

December 2019



Connecticut FREEMASONS

Season's Greetings



Not just a man. A Mason.

Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM
69 Masonic Avenue
Wallingford, CT 06492

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



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*Not Just A Man.
A Mason.*



Composite Lodge No. 28 hosts a Scottish Rite Museum tour, page 19,



Bro. Morton N. Katz, Esq., page 4.



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The Promise of Christmas and Chanukah

by Francis G. Way

To many, perhaps most Masons, the month of December is a month of lodge annual meetings, elections, installations, maybe the Actual Past Master degree, and lodge holiday parties. For some brothers who occupy the Oriental Chair, it signifies that their year is drawing to a close and is a time for reflection, and hopefully just a small bit of pride in a job well done.

December also means Christmas and Chanukah for Christian and Jewish brothers. Chanukah commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple. When Judah Maccabee called for the menorah in the Temple to be lit, despite there only being enough oil to keep it lit for one day, the menorah burned for eight days. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Savior, the Great Captain of our salvation. Even for those who are not Jewish or Christian, these two holidays provide inspiration and opportunity for reflection and meditation.

Both holidays fall in the waning of the year, a time of darkness in our hemisphere. As the days grow short and cold, the trees have long ago dropped their leaves and are waiting for the new buds of spring, and some animals begin hibernation until the world turns around and the warmth of spring begins again the cycle of life. The promise of the previous spring has either ended in fruition or been squandered, never to be fulfilled, but either way, the ending of the year brings a hiatus until all life renews.

Chanukah celebrates rededication and light is an important part of the celebration. The eight days the menorah burned lets everyone know that miracles can happen, and that anything is possible with faith. As Masons we seek light to illuminate our thoughts and our souls, to keep us circumscribed within due bounds. Faith is a major tenet of the Craft – faith, hope, and charity are touched upon in the appendant bodies, and also in the Third Section EA lecture.

Christmas is a message of hope. For Christians, it is the greatest hope of all. This is captured in the timeless Christmas carol, ‘O Holy Night’ written by Adolphe Adam in 1847: “A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.” Even earlier, Georg Frederick Handel captured that hope in the music of his ‘For Unto Us A Child is Born’ from the Messiah. It is an uplifting piece that captures the hope Christians have when they contemplate the birth of their Savior. The miracle of Christmas reminds everyone that from the humblest beginnings incredibly great things can happen. That hope enlightens us all.

“And now abideth faith, hope and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

