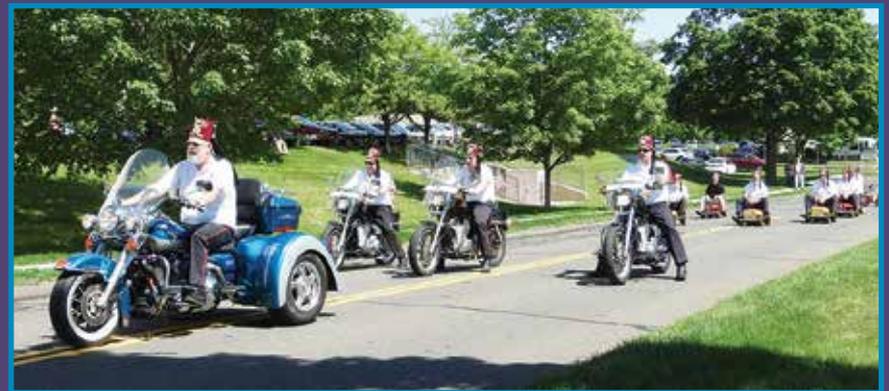
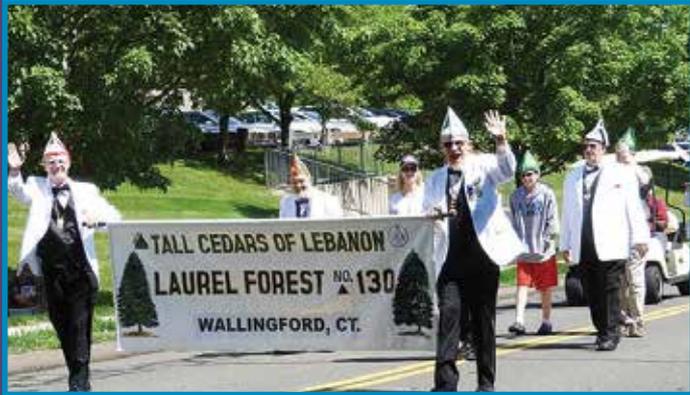


July-August 2019



Connecticut FREEMASONS



GRAND
MASTERS
DAY
2019



Not Just A Man. A Mason.

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



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WB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr.
Assistant to the Grand Master

Grand Masters Day, June 8, 2019, was a day of sunshine and festivities for the young and the young at heart, for the residents of Masonicare, the community, and the whole Masonic family!



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Connecticut
FREEMASONS

Volume 15 - Number 2

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Grand Masters Day 2019 A Wonderful Day In The Sun

by Francis G. Way



Saturday June 8 was a glorious early summer day – sunny, warm and inviting. Rumor had it that the weather had been specially arranged by Brothers Carl Anderson and Bruce Bellmore, who were believed to have used their special hotline to the Grand Architect and arranged that wonderful sunny day. Even if that were not the case, the weather for Grand Masters Day could not have been better if it were scripted for a Hollywood movie.

The day, as always, began with a parade, and the parade, as always, began with the Grand Commandery and its constituent Commanderies, carrying the Colors and the Grand Commandery Banner. The Right Eminent Grand Commander Michael E. Seamon and his Sir Knights marched up with the hill with the parade snaking behind.

The Grand Lodge officers, District Deputies, and Associate Grand Marshals followed, looking cooler (if not actually feeling cooler) in their white tuxedo jackets. Various other Masonic bodies and organization delighted the crowd, including the always popular “little cars” of the Shrine Motor Patrol.

The parade wound its way to the tent where a short ceremony was held and MWGM Melvin E. Johnson and MWGM David Pinkins greeted the crowd.

Everyone enjoyed the activities, the fellowship, and the simple joy of being involved in the Masonic experience.

Grand Chaplain's Message

by Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski



My Dear Brothers,

As we approach the anniversary of the United States of America, which was founded 243 years ago, Masons should be particularly proud of the heritage that we have. Our forefathers were very instrumental in the formation of this great nation.

We are taught three great duties to God, your neighbor and yourself. Please notice that yourself is last. Over the many centuries that Masonry has existed, the organization has helped to build many cathedrals and more especially has helped to formulate the character of mankind. In Connecticut we should be very proud of all Masonic bodies that contribute time, talent and treasure for the benefit of all people. We need to instill in the minds of our brothers the virtue, honor and reputation of the founders of Masonry.

America is already a great country and we can make it better by continuing to help humanity.

May God bless our great nation.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

John E. Wohlfert
Columbia Lodge No. 25

Marcus E. Abbott
Estuary Lodge No. 43

Scott Michael Tomlinson
Morning Star Lodge No. 47

Robert William Erff
Morning Star Lodge No. 47

Raymond James Browning
Morning Star Lodge No. 47

**Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association
and Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, A.F. & A.M.**

present the

7th Annual CMSA Camp Degree Saturday, August 31 at Camp Sequassen

791 West Hill Rd, New Hartford, CT
Connecticut Yankee Council, BSA

Steak dinner preceding an EA degree in a secluded area under the stars, all attending will also receive a 2019 Camp Degree commemorative patch. Open to all Masonic Brothers. \$20 per person.

CMSA dues are \$10/yr.

For more information or to make a reservation, contact
WB Seth Strohecker at
seth.strohecker@gmail.com
or (203) 816-1683



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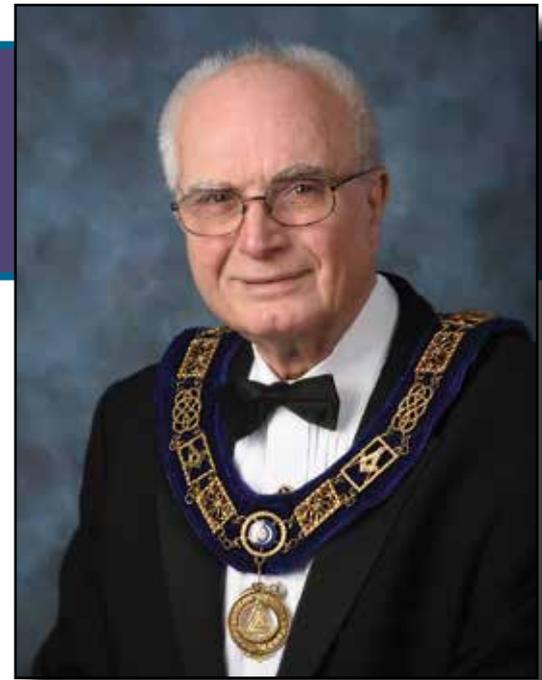
effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all advertisements, Connecticut Freemasons will only be liable to reprint, at no charge, any correction due to typographical error.

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Grand Master's Message

by Melvin E. Johnson



It is hard to believe this is already the third time I have had the honor of addressing my Brothers from the Grand East. By the time this message is seen, many of our lodges will be taking advantage of the rule that allows them to omit communications during July and August. It is not, however, a time for lodges to go “dark,” which is a very different matter.

In examining what constitutes a rich and rewarding Masonic experience, one of the truly important aspects is fellowship. We are admonished to set aside an adequate portion of our time for refreshment and one of our officers is specifically charged with monitoring the “purposes of refreshment.” Certainly, for lodges, fellowship is a vital purpose of that activity. July and August provide a great time for picnics, trips, and other fellowship strengthening activities that build those ties, not only among the brothers, but their families and friends. Hopefully you are finding time to include some of these in your lodge schedule during this period.

As individuals, you want to be sure you are using that period of refreshment to build those family ties that are so vital. Some years ago, there was a poignant and popular song called “Cat’s in the Cradle” that served as a stark warning of why that admonishment in our ritual to allow time for refreshment is so incredibly important if we want to be not just Men, but Masons. It is readily available on YouTube.

We have two great events scheduled during July and August that warrant your consideration. First on July 21, is an afternoon with a great humanitarian, historian, and professor, Dr. William R. Cook. As part of the celebration of our 230th Anniversary, we are bringing him in to speak on three topics that are inspiring, timely

and interesting and which you can share with family and friends. They are Cathedrals, St. Francis of Assisi, and de Toucville. This event is described in greater detail in a separate article in this edition.

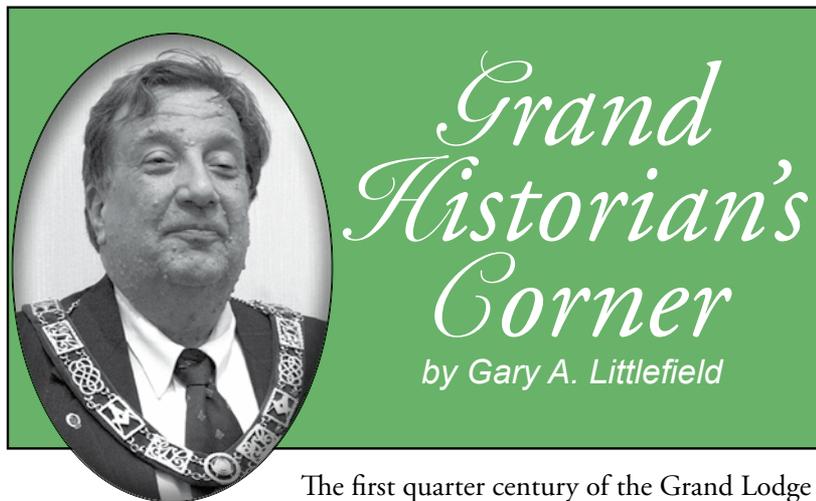
The second, on August 11, is the Moosup VJ Parade. This may be one of the last opportunities we have to honor some of our brothers who actually served in WWII. We are planning on giving them a great escort as they ride in a place of honor in the parade. I am asking all of my Grand Line officers to join me as I march with these brothers who are part of the “greatest generation” and hope to see as many brothers as can make it, join us and the brothers from Moosup No.113. Bring your families. Not only will this be a great day to build fellowship with your brothers, but also ties with your children and grand children, who may be only vaguely aware of the sacrifices these heroic brothers made on our behalf. Details will follow later.

