At the Salisbury Memorial Day parade every other year, a scout is chosen to recite Lincoln's Gettysburg Address from memory and Fred was chosen to do so. For many years, Fred also assisted his parents with the placing of American flags and grave markers for former military interred in the cemeteries around Salisbury.

Fred was a member of the junior choir at the Salisbury Congregational Church and was an active member of the church as a youth and young adult. He served as a church usher for two years prior to attending college.

After graduation from high school, Fred attended State University of New York (SUNY) at Cobleskill, New York and obtained his two-year degree in 1983. Fred then joined the U.S. Air Force and served from 1983 through 2004. He received basic training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas and graduated as an Airman First Class. He then transferred to Chanute AFB in Illinois where he received technical training as a Special Purpose Refueling Vehicle mechanic.

He was stationed at RAF Alconbury in England from May 1984 through May 1987. While there, his first son, Cole, was born in August, 1984. During the summer of 1985, Fred was stationed in Lisbon, Portugal. His second son, Nicholas, was born in October of that year. He was promoted to the rank of Senior Airman in 1985 and Sergeant in 1986. From 1987 through April 1990, Fred was stationed at Davis Monthan AFB in Tucson, Arizona where he was promoted to Staff Sergeant. During that same posting, he was deployed to Egypt. From April 1990 through December 1992, Fred was based back in England at RAF Upper Heyford where he was in charge of the refueling maintenance shop. Fred's vanity license plate on his Ford F150 sports RAFUH in recognition of the time he spent there. Fred joined the Air Force Reserves at Westover Air Reserve Base in Massachusetts in August, 1993.

In December 1992, Fred moved back to Canaan and obtained employment as a vehicle mechanic at Community Lumber in Lakeville. He worked for Community Lumber until 1998 when the



*(l-r) MWGM Marshall K. Robinson, Bro. Frederick W. Bushnell, MWPGM Charles W. Yohe*

business was sold. During his tenure there, Fred was called up to again serve at Davis Monthan AFB from December 1995 through April 1996. In 1997, he was promoted to the rank of Technical Sergeant and then in 1998 was stationed in Germany at Gremersheim. In 1998, he changed jobs and began working at Dutchess County Diesel in Millerton, New York.

In 2001, Fred once again changed employers and began working for C.A. Lindell & Sons in Canaan, where he still works as the head of the maintenance shop, keeping their fleet of oil, propane, and lumber yard trucks maintained. He also is charged with repair and maintenance of the rental equipment that C.A. Lindell offers for use – including high lifts, stump grinders, tractors, backhoes, etc. and oversees the propane tank farm. In October, 2001, Fred was once again reactivated by the Air Force and was sent to Moron AFB in Spain. In February 2002, he was deployed to Qatar and Afghanistan to maintain and repair vehicles. He returned to Westover in June of 2002, where he remained until his deactivation in October of that year. His deactivation was short lived, as he was reactivated in January 2003 and spent another year at Westover.

In April, 2004, Fred married his beautiful wife Debbie and moved to West Cornwall. In 2005, he retired from the U.S. Air Force.

*Continued on page 7*

# From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

## President & CEO of Masonicare

Happy New Year to our fraternal family. We just celebrated our one-year anniversary of having acquired Chester Village West. Now known as Masonicare at Chester Village, the campus has undergone some much-needed major capital improvements in the past few months. These include all-new sidewalks and parking surfaces, a state-of-the-art back-up generator system and a soon-to-be completed large multi-function room.

In December, we were very pleased to honor our retiring Board Members. With the deepest of gratitude, we thank Carol Isaacs and Eloise Hazelwood for their years of service on the Residential Services Board. All of our Board members are volunteers, and we are blessed to have had their leadership and counsel. It also gave Chairman Bro. Bob Polito and me great pleasure to welcome Robert Harriman to the Residential Services Board and Gregory Wentworth back to The Masonic Charity Foundation Board.

By the way, congratulations to Bob on a significant achievement related to his “day



job” at Webster Bank, where he is senior vice president and director of government guaranteed lending. Coleman Publishing, a leading trade source for the small business industry, has named Bob *SBA Lender of the Year*. Kudos to Bob on this recognition and for helping small businesses grow and thrive.

A few weeks ago we welcomed a new community to our Assisted Living Services:

St. Jude Common in Norwich. St. Jude is our ninth contracted Assisted Living site, where Masonicare caregivers provide assistance, ensuring residents are safe and helping them to live as independently as possible.

I would like to end on a personal note. Late last year, my grandmother, Alyce, passed away at Masonicare Health Center where she had been a long-term care resident for many years. It’s never easy to say goodbye to a loved one, yet I am so grateful to everyone who took such good care of her. All of my grandparents received care from Masonicare, and Alyce was the last. I cannot tell you how humbled I am that all four were so respectfully and compassionately cared for by the organization I’ve been privileged to serve for almost three decades.

Sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon-Paul Venoit". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

---

## Bushnell Pierpont *continued from page 6*

Frederick W. Bushnell was initiated as an Entered Apprentice in Montgomery Lodge No. 13. As he was in the military and stationed in England, his Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees were conferred in the United Kingdom under dispensation. His father and one other brother of Montgomery Lodge, Bill Johnston, traveled to England for his Master Mason degree, and his father participated in his raising on November 19, 1986. He has been a member of Montgomery Lodge No. 13 continuously since that time. Like his father, who was a Past Master of Montgomery Lodge and its long-time Secretary until his passing, Fred willingly stepped into the position of Lodge and Temple Corporation Treasurer upon the passing of Brother Tony Belini.

For many years, even as a youth, Fred would assist with the annual Lodge fundraiser lobster sales on the third Saturday of June, July, August, and September. In addition to his responsibilities as Lodge and Temple Corporation treasurer, he currently is the “chief tail splitter” at the monthly sales. Fred has served his Lodge on various

committees such as scholarship, Lodge renovation, and, most recently, the Lodge merger committee. Fred often puts his mechanical expertise to use, repairing things around the Lodge with nothing more than a “thank you” for payment. Fred very willingly gives of his time to assist those in need. Fred also has a long association with the North Canaan Volunteer Fire Department where he took charge of the food concession during the annual Canaan Fire Department Carnival.

Fred’s free time is occupied with his step daughter, Jenna; his two sons, Cole and Nicholas; his two grandsons, Madden and Peyton; and his granddaughter, Ava.

In recognition of his service to our fraternity, his Lodge and community, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the state of Connecticut is pleased to present Brother Frederick W. Bushnell the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for distinguished Masonic service



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

*by Rev. Carl H. Anderson*

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. For many, 2018 seemed to go faster than ever, with 365 days moving at a more accelerated and rapid pace than last year. As time has marched on so quickly, like it or not, we say so long to 2018 and set our sights on 2019. As we start this journey into the new year, it is beneficial to take time to reflect upon the past, while making plans for the future. Not only do we learn from the mistakes of the past, but we also grow as we reflect upon the many lessons we learn along the way. While no one knows what this year will bring, with all the accomplishments and challenges ahead, there is optimism and hope. As Masons, we know that The Grand Architect is at work and is always ready to offer counsel and advice. We must make it a

goal to find time for prayer, the sacred scripture or whatever spiritual practice enhances your faith.

We are blessed with the assurance of God's presence. This presence serves as a compass that gives direction for life, and at the same time, is a spiritual anchor in times of trial. As we move through 2019, let us take a few moments each day to reflect upon the many mercies and graces that we receive from God. Let us spend a moment or two in prayer. Let us take a moment to consider the beauty of each day that God has given us to enjoy. While the road ahead is uncertain, God is our fail-proof GPS providing us direction along the way. So as men of faith, let us take time for prayer as our Masonic ritual urges. Let us rely on our faith, trusting that God will be there to guide and direct our path forward through 2019. May God richly bless you and your family in this New Year.

---

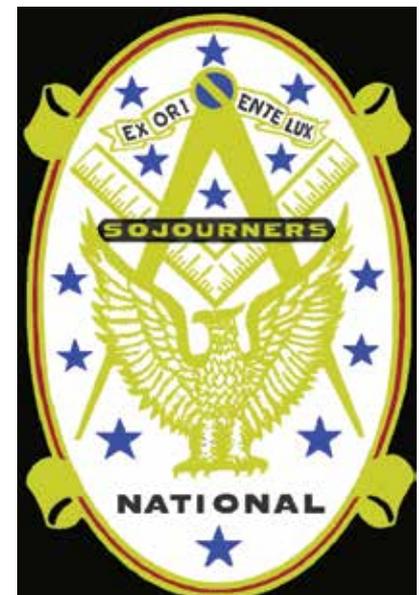
## **National Sojourners Incorporated – A Masonic Organization for Active Military or Veterans** *by William L. Greene*

National Sojourners is an organization for current or former members of the uniformed forces of the United States or who have served in any armed service of a nation allied with the United States in a time of war, or who have been elected to Honorary Members and are Master Masons.

There are 160 chapters in the United States as well as chapters in France, Guam and Germany. Presently there are two chapters in Connecticut. One chapter is Hartford Chapter No. 56 that meets during the day (at noon) at Sphinx Shrine in Newington with a dinner and meeting following. The other chapter is New London Chapter No. 58 that meets at a local restaurant in the New London area in the evening with dinner and meeting. Ladies are invited to attend all our meetings.