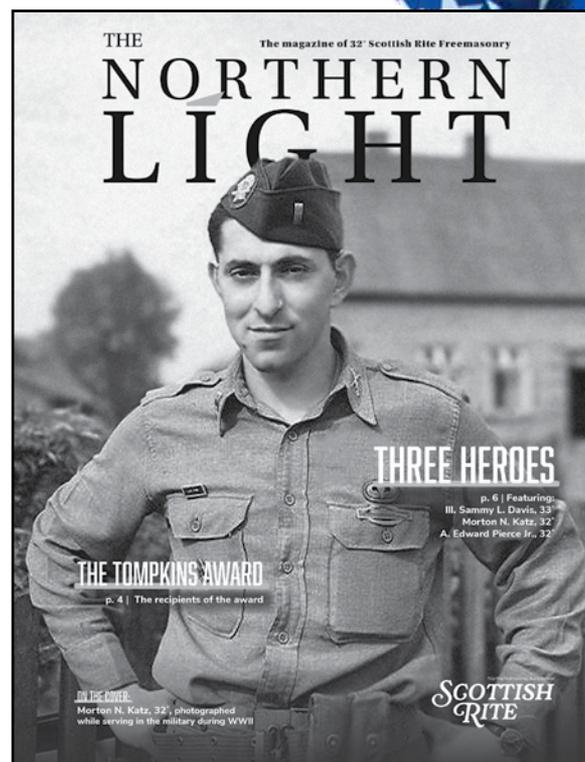
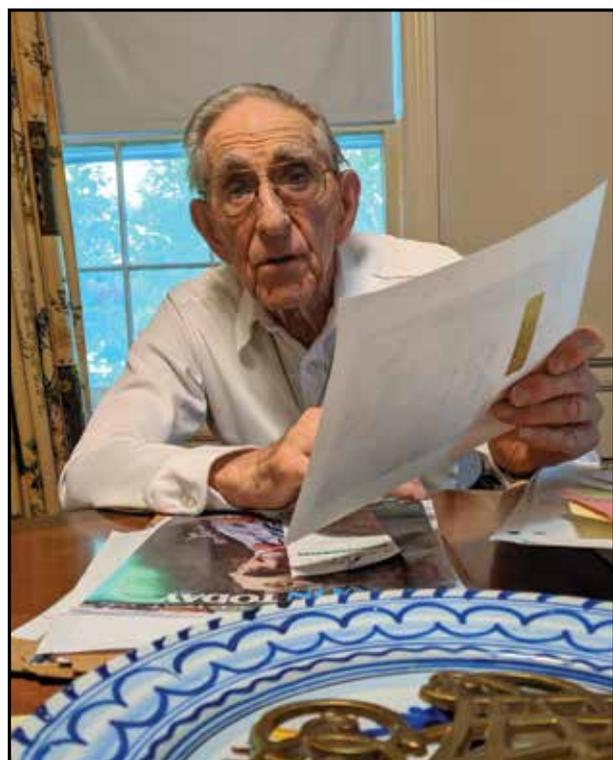
In this joyous holiday season, it does not matter what creed a Brother holds, for as Masons we know faith and hope. We know light and belief. It remains to us to exercise charity, and to serve those who may be less fortunate, and to serve those most in need, for it is in giving that we truly do receive the most.

On behalf of the staff of the *Connecticut Freemasons* I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and a safe and blessed holiday season.

Three Heroes

Ed Note: This article was part of a larger article that ran in the August Edition of *The Northern Light*. It is reprinted here with the kind permission of Alan R. Foulds, Editor. While the original article highlighted three Brothers, we are only highlighting our own Brother Morton N. Katz, who turned 100 years old this year, in this article.

Our fraternity, and of course, our nation is indebted to our veterans who have given so much to protect the freedoms we all enjoy. To honor all veterans, we highlight three of our Brothers who served in different eras, played varying roles, but all were focused on the same cause and ideals. All three men are still active today.



Bro. Morton Katz

When you hear the phrase “liberation of a concentration camp” you probably reach for the history books. After all, the war that eventually ended that terrible chapter of history took place more than seven decades ago.

For Bro. Morton Katz, a practicing public defender in Connecticut, it is much more than pages in a dusty library book or an item found on Wikipedia. He was there, and he tells stories of his service to the nation during World War II in vivid detail.

Katz explains how he entered the military and, in particular, how he became part of 502nd Parachute Infantry.

After Pearl Harbor the nation was at war, and Bro. Katz, now in the military, found himself in infantry school. An officer named Shinverger, a man he described in

Continued on Page 6

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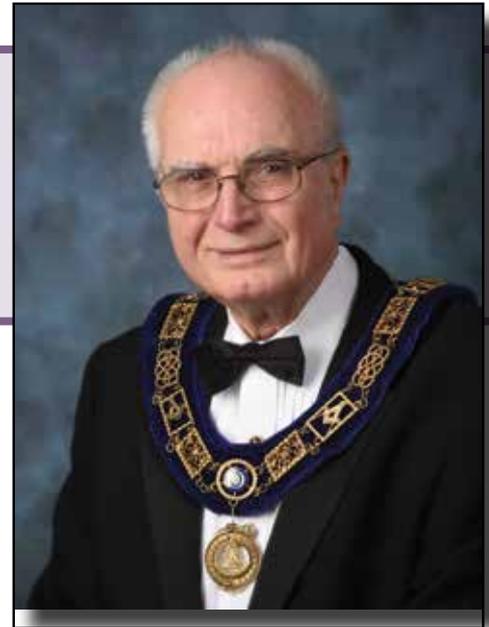
effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all advertisements, Connecticut Freemasons will only be liable to reprint, at no charge, any correction due to typographical error.

