

September 2019

Connecticut FREEMASONS



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A.F. & A.M. 2018- 2019*



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*Below: Laying wreaths at the monument for
Brigadier General Don Pratt, the Assistant
Division Commander who was killed when his
glider landed too fast and hit a hedgerow (this was
portrayed in Saving Private Ryan).*



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Letters, articles and advertisements may be sent to the Editor Frank Way at submissions@ctfreemasons.net and are due on the 10th of the month prior to the next issue.



Connecticut
FREEMASONS

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OF CONNECTICUT A.F. & A.M.

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Connecticut Brother Commemorates D-Day 75th in Normandy *by Francis G. Way*



Brother Kenneth D. Roach of Washington Lodge No. 70 was only 19 years old in 1968 when he served his first combat tour in Vietnam, as a helicopter pilot with B Co., 101st Aviation Battalion, 101st Airborne Division. Flying missions in the UH-1 "Huey," WO1 Roach had barely turned 20 years old, when over the space of four months, in four separate actions, he was awarded the Air Medal with "V" Device twice, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Silver Star, for rescuing wounded personnel, who, in some cases, were trapped and surrounded. He served a second tour in Vietnam in 1971-72 with the 101st.

Ken also served in the Connecticut Army National Guard for 20 years, flying the CH-47D "Chinook." He retired in 2008 as a Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CW5), with over 8,000 flight hours and 41 years of military service.

As a life member of the 101st Airborne Division Association, serving as its President in 2001-2002, Brother Ken recently participated in the ceremonies of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, where the division added to its legacy of honor and service. As chairman of the association's Pratt Committee, he laid wreaths at the two monuments for which the committee is responsible.

The two monuments in Heisville, France, were purchased by the association. One of the monuments commemorates Brigadier General Don Pratt, the Assistant Division Commander who was killed when his glider landed too fast and hit a hedgerow, (This was portrayed in Saving Private Ryan.) The second monument commemorates the first surgical hospital set up by the division.

Brother Ken is a Past Most Wise Master of the Cyrus Goodell Chapter of Rose Croix in the Valley of Hartford AASR, and he is currently the Generalissimo of Washington Commandery No. 1 Knights Templar.

The Connecticut Freemasons recently caught up with Brother Ken and had the chance to chat with him about Normandy.

CF: Having served in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam, attending the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, where the division fought so heroically, must have been very special. What was it like walking that hallowed ground and attending the ceremonies?

KR: Traveling throughout the Area of Operations of the 101st Airborne Division and participating in Memorial Ceremonies as Chairman of our Pratt Memorial Committee



*Story continued on page 4
More photos on page 2.*

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

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Connecticut Brother Commemorates D-Day 75th *Continued from page 3*

is a very humbling experience. To walk where these heroes fought is truly a pilgrimage. I have been blessed to have committee members (one from Belgium and another from Holland) with tremendous knowledge of all aspects of the fight. I have walked the ground of LT Dick Winters' famous attack on the German artillery battery for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the famous bayonet charge of LTC Robert Cole along Purple Heart Lane into the French town of Carentan, for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor. I have walked the path E Company, 506th PIR fought their way into Carentan. I have stood where LT Winters was wounded in the town square of Carentan. I have walked the ground where LT Bernard Bucior, (from Hartford, CT) was wounded in the firefight at "Smits' Pond"; to this day his disappearance walking back to the Beach for evacuation is still the "Enduring Mystery of D-Day," according to noted military historian SLA Marshall. All these experiences have given me a deep appreciation for the courage, perseverance, tenacity, and comradeship of the Screaming Eagles.

CF: What was the most memorable part of the trip, and how did that compare to, say, your regular attendance at the 101st Airborne reunions?

KR: On both recent trips to Normandy, what remains with me are the memorials placed at the many crash sites of the Army Air Forces C47 aircraft that were shot down before they were able to reach their respective drop zone. Each plaque lists the aircrew and parachutists who perished in the crash. One such site lists the chalk containing the Commanding Officer of E Company, 506th PIR. It was this crash that placed LT Dick Winters in Command of E Company. As a former Army Pilot, these memorials were very poignant.

CF: The 101st Airborne is well known in general, and perhaps even more so from the Stephen Ambrose book *Band of Brothers*. How does that feeling of brotherhood compare to your Masonic experience and the brothers you've made in the Fraternity?

KR: The feeling of brotherhood is strikingly similar. Meeting a veteran you served with or having a brother introduce himself to you, it will always bring a sparkle to the eye and a spring to your step. It always seems no matter how long the separation, or introducing yourselves for the first time, it's as if you were never apart.

CF: Are any of your 101st Airborne brothers' Masonic brothers as well?

KR: There are several which is always a double treat when meeting at our frequent reunions.

CF: What advice would you give to a young man or woman today who aspires to become a military aviator?

KR: If your eyes are always focused skyward, college graduation is a must. But to the extent possible, try to obtain a private pilot license. The knowledge gained of aerodynamics, the three dimensional airspace you will fly in, and the self-confidence will pay huge dividends.

CF: Finally, what message do you think that D-Day should send to everyone today?

KR: The veterans of D-Day did things we cannot even imagine or comprehend. That vast undertaking required tremendous courage. Their sacrifice preserved our way of life and liberty. They taught us too that freedom is not free. But I am also reminded of the old slogan written on many walls in Vietnam: "Unless you have fought for it, freedom has a taste the protected will never know."

*"Unless
you have
fought
for it,
freedom
has a taste
the protected
will never know."*

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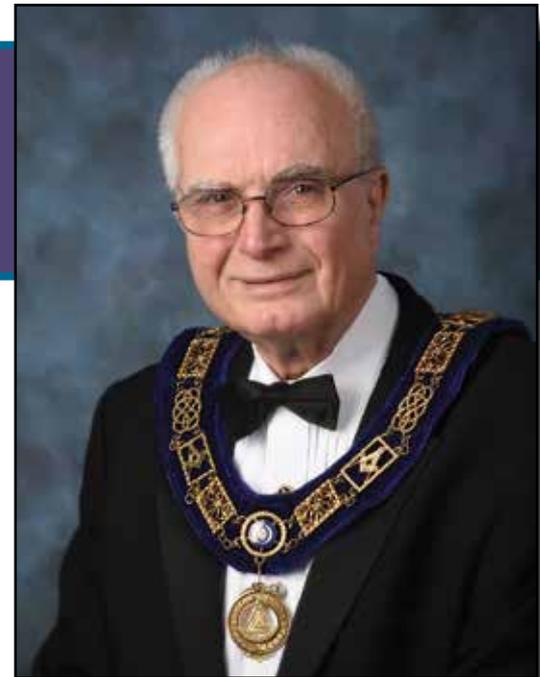
effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all advertisements, Connecticut Freemasons will only be liable to reprint, at no charge, any correction due to typographical error.

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Grand Master's Message

by Melvin E. Johnson



It has been a great summer. Two major events were held and several initiatives are moving forward. The first of the events was the set of lectures by Dr. William Cook on Cathedrals, Tocqueville, and St. Francis. We had almost 90 in attendance, and they were treated to an inspiring afternoon. For me the highlight was the talk on Tocqueville and his emphasis in 1835 on a democracy's need for a common bond of enlightened self-interest to survive: a need to believe that we are made for something higher than merely producing and consuming goods. This belief forms the core of many lectures. Our mission to protect this Masonic value is as vital now as in his time. It was gratifying to see how many stayed afterward for the fellowship. Many thanks to the Valley of Hartford and Sphinx Shrine for making the event possible.

Upwards of 60 brothers participated in the VJ Parade as guests of Moosup Lodge No. 113. To be a part of that fellowship and the opportunity to demonstrate the value we place on our military veterans and their service was to be treasured. I appreciate the effort every participant made in order to make this possible.

The Grand Master's Appeal is continuing. Now you can donate online. There is a prominent link entitled "Grand Master's Appeal" on the Grand Lodge website. That link is to the CT Freemasons Foundation page where you will find a "Donate" button. Pressing that will trigger a drop down where you can specify the amount and a cause of your choice, as well as an option to make monthly donations. The CT Freemasons Foundation is the charitable arm of our Grand Lodge and an increasing number of you are taking advantage of the opportunity to direct your gift to a cause for which you have a special affinity. Again, I want to thank everyone that is helping ensure this charitable purpose continues.

The committee that is designing and implementing the Eric W. Manner Master Ritualist Award has the program designed and the recognition pins ordered.

This exciting new initiative will be rolled out very shortly. Similarly, our Committee on Masonic Education and Committee on Community Action are each moving forward with programs to enrich the Masonic experience of every brother.

Hope you had a wonderful summer, and I look forward to seeing you at Ashlar Aspetuck's Farm Degree on September 14 as well as Hartford Evergreen's Barn Degree on September 28. Both are great chances to see the MM degree in a special setting. There are also numerous other great events being planned throughout Connecticut this month and I hope to see you at as many as possible. The activity of our Lodges is truly impressive. You will find a warm welcome at all of these degrees and events and your attendance will be well rewarded.



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Grand Historian's Corner

R. W. Gary A. Littlefield

Born - December 4, 1954

Raised - March 23, 1979

Grand Historian - 1989-2019

Laid Down His Working Tools - July 3, 2019



Goodbye, Dear Friend and Brother

by Theodore J. Nelson

My maternal grandfather, Julien Collart, who was a Past Master of St. Paul's Lodge No. 14 in Newport, RI, once said to me that the worst thing about getting old was surviving most, if not all, of your peers. I now start to find myself experiencing this as a hard fact in my life.

Gary A. Littlefield was friend and brother to thousands of Masons. He was humble and unassuming in his Masonic walk with the average brother, Past Master, District Deputy, and Grand Master. He was first appointed Grand Historian in 1989 by MWB Gail Nelson Smith to succeed RWB James R. Case, who was Gary's mentor and fellow member of Wooster Lodge No. 10. Gary admired Brother Case and cited him many times over the years.

Gary was the kind of brother who dedicated himself to his family, his vocation, his church, and his fraternity. Wherever he went, people all knew that they could count on the word and assistance of Gary Littlefield – a brother who had a quiet demeanor, a smile, and a hug for all within his world.

He was blessed in midlife to have married his high school sweetheart, Marcy. They had lost touch with each other during their respective years of early adulthood, but they then found each other again. What a blessing.

Marcy and Gary so much wanted to be more than just husband and wife, they wanted a family, so much so that they traveled to all the way Russia to adopt their baby boy, Logan. The joy on Gary's face anytime that I asked him about Marcy or Logan was truly an expression of his love and devotion to both of them. He was so proud of them and their accomplishments and had not a care of his

own. He loved his parents and sister and sister-in-law and spoke of them too and their accomplishments.

Gary was a most selfless man who wrote extensively about others. He knew he had big shoes to fill when he was first appointed Grand Historian and worked diligently to fill that role. Working in the IT department for the State of Connecticut at the UCONN Health Center in Farmington made it an easy commute after work for him to go down to the Grand Lodge offices and enter his "sanctum sanctorum," the Grand Lodge Library. He was well known by Office Manager Marje Chick and later, Debbie Fowler, as well as 28 Grand Masters, to be combing through our records and that of other grand lodges for stories from our past to share with all who would read his work. He also volunteered for speaking engagements for lodges and other groups like the Sons of the American Revolution and historical societies.