The purposes of National Sojourners is for the promotion of good fellowship among its members, for cultivating Masonic ideals, for supporting all patriotic aims and activities in Masonry, and for developing true patriotism and Americanism. In addition, the chapters support Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) in area universities and colleges and Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) in high schools by presenting certificates, medals and ribbons to cadets demonstrating the highest attributes of Americanism and support of the United States. The chapters also perform other activities such as "Presenting the Colors" or the "Building of the American Flag" program for Lodges, Masonic bodies or civilian organizations.

For further information on National Sojourners and on becoming a member of any chapter, contact M.W. William (Bill) Greene, Regional Representative, at [greenewl@vcharter.net](mailto:greenewl@vcharter.net)





## Grand Historian's Corner

by Gary A. Littlefield

**O**n May 25, 1909, the Connecticut State Library and Supreme Court building was dedicated by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and the Grand Master.

It was described as a perfect day when Governor Frank B. Weeks, members of the Judiciary and General Assembly gathered with the Grand Lodge to dedicate the building, which stands across the street from the State Capitol. The building committee of five (of which at least two were members of the Craft, Morgan G. Bulkeley and H. Wales Lines) had been formed in 1906 after complaints from the State Librarian that space was tight in the capitol building for the expanding library. Weston Grannis, Grand Master, together with Fred A. Verplanck (DGM), Randolph Chapman (GSW) and Justin Holden (GJW) and the remaining Grand Lodge officers dedicated the building in proper Masonic style. They had laid the cornerstone the previous July 29. The parade led around the capitol and Bushnell Park was led by Washington Commandery No. 1 Knights Templar and other Masonic bodies which numbered over 5,000. It is unlikely today that we could garner 5,000 Masons to march in a singular parade.

The cornerstone of the State Library that was laid in 1908 and contains the typical fare of newspaper articles, government documents, and the history of the Centennial of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut (1889), as well as badges from the centennial and a badge issued for the cornerstone laying. There are also proceedings of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch, Grand Council Royal and Select, Masonic Veterans Association, and The Masonic Charity Foundation. They are preserved for future ages. The building is just one of many dedicated by the Masonic fraternity in Connecticut.



We often hear from those who are unfamiliar with our fraternity that we are a secret society. Grand Master Albert Ruwet in 1958, 60 years ago, remarked about that by saying, "There is quite a difference between a secret society and a society with secrets. When you come down to the fundamentals of Masonry, it may be plainly said that the only secrets in Masonry are the modes of recognition. Naturally a Mason will not divulge those things to one who is not a Mason and brother. Not only that, but a Mason with common sense will not go from place to place reciting Masonic ritual where any and all can get an earful." He continued

by saying, "There are no secrets about the aspects of Masonry, but every Mason should take pride in letting the world know that he is striving and working for goals that are well worth while in the sight of God and man."



Three of the signers of the Declaration of Independence from Connecticut were not Masons despite some historians and Masonic brothers claiming they were. Roger Sherman was often claimed to have been a Mason; he was not although his two sons were Masons. The claim that his apron is in the archives at Yale University is believed to be the apron of Deputy Grand Master David Daggett who was a distant relative. William Williams was not a Mason although others with the same "common name" were brothers of the craft. Samuel Huntington was not a Mason, but his nephew, again with the same name was made a Mason in Wooster Lodge No. 10 in 1795, and later moved to Ohio where he was elected Governor. The fourth signer continues to be assumed as a member of the Craft, Oliver Wolcott. Wolcott was not a Mason, but his son Oliver Wolcott, Jr., was made one at St. John's Lodge No. 4 and was secretary of the lodge until he joined Washington's cabinet. When he was Governor of Connecticut in 1817, the younger Wolcott was chosen from outside the ranks of Grand Lodge and served as Grand Master from 1818 to 1823. The most difficult task that historians seem to face are names that are similar, and sometimes it is difficult to follow in genealogical research.



## 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

# The RBCs of Fraternalism *by Robert Stack*

The topic of this article is paraphrased from the pledge training manuals of my college fraternity, Sigma Chi, and its tenets apply to all well balanced, successful fraternal organizations. As we are struggling to maintain and grow Masonry, I believe there are take-aways from this literary exercise of which we can take advantage. The RBCs of fraternalism stand for **Ritual, Brotherhood** and **Club**. Together they are the elements of our organization. We may not want to admit any one element is critical or essential in any way. There are those that believe we are on a higher astral plane, and don't need to address all elements, but if we are in denial, we will shrink like the Shakers.

Is one element more important than others? Is there an order? Yes, for we know **Ritual** is the foundation. It addresses our ideals and binds us through our obligations. It also binds our Lodges together in commonality. A brother from New Haven has gone through the same learnings and ritual initiations, Degrees, as one from Merrow or Middletown. Ritual reveals and establishes our idealistic purposes. It acknowledges that a brotherhood in harmony is the strength of such societies.

**Brotherhood** is the result of working and living together in harmony. In Brotherhood we accomplish great tasks, whether it is in our philanthropic efforts or putting on a great Degree. Brotherhood is the highest social purpose any organization can have.

The third element is **Club**, or the base social aspect of an organization. Clubs may stand alone, such as a country club or a tennis club, but lack the bonds of fraternalism. In a club, an individual may come and go, take advantage of the assets of membership, but the purposes are rather shallow by our standards. Yet, the Club aspect applies to the fun we have, which is a truly necessary element. Club also applies to the broader activities we participate in. As a club we may fundraise, participate in our community events, pursue philanthropy, and have our Ladies at the Table. This is the fun we have enabled by our organization.

So, is there an order of importance? Yes, **Ritual, Brotherhood** and **Club**. Remove Ritual you will simply have a club. Without Brotherhood there would be nothing to hold the fraternity together. There would not be the bonds that make living and working together in harmony joyful. Remove the Club you have a very narrow organization, without a social aspect. We would lack the opportunity to express our ideals and brotherhood.

An organization that has all these elements is very appealing. It may be hard to sell the Ritual verbally, but the mystery of our 300-plus year old ritual is world renowned. The fraternity of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, our founding fathers, and so many world leaders over the past centuries, has the potential to draw both the curious as well as those who cherish history, democracy and freedom. As for the social aspect, the Club is the fun element, necessary to build enthusiasm and allow the bonds of Brotherhood to grow. There are many competing avenues of entertainment which draw new members away from the

activities of the Lodge. We need to make our Lodges worthy of our investment in that portion of time we devote to refreshment. We need to make sure our Lodges have "fun" events as part of the trestleboard. That way we will retain our new members, rather than have them become Master Masons, never to be seen again at another meeting. And finally, Brotherhood will grow from working and achieving together. The social aspect can be centered around helping a worthy brother in need or the community in general. The great benefit of working in the community is the public has the opportunity to see the Brotherhood in action. It's our advertising, letting the public know we are out there doing good deeds, which appeals to so many individuals. With the proper balance, I believe we can make this fraternity grow in a positive spiral.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

Peter Sponheimer

Union Lodge No. 40 12/4/58

Mark F. Gross

Hiram Lodge No. 18 ~ 6/23/66

Frank DiNardo

St. Albans Lodge No. 38 ~ 12/6/66

Perry E. Gann, Jr.

Coasta Lodge No. 57 ~ 10/31/67

Mark B. Sales, Jr.

Harmony Lodge No. 67 ~ 6/18/68

Eric A. Silver

Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125 ~ 1/16/69

Willard A. Booth

Federal Lodge No. 17 ~ 1/20/69

# Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr.

Welcome to 2019! The beginning of the second half of the Scottish Rite year. It is hoped that you all had a pleasant and safe holiday season.

To the members of the 2018 Fall Class, your Scottish Rite journey has only just begun. It can continue by returning to the Valley of Hartford or visiting other Valleys to view more degrees and fill your passport to receive a Golden Passport Book. If you enjoyed your Scottish Rite experience, spread the word to your fellow Blue Lodge brothers. You are the future of the Valley of Hartford. It is our hope that you get involved in the presentation of future degrees, either on stage or behind the scenes. Let the Valley office know and they will put you in contact with the right brothers.

Some newly selected degrees are planned for 2019 so you have a chance to see a degree that you may have missed or an updated version of one. The values learned should be reinforced from time to time if one desires to relate the core values to everyday life. Seeing a Scottish Rite degree portrayed again, one gets a better understanding of the meanings behind each degree. As Ill. Bro. Albert Pike, 33°, said:

*“Education is the greatest, yea, the only safeguard of Liberty. When was there ever a country where the common people were uniformly uneducated, in which they were not slaves? ... A community of ignorant and uneducated men is not capable of self-government...”*

*“Masonry is a march and a struggle toward the Light. For the individual as well as the nation, Light is Virtue, Manliness, Intelligence, Liberty, tyranny over the soul or body, is darkness.” “He who does right is better than he who thinks right.”*

This spring season begins with the live portrayal of the 4th and 14th degrees on Thursday, February 7 at 7:30 p.m. Notification will be made in case of a snow cancellation. All

Thursday evening degrees are preceded by an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner at 6:15 p.m.

