

February 2019



Connecticut FREEMASONS

**2018 MASONICARE
ANNUAL REPORT
ENCLOSED**



*Brothers of Slaton Lodge No. 1094
on the newly completed ramp*

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

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



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Director of Communication



Texas and Connecticut Masons connect to help Bro. Ted St. Amand with his new ramp. Story on page 3.



The Grand Master Marshall K. Robinson presents Brian Beals (above) and Russell Griswold (below) with the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze. See pages 12 and 13.

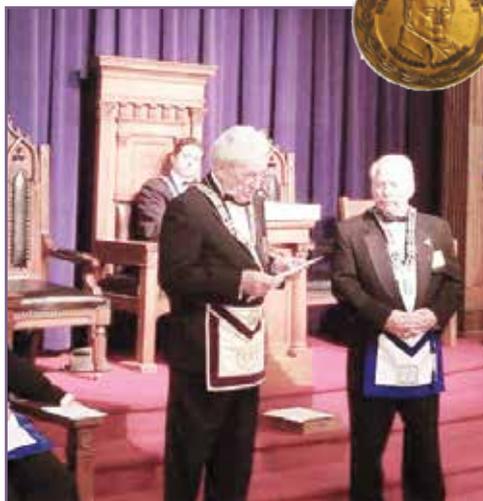


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Texas and Connecticut Masons Connect To Help A Distressed Worthy Brother *by Robert Stile*

Brother Ted St. Armand sold his house in Shelton last March and purchased an Artic Fox travel trailer to relocate to Texas where the winters are not long, cold or snowy, and to reduce his cost of living. His solo trip to Texas was fraught with trials and tribulations, including brake failure on his pickup truck, snow storms, and simply his first experience in his 77 years towing anything, much less a 29-foot travel trailer. His journey south took over nine days. The drive took a lot out of him, a lot out of his travel budget, and his loveable co-pilot Eden (his beloved Lakeland Terrier) was nice to have along, but she was not good at taking turns driving!

It seems now that this life-changing transition from Shelton to Texas took more out of him physically and emotionally than he ever imagined. His resistance and stamina were very low and are now believed to have contributed to his illness this past November.

Ted managed to get settled into his year round RV park in Slaton, Texas – a small town, but one with a big heart. Ted likes it because it is small, easy to get around, with enough shopping and services for his needs. Plus, he can also drive to Lubbock, with far more in the way of shopping and services, in about 25 minutes, and where there is every type of retail, service, medical, etc. imaginable.

On November 13, 2018, Louisa Sherman, wife of CT Brother Kevin Sherman, both long-time friends of Brother Ted, received a call from the emergency room of the Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock, where Ted had been brought by ambulance. He had a previously undetected ulcer on his large intestine that had ruptured in his lower abdomen. In sepsis, he was going into surgery to repair the tear in the intestine and drain huge amounts of fluid out of his lungs.

Bro. Ted's most urgent concern was his dog, Eden, who had been locked in the bedroom of his trailer so the first responders could get him safely out of the trailer and into the ambulance. The ER nurse, Carmen, who made the notification to Louisa, told Ted that she personally would go to his trailer, rescue his dog, and would care for Eden until he was well enough to do so again. That act of kindness was overwhelming to Ted!

Later that day, doctors advised Louisa that the surgery had been a success. Ted was expected to recover fully, which he did over a seven day hospital stay. He remained on bed rest for the first few days and could not even stand without two people assisting him. He started developing symptoms of pneumonia, which is often the case with compromised, elderly, bedridden and especially hospitalized patients.

The Slaton Care Center was chosen for Ted's rehabilitation period, as it was much closer to his new home. He was discharged there via chair ambulance the day before Thanksgiving. At SCC he got wonderful treatment, physical and occupational therapy twice daily, and tons of one on one attention from everyone from the maintenance staff to nursing and housekeeping.

Toward the end of Ted's hospitalization, Louisa arrived and began to help with finding support services for when he came back home to his RV. A series of conversations put Louisa in touch with the local lodge. Brother Ted knew of the lodge, but he had not attended since he assumed that the lodge, which he knew to be on the second floor, would have a lot of stairs, which he avoids at all cost.

Brother Joe Williamson, from Slaton Lodge No. 1094, began visiting Ted at SCC almost immediately, and Ted gleefully reported what enjoyment it brought to him to find out that he and Joe had many things in common, most especially Masonry and woodworking.

Another conversation led to the local minister in town, visiting Ted at the rehab center. The pastor invited Ted to attend the worship service that he conducted each week at Slaton Care Center, which he was happy to do. As a result Ted was beginning to feel welcomed and like part of a home town community!

Ted was doing well with rehab. Day by day with diligent prodding from physical and occupational therapists, he began to regain some strength and his determination resumed to get back to independent living.

Brother Ted related that he had been feeling "punkish" for about a month before his ulcer erupted. He had no clue that he even had an ulcer, and thought it was food poisoning or flu coming on

Continued on page 6

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- ★ Contact your Lodge Secretary or Grand Lodge for an application. Grand Secretary: grandsecretary@ctfreemasons.net

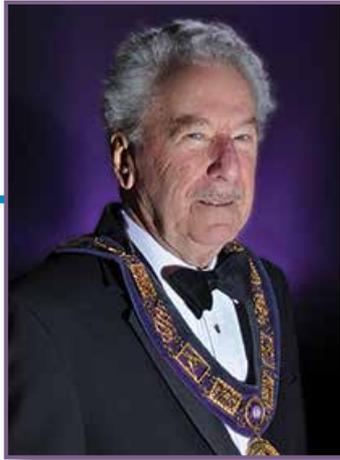
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Grand Master's Message

by Marshall K. Robinson

A few years ago, we were getting complaints from the Craft that our paper didn't have the section that was devoted to articles from the nine districts, so we added that feature. I am one of those who enjoys reading those articles. Alas, my brothers, you are not availing yourselves of this opportunity to share your lodge's Masonic experiences with the remainder of the Craft.

Recently, a complaint was made that there is an insufficient amount of Blue Lodge articles in our paper. I disagree with that opinion, but the paper can only print articles it receives. Our paper honors articles from any of the other Masonic bodies, as we should, but if you feel the 'balance' is off, it is because of a lack of submissions from our lodges and districts.

I don't know what I can say that will encourage you to take a picture, write a few words, and submit it as an article from your district. It could be an installation, a degree, a 50-year pin presentation, an award, a program, or anything else you feel is worth telling others about.

If you want to look at the larger picture, our paper gets distribution that you probably didn't think of. It's more than just us here in Connecticut. We have brothers and widows scattered around the entire country who receive and like to read our paper. Imagine that you are a retired brother living in Florida and you never see anything written about any lodge in your district. How does that make you feel? On the other hand, if you open the paper and see an article and photo about your lodge or one in your district, you would get that warm fuzzy feeling.

My brothers, this is so easy to do that it's not funny. Basic materials needed are a cellphone camera and a very small amount of imagination. Take the picture, write a few words of description and send it to submissions@ctfreemasons.net. It really is that

simple. You are not doing it for yourself, but for those brothers who, for a variety of reasons, do not or cannot come to lodge. Think of our widows and other family members. They all enjoy the paper as well, but more so if they recognize something in it.

During the Christmas season, I had the opportunity to help in distributing Poinsettia plants to the Masonic widows living in our facilities in Wallingford. I am here to tell you that many of them told us how much they enjoy reading our paper. It was a great experience and hearing that kind of feedback about the paper made it even better.

Pick up your copy of the *Connecticut Freemason* paper and see how many districts are represented. Is yours there? If not, resolve to write an article about your lodge and send it to submissions@ctfreemasons.net. Don't wait, do it today.

I look forward to picking up next month's paper and seeing articles from lodges in each of our nine districts, but only you can make that happen.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

Wali Kadeem	America-St. John's Lodge No. 8	Michael A. Sexton	Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140
Edward Moran	America-St. John's Lodge No. 8	Brian J. Sprouse	Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140
Eddie Soto	America-St. John's Lodge No. 8	Bradley J. Agar	Temple Lodge No. 16
Tristan J. Johnson	Annawon Lodge No. 115	Mitchell R. Holbrook	Temple Lodge No. 65
Joseph F. McVety	Annawon Lodge No. 115	Luke A. Lamparelli	Temple Lodge No. 65
Lorenze A. Simpkins	Brainard Lodge No. 102	Keith D. Underwood	Temple Lodge No. 65
Lee Hopkins	Composite Lodge No. 28	Henry P. Feranski	Unity Lodge No. 148
Pedro Garcia II	Corinthian Lodge No. 104	Robert J. Wallace	Unity Lodge No. 148
Daryl S. Liminggio	Corinthian Lodge No. 104	Chad Cruden	Valley Lodge No. 36
Jonathan E. Shake	Corinthian Lodge No. 104	Kevin Hobson	Valley Lodge No. 36
Zachary N. Bell	Friendship Lodge No. 33	Nathaniel Jillette	Valley Lodge No. 36
Wesley M. Beal	Jerusalem Lodge No. 49	Michael J. Kamszik	Wooster Lodge No. 79
David Gunison	Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140	Kevin K. Roberts	Wooster Lodge No. 79
Kevin E. Rand	Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140	Peter Lang	Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4

Texas and Connecticut Masons Connect *continued from page 3*

that night of the emergency. The doctor later informed Louisa that had Ted waited until morning to see if his bad stomach ache subsided, he would have died in bed on November 13. Fortunately Brother Ted uses a Life Alert system and pushed his panic button that night.

Recognizing that the steps to his RV were very steep and hard to navigate, even for someone without a disability, Ted and Louisa reached out to Brother Joe Williamson. Without hesitation, Joe committed himself and Slaton Lodge to design and construct a handicap access ramp for Ted's RV! All that remained was to fund the project, estimated to cost approximately \$900 to \$1,000. Louisa, and her husband, Bro. Kevin Sherman reached out and brothers from King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 and King Hiram Lodge No. 12 funded the entire project through donations by individual Brothers. The Slaton Lodge brothers built the ramp in Joe's workshop and installed it three hours before Brother Ted's return home on Friday, December 14. What a wonderful community of caring people!

Ted is home and continuing with a visiting nurse and weekly therapy. Day by day he reports feeling more strength and comfort with walking, and is getting further and further every few days when walking the dog. He is also back to doing his own cooking. He wants to start driving again, too. Those who know Ted know that he is headstrong, that he loves his independence and has his own way of doing things.

Ted now has a great network of caregivers and new friends, not to mention a lodge of brothers who are routinely checking in on him, and making him feel better about his new home. Brother Joe Williamson and his fellow Masons have extended an open invitation to Ted to drive him to the Slaton lodge meetings (where, by the way, there is an elevator so no need to do stairs!).

Ted has extended his many heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped in his hours and weeks of need. He asks everyone to please do not be a stranger! He continues to value calls, emails, and Facebook communications!



Above and below: Brothers of Slaton Lodge assembling the ramp.



Save the Date for the 230th Year Celebration of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, A.F. & A.M.



When: Sunday, July 21, 2019 **Where:** 207 Deming St., Newington, CT **Time:** 9:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m.

Open to all Masons and the public. Vendors and guest speakers to be announced.

All Masonic organizations will be invited to provide information about who they are and what they do.

Will have several guest speakers for both public presentations and tiled Masonic presentations.

Stay tuned for coming announcements

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

In past issues of *Connecticut Freemasons*, you've read many heartwarming "Masonicare Experience" stories. This month, we share the experience of one of our patients, Dan Sorenson. It is a tremendously affirming story. I'm so proud of our Masonicare Health Center team who supported Dan on his journey – and of our team from Masonicare Home Health who work with Dan now that he is home.

Masonicare's *2018 Annual Report*, covering our fiscal year October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018, also appears in this issue. I hope you can take a few minutes to look it over. In our cover letter, Board Chairman Bro. Bob Polito and I note the highlights of the past year – a year that was extremely busy – and some of our strategies going forward.

As always, we are very grateful for our donors. The Masonic Charity Foundation not only helps offset some of our losses from



inadequate governmental funding, it helps us enrich the daily experiences of our nursing

home residents and home care patients, especially those receiving hospice care.

We are also very grateful to our Board members who generously donate their time throughout the year for Board and Committee meetings and the preparation required for them. Masonicare also is indebted to hundreds of volunteers throughout our continuum who help us deliver on our mission every day.