Have a great and refreshing summer season.

P.S. Check out my welcoming video clip on our GL Website. Comments are welcome as I hope we can make greater use of video clips.

Grand Masters Day ~ June 8, 2019





The first quarter century of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut saw only three Grand Masters and is a record that will probably never be broken. Once the adoption of the Constitution took place in 1818, the “elective aristocracy” in government and the almost despotism from the “state church,” the Congregational Church started to fade and the multi-year terms of Grand Master waned away.

In 1816, Stephen Titus Hosmer had already sat 18 years as Grand Master and was about to assume a seat as Associate Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court. He decided he had enough and declined re-election. As a result, Solomon Cowles took over as Grand Master. Hosmer, who was born in 1763, lived into his 71st year and proceedings seem to indicate that he was a capable presiding officer and was involved in the growth of Connecticut Freemasonry. While he was a capable jurist and leader, he lacked some of the personality traits of his two predecessors, Pierpont Edwards and William Judd. He was labeled a conservative and 14 lodges were added during his stint as Grand Master. Hundreds of men had petitioned and joined the fraternity and lodges grew more in size than in numbers. Solomon Cowles only served two years, and the woolen mill in Torrington was some influence on the chartering of Seneca Lodge there.

By 1818, Grand Master Cowles was absent from the annual communication and chose not to seek election or appointment to any office was followed by Governor Oliver Wolcott, himself not present until after his election and notification when he appeared in Grand Lodge and was duly installed. While at least one Grand Master was not present when he was elected to office appeared six months later to be installed (illness preventing his attendance), it appears that Governor Wolcott may be the only one not present nor seeking office when elected.

Sixty two years ago, on August 27, 1957, beloved Ansel Alva Packard passed to his eternal reward. Born in Brockton, Massachusetts in 1894 he graduated from the University of Maine in 1916 and went to work for a Boston engineering firm. He arrived in Middletown in 1921 and was raised at Warren Lodge No. 51 in Portland. Five years later he was sitting in the East and only twelve years after his raising he was District Deputy. In 1936, he was appointed to the Grand Line and advanced to the position of Grand Master in 1944. His Masonic resume contains several pages of information, and he was one of three Grand Masters who honored those who valiantly served during World War II. Each year during the war, pages in the annual proceedings were dedicated to those Brother Masons from Connecticut who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

Minutes of lodge meetings and, for that matter, Grand Lodge sessions, contain probably the most vital pieces of information for future historians. Some Secretaries are very verbose and write down everything while others believe that concise minutes are the key to success and perhaps short meetings. While minutes do not need to contain advertisements or announcements of events in area lodges, the minutes should reflect the story about the acquirement of items for lodges or lodge halls. I saw one entry in one minute book from the 1850s that said, “The Master was proceeding with the opening of the lodge when a brother came up the stairs yelling and the Tyler prevented his attendance. The Master later discovering the cause of the alarm,” Well, we don’t know what the cause of the alarm was. Sometimes, Secretaries record the “menu” for the hour of refreshment which can be good fodder for future historians. Another great idea, and technologies keep changing, is to record the minutes on some sort of storage device. The subject of retention of lodge minutes and records is a subject for a preservation professional.

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From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

After a very wet spring, what a relief it was to have perfect weather for the 2019 Grand Masters Day – a day to celebrate fraternity, fellowship, and family fun with MWGM Melvin Johnson and MWGM David Pinkins. There are plenty of photos from the day's festivities throughout this issue.

Just eight days earlier, The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut hosted the 2019 Masonicare Wine & Beer Tasting at Masonicare at Ashlar Village. Building on the success of last year's event, we sold 476 tickets and raised over \$100,000 to benefit our residents and patients in need. I would like to congratulate the staff of The Masonic Charity Foundation for organizing another great event, and thank the Dining Services team at Ashlar Village and our many volunteers for helping create an enjoyable experience for our guests, many of whom were visiting Masonicare for the first time (Maybe you were one of them!) My sincere thanks, also, to our corporate sponsors, whose generosity helped us far exceed last year's result.

Complimentary tickets were given to four special Masonicare employees: Sharon

DelCastro Cain, Hospice Nurse from our Greater Hartford branch of Masonicare Home Health & Hospice; Lori Sullivan, Assisted Living Services Director at the Virginia Connolly Residence in Simsbury; Tina Vasquez, Resident Care Scheduler at Masonicare at Mystic; and Danyale Nesmith, a CNA at Masonicare Health Center. All were recognized for going above and beyond for their residents, patients, and coworkers.

Changes in the healthcare industry continue to impact Masonicare and all of our service lines in significant ways. As an organization, we are doing everything possible to adapt – strategically, technologically and otherwise. Having selfless and compassionate people on our team will help us weather the challenges ahead.

Sincerely and fraternally,



President and CEO of Masonicare



In-State Nutmegger Gatherings Planned

by Carl Anderson

In the fall, Masonicare is planning “Nutmegger Reunion” type programs to provide in-state Masonic family members with updates about Masonicare service lines and Concentric Circle policy that give Masonic family members priority admission. Building upon the success of the Florida reunions, Masonicare is scheduling these programs to provide Brothers and Sisters with information about the many services the organization provides statewide. The cost of the luncheon is \$15 per person and is open to anyone who is interested in some fall fun, fellowship, and information about Masonicare.

The events are scheduled for fall, including September 12 at Masonicare Health Center; September 24 at Masonicare at Mystic; October 8 at Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 in Easton; and October 10 at Masonicare at Chester Village. Plans are also underway for a gathering in the greater Hartford area in November. All programs will begin with registration at 10:30 a.m., program at 11 a.m. and lunch at noon. Speakers will include MWGM Melvin Johnson, Robert Polito, and Jon-Paul Venoit.

To RSVP, Contact Rev. and Brother Carl Anderson at canderson@masonicare.org or call (203) 679-6917 for more details. Also, check out the information on the back page of this issue for more details about the gatherings.

Valley of Hartford, AASR *by David R. Blythe, Sr., Secretary Emeritus*

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year.” You hear it at Christmas, but doesn’t it apply to the dog days of summer too? The summer months mean different things to all of us: vacations, a chance to get outdoors, the beach, golf, a picnic at our favorite park, or a barbeque in our backyard. It’s more time in favorable conditions to spend time with family, relatives, and friends.

But summertime doesn’t mean the Valley shuts down. Here are some upcoming events that I hope you will attend or support: the Annual Family Picnic, the 5K Run/Walk and the Summer Planning session.

And we also have to make sure we have the candidates to move the Valley forward in the future. The Valley Secretary has a pocket-sized pamphlet “You are invited.... To Expand Your Masonic Knowledge And Brotherhood” that is available to give to Master Masons, York Rite members, and Shriners who are not members of the Scottish Rite. Please take advantage of this to recruit new members. If you don’t have a pamphlet, tell prospective candidate:

In becoming a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, NMJ, he will be JOINING an organization with greater than 200 years of heritage and tradition, BECOMING part of an exclusive group of Freemasons dedicated to bettering themselves, and their community, EXPANDING his Masonic network of friends and brothers beyond imagination through out the world, GAINING access to premier online Masonic education experience through our Hauts Grades Academy, ENGAGING with community leaders and brothers in innovative and interactive ways, FURTHER develop his leadership and ritual skills.

And thus by joining the Scottish Rite will be connected with a Fraternity that strives to fulfill our Masonic obligation TO CARE FOR OUR MEMBERS. He will be connected with local families and communities, while participating in our

FAMILY LIFE EVENTS. He will be connected with Masonic Brothers who share our core values of REVERENCE FOR GOD, DEVOTION TO COUNTRY, INTEGRITY, JUSTICE, TOLERATION and SERVICE,

Have him visit either visit the Supreme Council, NMJ, website ScottishRiteNMJ.org or our valley website: ValleyofHartford.org

The Family Picnic and Scholarship Awards are on Sunday, July 14 from 4-7 p.m. on the Valley of Hartford grounds. It will be held rain or shine, under the big tent, and is free to all members of the Valley, families, Masons and scholarship recipients and their families.

The Valley will supply hot dogs, hamburgers, brats, condiments and buns, dessert, soda, bottled water, and entertainment. The Valley asks you to bring your favorite picnic side dish to share (no desserts) – baked beans, potato salad, macaroni salad, chips, fruit salad, etc.

Please make your reservation no later than noon on Friday, July 12, with a headcount. Call at (860) 666-0712 or email at office@valleyofhartford.com.

Help setting up and tearing down is always appreciated (setup starts a 3 p.m.).

The Annual 5K Run/Walk for the Children’s Dyslexia Center of Connecticut will be held Saturday, July 27, rain or shine. Registration opens a 8 a.m. and the race starts at 9 a.m. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 7 a.m.

It’s a 501-C3 public charity event and all proceeds go to the Children’s Dyslexia Center of Connecticut and are tax deductible as the law allows. Last year the Valley was able to turn over \$16,372 to the Center.

Donations are also accepted. Make your checks payable to “CT Dyslexia Center” and mail to the Valley of Hartford, P.O. Box 310198, Newington CT 06131-0198.

The success of this event helps the Dyslexia Center help children with dyslexia and give them the opportunity to succeed in life.

The Summer Planning session is on Thursday, July 18 at the Gallery. The officers will announce plans for the upcoming season. This event is by invitation only.

Don’t forget the Friday Luncheons. They take place the second Friday of each month, all year long. They start at 11:30 a.m., cost \$10, and are open to all friends, family, and co-workers.

Reservations are required and should be made with the secretary at the Shrine Center, (860) 666-5449.

Meals are based on the theme of the month but always include soup, salad, bread, or rolls.



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AND BROTHERHOOD**

Upcoming Member Reminders
Saturday, July 14
Annual Picnic & Scholarship
Awards Presentations, 4-7 p.m. on
Valley of Hartford grounds

Saturday July 27
Annual 5K Race/Walk - All proceeds directly
benefit Childrens Dyslexia Center of CT
Register at 8 a.m. - Race Starts at 9 a.m.