Gary had a gift for writing about those brothers of years gone by and the events that shaped Connecticut Masonry as well as the fraternity as a whole. I admired his articles in the old *Square & Compasses* magazine and later its successor the *Connecticut Freemasons*. In each edition he put out stories of interest from all corners of our state. He brought back to life little known Masonic heroes of the past and showed parallels between their experiences and ours of today.

When I got the news in June that Gary was ill and fighting some major health issues I started praying for him, Marcy and Logan with no doubt that the Grand Architect of the Universe was looking over him and knew his fate. When he was unable to attend St. John's Day this

past June as he waited in rest at home for the latest medical test results, it started to sink in just how grave the situation had become. While attending a family picnic on the last Sunday in June, I saw our mutual dear friend, Frank Rich and I mentioned that I was going to visit Gary that afternoon since he was now in UCONN Medical Health Center in intensive care unit. Frank said that he intended to go too, so we commuted together to be with our friend and brother.

Marcy and Logan were there and just leaving. Logan, at 16 years of age, had just obtained his driver's license and Gary was so proud. Frank and I dressed in medical scrubs and put on latex gloves since Gary was highly susceptible to infection.

We had a good meeting. The love that was in the room was strong, and we shared fond memories. We shook hands. We never saw our brother and friend again. God cut the brittle thread of his life and whisked him home three days later to that land beyond the veil, to that house not made by hands, eternal in the heavens.

Rest in peace dear friend, husband, father, and brother, and know that you are loved always. I will miss you, my dear friend.

May God comfort and keep Marcy, Logan, Lynn, and Donna in His loving care the rest of their days until they meet again.



Deputy Grand Master's Message

by Stephen W. Petri

Hello brothers, I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. By the time you are reading this, lodges that went “dim” for the summer should be meeting and the Craft should be off to labor again. I want to bring you up to speed regarding several new programs and services that have been recently started or updated by the Grand Lodge. Many brothers have been hard at labor over this summer.

New Facebook groups: We have been creating new interest groups as part of the Grand Lodge page. So far we have created “CT Masonic Family” for family members of CT Masons, “Military Veteran Freemasons” for current and former members of the U.S. military who are CT Masons, and “Masonic Community Action (COCA)” for brothers to ask questions and give advice on how best to run the new COCA programs. The new groups can be found by clicking on the “Groups” link on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/connecticutfreemasons/>.

Speaking of the new COCA programs, RWB Joe Porco and his team have been working hard for the last few months on creating new templated programs for lodges to be involved in their communities. A package with the programs will be given to each lodge with updates available on Grand View.

We have been updating our LinkedIn page at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/gloct/> adding new images, posts, and events, and creating a new LinkedIn group for brothers of CT Lodges. Please stop by the page, like it and ask to join the new group “CT Freemasons.”

MWB Gary Arseneau and RWB George Frascarelli have been at labor “Connecticut-izing” (try saying that three times fast) the Grand Lodge of Maryland’s “Solomon Society” Masonic University program. Maryland has given us the content of their program, which we are using as a foundation for a new education program to be in the Grand View system, <https://ct.grandview.systems>. So far, the brothers have modified the first section, the “Entered Apprentice” that is being tested at this time. Keep an eye out for more updates.

RWB Nick Ives and his Committee on Masonic Education (CME) have been preparing two seminars: a Master’s and Warden’s Seminar on October 26, and a Junior Officer’s Seminar on January 25, 2020. They are also working on a new Esoteric Seminar to be presented in the early summer of 2020.

These are exciting additions to Masonic education in Connecticut. I look forward to seeing you at one or more of these programs in the coming months.

Order of the Eastern Star Recognized for Rich Tradition of Philanthropy

Each year, the Order of the Eastern Star of Connecticut and the Eastern Star Charity Foundation are recognized by The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut and Masonicare Fraternal Relations for their longstanding generosity and support of Masonicare’s residents and patients in financial need.

This year’s recognition dinner on June 30 focused on how this tradition of philanthropy has helped pave “The Road to Masonicare” as it exists today. For more than a century, the Order of the Eastern Star of Connecticut has brought joy, security, and comfort to Masonicare’s residents and patients.

Along with Worthy Grand Matron Jennifer L. Willich and Worthy Grand Patron William L. Greene, over 150 members of the Order of the Eastern Star and guests enjoyed a buffet dinner and presentation by Rev. Bro. Carl Anderson, Vice President for Mission Effectiveness at Masonicare.

The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of Eastern Star Way, a permanent tribute to the Order of the Eastern Star of Connecticut on Masonicare’s campus. Positioned at one of the campus entrances, the new Eastern Star Way street sign is a visible and enduring reminder that the Order of the Eastern Star has been a part of Masonicare’s journey from the very beginning.

“The Order of the Eastern Star has been a great friend to Masonicare,” said WB Jon-Paul Venoit, President and CEO of Masonicare. “I hope everyone who lives here, works here, or visits our Wallingford campus will see that sign and know we will treasure that friendship always.”



Masonicare at Ashlar Village Residents' Scholarship Fund Helps 17 Young People Further Their Educations *by Sandy Potter*

The 15th annual Masonicare at Ashlar Village Residents' Scholarship Fund presentation was held recently in the Hartog Activity Center at Masonicare at Ashlar Village, Masonicare's Life Plan Community on Cheshire Road in Wallingford.

Seventeen young men and women, who are either employees of Masonicare at Ashlar Village or the children of employees, were honored during the presentation. A total amount of \$22,200 in scholarship funds was raised this year and distributed at the special awards ceremony. Alan Zakrzewski, executive director of Masonicare at Ashlar Village, offered welcoming remarks and scholarship recipients were introduced by David Gessert, chairman of the Residential Services Board.

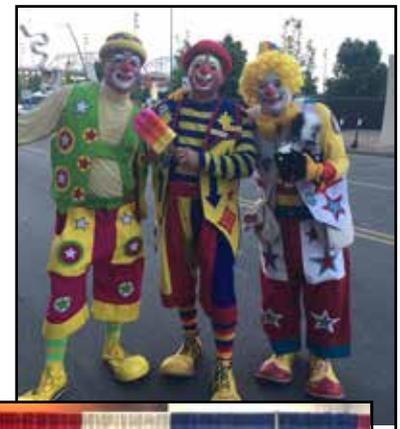


The young men and women receiving scholarships this year are Nicole Albert, Mason Armstrong, Jessica Baka, Stephen Fengler, Ethan Fiske, Kyle Fitzgerald, Analeigh Hutchins, Meagan Kaiser, Kaitlyn McIntyre, Mary Naccarato, Jacob Oliano, Giovanni Parillo, Zachary Rezendes, Margaret Richo, Hailee Schmidt, Rachael Stone, and Daniel Zakrzewski.

Masonicare at Ashlar Village residents established the Scholarship Fund in 2004 to provide educational scholarships for young people who either work at Ashlar Village or are children of employees. The funds are raised in a variety of ways, but mainly through the sale of unique, handmade craft and clothing items in the Ashlar Village Specialty shop. The items are made by residents of Ashlar Village, and the Specialty Shop is manned and stocked solely by resident volunteers.

Pyramid Shriners Shine at Imperial Session *by Donald M. Casey, Jr.*

Nobles from the Pyramid Shrine Temple participated at the 145th Shriners International Session in Nashville, TN. Pyramid Shrine Divan leadership team received a third consecutive Gold Award for an increase in membership. Pipes and Drums members won first place during the musical portion of Imperial Session competition. Meanwhile, Nobles from the Clown Unit earned a Top Five Award in group skit competition. In addition, Shriners attended many educational sessions and marched in the Imperial Session parade.



Pyramid Shriners "Clown Around" at Monroe Festival *by Donald M. Casey, Jr.*



Nobles from the Pyramid Shrine Temple Clown Unit participated at the Monroe Night at the Park Family Festival. Shriners twisted many balloon hats and animals for all the patrons. Shriners were able to share their missions of assisting needy children receiving medical care at the Shiner's Hospital.



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**REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL
GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. of CONNECTICUT**

The 2019 Regular Semi-Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut will be held in the auditorium of **The Hartog Activities Center at Ashlar Village on the Masonicare Campus in Wallingford, Connecticut on Saturday, October 19, 2019.** You will need to follow the instructions of the Security Staff for parking. You may enter from either Cheshire Road or from Masonic Avenue. Bus transportation will be provided as necessary.

Please note that the Masonicare Campus is a 100% smoke free facility.

The formal opening will begin promptly at 9:00 A.M. Please note it is anticipated that the session may extend slightly beyond noon, but it will conclude by 12:30 P.M.

This **Regular Communication** is called for the purpose of electing Grand Lodge Officers for the year 2020. In addition, we will receive certain committee reports, act on any legislation changes which may be in order for consideration and other issues, time permitting, as directed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Melvin E. Johnson. Section 8203 of our Masonic Law does permit action on changes to the Rules and Regulations which are raised from the floor or motions presented in Committee Reports at the meeting without prior notice to the craft. **The Pending legislation items are published in the September 2019 issue of CTFreemasons. Please bring the appropriate reference material with you to the meeting.** Limited copies of the proposal legislation will be available.

Registration of delegates will begin at 8:00 A.M. **All Brothers attending must present a 2019 dues card upon entering the tiled lodge.** All voting delegates must register at the registration table. Registration will be by Lodge number as designated by posted signs in the area.

Should you not be able to attend in person as a principal officer of your Lodge or should you wish to proxy your vote representing your Lodge so you can vote on your own behalf, if eligible, please fill out a proxy form that will be mailed to you under separate cover. If your proxy form is not properly filled out and signed by you, it will not be accepted at the session. Each officer, or his proxy, should bring the appropriate Apron and Jewel of his respective office. Sections 2300 and 2301 of our Rules and Regulations state that a Roll of Lodges will occur early in the opening of the session.

Proxy forms will be mailed directly to the lodge officers.

Coffee and pastry will be available starting at 8:00 A.M.

With my fraternal best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "G. S. Gould".

Grant S. Gould
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

Wallingford, Connecticut
September 1, 2019

TO BE READ AT THE NEXT STATED COMMUNICATION UPON RECEIPT



TO: All Voting Members of Masonicare Corporation
FROM: Bro. Robert F. Polito, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

OFFICIAL NOTICE

**ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINTH
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MASONICARE CORPORATION**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019
Masonicare at Ashlar Village
Knapp Auditorium
Wallingford, CT 06492**

Time: 9:00 a.m. *

This meeting is being held as part of the Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication. Please make every effort to attend.