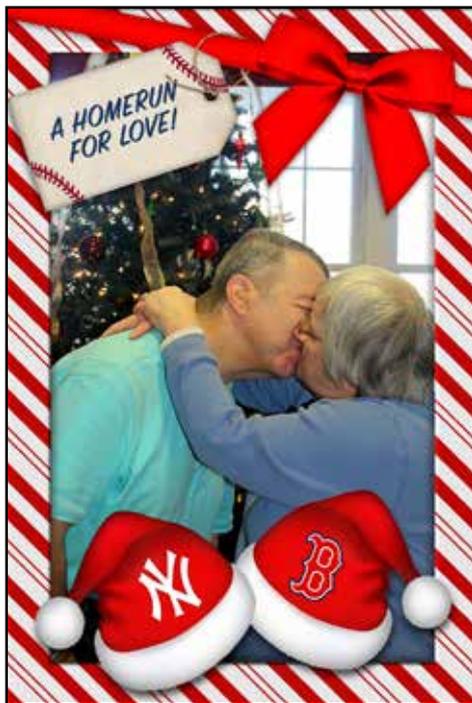
I'm looking forward to seeing many of our Connecticut brothers in Florida when we are there for our annual Nutmegger Reunion Luncheons the first week of March. All the information is on the last page and back cover of this issue. If you can join us, please do so!

Sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon-Paul Venoit". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

A Home Run for Love at Masonicare

by Sandy Potter



As soon as Norma Parisi and Andy DeMorro met at Masonicare's Wright Residence, they hit it off. Chats over breakfast in the dining room led them to find many similarities - a deep love of family, faith, their Italian heritage, and a passion for baseball. However, that's where things got complicated. You see, Andy is a New York Yankees fan and Norma is a Boston Red Sox fan.

But, as in all good romance movies, they found a way to make it work. In fact, it worked so well that Andy, 63,

proposed to Norma, 68, this past June, after the weekly service in the community chapel. Less than six months later, on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, they were wed in front of 50 family and friends in a ceremony and reception at Masonicare at Ashlar Village's Knapp Auditorium.

"We were going to wait a little while," explains Norma with a laugh. "Our families said why? No one is getting any younger."

They decided their relatives were right and knew how special it would be to have their older loved ones at their special day. Andy's dad, Gene, age 87, was able to stand by his side as Best Man.

"He's always been there for me. I couldn't think of anyone else I'd choose for that job," Andy said lovingly.

The ceremony was performed by Masonicare Associate Chaplain, Reverend Daniel Schlorff, and the Christmas-themed reception was catered by the Ashlar Village Dining Services. They danced to "*I Can't Help Falling in Love With You*" for their first song as husband and wife.

Now at home together in an apartment at the Wright Residence, the newlyweds spent the holidays with family and plan to take a honeymoon trip in the spring. And, of course, there's plenty of baseball watching in their future.

"I'm one and done," jokes Andy about this being his first marriage. "She's my one and only."

Masonicare sends our best wishes to the happy couple. Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. DeMorro!



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

Recently, on a trip home from St. Peters Lodge in New Milford, I decided to take back roads instead of the highway. On my trip through the windy roads, I couldn't help but notice the incredible beauty of the many hills against the deep blue sky. Then, as I stopped to take in the beauty for a moment, I noticed that it had just begun to snow over the mountains in the distance. This made it look like a snow globe that had been turned upside down on these majestic Connecticut mountains. The colors of blue and grey, under the white of the snow, created a breathtaking horizon of color that was amazing to behold.

This live unfolding of the beauty of nature reminded me of the first verses of Psalm 121, "I lift mine eyes to the hills, from whence does my help come. My help comes from the Lord who made the heavens and the earth." As I thought of these powerful words, I remembered that they were written to offer praise and adoration to God and to express

thanksgiving and trust in our loving Creator. Psalm 121 proclaims the majesty of the Grand Architect of the Universe and His love for humankind. These words from the Psalmist, and the snow over the grandeur of the mountains, reminded me that the beauty of creation is found in all seasons of life, including winter.

As Masons, we reverence and serve God, yet at times miss beauty of God's presence in our lives. We are busy in our day-to-day lives and can forget to offer our thanks to the Creator for the many blessing we receive. God created a marvelous place of beauty for us to enjoy. Nature and its perennial beauty serve as a visual reminder of God's infinite grace and eternal love. So as the Psalmist suggests, let's take a moment to lift our eyes to the hills, or wherever we experience the beauty of nature, and admire God's handiwork. Then, take another moment to reflect upon the magnificence of nature and know that the Creator of the heavens and earth is our help for life.

My COCA Challenge to All CT Freemasons by Perne Maynard

As Masons, we all realize our fraternity certainly needs a face-lift and to develop contemporary communication skills to keep the Craft better informed. We need to plan for family sponsored programs and social events that occur outside the lodge. I know brothers are busy today, but if you do not have timely communication and plan events that include brothers and family and invite friends to join you, how can you have fun?

The COCA mission this year is for all lodges to take a proactive approach to our community awareness programs. Attending the Friday, March 29 Grand Lodge of Connecticut Masonic Hartford Wolf Pack Hockey Game should be your lodge's first goal. I suggest that each lodge vote to purchase 10 tickets for this year's game. I will have Deb send out the flier information to your lodge secretary to forward to your lodge email list. If just three families with two children participate it would meet this investment. But the first effort is to promote this event.

Here are "the ready to purchase" options:

1. You can purchase tickets on line: www.CTFreemasonFamilyDay.org. This is a vendor ticket agent with a cost per ticket. If you want to purchase \$15 tickets for a fund raiser where \$5 returns to the lodge, this is the most effective plan.
2. You can purchase tickets direct from Wolf Pack for \$15 each: Call James Warner at (860) 241-4227. You will get \$5 back per ticket, but it will take longer to get the money.
3. You can purchase tickets direct from Wolf Pack for \$10 each: Call James Warner at (860) 241-4227. You will not receive any money, but you will enjoy a night out.

In our lodge, Fayette Lodge No. 69, we discussed this program and voted to purchase our 10 tickets. One of our members is involved with youth hockey and will promote this event to their league. I am also a Lion, and I will make this event available for them to attend.

Thus, I put out a challenge to the rest of the Craft. If you can sell more tickets than Fayette Lodge, I will personally come to your lodge to take photos, write an article, and present a certificate as a COCA Lodge of the Year Award. Let the game begin!

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 theme:

For now, more than ever, the world needs men of honor and integrity. Men that unite and not those who divide. That seek the truth and share brotherly love with all, no matter their race, religion, gender or creed. Men that live with virtue and character, always striving to be even better. NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.





Grand Historian's Corner

by Gary A. Littlefield

On June 6, 1861 a dispensation was granted to 12 brothers belonging to the 4th Connecticut Regiment of Volunteers who were about to depart for duties in the hotbed of the war for a lodge to be called Connecticut Union Lodge No. 90 and signed by Grand Master Howard Ensign. No returns were ever made to Grand Lodge nor any record of their proceedings printed in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge. The altar Bible was a gift of Charles Hosmer (St. John's Lodge No. 4) and the square, compasses and gavel from Brother W. J. Goodsell, the jewels and collars from Brother H. E. Patten and the record book from L. E. Hunt. All these Brothers were from the lodge at Hartford (St John's Lodge No. 4). The working tools and jewels and collars were returned to the archives of the Grand Lodge according to the centennial history of the Grand Lodge in 1889. The first meeting was held at Camp Ingalls in Virginia on Saturday January 4, 1862, when officers were appointed. Three other communications were held that month with several names proposed and accepted and one, George Ayer, was made an Entered Apprentice. It was the only work recorded by that lodge. No indication is given as to why the lodge did not meet after the first month but we can only assume that hostilities increased and there was no time for masonic labor. It is unclear if a charter was ever issued but the

dispensation was revoked because the lodge was doing "unsatisfactory work". The 5th Connecticut regiment also proposed a lodge and Ensign Lodge No, 91 was refused by the Grand Lodge for reasons not explained in the proceedings other than because the other military lodge did not perform according to the rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge.

There was later to be two lodges in the city of Norwich, but the first was granted a charter on June 24, 1785, by the Massachusetts Grand Lodge with the name Columbia Lodge. Almost nothing has been gleaned about the lodge other than some stalwart, former members tried to re-establish the lodge but Somerset Lodge had already been chartered by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and the petition was refused. It was stated in the centennial history that they tried to revive themselves under the Massachusetts charter several times and a formal resolution was passed by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut in 1803 to forbid Masonic intercourse with any member of Columbia Lodge and they were refused admission in any lodge in the state. We will probably never know if a Brother did sneak by the tiler and enter the guarded lodge room.

When the Grand Lodge celebrated the centennial at the Hyperion Theater on July 10, 1889, there was no gavel present. The Worshipful Master of Union Lodge No.5, Edward F Morris, happened to have his gavel in his possession. The Grand Master, John Swartwout noticed it was the gavel he had used when he was Master of his lodge and proudly used it to guide the proceedings of the day.

Special Note:

The Call to the 230th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut to begin Monday, April 8, along with reservation forms, will be printed in the March 2019 issue of the *Connecticut Freemasons*. They will also be posted on the Grand Lodge website www.ctfreemasons.net.

Travel in 1891 in the various counties made it difficult for some District Deputies to visit the lodges in their district. Gabriel Stewart of Seymour had jurisdiction over 23 lodges. In his two years, he did visit all the lodges at least once. He reported in 1891 that he had visited 12 lodges and was unable to visit the other 11 but did so the previous year. He was the deputy for all of New Haven county. George Spencer of New Hartford was in charge of Litchfield county and visited nine of the fourteen lodges. Howard Stanton of Norwich was able to complete all of his visitations in New London county. The Deputy for the only combined county was Tolland and Windham counties, Harvey Abell of Stafford had a similar report where he visited eight of the 11 lodges.

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Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr., Secretary Emeritus

I hope you read Melvin E. Johnson and Jaime Paul Lamb's articles in the December issue of the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper. Although neither solves the problems that our fraternity faces, they did give some insight into what is happening because of our declining membership, resulting in the closure or consolidation of some Blue Lodges, and the changes needed to attract new members. However, as Brother Lamb said, "We do not need more Masons – we need the right Masons." That will be the only way our fraternity will once again become the premier organization to join. We cannot abandon our current requirements, but we can put ourselves out in the open and let our communities know that we are men of good character, with good morals, and willing not only to take care of our fellow brethren, but our community as well.

What has happened to all the Masonic symbols that I once saw on cars letting people know that we are proud of our organization? Perhaps it's time to get back to an old tradition and put those Masonic emblems on our cars once again. This way you can let brothers know that you are a fellow Mason and at the same time let the world know that the Masonic organization is alive and kicking. I have several on my car and I often have people inquire about them or introduce themselves to me as fellow brethren.

Scottish Rite membership has also fallen. However, unlike Blue Lodge, the Scottish Rite does not live by the "2B1ASK1" requirement. We can talk to our brethren, let them know who we are and what we do and why we are known as the "College of Freemasonry," and how we develop and enhance one's own character. We can explain that the degrees teach us Reverence for God, Devotion to Country, Justice for all, Tolerance and Service to Humanity.

This month a new class of candidates will begin their "college education" and take the first steps in the Scottish Rite. They will see the 4th and 32nd Degrees and four of the other 29 degrees offered by the Scottish Rite. In future years they can see the remainder of the degrees. As Bro. Benjamin Franklin said, "Tell me and I forget; teach me and I

may remember; involve me and I will learn." Perhaps that's why over the years the Scottish Rite has been one of the backbones of Masonry.

So why not do your part and see if you can help our Valley grow? Talk to your fellow brethren, who are not members of the Scottish Rite and see if they would like to join the upcoming spring class, which will honor Bro. Frederick W. Schmalz.

Candidates can either fill out a petition on line at the Supreme Council, NMJ home page, obtain a petition by contacting the Valley of Hartford (860) 666-0712 or at www.valleyofhartford.org, or come on the first night of class, Thursday, February 7, at 7:30 p.m. Petitions will be accepted up to 7:15 p.m. that evening.

If you have a candidate, remember to let them know that they will be seeing live plays or a DVD of each degree portrayed. It will involve three Thursday night commitments and a half day on Consistory Day, Saturday April 13, when the 29th and 32nd Degrees are portrayed. The initiation fee of \$150 includes complimentary pre-degree dinners and the Consistory Day luncheon. Unlike Blue Lodge, no memorization is required and after they join, should they want to get involved in the work of the Valley, there are many positions other than serving as an officer that might interest to them.

Informational DVDs are available on request from the Valley of Hartford office. Call (860) 666-0712 or email sect@snet.net and a copy will be mailed to you. Or stop by the office at 207 Deming Street, Newington, any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday between 9:00 a.m. and noon to pick up a copy and receive a tour of the building.