The balance of the spring schedule is: Thursday, February 28, 20th Degree (DVD) and the 16th Degree; Thursday, March 21, the 18th Degree; and finally on Saturday, April 13, at 9 a.m., the 29th and 32nd Degrees, followed by the traditional prime rib luncheon at noon.

Details for spring/summer Family Life programs will be forthcoming, but keep in mind the Worker’s Night Banquet on May 9 and the Summer Family Picnic on July 14. Details will be forthcoming as soon as they are firmed up. Family Life programs are presented free or at a greatly reduced rate, and show that the Scottish Rite is not merely a degree organization. Should you have any ideas for Family Life events, contact Bro. Ed Schilke through the valley office, at (860) 666-0712, or by email at [sect@snet.net](mailto:sect@snet.net)

Applications for the Abbott and Valley of Hartford Scholarships are now available at <https://scottishritenmj.org/abbott>. Children or grandchildren of Valley brethren with a GPA of at least 2.75 are eligible to apply. Applications must be signed and submitted in duplicate, along with one copy each of the required supporting documentation: a FAFSA Report;

original copies of the school’s latest grade transcript; and any letters of recommendation. All items need to be received in the Valley office no later than April 1, 2019. School transcripts can either be submitted by the applicant in a sealed school envelope, or sent directly by the school to the Valley of Hartford, P.O. Box 310198, Newington, CT 06131-0198.

For anyone interested in becoming a member of the Scottish Rite, informational DVD’s are available upon request from the Valley of Hartford office. Contact the office at (860) 666-0712 or [sect@snet.net](mailto:sect@snet.net). Tours of the facility are also available.



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

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

---

**LOOKING FOR SOMETHING  
MORE IN MASONRY?**  
*Why not consider being part of  
the 2019 Spring Class.*

**Applications are now being accepted for  
those Masons interested in enhancing  
their Masonic knowledge by joining  
the “College of Freemasonry” —  
the Scottish Rite.**

**The Spring class begins on  
Thursday, February 7, 2019  
at 7:15 p.m.**

**See what Scottish Rite has to offer  
by visiting our website:  
[www.valleyofhartford.org](http://www.valleyofhartford.org)**

# More Light Now: The SECRET MASTER Returns!

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

On Monday, January 21, at 7:30 p.m., the Valley of Bridgeport will perform the rarely presented “Secret Master” play after a two year hiatus at the Leo H. Lohrman, II, Theatre in Stratford. The play will be open to all Master Masons with a current dues card (the theater will be tiled). To all Master Masons, whether belonging to the Rite or not, this is a rare opportunity to catch a glimpse of rarely seen Masonic light, that will greatly embellish the work you are doing in your Blue Lodge. It is unclear when this very special presentation will be repeated, so this is truly a rare opportunity to see this.

The presentation brings light to a number of exoteric and esoteric Masonic concepts that should provide fruitful groundwork for further studies by those seeking additional light and wisdom in Masonry. Some examples follow:

One is the allusion to the Hebraic character “Z” or Zayin that further alludes to the password formerly employed in the original, now obsolete, underlying historical degree. This matter then alludes to a certain Kabbalistic concept, and is related to the number 7.

Secondly, another, perhaps less arcane matter, is that the first and most profound virtue is that of Duty. Duty, is the one Great Imperative of Freemasonry. “Duty is inflexible as fate and exacting as necessity.” Duty entails the practice of silence, strict obedience and fidelity. Sadly most choose to impatiently leapfrog this type of difficult development as they charge through life, ego bound, self absorbed and believing that life is but a stage to played on, and upon which to display their mercurial abilities. Rarely do men stop to think on how they might effectively command others, if they themselves do not know how to obey.

A third concept presented is that of Secrecy. This is illustrated by investing the candidate with its sign. This is a very practical matter, one which might be questioned by naïve and shallow thinkers, but which is as relevant today (perhaps even more so) as when Albert Pike wrote “Secrecy is indispensable in a Mason of whatever degree... how profound a folly it would be to betray our secrets to those who, bound to us by no tie of common obligation might, by obtaining them, call on us in their extremity, when the urgency of the occasion should allow us no time for inquiry, and the peremptory mandate of our obligation compel us to do a brother’s duty to a base impostor” [Morals and Dogma p. 109]

The Key of Ivory is a central theme in this play, and a pinnacle of importance in this presentation. This key, a symbol of fidelity and prudence, is symbolic of a true comprehension and adoption of Freemasonic principles. By effectively utilizing this key, by ordering our existence in accordance with these wise and invaluable principles, we begin to attain to a consciousness which will more fully reveal the purpose of our existences and that of the cosmos. Thus we see that possession of this key, along with the previously developed ability to properly utilize it, is vital, if we are to successfully attain entry

into the proverbial Sanctum Santorum. Completion of the Sanctum is indeed the essence of True Initiation, the one which is unheralded by Man, uncelebrated by jewels and never acclaimed from without. Like physical birth and death it is something only the individual can experience and as the guardian of the gate will never permit us entry thereto unless we are truly prepared and immersed in Masonic Light.

Finally, perhaps the most profound concept in this presentation, which brings a great revelation about the material plane of existence and our individual roles in it, is the explanation of

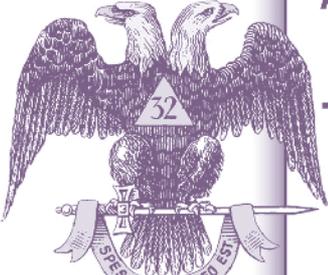
the Mystery of the Triangle. If the massive import of this concept is properly digested and understood, one will instantly comprehend the tragic mass error that has plagued humanity for aeons, and the need for an age of Universal Brotherhood, one that our Institution has labored for centuries to help materialize, will become self evident.

This play is truly a dazzling source of light for those who are hungry for it! Fittingly we will present it during that part of the year when the dearth of light is most sorely felt. But fear not, the theatre is heated!

I hope your plans will allow you to join us for this presentation! Feel free to contact me at the address above should you have any questions about any of the above.

*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!**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2019**  
7:30 p.m.

**THE SECRET MASTER**

Leo H. Lohrman, II, Scottish Rite  
Theatre, 2422 Main St., Stratford, CT

Open to all Master Masons (from any  
jurisdiction) with a current dues card.

Consistory Office - 203-375-0064.

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 Office@LafayetteConsistory.com 203-375-0064	<b>Valley of New Haven</b> 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com 203-269-0336	<b>Valley of Waterbury</b> 529 Highland Avenue Waterbury, CT 06708 cdoneill@snet.net 203-754-8209
--	--	---

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

# Trinity Commandery No. 3 Holds Christmas Observance *by Francis G. Way*

On Saturday afternoon, December 8, with the hint of snow in the air, Trinity Commandery No. 3 gathered in Darien to celebrate their Annual Knights Templar Christmas Observance.

After a short social hour, SK Michael D. Sabia, Jr., Eminent Commander, gathered the Sir Knights in the lodge room. The officers of the Commandery processed in and took their places at the cross-shaped table, that was adorned with gorgeous poinsettias.

Readings from the books of Isaiah, Luke, Matthew and John were interspersed with Christmas carols and the traditional toasts, including the toast to Most Eminent Grand Master Jeffrey N. Nelson, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment. SK Nelson's response was read by SK Vincent A. Cowie, REPGC and Past Northeast Department Commander.

Also in attendance were SK Paul L. Chello, REGC of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Connecticut, Companion and SK Charles D. O'Neill, Most Puissant Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masons of Connecticut, and Companion and SK James S. McNeely, IV, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Connecticut.



*The table with poinsettias (photo by Charles D. O'Neill)*



*Eminent Commander Michael Sabia greets the assembly*



# Scottish Rite Bus Trip to the Gilded Age

by Francis G. Way

On a chilly but sunny December Sunday morning, 47 Scottish Rite Masons, their ladies and friends embarked on a bus trip to Newport, Rhode Island to see the mansions and experience Newport at Christmas time. The bus trip, arranged by Valley of Hartford Family Life chairman Ed Schilke, and run by Friendship Tours, was the latest in a series of bus trips sponsored and partially subsidized by the Valley, intent of which is to enrich the lives of the Valley's members and their families.

The trip began in a rather festive way, as the attendees boarded the Peter Pan coach to discover that driver Bob had literally decked the halls for the Christmas season. Strings of lights with garland, adorned by Christmas ornaments and candy canes, ran the length of each side of the bus, above the seats. Santa Claus, Christmas trees, reindeer and snowmen decals adorned the windows. Bob made sure that each passenger knew the bus number (Peter Pan 20422) but he said it was easier to just look for the decorated bus. And it was.

At 8 a.m. the bus pulled out, headed for a coffee stop in Mystic, and a little after 10:30 a.m the bus pulled into the parking lot across the street from The Marble House. Just a few minutes later, the group was taking in the elegant facade of the "cottage" that William Vanderbilt gifted to his wife Alva.

Before long the group was winding its way through a tour that included the dining room, where chairs, inspired by the chairs at the palace of Versailles and which weighed 75 pounds each, lined a long dining table under a portrait of the Sun King himself, and the Gothic Room, intended to house Alva's collection of medieval and Renaissance art, with its stained glass windows, impressive fireplace and stone arched ceiling. The main ballroom was most impressive, as almost every surface was clad in 22 karat gold leaf.