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Grand Master's Message

by Melvin E. Johnson



The holidays are fast upon us as you read this, so let me start by wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a happy and prosperous New Year. Also, I extend my congratulations and grateful appreciation to all of you who are taking on roles of increased responsibility in your respective Lodges and Masonic Bodies.

It is a time for both reviewing the accomplishments of the past year and planning for the upcoming challenges and opportunities as well for the making of resolutions. Hopefully, one of those resolutions is to improve the quality of your own Masonic experience and the joy it brings, as well as to work to see that your Brothers' Masonic journeys are satisfying and valuable ones.

If ten Brothers in each Lodge were to resolve to mention what we have to offer to three men they feel could benefit from sharing our Masonic experience, that message would reach some 2,600 potential new Brothers. If even 10 percent of those take us up on that offer, that would be 260 more new Masons than is currently being raised or about three more per Lodge.

Remember that 80 percent of the men surveyed by the Scottish Rite in "The Path Forward" study indicated that they would be interested in joining an organization that would help them become a better person while helping to improve the quality of life for others. That is us. They

respond especially well to our Charitable Works, Fellowship, Masonic Values and Selfless Giving. Get a copy of that study and discuss it in your Lodge as a part of your planning for the year.

The Grand Lodge will be instituting a marketing program based on that study, but there is no substitute for personal contact. Don't do it because it will benefit your Lodge, do it because of the benefit it will bring to those who are eager to improve their ability to make a difference and would find what we have to offer invaluable in meeting that goal. This is especially true of those between 52 and 70 years old, who we often overlook. They are the contemporaries of so many of us and therefore the easiest to reach and talk to.

Let us each resolve to have a great Masonic Experience in the upcoming year and work to engage as many current and potential New Brothers as possible in sharing the blessings of that experience in their lives.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

Barry Lee MacDonald
Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3

David Rodriguez
Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3

Christopher Jay Maxfield
Washington Lodge No. 19

Campfield Dean Heinrich
Uriel Lodge No. 24

Henry J. Lutter
Ark Lodge No. 39

Daniel John Foster
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88



Cameron Paul Larsen
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

Rafael Miranda
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

Elijah Jaiver Calderon
Unity Lodge No. 148

Kevin Isaac Demaine
Corinthian Lodge No. 104

Gilberto Figueroa
Corinthian Lodge No. 104

Christopher Alexander Hoyt, Sr.
Corinthian Lodge No. 104

Grand Chaplain's Message

by Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski



Masonry unites men of every country, sect, and opinion, and it conciliates true friendship among men who otherwise might have remained at a perpetual distance.

In Masonry we are brought to light. Hanukkah and Christmas incorporate the use of light in their celebrations. Jewish people light candles in the special menorah during Hanukkah, while Christians light their decorative tree during Christmas. The

Hanukkah of Jewish people happens on December 22. The two events overlap with each other since Kislev occurs almost close to the month of December.

Hanukkah and Christmas are both a time of generous hearts when everyone receives special People who celebrate these occasions.

I am grateful that we as Masons support many charities. United in various Masonic bodies we contribute to the welfare of many

people who are in need not only at special holidays but throughout the year.

We should all be very proud of the great work that we do. I wish to all a happy and healthy holiday season and that we continue the great and good work that we do.

Three Heroes *Continued from page 4*

hindsight as an “involuntary recruiting officer,” spoke to the group and gave them a synopsis of parachute school. He listened politely, but did not consider it was for him. At the end of the talk attendance was taken, or so he thought. Instead, he found himself off to learn how to jump out of planes.

He said, though, he never jumped in combat but was instead part of the ground operation.