**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.*

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INTERESTED IN JOINING THE
SCOTTISH RITE PETITIONS WILL BE
ACCEPTED UNTIL 7:15 P.M. ON FEB. 7.**

Our 2019 Spring Schedule starts with

**Thur., Feb. 7 - Portrayal of 4th & 14th
Degrees at 7:30 p.m. (Snow date Feb. 21)**
**Thur., Feb. 28 - 20th Degree (DVD) &
Portrayal of 16th Degree at 7:30 p.m.
(Snow date March 7)**
**Thur. March 24 - Portrayal of 18th Degree
7:30 p.m. (Snow date March 28)**

**Pre-Degree dinner available at 6 p.m. for all above.
Advance reservations are required. Call (860) 666-0712**

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

The Masonicare Experience

Inspiring stories from throughout the Masonicare continuum

Rehab Success Story: Home for the Holidays

by Sandy Potter

This Christmas was undoubtedly the most special one South Meriden resident Daniel Sorensen and his family has ever had. A patient and resident at Masonicare Health Center for nearly two years, Dan was discharged on December 11, just in time for the holidays.

“If I go back to where I was, and see where I am now, it’s hard for me to believe,” he says. Physical Therapist Ashlie Kipperman explains, “Dan came in January 2017 after a long hospitalization and was pretty complex medically. He had been previously independent, living in his house, and taking care of his family, when he experienced a sudden and mysterious change in his health that made him extremely weak.”

Dan’s initial rehabilitation therapy was not successful. As he continued to grow even weaker, it was decided he would move to a long-term care floor as there was little likelihood he would be able to go home.

However, little by little, and with an unstoppable spirit, Dan pushed forward with the Masonicare rehab team and continued to try the many types of therapy available. After a while, his efforts began to pay off. “I started to feel stronger. I started pushing myself more, challenging myself more. The therapists gave me the courage to do what I needed to do,” Dan said.

“He’s come a long, long way! When I first met Dan, he couldn’t even sit at the edge of the bed by himself...to now walking down the hall,” adds Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant, Kerry McKinnon.

As the rehabilitation progressed, Dan and wife, Christine, were asked how they would feel about the prospect of Dan being able to go home. Christine burst into tears. “The staff wondered if that was good news or bad news,” Dan says jokingly.

After looking at dates, Dan decided it would be his goal to be home for Christmas. His therapists united in that goal and together they formed an intense therapy plan for his last few months at Masonicare Health Center.

Dan formed a particularly strong bond with one of his physical therapists, Hans “Peter” Franco Del Carpio, who had a mantra that motivated Dan in the final months: “Enjoy the Moment.” “Whenever he had a new task that was going to be tough, he’d have a smile on his face and say enjoy the moment now. And I’d say, I’m probably going to hate the moment, but thank you for giving me the moment!” Dan says smiling.

It resonated with Dan and Christine so much that they had t-shirts made for Dan and Peter to wear during their therapy sessions. Peter’s shirt says ‘Enjoy the Moment’ and Dan’s shirt says “Enjoying the Moment.” “It’s such a meaningful reminder that there are always moments to enjoy no matter what situation you are in,” Christine says.

This experience has touched Peter as well, professionally and personally. “It’s amazing as a therapist to be able to help someone recover their life. Being able to do this is a blessing,” Peter says smiling.

Dan walked out of Masonicare Health Center to a parade of hugs and a sea of applause. Masonicare CEO JP Venoit, Health Center Administrator Amy Pellerin and staff from Rehabilitation, Nursing, Social Services and Admissions all gathered in the lobby to congratulate his success and give their well wishes. It was a very emotional send-off.

“I want to emphasize how strongly I feel about the people who have taken care of me here. They helped me through a situation that was scary and depressing at points. They were always there taking care of me and never made me feel like I was a burden on them.

They took it upon themselves to treat me like a human being and not just somebody that they have a job to take care of. I appreciate that because you can almost lose your humanity if you’re in a situation and you’re just alone, but I never felt alone,” Dan said.

Dan is now receiving follow-up nursing and rehab therapy at home from the Masonicare Home Health team. He’s doing extremely well and his new goal is to get back to driving. With his determination, we have no doubt that he will.



Dan and members of the team who encouraged him on his journey.



Christine and Dan (with Masonicare CEO JP Venoit) as they leave the Health Center for home.

Brian E. Beals Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze



Brian Edward Beals, a lifelong Bristol resident, was born in Bristol on September 27, 1957 to Douglas and Theresa Beals. The oldest of three children, he has a sister Karen Hansen of Brewster, Massachusetts and a brother Alan Beals of Bristol. He attended Bristol schools and graduated from Bristol Eastern High School in 1975.

Brian started his Masonic journey at a young age. He joined the Ephraim Kirby Chapter Order of DeMolay in 1970 at age 13 and held many offices including Master Councilor. He served as chapter Scribe while he was a senior DeMolay. He was honored with the Degree of Chevalier on Nov. 12, 1981, the Legion of Honor on January 7, 2012 and has served as Executive Officer in CT since December 3, 2016. He was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Franklin Lodge No. 56 on March 5, 1979. Brian served Franklin Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1985 as well as Treasurer and Secretary. He also served as Worshipful Master of Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14 in 2012. Brian has been serving as a Trustee and as President of the Temple Corporation for Frederick Franklin Lodge since Frederick Lodge and Franklin Lodge merged in 2001.

Brian has served the Grand Lodge of Connecticut as District Deputy of District 5B in 2009-2010 and as Grand Senior Steward in 2013 under MWB Simon R. LaPlace. His service did not stop there-- he currently serves as the coordinator of Grand Lodge Awards, as a member of the Committee on Legal Matters, and as Deputy Grand Treasurer for the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

Brian also belongs to Frederica Chapter No.110 Order of Eastern Star, is a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason at the Valley of Hartford, is a Past High Priest of Columbia Chapter No. 31 Royal Arch Masons, is the current Thrice Illustrious Master of Lee Council No. 25 Royal & Select Masters and received Knight of Ish Sodi Award for Meritorious Service on June 1, 2018 by MPGM Clyde W. Kayser II.

Brian married his loving wife Karen on Oct. 5, 1991. He is the proud father of three sons and two daughters-in-law, Kevin and Stephanie Beals, Shawn and Connie Beals and Keith Beals. On June 28, 2016, he experienced the joy of becoming a grandparent when Everett was born to Kevin and Stephanie, who are also expecting a daughter in January, 2019.

After high school, Brian pursued a career in the family vending business Dine-A-Matic, where he worked alongside his father Douglas A. Beals Jr. and his uncle, Jeffrey P. Beals in Bristol until it was sold in 1985. Brian went on to work in a variety of management roles at other vending companies before he and his longtime friend Ray Frankowski started their own small engine repair business, R&B Repair Services, in 2003. The business has served over 2,800 customers in 15 years, many of whom have been customers since the beginning.

At the age of eight, Brian joined the Cub Scouts then later the Boy Scouts where he achieved the rank of Star. Additionally, he served Troops No. 4 and No. 418 of Bristol for several years as Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, Troop Committee Chairman and served

Long Rivers Council as a Camporee Coordinator.

Brian is a lifelong member of Bristol Baptist Church, currently known as Bridge Community Church, where he's been a long-time volunteer. In 1993 he was elected to serve the church as treasurer and still holds that office, which also requires him to serve on the board of trustees. In June, 2018, Brian, along with six other church members, completed a two-year project on the transitional team to merge Bristol Baptist Church and Wolcott Community Bible Church and form Bridge Community Church.

In recognition of his service to his family, his church, his community and this fraternity, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the state of Connecticut is both pleased and proud to present to Right Worshipful Brian Beals the Pierpont Edwards medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.



*MWB Marshall K. Robinson congratulates
RWB Brian E. Beals*



*The Pierpont Edwards Medal in
Bronze of Brian E. Beals alongside
that of his late grandfather,
Brother Douglas A. Beals, who was
awarded the medal in 1994.*



RWB Brian Beals, with grandson Everett, offers remarks

Russell Griswold Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze

Ed. Note: Sometimes Pierpont Edwards awards citations do not make it to us to print in the paper. Worshipful Brother Russ Griswold received his Pierpont Edwards medal in November 2017. This was brought to our attention and we are running this now.



Worshipful Brother Russell Griswold was born August 18, 1949, the son of Lewellyn R. Griswold and Mary Wells-Griswold. Russ is the second of five children, with his brother David being the oldest, followed by his brother William and sisters Linda and Dorothy.

Russ grew up in Oxford where he was educated in the Oxford Public Schools system. He graduated high school from Bullard-Havens Technical School in 1967, with a concentration in tool and die manufacturing. Russ attended Waterbury State Technical College, graduating with associate degrees in electrical engineering and environmental science.

Russ enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and joined the Marine Corps Aviation Program in 1970, supporting the United States and its allies as a communications and navigation technician during the Vietnam conflict. His was stationed in Japan, Thailand, Cambodia, Philippines and, Da Nang, South Vietnam. His main responsibility was maintaining the flight worthiness of EA6A Intruder and the RF4B Phantom aircraft.

Russ was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, Navy Unit Commendation Medal, National Defense Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal. He left the Marine Corps as a Staff Sergeant after serving six years. Russ was named to the Connecticut Military All-Stars in 2016.

While growing up in Oxford, Russ belonged to the 4H Club, the Center Fire Department and the Oxford Ambulance Corps as an EMT. He was also a First Aid and CPR Instructor for 35 years with the American Red Cross.

After being honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps, Russ worked at EFI in Thomaston where he was a tool maker and then promoted to Corporate Health, Safety and Environmental Manager, overseeing operations in Thomaston; Yonkers, New York; and El Paso, Texas. Prior to retiring, Russ also spent time as a salesman for Master Lock for over 10 years.

Russ married Phyllis Ann Lerosse Pelletier on July 15, 1983, and they recently celebrated 35 years of marriage. Phyllis's daughters, Susan, Emily and Jo-El became Russ's loving stepdaughters and Russ is very proud of all his grandchildren, Tyra, Justin, Angela, Rachel, Jeana and Joseph. Russ and Phyllis attend the United Church of Christ Congregational.

WB Griswold was initiated as an Entered Apprentice degree at Harmony Lodge No. 42 in February, 1991, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on March 7, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on April 4. He served as Worshipful Master of Harmony Lodge



in 1998. He has continued to serve the lodge as the ritual coach, Chaplain and filling in for absent officers at lodge meetings.

He joined the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Waterbury in November 1991. Russ is currently the Chaplain for the Doric Lodge of Perfection, the Ionic Council of Princes of Jerusalem, and the Corinthian Chapter of Rose Croix, and he is a member of Lafayette Consistory. Russ can always be found at rehearsals with a part in many of the degrees held by the Scottish Rite Bodies. For the last 12 years, Brother Russ has been the Chairman of the Walk For Dyslexia Awareness fund-raiser to benefit The Children's Dyslexia Center of Connecticut. Brother Russ received the Arthur M. Brown, 33° Meritorious Service Award on June 15, 2007. On August 31, 2010, Illustrious Brother Russell Griswold was coroneted an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°.

WB Russ's Masonic obligations became more extended by joining Pyramid Shrine in Bridgeport and as a member of the Royal Order of Jesters, Dimaryp Court 66. He also joined Zindah Grotto in Waterbury and served as Monarch in 2010-2011. Past Monarch Russ organizes the Christmas Party for the Waterbury Masonic Bodies every December, sponsored by Zindah Grotto. Russ is also a member of the Police Square Club, which is a Masonic Club based in Bridgeport.

When not involved in this multitude of activities, Russ can be found doing what he loves best, helping people in need. Whether a widow in his neighborhood who needs her hedges trimmed, mowing the lawn for the Lodge neighbor who lives alone and is undergoing treatment for cancer, replacing the fence of his elderly neighbor, helping Masonic brothers split firewood or visiting an ailing brother or widow at their home or in a convalescent home, Russ can be counted on to help and serve others. WB Russ Griswold is the true definition of "A Brother" in the Masonic Community.

In recognition of his service to our fraternity, to his Lodge and to the State of Connecticut, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Connecticut is pleased to present to Worshipful Brother Russell Griswold the Pierpont Edwards Medal in bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.

A Brief History of Grand Lodge Publications in Connecticut And Why There are Scottish Rite Inserts *by Charles W. Yohe*

For many years, Grand Lodge of Connecticut published a quarterly 'magazine' entitled *Connecticut Square and Compasses*. Masons even paid for the publication as a part of the Grand Lodge dues and assessments. During the 1990s, discussion began to arise around the idea of creating a monthly publication that would be more frequent and contribute in a positive manner to improved communication between Grand Lodge and its constituents.