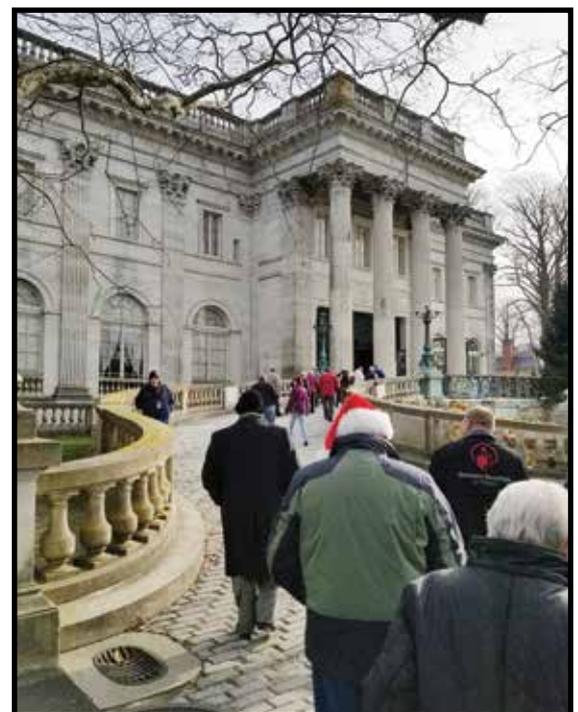
The house gets its name from the walls, that, with the exception of one small area, were clad in Siena marble. Costing \$11 million dollars to construct in the late 1800's, it would cost more than \$330 million to construct now.

After the tour and the obligatory but pleasant stop in the gift shop, it was back on the bus and off to Sunday brunch.

Brother Ed had arranged a wonderful Sunday brunch at the Atlantic Resort Newport in Middletown, Rhode Island. The food was delicious and the setting much more modern, if much less opulent than the Marble House.

Before long it was back on the bus and off to The Breakers.

The Breakers was the summer home of William Vanderbilt's brother, Cornelius. Larger and grander than the Marble House, the mansion stands on the grounds of an earlier mansion that burned down. When rebuilding, Vanderbilt insisted the new "cottage" be fireproof, so the internal construction is steel truss, and the boiler is not located in the house but farther away under the front lawn.



*Continued on page 14*



## Scottish Rite Bus Trip *continued from page 14*

The Grand Hall is most impressive, and the rooms surrounding the Great Room – the Billiard Room, the Morning Room (with its platinum leafed panels), the Library and the Music Room – all have their own character and flair. Upstairs are bathrooms and bedrooms, and there are stairways that lead to staff quarters and an apartment that was used by Vanderbilt descendants up until 2015.

After the tour, everyone returned to the bus, and after stopping to pick up a tour guide, all were treated to a bus tour of Newport. There were many points of interest, including the Masonic Lodge in Newport.

Following a full day, the bus turned toward home, making the trek up and over the Newport Bridge, the soft glow of Christmas lights illuminating the interior of the bus.

Many thanks go to Brother Ed for arranging such an incredible tour. Everyone enjoyed the day, and this author and his family have decided to pay close attention to upcoming bus trips for more enjoyable times to come with the Valley of Hartford.



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

- |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ronald E. Anderson       | Uriel Lodge No. 24              |
| Laurence E. Atwell       | Columbia Lodge No. 25           |
| Paul D. Bemis Jr         | Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4   |
| John G. Betar Sr.        | Corinthian Lodge No. 104        |
| Allyn W. Bierce          | Montgomery Lodge No. 13         |
| Russell F. Bjorklund     | Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4   |
| Timothy J. Broderick     | Village Lodge No. 29            |
| Howard G. Christensen    | Union Lodge No. 31              |
| Mrs. G. Herbert Clarke   | Hartford Evergreen 88           |
| Michael Daskal           | Harmony Lodge No. 42            |
| Guy V. Dyer Jr           | Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4   |
| Paul W. Entress          | Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4   |
| Aquiles V. Faustino      | Union Lodge No. 31              |
| David E. Ferguson        | Bay View Lodge No. 120          |
| Willard H. Forristall    | Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4   |
| Bryan Fowler             | Jeppha Lodge No. 95             |
| Bruce G. Gillies         | Union Lodge No. 5               |
| Sydney R. Goodrich       | Uriel Lodge No. 24              |
| Edwin S. Jankura         | Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142   |
| Jerry D. Jensen          | Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34 |
| William A. Kelly         | Composite Lodge No. 28          |
| Richard A. Kingsley      | Manchester Lodge No. 73         |
| Robert G. Kruger         | Ansantawae Lodge No. 89         |
| John V. Leffingwell      | St. Alban's Lodge No. 38        |
| Malcolm L. Macintosh     | Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4   |
| Roger A. Mahieu          | Seneca Lodge No. 55             |
| Mrs. George A. Marquardt | Coastal Lodge No. 57            |
| John F. Olson            | Estuary Lodge No. 43            |
| Rubin Potoff             | Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140      |
| Donald Robinson          | Coastal Lodge No. 57            |
| Wilson C. Ryder Jr       | America-St. John's Lodge No. 8  |
| David S. Sayad           | Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4   |
| John W. Snape            | Montgomery Lodge No. 13         |
| Arthur E. Staib          | Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4   |
| Byron L. Thompson        | Uriel Lodge No. 24              |
| L. Donald Uphold         | Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142   |
| Elliot J. Wilcox         | St. Alban's Lodge No. 38        |
| Edward J. Yodkins        | St. Luke's Lodge No. 48         |

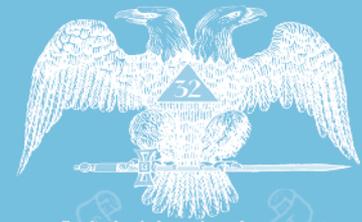
*Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite*

THE VALLEY OF NEW HAVEN  
Masonic Temple, 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven

**LOOKING FOR  
SOMETHING MORE  
IN MASONRY?**

*Applications still being  
accepted for the current  
Scottish Rite Classes*

*See what we have to offer  
by visiting our website:  
valleyofnewhaven.org*



For further information, please contact  
Charles D. O'Neill: (203)-770-4818, cdoneill@snet.net  
or any member of the Valley.

**Thinking of Buying  
or Selling?  
Think of Stamm Eddy!**



❖ SMARTER  
❖ BOLDER  
❖ FASTER  
**CHIP  
STAMM**  
Broker/Owner  
860-558-8310(c)



**39 East Cedar Street  
860-666-1449**

*"on the square"  
in Newington Center*  
[www.StammEddyRealty.com](http://www.StammEddyRealty.com)



# Level Steps by Jonti Marks *Reviewed by John A. Amarilios*

**L**evel Steps is an imported paperback tome, diminutive not in content but in physical size, measuring a mere 6" by 4", and a bit over a ¼" thick. This makes it a perfect meditation tool, easy to pack away while traveling or for keeping by the bedside. The daily reinforcement and advancement of Masonic philosophy, if worked into a five minute daily ritual, will serve to reinvigorate and remind each of us of the existence of the Light, even though we are often time immersed in the darkness sometimes so unhappily prevalent in our daily lives and vocations.

The book draws upon a myriad of influential sources for its daily inspirations, which number 100 in all. Quotes from Abraham Lincoln, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and George Washington, sit alongside excerpts from the various Masonic

rituals which emanate presumably from the UGLE, the Antient Charges, as well as a number of other American and Continental philosophers, writers, poets and Freemasons.

As it has been often said, consistency is the key to breaking bad habits and forming good ones. Level Steps is a worthwhile tool for the seeker of Light and Wisdom, and if he consistently works through each one of these bits of Masonic Reason, he will find he can accomplish this a tad over three times a year, which should enable him to absorb and make his own the invaluable concepts imparted herein.

ISBN 9780993112768



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



### Happy New Year 2019 - I Resolve To... *by Richard F. Denno*

**I**t's time to ring in the New Year – 2019. For many of us that means making New Year's Resolutions, which we PROMISE not to break. It is a time for reflection on the year past, and goal-setting for the year ahead. How far back does this date, and how does this involve organ and tissue donation?

New Year's Resolutions are a tradition in which a person resolves to change an undesired trait or behavior, to accomplish a personal goal, or to improve their life. Babylonians made promises to the gods. The Romans began each year by making promises to the God Janus, for whom the month of January is named. In the Medieval Era, the Knights took the 'Peacock Vow' at the end of the Christmas season each year to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry.

Notice that in all cases, our resolutions or promises are made to God or a higher power. As Freemasons, our vow or oath to that Supreme Body is the very essence of our Fraternity. Just as the Knights took the 'Peacock Vow' re-affirming their commitment to chivalry, Freemasons vow to come to the aid of others in need.

What greater act of chivalry can there be than providing others with the gift of added time to share with family and friends? Who of us hasn't looked to the heavens, beseeching God for just a few more years or months with our loved ones? We would most willingly give all material possessions for more time to share precious moments with them.

It is in fact within our power to do just that. By registering as an organ, tissue, eye donor waiting list, we provide hope to those in desperate need of a lifesaving

transplant. It's as simple as registering online at [www.registerme.org](http://www.registerme.org). Upon your death, your precious organs will provide those on the waiting list with the gift of extended and improved quality of life.