The purpose of the meeting is to vote upon the following issues:

- Approval of the 128th Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
- Election of Trustees
 1. Bro. Newton Buckner – Evening Star Lodge No. 101
 2. Bro. Christopher Earle – Trumbull Lodge No. 22
 3. Bro. Robert Furce – Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142
 4. Prince Hall Representative- Thaddeus M. Stewart - Orient Lodge No. 6
- Approval of Amended and Restated Masonicare Corporation Certificate of Incorporation

Board of Trustees,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Polito", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert F. Polito
Chairman
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Omar La Torre Reyes
Hiram Lodge No. 1

Daniel David Keirstead
Hiram Lodge No. 1

Thomas Bernard Mele
Hiram Lodge No. 1

Walter Donald Matis
Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3

Neal Wesley McEldowney
Wylllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4

Wayne Stephen Matyasovszky, II
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

Michael Root Criss
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11

Davin Shepard Cain
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11

Matthew Brendon Cook
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11

Gerald Hazen Glass
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11

Rhett George Geddes
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11

Courney Parmly Brown
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11

Patrick Ryan Jay
Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14

Stephen G. Mantz
Federal Lodge No. 17

Seth Michael Mantz
Federal Lodge No. 17

Robert D. Motekaitis
Composite Lodge No. 28

Ronald J. Case
Friendship Lodge No. 33

Alex Minutito
St. Alban's Lodge No. 38

Robert Bernard Crowley
St. Alban's Lodge No. 38

Andrew Stufano
Ark Lodge No. 39

David M. Rights
Ark Lodge No. 39

Manuel Martinez, Sr.
Ark Lodge No. 39

Richard Danise, II
Union Lodge No. 40

Justin Patrick DeVauil
Harmony Lodge No. 42

Richie Huynh
Putnam Lodge No. 46

Brian Michael Ohler
St. Luke's Lodge No. 48

Gregory David Steele
Warren Lodge No. 51

Peter John Shook, III
Seneca Lodge No. 55

Kyle John Vincent
Seneca Lodge No. 55

Michael Keith Reynolds
Coastal Lodge No. 57

Robert William Staton
Coastal Lodge No. 57

Jeremy Matthew Gaffney
Washington Lodge No. 70

Aaron Luc Czarnecki
Meridian Lodge No. 77

David Anthony Gonzelez
Meridian Lodge No. 77

Noel Robert Womack
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Nicholas Edward Abbazia
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Patrick Dennis McNamara
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Paul Riportella
Anchor Lodge No. 112

Thomas J Lamarche
Moosup Lodge No. 113

Jason H. Aquitante
Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116

John M. Heim
Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116

Gregory M. Wuestner
Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116

Tristan Calab Johnson
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Joseph L. LaRosa
Hospitality Lodge No. 128

Joseph Vincent Zarella
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140

Jason Edward Kilduff
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140

Martin Joseph Couture
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140

Chidi Omenukor Benson, Sr.
Daytime Lodge No. 144

Tomas Pesta
UnityLodge No. 148

Kamil P. Gayewski
UnityLodge No. 148

Jared Anthony DiLiberto
UnityLodge No. 148



District 1

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



Washington Lodge No. 19 Travels to Massachusetts to Present 50-Year Pin

by Roy Nealon

Brothers of Washington 19 traveled to Mount Holyoke Lodge in Massachusetts to present WB Ronald Zissell his 50-year pin. WB Ron joined Washington Lodge No. 19 in 1969. He later moved to Massachusetts and stayed very active in Masonry. RWB Mark Hawkins represented the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. It was rewarding to do a dual presentation. A great evening was had by all.



Mount Holyoke Lodge.



WM David Papp, Secretary Roy Nealon, Bro. David Gianetti, RWB Mark Hawkins and RW Tyler W. Seavey.



RWB Mark Hawkins presenting to WB Ron Zissell.



Brothers of Washington and Mount Holyoke.

Washington Lodge No. 19 Presents Computer to College-Bound Student

On July 8, the brothers of Washington Lodge No. 19 hosted Mr. Dakota Northrop and his family as their guests for dinner and the Computer Award presentation. Dakota will be attending Southern Connecticut State University in the fall. The lodge wishes him all the best in his future endeavors.



District 2

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



Montgomery Lodge Centennial 1884 by Charlie Yohe

Travel back with me for a few minutes to the year 1883. According to Montgomery Lodge records and the Grand Lodge proceedings, on June 20, 1883, at the invitation of Montgomery Lodge No. 13, the Grand Master, MWB Frederick Waldron, accompanied by "almost all of the Connecticut Grand Lodge officers," joined with a reported 3,000 to 4,000 Masons to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Montgomery Lodge No. 13. Some of the Montgomery Lodge records report the attendance as close to 10,000, but even the lower numbers noted by the Grand Master are impressive.

Keep in mind that Lakeville is isolated in the northwestern corner of Connecticut, and this event happened in an age where there were basically three forms of transportation: foot, horseback, and train. There were no highways and no motorized vehicles of any sort. According to recorded accounts, the railroad ran extra trains with extra cars to accommodate those who came to celebrate the 100th anniversary of a

Continued on page 15

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

As the decades have passed, Masonicare's medical and non-medical services have expanded to meet the changing needs of those we serve. We added home health and hospice to care for seniors in the comfort of their own homes, opened retirement communities in Wallingford, Mystic and Chester, and partnered with other best-in-class providers whose missions align with our own.

As our organization continues to evolve, it became necessary for us to reassess our brand – that is, all those things we use to differentiate us from the competition. After very careful consideration, we realized that our brand needed to evolve, too.



Unveiled in June, Masonicare's updated logo is the most visible result of this evolution. It was designed in-house by our own Corporate Marketing team, who infused it with Masonic themes and imagery (some more subtle than others). The three leaves represent each of our three service lines – healthcare, home care, and residential living – as much as they do the three foundational degrees of Freemasonry, or the "Three Great Lights of Masonry" we know as the Holy Bible, Square and Compass (the latter two of which remain before the tagline, "An Ageless Commitment to Caring," honoring the roots, heritage and history of the Masonic Fraternity and Family). The leaves

point to the east, west and south, mirroring the orientation of officers seated at lodge. We kept our familiar blue, the color of benevolence, faith, and stability, and added green, the color of acacia leaves which represent everlasting life, and gold, the color of the sun which rises in the east.

While the updated logo acknowledges our Masonic lineage, it also manages to be fresh, modern, warm, inviting, and a clearer expression that Masonicare is a continuum of care open to all – something that is of vital importance as we look to the future.

But the evolution of our brand is about so much more than just a logo. It's a recommitment to a mission that started over 120 years ago, guided by a set of values embedded in the last five letters of our name: I-C-A-R-E.

The I stands for Innovation, which includes everything from new technologies to finding better ways of performing familiar tasks. C stands for Compassion, because how we treat our residents, patients, and each other will always matter. A is for Accountability – pushing ourselves and one another to do our best. R stands for Respect, which means treating others how we wish to be treated, regardless of race, religion, gender, age, etc. And E is for Excellence, which is what we all strive for each and every day.

I have challenged our employees to embrace these values and look for ways to integrate them into their daily work. That's how we'll deliver the Masonicare Experience.



I'm looking forward to talking about this and other topics at the luncheons Masonicare is hosting this fall for members of the Masonic Family (details on the back cover of this issue). I hope to see you there!

Sincerely and fraternally,

President and CEO of Masonicare

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Montgomery Lodge *Continued from page 13*

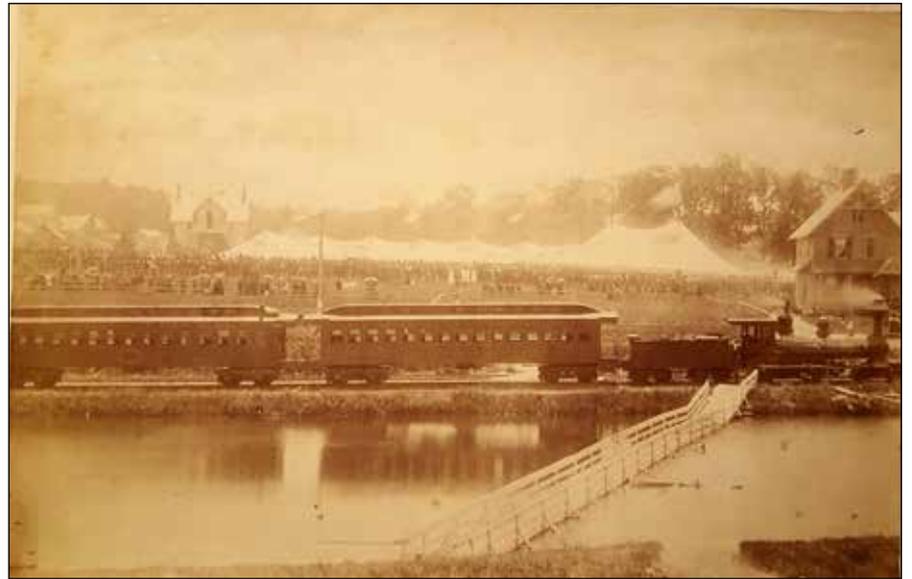
small country lodge. The lodge itself had 123 members at that time and a committee that was appointed to organize the centennial celebration apparently did a commendable job. The records tell us that there were 75 Lodges represented in 'fair' numbers, five Commanderies, and one Chapter. There were also representatives from the Grand Lodges of New York and Massachusetts as well.

The program, which Grand Master Waldron described as well planned, consisted of a short parade followed by a prayer, a welcome address by Past Grand Master Luke Lockwood, a historical address by Reverend Brother A.N. Lewis, and other 'short' addresses, was followed by a meal. It's puzzling how the thousands of attendees could hear the addresses as sound amplification had not yet been invented. Several large tents were erected in an open field adjacent to the town's Lake Wononscopomuc (Lakeville Lake) and the town's women prepared what Grand Master Waldron described as an "Abundance provided for the wants of the inner man' consisting of 1,860 pounds of meat, 6 bushels of baked beans, 7,000 biscuits, 600 loaves of bread, 700 gallons of coffee, etc. etc."

In the modern world, with all the convenient travel options, highways, and relative ease of getting around, could we even come close to duplicating such a feat?

At that centennial celebration that day, the officers of Montgomery Lodge made appeal to the Grand Master for the return of the original Lodge charter that had been issued in 1783 by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and which has Brother Paul Revere's signature as Senior Grand Warden affixed. Grand Master Waldron directed the Grand Secretary to forward the

charter to the Master for possession subject to the approval by Grand Lodge. The original charter is preserved in a vault in Lakeville, and a framed copy hangs in the West at Montgomery Lodge for all to see.



One of the passenger trains that transported thousands of Masons to Lakeville, CT on June 20, 1883 to celebrate Montgomery Lodge's centennial. Many Masons can be seen standing in front of the large tents erected near the town lake. It should be noted that Lakeville, as well as Canaan and North Canaan were extremely important producers of high-quality iron that was used to manufacture weapons, ammunition, knives, chain, and other items during both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Several railroads converged in Lakeville as a result of its importance as an industrial hub.

When Brothers Come Together – Good Things Happen

by Nathan Schoonover

It can be very difficult to visit other lodges when one is an officer and the other lodge meets on the same night. When WM John Arizzi of Union Lodge No. 40 in Danbury contacted WM Nathan Schoonover of St. Peter's No. 21 in New Milford to suggest a joint lodge for the last meeting before the summer break, they realized it would be a perfect way to come together.

St. Peter's always hold their Strawberry Festival on that last meeting, and it was decided to hold the joint lodge there. The lodges opened and closed together before gathering downstairs for the potluck dinner and dessert party. Approximately 70 people including brothers, family, and friends were in attendance.