Back in those days, the Grand Master published a monthly *Grand Master's Trestle Board* that listed where he was going to be and what he was going to be doing. This publication was transmitted via U.S. mail (now affectionately known as "snail mail") to all Grand Lodge Officers, District Deputies, Past Grand Masters, and the more than 100 lodges in existence at that time. As one can imagine, the mailing expense was significant, even at postage rates that were a fraction of those today. Being of Pennsylvania Dutch descent and Scottish heritage, in 1995, I started to add small articles to fill out both sides of the Grand Master's Trestle Board. Succeeding Grand Masters tended to follow suit. But this still did not contribute much toward improved communication.

Then, in the early 2000s, MWB Clifford 'Chip' Stamm and MWB George Greytak worked on implementing a monthly newspaper. MWB Stamm worked with WB Jean Maheu and the first *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper was born.

Any newspaper publisher will tell you that there are two major things that determine a paper's success: sufficient articles of interest to the readership and sufficient paid advertising to subsidize the cost of printing and distribution. It costs a lot more to publish a paper than the subscription price covers. So it is with the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper. The paper relies heavily on donations from Masons, aka Boosters, as well as major support from Masonicare, the Connecticut Scottish Rite bodies, and other advertisers. Brothers' dues money no longer subsidizes publication.

In return for their financial support and the purchasing of advertising space, a certain number of pages of each issue are devoted to the major supporters. A recent bit of feedback from a Brother was

critical of the amount of 'ink' allotted to the Scottish Rite. The Brother made a valid point with regard to a lack of content around the districts and Blue Lodges. But here's the rub: **Connecticut Freemasons can't publish what isn't submitted.** The editorial staff of the *Connecticut Freemasons* is largely volunteer. Other than stipends for the editor and the layout person, everyone else works for free. There are no paid reporters or correspondents.

It is agreed that we need more articles designed to assist lodges and to publicize good things that the lodges are doing, but those articles need to come from you. You don't have to be a professional writer. Just provide us with the basic information and someone else will polish it for you. Photographs are particularly nice to associate with events, just make sure you identify the individuals so that a proper caption can be created. I challenge YOU to submit at least one article for each of our districts for the next 5 months. Surely there are things happening in each of our districts that are newsworthy and can be included.

Now what of the assertion that: "the *Connecticut Freemasons* is becoming a Scottish Rite recruiting tool and is or will be hurting our Blue Lodges in Connecticut?" Nothing could be further from the intention of the Scottish Rite in Connecticut or elsewhere. The Scottish Rite has recognized the same problem that individual Grand Lodges have attempted to address (unsuccessfully) for years – declining membership. To the Scottish Rite's credit, they've put their money where their mouth is and have committed to creating and distributing public relations tools that can be utilized by Grand Lodges and individual lodges to promote Masonry and build our membership. Anyone who is a member of the Scottish Rite will tell you that at every Scottish Rite degree, the attendees are admonished that there is no degree higher or more honorable than that of Master Mason. Further, attendees are admonished to support and strengthen their respective Blue Lodges. The reasoning is quite simple: if the Blue Lodges cease to exist, then too will the Scottish Rite. That was the impetus for the "Not just a man. A Mason" campaign.

The inserts from Lafayette Consistory (Valley of Bridgeport) that are included four times per year are paid submissions

and represent a significant financial boost for the *Connecticut Freemasons*. The Valley of Bridgeport used to print its own *Echoes from the Valley* which was distributed to its membership. However, their leadership felt that printing them as inserts in the *Connecticut Freemasons* was more cost effective and would potentially reach more Brothers.

It is no secret we have lodges in Connecticut that run the gamut from those that are well managed and provide continual opportunities for their membership to those that are struggling mightily and barely hanging on. The dilemma that your Grand Lodge has grappled with for years is how to help those struggling lodges when the officers of those lodges aren't receptive to a helping hand from Grand Lodge and are too often absent from any educational seminars that are offered. It is these lodges that most likely are 'losing' members to other Masonic organizations.

I would suggest that if your Blue Lodge is losing members to other bodies – Scottish Rite, York Rite, Shrine – and those members are absenting themselves from your lodge, you need to ask yourself why and seek to change your lodge environment to once again make it attractive to your members. What is your Blue Lodge not doing to satisfy your members and keep them active? What is your lodge doing that 'turns brothers off'? We all need to be on our guard and assure that we are always living and acting by the tenets of our great institution. We need to take care to provide an atmosphere of friendship and brotherly love before, during and after our lodge meetings. That means avoiding discussions that can be divisive – such as politics, religion, etc., at all times and at all lodge functions. Further, take a page from the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and make your lodge functions inspirational, convenient, and enjoyable. I personally find more enjoyment at Scottish Rite reunions than at my lodge's stated communications. Why? At Scottish Rite, there is no business meeting, everyone knows their respective part in the ritual, and there is rewarding camaraderie before, during and after the degrees.

Meanwhile, your Grand Lodge will work on having the appropriate Grand Lodge committees, such as Education, Awareness, and

Continued on page 15

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
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valleyofnewhaven.org*



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

Publication History and Scottish Rite Inserts

continued from page 14

Community Action, create a repository of instructional articles that contain helpful hints to help our Blue Lodges improve and build membership. These articles can then be available for inclusion in future issues of the *Connecticut Freemasons*.

We will also endeavor to publish examples of 'best practices' that are being employed by our most successful lodges. If your lodge has something that it does that is particularly good at attracting and retaining active members, please contact us with the information. If you don't have anyone to write it up, that's okay. If necessary, we'll send someone to your lodge to sit down with you, capture the information, and convert it into an article for publication. Remember, Grand Lodge does not make nor retain Masons. That is something that is exclusive to its member lodges. If you don't do it, then Masonry continues its decline.

Ed Note: Any lodge, appendant or concordant body may submit paid inserts for publication either recurring or one-off. Contact the Editor at submissions@ctfreemasons.net for details on pricing, space availability, and formatting requirements

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

Charles E. Alloway

Kenneth E. Anderson

Christian Blechinger

Robert C. Broga Jr

James A. Conner

Albert W. Daniels Jr

Jay C. Fernandes Jr

Alfred B. Jenkins

Eugene Kanner

James W. Lennon

Leroy S. Linder

Roy T. Lingdell

Eric W. Manner

Eric W. Manner

Wesley A. Radcliffe

David P. Reed

Donald E. Robinson

David P. Saldibar

Philip L. Simmons

Newell A. Stamm Sr

Robert H. Wentworth

Ronald N. Wentworth

Grey D. Zane

Brainard Lodge No. 102

Day Spring Lodge No. 30

Temple Lodge No. 65

Bay View Lodge No. 120

Ark Lodge No. 39

Jeptha Lodge No. 95

Widow's Son Lodge No. 66

Composite Lodge No. 28

America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

Composite Lodge No. 28

Jeptha Lodge No. 95

America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

Evening Star Lodge No. 101

Hospitality Lodge No. 128

Washington Lodge No. 19

Shepherd Lodge No. 78

Widow's Son Lodge No. 66

Annawon Lodge No. 115

America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140

Wooster Lodge No. 10

Jeptha Lodge No. 95

Federal Lodge No. 17



Of Cords Seen and Unseen

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

The Valley of Bridgeport will present four degrees this February: a live 16th Degree and video presentation of the 31st Degree on Monday, February 4, and a live 28th Degree and a video rendition of the 12th Degree on Monday, February 25. If you are just embarking on the Scottish Rite Path, a video presentation of the 4th Degree will be shown before these degrees, by prior arrangement. Please contact the office at (203) 375-0064 to make reservations for dinner (6 p.m. prior to the degrees) and to confirm your attendance at the degrees! New candidates should speak to the office regarding petitions.

Proceeding down the second leg of our 24-inch gauge, The Valley will be touring (and sampling) the wares offered at the Two Roads Brewery in Stratford on February 2 from 1-4 p.m., and attending the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestra Concert at the Klein Auditorium in Bridgeport on the afternoon of March 3. Please contact the office for more details and tickets

Our third length of the proverbial 24-inch gauge this month will be the unveiling of the significance of the cable tow in our Blue Lodges. Since all objects in the lodge are symbolic and allude to deeper spiritual concepts we should explore the meaning of this important accoutrement utilized in our initiatic operations.

The esoteric origins of the term Cable-Tow comes from the era of Gothic Cathedral building. A piece of yarn, string or spun fiber was referred to as a "taw." When one took several pieces of taw, and connected them by twisting or weaving them into a rope – this was called cabling. The resulting rope was then called a cable-taw. This rope was utilized to mark off defined lengths with chalk at the end and was also used to pull up tools to workmen working

at a higher elevation within a structure. It is possible that the term the "length of one's cable tow" refers to the height limitation to which a worker could climb before he had to lift up his tools. This in effect defined the limitations of the worker in the workplace.

The underlying subtle significance of the cable-tow is akin to that of an umbilical cord which attaches a babe to its mother. The emerging Masonic candidate is thus spiritually connected to the lodge in which he is being initiated. In the physical world, the baby's umbilical cord is severed once it emerges from the womb into the physical world. In our lodges, however, the cable-tow is removed only after the spiritual bond is assumed after the obligation is recited. The obligation thus taken binds the candidate to the Lodge and to the Craft. Unlike the physical umbilical cord, the Obligation functions as an inalienable etheric cord which lasts for the duration of the candidates lifetime, even if he demits, is suspended, or is subjected to expulsion. Thus, even though the cable tow was removed from us when we were initiated, the etheric silver cord is ever-present under the gaze of the all-seeing eye. We are thus never alone once we Master the ability to connect to the Essence and Eggregore of our Mother Lodge.

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!
UPCOMING SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES

Monday, February 4, 7:30 p.m.
 16th Degree (live) and
 31st Degree (video)

Monday, February 25, 7:30 p.m.
 28th Degree (live) and
 12th Degree (video)

Degrees are at the
Leo H. Lohrman, II, Theatre in Stratford

R.S.V.P. required.
 Please email: Office@LafayetteConsistory.com
 or call 203-375-0064.

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

Valley of Bridgeport 2422 Main Street Stratford, CT 06615 Office@LafayetteConsistory.com 203-375-0064	Valley of New Haven 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com 203-269-0336	Valley of Waterbury 529 Highland Avenue Waterbury, CT 06708 cdoneill@snet.net 203-754-8209
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For more information, contact the Valley near you or email Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com.

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2018 Annual Report



"The best way to predict the future is to create it."

— Abraham Lincoln

Dear Brother,

Throughout fiscal year 2018, Masonicare continued to embrace strategies designed to secure a stronger future for our organization. In that spirit, we made purposeful business decisions and pursued partnerships that would, in the long run, help us deliver services better and more efficiently. We have continued our efforts to reduce Masonicare's reliance on unfavorable governmental funding, which accounts for sixty percent of our revenue and falls woefully short of covering our costs. This means seeking revenue from other sources, especially in the residential sector, while still pursuing our mission of caring. We also intend to refresh our brand to reflect our commitment to the future.

Here are some highlights of the fiscal year:

- On December 21, 2017, we closed on our acquisition of Chester Village West, a retirement community in the Connecticut River town of Chester. Masonicare at Chester Village quickly became part of the Masonicare family. A festive celebration marking the one-year anniversary was held this past December 21. We are now in the process of completing some capital improvements to the campus, which is a source of excitement for both residents and staff.
- At Masonicare at Mystic, our Independent Living apartments are all occupied or spoken for! Our focus now is on ensuring a higher occupancy in our Assisted Living and Memory Care apartments. To that end, we have hired new staff, adjusted our pricing and enhanced memory care programs. We also retrofitted some of those apartments into an option for seniors seeking more affordable Independent Living.
- We continue to establish Assisted Living Services partnerships with congregate housing providers. This allows us to bring services to a population that needs them, without the capital investment of owning the property.
- The third year of our "Students-in-Residence" program with Quinnipiac University is underway. This unique program in which a QU student lives in our Assisted Living community in Wallingford has brought Masonicare national recognition. It is proof of our commitment to combating ageism and stereotypes about both seniors and young people.
- In late February, we announced an alliance with Hebrew Senior Care in West Hartford. Branded as the Connecticut Senior Hospital Alliance, this offers seniors and their families a compelling acute care alternative for conditions and diagnoses most common in the senior population, such as congestive heart failure and COPD.
- After many years of struggling to make our Newtown campus sustainable, we made the decision to sell it to Athena Health Care Systems. June 1 was a bittersweet day as we said good-bye to this piece of our history. Athena worked closely with us to transition patients and staff seamlessly and we firmly believe they have the scale and resources to breathe new life into the campus.
- Late in the year we dissolved our home care and hospice partnership with Saint Francis Hospital. The hospital is now part of Trinity Health of New England, which has its own home health and hospice programs. Masonicare Home Health & Hospice remains fully committed to the Hartford area. Indeed, home health continues to be a growing part of the healthcare delivery system as more people age in place and remain at home. We intend to be a leader in that sector.