In 1942, he was sent to North Africa. While there, he was promoted to first lieutenant. Next up was Italy where his unit was ordered to knock out a radar station at Salerno, and later the group fought at the Battle of Anzio. Katz was on the first boat.

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, Katz says they knew little of what was going on at Normandy. They knew an invasion was planned, but they had no details. Their job was to concentrate on their jobs in Italy. His memory of the day was chilling, but for a different reason. They reached a beach where some of the men, tired and dirty, wanted to go for a swim. The order went out that they were not allowed to do so until after the harbor had been cleared of mines. Three men disobeyed the order and were killed by an explosive booby trap.

Another story he told was a time when he nearly shot other American soldiers. The men were dressed in long coats, generally worn by the German army, while his own troops wore short jackets. He said that he spotted the men, and had his finger on the trigger before realizing who they were. He said the clouds broke just in time, allowing the sun to shine on them so that they could be recognized.

During the Battle of the Bulge, the last major offensive by the German army, his unit suffered very heavy losses. The survivors were transferred to the 82nd Airborne in Germany. While there, scouts in his unit found a warehouse full of well-worn clogs. As it turned out, they had been worn by prisoners at a forced labor camp where many of them died. Later, they found piles of bodies. On May 2, 1945, the Wobbelin Concentration Camp was liberated by them. General James Gavin was sickened by the sight. Although the townspeople said they knew nothing of the goings-on there, Gavin did not believe them. He ordered the villagers, who he felt were complicit in the actions, to march out to view the remains, then bring the bodies back to Ludwigslust for burial. Katz says the cemetery is still there today.

A week later the war in Europe was ended. He says there were no celebrations; in fact, no official marking of VE Day. He was sent on to Berlin for occupation duty while many of his comrades were sent to the Pacific where the war still roared on.

Bro. Morton was raised a Master Mason in St. John's Lodge No. 4, A.F. & A.M., in Hartford, following his father. He served as Worshipful Master and as a District Deputy Grand Master. His cousin recruited him into Scottish Rite in the Valley of Norwich, and is today a member of the Valley of Hartford. He is still a practicing attorney as a special public defender and as a magistrate.

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

I met a gentleman recently who wanted to discuss his mother, a resident at Masonicare Health Center.

“I must tell you,” the man said, “that you have angels among you. My mother has had nothing but the best care since coming to Masonicare. But it’s the little things that your staff have done to make my life that much easier.”

He spoke about the stresses that he’d felt in trying to care for his mother at home, and how those stressors disappeared after his mother moved to Masonicare Health Center. He said that, thanks to our staff, who have been so compassionate, caring, and respectful, he is again able to spend time with his mother and love his mother without having to worry about her well-being.

That conversation captured who we are as an organization and the values we represent. It’s why, at new-hire orientation every month, I ask everyone to raise their right hand and promise that they’ll never be too busy for the little things. Because, as this interaction with a resident’s son illustrates, those little things can mean so much.

Speaking of which, our GEM (Go the Extra Mile) Customer Experience Award has really taken off since its launch in August. The GEM committee reviewed 113 submissions this past quarter before choosing Masonicare Health Center Social Worker Gail Kallinich.

Gail, who celebrated her 35th anniversary with Masonicare

this year, was the subject of a heartfelt note written by the daughter of a long-term care resident who needed to relocate

from 3 Central when that area was redesignated for hospice care. The daughter described Gail as “a brilliant, flawless diamond” for her compassionate, stalwart advocacy in helping make the move as easy as possible for the resident.

When I surprised Gail with her GEM award in the administrator’s office at MHC, she said she felt really humbled. What I felt was gratitude. Hearing feedback like this from those we serve has been absolutely amazing. Even on the toughest days, I can look at cards like the one sent in about Gail – or reflect on the conversations I’ve had with residents’ loved ones – and it warms my heart.

As we approach the end of 2019, I wish you peace and joy this holiday season and all the best for the coming New Year.