Little did Union Lodge know, however, that St. Peter's had a gift for them. During the dinner, WM Nathan asked WM John to join him, and from a briefcase, he removed a Past Master's apron and addressed the room.

St. Peter's had recently held a luncheon for the widows and wives of the district. One of the widows could not attend, but did deliver some of her father's Masonic belongings. The apron had been among them.



RWB John Feinson, WM Schoonover, WM Arizzi and Brother Eric Olsen

"It was the most perfect apron I've ever seen," Nathan said. "It spoke to me. As I lifted the bib I noticed writing embroidered underneath. Worshipful Master George Perry, Union Lodge No. 40, Danbury CT. Right then and there, I knew why this apron had come to us, so we could present it to you."

WM Nathan, SW Eric Olsen, and RWB John Feinson, Masonic District 2B, presented the apron to WM John.

The Worshipful Masters announced that they will hold a Table Lodge on October 15 to continue the fellowship between the two lodges, at Union Lodge.

There is no telling what will bring two lodges together; it's even harder to determine what they will find when they get there. Hopefully, this will be the first of many more meetings between Union Lodge and St. Peter's Lodge.

District 3

Lodges 7, 1, 12, 17, 42, 47, 55, 64, 76, 78



Masons Building Community

by Steve Lewis

On Saturday, June 29, the Masons of King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 in Woodbury held their first annual Community Picnic at Hollow Park in Woodbury. The purpose of this event was to invite the community at large to share in the camaraderie associated with Masonry and to draw attention to hunger in the local community by conducting a food drive on behalf of the Community Services Council of Woodbury.

The Woodbury Food Bank provides weekly access to 125 families and seniors in need. This program serves both to support proper nutrition and to enable client families to conserve scarce financial resources for other household necessities. In addition to much needed food items used to restock the Food Bank's shelves, those attending the picnic offered cash donations. Cash donations are used to purchase food items as well as help warm those in need during the winter months via the Fuel Bank.

The brothers of King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 conducted their sixth annual food drive on August 31 in front of LaBonne's Market in Woodbury. Many stopped by to donate food items and help their neighbors who require a generous and helping hand.

Information on the programs of the Community Services Council may be obtained from Executive Director Robert Taylor at community.services.council@gmail.com or (203) 263-3869.



(l-r) Richard Miska, Mark Cohen, Lorenzo Gaudio, Harmon Andrews, Richard Silverman, Don Sharpe, Steve Lewis, Lee Warner, John Monteleone, and Douglas Barry.

Three Lodges Join to Raise Nine Brothers

by Pat Iannuzzi

The Brothers of St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, Federal Lodge No. 17, and St. Luke's Lodge No. 48 recently raised nine brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on Saturday June 1, at St. Paul's Lodge in Litchfield. In accordance with a dispensation granted by MWGM Melvin E. Johnson, five brothers were raised in short form in the morning and four additional brothers were raised in short form in the afternoon at the conclusion of which all nine newly raised brothers witnessed the full tragedy and the remaining portions of the degree.

(l-r) Brothers Courtney Brown (St. Paul's Lodge), Stephen Mantz (Federal Lodge), Matthew Cook (St. Paul's Lodge), Seth Mantz (Federal lodge), WB Brian Adams (Master Federal Lodge), Brothers Devin Cain (St. Paul's Lodge), Gerald Glass (St. Paul's Lodge), MWB Charles Yohe, Brothers Michael Criss (St. Paul's Lodge), Brian Ostrom, (St. Luke's Lodge), WB Pasquale Iannuzzi (WM St. Paul's Lodge), Brother Rhett Geddes (St. Paul's Lodge), RWB Michael Macary, DD 3A, RWB A. Paul Chapin, IV (SW Saint Paul's Lodge).



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

The sun was shining brightly, the weather was comfortable, the humidity was low, and there was a slight breeze on July 14 for the Valley's Annual Picnic and Scholarship Awards.

Ill. Bro. Robert Simon and others supplied the music and entertainment. Head Chef Bro. Frank Dlugoleski, MSA, and his staff did an excellent job preparing the food. Fellowship was great, the food plentiful, and it made for a great outing for the 135 members, families, guest and friends. A special thanks goes out to all who helped.

Of the 34 students who received a scholarship this year, 23 were able to attend the picnic. Abbott Scholarship winners were: Alexandra Jean Fitzgerald (University of North Carolina), and Benjamin A. Lukens and Nicole L Lukens (both are entering the University of Connecticut this year).

Valley of Hartford Scholarship winners were: Kelsey E. Anderson (University of Massachusetts), Lindsey J. Anderson (Western New England University), Megan A. Beebe (Western New England University), Morgan J. Beebe (University of Massachusetts), McKenna Q. Belury (Central Connecticut State University), Abigail R. Brown (Gettysburg College), Matthew S. Brown (Bucknell University), Jessica D. Despres (University of New Haven), Jenna G. Dickes (Saint John's University), Amanda. Evans (University of North Florida), Sean P. Fitzgerald (Salve Regina University), Marissa K. Fitzgerald (Fairfield University), Abigail M. Forsyth (University of Connecticut), Rebecca M. George (Yale University), Genevieve C. Grube (Central Connecticut State University), Kristen K. Hoy (Norwich University), Caroline R. Likian (Wesley College), Cara F. Lizotte (Rochester Institute of Technology), Benjamin D. Moulton (Roanoke College), Tyler J. Moulton (Maine College of Art), Alec J. Newton (Bridgewater State University), Chloe F. Pearson (Roger Williams University), Jacob D. Phillips (Bard College), Luke M. Phillips (Towson University), Victoria A. Romprey (New York University School of Business), Micah G. Rothkopf (University of Connecticut), Amanda L. Santoro (Florida Southern College), Ashley J. Thorpe (Western New England University), and



Julianna F. and Leanne X. Ward (both at James Madison University).

The Valley held its Annual 5K Run/Walk to raise funds for the Children's Dyslexia Center – CT, which helps children with dyslexia overcome this disability at no cost to their families. A total of 103 runners and walkers from CT, FL, CA, NH, NY, and MA took part. Approximately \$14,000 was raised to support the Center.

A huge thank you goes out to the 48 volunteers who helped set up and staff the race, as well as all of the sponsors.

With the number of Centers in Connecticut growing from one to three, it is even more important that this race grow in sponsorships, donations and runners.

On Saturday, September 14, the Valley of Hartford will host the annual Council of Deliberation meeting and luncheon. All members of the Scottish Rite are invited to attend. For more information and to make reservations for the free luncheon, contact Brother Tony Angelica at (860) 666-0712 or office@valleyofhartford.com.

The Valley's fall schedule starts on Thursday, September 19. At 7:30 p.m., the Charter Oak Lodge of Perfection will perform the 5th Degree followed by a showing of the 4th Degree DVD.

The Valley is again subsidizing pre-degree dinners. The price is \$12 per meal in advance, or all four dinners for \$10 per meal (candidates eat free). Degree/dinner dates are September 18, October 8, October 24, and November 14.

For more information in regard to upcoming events, how to join, degree schedules, please contact Brother Tony Angelica on any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday between 9 a.m. and noon, at (860) 666-0712, or office@valleyofhartford.com. He is also available to give tours of the facility during those office hours.



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with the showing of the 4th Degree and
a theatrical presentation of the 5th Degree.

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, 32^o, Secretary,
Valley of Hartford AASR
(860) 666-0712 Email: sect@snet.net
www.valleyofhartford.org

District 4

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



4th District Luau at Whitney Avenue

by Jeffrey A. Blayman

The parking lot at 285 Whitney Ave. in New Haven was packed with vehicles and the smell of hamburgers on the grill filled the air while brothers from Hiram Lodge No. 1 and Trumbull Lodge No. 22 were inside for a quick opening and closing.

It wasn't long before brothers emerged in waves from the back entrance in ridiculously bright patterned Hawaiian shirts and took their place under the tent as the laughter and conversations echoed into the surrounding neighborhood. Just as the food was coming off the grills, the heavens opened up and cold rain drops began to pelt the brothers not lucky enough to be protected by the EZ-Up tent. Thanks to Brother Glenn Felton, the issue was quickly remedied due to the additional tents he had brought

After the meal, brothers retired to the great hall to crown a winner in the best Hawaiian shirt contest. After much deliberation, the esteemed judges rendered a verdict and Dan Keirstead took top prize, with his grass skirt and lei complimenting his traditional Hawaiian shirt. Runners up Clint Potter with his cowboy cat shark rodeo and Pete Tomlinson's pizza shirt also were the proud recipients of some gift cards for a dinner out on the town.

A fun night of camaraderie was had by all thanks to Worshipful Master Glen A. Jacques and the brothers of Hiram and Trumbull Lodges. Each brother offered a Mahalo as he headed out into the drizzle to make the drive towards home.





Mary Wooster Grove Street Cemetery Marker Rededication

by Michael Calderone

On the morning of Saturday, June 22, four Hiram Lodge Past Masters joined the Mary Clap Wooster Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the Grove St. Cemetery. The Chapter was rededicating their namesake's grave marker which was recently renovated. Led by RWB Leonard H. Bucher, Past Masters John Shatzlein, Frank Lesco and Michael Calderone showed Hiram's continuing support for our first Past Master's widow. Bro. Bucher presented the research done by Bros. John and Frank that Hiram Lodge, then the Lodge of New Haven, supported the destitute widow with firewood after her husband's valiant death and after losing everything she owned to the invading British. The DAR Chapter was happy and proud to rekindle its connection with Hiram. Well done, brothers!

2019 Pizza Challenge

by Michael Calderone

On Sunday, June 30, Hiram Lodge No. 1, with their friends at Inferno Pizza, North Haven, and a great bunch of competitors and fans made the first New Haven Pizza Challenge a great success. Congratulations to the guys from Hiram's "South Team" who won 1st place, "Meridian Lodge" in 2nd place and "Sleeping Giant DeMolay" taking 3rd place. The margin of time between teams was minuscule and the competition fierce! Best of all the real winner was The Fisher House, a "comfort home" that provides no-cost lodging for families of patients in the West Haven VA Hospital.

Thanks to all competitors, sponsors, donors, and friends who supported this fantastic event. A special thanks to Chris and all the staff at Inferno Pizza for being a great host. The event raised \$2,660 for The Fisher House! Again, well done, brothers of Hiram Lodge No. 1!



Anstantawae Lodge No. 89 Plays Milford Yankees Special Olympians

by David Eisenman

Recently, many brothers of Anstantawae Lodge No. 89 played our annual friendly game of softball against the Milford Yankees Special Olympians. Although the score may have shown that the Yankees won 10 to 5, in the end, I think we all won.