As always, we are very grateful for the continued generosity of our donors. The Masonic Charity Foundation received almost \$3.9 million in giving in 2018. We are also grateful for the hundreds of volunteers within our continuum who enhance life for our residents and patients, including those receiving hospice care. Our We Honor Veterans hospice volunteer program continues to grow, bringing unique support to military veterans at the end of life.

As we enter our 124th year, Masonicare will continue to adapt as necessary to create a future where we can remain faithful to our mission for another 124 years.

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Chairman of the Board

Jon-Paul Venoit
President & Chief Executive Officer

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- Robert A. Simon
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Newton (Bud) Buckner

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EMERITUS

- Charles C. Maxson

Financial Statement *as of September 30, 2018 (\$000 omitted)*

The financial summary is presented on a consolidated basis to include Masonicare at Ashlar Village, Masonicare at Newtown, Masonicare at Home, Masonicare at Mystic, Senior Living by Masonicare, Masonicare at Chester Village, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, Corporate Services, Masonicare Health Center, Masonic Management Services, Keystone Indemnity Company and The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. A complete copy of the audited consolidated financial statement is available upon request.

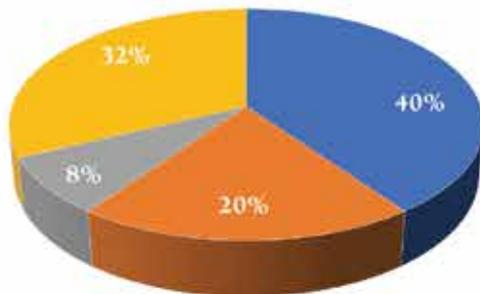
2018 Financial Performance

Results of operations at Masonicare for fiscal 2018 reflect a year of significant change for the organization, with strategic initiatives undertaken to reduce Masonicare's reliance on unfavorable governmental funding. Masonicare at Chester Village was acquired during December 2017, increasing the private pay revenue stream and resulting in a one-time \$2.1 million gain on bargain purchase of the facility. Masonic Management Services wound-up operations during December 2017, eliminating a loss-generating operation. Masonicare at Newtown was sold effective June 1, 2018, eliminating another loss-generating operation and resulting in a one-time \$2.6 million gain on divestiture. Masonicare Partners Home Health & Hospice (a joint venture with Saint Francis Hospital) began dissolution as each of the partners transitions to providing services in the Hartford area independently, resulting in a one-time cost of dissolution of \$1.1 million. Recurring results for Masonicare's entities responsible for the repayment of the organization's tax-exempt debt (the "Obligated Group") reflect a decline in profitability over the prior year, with the non-Obligated Group entities performance slightly ahead of the prior year.

Operating revenues for fiscal 2018 decreased approximately \$6.2 million (3.3%) over the prior year, reflecting the strategic initiatives noted above. Operating expenses for fiscal 2018 remained flat with the prior year, including the increased costs related to the Mystic and Chester Village facilities. Non-operating revenues were strong in fiscal 2018, increasing approximately \$2.6 million over the prior year, reflecting both increased levels of contributions (\$0.6 million) and increased levels of investment income (\$2.0 million). Other significant activity impacting bottom-line results during fiscal year 2018 included the write-off of \$1.2 million of costs associated with an abandoned Masonicare Health Center capital project and recognition of the change in the market value of the Masonicare at Chester Village interest rate swap agreement resulting in a gain of \$0.2 million.

Changes in the financial position of Masonicare at year-end 2018 from the prior year include: continued growth in the levels of unrestricted cash & investments (to \$98.9 million); continued growth in property and equipment (including the acquisition of Masonicare at Chester Village and the disposition of Masonicare at Newtown); net reduction in long-term debt with incremental borrowings related to the acquisition of Masonicare at Chester Village, amortization of the outstanding tax-exempt debt, and redemption of the remaining Series G tax-exempt debt with proceeds from the Masonicare at Newtown sale; and a reduction in net assets (totaling \$4.7 million). Consolidated unrestricted days cash on hand of 193 days at September 30, 2018 has increased over the prior year (180 days) and consolidated days revenue in receivables of 43 days at September 30, 2018 has increased slightly over the prior year (41 days).

2018 REVENUE BY PAYER MASONICARE CONSOLIDATED



- Medicare 40%
- Medicaid 20%
- Commercial 8%
- Private Pay & Other 32%

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES BEFORE ONE-TIME ITEMS AND FINANCING TRANSACTION ITEMS

	Consolidated	Ob Group	Non-Ob Group
2018	\$ (8,077)	\$ (1,932)	\$ (6,145)
2017	\$ (5,500)	\$ 783	\$ (6,283)
Change	\$ (2,577)	\$ (2,715)	\$ 138

	2018	2017	% Change
OPERATING REVENUE			
Net patient service revenue	\$140,850	\$150,667	-7%
Resident fees	35,595	31,152	14%
Other revenue	5,623	6,377	-12%
Provision for bad debts	(2,862)	(2,782)	3%
Total Operating Revenue	179,206	185,414	-3%
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Salaries, wages and employee benefits	131,307	137,747	-5%
Supplies and other expenses	31,027	31,545	-2%
Professional fees	17,620	15,279	15%
Depreciation and amortization	14,032	11,573	21%
Interest	8,113	7,075	15%
Minority interest	(531)	(679)	NM
Total Operating Expenses	201,568	202,540	0%
NON-OPERATING INCOME			
Contributions (unrestricted funds)	3,201	2,589	24%
Investment income	11,084	9,037	23%
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES before one time items and financing transaction items			
	(8,077)	(5,500)	
Construction in progress write-off (MHC)	(1,177)	-	
Provision for dissolution costs (MPHH&H)	(1,107)	-	
Gain on sale of facility (MAN)	2,562	-	
Gain on bargain purchase (MCV)	2,086	-	
Change in value of interest rate swap	176	1,546	
Loss on refinancing	-	(1,668)	
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES	(5,537)	(5,622)	
Changes in net assets	793	10,376	
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(4,744)	4,754	
Total net assets at beginning of year	141,877	137,123	
TOTAL NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$137,133	\$141,877	
Unrestricted	\$52,745	\$57,878	-9%
Temporarily restricted	2,966	3,245	-9%
Permanently restricted	81,422	80,754	1%
TOTAL NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$137,133	\$141,877	-3%

ASSETS	2018	2017	% Change
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,161	\$541	299%
Restricted cash	3,967	768	417%
Patient accounts receivable	20,867	21,381	-2%
Other	4,065	4,405	-8%
Assets whose use is limited or restricted	3,551	3,581	-1%
Total current assets	34,611	30,676	13%
INVESTMENTS - UNRESTRICTED	96,763	93,374	4%
INVESTMENTS - SELF INSURANCE LIABILITIES	21,198	22,526	6%
INVESTMENTS - TRUSTED ASSETS	2,656	5,342	NM
INVESTMENTS - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	3,795	4,084	-7%
INVESTMENTS - ENDOWMENT FUNDS	43,661	43,212	1%
Less: current portion of investments	(3,551)	(3,581)	-1%
OTHER ASSETS	974	513	90%
PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	201,045	199,273	1%
TOTAL	\$401,152	\$395,419	1%
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$34,079	\$30,974	10%
LONG-TERM DEBT	156,307	157,572	-1%
OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	73,633	64,996	13%
NET ASSETS	137,133	141,877	-3%
TOTAL	\$401,152	\$395,419	1%

UNRESTRICTED CASH & INVESTMENTS

2018	\$98,924
2017	\$93,915

DEBT TO CAPITALIZATION RATIO

2018	53%
2017	53%

Summary of Activity

OCCUPANCY	2018	2017
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MASONICARE HEALTH CENTER (BEDS-UNITS)

Skilled nursing beds (366/366)	95.6%	97.2%
Acute medical beds (30/30)	32.3%	36.1%
Acute psychiatric beds (29/29)	97.9%	91.4%
Residential care beds (86/86)	94.7%	95.9%
Independent apartments (93/93)	99.0%	98.7%

MASONICARE AT NEWTOWN (BEDS-UNITS)**

Skilled nursing beds (137/137)	89.6%	89.3%
Assisted living apartments (56/56)	59.1%	67.3%

** FACILITY SOLD 6/1/18. FY2018 INFORMATION THROUGH 5/31/2018

MASONICARE AT ASHLAR VILLAGE (UNITS)

Independent living (360/360)	89.5%	90.5%
Assisted living (137/137)	82.5%	89.6%

MASONICARE AT MYSTIC (UNITS)

Independent living (93/81)	67.3%	49.3%
Assisted living (86/98)	23.6%	5.5%

MASONICARE AT CHESTER VILLAGE (UNITS)***

Independent living (105)	66.3%	///////
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*** FACILITY ACQUIRED 12/21/2017

VISITS/ DAYS	2018	2017
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MASONICARE HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE

Skilled nursing care	106,530	117,944
Physical, occupational and speech therapy	79,540	65,662
Home health aides and others	55,416	67,720
Total Care of the Sick Visits	241,486	251,326
Hospice and Palliative Care Days	142,414	146,376

MASONICARE AT HOME

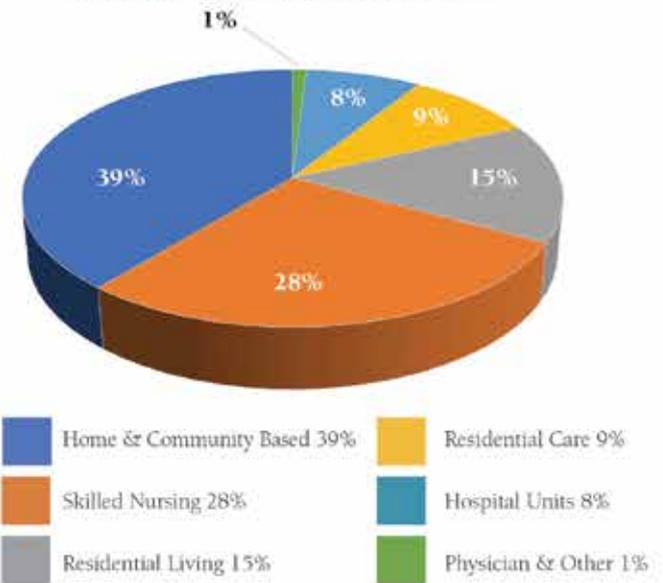
PCA / Homemaker visits	17,070	17,153
Live-In days	11,083	9,325

MASONIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES****

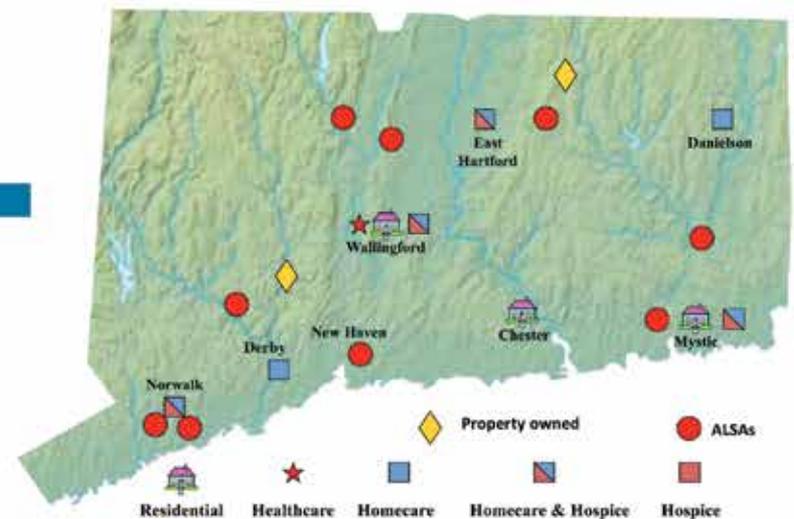
Physician Visits	9,538	42,419
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**** CESSATION OF OPERATIONS AS OF 12/31/2017

2018 REVENUE BY TYPE OF SERVICES MASONICARE CONSOLIDATED



2018 SERVICE AREA



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BASED SERVICES - BOARD OF
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Martha A. Partridge

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President & CEO, Assistant Secretary

James Rude
CFO, Assistant Treasurer

EMERITUS

Harmon Andrews

The Masonic Charity Foundation

During fiscal year 2018, the fundraising efforts of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut secured \$3,887,722 in support of the programs and services of Masonicare and its affiliates. These gifts came in many forms, including bequests, trust distributions, charitable gift annuities and outright major gifts, as well as donations to the Masonicare Annual Appeal and to The Foundation's special events. Between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018, unrestricted contributions totaling \$3,201,772 were received, as well as \$560,464 in funds given by perpetual trusts and \$125,486 in restricted donations. Of particular significance was the very generous gift of \$380,000 from The Eastern Star Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

Fiscal Year 2018 Contributions

Bequests	\$ 131,996
Charitable Trusts	1,709,141
Perpetual Trusts	560,464
Major Gifts (\$10,000 or above)	473,290
Gift Annuity Residuals	103,223
Masonicare Annual Appeal	366,086
Masonicare Tree of Life	99,549
Masonicare Hospice	73,265
Holiday Appeal	18,468
Masonicare Golf Classic	234,270
Masonicare Wine & Beer Tasting	75,265
Other Gifts	42,705

GRAND TOTAL: \$3,887,722

Our Ageless Commitments



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SERVICES - BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2018-2019**

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Secretary

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Treasurer

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James Rude
CFO & Assistant Treasurer

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FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019**

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Treasurer

William L. Greene
Secretary

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Christopher J. Earle

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Executive Director

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President & CEO, Assistant Secretary

James Rude
CFO, Assistant Treasurer

EMERITI

Carleton V. Erickson

A. Norman Johnson

Gail N. Smith

Sayonara ~ Right Worshipful Brother Stanley T. House

by *Richard F. Denno*

On Wednesday, January 2, friends and family gathered at the Spencer Funeral Home in East Hampton to pay their respects to Right Worshipful Brother Stanley T. House. MWPGM Dennis L. Elkins officiated at the Masonic Funeral service, attended by over 40 Brothers. The following day at the Second Congregational Church in Middle Haddam, Brother Stanley, a lifelong member of the church, was laid to rest in the church cemetery.