Sincerely and fraternally,



President and CEO of Masonicare



Free Seminar

“Grief and the Holidays”

Masonicare is offering a free “Grief and the Holidays” seminar at the Enfield Senior Center, 299 Elm Street, Enfield. If you are grieving the death of a loved one, you may be feeling added stress over the effort needed to plan or participate in holiday events. Come and talk together about how you can hold on to your memories and create new meaning, while coping with your loss and finding a balance that works. The seminar will be held on Wednesday, December 11 at 1p.m. For more information, please call (860) 500-4000 and ask for a Bereavement Coordinator.



Grand Historian's Corner

Andrew R. Melillo

It is a deeply humbling honor to be appointed

Grand Historian of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Connecticut. I do not take this appointment lightly, and I recognize the charge required of me. First and foremost I thank the Most Worshipful Grand Master and the entire grand line for their trust in me to fulfill the duties of this office. Secondly, please know that I do not replace the late Right Worshipful Brother Gary Andrew Littlefield, but I have picked up the working tools of his office and do continue and build upon his great and good work.

Masonry in Connecticut is approaching its 270th year, and the Grand Lodge is in its 230th year of existence. Our Craft in this ancient New England territory has a complex, intricate, and rich history. It is a grand story, and I will exert the utmost of my energies to catalogue it, maintain it, preserve it, digitize it, and of course to tell it in full. Connecticut had Masonic lodges before it had a Grand Lodge of its own. The Provincial Grand Masters of Massachusetts and New York, to satisfy the zealous Connecticut brothers anxious to form lodges in their native homes, were the leading forces that first chartered lodges in Connecticut. From these earliest of days when

veterans of the French and Indian War were returning home, after being made Masons in remote military lodges or in lodges in New York or Massachusetts, along through the decades and centuries from the Revolution to the Civil War, the World Wars to the present day – Connecticut Masonry has a proud and enduring legacy.

Regarding the Connecticut Freemasons publication, I have organized a new outline and structure for the monthly submissions from the Grand Historian. I wanted to make each publication follow a linear path starting from the year 1750 in the January publication and ending around roughly 1990 to 2000 in the December publication. This is based on there being 270 years of Masonic history in this state, divided by 11 publications, resulting in each publication focusing on an event and or brother during a 25-30 year window. For example the first publication will discuss an event and or a brother between the years 1750 to 1775 or 1780. The February publication will focus on an event and a Brother from 1780 to 1805 or 1810, etc. Utilizing this new outline will result in a linear storyline that can be followed in a coherent manner from the beginning to the present. Thus creating a mini historical timeline, that when replicated each year can be combined into a larger one. I also look forward to working with the Grand

Master and Grand Master-elect on creating and promoting additional digital platforms to provide more unique, detailed, and readily available historical content.

I will endeavor to answer promptly, accurately and with as much detail as possible any call, inquiry or question from any lodge concerning their lodge's or the Grand Lodge's history. I will make myself available to join forces and cooperate, help and assist any lodge historian or committee seeking to record their history and preserve and digitize their earliest minute books and documents. In addition to wherever I could be of help, any lodge that has undergone extensive transcribing or digitization of their early records please reach out to me at your earliest convenience; my goal is to make sure the oldest minutes of the state are collected and added into a central archive. This new archive will be actively used to pull up information, names and dates with great ease for carefully cross-referenced and detailed research.

Again, I am deeply honored and humbled to serve as the next Grand Historian. The rich and ancient legacy of our Masonic forebearers shall not be neglected. Their labor shall not be forgotten, their story will continue to be told.