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

George Leon Bardons
Ionic Lodge No. 110

Robert M. Beisel
Columbia Lodge No. 25

John Olaf Brandt, Jr.
Putnam Lodge No. 46

William A. Brinley, Jr.
Corinthian Lodge No. 63

Erik James Connors
St. John's Lodge No. 2

Charles Thomas Curtis
Composite Lodge No. 28

Allen Edward Decker
Composite Lodge No. 28

Alan Lloyd Denslow
Hiram Lodge No. 18

Nelson Charles Eddy
Valley Lodge No. 36

Allen Woodward Fanslow
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Harold Fenty
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64

Craig A. Fleming
Evening Star Lodge No. 101

Arthur L. French
Jeptha Lodge No. 95

Joseph Arthur Gallant
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

Joseph W. Geyer
St. Peter's Lodge No. 21

Harold W. Gulliford
Jeptha Lodge No. 95

Irving Robert Harrison
Compass Lodge No. 9

Robert Henry Hubbard, III
Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

Arnold J. Jones
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

Benjamin Lester Jones
Union Lodge No. 31

David L. Marsh
Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142

Leland Frederick McElrath
Annawon Lodge No. 115

Arthur Allen Merrill
Corinthia Lodge No. 63

Robert Wesley Noble
Anchor Lodge No. 112

Bharat Parikh
Madison Lodge Lodge No. 87

Ronald R. Pierce
King Solomons Lodge No. 7

Donald Lee Rome
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140

Allan T. Sgraves
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140

Gerhardt Frank Schenck
Corinthian Lodge No. 63

Harry F. Shaffer
Coastal Lodge No. 57

Wayland Nelson Sheldon, Jr.
Putnam Lodge No. 46

George Westly Smith
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Clarke R. Stocker
Liberty-Continental Lodge No. 76



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Ashlar Village Pavillion
Wallingford

Monday, October 7 - 6th Degree

Monday, October 28 - 7th Degree

Monday, November 18 - 15th Degree

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District 6

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



Composite Lodge No. 28 Holds CHIP Event in Conjunction with the K-9 Olympics *by Russell Scull*



Brothers and family members of Composite Lodge No. 28 partnered with the K-9 Olympics and held CTCHIP event. Every year the Corrections Department Connecticut holds a K-9 Olympics competition. State Police, local police and correction departments from all over New England travel to the corrections facility in Enfield.

This year must have been one of the hottest on record, the heat index was over 100 degrees. That did not stop the participants, dogs and trainers, from doing their best. The brothers also did their best to help over 30 families document their children using the system that is recognized by law enforcement as one of the best for identifying missing children. This includes DNA, dental impressions, fingerprints and more.



District 7

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



CT State Police Trooper and K9 Visit Granite Lodge No. 119

by Jeff Ogilvie

Granite Lodge No. 119 in Haddam, held their Annual Masonic Picnic on June 26. Good food and fellowship ensued and the evening was culminated by a donation to the CT State Police K-9 Fund. The money will go to buy safety related equipment (bullet-proof vests, tracking beacon collars) that these specialized dogs need to stay safe while they do their important jobs, helping protect CT residents.

The brothers and their families learned from CT State Police TFC Matt Weber about the relationship he has with his German Sheperd K-9, named Tazz. Born in Czechoslovakia, Tazz joined Matt, his work partner, as a puppy and immediately went into training.

While in lodge, Tazz continuously demonstrated his fascination with his favorite tennis ball. When his expertise is needed to help Trooper Webber resolve a potential crisis, Tazz gives up the ball and gets it back when he completes his mission. Matt and Tazz not only work together but also hang out after hours. And when Tazz is ready to retire it is likely he will continue to live with Matt.

Trooper Webber told a number of related K-9 stories about how the CT State Police also use other breeds to do specialized missions. In addition to breeds that track people and find drugs, CT State Police trained retrievers are experts at using their noses to locate electronics hidden in buildings or surrounding areas.

The K9 Fund sponsorship was a passion of the late RWB William V. Baroni, who spent nearly 47 years as a brother of Granite lodge. He conceived of this K-9 project prior to his death in 2018. RWB Michael Shear presented a check for \$1000 to Trooper Webber, who is a Resident Trooper in neighboring Killingworth.



The Valley of New Haven Picnic and Scholarship Awards

On Saturday, July 13, the Valley of New Haven, held its annual picnic at the Ashlar Village Pavilion in Wallingford. The picnic is held in association with the Dusis Society, a Masonic invitational body, and serves as the occasion for presentation of this year's Scottish Rite scholarship awards. The Pavilion was full with Scottish Rite and Dusis members, their families, and this year's scholarship recipients, their families, and friends.

This event is especially enjoyable in that it brings together several generations, including many of the past leaders in the Valley of New Haven and the emeritus honorees. The current leaders and members were well represented, and the Valley's scholarship recipients and their families completed the multi-generational assembly.

Among the recipients this year are the grandson of a Past Grand Master, the step-daughters of a Past Grand Secretary, and a young relative of a Past Grand Commander. The young scholars have distinguished themselves in numerous fields of study at both undergraduate and graduate levels of education. They offer good reason to have hope for our future. All of the recipients are pursuing areas of education intended to help and benefit others. All are doing remarkably well.

The Valley of New Haven, AASR, is proud to be able to support these young scholars and their families. Scottish Rite teaches that: A God is found through service to others. These scholarships, and opportunities for good fellowship, are just one way to make this lesson real.

This year's scholarship recipients include: Marissa and Julianna DeNicolo (step daughters of Dick Memmott), Alex Emanuelson



(grandson of Herbert Emanuelson), Courtney Prentis (related to Leonard Bucher), Allie Schreck (daughter of Steve Schreck), Lauren Reilly (daughter of Michael Reiley), Hailey Abati (daughter of Steve Abati); and Dylan Koval (daughter of William Koval).

The Valley's two Abbott scholarship recipients are: Emma E. Hall and Cassandra J. Post.

ASHLAR VILLAGE DIRECTIONS *Continued from page 11*

From Hartford, Connecticut

I-91 South to exit #17 (Wilbur Cross Parkway - Route 15 South)
Take exit #64, at end of ramp there is a traffic light, turn left at light
Immediately at next traffic light, turn right onto Cheshire Road Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right

From Waterbury, Connecticut

84 East to exit #27 (691 East) towards Meriden/Middletown
Take exit #10 (Wilbur Cross Parkway – Route 15 South)
Take exit #64, at the end of ramp there is a traffic light, turn left at light
Immediately at next light, turn right onto Cheshire Road
Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right

From Essex, Connecticut

Route 9 North to exit #20S (I-91 South) on the left towards New Haven
Take exit #17 (W. Cross Pkwy - Route 15 South)
Take exit #64, at end of ramp there is a traffic light, turn left at light
Immediately at next traffic light, turn right onto Cheshire Road
Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right

From New Haven, Connecticut via Route 15

Route 15 North to exit #64
Turn left at traffic light
At second light, turn right onto Cheshire Road
Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right

From New Haven, Connecticut via I-91

I-91 North to exit #13 (left hand exit)
At traffic light, turn left then immediately turn right onto Toelles Road
At stop sign turn right onto S. Turnpike Road
At second traffic light, turn left onto Cheshire Road
Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right

District 7

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



Washington Lodge No. 81 Holds CHIP Event *by Zachary Marotte*

On Friday May 31, Worshipful Master Steven Saehrig, RWB Ken Smith, Brothers Lionel Thaddeo, John A. Morales, Stan Mackiewicz, Zach Marotte, and Zach's wife Alexis, participated in the PTO Event at Cromwell Intermediate School in Cromwell. After the scholarship awards ceremony, this is Washington Lodge No. 81's next largest annual public event. Each brother and volunteer assisted in registering children and selling water bottles to support the Grand Lodge's Child Identification Program. Although this CHIP event did not go as successfully as the brothers of Washington Lodge had hoped, the lodge intends on spending more time and money to attract greater attention to the Grand Lodge's Child Identification Program next year.



Brother John Morales and RWB Ken Smith



WB Steven Saehrig



Brother Zach Marotte



Washington Lodge No. 81 Celebrates Annual Hawaiian Shirt Night *by Zachary Marotte*

On Thursday, June 27, Washington Lodge No. 81 hosted its annual Hawaiian Shirt Night to conclude the first half of the year's communications. This year, in addition to the normal festivities, it was decided that there would be an informational presentation. After a short Lodge meeting, the members of Washington Lodge No. 81 greeted members of St. John's Lodge No. 2 and several non-Masons that were invited to the event.

After about an hour of socializing, the assembled members of Washington Lodge No. 81 and their guests were instructed to meet in the lodge room. During the presentation, WB Phil Gorman and WM Steve instructed the gathered Masons and non-Masons about the fundamental tenets of the institution, and explained how Masonry is still very much relevant to men today. Subsequent to the presentation, festivities continued into the night. In all, about 20 Masons and non-Masons attended the Hawaiian Shirt Night. It is the hope of Washington Lodge No. 81 that next year's event will be even larger.

2019 Brandt and Gallagher Nursing Scholarships Awarded

Ten scholarship recipients and aspiring nurses were honored during a reception on July 22 at Masonicare at Ashlar Village.

Elizabeth (Ella) Akier (daughter of Teresa Akier, wellness assistant at Masonicare at Ashlar Village), Ryan Johnson (waitstaff at Masonicare at Mystic), Marissa Lebedzinski (LPN at Masonicare Health Center and Masonicare at Ashlar Village), Joshua Martowski (son of Francis Martowski, LPN at Masonicare Health Center), Marie Torok-Curcio (LPN at Masonicare Health Center), and Dawoo Tso (LPN at Masonicare Health Center) were newly awarded scholarships from The Norma J. Brandt Scholarship Fund.

Continuing Norma J. Brandt Nursing Scholarships were awarded to Christina Mengert (daughter of Christine Mengert, Coordinator at Masonicare Health Center), Rory Sherban (son of Scott Sherban, LPN at Masonicare Health Center), and Natalya Robinson (daughter of Beverly Robinson, Scheduler at Masonicare Home Health & Hospice).

Bro. John O. Brandt, Jr., Past Master of Putnam Lodge No. 46, established this scholarship fund with The Masonic Charity Foundation in 2006 in loving memory of his wife, Norma, a registered nurse and an active member of both the Order of the Eastern Star (where she was Past Matron of Betty Putnam Chapter No. 106) and the Order of the Amaranth (Past Royal Matron of Rainbow Court No. 20). Fittingly, the scholarship fund that bears her name provides financial assistance to qualified individuals who are pursuing a career as a nurse.

Sadly, John Brandt himself passed away in May 2019. The Foundation is honored that Mr. Brandt has left a generous bequest to The Norma J. Brandt Scholarship Fund.

“John Brandt’s generosity to our Foundation was all about honoring the great love of his life, Norma, and doing his part to further Norma’s passion for nursing,” said Jennifer King, executive director of The Masonic Charity Foundation. “Since 2006, his charitable giving has made possible 124 nursing scholarships and counting. The Foundation looks forward to continuing the good work of The Norma J. Brandt Scholarship Fund. John was a true gentleman with immense compassion for those around him, and he will be greatly missed.”

Rebecca Clark (granddaughter of Bro. Richard M. Clark, Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145) was also awarded the Margie Gallagher Nursing Scholarship, made possible by a gift from Bro. Robert L. Gallagher in memory of his wife, Margie, herself a former nurse.



Left: Dawoo Tso, Joshua Martowski, Marie Torok-Curcio, Ryan Johnson, Marissa Lebedzinski, Natalya Robinson, and Elizabeth (Ella) Akier.