Stan was a lifelong member of the church. He served in various capacities including as Deacon, Trustee and Treasurer. He and his wife Heidi were very active in the community. He was an enthusiastic Cub Scout leader, as well as a meal delivery driver for Meals-On-Wheels. He is fondly remembered for his involvement in the Church's Annual Strawberry Festival. "He did everything from picking and washing the berries to serving them to appreciative customers," said Rev. Lois Kennedy, the church's pastor.

Brother House's career in Freemasonry spanned 63 years, having been raised as a member of Anchor Lodge No. 112 to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on May 23, 1955. A dedicated Freemason, Stan served Connecticut Freemasonry in many capacities during those 63 years. He served as Master of Anchor Lodge in 1976 and 1981, as well as a District Deputy in 1984-1985. He was a member, and served as an officer, of nine appendant bodies within both the York and Scottish Rite as well as the Shriners. He was a recipient of the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze.

As Anchor Lodge's secretary, lodge reports to the Grand Lodge were his responsibility. Hating working with a computer, he was one of very few lodge secretaries to submit these reports in hand written form. When asked by brothers what his email address was, he would respond www.youvegottobekiddingme.com.

Stanley House's story is right out of the pages of James Michener's novel and Academy Award winning film, 'Sayonara.' A Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, Stan was stationed in South Korea in the mid-1950's. While on a rest and relaxation trip to Tokyo with some fellow officers, he met Heideko 'Heidi' Saito. Heidi and a few of her friends were asked to give the group of officers a tour around Tokyo. After the tour, Stan asked her for her address and if he could see her again. He saw her on each of his subsequent R&R trips to Tokyo and of course they fell in love. As was depicted in "Sayonara," Stan and Heidi's experience, like with couples from different cultural backgrounds, was, at that time, most difficult. He spent the rest of his life in East Hampton with Heidi and their two sons, Edward and William.

He wanted to marry her while in the service but found the paperwork so daunting that he threw it away. He said he would return for her upon his discharge. Heidi's friends warned her that many soldiers made



such promises, but never returned. Heidi never wavered in her faith that Stan would return for her. She was cautioned by her friends that the beautiful diamond ring he gave her upon his return was 'surely an imitation.' Her friends were truly amazed when a local Japanese jeweler assured them that the ring was indeed real. Stan and Heidi were married at the American Embassy in Tokyo on May 20, 1957. Coincidentally, the "Sayonara" film was released in 1957, grossing over 22 million dollars.

Stan House was a co-worker of RWB John Spencer. "Long before I came to know Stanley as a brother Mason, I knew him as a friend and fellow employee. Stan graduated from the University of Connecticut, School of Agriculture with a major in forest management. He rose from a Forest Ranger position with the Park and Forest Commission to Forest Management Officer for the Department of Environmental Protection, prior to his retirement. I had the opportunity to work with and learn from my good friend. When I entered Anchor Lodge 112 to receive my Entered Apprentice degree, I was pleasantly surprised to find Stan sitting at the secretary's desk."

"Brother Alan Carlson, Stan and I had an opportunity to spend some time together in Scotland. The visits to several lodges and travels around the country will forever bring a smile to my face as I fondly remember the good times we had. I am proud to say RWB Stanley House was a great friend, mentor and my Brother."

MWPGM Dennis Elkins had a similar story. He also married a Japanese woman, Sakuko, whom he met in Japan in 1965. MWB Dennis served as Master of Granite Lodge No. 119 in 1971 and 1973. Elkins served as MWGM in 1986. During the installation of officers at Granite Lodge, three years after first meeting, they discovered that they both were married to Japanese women. Dennis met Sakuko at the USO in Tokyo. They had a unique and close friendship until Stan's death. Whenever MWB Dennis was in Connecticut, they spent time together.

As noted in this piece, the words 'he served' are repeated many times. Stanley House's good deeds, kindnesses to others, and warm friendships with all who knew him are a testament to him as a man, spouse, neighbor and Freemason. To paraphrase a line from an old commercial, "Nobody doesn't like Sara Lee -- Or Stanley T. House!"

Brother Ed Lawson, a member of Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14 in Plainville, is also married to a delightful Japanese woman, Masako. They met in Japan and have been married for over 50 years. Per Brother Lawson, "The word Sayonara is not 'Goodbye', rather "I do not wish for us to part, but if it must be so."

Stanley, from all who have been blessed to know you – Sayonara!



District 1

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



An Entered Apprentice Degree at the Sun Tavern

by Fritzner Erauda

The new year brings in more opportunities; opportunities for men-alike to gather together to pursue a common goal and be the better version of themselves. More importantly, it brings in more opportunities to welcome new brothers to the oldest fraternity in the world.

The brothers of the **Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3**, with many other brothers from nearby lodges in Connecticut, gathered together just a few days after welcoming the new year to welcome a new brother to the lodge. Unlike the previous degrees, this Entered Apprentice Degree was particularly special. The degree was held at the Sun Tavern, which historically held a couple of St. John's Lodge No. 3 meetings during the early 1800's before the lodge built its own Masonic Temple in town.

The Sun Tavern was built around 1780, replacing an old Sun Tavern that was burned during the British raid of 1779. The tavern served many roles. It provided food and lodging for both travelers and their horses as they come through Fairfield on the route between Boston and New York. There were stops for stagecoach – public transportation in the era before trains and buses. It also served as a community hub, where local men might gather for a drink and a good gossip, a game of cards or draughts, or to read the newspaper and discuss politics.

Some of the prominent guests that stayed at the tavern include John Adams and his wife Abigail Adams, and Roger Sherman. It also believed that Brother George Washington stayed at the tavern during one of his presidential tours of New England in 1789.

During the recent years, the Sun Tavern, now a museum, has been revitalized to create a dynamic regional destination that will connect history, art, culture, and community. At present the tavern exhibition offers visitors an immersive experience. Guests can sit at a

tavern table, empty the mailbag, and read a newspaper from 200 years ago.

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut holds a special place for the members of the Fairfield Museum and Historical Center community. The Grand Lodge of Connecticut was the very first group to make a generous contribution to the revitalization of the Sun Tavern. In addition to the inclusion of the symbolic Square and Compasses on the sign just outside of the Sun Tavern, a nice display of the tavern's connection to Freemasonry and its history can also be found on the second floor of the museum.

After the two Masonic meetings that were held at the Sun Tavern in the early 1800's, the brothers of Fidelity-St. John's Lodge never met again in the tavern until 2012 when RWB Chris Jennings became the Worshipful Master of the lodge. The brothers met again at the Sun Tavern in 2015 when WB James D'Acosta and the brothers welcomed two new brothers to the fraternity. Finally, on the evening of January 3rd, WM John Chrysadakis and the rest of the brothers of Fidelity-St. John's Lodge welcomed Bro. Walter Matis, the curator of the Sun Tavern, to the Fraternity.

The other lodges that were represented during the evening are: Union Lodge No. 5, Washington Lodge No. 19, Temple Lodge No. 65, Acacia Lodge No. 85, Corinthian Lodge No. 104, Annawon Lodge No. 115, and Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142.



Bro. Walter Matis, the curator of The Sun Tavern, receiving his Entered Apprentice Degree with the brothers of Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3 and other visiting brethren. Front l-r: Bro. Irv Leif, Bro. Ben Clark, Bro. Walter Matis, WM John Chrysadakis, Bro. Fritzner Erauda, Bro. Diego Aguillon, Bro. Luckner Noel Back l-r: Bro. Barry McDonald, RWB Chris Jennings, Bro. Andrew Flasko, WB James D'Acosta, Bro. Jonathan Walsh, RWB Dave Klein, WB William Schueler and WB Mark Hawkins



Sign post outside of the Sun Tavern honoring the generous donation of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut



The Sun Tavern



2019 Officers of Fidelity St. Johns Lodge No. 3. Front Row (l-r): Bro. Diego Aguillon, Bro. Luckner Noel, WM John Chrysadakis, Bro. Benjamin Clark, WB Harvey Hartin Back Row, (l-r): RWB Phil Roberts, Bro. Andrew Flasko, WB William Schueler, Bro. Fritzner Erauda, WB James D'Acosta and Bro. Jonathan Walsh

District 4

Lodges 1, 9, 16, 22, 30, 38, 63, 66, 77, 79, 89, 97, 115, 125, 332, 500, MLR



Hiram Lodge No. 1 Installs Officers for 2019 *by Jeff Blayman*

For many, the long dreary drive to New Haven that Saturday in January was met with delays as the icy rain and bleakness of winter slowed our travels. Brothers shuffled in from the cold taking refuge in the confines of this landmark of a Masonic temple. The coat room and lower dining hall were abuzz with greetings and salutations as brothers exchanged handshakes and warm embraces. Many brought with them friends and family members as this event was open to the public.

After everyone made their way to the third floor hall, the evening's program started with prayer and presentation of the United States flag by Sleeping Giant Chapter of Demolay. Following opening remarks and the exit of WM Brendan McGann and his suite of officers, the 2019 officers were escorted in by Installing Marshall RWB Salvatore Ferrigno, Worshipful Master-Elect Glenn A Jacques was seated last before WB Michael Calderone delivered a beautifully presented Bible charge about the honor and duty of the obligations.

Officers were invested with the jewel of their office leading up to the Worshipful Master who then approached West of the altar and received the Charter from Past Master Brendan McGann. RWB Steven M Allinson, Installing Master, continued his work and soon removed his cover as WB Glenn Jacques donned his top hat and took his place in the East. RWB Bruce R. Bellmore, Grand Senior Deacon, gave the Master's charge to close the official duties of the evening. Last words were delivered by MWGM Marshall K Robinson who expressed his pleasure in seeing such a splendid installation and asked that someone write about it.

After the installation, jubilation abounded as handshakes and congratulations were in no short supply. All retired downstairs to the dining hall to feast together in brotherhood and share in the lesson of the compass, once learned all those years ago, that noble instrument which contains the most vital tenets of the institution, friendship, morality and brotherly love.



Temple Lodge No. 16 Installs Its 2019 Officer Line *by David Stewart*

On Sunday, January 6, Steven Blake was installed as Temple Lodge No. 16's newest Worshipful Master at a "bridging all time" installation. The brothers of Temple Lodge, along with their friends and families, were honored with the presence of Most Worshipful Grand Master Marshall K. Robinson who served as the installing Master. Installing Marshal was RWB Tom Gondek. MWB Marshall remarked at one point that his exceedingly long trip to get to Temple Lodge was well worth the effort.

"Bridging all Time" was the theme of the installation. Among the usual items found on the altar were two additional: the Lodge's recently found original Bible dating back to the institution of Temple Lodge in 1790, along with the original Charter also dating to Nov. 11, 1790. When Worshipful Brother Elect Steven took his obligation, he placed one hand on the current Bible and the other on the original, thus bridging all time together for the Lodge. Following the installation and closing, all attendees proceeded to the social hall for a celebration.



MWGM Robinson obligates WM Steven Blake



WM Steven Blake receives the original charter

The following officers were installed; Fred Cargil, SW; Philip Sharkey III, JW; David Stewart, Treasurer and Historian; WB Mark Orsini, Secretary; WB Eric Gunther, SD; Jason Polaski, JD; John O'Reilly, SS; Curtis Best, JS; Ford Cole, Chaplin; Irvin Daubert, Marshal; WB John Lesky, Organist; and Philip Newton, Tiler.