Applications for the 2019 Fall Class are now being accepted.
Details on our web site: www.valleyofhartford.org

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

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Grand Master 2019
69 Masonic Avenue
Wallingford, CT 06492



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203.679.5903
CELL / TEXT
860.586.8114
grandmaster@ctfreemasons.net

June 15, 2019

My Brothers, Family and Friends,

We are taught in one of our earliest lessons that Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth are the foundational principles that unite us in this great fraternity. These principles have served this Grand Lodge well over the 230 years of its existence and are the basis for the formation of the CT Freemasons Foundation, its 501(c)3 charitable arm.

It is my honor this year to appeal to you to support the vital charitable activities of our Foundation, by making a tax-deductible contribution to the CT Freemasons Foundation. I have singled out three activities for your special consideration.

- First is an exciting new **Matching Grant Program**. It is designed to encourage Lodges to actively support charitable causes in their local communities by having the Foundation match the cash gifts made by the Lodges to those charities. The size and scope of this activity will depend on the support you give to it in this Appeal. The goal is to raise enough to match the first \$1,000, dollar for dollar, and next \$1,000 on a fifty cent per dollar basis.
- Second is the **Masonic Model Student Awareness Program (MMSAP)**. This is a highly successful 35 year old program which MWB Ted Nelson has reintroduced to Connecticut. Offered free to teachers and school administrators, it expands our commitment to protecting children as demonstrated by our CT Chip program. The April seminar described in the June CT Freemasons Magazine was so successful we have already received a request by a school district to sponsor one exclusively for that district.
- Third is our **Grand Almoner's Fund**. We are reminded continually of the importance of providing for "the relief of poor distressed Master Masons, their widows and orphans." Our Almoners provide a focus for ensuring this duty is carried out and the fund is an important element of that relief.

The Grand Master's appeal supports many other charitable activities which are described in the enclosed brochure. Additional information on these programs, as well as an opportunity to contribute through PayPal can be found on the Grand Lodge website at www.ctfreemasons.net.

Fraternally,
Mel E Johnson
Grand Master 2019

NOTE: Donations can be made via PayPal on the Grand Lodge Website www.CTFreemasons.net

CT Freemasons Foundation is a 501(c)3 corporation organized to accept tax deductible contributions. Your gift may be restricted by either checking a box below or designating your specific charitable goal in the memo section of your check

Make check payable to: CT Freemasons Foundation – P.O. Box 69, Wallingford, CT 06492-0069

To assist the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation in their ongoing work, I/we donate to the Grand Master's Appeal as follows:

- Matching Grant Program**
- Masonic Model Student Assist Program (MMSAP)**
- Grand Almoner's Fund**
- Other – please note in the memo section of your check**

Donation Amount: Check # _____ \$ _____

If your donation is "in honor of" or "in memory of" (circle one) a loved one, please include their name: _____

Please send notice of my gift to: _____

Please have some contact me about how to include the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation as a beneficiary in my will. _____

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

Glenn R. Benton
Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3

Richard Ware Osborne
Compass Lodge No. 9

Arthur Joseph McDonald
Compass Lodge No. 9

William Alfred Stender
Compass Lodge No. 9

Frederick Alfred Ryerson
Compass Lodge No. 9

Douglas Lee Calcagni
Temple Lodge No. 16

John Francis Hill
Wolcott Lodge No. 60

Herbert Barker
Meridian Lodge No. 77

Dale Eugene Turner
Meridian Lodge No. 77

George Ernest Larsson
Corinthian Lodge No. 104

Richard Charles Miller
Annawon Lodge No. 115

Henri J.B. Therrien
Annawon Lodge No. 15

Everett Leonard Caswell
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140



Pyramid Shriners March For Needy Children *by Donald M. Casey, Jr.*

Nobles from the Pyramid Shrine Temple in Stratford celebrated Memorial Day by marching in the North Haven Parade. Shriners from the Divan leadership team, Pipes and Drums, Motor Patrol, and Clown Units marched. In addition, Pyramid Shriners were able to share their mission of providing assistance to needy children receiving medical care at the Shriner's Hospital.



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



Top Row L-R: Frank Mangiero, Associate Grand Tiler; Robert J. Kovi, Associate Grand Tiler; Richard C. Memmott Jr., R.W. Grand Tiler; Carl H. Anderson, R.W. Grand Almoner and R.W. Grand Organist; Gary A. Littlefield, R.W. Grand Historian; F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Assistant to the Grand Master; Very Rev. Joseph R. Krusienski, R.W. Grand Chaplain

Middle Row L-R: Edward C. Page, R.W. Grand Junior Deacon; Brian E. Beals, Deputy Grand Treasurer; James M. Anderson, Deputy Grand

Secretary; Les B. King, R.W. Grand Marshal; Rinaldo F. Magliano, R.W. Grand Senior Steward; Joseph J. Porco, R.W. Grand Senior Deacon; (Missing: Shane Dufrense, R.W. Grand Junior Steward)

Bottom Row L-R: Newton Buckner III, R.W. Grand Treasurer; Bruce R. Bellmore, R.W. Grand Junior Warden; Stephen W. Petri, R.W. Deputy Grand Master; Melvin E. Johnson, M.W. Grand Master; William E. Bohman, R.W. Grand Senior Warden; Grant S. Gould, R.W. Grand Secretary

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and
Associate
Grand
Marshals
2019-2020*

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Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Mark S. Agnew

**1
B**



District Deputy
R.W. Christopher S.J. Jennings
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Adam J. Plotnick

**1
C**



District Deputy
R.W. Mark H. Hawkins
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Robert J. Furce.

**2
A**



District Deputy
R.W. Michael E. Slich
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. James A. Saraceni

**2
B**



District Deputy
R.W. John E. Feinson
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Paul M. Moncuse

**3
A**



District Deputy
R.W. Martin J. Macary
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Daniel D. Sharkis (not shown)



**3
B**



District Deputy
R.W. Michael A. Adams
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Steven J. Chiappalone

**4
A**



District Deputy
R.W. Jasom E. Morse
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Scott B. Bumps

**4
B**



District Deputy
R.W. Shelby P. Jackson, III
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Konstantinos Antoniou

**4
C**



District Deputy
R.W. Kristian M. Maiorino
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Daniel M. Luft

5
A



District Deputy
R.W. George A. Frascarelli
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Christopher G. Ozog

5
B



District Deputy
R.W. Eric J. Charette
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Rudolph L. Cabata

*District
Deputies
and
Associate
Grand
Marshals
2019-2020*

6
A



District Deputy
R.W. Earl S. Evans
Associate Grand Marshal
Bro. David C. Lockard

6
B



District Deputy
R.W. T. Donovan Scroggs
Associate Grand Marshal
Bro. Carlton A. Stidsen

7
A



District Deputy
R.W. Paul D. Cross
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. John H. Spencer

7
B



District Deputy
R.W. John R. Main
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. David S. Smith

8
A



District Deputy
R.W. Richard L. Allen
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Robert G. Krawic

8
B



District Deputy
R.W. James A. Moran, Jr.
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. John H. Wadsworth, III

9
A



District Deputy
R.W. Christopher T. Carrott
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Joe T. Fox

9
B



District Deputy
R.W. Robert G. Barrows
Associate Grand Marshal
Bro. Gregory J. Messier

Grand Masters Day ~ June 8, 2019



District 1

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



Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 Marches in Memorial Day Parade

by Joseph A. Zannino, Jr.

The brethren of Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 had an excellent showing for the annual Easton Memorial Day parade. Each year the town hosts the parade starting at the town firehouse, proceeding down Center Road to finish at town hall across from the lodge. The camaraderie was high while the brethren solemnly commemorated those who gave their lives to protect this great nation, and engaged with the local community.

To show appreciation to the town and community the lodge loves being a part of, the brothers gave away various beverages and an assortment of baked goods to the attendees of the parade. The day provided an opportune time to candidly interact with the townspeople while watching the parade filled with various groups and organizations that contribute to this vibrant community.

The lodge was open to the public with tours available upon request, which doubled as a great way to showcase the recent renovation and painting done to the exterior door of the lodge. It was a great time seeing new people inquire about the lodge and its own historical imprint on the town over the years. It is always a pleasure when one hears the excitement in someone's voice as they explain their own various masonic related experiences. Some visitors recalled stories of a relative who is a Mason, others of a time a lodge contributed in a positive way to their life somehow.



All in all, everything made for a great Memorial Day event and the brethren of Ashlar-Aspetuck look forward to doing it all again next year.



Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107 Marches in Darien Memorial Day Parade

On May 27, brothers of Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107 marched in the Darien Memorial Day Parade, lead by a color guard from Trinity Commandery No. 3, Knights Templar.

District 1 *Continued from page 9*

5th Annual Habitat for Humanity Work Party

by *Fritzner Erauda*

“There are two kinds of masonry; operative and speculative.”

Although “we work as speculative masons only,” the brothers of Fidelity-St. John’s Lodge No. 3 put the working tools of masonry to task in the tradition of their ancient brethren. The 5th Annual Habitat for Humanity Work Party continues an effort begun in May 2015 by Worshipful Brother James Wade D’Acosta.

“Organizing a Build Day led by Fidelity-St. John’s No. 3 was my special project when I served as Worshipful Master,” W.B. D’Acosta said. “I chose Habitat for Humanity because of the organization’s exceptional reputation, its focus on helping people in our community, and because of the opportunity the work itself gives us to put our symbolic tools to work. Using square, plum, and level, we raise buildings and connect with our ancient brethren who labored as operative masons, and we do so in a day which brings us together through teamwork.”

As in previous years, the brothers were blessed by the Grand Architect with a wonderful weather to put the working tools to good use. Not only did they volunteer their day to help those in need, but the day provided an avenue for the brothers to form a stronger bond of friendship.

Amongst the volunteers were two Fellowcrafts, Brothers Barry McDonald and Walter Matis who, experienced firsthand the lessons they learned when they were passed to the second degree of Masonry. Bro. McDonald said, “Habitat for Humanity promotes teamwork and a bonding experience that follows in the footsteps of one the many principles of Freemasonry. It’s a gratifying experience that warms your heart knowing you can positively affect a person in need.”