Masonicare Wine & Beer Tasting Event Raises Over \$100,000 for Residents, Patients in Need

by Emma Tuthill

The 2019 Masonicare Wine & Beer Tasting event put the “fun” in fundraiser. A full crowd of over 470 people turned out to enjoy select wines and beers provided by Ives Road Wine and Spirits, music performed by a local band, The Day Jobs, and a live auction of wine and beer-themed prizes. This year’s event had something for everyone, from a gourmet food selection to local craft beers and high-end wines. Even those looking for a quieter atmosphere to sip their drinks found a lovely view in the waterside dining room of Masonicare at Ashlar Village in Wallingford.

“Seeing everybody’s energy, everybody having a really good time was the most exciting part of this year’s event,” said Jon-Paul Venoit, Masonicare’s



President & CEO. “The smiling, the conversations, the great music, the variety, so many generations all in one room – it was fantastic!”

For the second year in a row, the Masonicare Wine & Beer Tasting event far surpassed its fundraising goal. It raised \$100,000 this year alone. All of the proceeds from this event will help support Masonicare in a variety of ways, from funding music at worship services and dental care for long-term residents at Masonicare Health Center to providing skilled nursing visits and medication organizers for patients of Masonicare Home Health & Hospice.

This success wouldn’t have been possible without Masonicare’s important community partners, who

Continued on page 25

Connecticut Freemasons Foundation

by Charles W. Yohe

The Grand Master's Appeal in support of the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation is well under way. Have you sent your contribution yet? If not, please consider doing so. Your donations help the foundation to continue the important work of funding the charitable efforts of your Grand Lodge.

Since its creation and inception some 15 years ago, the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation has provided financial support to Masonic and educational organizations. Among the organizations that benefit every year are: CT CHIP, CT DeMolay, CT Rainbow for Girls, the Masonic Service Association, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Shriners Hospital – Springfield, Shriners Burn Center – Boston, and The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. Other charities that have been added more recently include the Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut, the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory, the Grand Almoner's Fund, and the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program.

The Foundation also provided funds to Roaring Brook Nature Center to further its programs that benefit children and, most

recently funded grants to Kids Empowered by Your Support (KEYS), which provides free instrumental music instruction to underprivileged children in Bridgeport; the Bill Cook Foundation (also supporting education for disadvantaged children in poverty stricken countries); and Horizon Wings, Inc. (a Connecticut organization that rehabilitates large birds of prey such as hawks and owls that have been injured), as well as a 'Matching Fund Program' requested by our Grand Master, M.W. Brother Melvin Johnson. The matching fund program provides a way for local lodges to support charitable or educational endeavors in their local communities and leverage their funds raised through an additional match provided by the Grand Lodge. More information will be forthcoming from the Committee on Community Action (COCA) as well as the application form for the matching fund program.

Your gift to the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation can be directed to support one or more of the programs listed above – or can be offered 'unrestricted,' which will enable your Foundation to utilize it where it is most needed. The foundation belongs to you, the Craft. It's board of directors are elected by the voting members of Grand Lodge at the annual session each year. The board consists of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden, and six other board members who are elected for staggered three-year terms. The foundation is currently seeking the assistance of a Mason or Mason's family member who can provide expertise and guidance in creating a logo and developing materials to broaden awareness of the foundation and its good works.

Masonicare Wine & Beer Event *Continued from page 24*

helped support the event: Ziegler, Glenmede, Ives Road Wine & Spirits, Morrison Community Living, M&T Bank, Murtha Cullina, The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Hancock Pharmacy, People's United Bank, and West Haven Medical Group.

Four of Masonicare's staff members and everyday heroes were also recognized for their outstanding service, reminding attendees why they were all there – to support the organization's ageless commitment to caring for its residents and patients.

"This was a fun event for a good cause," said James Pyskaty, chairman of the 2019 Masonicare Wine and Beer Tasting. "The number of people that came out to support Masonicare's residents and patients in need was just phenomenal. What a great time!"



Compass Lodge No. 9 Sponsors Masonicare Health Center Summer Concert

by Emma Tuthill

Each year, The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut welcomes contributions of all sizes to its Masonicare Annual Appeal, which funds a wide variety of programs and services for Masonicare’s long-term care residents and community-based patients to enhance their quality of life.

The 2019 Masonicare Health Center Summer Concert Series is just one of these many programs enjoyed by Masonicare’s residents. During the summer months, concerts are held each Thursday evening on the lawn outside the Masonicare Health Center in an open picnic setting. Funded by the Masonicare Annual Appeal, these concerts are free for residents, their families, and Wallingford community members alike.

In this spirit of community, Compass Lodge No. 9 of Wallingford made a generous gift to the Masonicare Annual Appeal, and, in turn, was recognized by The Foundation as the sponsor of the Children’s Summer Concert on July 25 in honor of their 250th anniversary.

Worshipful Master Christian Godbout greeted the crowd and introduced “T-Bone,” the Connecticut-based children’s musician, to kick-off the festivities. Several members of the lodge attended the concert with their families and helped to pass out snacks and glow sticks for the children.

“This event was a lot of fun,” Godbout said. “You could look around and see that everyone had a smile on their faces! We always like helping out The Masonic Charity Foundation and the important work they do for Masonicare’s residents and patients. Supporting the Annual Appeal and sponsoring this concert was a worthwhile cause and a great way to get involved in the community as a lodge.”

Other Masonic organizations interested in supporting the Masonicare Annual Appeal to help fund programs such as the Masonicare Health Center Summer Concert Series should contact Emma Tuthill, Communications Associate with The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, at 203-679-5581 or ETuthill@Masonicare.org.



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Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*SM



Congratulations on Winning the Mega Millions (\$\$\$) Jackpot! *by Richard F. Denno*

Wouldn't that be SPECTACULAR! Last October, Steven Everhart from New England Donor Services and I were speakers at the Annual Session of the CT Prince Hall Freemasons. At that time the Mega Millions Jackpot had grown to \$1.5 BILLION.

I asked MWGM David Pinkins, "Can I tell them?" Having no idea I was going to ask him this question, he quizzically replied, "Sure. Tell them." I then said to the audience, "You're all coming with me to Bermuda next May for FREE!" I instantly became the most popular person in the hall.

"Of course, I do have to win that Mega Millions prize to make good on my promise." Doing the math, taking the prize in one lump sum amount, after paying the taxes, I will end up with a paltry \$400 million prize," I said. How can someone get by on such a small amount or money? What followed next proved very eye opening.

After inquiring about the children of the family of one woman in the audience, I asked, "If you were the lucky winner of the \$400 million, how much of that \$400 million would you be willing to part with if it

would provide a lifesaving organ transplant? What wonderful precious moments would you share together if you and the family member had an additional 10-20 more years together? Wouldn't you be so proud at their graduation, at their wedding, or the birth of their children. You could experience all those moments that make life so special."

"All of it. The entire \$400 million," she replied. Since that day in October, I have asked that same question of over 100 people. The answer is always the same. "All of it. The entire \$400 million."

Facing the death of a loved one, who among us hasn't looked to the heavens and pleaded to our Supreme Being, "PLEASE, let me have just (fill in the amount of years) more time! You can have everything I own. For those people, doesn't that put the value of a lifesaving organ transplant at \$400 million? Since none of these people have \$400 million, isn't that organ transplant actually priceless to them? Imagine being able to give the precious 'gift of life' to another, simply by going to www.registerme.org and becoming a donor. You wouldn't even have to give up 'your' prize money.

More importantly, your kind donation will impact the lives of many in need of something that even \$400 million can't provide. Finally, if you do, by chance, become one of those lucky lottery jackpot winners, my email address is toursone@comcast.net. And don't forget a generous donation to the New England Donor Services, to assist them in their efforts to increase donor awareness and register donors at www.registerme.org.

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.)

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*

Continued on page 28

EVENTS

Wed., May 1, 7 p.m., Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Grand Lodge Re-dedication of Compass Lodge No. 9

Mon., September 2, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88, South Windsor, 5K and Half Marathon

Sat., September 7, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88, South Windsor, Murder Mystery Dinner

Sat September 7 10 a.m., Composite Lodge No. 28, Suffield, *Suffield On The Green Polish Food Booth*

Sun., September 8 11 a.m., Composite Lodge No. 28, Suffield, *Suffield On The Green Polish Food Booth*

Sun September 8 11:30 a.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Lodge Picnic, *Ashlar Village Pavillion, 100 Winding Bridge Rd, Wallingford, CT*

Thu., September 12 6:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Ladies at the Table, *Our ladies and friends are invited for this public Table Lodge*

Sat., September 21 2 p.m., Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, Pig Roast, *We will start with some light refreshment and a cookout. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Salads and such. The Pig will be dressed for dinner at 5pm. \$30/pp Semi-public. Masons, family and friends."*

Sat., September 28 10 a.m., Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, CTCHIP Event, *West Haven Green, West Haven, CT, CTCHIP at the Apple Festival*

Sat., October 5 8 a.m., Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, CTCHIP Event, *Taste of Wallingford CTCHIP Event*

Sat., October 5 5 p.m., **Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven, Centenary Gala, Ashlar Village, Wallingford, CT** *Please join us on October 5th at 5 p.m. in the Hartog Activity Center at Ashlar Village for an evening of Hors-d'ouerves, dinner, and dancing from 5:30 – 10:30 as we formally celebrate the Centenary of Cosmopolitan Lodge. Contact J.W. Benjamin Stern (bgs877@aol.com) for information and reservations.*

Sat., October 5 6 p.m., Composite Lodge No. 28, Suffield, Oktoberfest

Sat., October 12 6 p.m., *Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, Masons' Secret Masquerade Ball, Bendel Mansion, Stamford Museum and Nature Center, 39 Scofieldtown Rd, Stamford, CT. Union Lodge No. 5 will host their annual Secret Ball, however, this particular evening will be open to the public. The evening will include dinner, dancing, and silent auction. Tour of the Mansion grounds. Black tie/Semi-Formal event – 21 and over. Ticket cost: \$100 per person*



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 Worshipful Master, Secretary, or Calendar Admin contact the Help Desk: <https://ctfreemasons.on.spiceworks.com/portal>.

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

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREES

Thu., September 5, 6:30 p.m., Friendship-Tuscan Lodge No. 145 Manchester, Dinner

Mon., September 16, 6:30 p.m., Valley Lodge No. 36, Simsbury, Dinner

Mon., September 16, 7:30 p.m., Meridian Lodge No. 77, Meriden

Wed., September 18, 6:30 p.m., Columbia Lodge No. 25, South Glastonbury, Dinner (\$15)

Wed., September 18, 7:30 p.m., St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, Litchfield

Tue., September 24, 7:30 p.m., Composite Lodge No. 28, Suffield

Tue., September 24, 7:30 p.m., Fayette Lodge No. 69, Ellington

Wed., September 25, 7:30 p.m., Hospitality Lodge No. 128, Wethersfield

Thu., October 3, 6:30 p.m., Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3, Fairfield

FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES

Mon., September 16, 7:30 p.m., Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88, South Windsor

Wed., September 18, 7:30 p.m., Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, Colonial FC Degree, Putnam Cottage, 243 E Putnam Ave, Greenwich, CT, Union Lodge No. 5 will be conferring a Fellowcraft degree at one of its earliest meeting places, the historic, Knapp's Tavern.