WM Blake, the officers and installing team

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR
75-YEAR BROTHER!**

George S. White
Acacia Lodge No. 85 ~ 2/22/44

T. J. NELSON

Home Improvements

860-444-6771

TJNelsonHomes.com





Eighth Annual Moriah Lodge No. 15 Down East Maine Table Lodge *by Edward C. Page*

Moriah Lodge No. 15, located in the “Quiet Northeast Corner of Connecticut,” opened its doors and extended hospitality to those in attendance at the Eighth Annual Down East Maine Table Lodge this past September. As with previous years, the secondary theme of the Table Lodge was created around the current Grand Master’s interests. With MWGM Marshall K. Robinson being a retired State Trooper and a forensics firearms expert, the night’s entertainment was in honor of law enforcement and first responders.

Jurisdictions throughout the New England area were represented with brothers from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Maine participating. After a brief welcome and explanation of the night’s ritual, Table Lodge Master RWB Edward Page introduced the head table which included Rhode Island Grand Master, Brother Glenn S. Carlson, Past Grand Master from Maine, Brother Thomas E. Pulkkinen, Past Grand Masters of Connecticut, Brothers William L. Greene, Charles A. Buck Jr. (who delivered the charge to the brothers), Theodore J. Nelson, Gail N. Smith, Charles W. Yohe, and Gary Arseneau. This was the first time the Table Lodge head table guests were all either current Grand Masters or Past Grand Masters; quite an achievement for such a small lodge. Representing Massachusetts was

current Olive Branch Worshipful Master, Brother Gary Watson. Other current Grand Lodge officers in attendance were Deputy Grand Master Melvin E. Johnson, Grand Senior Warden RW William Bohman and Grand Senior Steward RW Les King.

Playing off a common phrase, guests were greeted by a vertical banner of MWGM Robinson in his finest hat welcoming them to a fun night of “Marshall Law.” And to enhance the evening’s theme, hung behind the head table was a large mug shot background and two oversized officer badges, and the lodge room was decorated with a faux crime scene, evidence markers and clues about the room of “who dunnit.” Brothers had the opportunity to partake in the fun at the mug shot selfie station which included humorous crime tags, and at each table setting there was an evidence bag with all consumable goods such as buttons made out of candy, licorice shoe strings representing fibers, gum cigarettes and chocolate bullets; created by Lady Christina Page, who has a flare for decorating and an eye for detail.

The musical theme supported the visual theme with sing-alongs such as “East Bound and Down” by Jerry Reed, and “Folsom Prison Blues” by Johnny Cash. As a tribute to the Grand Master, and Law Enforcement, RWB Page dressed in all black western sheriff

attire, and donning a cowboy hat and floor length leather duster, led the craft with Toby Keith’s “Beer For My Horses.”

While guests enjoyed the music program, they were served standard Down East Maine fare: lobster, steak, Maine potatoes, New England corn chowder and wild Maine blueberry pie. Door prizes included an assortment of cigars and adult beverages, including Larceny Bourbon to match the theme. Serving the food and drink was conducted under the guidance of Head Steward, WB Brian Keith from Moosup Lodge No. 113. Accompanying Brother Brian were brothers John Glenn, Arthur Stone, Ken Boundy, David Rukakoski, Jason Beauregard and Daniel Buchanon.

Keeping with its Down East Maine Table Lodge traditions, Moriah closed the event with a sing-along to Neil Diamonds’ “Sweet Caroline” in honor of the Boston Red Sox, which is a Page family favorite and finally “Try a Little Kindness” by the late Glen Campbell.



RWB Edward C. Page, MWB Marshall K Robinson, MWB Glenn S. Carlson (GM Rhode Island), and MWB Thomas Pulkkinen (PGM Maine)



A Toast to the Brethren



Grand Masters filled the head table

Partnering Masonry with Veterans Organizations

by John Chan

All Masons know that Masonicare is Connecticut's largest provider of health care services to seniors, open to all and non-profit. However, most Veterans Organizations know very little about Masonicare.

In July 2017, I first introduced the Veterans Organizations to Masonicare when I presented a powered wheelchair to Brother Scott Dean, an Army Veteran, hospitalized at Masonicare Health Center (MHC). As a volunteer and the chairman of "Heroes on Wheels" for the DAV, I traverse the State, picking up donations of medical equipment, refurbishing and cleaning them, and delivering to veterans who need the equipment. That equipment is given free of charge with priority going to those veterans that do not qualify for benefits from the Veterans Administration.

In the first week of December, I picked up a unique piece of equipment that looked like a large high-chair for adults. I took it home, found the data plate and googled the information. I was awed by what I learned about this equipment and knew it was too special to go to one individual.

I decided that the **Easy Stand Evolv** unit, costing \$5,500 should be donated to the Physical Therapy Department of MHC. I emailed Jon-Paul Venoit, President & CEO of Masonicare, offering the Easy Stand and the video on its operation. Nancy Perrotta, Corporate Director of Rehabilitation Services, responded that they would be thrilled to have it.

I obtained new batteries for the Easy Stand but still needed a battery charger for the unit. I contacted Easy Stand Corporation and they donated one, including expedited shipping.

On December 14, I presented the Easy Stand to Masonicare. Attending the presentation were MWGM Marshall Robinson, DGM Melvin Johnson, Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit, Bro. Carl Anderson, VP for Mission Effectiveness, Nancy Perrotta, Amy Pellerin, Administrator of Masonicare Health Center and Physical Therapist Assistants Laurie Ritchie and Jackie Sancho.

Representing the Veterans Organizations were: Senior Vice State Commander of DAV, Bro. Ronnie Maebry (PHA), State Commander of AmVets Albert Duff, Finance Officer of AmVets Doug Newell, State Commander of American Legion Tom Flowers, American Legion Post 187 Commander Dave Gessert and American Legion Post 83 Commander Donald F. Langlois.

Following the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

to our flag, Nancy Perrotta introduced Laurie Ritchie and Jackie Sancho who explained the benefits a patient would receive through the Easy Stand. They showed that a patient, unable to stand, could be seated into the Easy Stand, and with infinite adjustments the patient can be brought safely and comfortably to the upright standing position. There are many benefits of standing for the immobile patient.

After the demonstration, I introduced Donna Egan, the daughter and sole caretaker of her father Richard Egan, a World War II Veteran who served at Omaha Beach in Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. Dick had a stroke. Donna related that when she reached out to the Veterans Administration she was told that, although Dick was a veteran, because he was not injured during his wartime service, he was not entitled to any care or help from the government. Dick needed a motorized hospital bed, without which the hospital would not release him but instead would commit him to a convalescent nursing home.

Fortunately for Dick, a mutual friend of his and mine, Bro. Bill Deluca, was admitted next door to him in the hospital. Bill told Donna that I had hospital beds to donate to veterans and she called me. I told her I would deliver her a bed, but needed help moving the bulky bed.

Brother Pete Rothmann of Valley Lodge No. 36 offered to help. While Pete and I were setting up the bed, Donna was able to convince the hospital to release her father to go home. As she needed more medical equipment to properly care for him, further donations of a manual wheelchair, a hoist (patient lift), a walker, mattress pads; and a specialized shower and commode wheelchair have been delivered.

Brother Steve Doughty Jr. of Village Lodge No. 29, also donated a powered lift recliner.

The next presentation of equipment was a powered wheelchair to Bro. Ed Valenti and Air Force Veteran. Ed is a member of Ashlar Lodge No. 332. During one of my many visits to that Lodge, Ed told me he needed a scooter to get around. He has Parkinson's disease and needs someone to push his manual wheelchair to get him anywhere. There was concern over his ability to drive one safely, but his wife Becky and I agree to have the physical therapist examine Ed for his suitability to drive a power wheelchair or scooter. It took some time and work for Ed to develop sufficient skill but finally, in the first week of December, Ed called and emphatically stated,



Continued on page 27

In Response to Brother Lamb's Recent Articles

by Janet Berry

First, let me say that I am not presenting a case for or against women joining a duly chartered Masonic Lodge. However, I am unable to sweep aside Masonic Brother Jaime Paul Lamb's several articles printed in the December 2018 *Connecticut Freemasons*. To say I was dismayed would be an understatement.

Specifically, regarding the articles "Why There Are No Women In Regular Masonry" and "A Divergent Perspective on the Decline of Freemasonry," I wanted to present additional thoughts and hopefully a more enlightened viewpoint for the Brethren to contemplate.

Brother Lamb brought into this article – if I may paraphrase – the belief that women have biological and social cues that naturally happen through their lives, thereby negating their need for gathering together in a group dependent on veiled allegory, symbolism, and morality for personal growth and that the feminine temperament would gain little through their initiation. This whole line of logic I am sadly dismayed to see is still in use in 2018. These were descriptions I would expect to see in writings and conversations from the edges of history. There are many people, men and women, who gain little from such teachings, initiation, and the obligations of membership. Freemasonry, as we all know, is not for everybody. Yet there are those men and women who do gain light, direction and a greater

understanding of who they are exactly through Masonic life.

Brother Lamb references the clandestine lodges and states that if women were inclined to Freemasonry there would be more women joining such lodges. Brother Lamb, and I believe many other Brothers, simply have missed one very important aspect. Dare I speak for other women when I say this – but it certainly is true for myself – the clandestine lodges hold no attraction to us for this simple reason: Women who have grown up in Masonic families, surrounded by the fraternal life and perhaps are members of Rainbow Girls, Eastern Star, Amaranth, etc., have a high level of RESPECT for Freemasonry and its rituals. We would never consider an unsanctioned, clandestine lodge. Please take a moment to think about this and think about what that means. It certainly points to women who do understand and appreciate how the Freemason strives to live their life – and that women "get it." They understand and appreciate morality, allegory, and symbolism.

Eventually, when the Fraternity is ready, women will join the regular lodge and it will happen naturally as part of the ever-evolving world. Yes, even as steeped in antiquity as the Freemasons, the Craft evolves slowly and surely, rituals are slowly modified, and landmarks are amended when irrelevancy rears its ugly head. Until that time, let us respect

and accept, without reducing each other's voices in this story.

In his second article, "A Divergent Perspective on The Decline of Freemasonry," Brother Lamb goes on to discuss, and dismiss, the value of the appendant bodies. To claim that members of Rainbow and DeMolay were coerced into joining the youth groups dismisses out of hand the eager members who joined with anticipation at age 12 or 13 and then went on to join Lodges and various appendant bodies -- many humbly serving their lives in fraternal service. Brother Lamb even claims that it should be apparent which one of the appendant bodies offer "Further Light in Masonry." I offer that they all further the light, each one serving different aspects of Masonic life, and each one should ultimately draw the Freemason closer to their Lodge and their Brothers.

I write from experience only. My father joined lodge in the mid-50s; he and my mother joined The Order of the Eastern Star. My sister and I joined The International Order of Rainbow for Girls in the early 70s, and we joined The Order of the Eastern Star in the early 80s. Those "coerced" girls and boys formed close, lifelong friendships and continue in the Masonic fraternity joining generations before them over the last 100 years – and are not something to be swept aside.

Partnering Masonry *continued from page 23*

"I am ready!" and he was! Ed has taken to the wheelchair like a duck to water and has quickly mastered all the skills to control the wheelchair.

Brother Scott Dean, a U.S. Army Veteran, related to the audience how the donation of his powered wheelchair 18 months ago transformed his life. Before his gift of mobility, he was confined to his bed, with little to look forward to. Since then, he goes everywhere on Masonicare's campus in his customized, souped-up wheelchair. With the physical therapy he has been receiving, he surprised everyone by standing, unassisted, at attention and rendered a full military salute to all the Veteran Organization Commanders.

Remarks were then offered by MWGM Marshal Robinson, Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit; Vice Commander of DAV, Ronnie Maebry; State Commander of AmVets, Albert Duff; State Commander of American Legion, Tom Flowers; Midstate Battery, Steve Merone, Jr.; and American Legion Post 187 Commander, Dave Gessert.

Closing prayer was given by Carl Anderson, after which everyone was treated to a wonderful lunch of a variety of gourmet sandwiches and hot soup, courtesy of Masonicare. After lunch, a tour of Masonicare and Ashlar Village was conducted for the guests.



Set The Craft To Work *by Michael Calderone*

There have been a number of articles recently, in this publication and on social media, about the imminent death of Freemasonry. Frankly, I feel like I have been reading articles like this since I joined the fraternity nearly a decade ago. I have a wider view of the decline of membership since the end of WWII than to think that Masonry is in its death-throes. I do believe there is a level of large scale adaptation that needs to happen to maintain institutional health including new policies on public relations and co-Masonry, but those are topics for other articles. The matter at hand is one that I believe is central to many of the ills of our Fraternity yet one that is in our power to cure: Discord.