The brothers of Fidelity-St. John’s see this event as a great milestone. For five straight years, the brothers, through the leadership of W.B. James D’Acosta, have helped several family members own a place they can call home. As Bro. Matis said, “It was a marvelous experience to work with a team of brothers and help build a house that will be appreciated by its residents. The day was made special by having not just brothers there, but also family members and friends.”



(front l-r) Bro. Fritzner Erauda, Bro. Benjamin Clark, Sharon Hsu-Matis, Ellie Hurd, RW Greg Schroder. (back l-r) WB James D’Acosta, Bro. Andrew Flasko, Bro. Walter Matis, Dakota Ciambriello, Bro. Barry McDonald

All can now look back and reflect on what Bro. Benjamin Franklin said, “Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold or silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason.”

For any brothers or lodges who would like to help, Habitat for Humanity is always in search of extra manpower to fulfill their goals and to help families in need.

If any would like to volunteer or donate, please visit the Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County website at <http://www.habitatcfc.org>.



Brothers of Fidelity-St. John’s and friends, working together to raise trusses



WB James D’Acosta

Cemetery Clean Up Day in Darien’s Slawson (Slauson) Cemetery

by *Karen K. Polett* (photo by David E. Polett)

Members of Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107 partnered with Darien’s Monuments and Ceremonies Commission’s Cemetery Committee and Good Wife’s River DAR Chapter to cut brush, remove debris, rake pine cones, and clean stones at the Slawson Cemetery on Hanson Road. This cemetery is the resting place of Darien town founder Thaddeus Bell, his wife, and son. Clearing this area is especially important since Darien’s 2020 Committee and Good Wife’s River DAR Chapter plan to mark the Bell gravesite during “Darien’s 2020” honoring the 200-year celebration of Darien’s incorporation as a town



Bro. Mark Lindsay (co-organizer), Darien Cemetery Co-Chair/DAR Vice Regent Tracy Root, Bro., Pete Kenyon, DAR Registrar/Monuments and Ceremonies Commission Secretary, Karen K. Polett, Brother, Andrew Melillo, Ron D’Andrea, Good Wife’s River DAR Regent Nicole Gorman, all standing behind town founder Thaddeus Bell’s tombstone.

District 2

Lodges 13, 18, 21, 39, 40, 48, 49, 61, 64



St. Peter's Lodge No 21 Wives and Widows Luncheon

by Nathan Schoonover

On June 8, the Brothers of St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 wanted to thank the women who support them every day, as well as show the widows of departed Brothers that they will never be forgotten, that they are loved, missed and always remembered. Fifteen ladies attended this year's 3rd annual Wives and Widows luncheon at the lodge.

The event was hosted by Worshipful Master Nathan Schoonover and coordinated by Junior Warden Matt Fitzgibbons and Almoner Martin Landgrebe. Senior Steward Dan Keeler, prepared the luncheon. All the ladies in attendance were presented roses and enjoyed their time together. WM John Arizzi of Union Lodge No. 40 in Danbury addressed the ladies about his role with the Widows Outreach Program in District 2, and WM Schoonover presented the four widows in attendance, Mary Jane Knecht, Edith Altvater, Edith Johnson, and Deborah H. Swigart, with the Broken Column Pin. The pin is in memory of their husbands and in recognition of the continued dedication of Masons to the families of the Brothers who are no longer with us.

It was a wonderful day and the ladies were excited for next year's event.



WM Nathan Schoonover



WM John Arizzi

65 Years a Mason by Nathan Schoonover

When Brother Joseph Geyer received an invitation to awards night at St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 to receive his 65-year pin, he regretfully had to decline as he did not feel he would be able to make the trip. As Bro. Geyer is the longest active member of St. Peter's, WM Nathan Schoonover and WB Curtis Temple agreed that his pin should not just be sent in the mail. They contacted RWB Albert Thierfelder and RWB Rafael Figueroa, and the four of them arranged to visit Brother Joseph at his home in Southbury on April 23.

Bro. Geyer was presented his pin with his family in attendance. He then regaled everyone with stories of his time in Korea while serving in the United States Army and his years as a teacher in Connecticut. He also shared that his family doctor, who he respected very much, had been a Mason. In 1953 he told his doctor he was petitioning to join a Masonic Lodge. His doctor told him he would never regret it.

Bro. Geyer let everyone know he never did. When asked if he had any message he would like delivered to the brothers of St Peter's, he said, "Tell them becoming a Mason was the greatest decision of my life."

Editor's Note: Connecticut Freemasons received word from St. Peter's Lodge that Brother Joseph Geyer passed to the Celestial Lodge above on May 20. Please remember our brother in your prayers.



(L-r): RWB Alert Thierfelder, WB Curtis Temple, Bro. Joseph Geyer, RWB Rafael Figueroa, and WB Nathan Schoonover.



Masons Collaborate At Georgetown Day by Donald M. Casey Jr.

Masons from Ark Lodge No. 39 and Pyramid Shriners collaborated at the 17th Annual Georgetown Day Celebration in Redding. Masons provided hot dogs, hamburgers, and other picnic style food. In addition, brothers entertained patrons with balloon twisting hats, games, and animals.

St. Peter's Lodge No. 21, Marching in Memory

by Nathan Schoonover

It couldn't have been a more perfect day for a parade! On May 27, the brothers of St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 came together to participate in the Memorial Day parade in New Milford. One of the joys that comes from living in and being a part of a small community is the participation when an important event like Memorial Day comes around.

Having marched in the parade in the past, Worshipful Master Nathan Schoonover knew how hot and thirsty the participants of the parade could get. So after getting permission from the VFW and parade organizers, the brothers of St. Peter's arranged to set up a water table to pass out water to all the participants of the event.

While the brothers and a few of their children marched with the other institutions of New Milford, the Worshipful Master's wife, Kristi P. Schoonover, organized the table to hand out water. The table was manned by Rose Baker, as well as Jane, Debbie, and Nate Swigart. Everyone who participated in the parade was offered a bottle of water at the end and was invited to attend the open house at the St. Peter's on July 27 from noon to 2 p.m. Over 600 bottles of water were handed out to some very grateful marchers.



Bro. Carlos Gavilano, Bro. Rafael Figueroa Sr., RWB Rafael Figueroa, WM Nathan Schoonover, Bro. Ted Swigart III, Bro. Mario Sclafani, Bro. Dan Keeler, Drea Keeler, Brendan Fitzgibbons, Bro. Matt Fitzgibbons

Kristi Petersen Schoonover, Jane Swigart, Debbie Swigart, and Rose Baker.



District 4

Lodges 1, 9, 16, 22, 30, 38, 63, 66, 77, 79, 87, 89, 97, 115, 125, 332, 500, MLR



Ashlar Lodge No. 332 Hosts National Sojourners

by Stephen M. Thal

On Monday June 10 Ashlar Lodge No. 332 hosted the National Sojourners, who presented their program "Build the Flag."

It was a most interesting program that demonstrated how the flag developed to become what we recognize today as Old Glory.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Melvin E. Johnson, and six Sojourners, were led by MWPGM William Greene. They wore

tri-cornered hats and dressed in colonial garb as they presented an interesting history and display of the flag's evolution from the Revolutionary War to the present day.

Their program was well received by nearly sixty attendees, including other Masons, veterans and residents who expressed their delight and appreciation for the enlightenment.

The National Sojourners are U.S. Citizens, Masons of a recognized Lodge, who are members of the Armed Forces of the United States or its allies, or honorably discharged members of the military.

You may obtain more information about the Sojourners by contacting MWPGM William Greene at greenewi@charter.net.



Historical Seminars in Celebration of the 230th Anniversary of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Connecticut

**Please join us for a celebratory afternoon
featuring lectures by the internationally known**

Dr. William R. Cook, Ph.D.,

**Sunday, July 21, 2019 from 1 to 5:30 p.m.
Scottish Rite Theater, 207 Deming Street, Newington, CT.**

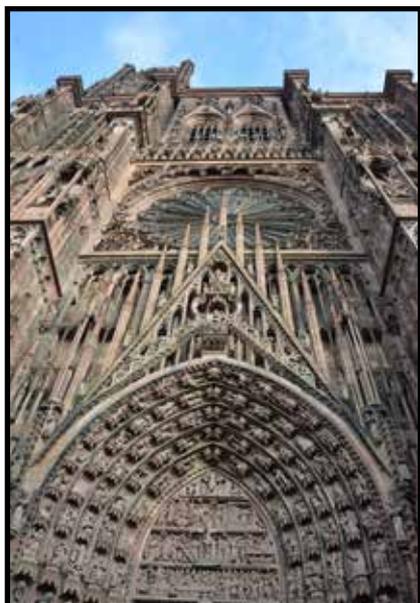
Dr. Cook will speak on the topics of
The Cathedrals, Tocqueville, and St. Francis of Assisi.

The public is invited to this family friendly event.

Refreshments afterwards.

Seating is limited in our climate-controlled theater.

Please register for your free tickets at <https://ctfreemasons.net/2019july21>



The Cathedrals

Dr. Cook is a lifelong scholar of cathedrals and has traveled the world to learn about these magnificent structures. He will share with us the characteristic passion and engagement that has won him acclaim in his field.

Watch the cathedrals come to life on the big screen at the Scottish Rite Theater. As dynamic as the visuals are, you will discover his discussion will be rooted in the detailed

scholarship and fascinating insights of Professor Cook himself.

Discover how they were built, how they've evolved, and what they mean to people both in the past and today.

Experience stepping inside a Gothic cathedral to a world filled with vaulted ceilings that direct the visitor's gaze toward heaven, and stone sculptures that bring to life both the blessings of salvation and the horrors of damnation. View the stained glass windows that illustrate powerful stories in dazzling bursts of color.

Since Europe in the 4th century, cathedrals have served as: Centers of Ecclesiastical authority; marvels of architectural genius and innovation; places to instruct communities about cherished Christian values and lessons; and sites of political, cultural, intellectual, and economic importance.