Thu., September 19, 6:30 p.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, Dinner

Mon., October 7, 6 p.m., Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Dinner

MASTER MASON DEGREES

Thu., September 5, 6:30 p.m., Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3, Fairfield, Dinner

Sat., September 28, 12:00 p.m., Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88, South Windsor, *Barn Degree,*

The Importance of Leadership *by Charles W. Yohe*

At the 95th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut in 1884, the address of the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother James McCormick included the following paragraph (copied verbatim from the January 1884 proceedings):

“The idea has prevailed, especially of late, that when a brother has been appointed Junior Deacon, it is only a question of time when he shall be seated in the Master’s chair, and that whenever a vacancy occurs in any office above him, his claim to advancement is superior to all others. In many cases this claim is conceded by the members, until he is advanced to the highest office in their gift, and entrusted with the government of the lodge, a position for which he may be utterly unfitted. In every such case, the interests of the lodge will suffer during his administration and perhaps for years afterwards. Brethren who have filled subordinate positions with credit to themselves, and profit to the lodge, sometimes prove incompetent when called to govern. The master of a lodge should be firm, courteous, faithful to his lodge, moral, upright, and of good report before the world. All this he has promised to be before he was installed, and if he add to these tact, and sound judgment, his administration cannot fail to be a successful one, and his lodge be greatly benefitted. Lodges should never forget, that the world will judge by the character and it is perhaps just that they should; for the fountain can never rise higher than its head. I believe that officers should be advanced always, when capable; not from the fact that they have held some other position, but because they are capable. Perhaps it would be wise for the Grand Lodge to declare, that a brother acquires no right to any office, by reason of having filled another, either in the Grand or subordinate lodges. I submit this for your consideration.”

Many of the ideas that I have attempted to share with you over the years – in an effort to turn our membership numbers positive – have centered on a similar theme. My brothers, many of our lodges suffer from not only a lack of membership, but perhaps even more importantly, a lack of leadership! In my opinion, if we do not fix the leadership problem, we have very little hope of improving our membership issue.

In my now 45 years as a Mason, I have seen numerous lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction torn apart and progress hindered due to both a lack of leadership and by brothers in subordinate offices becoming incensed when, due to a lack of effort on their part, the members of the lodge chose not to advance them to a higher office. The human nature of man and his ego often result in brothers forgetting about that part of our ritual that counsels “...who best can work, and best agree.”

Further, it is incumbent on the members of each lodge (and Grand Lodge) to exercise their voting rights in a manner that benefits the lodge. To this end, perhaps we should consider adding a requirement of any brother in the progressing line who is to

stand for election that he submit a written resume and outline of his abilities, expertise, and perceived contributions in the coming year to move the lodge or Grand Lodge forward. Presumably, the craft could then vote to advance those who seem to be best qualified to eventually lead the lodge. I sense from MWB McCormick’s second to last sentence that he may have felt there were Grand Lodge officers who had not demonstrated that they were worthy of advancement.

Contrary to what many may believe, being a good ritualist should not be the deciding factor in electing a master (or Grand Master). Rather, the brother’s administrative and managerial abilities are far more important. The master who is a good administrator but may not be a good ritualist, will know how to put together degree teams that will excel at the ritual experience for any candidates. On the other hand, a master who excels at ritual but is a poor administrator, will likely drive members away and will stunt the lodge’s growth well beyond his tenure in office. Any new member in a lodge with poor leadership will likely soon determine that he is not experiencing what Masonry promised (false advertising?) and will likely drop his membership in a very short time.

Unless, and until, lodges stop settling for ‘a warm body to just fill the chair,’ our leadership woes will continue. The Master’s Path program that was initiated by MWB Gary Arsenaault is an excellent tool that can and should be utilized by progressing officers who have any intention to occupy the oriental chair at some point. Lodges should demand that their elected officers have completed the Master’s Path and have participated in the Committee on Education’s seminars. Lodge members need to take a more active role in demanding that their progressing officers are acquiring the skills and materials necessary to successfully lead the lodge. As importantly, progressing officers need to make an honest evaluation of their abilities – and their willingness to put in the necessary effort to prepare for the East – and not hold it against the members of the lodge if their ability or lack of effort result in them being passed over for advancement.

Twenty-three years ago, when I served as Grand Master, I asserted that we needed to address and correct the leadership problem before we could have success with fixing the declining membership situation. To that end, we trialed a weekend leadership retreat where experts were brought in to work with lodge officers to begin to hone leadership skills. The trial was deemed to be a success but was not continued or expanded in succeeding years. In the intervening years, our membership numbers have continued to diminish and even those lodges that in the 1990s were raising 20 or more members per year are now raising fewer than a dozen. Your Grand Lodge is about to embark on a marketing campaign to attract new members. The question we need to address is this: If we attract them, do our lodges have the leadership capable of retaining them?

Follow The Light

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

September is here again and the Valley of Bridgeport is swinging back into its busy pace of degrees and Family Life events! On September 16, the Dewitt Clinton Lodge of Perfection will perform the 4th Degree live, right after a video rendition of the 4th and 6th degree are shown. Further, mark your calendars, on October 7, the Dewitt Clinton Lodge of Perfection will perform the 5th Degree live, with a video rendition of the 4th and 24th degrees preceding the live presentation. Dinners before the degrees start at 6 p.m. with the degrees beginning at 7:30 p.m. Reservations for the dinners are highly recommended – please call the Lafayette Consistory office at (203) 375-0064.

There is an active list of Family Life events (open to members of the Rite, as well as all candidates) for this month as well – September 14 is the Annual Installation Dinner for the Valley of Bridgeport at the Riverview Bistro in Stratford at 6 p.m. September 18 has the Valley on a bus trip to the Big E's Connecticut Day, and on September 22 is the Annual Fall Fishing Trip leaving Clinton Harbor at noon. Early reservations are strongly recommended for all these activities as they tend to sell out fast.

We also will be celebrating the Grand Opening of the Children's Dyslexia Centers Satellite in Farmington at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 15th. The Center is located at 2 High Street in Farmington. This marks the third location where the Rite is providing valuable services to children at no cost or charge in our state. Lastly, we will be having the Dyslexia Center Walk for Awareness Fundraiser on October 6 at the Waterbury Center. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., with a meal and awards following the walk later that afternoon.

* * * * *

The three lesser Lights of Masonry are each associated with three of the four cardinal points of the compass. Anciently, according to Oliver, it was said that the Master sat in the East, waiting for the Sun to rise so that he could set the craft to work in accordance with his instructions. Once it rose, the Sun would traverse the south on its way to the West. Labor would take place while the sun traversed the south. As the day waned, the Senior Warden, sitting in West, waiting for the sun to set,

would oversee the dismissal of the craft from their labors. Note that the North is wholly ignored, as the Ruler of Day, the Sun, never exudes any ray of light from the North. This absence of light makes this cardinal point wholly useless to the Science of Freemasonry. Freemasonry, as a Science of Spiritual Light, has no call or use for the northern quarter, as the Ruler of the Lodge, The Master, can never obtain any assistance from that direction due to the absolute dearth of "Light," in that quarter. This absence of Light is antithetical to Freemasonry's instructive mission – which is to "make darkness light before them (the candidate), and crooked things straight" (Isaiah 42:16). The initiated brother, because of the Light attained while having gone through the first degree, can truly then say "because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth" (1 John, 2:8).

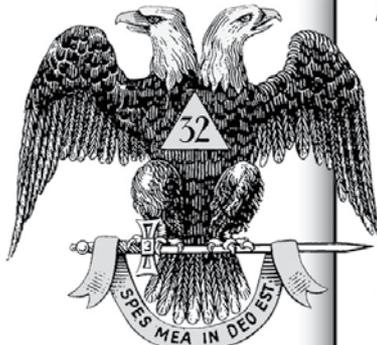
There is further ancient indication that the motion of the candidate seeking light from east through the south to the west, is on the proper path for attainment and perfection. Daily, The Ruler of the Day experiences its birth in the East, it attains its strongest luminescence and giving the most assistance to material and spiritual endeavors in the South, and retires in the west, only to rise up again in the East the next day. I note again that the North has played no role in any of this work for the reason stated earlier.

One should pay attention to the direction of the path of the Ruler of the Day. In Scottish folklore, sunwise, deasil or sunward was considered the "auspicious course,"

leading to prosperity and was considered a path that provided protection from all perils and losses. Thus turning from the east to the west, in the direction of the sun, was viewed in European culture as the favorable course for progress and attainment. The opposite course, counterclockwise or West to East, was known as widdershins, or tuatha, and was deemed unpropitious and fraught with misfortune and damage. The origins of the lodge circumambulation probably date back to these ancient traditions.

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

Monday, October 7: 5th Degree Live & 24th Degree (video) at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6 p.m.

*To begin your ScottishRite journey, sign up now 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.



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 Rebecca & William Schoeck
 Gail N. Smith
 William J. Strand
 Arthur R. Tinsz
 Dean True
 Richard R. Washburn
 Charles & Barbara Yohe
 Myron E. Yudkin

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 Douglas T. Barrett*
 Paul F. Blake

Lowell H. Cantor*
 Roger R. Cole
 Lester A. Culver, Jr.
 Jack Dilks
 Sam Dunlop*
 Earl S. Evans
 William H. Flagg
 Aubrey & Carol Fisher
 Bill & Sandie Greene
 Matthew F. Griffin
 Edward Gross
 Sonny Hendel
 Ralph H. Hunt
 A. Richard Kirschner
 Kenneth H. Kirschner
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LODGES & ORGANIZATIONS

\$75 or more.

Acacia Lodge No. 85*
 Coastal Lodge No. 57
 Columbia Lodge No. 25
 Corinthian Lodge No. 63
 CT Widows Sons MRA
 Evening Star Lodge No. 101
 Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145
 Granite Lodge No. 119
 Ionic Lodge No. 110
 Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107
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 Fridolf Rusgaitis*
 James R. Savickas*
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 Jack Stevens
 Richard Storm, Jr.
 Dale E. Sweet
 John VanKirk
 William Welsh, Jr.

*The form to continue
 your financial support
 of this publication
 as a Booster is
 in page 14*

District 8

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



The Start of a Tradition

by Ron Magliano

Purity Lodge No. 150 took their first steps in a parade this Memorial Day as they marched through Mystic. The brothers, many of whom are veterans, walked across the Mystic Drawbridge holding their banner flanked by Brother Bruce Pendleton supporting a masonic flag and Brother Jacob Covey supporting the American flag. Other brothers in attendance were RWB Ron Magliano, RWB Jon Wilson, RWB Richard Boardman, WB Glenn Studwell, Brother Graig Rinaldi, and RWB Michael Schafer of Solar Lodge. While this was Purity Lodge's first time walking in a parade they can only look forward to the next time they can show the town of Mystic what Brotherly Love is.



8th District St. John's Day Celebration by Jeffrey A. Blayman

For over 200 years this solemn St. John's Day procession has stepped off from Wooster Lodge No. 10 and proceeded down Main Street to the Colchester Federated Church a quarter mile away.