One might argue that the whole purpose of our existence as Masons is to mitigate that which separates men. The problem is that in many cases we do not live up to the standards of our rituals within our own fraternity. Granted, there are many instances of harmony among Brothers as can be read throughout this publication, yet all year long I hear about internal discord in every aspect of Freemasonry. Perhaps you, too, have heard of discord among officers in your Lodge, on Temple Boards, between neighboring Lodges and appendant bodies. Frankly, I am relieved to no longer be required to attend Grand Lodge sessions knowing the tensions that arise twice a year.

Closer to home, annual meetings are exciting events where long-absent Brothers return to their lodges to reconnect and to elect a new slate of officers. It can also be a time when simmering disputes come to a head: the Brother with whom I had a heated discussion; the officer expecting advancement who has not put in the time to learn his portion of the ritual; the Brother who tells off-color jokes too often; or simply the Brother I have nothing in common with.

When I see disputes or discomfort like this crop up, I try to see them from the point of view of our newest members, those bright-eyed men who feel like they have finally found the society they have been seeking.

They have done their research about our glorious history; they have met members all polished up nice for an open house or semi-public event; and then having gone through the investigation process where they have been asked about their intentions in this noble fraternity.

We strive to “Make good men better.” We talk so much about the aspects of life that bring men together and avoiding those that tear men apart. We forbid discussion of religion and politics in open lodge. Have you heard the tongue-in-cheek joke around the temple, “No politics, except Masonic politics (heh, heh; wink, wink.)” Yet how quickly among new members is the ideal gleam tarnished? When does the new Brother hear the first argument between Brothers? How soon does he stop coming to lodge?

Brothers, before we bemoan the rarity of a petition, before we blame the attention span of the next generation, before we mourn the death of Freemasonry, let’s take a look at what Masonry does for us, individually. Has it made you a better man? And, if so, how? Are you able to put petty and grand arguments aside and be one who “best works and best agrees?” When you shake a Brother’s hand, are you honestly glad to see him or do you harbor discord?

A great man once said, “Find your pain; for where you find your pain you find your life.” The life of our beloved Fraternity lies in those moments of personal pain between Brothers and in the opportunity for you to make it right. I am not saying this is an easy process, this is why we call it “laboring in the quarries.” We do not say, “party in the quarry,” although I will claim ownership if that phrase becomes a thing! The next time you are in lodge, listen to how often the words “improve,” “carry,” “work” and “labor” occur in the opening alone, and consider the monumental task our ancient Brethren are calling you to do. While at least one of us breathes Freemasonry lives, yet let us take care of the body while it is still alive

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

Mon., February 4, 6 p.m.,
Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Dinner

Thu., February 7, 6:30 p.m.,
Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, Dinner

Mon., February 18, 7 p.m.,
Valley Lodge No. 36, Simsbury

Tue., February 19, 7:30 p.m.,
Coastal Lodge No. 57, Stonington

Wed., February 20, 6:30 p.m.,
Columbia Lodge No. 25, South Glastonbury, Dinner

Thu., February 28, 7:30 p.m.,
Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Refreshments after degree

FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES

Thu., February 7, 6:30 p.m.,
Fidelity-St. John’s Lodge No. 3, Fairfield, Dinner

Wed., February 20, 6:30 p.m.,
King Solomon’s Lodge No. 7, Woodbury, Dinner

Wed., February 20, 7:30 p.m.,
St. Paul’s Lodge No. 11, Litchfield

Mon., March 4, 7 p.m.,
Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Dinner

MASTER MASON DEGREES

Mon., February 25, 5:30 p.m.,
Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor, Dinner, Portrayed by Past Masters

Thu., March 7, 6:30 p.m.,
Fidelity-St. John’s Lodge No. 3, Fairfield, Dinner

Craft at Refreshment

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

All times are supplied by the lodges. The Connecticut Freemasons newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events. **For recurring events and breakfasts, they may not take place during the summer months – call to check**

RECURRING EVENTS

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

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

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

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

Second & Fourth Wednesday, 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, Day Spring Lodge No 30, Hamden, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Information Night **Open to all who may be interested in Masonry, with interesting presentations and discussion.**

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

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

RECURRING MONTHLY BREAKFASTS

First Sunday, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, 7 a.m., **SBA Breakfast Fund-raiser**

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

Third Sunday, Washington Lodge No. 19, Monroe, 8 a.m., Country breakfast

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

EVENTS

Sun., February 3, 3 p.m., Ionic Lodge No. 110, North Windham., Ionic Lodge Superbowl Party **Come down to the lodge and watch the Superbowl with your brothers. Everyone bring something to share. BYOB. Cigar swap for halftime.**

Sun., February 3, 5 p.m., Village Lodge No. 29, Collinsville, Super Bowl Part

Sun., February 3, 6 p.m., Valley Lodge No. 36, Simsbury, Super Bowl Family Night

Fri., February 8, 6:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Valentine's Day Dinner, **Brazi's Italian Restaurant, 201 Food Terminal Plaza, New Haven, CT**

Mon., February 11, 7:30 p.m., Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, Ladies at the Table Dinner. Dinner at 7:30 p.m. **Please arrive 7 p.m. Cost is \$15 for our Brothers. Free for the ladies.**

Mon., February 18, 7 p.m., Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Ladies At Table, **Hartog Activities Center, Ashlar Village Ashlar Village Wallingford 06492**

Fri., February 22, 7 p.m., Village Lodge No. 29, Collinsville, Masonic Movie Night,

Sat., February 23, 6:30 p.m., Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3, Fairfield, Founder's Day Table Lodge

Sun., February 24, 2 p.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, George Washington Dinner, **Dress is jacket & tie. Open to brothers and non-mason males Reservations required.**

Sat., March 2, 6 p.m., Village Lodge No. 29, Collinsville, Mardi Gras Celebration

Sun., March 10, 1 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, St Patrick's Day Parade

Mon., March 11, 7:30 p.m., Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor, Awards Night

Thu., March 14, 6:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Annual Table Lodge

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

Paul C. Dewey
Valley Lodge No. 36 ~ 2/1/69

George C. Buckbee, Sr.
St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 ~ 2/4/69

Richard D. Olsen
St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 ~ 2/4/69

Robert C. Nelson
Estuary Lodge No. 43 ~ 2/17/69

Peter V. Aliferis
King Hiram Lodge No. 12 ~ 2/18/69

Joseph D. Mastromarino
Friendship Lodge No. 33 ~ 2/18/69

Walter C. Anderson, Jr.
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11 ~ 2/19/69

Burton E. Boardman
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125 ~ 2/19/69

Kurt R. Nolden
Temple Lodge No. 16 ~ 2/20/69

Frank C. Schroll
Columbia Lodge No. 25 ~ 2/22/69

Richard K. Stevens
Composite Lodge No. 28 ~ 2/27/69

Masonicare Honored by Connecticut Veterans Group

by Adam Raider

Recently, Masonicare President and CEO WB Jon-Paul Venoit and Masonicare's Regional Supervisor of Counseling and Complimentary Therapies, Marie Goodine, were invited to a holiday gathering in Middletown, CT of the Veterans of Korea, Vietnam and Saudi Wars (VKVSW) Connecticut Chapter No. 1. Among a group of organizations and individuals recognized for their good work on behalf of veterans, Masonicare received a much-appreciated donation to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut as well as a Quilt of Valor.

The Quilt of Valor program began in 2003 as a nationwide grassroots effort to create tangible gifts of love and appreciation for veterans as well as those who have taken up the mission of caring for veterans. The patriotic-themed quilts are handmade by volunteers. Over the years, the VKVSW has raised thousands of dollars for this program.

Masonicare was honored by the VKVSW for its efforts as a partner of the We Honor Veterans program, a collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. Partners in this program assess their ability to serve

veterans and integrate best practices for providing end-of-life care to veterans into their organization.

Bro. Sam Ranno, president of VKVSW CT 1, said that he has learned a great deal about Masonicare from a fellow VKVSW member and brother Mason, WB Rodney Spooner, Senior Warden and Past Master of Columbia Lodge No. 25, Glastonbury.

"I know from Rodney that Masonicare treats the veterans in its care with compassion and dignity," Ranno said, adding that his group hopes to do more in the future to educate veterans at Masonicare about resources available to them through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"We're grateful to the Veterans of Korea, Vietnam and Saudi Wars for its donation to help benefit Masonicare residents and patients in need," said Venoit. "The Quilt of

Valor was a gift that Marie Goodine and I humbly accepted on behalf of everyone who works for Masonicare. As such, I plan to share it with all of them by having it travel from affiliate to affiliate, location to location, so it can be displayed as both a reminder of the impact they have on our veterans and to thank them for delivering on the promise to give everyone in our care the attention they deserve."



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Boosters continued on next page



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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

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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

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



The Grand Master will Drop the Puck then be Interviewed Live



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.



Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*SM



“What’s Love Got To Do With It?” *by Richard F. Denno*

Tina Turner, known as the ‘Queen of Rock & Roll’, is one of the world’s best-selling artists of all time; selling over 200 million records worldwide to date. Her renditions of ‘Proud Mary,’ ‘What Ever You Want,’ ‘Private Dancer’ and ‘What’s Love Got to Do With It?’ are songs we have all sung along to for years.

What do Tina Turner, George Lopez, VP Dick Cheney, Natalie Cole, Apple’s Steve Jobs, Larry Hagman, Shelly Fabares, and wrestling’s Superstar Billy Graham all have in common with others from the entertainment field including Mandy Patinkin, Tracy Morgan, Gary Coleman, Billy Preston, Jim ‘Gomer Pyle’ Nabors and Evel Knievel, and famous sports figures including Oscar Robinson, football stars Everson Walls and Sean Elliot, basketball great Oscar Robertson, Alonzo Mourning, and of course Baseball Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle? All were organ donors or recipients.

Many other famous people fall into this category. My personal favorite is award winning playwright Neil Simon. Bill Evans, Neil Simon’s agent and friend, was his kidney donor. I corresponded with Simon shortly after his transplant and received letters back,

which I still have. He allowed me to write a story for the National Kidney Foundation’s national publication. Dick Cheney, Vice President under George W. Bush, Robert Casey, former Governor of Pennsylvania and Apple’s Steve Jobs also received transplants.

In some cases, recipients react to their donations with humor. Jim Nabors, shortly after his kidney transplant, joked with his audience, “Yep, I received a kidney transplant. It was from a generous Mexican gentleman. Now I can’t go by a taco stand without my mouth watering!” At a press conference after the game, Hall of Fame football coach Norm Van Brocklin, commenting on his brain surgery, said to the press corps, “It’s true, I had a brain transplant. They gave me the brain of a sports writer, because I wanted one that hadn’t been used much!” And no, there isn’t such a procedure as a brain transplant - YET.

This month’s column is designed to ‘put a face’ on organ donation. Many of our favorite celebrities, like each one of us, can find themselves in need of a lifesaving transplant. When it comes to transplants, ‘Fame or Fortune’ doesn’t play a part in the decision of who receives the transplant. It’s

all based on need.

Many people make buying decisions based on what their favorite celebrities advertise. What child hasn’t eaten Wheaties because their favorite sports figure’s picture is on the box? Recently, I saw an actor advertising a very expensive luxury car. Can’t you picture yourself behind the wheel of such a car?

On April 7, 2017, Tina Turner, received a kidney transplant. The donor was her husband, Erwin Bach. “It gave me a second chance at love,” said Turner. After all, that IS what love’s got to do with it! To register as a donor, go on-line to www.registerme.org. To learn about living organ donation, go to www.neds.org.

YES!

I plan to attend the 2019 Nutmegger Reunion at the following locations (check location)

- MARCH 4, 2019 Titusville, Florida
- MARCH 5, 2019 Naples, Florida
- MARCH 6, 2019 Sarasota, Florida
- MARCH 7, 2019 Ocala, Florida
- MARCH 8, 2019 New Port Richey, Florida

Name(s) of Attendees:

I cannot attend the Nutmegger Reunion but I would like information about Masonicare’s health and retirement living options.

Please send me information about: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please reply by Feb. 23 and enclose a check payable to Masonicare for \$15 per person and mail to: Bro. Carl Anderson, Masonicare P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492.

Fifty-year pin recipients and their guests attend at no cost.

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!**

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

 **Masonicare** 
An Ageless Commitment to Caring

2019

NUTMEGGER REUNIONS

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

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.

2019
NUTMEGGER
REUNIONS

 **Masonicare** 
An Ageless Commitment to Caring
www.masonicare.org

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