An old expression goes like this – 'Nobody ever got out of here alive.' Through your kindness, you will, in effect, do just that by living on in the life of your organ/eye donor recipient. You can also become a living donor, with donation of certain organs such as a kidney (you can live well on just one,) or a part of your liver or lung. For information on living donation, go to [www.neds.org](http://www.neds.org).

During this season of celebration, please give others the opportunity to celebrate as well. From your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program Committee – Happy New Year!

# District 2

Lodges 13, 18, 21, 40, 48, 49, 61, 64



## Union Lodge No. 40: A Strong Finish to 2018 *by John Arizzi*

As the weather turned colder and the days grew shorter, the brothers of Union Lodge No. 40 got to work putting in a strong finish to the year! For the third year in a row, Union Lodge supported the Daily Bread Food Pantry at St. James Episcopal Church at their annual pre-holiday food distribution. The pantry serves local registered families on a weekly basis, and the Monday before Thanksgiving is their busiest distribution of the year, providing all the fixin's for that special holiday meal. The lodge donated a 26 ft. U-Haul and Brothers John Arizzi and Kevin White took the trip to the Connecticut Food Bank in Wallingford at 6:30 a.m., where they loaded the truck with nearly 8,000 pounds of produce and nearly 500 turkeys, with help from members of the United States Coast Guard. They were joined by Brother Rodrigo Martins who helped unload the truck back in Danbury and distribute turkeys to over 600 families from the community in need of assistance. Thank you to all the brothers and their support.

On November 20, we welcomed a new brother into the Union Lodge family. Brother Gary Ljungquist of Pawling, New York, was initiated as an Entered apprentice. With Brother David McClain sitting in the East, all of the brothers put on a wonderful degree. Congratulations to Dave on a successful first degree, and to our new Brother, Gary!

With all of this going on, a few of the brothers were committed to seeking further light! Brothers Jim Laverty and John Ziegler continued their masonic journeys and were recipients of the 32nd degree of the Scottish Rite, meanwhile Brother Dave McClain achieved the goal of receiving all 32 degrees. Congratulations!

Finally, with all of this good work to celebrate, several of the Brothers of Union Lodge with a few family and friends gathered to celebrate the holiday season at Mazzo in Danbury. Over 40 people came out for a great evening of conversation, and holiday cheer. A special thanks to Worshipful Master Mike and all of the officers on a great year!



*Union Lodge welcomes Gary Ljungquist into the Craft as he begins his journey as a new Entered Apprentice: (front l-r) Bro. Will Keller, WB Mike Skrocki, Bro. Gary Ljungquist, Bro. David McClain, Bro. Rodrigo Martins, Bro. Richard Danise, Bro. Jonathan DeBaun Rear: WB Bryan Moran, WB Christopher Tiberious Gould, and Bro. John Arizzi.*



*Brothers John Ziegler and Jim Laverty attain the 32nd degree in the Scottish Rite on December 1. Congratulations, Brothers!*



*Brothers and guests share some holiday cheer as Mazzo's on December 11.*



*Brothers John Arizzi and Rodrigo Martins handing out turkeys at Daily Bread Food Pantry*



*Brother Rodrigo Martins unloads 50 lb bags of carrots at Daily Bread Food Pantry*



*Former high school classmates reunited after 20 years at the altar of masonry, Brothers David McClain and John Arizzi celebrate the holidays with their wives Michelle and Missy. Brothers Arizzi and McClain will be installed as the Worshipful Master and Senior Warden respectively for Union Lodge No. 40 in 2019.*



## BULLS-EYE! Unity Lodge No. 148 Axe Throwing *by Thomas Noone*



*Brother Jason Kilduff scores a bulls-eye with the HANDLE of his axe.*

Unity Lodge No. 148 of New Britain organized an event in cooperation with Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 of Newington for a night of axe throwing at Montana Nights Axe Throwing, a new club that recently opened in Newington.

Thirty brothers, representing five lodges shared beers and laughs all night, with some brothers traveling from as far as Danbury to attend.

For many of the brothers it was their first time throwing an axe at a target. Despite being novices of the sport, one of them, Bro Jason Kilduff, got fancy with it by scoring a bulls-eye with the axe handle, rather than the blade. His bullseye doubtlessly proves the brother's prowess in showing everyone "how it's REALLY done!"

Montana Nights confirmed the rare occurrence: "We have seen handles stick, but never a bullseye..."

The evening ended with more fellowship at a local tavern playing pool, eating pizza, and singing karaoke.

The night was filled with memorable moments which gave all the attending brothers that refreshing feeling that these events are what all brothers need more of.

Bro. Ryan Hunt, Senior Warden of Sequin-Level Lodge, announced his initiative for similar events in the future, in a focused series he coined "nights of Masonic mischief."

This was certainly an event for the record books and all the brothers are eager for the next joint night out.

## Unity Lodge No. 148 Donate To New Britain Police Explorers Program

*by Kevin Tate*

Unity Lodge No. 148 of New Britain made their annual donation to the New Britain Police Explorers Program on November 25! This contribution came through the hard work of the Lodge's Community Outreach Committee chaired by Brother Paul D. Catanzaro. Thank you to Brother Paul and all of the Lodge brothers who assisted with the fund raising efforts at the New Britain Car Show. They raised over \$300 which went directly to the New Britain Police Explorers Program. Thank you also to the Nathan Hale Chapter DeMolay Boys and the New Britain Assembly Rainbow Girls for their hard work and assistance in making this fundraiser a success!

The New Britain Police Explorers Program sent the following to the Lodge in response to the donation:

"We just want to thank the Masons Unity Lodge 148 for their donation. They never fail to help out our program. Thank you guys so much. Your support has helped us out a lot throughout the years!"



*WB Kevin Tate, Angel (Police Explorer), and Bro. Paul Catanzaro.*

*District 5 continued on page 23*

# Masonic Awareness by Charles W. Yohe

It has been a few months since I've expressed my opinions in the *Connecticut Freemasons*, but as we begin yet another year, on behalf of the Masonic Awareness Committee, I would like to share some thoughts for you to consider – all with the intention of making Connecticut Masonry better and stronger.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will read (hopefully) an article posted by WB Perne Maynard on behalf of the Committee on Community Action. In that article, WB Maynard implies that young Masons are not performing the ritual because society is rapidly changing and our ritual does not resonate with them. A visit to any of the Scottish Rite Valleys in Connecticut would quickly dispel that notion, as the Valleys have many active young Brothers who are taking part in the degrees and learning as they impart the core values of our Fraternity to both new candidates and established members at our Reunions. Although “relevance” may play a part, I believe the issues we currently need to address go beyond making changes in our ritual. Let me explain.

I am currently reading *Benjamin Franklin: The Autobiography and Other Writings* selected and edited by L. Jesse LeMisch. It is interesting reading especially since much of it is in Franklin's own words. From the writings, Brother Benjamin Franklin clearly exhibited all the great attributes of a Mason long before he ever petitioned for membership in a Lodge. And frankly, isn't that what we are looking for when we investigate any potential member? Franklin founded a group called the Junto with other young artisans and craftsmen in early 1700's Philadelphia. The Junto held regular meetings to share and discuss issues of the day and brainstorm ideas for improving the society of that time. A series of 24 questions were asked at each meeting and each member was expected to participate by answering, in turn, to their fellow members. The questions not only involved the welfare of the members of the Junto, but also sought to dissect the reasons for any business failing or any business being wildly successful. In all, the intention was to help each member improve and, by doing so, improve the community in which they lived and worked. Franklin was a master at improving himself while helping improve his community and those around him. He found that in doing good and beneficent things, he also increased his financial standing. Good begets good.

Let's fast-forward to 2019. Our Lodges are about to embark on a new year – many with new leadership and some employing the labors of Past Masters to lead the Lodge. Regardless, here are some thoughts on presiding over the best year possible for your Lodge.

First, there is no doubt that communication is important. Every member of your Lodge, no matter where he resides or his ability to attend your meetings due to health, disability, or distance, deserves to be kept up to date on what is happening in your Lodge. And yes, that means regular trestleboards! But beyond that, someone in your Lodge, perhaps a committee of the primary elected officers, should be placing periodic “wellness” calls or making personal visits with those members who don't or can't attend regularly.

Second, impart and share knowledge with your members. Get back to the basics. Remember that the purpose behind each of our degrees is to impart knowledge. But the learning must not stop at the conclusion of the Master Mason degree. Every one of your members deserves to be paid the wages that he is due. In the installation ceremony, the Worshipful Master is presented with a copy of Masonic Law and Practice as applied to this jurisdiction. With that, he is referred to the ‘Landmarks of Masonry’ and admonished that “a frequent rehearsal of these tenets will be of incalculable benefit to your Lodge. The Book of Constitutions you are to search at all times; cause it to be read in your Lodge that none may pretend ignorance of its requirements.” I don't know about you, but I've yet to attend a Lodge meeting where the Landmarks or the Constitutions were discussed – in whole or in part. I very much doubt that many Connecticut Masons today even know what is written in our Landmarks and Constitutions. This, my Brothers, is part of the instruction to the Master that is issued at every opening and closing: “Set the Craft to work and give them good instructions for their labors.” Beyond this, host educational meetings where the lessons contained in each of our degrees can be examined and discussed among the members present. Seek to improve your Lodge by improving the knowledge of your members.