On a perfect Friday evening in June, brothers from all over the state joined the brothers of Wooster Lodge No. 10 and Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 to continue this long-standing tradition of celebrating the summer solstice and the patron saints of the order.

At 6:45 p.m. brothers stepped off on Main Street marching to the church. At the entrance brothers lined the walkway and steps as Right Worshipful Grand Marshal Les B. King, escorted Most Worshipful Grand Master Melvin E. Johnson, through the ranks and into the church for this divine service. The festivities were given a wonderful musical accompaniment by Bro. Josh Ziemiński who filled the room with majestic tones as organist.

Worshipful Master Frank Rich welcomed everyone to the celebration and offered some inspirational words as the proceedings got underway. Throughout the service brothers enjoyed a wide variety of readings from Scripture, from *The Barefoot Doctor's Guide to the Tao*, from the Koran, from the Rig Veda, and from Sikh Siri Guru Granth Sahib. The eclectic oratory experience was rounded out with a prayer to St. John the Baptist and a poignant sermon by Reverend Alice O'Donovan.

Once again WB Frank Rich roused the brothers with his fine benediction, closing the

evening's service. Brothers filed out from the church, assembling on the steps for a commemorative photo and then onward back to the lodge.

Once there, the brothers enjoyed a wonderful meal and reveled in the camaraderie. As the night drew to a close WM Frank Rich took the occasion to offer a touching poem and MWGM Mel Johnson gave his sentiments to the Craft.



RWB Eric W. Manner Master Ritualist Award

One of the programs that Most Worshipful Grand Master Melvin E. Johnson is implementing during his term of office is the RWB Eric W. Manner Master Ritualist Award. Named after the longtime chairman of the Ritual & Ceremonies Committee, the program will provide Connecticut Masons with opportunities similar to those of brothers in other jurisdictions who can be recognized for their mastery of the Masonic ritual. The program will roll out this fall with an announcement at the Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication.

The program seeks to recognize those brothers who perform excellent ritual and to inspire and motivate other brothers to improve their skill. Brothers seek recommendation to the program through their District Deputy. They are evaluated on their ritual in front of two evaluators (members of the Ritual & Ceremonies Committee or Past District Deputies who have been trained as evaluators) who will evaluate the performance against published criteria and issue a pass/fail grade, which is recorded in a passport.

The program is incremental in nature, consisting of five sections of lectures/ceremonies, and may be completed in any order. After the completion of a section the brother is awarded a blue pin and when he has completed a second section he exchanges his pin for a bronze pin. This process continues for a third and fourth section with silver and gold pins being awarded. These incremental pins are presented in lodge by the District Deputy. Upon completion of the fifth and final section, the brother is presented with the Eric W. Manner Master Ritualist pin and a certificate, at the Grand Lodge Annual or Semi-Annual Communication.

The ritual on which brothers are evaluated is:

Entered Apprentice Section: 2nd Section Lecture, 3rd Section Lecture

Fellowcraft Section: Middle Chamber (Long Form), the Letter G. (Note: Past Masters may substitute the Installation of Officers in place of the Middle Chamber).

Master Mason Section: Five Points & Grand Hailing Sign section of the MM degree, 2nd Section Lecture up to the Nine Masonic Emblems, 2nd Section Lecture Beginning at the Nine Masonic Emblems

Funeral Service: The WM part with prayer

Obligations & Charges: EA, FC, MM

The criteria on which brothers are evaluated are no mispronounced words, a limited number of minor context errors (most lectures two, longer lectures up to five), one prompt per lecture. The ritual on which a brother is evaluated is the current version of the ritual on file with the Ritual & Ceremonies Committee (including the current version of the CT Standard Ritual). Members of the four lodges approved to use non-standard ritual may use that ritual instead, provided copies are made available to the Ritual & Ceremonies Committee and the evaluators.

A passport will be issued to track progress, but brothers are asked to return pins once they advance to the next level, to keep the costs of the program manageable.

It is hoped that those brothers who do excellent ritual work will seek to complete this program, and that their efforts will inspire all brothers to be just that little bit better in their own performance. Ultimately the Craft will benefit by seeing better impressions made on candidates and a fulfilling education experience for all Masons.

A Note from The Masonic Education Committee *by Nicholas H. Ives*

The Connecticut Committee for Masonic Education (CME) is excited to announce our seminar offerings and talk about some of the new resources that we are working on to provide all Masons in Connecticut an opportunity to have an experience that is meaningful to their lives. The dedicated members of the committee are working hard to synthesize the wisdom we have been passed by our forebears into a product that every single lodge will feel happy to utilize in their officer training and new Mason lodge of instruction. While some of these programs are in the early stages, by sharing them we can get the best feedback to refine them as they are released.

Officer training is one of the core duties of the CME. We will have two important seminars for officer training in the works. The first is intended to prepare incoming Worshipful Masters and Wardens for the challenges they will face as leaders of their lodge. While it may be an intimidating experience for some, we hope that the training and reassurance provided at that seminar provides positive momentum into their years at the helm of their lodge. That seminar will take place on Saturday, October 26th at 8:30 a.m. We will be serving donuts and coffee at 8-8:30 a.m. The seminar ends at noon, so as to let all of you carry on with your day afterward. Suggested attire is a suit and tie.

The junior officer positions of Marshal, Steward, and Deacon are vital to a lodge's future. Not only do they have an important role in carrying out the vision of the senior leadership, but in a few short years they will be the face of the lodge. To better prepare them to be effective ritualists and leaders within their lodges, their seminar will take place on Saturday, January 25th, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. Coffee and donuts available at 8 a.m.

Both of these seminars will be recorded so that lodges and their members who miss out on the actual event can still bring the knowledge conveyed during the morning

Continued on page 35



2019

VALLEY OF NEW HAVEN

OKTOBERFEST

Ashlar Village Pavilion

September 21st, 1pm -5 pm

Come join us at Ashlar Village Pavilion in Wallingford for a fun filled day of food, fellowship, and festivities. This event is open to all Masons, men interested in the Masonic Fraternity, and their significant others. Authentic German food, beer, and music will be supplied by the Valley of New Haven, free of charge!!!

**RSVP Brother Scott Bumps to join the fun!!!
{ 203.401.1199 or scottbumps@hotmail.com }**



Freemasons to Watch Area 51 Run with Alien Friends, Technology

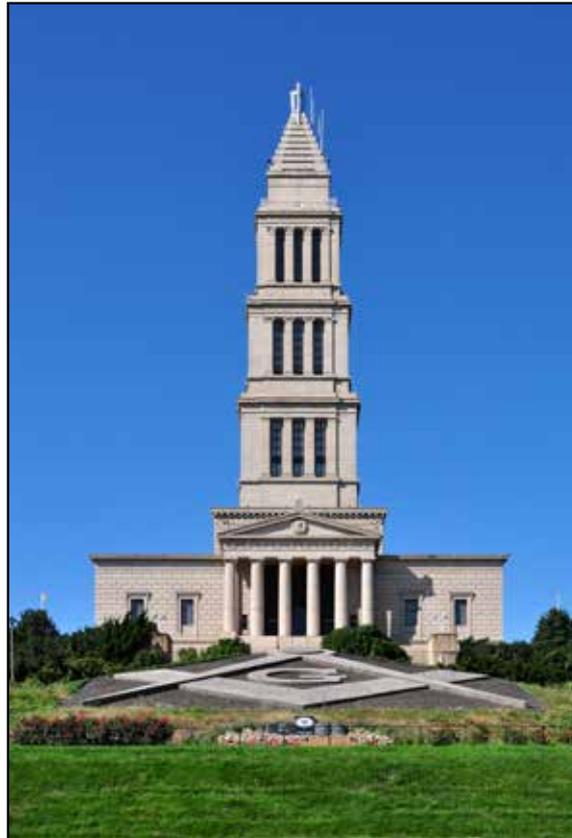
by Tom Accusti

The *Connecticut Freemasons* magazine has learned that a number of prominent Freemasons from around the U.S. and Canada, including some from Connecticut, will be on hand to watch the festivities of the upcoming Area 51 Run at the end of September from the high-tech communications center at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

Started as a Facebook joke in July, and called “**Storm Area 51 – They Can’t Stop All Of Us,**” the author of the post suggested that hundreds of thousands of willing volunteers would be able to crash through the high security perimeter and find the aliens rumored to be working with (or possibly held captive by) the U.S. government. The author went on to suggest that by using a maneuver from a Japanese manga (cartoon) called a “Naruto run,” the volunteers might be able to move fast enough to dodge bullets.

“It’s rather ironic that there are hardly any aliens left at Area 51 anymore,” said unauthorized source Shawn Eyer. “They came, helped set up a few research centers, gave us some high-tech equipment, and most of them either went home, or are quietly living among us as anthropologists, studying our culture.”

The *Connecticut Freemasons* has learned that the spire of the George Washington Masonic Memorial actually contains very high-tech communication equipment. While officials



George Washington Masonic Memorial spire houses alien communication equipment. Photo by Joe Ravi.

won’t confirm that it is alien technology, anonymous sources have admitted that “it’s like nothing else on Earth.”

That’s why the decision was made to use the Memorial as an observation post to watch the Area 51 event; large screen TVs will be set up to watch the various sensors and monitors around the Area 51 perimeter, and, should any volunteers actually make it inside, interior observation equipment will monitor their progress. The Facebook signups number almost 2 million, although it’s expected that only several thousand will actually show up. As a courtesy, a number of Freemasons, including a reporter for the *Connecticut Freemasons*, have been invited to watch the event live.

“It will be an opportunity for some of the alien anthropologists to watch and ask questions to some of our own psychologists and sociologists, who will be there, along with a number of Freemasons from around North America,” explained Eyer. “While they’ve been studying us for decades, they still don’t seem to ‘get’ some of our humor.”

He added, “Although to be fair, a lot of humans don’t ‘get’ some of our own humor, either.”

Masonic Education Committee *Continued from page 33*

back to their members to replayed at their leisure. While we are still working out the details on the delivery system, please know that our goal is to make it easy for every officer in the state to view this training on their own time. While nothing is better than attending in person, we know that distance and time sometimes get in the way of our best intentions to attend.

We are also working on a leadership guide that gives helpful suggestions to incoming leaders as they advance to each chair in the lodge. While every lodge has its own traditions for each chair, there are some universal things that can help all Masons as they progress through the line. While this is a long-term work in progress, once we release a draft to the craft we would love to have feedback and collect opinions and wisdom from all brothers in CT. Your constructive feedback is vital to helping us create a document that will help pass wisdom forward for generations to come.

In future articles I will talk more about what we are looking to do to support lodges of instruction by providing quality resources that each lodge can freely incorporate into their Lodge for Instruction program. If you have something that is working very well please feel free to share it with us. You can email me at nickives@ctfreemasons.net and I will bring it to the entire committee to figure out how we can add your collective wisdom into our final product.

In the meantime you can always follow our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cmeofct/> or get on our email list to follow for more information. To get added to our email list you can either reach out to the Grand Lodge office or email nickives@ctfreemasons.net and I will add you to the list. Our website is a work in progress, but once completed, it will allow you to connect with all of our content.



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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2019

IN-STATE NUTMEGGER
GATHERINGS

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