Tocqueville and the American Experiment

Is it possible that one of the greatest books about U.S. democracy was written by a Frenchman visiting this country 175 years ago? Why is it still relevant in today's ever-changing landscape? Professor Cook will present some of Tocqueville's unique observations.

Why has American democracy flourished? What is unique in our national character or the social fabric in our communities that has allowed the growth of democracy?

Alexis de Tocqueville wrote of the meaning of family in democracy, race and the damage done by slavery, the crucial role



of women, religion as a moral guide, and the dangers of turning religion to political ends.

Professor Cook notes the brilliant observations of an outsider that still allow Americans to understand themselves better for having encountered his writings.

Quoted from Professor Cook: “Furthermore, in a time when America is encouraging nations around the world to adopt democratic values and is engaged in nation building, Tocqueville can be both a guide and a reminder of the cultural context in which democratic institutions can develop and flourish.

“Whatever we feel about particular American policies,” he continues, “we as a nation are trying to build democracies on other places.

“To do that, we have to ask, what in America is transferable to other cultures and other histories, and what isn’t? What are the most fundamental things, and what are secondary and tertiary in importance? What kind of education is needed to create not just a democratic institution, but what Tocqueville himself calls the ‘habits of the heart,’ [the American characteristics that] make a democracy more than a form of government but a way of life?

Tocqueville’s writings can be seen as both an inspiration and warning for Americans in today’s world, providing insights and innovative ways to consider what we all too often take for granted in the United States.



St. Francis of Assisi

Author of several books about St. Francis of Assisi, Dr. Cook will give some insight as to why Francis still so revered in the world of today. It is truly a fascinating story.

Francis is one of the most beloved Catholic saints and a person whose message and appeal transcend denominational and religious boundaries.

Francis is the founder of an order that bears his name, and their work is also in part responsible for Francis’ fame. In the U.S. friars and sisters run a number of educational institutions from grade schools to universities. Many people have been cared for in hospitals named for St. Francis. Friars and sisters minister at college Newman Centers and also in soup kitchens and shelters for the homeless and on Indian reservations.

Francis has been the subject of some of the greatest art in the Western tradition and remains a topic of active scholarly research. Yet he is also a favorite for backyard shrines and key chains, and is the star of a big-selling Marvel comic book, *Francis, Brother of the Universe*. The author is a Franciscan friar, and the comic has sold half a million copies in English and Spanish.

Modern thinkers who have taken inspiration from him include the English Catholic convert G. K. Chesterton, Greek novelist Nikos Kazantzakis, German author Herman Hesse.

Francis’ appeal cuts not only across centuries but across confessional boundaries. He is virtually the only saint not in the Bible whose name and image are often heard and seen in non-Catholic churches. Of note, one special meaning that St. Francis has to Freemasons is that he is the Patron Saint of not dying alone.

Dr. William R. Cook is the Distinguished Teaching Professor of History at the State University of New York at Geneseo, where he has taught since 1970. He earned his bachelor’s degree cum laude from Wabash College and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa there.



He was then awarded Woodrow Wilson and Herbert Lehman fellowships to study medieval history at Cornell University, where he earned his Ph.D. Professor Cook teaches courses in ancient and medieval history, the Renaissance and Reformation periods, and the Bible and Christian thought.

Since 1983 Professor Cook has directed 11 Seminars for School Teachers for the National Endowment for the Humanities. His books include *Images of St. Francis of Assisi* and *Francis of Assisi: The Way of Poverty and Humility*. Dr. Cook contributed to the Cambridge Companion to Giotto and edits and contributes to *The Art of the Franciscan Order in Italy*.

Many Freemasons are familiar with Dr. Cook, as he is well known to Great Courses subscribers. He has taught 9 courses individually or with another professor.

Among his many awards, Professor Cook has received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. In 1992 the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education named him New York State’s Professor of the Year. In 2003 he received the first-ever CARA Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Medieval Studies from the Medieval Academy of America.

District 5

Lodges 14, 29, 33, 36, 101, 128, 140, 146, 148



Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14 Presents Community Service Awards *by Patrick Kilby*

At Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14's annual Lode of Sorrows and Annual Awards Ceremony in April, Worshipful Master Raul Tovar recognized Plainville's first responders by presenting the 2019 Community Service Awards to the men and women of the Plainville Police Department and Plainville Fire Department. A great evening was had by all as the brethren thanked both departments for their service and dedication to the local community. WM Tovar presented these awards to the chiefs of each department. Both Chiefs are instrumental and serve above and beyond the call of action and lead these great people.

(l-r) Kevin Toner, Chief of the Plainville Fire Department, WM Tovar, and Matthew Catania, Chief of the Plainville Police Department.



District 6

Lodges 4, 25, 28, 70, 73, 88, 145, PLR



Veterans and Brothers March with Grand Master in Memorial Day Parade *by Arnold Grot*

On May 27, Most Worshipful Brother Mel Johnson joined brothers of Columbia Lodge No. 25 as they honored veterans by marching in the Glastonbury Memorial Day Parade. This was the fourth straight year that Brother Mel marched with Columbia Lodge.

He was joined by RWB Matt Heinrich, Assistant to the GM, and RWB Don Scroggs District Deputy of 6B. There were 12 Brothers marching, representing five District 6 Lodges and four rode in a new pickup provided by Monaco Ford. More than half of the marchers are veterans.



Grand Masters Day ~ June 8, 2019 ~ Donor Recognition Breakfast



District 6

Lodges 4, 25, 28, 70, 73, 88, 145, PLR



Service honored by Columbia Lodge No. 25 by Arnie Grot

(photos by Ward Edgerton)

At its Annual Awards Night on May 15, Columbia Lodge No. 25 recognized Brothers Brian Berk, Santi Ranno and Robert J. Zanlungo, Jr. for excellence and unselfish service. Incremental Service Pins were given to several brothers.

The Emerson C. Reed Award for Excellence is presented to a brother who has demonstrated excellence in some significant field of endeavor for the benefit of the Lodge. It is named after the late Brother Emerson C. Reed who set an example of excellence in all that he undertook in the field of Masonry. This year the award was presented to Worshipful Brother Brian Berk.

The Daskam-Nott Award is presented to a brother who has demonstrated outstanding and unselfish service to Columbia Lodge or Masonry in general for an extended period of years. It is named in honor of Brother George F. Daskam who was Grand Master when Daskam Lodge No. 86 was chartered in 1858, and Brother John Nott who was the first Worshipful Master of Columbia Lodge No. 25 when it was chartered in 1793. This year the award was presented to Brother Santi Ranno.

The Community Service Award for 2019 was presented to Mr. Robert J. Zanlungo, Jr. on behalf of the community of Glastonbury. There are many community needs that are not met within the budget of the town government. Volunteers sometimes fill these needs. There are a few men and women who devote an extraordinary amount of their time, talents and other resources in this effort.

Bob is a member of the Glastonbury Rotary Club and is involved in various projects and fundraisers. He has chaired the Lobsterfest event, the largest fundraiser for the Glastonbury Rotary Club. He has served as the President of the Rotary Club and continues to be an active member.

Bob's has also served on the Town Council and currently sits on the Zoning Board. Through this involvement has helped craft a vision for the Town of Glastonbury. He is also a strong member of the CT River Valley Chamber of Commerce where he helped organize the Apple Harvest Fest 5K Run. He has been a lector at St. Dunstan's Church and a member of the Second Century Fund helping usher in renovations to the town library.

Bob is a dedicated branch manager of Norcom Mortgage. There, in addition to serving clients with their lending needs, he is able to use his corporate influence to make the community better and brighter... especially during the holidays when his branch collected toys for the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Rotarians have a saying which they live by: "service above self." That certainly exemplifies Bob. To quote one of his close friends: "In a world that wants to tear people down, he is always there to build someone up. He is happy for others when they achieve success; when they have made their goal and dreams come true. It is not only a part of his career, but it is also a part of who he is as a person."



Presentation of Community Service Award to Robert J. Zanlungo, Jr.



Presentation of Emerson C. Reed Award of Excellence to WB Brian J. Berk



Presentation of Dakam-Nott Award to Bro. Sam Ranno

Incremental Service Pin Presentations



25-year: RW Peter J. Hunt



30-year: WB Walt Grube



35-year: RW Gerry Thompson



40-year: VW Don Wills



40-year: Bro. Bob Nordstrom



45-year: RW Robert G. Fitzgerald



50-year: WB Harold M. Waters, Jr.



60-year: Bro. Ward M. Edgerton

District 7

Lodges 2, 43, 51, 81, 95, 112, 119, 131



Washington Lodge No. 81 Presents Scholarships at Cromwell High School *by Zach Marotte*

On Monday, May 20 brothers from Washington Lodge No. 81 attended the annual Awards Ceremony at Cromwell High School. WM Steven Saehrig, WB Peter Gaulton, RWB Jim Nankin, RWB Ken Smith, Bro. John A. Morales, and Bro. Zach Marotte saw awards presented to seniors Marina Fletcher and Shannon Morrill. Every year, Washington Lodge participates in the ceremony, raising \$1,500 annually, to support the educational goals of two deserving high school seniors.

During the ceremony, Brothers Saehrig and Nankin explained what Freemasonry is and the type of work that the Lodge does for the local community. Given the cheers of approval from the audience, it was clear that Freemasonry is still highly respected in Cromwell.

Washington Lodge No. 81 continues to serve the local community of Cromwell and is constantly looking for ways to serve and raise money for charity. Although there are many other events that Washington Lodge participates in throughout the year, the annual charity fundraiser is by far its largest event. As Washington Lodge continues to expand they will increase our efforts to serve the local community.



(l-r): RWB Jim Nankin, Mrs. Fran DiFiore (Principal), Marina Fletcher, Shannon Morrill, and WM Steven Saehrig.



l-r) RWB Jim Nankin, RWB Ken Smith, Bro. John A. Morales, and Bro. Zach Marotte, and Shannon Morrill.