Finally, don't monopolize! Engage your Lodge members – young and old, new and seasoned in carrying out the works of the Lodge. Plan and execute activities that keep your membership interested and enthused. Similarly, plan and promote programs to which the community is invited so that the Lodge has an opportunity to attract new members and grow. To this end, make sure to keep the Lodge property tidy, neat, and in good repair to the extent possible. Do what you can to make your Lodge a credit to the community in which you are located.

I fear that one of the problems Masonry faces is that we “overpromise and underdeliver.” This, in my opinion leads

*Continued on page 21*

# “RE” *by Dee A.C. Smith*

Brethren, as we enter yet another new year, let us pause a moment and **REFLECT** on our Fraternity, **RENEW** our vows and **RESOLVE** to **RECOUP** and **REKINDLE** our spirit of the past. I **REALIZE** that our ranks have been **REDUCED** over the years. The **REASONS** for this are many and yet all our **RESEARCH** has done is to **REMIND** us to **RETRACE** our steps over the past thirty or so years and **REAPPLY** ourselves.

In my opinion, the time has come to **REEVALUATE** our goals, **REJECT** some old-age myths and strategies and **REESTABLISH** trends that **REINFORCE** our public **REPUTATION** as a charitable service organization.

We are **NOT** a secret organization.

We are **NOT** discriminatory.

We are **NOT** all old people.

We are **NOT** boring.

We **ARE** the oldest and largest fraternity in the world.

We **HAVE** members of all races, colors and creeds.

We **ALLOW** ages 18 and older to join.

We **MAKE** a difference.

It's time to **REGROUP**. It's time to **REACT**. It's time to **REAFFIRM** our vows, **RELOAD** and **RECHARGE** our batteries and **REASSERT** ourselves to the tasks at hand. We need

to **REAWAKEN** the Brethren and **REINTRODUCE** them to the tenets of our profession, Brotherly Love, **RELIEF** and Truth. We must not **RELY** on past performances and **RELAXED** attitudes. Instead, we must **RELINQUISH** our stand on “What We Did Before,” **REENLIST** our inactive Brethren, **REUNITE** our ranks and **RELEARN** the basic concepts of Freemasonry.

To **REVIVE** our tired Fraternity, we need not **RESORT** to drastic measures. To **RETURN** Freemasonry to its rightful place of prominence and **RESPECT** and to **REPLENISH** our ranks and **REPAVE** the roads to prosperity, we must **RESIST** apathy and **REINFUSE** fortitude. We must **REASSEMBLE** and **REITERATE** our goals to **RESTORE** Freemasonry to the high priority it deserves. We must **REINSPIRE** the Brethren and **REMAIN REASSURED** that our **RESPONSE** is **REASONABLE**. We need only to **REINFORCE** our standards of greatness.

“RE” – The Latin prefix meaning **AGAIN** or to **INTENSIFY**.

We've had the basics for years. We need only to use them **AGAIN** and **INTENSIFY** our efforts.

**REMEMBER:**

**RENEW** your vows.

**REKINDLE** your interest.

**RESPOND** to the call.

And **REJOICE!** The **REWARDS** will be **REMARKABLE!**

---

## Masonic Awareness *continued from page 20*

to our NPD problem. When Grand Lodge promotes what Masonry is supposedly about: our beautiful tenets and lofty goals for human improvement, but the local Lodge experience is the opposite, I suspect that there are those members who determine that Masonry hasn't delivered what it promised! A natural reaction in this case is that of severing one's relationship to the institution that didn't live up to its billing. In all you do – regardless if you are the Master, a subordinate officer, or a Lodge member – always seek to over deliver on the promises that are inherent in our Landmarks and our Constitutions. Always seek to improve your Lodge, your community, and yourself.

In 2019, do your part to improve your Lodge by improving and educating your Lodge members. Show genuine interest in every member and involve your membership in the community. You'll be better for your efforts and Masonry will be better as a result of your successes.

Oh, by the way, I hope to see you and 998 of your Lodge members, their families and friends at the CT Masonic Family Day at the Wolfpack game on Friday, March 29, 2019. Whether you love hockey or not, it is a fun evening. I plan to be there and hope you will also.



# Masonicare's Festival of Trees Celebrates 30th Year

The Thirtieth Annual Festival of Trees at Masonicare Health Center wrapped up on December 18. The very popular event featured nearly 60 unique, beautifully decorated tabletop trees.

Each tree was designed and trimmed by teams of Masonicare employees, volunteers, residents or friends. The trees always have a wide range of imaginative themes that delight people of all ages. Among this year's display were a pink unicorn tree, Lego tree, Mickey Mouse, Elf on the Shelf, and the ever popular Beanie

Babies. And the list goes on, including a country-western tree, Halloween tree, holiday baking tree, and even a travel tree.

As in the past, the trees were up for silent auction. The bidding was competitive with several trees going into the hundreds of dollars . . . putting it on track to beat last year's total of \$5,300. Proceeds from the auction are used to support a host of activities for the residents of Masonicare Health Center, including holiday gifts and celebrations.



## Pyramid Shriners Donate To Children's Hospital

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Master Masons from the Pyramid Shrine Temple Clown Unit and Golf Club in Stratford recently toured the Shriner's Hospital for Children in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Clown Unit and Golf Club members both made donations. Funds will be used to purchase equipment in order to assist needy children receiving medical care at the Shriner's Hospital.



# Unity Lodge No. 148 Serves up Thanksgiving in the Community *by Kevin Tate*

Unity Lodge members prepared and delivered four Thanksgiving meals to families in need this year on Thanksgiving day. Thanks to Brothers Keath Romano, Ed Battle, Paul D. Catanzaro, Hiram Morales II, Mark Davidson, Rob Wallace, Rob Rys, Dario Soto, Peter DiMauro, and Michele Sawyers from Rainbow Girls New Britain Chapter for all of the help and selfless efforts in making this happen. All involved enjoyed the great feeling of giving back to the community!



# Masonicare Hosts Special Visitors from the North Pole

Ho, ho, ho! What a day it was as Santa and Mrs. Claus came to Masonicare Health Center to spread holiday cheer! On Tuesday, December 4, they took time out of their very busy Christmas preparation schedule and arrived with bells in hand to greet the long-term care residents, staff and children from the Masonic Child Development Center. After a group sing-a-long, each child was called up for a personal visit and given a gift. A BIG thank you to Santa (Stephan Puzycki, Graphic Design & Production Artist in the Masonicare Corporate Marketing Dept) and Mrs. Claus (his lovely wife, Donna)!



## Master Mason Brings Holiday Cheer to Fairfield

*by Donald M. Casey, Jr.*

Brother Eugene Halliwell, a Master Mason from Corinthian Lodge No. 104, has been celebrating the holidays for the past 19 years with his “Wonderland at Roseville” light display in Fairfield. Brother Eugene and his family have created a magnificent display consisting of 350,000 lights and 2000 figures. While the display is free of charge to the public, all of the donations received from patrons are used to assist needy children receiving medical services at the Shriner’s Hospital.

# Craft at Refreshment

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

*All times are supplied by the lodges. The CT Freemasons Newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events.*

*For recurring events and breakfasts, they may not take place during the summer months – call to check.*

## RECURRING EVENTS

**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.*

**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

**Tue., January 1, New Year's Day**  
*HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

**Fri., January 4, 7 p.m.,** Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford, Installation of Officers

**Sat., January 5, 2 p.m.,** Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Installation of Officers

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

**Sun., January 6, 3 p.m.,** Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven, *100th Installation of Officers*

**Wed., January 9, 7:30 p.m.,** Hospitality Lodge No. 128, Wethersfield, Installation of Officers

**Tue., January 22, 6:30 p.m.,** King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury, *Fellowcraft Dinner*

**Fri., January 25, 7:30 p.m.,** Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3, Fairfield, *Entertainment Night, "Game Night, Movie Night, Cigar Night, you name it!"*

**Sat., January 26, 8:30 a.m.,** Scottish Rite, 207 Deming St, Newington, *Junior Officers Seminar*

**Sun., February 3, 3 p.m.,** Ionic Lodge No. 110, North Windham, *Superbowl Party*

**Thu., February 14, Valentine's Day**  
*Quick Meeting, Holiday Pot Luck Dinner*



## DEE'S ANTIQUES

Experienced Antiques Dealer Will Buy

*Collectibles, China, Old Furniture, Paintings, Silver Coins, Jewelry, Clocks, Books and Picture Frame*

**Estates Liquidated and Purchased Outright**

**Estate and Insurance Appraisals**

*Over 50 Years Experience*

**Call Thomas Spratta 203-235-8431**

600 West Main St., Meriden, CT 06450

*Professional Estates Sale Run*

# Craft at Labor

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

All times are supplied by the lodges. If there is a dinner, the time in the heading reflects that. The Connecticut Freemason Newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events and to inquire about dinner reservations.

## GRAND LODGE ANNUAL SESSION

**Monday, April 3, 8 a.m.**, Cromwell, Crown-Plaza Hotel

## ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREES

**Thu., January 3, 6 p.m.**,

**Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3**, Fairfield,  
Dinner *Dinner at lodge, 131 Beach Rd, Fairfield)* then walk  
to the Sun Tavern for the degree at 7:30 p.m

**Tue., January 22, 7:30 p.m.**,

**Fayette Lodge No. 69**, Ellington

**Thu., February 7, 6:30 p.m.**,

**Harmony Lodge No. 42**, Waterbury, Dinner

## FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES

**Thu., February 7, 6:30 p.m.**,

**Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3**, Fairfield, Dinner

## MASTER MASON DEGREES

**Wed., January 2, 6:30 p.m.**,

**Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125**, New Haven, Dinner



## About the Cover Photo:

The photo on the cover taken by a Past Master of Franklin Lodge No. 20, in Westerly, Rhode Island. The pedestal in the photo and the other two pedestals are all hand-made of a redish-brown granite and fashioned after the Doric, Ionic and Corinthian columns. They were presented to the lodge in 1894.

Connecticut lodges have many such treasures hidden in plain sight around the state. We encourage you to take photos of items in your lodge building that you would like to be considered for use on the cover and submit them to the editor of *Connecticut Freemasons* at [submissions@ctfreemasons.net](mailto:submissions@ctfreemasons.net). But please, the photos must be high resolution and include a brief about the item so proper credit may be given to the lodge.



**T. J. NELSON**

Home Improvements

860-444-6771

**TJNelsonHomes.com**





## The Elephant in the Lodge Room *by Perne R. Maynard*

Over time we have all heard the expression “the elephant in the room.” Simply put it is a topic so obvious and the conclusion so apparent, yet no one wants to talk about it because it may be very sensitive, may not be appropriate or it may be politically motivated.

As a new Mason in 1982, I saw the Masonic fraternity at its zenith, and now I am watching the fraternity diminish in membership. Today’s Brothers who do not attend lodge probably do not know what night lodge meets because the lodge does not send out timely communication. Brothers are busy in today’s world, but if there is not timely communication and an effective yearly plan, then the Craft will not be engaged to attend lodge.

This year I will be Secretary of my lodge for the 25th year. The most frustrating job of a Secretary is collecting dues. In our lodge, 16 percent of the Brothers still owe their 2018 dues. Twenty-six percent are 50-year members, so we no longer can absorb delayed past dues payments. But you can understand why Brothers are reluctant to pay their dues when they are never contacted by

their lodge officers and there are few interesting programs being offered. This is a reflection on why your lodge needs a dynamic plan distributed by the Master to all the craft each year.

But the major elephant in our lodges today: society is rapidly changing, and our ritual is not being performed by the younger Brothers as it once was. Thus, the major ritual is performed by seasoned past officers. Masonry’s attitude today seems to portray a sense that we have become irrelevant. The Fraternity certainly needs a face lift, but we need to develop contemporary communication skills to keep the craft better informed. We need to plan for more family-oriented programs and social events that occur outside of the lodge. There is no question that the tenets of our craft are still relevant today and every Mason should begin to embrace our new Connecticut Grand Lodge motto: **NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.**

Now more than ever, the world needs men of honor and integrity. Men will unite and not 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. The world needs Masons.

The COCA mission this year is to develop better communication to the Craft on programs that we are sponsoring. On **Friday, March 29, 2019**, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut would like to greet 1,000 or more Masons and family, as well as non-masonic friends for the 5th annual Wolf Pack Hockey Game. Please see the flyer in this issue of the *Connecticut Freemasons* for more information on how your lodge can make this a charitable event and a fun night out with friends. Let’s begin this new year by promoting the Craft to the public in attendance that night.

## Be a Connecticut Freemasons Booster!



Name or Lodge \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Booster appearing as \_\_\_\_\_

### LISTING FOR 11 ISSUES:

Individual Booster  
\$25-\$49.99

Grand Booster  
\$50-\$99.99

Grand Master’s Circle  
\$100 or more

Lodges & Organizations  
\$75 or more

Makes checks payable to: Grand Lodge Publications • 69 Masonic Avenue • Wallingford CT 06492  
Booster support is not deductible as a charitable contribution under IRC Section 170(c).



# BOOSTERS



*Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: December 9, 2018.*

*An asterisks next to your name indicates that your support in the Booster list expires in one month. Please consider renewing your support of the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper at your current rate or at the next level up.*

*After reviewing all of the receipts for Boosters, the lists are the Boosters who are current (i.e., within the 11 issue window). If your name does not appear and you feel that you should be on the list, please contact us. Note: Booster support is not deductible as a charitable contribution under IRC Section 170(c).*

## GRAND MASTER'S CIRCLE

\$100 or more.

Timothy V. Cavanaugh

Mark & Dr. Mildred Cohn

Michael G. Fitting

Raymond & Susan Geer

Col. & Mrs. John G. Gergulis

David & Virginia Gould

Quentin Grant

James E. Laverty

Paul E. MacDonald

John A. Novak

Charles & Sandra Opalenik

Robert F. Polito, Jr.

Bill Pruehsner

Alvin B. Reiner

Marshall Robinson

Max & Ginny Scheller

William J. Strand, Jr.

Arthur R. Tinsz

Dean True

Richard R. Washburn

Charles W. Yohe\*



## GRAND BOOSTERS

\$50 - \$99.99

Mario Accornero

Douglas T. Barrett

Paul F. Blake

Gustaf R. Bodin

Lowell H. Cantor

Vincent A. Celino

Roger R. Cole

James W. Carrier

A. Scott Dean

Jack Dilks

Sam Dunlop

Earl S. Evans

Aubrey & Carol Fisher

Sonny Hendel

Ernest H. Hintz

Newton Holbrook

Ralph H. Hunt

A. Richard Kirschner

Kenneth H. Kirschner

George M. Leaman

William E. Lehr

Louis J. Lichti

Col. Edward W. Lifset

Charles Lizotte

Donald Maehlenbrock

Kurt Maehlenbrock

Richard C. Memmott, Sr.

Robert Peck

Lewis W. Pennell\*

Bradford H. Ross

Edward Schilke, Jr.

Frederick W. Schmalz\*

Michael S. Shear

John H. Spencer

Rodney A. Spooner

John A. Sturges

Gerald Thompson

Alex J. Tripoli

Gordon Willoughby

George R. Zack

Andy Zeidler



*Boosters continued on next page*



# BOOSTERS



*Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: December 9, 2018.*

*An asterisks next to your name indicates that your support in the Booster list expires in one month. Please consider renewing your support of the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper at your current rate or at the next level up.*

*After reviewing all of the receipts for Boosters, the lists are the Boosters who are current (i.e., within the 11 issue window). If your name does not appear and you feel that you should be on the list, please contact us. Note: Booster support is not deductible as a charitable contribution under IRC Section 170(c).*

## LODGES & ORGANIZATIONS

\$75 or more

Acacia Lodge No. 85

Anchor Lodge No. 112

Ansantawae Lodge No. 59

Columbia Lodge No. 25

Composite Lodge No. 28

CT Widows Sons MRA

Daytime Lodge No. 144

Evening Star Lodge No. 101

Friendship Lodge. No. 33

Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

Granite Lodge No. 119

Hospitality Lodge No. 128

Ionic Lodge No. 110

National Camping Travelers, Inc.  
CT 1, No. 6

Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140

St. Lukes Lodge No. 48

Temple Lodge No. 16

Union Lodge No. 5

Unity Lodge No. 148 A.F. & A.M.

Washington Lodge No. 81

Wooster Lodge No. 79

## BOOSTER

\$25 - \$49.99

Donald Berry\*

Judd Blaze\*

Gordon B. Boucher

Kenneth A. Buckbee

Allen Bulmer

Ray Albert Cooke

George W. Coulston

Glen E. Crowell

James W. Currier

William G. Demetriades

Ward Edgerton

Martin Evenson

Rudolph A. Gaydos

Victor S. George

Bill Greene

Sandie Greene

Walter Grube

Kenneth W. Hartwick, Sr.

Carroll Hersom

L.O. "Skip" House

James Howard

Peter J. Hunt

Albert Kandarian

Cliff Kearney

John Kinkade

Roger Knickerbocker

Jim Love

Keith Macdowell\*

Paul Marte

Richard T. Mattson

Fred W. Nanamaker, Jr.\*

C. Fred Neuffer

Sandra Osten

Joseph F. Piatti

Martin L. Rudnik

Fridolf Rusgaitis

James R. Savickas

Dale E. Sweet

Gerald F. Usher

John VanKirk

Ralph W. Wallen

William Welsh, Jr.

Edgar J. Wood



---

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



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.

***One Time Only ~ Don't Wait ~ Order Now!***

\*\*\* No hard bound Proceedings will be available for sale! \*\*\*

Make check or money order payable to Grand Lodge of CT and mail with the below form to:  
Grand Lodge of CT, 69 Masonic Ave., Wallingford, CT 06492.

-----  
Please reserve the Grand Lodge Proceedings for the year 2017 using the following instructions:

### **Please Print**

Send to: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of soft bound copies of the Grand Lodge Proceedings for 2017 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please email the PDF version of the Grand Lodge Proceedings for 2017.

# Arabian Shrine Club Presents to Springfield Shriners Hospital for Children *by John Chan*

On November 15, the officers of the Arabian Shrine Club and their ladies visited The Shriners Hospital for Children at Springfield, Massachusetts, to present a check for \$1,976.49 to the hospital. The monies were raised by the members of Arabian Shrine Club of Sphinx Shriners in Newington,

Club President Bill Deluca and his Lady Patti, Vice-President John Chan and his Lady Sally, Treasurer "Uncle" Lew Bither and his Lady Nancy, and Director of Transportation Unit Jack Adler, were guests of the hospital for lunch before the presentation to the Board of Governors.