District 8

Lodges 10, 31, 34, 57, 102, 116, 120, 150



The Most Important Meal Of The Day... *by Jeffrey A. Blayman*



Having made a pledge to join RWB CA Duke for the 8th District breakfast days before, I awoke slightly after dawn and made my way in his direction. Upon arriving, I found Duke with his trademark bowtie leaning against his cherry red convertible in the driveway. I wasn't entirely

out of my car as he exclaimed, "Ready when you are."

I don't think I was necessarily prepared for how fast that car was or how it could hug corners at top speed. Let's just say the ride to breakfast was exhilarating. We arrived at the Groton Townhouse diner in record time thanks to my 88-year-old race car driver of a chauffeur.

Once inside we were greeted by a wisecracking waitress that laid into Duke with a smile as they verbally sparred in good fun while we walked to the large private dining room. As we crossed the threshold throngs of brothers were already in attendance catching up and gossiping about life's goings on. Many familiar faces filled the room such as Burt Turner, Les King and Ted Nelson. After everyone enjoyed a few rounds of coffee and a warm breakfast,

the master of ceremonies, Right Worshipful Grand Marshal Les King made opening remarks after which lodges in the eighth district took turns discussing what activities they had upcoming.

I'm not sure if other districts are meeting in this fashion, but what I took away from the experience was that members of the 8th district operated in each others best interest and utilized this special time once a month to get on the same page with degrees and events in a way that was much more successful than just making random announcements during a standard communication. Although it may be bit cliché to say, breakfast truly is the most important meal of the day and maybe of the month when you consider the impact of organizing the district all in about two hours.

After paying our bills we disbursed into the parking lot having eaten our fill and enjoyed the company of our friends and brothers. Duke signaled for me to hop in as he revved the engine, then he sped off down Route 12 with the top down, the morning sun illuminating the road in front of us in a golden reflection and the wind blowing through our hair Duke looked in my direction as he shifted gears and cracked a smile, as 88-year-old race car drivers sometimes do.



District 9

Lodges 15, 24, 46, 60, 110, 113, 122,



Moriah Lodge No. 15 Hosts Ladies at the Table *by Edward C. Page*

After several years of deliberating Moriah Lodge No. 15, in the “quiet corner of Connecticut,” hosted its first Ladies at the Table dinner in more than 30 years on May 25. Worshipful Master Adam Feeney graciously handed over planning and execution of this very special event to RWB Edward C. Page and his wife, Lady Christina.

Invitations were sent to attend this formal event with men to be dressed in tuxedos in honor of their ladies, and the ladies with the choice to dress as they felt most comfortable. As each couple arrived, the lady received chocolates in a silver organza bag and they were guided to a designated area for a couple’s photo in front of a vibrant blue backdrop. Upstairs, the old lodge room was transformed into a formal affair with black linen tablecloths, red satin table runners, white lace doilies and custom designed wine glasses commemorating the event. Old time favorites by Perry Como and Robert Goulet welcomed the guests as they found their seats.

During the official opening of the Ladies at the Table dinner, RWB Edward explained that the chosen scripture, Ruth, was selected for the event in honor of Lady Christina’s mother, Ruth Johnson from Ohio.

The first toast was to Lady Susan B. Anthony. Lodge historian WB Donald Gladding read her impressive biography, and the other five women’s biographies: Hatshepsut, Queen Elizabeth II, Mary (Mother of Jesus), Mother Teresa, and Joan of Arc.

At the conclusion of the first toast was a sing-along, a standard practice at Moriah Lodge’s table lodges. The first selection was “You Are My Sunshine,” after which RWB Page presented his wife Christina a “you are my sunshine” necklace. The servers brought out the first course of veggies and dip in a unique spoon display, while a different musical selection was played for the guests to enjoy.

Brother Robert Scharlack, Senior Warden, offered the second toast, a salute to Hatshepsut, and the second course was roast beef crostini. The musical selection was John Michael Montgomery’s “I Love the Way You Love Me.”

The third toast was to the Queen of England, Elizabeth II, offered by Brother Ian Sharpe, Junior Warden, followed by a sing-a-long to Harry Connick Jr’s “Wink and A Smile,” a longtime favorite song of the hosts. Cheese and crackers were delivered in a unique dainty triangle dish.

The lodge was called to order for a presentation by Lady Christina to Ladies Kim Messier and Mary Scharlack who do so much to help Moriah Lodge. They were presented with a bell wind chime hand painted with their personality traits wrapped around the rim of the bell and were told that each time they heard the chime ring to remember how much their love and dedication to Moriah Lodge was appreciated.

Caesar salad in a silver scalloped square bowl was served as the fourth course preceded by a toast to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, after which the guests listened to another musical interlude ranging from Sony and Cher’s “I Got You Babe” to Peter Frampton’s “Baby I Love Your Way.”

During a quiet moment, Lady Christina pointed out the unique centerpieces at each table and remarked, “The framed artwork at each table is a specially designed empowering phrase specifically selected for the ladies.”



Christina had decided to do something a little different in honoring the ladies, and created the framed empowering statements about women. She then asked a lady at each table to read out loud their centerpiece statement so that everyone not seated at the table could share the sentiment. Even though some of the ladies are known to be a bit shy, they felt comfortable with their fellow guests and proudly read each statement. Lady Dawn Carlson, wife of Past Grand Master of RI, Glenn Carlson, read one of the head table’s signs, “She believed she could, so she did.” Lady Laurie Stilwell, wife of Kenny Stilwell from Plainfield, read a centerpiece sign sharing, “A woman should be two things, who and what she wants.”

The main course was a delicious chicken parmesan entrée accompanied by a cold antipasto salad made by Lady Christina, and Italian bread. The “Crooners” of American history filled the hall with singing for their entertainment. It was a fantastic sight to look around the room and see how many people were singing or humming to each of the songs carefully selected by RWB Edward.

The final course, dessert, was a raspberry and cherry chiffon ambrosia topped with wild Maine blueberries was accompanied by a toast to Joan of Arc.

After a brief musical playlist, RWB Edward and Lady Christina asked for everyone’s attention explained the photo at registration. Lady Christina disclosed that a lot of the time, “We help or watch our men get all dressed

continued on page 17

District 9 *Continued from page 16*

up in their tuxes and then they leave for their meetings and we really don't get an opportunity to get a picture taken with them, so Edward came up with the idea of taking pictures of each couple and then giving them a picture to take with them and then instructed me to make it happen." Then each couple was invited to the East, asked to introduce themselves, and presented with their framed picture. This creative gesture was met with overwhelming excitement and joy.

The final toast was to all the guests' ladies. All the brothers stood and serenaded their loved one by singing Travis Tritt's "More Than You'll Ever Know," to illustrate the value of the ladies sacrifice and the brothers' acknowledgement of their own imperfections.

Before concluding the evening, RW Edward asked for a salute to the cooks and servers: WB Brian Keith (Moriah Lodge No. 15/Moosup Lodge No. 113), Bro. Daniel Buchanan (Moosup Lodge No. 113), Bro. Christopher Britland (Moosup Lodge No. 113), Matt Pelletier (Moosup Lodge No. 113), Bro. Kenneth Boundy (Moriah Lodge No. 15), WB Adam Feeney (Moriah Lodge No. 15), and Bro. Gregory Marsh (Moriah Lodge No. 15/Ionic Lodge No. 110). Also acting as servers were Bro. Arthur Mullen-Stone (Ionic Lodge No. 110) and his son Ethan Xavier Stone who volunteers as part of giving to the community.

RWB Edward escorted Lady Christina to the west where was presented a beautiful floral bouquet and a day spa certificate by Brother Gregory Messier and WB Feeney. Completely surprised and overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness of the gesture, she remarked that she doesn't do nearly enough to be given such recognition and generous gifts, and that she and Edward both do everything they can for Freemasonry because of their love

for the fraternity, not for the accolades, but she most definitely will enjoy the fragrance of the flowers and the day at the spa.

The Senior and Junior Wardens presented each lady a long stemmed red rose to the background music of Bette Midler's "The Rose."

Final words were offered by Past Grand Masters Russel Davis, Kenneth Bruns, Glenn S. Carlson (all of Rhode Island), and William L. Greene, as well as RWB Robert Drisco of Rhode Island, who all shared their appreciation for having attended and commented on the evening's success.

RWB Edward and Lady Christina once again thanked everyone for their participation at their first Ladies at the Table dinner and hinted that perhaps there would be another one next year.



Ionic Lodge No. 110, Supporting Youth In The Community *by William L. Greene*

On May 16, the Golden Harp Irish Dancers from Bolton, performed at a special meeting of Ionic Lodge No. 110 in North Windham. This was the 18th year that the dancers have performed for the Lodge, ladies, parents and guests. A donation was presented to the dance studio and following the performance and all in attendance were treated to the traditional spaghetti dinner by Ionic Lodge. This annual event is anticipated and enjoyed by both the lodge and the dancers.

On Thursday, May 30, Ionic Lodge presented four local high school graduates with the *William L. Greene, Good Citizenship Award*. Each student received a monetary gift in recognition of their good character and commitment of service to their family, school, and community. This is the 17th year that Ionic Lodge has presented this award to a graduating student from these schools. The program started in 2003 and has been awarded each year since. With the roots of Freemasonry in the craftsmen trades, and their belief in community



Irish Dancers

service, the members of Ionic Lodge designate this award for individuals who are well-rounded, conscientious and responsible citizens in their school, home and community. Ionic Lodge requests the Guidance Counselor from each of the schools to submit the name of a graduating student from their school that best fulfills these requirements. In addition to the grant, each student receives an engraved trophy and is invited, along with their families and school guidance counselors and teachers, to a special awards dinner at Ionic Lodge.



(l-r) RWB Edward C. Page, Grand Junior Deacon; WB Jeffrey Potter, Master of Ionic Lodge; Miss Faith Ornan, E.O. Smith High School; Mr. Jorge Agosto, Windham Regional Technical School; Miss Shiannah Laboy, Windham High School; M. W. William L. Greene, Past Grand Master; Ms. Jennifer Willich, Worthy Grand Matron, Order of the Eastern Star and R.W. Fred L. Watts III, Program Chairman. Also presented an award was Mr. Kevin Began, Coventry High School, who was unable to attend the Awards Ceremony.

The Temple of SOLOMON

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

As the old credit card ad used to say, “Membership has its privileges.” Members of the Rite, their families, as well as currently enrolled Candidates are all invited to take part in this summer’s Family Life events.

On July 14, we find ourselves on a breezy ferry ride from Bridgeport to Port Jefferson, with an option to meander about Port Jefferson, or to independently strike out to one of Long Island’s fine wineries. The highly anticipated 6th Annual Clambake will take place at Stratford’s Boothe Memorial Park on August 3.

On August 10, there is a bus trip to a winery in the Berkshires followed by a concert at Tanglewood to hear the Boston Symphony Orchestra perform selections of Carreno, Rachmaninoff, and Brahms.

August 16 is our semi-annual Scotch and Cigar Night in Stamford and on August 24 is a trip to the Scottish Festival and Games on Long Island’s Old Westbury. Save the dates and plan on bringing the family! For reservations and further details please call the Valley office at (203) 375-0064.

For those brothers who have not started their Scottish Rite journeys yet, you can fill out the petition form online and confirm your candidate status before contacting the office for reservations at <https://scottishritenmj.org/membership-application>, or come to the office to complete your application in person.

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention all Master Masons!
UPCOMING SCOTTISH RITE DEGREE

Saturday, July 20: 4th Degree (digital) at 10 a.m.*
24th Degree Live & 15th Degree (digital) at 11 a.m.
Lunch to follow.

Monday, Sept. 16: 4th Degree Live & 6th Degree (digital) at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6 p.m.

*To begin your ScottishRite journey, sign up now for the first class on July 20 at 10 a.m. by visiting the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction website, <https://scottishritenmj.org/membership-application>.

All Degrees are held 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.

* * * * *

Reference to King Solomon’s temple can be found throughout Blue Lodge Masonry’s degree work, as well as those of the various appendant bodies. In all these cases, the temple should be taken as a symbol and not as a literal historical edifice. The building and the restoration of the Temple at Jerusalem is dramatically depicted in the Blue Lodge’s degree work through the employment of

word play and a parity of events. Sol-Om-On represents the name of Diety in three different ancient traditions. (Sol – in Roman and Norse, OM in Hindu, and ON in Egyptian). If we explore further, we see that there is no reliable account of any such Temple having been erected in Jerusalem. There is no description of the temple to be found anywhere and the biblical references are all generalities. If you scour the Book of Kings, the descriptions contained therein appear, according to archeologists, to be similar to the temple at Ain Dara Syria, and this was just recently unearthed in the 1980s. Thus there is no reliable history of any such temple having been erected in Jerusalem in actuality. Again since allegory and symbolism are the prime mechanisms by which Freemasonry instructs, we must consider what other temple might exist, which is worthy of lasting and true value to

humanity. If we delve into Ancient Initiations we can conclude that it can only be referencing the Tabernacle of the Human Soul. It is the only structure that can be built without the sounds of tools and materials being worked upon. It is indeed the Spiritual Temple—the one built without hands, eternal in the heavens. In Kabala, the Immortal Spirit (the Soul) resident within the body of Man (the Artificer) is the source of all life; Thus we can see that building of the temple alludes to the regeneration or

activation of the soul, which lies long dormant in much if not most of humanity. Building our own temple is the Great Work that every devoted Master Mason takes upon himself once he awakens to the actual fact of what he is here to do.

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.

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, 7 p.m.

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

Every Thursday, 7 p.m.

Putnam Lodge No. 46, Putnam. *Thursday Night Meeting, Socializing, Rehearsing, Prepping.*

First Wednesday, 7 p.m.

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

Second & Fourth Wednesday 7 p.m.

Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford. Fellowship Night at the Lodge. *Open to all brothers, friends. Refreshments and discussion. Please call to verify.*

Third Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Day Spring Lodge No 30, Hamden. Masonic Information Night *Open to all who may be interested in Masonry, with interesting presentations and discussion.*

Every Friday, 7 p.m.

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

Second Saturday, 7 p.m.

Day Spring Lodge No. 30, Hamden. Movie Night *Films, Snacks and beverages will be provided.*

RECURRING MONTHLY BREAKFASTS

First Sunday, 7 a.m.

Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington. *SBA Breakfast Fund-raiser*

Second Sunday, 8 a.m.

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

Second Sunday of the Month, 8 a.m.

Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, Breakfast - \$7 all you can eat!

Third Sunday, 8 a.m.

Washington Lodge No. 19, Monroe. Country breakfast

First Thursday, 9 a.m.

8th District Lodges Niantic. District Breakfast, *Groton Townhouse, Rt 12, Groton CT*

EVENTS.

THU., JULY 4, INDEPENDENCE DAY

Thu., July 4, 7 p.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, Fourth of July Celebration.

The perfect location to catch the Waterbury fireworks over the Holy Land cross! Have a burger or dog and bring the family and kids!

Thu., July 11, 6 p.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, Montana Nights Axe Throwing, 80 Fenn Rd, Newington, CT 06111

Sat., July 13, Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, Fundraiser with Union Memorial Church and Shriners. \$5 entrance. Family, food, fun. Start planning now to bring as many of your friends and family as you can

Sat., July 13, 10:00 a.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, Masonic Pistol Shoot, Wolcott Landowners Protective Association, 920 Woodtick Rd, Wolcott, CT Open to brothers of Harmony Lodge and invited guests. Contact WM Ken Tarwood to reserve a spot.

Sat., July 13, 12 p.m., Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven, Annual Summer Picnic, The Berger Residence, 152 Percival Drive Cheshire. Noon to 5 pm. NO CHARGE! RSVP to RW David E. Berger 203-640-4743, davideberger76@gmail.com before July 6th

Wed., July 17, 6 p.m., St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, Litchfield, Cigar Social,

Sat., July 20, 9 a.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, Newington Extravaganza & CT CHIP Event, Mill Pond Park, 123 Garfield St, Newington, CT

Sat., July 20, 9 p.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, Fire & Ice Post-Fireworks Ice Cream Social,

Sun., July 21, 12 p.m., 230th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge, Sphinx Shrine

Sat., July 27, 1 p.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, Fellowship Day: Archery Tag, Join us for an exciting afternoon of archery tag, or come out to watch and join us for dinner and a drink afterwards! Open to all brothers. Reservations required.

Sat., July 27, 6 p.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, Beef, Bourbon & Cigars

Fri., August, 9 5:30 p.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, Fellowship Night, Brass Works Brewing Company, 2066 Thomaston Ave, The lodge is at refreshment for the summer, and so are we! Join us at one of Waterbury's hometown brewery for a beer and good fellowship!

The perfect location to catch the Waterbury fireworks over the Holy Land cross! Have a burger or dog and bring the family and kids!

Sun., August, 11 12 p.m., Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, Picnic, Painter Park, 190 Kelsey Ave, West Haven

Sat., August, 24, 5 p.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, Fellowship Night, Escapism, 168 Center St #112, Southington, Escape Room, Can you help us escape in time? Join us to test your problem-solving skills and have a blast at the same time! Open to all brothers. Reservations required.

Can you help us escape in time? Join us to test your problem-solving skills and have a blast at the same time! Open to all brothers. Reservations required.

Sat, August, 31 10 a.m., King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury, Food Drive, LaBonne's Market, 238 Main St S, Woodbury, Lodge

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*



230th Anniversary Grand Lodge
Sunday, July 21, 12-5 p.m. Valley of
Hartford Scottish Rite Temple, Newington

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREES

Sat., August 31, 5:30 p.m., Cosmopolitan
Lodge No. 125, New Haven, Dinner before
degree. *Entered Apprentice Camp Degree, Camp
Sequassen, 791 West Hill Rd, New Hartford, CT*

FELLOWCAFT DEGREES

MASTER MASON DEGREES

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

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

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

If we ever forget that
we are a nation under God,
we will be a nation gone under.
- Ronald Reagan

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Grand Masters Day ~ June 8, 2019



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

Carlyle P. Aveni
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Charles P. Bates
Ionic Lodge No. 110

James Robert Brideau
Corinthian Lodge No. 104

Donald I. Fish, Jr.
Madison Lodge No. 87

Clinton C. Gouge
Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34

Herbert E. Klei, Jr.
Uriel Lodge No. 24

John D. Kotyk
Friendship Lodge No. 33

Alexander B. MacKinnon
Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4

David F. Peet
St. Luke's Lodge No. 48

Marc E. Read
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

Roger Wellington Read
Coastal Lodge No. 57

Alan R. Rhodes
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Edgar C. Riozzi
Bay View Lodge No. 120

James L. Robinson
Wooster Lodge No. 10

Murry H. Rubin
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Joseph A. Ryan
St. John's Lodge No. 2

Donald J. Scott
Madison Lodge No. 87

James F. Shaw
Anchor Lodge No. 112

Lynn H. Sheffield
Village Lodge No. 29

Robert J. Shopey, Sr.
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64

George J. Suchyak, Jr.
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

James D. Wilson
Estuary Lodge No. 43

Ronald Everett Zissell
Washington Lodge No. 19



Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*SM



What's New And Exciting? *by Richard F. Denno*

The answer is your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program! Lodges and their members will have many more opportunities to make a lifesaving difference in their communities and lodges across the state. Going forward, we'll be working more closely with Donate Life CT, assisting them in their efforts to increase awareness of the need for more people to register online as donors. The address is www.registerme.org.

Fulfilling your Masonic obligation of helping others in need can be very rewarding – and fun too. On April 27, MWGM Melvin E. Johnson, Freemasons and many other caring families participated in this year's Blue & Green Walk, in Windsor. Families had T-shirts made up honoring their loved ones. Some set up tents and welcomed walkers with hot dogs, hamburgers, and a variety of treats and sweets. There were children's events and a "kid's walk." Other volunteers are involved with many interesting projects to increase donor awareness and sign up donors.