The Arabian Shrine Club was formed in May 1945 to benefit the Shriners Hospital for Children at Springfield through donations, public picnics, social nights and various other events. They meet monthly for fellowship and philanthropy for a

dinner meeting with their ladies at Masonicare Health Center Auditorium in Wallingford.

The Transportation Unit transports children and their parents to and from their treatment appointments to Shriners Hospitals for Children in Springfield, Boston and Philadelphia, without charge.

With this latest check, raised through their annual "Paper Crusade" to solicit donations from shoppers at the Walmart store in Wallingford, the Arabian Shrine Club has thus far presented to the grand sum of \$345,351.19 to the hospital.



Check presentation



Returning to Sphinx Shriners: John and Sally Chan, Lew and Nancy Bither, Bill Deluca and Patti Puglisi, and Jack Adler

## GARAVEL

CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep RAM SUBARU

---

Paul Garavel, Dealer

---

GARAVEL CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE RAM

300 Westport Avenue, Norwalk • GaravelCJDR.com

---

GARAVEL SUBARU

10 Tindall Avenue, Norwalk • GaravelSubaru.com

Gotta Get to Garavel

Family Owned & Operated Since 1972

AUTO REPAIR INC.

Foreign & Domestic Repairs

Phil & Paul Locicero & Pete Buck

860-646-5036 Fax: 860-646-1552

174 West Center Street • Manchester

www.pp-autorepair.com

Since 1995!

Phil@P-AUTO.COXATWORK.com

# How Many Toys Can Two Ambulances Hold?

by Pat Kalinauskas

National Camping Travelers (NCT) and the Order of the Eastern Star of Connecticut (OES) with their many friends, along with the Dakota Restaurant and Beacon Health Options of Rocky Hill, have once again showed how big their hearts are. Their participation in support of the CT State Police (CSP) Stuff-a-Cruiser program that supplies toys to needy children has again benefitted St. Mary's Hospital Emergency Pediatric Unit.

Donated toys have brought cheer to the hospital's youngest patients through this one-day event for several years now. CSP Sgt. Matthew Garcia remembers when donations were only enough to stuff a cruiser. The number of toys collected each year began to exceed the prior year. In 2016 so many toys were collected that they almost burst the seams of the cruiser and two large hospital SUVs -- so we had outgrown a cruiser. In 2017 the toys filled two AMR ambulances.

On December 8, 2018 NCT members drove in from Massachusetts and from all corners of Connecticut loaded with toys and smiles. The Dakota sponsored a free "Brunch with Santa," for children who brought a new unwrapped toy for the collection. Eastern Star members loaded with toys and stuffed animals came in by the droves. Sgt. Garcia and CSP K-9 Unit Trooper Mark Packer were on duty collecting toys and directing children and their parents to Santa. So many toys came resulting with the collection area was moved to porch in front of the restaurant. Two AMR ambulances with staff pulled into the parking lot along with personnel from St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury.

Sixty people attended this year's brunch. NCT National President, Ray Geer was pleased with the huge response as he watched the ambulances being loaded to the top with the donated toys. OES Worthy Grand Matron Anne Kellner and Worthy Grand Patron Art Carbonaro traveled around our state visiting chapters throughout the year and collected toys donated by OES members. And then their Grand Officers brought more.

What began as the Annual NCT December Camp-in luncheon and toy collection many years ago with an established State Police program is now a collaboration of NCT with the Order of the Eastern Star and local businesses. Kudos to everyone who took part in the toy collection and again showed what great things can be done when we work together.



# My Biggest Problem With Freemasonry

by Michael Calderone

Social media, namely Facebook, has me connected to many brothers from all over the state, the nation and, indeed, the world. I read posts from various Connecticut pages, national pages, the Grumpy Past Master's page, a number of Scottish pages and am Facebook friends with PHA Brothers I've met over the years.

On these pages, there are hearty discussions on the traditions of Masonry, philosophy, events, degrees and occasionally the problems with our beloved Fraternity. Political discussions, be they national or Masonic issues, crop up every now and then as do problems with declining membership, increasing dues, and conflicting opinions about how to maintain or even keep our aging temples. One article even talked about Masonry being in its final years. Yet of all of these troubles, none of them comes close to my biggest problem with Freemasonry. In fact, I never hear anyone address this issue which has bothered me for some time now.

Young men petitioning a lodge should be forewarned, as we are the world's oldest and largest fraternal organization, that they will quickly develop more meaningful relationships with outstanding men, from all walks of life, than any one person can handle. I see many Brothers

online, and others I see at lodge meetings. Occasionally I get to travel to neighboring lodges or sit in meetings overseas. I see brothers everywhere I go, but there are many more I rarely get to see and worse yet is watching brothers pass to the Grand Lodge above.

Please, Brothers, when guarding the West Gate, do not sugar coat this experience. If one is fortunate enough to be accepted into this sacred band, one should be prepared to exponentially add to the number of dear people in one's life. Were you ready for such a commitment? I was not, and with family obligations, work commitments and everything else that goes into a full life, it is nearly impossible to keep track of the multitudes of good men Freemasonry introduces one to. Therefore, to the brothers I have met and befriended, to the brothers I hold as dear as my blood family, to those I have only met online, to those I have not yet met, and to those who await my entrance above, while we may only see each other on that rare special occasion, know that I think of you often and I look forward to seeing you again.

To brothers yet to come, consider yourselves forewarned!

---

## How Many Toys? *continued from page 32*



## Lots of Fun Activities



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

**Three Lucky Kids will Win a Zamboni Ride**



**Tickets \$15**



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

**Masonic Veterans will Wave Our Flag During the National Anthem**



**Prior to the Game, Salute the Masonic Color Guard**

## Maximize the Event for Your Group

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

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

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

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

**Other Ideas:** Contact Perne Maynard at 860-993-7931 or [pernemaynard@CtFreemasons.net](mailto:pernemaynard@CtFreemasons.net)

**Ready to Purchase? Either go online at [www.CTFreemasonFamilyDay.org](http://www.CTFreemasonFamilyDay.org) or call James Warner at 860-241-4227**



**The Grand Master will Drop the Puck then be Interviewed Live**



**Join us with the Hartford Wolf Pack at the XL Center in Hartford on Friday, March 29, 2019 for the warm-up and other pre-game events beginning at 6:00 p.m. The game begins at 7:15.**

YOU & A GUEST ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

# 2019 NUTMEGGER REUNION

*Please join us in Florida!*

You will have an opportunity to meet and greet Bro. Marshall K. Robinson, 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 old friends. All locations will follow the same time schedule.

We value your presence at one or more of these Reunion luncheons.

## SCHEDULE

- 10:30 a.m.** Registration  
**11:00 a.m.** Masonicare Update  
**12:00 p.m.** Greetings by Bro. Marshall K. Robinson, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of CT  
**12:15 p.m.** Lunch  
**Cost:** \$15 per person

Fifty year pin recipients and their guests are invited to attend at no cost. If you will be receiving our 50-year pin this year at these locations, please contact:

**Rev. & Bro. Carl Anderson at 800-982-3919.**

Checks should be made out to Masonicare & mailed to:  
**Bro. Anderson • P.O. Box 70 • Wallingford, CT 06492**

**Please R.S.V.P. by February 23!**

To Rev & Bro. Carl Anderson  
P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492

## DATE & TIME

### MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019

#### Titusville Garden Club

5275 Sisson Road, Titusville

**Hosts:** RW James and Joan Vander Eyk and RW Michael G. Fitting & Mindy

### TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019

#### 7165 Olde Cypress Club

Treeline Drive, Naples

**Hosts:** Bro. David P. and Ann Hocking

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019

#### The Meadows Country Club

3101 Long Meadow, Sarasota

**Hosts:** Bro. James and Agnes Rutushni

### THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019

#### Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19

1846 SE 36th Ave, Ocala

**Host:** MW Bro. Norman L. Getchell, PGM

### FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2019

#### Timber Greens Country Club

6333 Timber Greens Blvd, New Port Richey

**Hosts:** RW Bro. John and Patricia Blennerhassett



# 2019

MONDAY, MARCH 4  
TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA

TUESDAY, MARCH 5  
NAPLES, FLORIDA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6  
SARASOTA, FLORIDA

THURSDAY, MARCH 7  
OCALA, FLORIDA

FRIDAY, MARCH 8  
NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA

## NUTMEGGER REUNIONS

PLEASE JOIN US AT ONE OR MORE OF  
THESE LOCATIONS AT THIS YEAR'S  
NUTMEGGER REUNION.

Take this opportunity to meet and greet Bro. Marshall K. Robinson, 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!

More information is on pg. 35 of this issue of Connecticut Freemasons.

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 or email [canderson@masonicare.org](mailto:canderson@masonicare.org).

2019  
NUTMEGGER  
REUNIONS

 **Masonicare**  
An Ageless Commitment to Caring  
[www.masonicare.org](http://www.masonicare.org)

Our **members** are the cornerstone of our **future**.