Your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program was formed in January 2009, over 10 years ago. We are one of the longest active committees in Connecticut Freemasonry. Our committee's first 30 members were mostly comprised of Freemasons with organ donation stories to tell. We welcome everyone who wants to make a lifesaving difference within

Freemasonry and their communities. Those who have been touched by organ donation can inspire and motivate others by sharing powerful, heartfelt experiences. Please invite anyone from donor families to contact us at toursone@comcast.net or by telephone at (860) 508-3787.

We Need You – especially your talents, experience and interests. Are you a computer whiz? Then we need you. Perhaps you're great with social media. Is your expertise in creative writing, or working with newspapers placing stories about our efforts? We need you. Perhaps you are a motivational speaker. We need you.

Put your talent, experience and interests to their best use, as a member of your exciting new Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program. To determine where and how best to use your skills, each committee member will be asked to complete a questionnaire. You'll be asked to check off those areas in which you would be interested working. Every committee member will participate in an introductory/informational training conference call.

Come join your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program. Make a difference, while enjoying the experiences with your Masonic brothers. For information or to join, contact me at toursone@comcast.net or (860) 508-3787.



Grand Masters Day



June 8, 2019

CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep RAM SUBARU

Paul Garavel, Dealer

GARAVEL CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE RAM
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Gotta Get to Garavel



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\$75 or more

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National Camping Travelers, Inc., CT, No. 6*	Sandie Greene	James R. Savickas	
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140*	Walter Grube	Robert A. Simon	
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Temple Lodge No. 16			
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Washington Lodge No. 81			
Wooster Lodge No. 79*			

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Ask Us How to Get a FREE Harley-Davidson!

Sphinx Shrine Cycle Unit is looking for riders!.
 You must be a Mason in good standing and able to join the Sphinx Shrine.
 A motorcycle (**Class M**) on your license is required to ride, but not to join the unit.
*For more information contact Unit President, Bob Everest:
 phone (860) 651-8841 or e-mail everestrobort@sbcglobal.net .*



We Ride so Kids Can Walk!

Pyramid Shriners Assist Veterans *by John Chan*

On Saturday, June 1, three Nobles of Pyramid Shrine in Stratford helped to disassemble a wheelchair ramp located in Fairfield. The aluminum modular ramp system was donated by a widow of a recently passed veteran.

When I mentioned to Noble Bro. John O'Reilly that I needed help, he reached out to his fellow Nobles at Pyramid Shriners. Past Potentate Barry Buzzell, WM Mike Sheffler of America-St. Johns Lodge No. 8, and Noble John O'Reilly answered the call.

When I arrived at the location of the large ramp, Past Potentate Barry was already busy dismantling the ramp. We were shortly joined by the others.

There are two more donated ramps awaiting to be disassembled, one in Deep River and the other in Tolland. There are also two vertical lifts (elevators) donated that need taking down, one in Durham and the other in Waterbury.

Donated equipment is refurbished and donated to needy veterans. If any brothers can help, please call Bro. John Chan (860) 518-3553.



Bro. John O'Reilly, Past Potentate Barry Buzzell, Bro. John Chan, WM Mike Sheffler



Grand Masters Day ~ June 8, 2019



Hamilton Commandery No. 5 Receives the Right Eminent Grand Commander

by Michael D. Sabia, Jr.

On Thursday May 16, the Sir Knights of Hamilton Commandery No. 5 in Stratford held their annual reception of the Right Eminent Grand Commander of Connecticut, a tradition they have kept for many years.

Sir Knight Michael E. Seamon, Right Eminent Grand Commander, along with his staff, were brought in and received by SK James Whitaker, Eminent Commander of Hamilton Commandery. The ladies were invited to attend, and entertainment consisted of acoustic music from the 1960s and 1970s performed by local musician Sean Morrissey. It was an excellent evening of food, fun, and camaraderie among all the Sir Knights and ladies present.



REGC Seamon and his Lady Linda



Sean Morrissey performs



Cake celebrating the reception.

National Camping Travelers 53rd Anniversary Camp-Out . . . Back to Our Roots by Bill Mellow

In the September 2018 issue of *News to Campers*, National President Ray Geer stated, "Have you heard of the Black Horse Tavern Campground in Gettysburg, PA? It's where NCT was formed as National Travelers Club in 1966 (and was later changed to National Camping Travelers). Well, we are planning a possible pilgrimage back to our birthplace for some time in the spring of 2019. It appears that the name of the campground has recently changed to Gettysburg Campground."



Being a member of District 1 Connecticut 6 and a Civil War re-enactor, I mentioned to Ray that I would like to offer my assistance in setting this up. He replied, "My motto is to never discourage good help! The event is yours - let me know what help you may need."

Well, here I am, finding myself sitting at the table in our RV, after a year of planning and arriving a day earlier than most everyone else, on the last day of the campout and my thirteenth visit to Gettysburg.

It began on Thursday, June 6 with a recon of the route to the Friday luncheon. About 100 yards before the restaurant, the road had washed out. The crew working on it put a steel plate over the damage and guided me across. They told me that they would be finished before tomorrow. The rest of the day consisted of the arrival of the campers at the Gettysburg Campground, rig set-up, a campfire social, side-by-side dinner and then another campfire. We did not reach the goal to match

the original 21 rigs from 1966. However, the 15 rigs, representing Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Georgia, and the Province of Ontario, in attendance did make us happy.

On Friday, June 7, we traveled in convoy for a family style luncheon at the same restaurant where the founding members met for dinner. Rounding the final turn and seeing the road repaired lifted my spirits. Our meal consisted of Adams County apple juice, house salad, roast

turkey with dressing, baked ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn fritters, stewed apples, iced tea, and choice of dessert. With family style, the food just kept coming and coming.

At the afternoon campfire, Ray Geer gave a talk about NCT history and read the minutes from that first campout. We don't believe anyone ate dinner that evening so we sat around the campfire and digested for a while before attending a lecture on Civil War cooking. As the cook for Company F, 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry and author of a cookbook entitled "Hincks' Mess," I led the attendees through the process of ration distribution, fire building, and cooking techniques that were used and several dishes were discussed.

Saturday, June 8, dawned bright and sunny again. We all gathered at the campground office to await the arrival of our tour bus for a two-hour tour of the Gettysburg battlefield. The bus driver, Amy, and licensed battlefield guide Jack Drummond kept us entertained with facts and figures.



Continued on page 35

Grand Masters Day ~ June 8, 2019 ~ Donor Recognition Breakfast



Order Of Eastern Star Honors 75 Years Of Service

by Lisa and Mike Butteri

On June 1, Sister Barbara McKennan received a surprise visit from Worthy Grand Matron Jennifer L. Willich and Worthy Grand Patron William L. Greene, along with members of Mystic Chapter No. 20, and four generations of her family as they came to honor her for 75 years of membership in the Order of Eastern Star. Worthy Grand Patron William Greene had the pleasure of presenting Sister Barbara her 75-year pin.

Sister Barbara joined Meridian Chapter No 8 on June 1, 1944, and through consolidation she became a member of Mystic Chapter No 20. Although she now resides in a nursing home she enjoys monthly visits from her Eastern Star Sisters.



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National Camping Travelers

Continued from page 34

One of the facts was of interest to us as Masons. At the end of Pickett's Charge on July 3, 1863, Confederate General Louis Addison Armistead, of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, reached the "High Water Mark" of the charge and was wounded. Union Army Captain Henry Bingham, Chartiers Lodge No. 297, in Cannonsburg, PA, who was staff assistant to the 2nd Army Corps commander, not knowing that he was assisting a brother Mason, stopped to help. Armistead asked Captain Bingham to take his Bible, his pocket watch and a couple of other personal items and give them to his close personal friend, Union Army General Winfield Scott Hancock, of Charity Lodge No. 190, Norristown, PA, commander of the 2nd Army Corps. Captain Bingham had to inform him that General Hancock had been shot off his horse and also wounded. General Hancock recovered from his wounds but General Armistead died of his wounds on July 5, 1863 in the Union Army Field Hospital on the Spangler Farm, not far from where he was wounded. Located in the National Cemetery Annex off Taneytown Road is a monument, erected by The Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of The Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania that honors that meeting. The image of that monument appears on our NCT rally patch.

Later, we all gathered at the recreation hall for a pot luck supper and adjourned to the campfire for the official cutting of the Anniversary Cake. We were honored to have three Past National Presidents and the present National President of NCT in attendance and each one took a swipe with the knife. After another fast-paced day of touring and shopping we enjoyed another restful campfire.

Sunday morning, June 9 arrived to the smell of fresh coffee, pancakes and sausages. The original plan of a Civil War period church service by a friend who is a police chaplain and leader of the Christian Commission at Gettysburg could not be fulfilled as it was his anniversary and he needed to spend the quality time with his wife. Church services at one of the many churches in the area were available, however.



Some attendees had to leave on Sunday to return to work, but two more campfires and finally, the "Hitch-up Breakfast" on Monday will end the event. Everyone enjoyed the campout, the events, the meals, and especially the communal campfires.





Thursday, September 12
Tuesday, September 24
Tuesday, October 8
Thursday, October 10

Masonicare Health Center, 22 Masonic Ave, Wallingford, CT
Masonicare at Mystic, 45 Clara Drive, Mystic CT
Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge, 200 Center Road, Easton CT
Masonicare at Chester Village, 317 West Main Street, Chester, CT

Please join us at these wonderful In-State Nutmegger Gatherings at one or more of our locations. The cost is \$15, which includes a buffet luncheon.

Take this opportunity to meet and greet Bro. Melvin Johnson, Grand Master; Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit, Masonicare's President and CEO; and, Bro. Robert F. Polito Jr., Board of Trustees Chair; and enjoy a time with many of your valued friends from the Connecticut Masonic Family!

**For questions or if you would like to attend a gathering, please contact
RW Brother Carl Anderson at 203-679-6917 or email canderson@masonicare.org.**



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