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**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR
75-YEAR BROTHERS
IN THE YEAR OF 2019!**



FEBRUARY

**George S. White
Acacia Lodge No. 85**

MARCH

**Clifford T. Bulmer
Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3**

JUNE

**Donald F. Waller
Meridian Lodge No. 77**

SEPTEMBER

**Harvey Edwin Naeser, Jr.
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8**

**Alfred H. Platt
King Solomons Lodge No. 7**

NOVEMBER

**Warren G. Nitsche
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8**

DECEMBER

**Clarence A. Joyce
Union Lodge No. 40**

**LeRoy F. Perry
Coastal Lodge No. 57**

Goodwill Ambassador, Laurel Forest No. 130, Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America

Laurel Forest No. 130, Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America has adopted a Goodwill Ambassador in the Forest. His name is Dakota Fortier and, he has Congenital Myotonic Muscular Dystrophy. Dakota turned 15 on November 9th. He will be present at as many meetings of Laurel Forest as possible. In the photo, Dakota is being presented his Tall Cedar Pyramid by his mom, Mrs. Cheryl Elliott while his dad Mr. Dale Elliott, M.W. William Greene, Supreme Director (L) and Brother Larry Brandolini, Grand Tall Cedar of Laurel Forest, look on.

Since 1951, The Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America have supported the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) and have donated over \$19,000,000 for research to find a cure for Muscular Dystrophy and related neuromuscular diseases.





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS IN THE YEAR OF 2019!

JANUARY

Willard A. Booth
Federal Lodge No. 17

Eric Aaron Silver
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Harold M. Whittier
Daytime Lodge No. 144

FEBRUARY

Peter V. Aliferis
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

Walter C. Anderson, Jr.
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11

Burton E. Boardman
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

George C. Buckbee, Sr.
St. Peter's Lodge No. 21

Paul C. Dewey
Valley Lodge No. 36

Joseph D. Mastromarino
Friendship Lodge No. 33

Robert C. Nelson
Estuary Lodge No. 43

Kurt Robert Nolden
Temple Lodge No. 16

Richard Daniel Olsen
St. Peter's Lodge No. 21

Frank C. Schroll
Columbia Lodge No. 25

Richard K. Stevens
Composite Lodge No. 28

MARCH

Saul Goldberg
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Thomas Goodal
Ionic Lodge No. 110

Benford J. Hilliker, III
Warren Lodge No. 51

Paul Anthony Hunter
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

Thomas Roy Kennedy
Corinthian Lodge No. 104

Clifford G. Lane Jr.
Composite Lodge No. 28

Bernard Sippin
Washington Lodge No. 19

Linnell J. Smith
Ionic Lodge No. 110

Richard W. Smith
Ionic Lodge No. 110

Ronald Ernest Vanacore
Day Spring Lodge No. 30

APRIL

Philip G. Barber
Corinthian Lodge No. 63

William E. Bell
Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142

John A. Kosowsky
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

Harry A. Leigh, III
Acacia Lodge No. 85

Raymond E. Teach
Liberty-Continental Lodge No. 76

Harold M. Waters, Jr.
Columbia Lodge No. 25

George H. Wells
Evening Star Lodge No. 101

MAY

Clifford A. Burnett
Friendship Lodge No. 33

William F. Claussen
Granite Lodge No. 119

Russell W. McClelland
Manchester Lodge No. 73

Alan Parks Morrison
Wooster Lodge No. 79

William Harold Morse, Jr.
Union Lodge No. 31

Anton Alois Petras
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140

Frederic W. Richards
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64

Malte J. Sallstrom
Fayette Lodge No. 69

Frederick William Schmalz
Composite Lodge No. 28

JUNE

Carlyle P. Aveni|
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Charles P. Bates
Ionic Lodge No. 110

James Robert Brideau
Corinthian Lodge No. 104

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

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

Herbert E. Klei Jr.
Uriel Lodge No. 24

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JUNE continurd

Charles Kenneth Klein
Coastal Lodge No. 57

John D. Kotyk
Friendship Lodge No. 33

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

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

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

Roger Wellington Read
Coastal Lodge No. 57

Alan R. Rhodes
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Edgar C. Riozzi
Bay View Lodge No. 120

James L. Robinson
Wooster Lodge No. 10

Murry H. Rubin
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

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

Donald J. Scott
Madison Lodge No. 87

James F. Shaw
Anchor Lodge No. 112

Lynn H. Sheffield
Village Lodge No. 29

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

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

James D. Wilson
Estuary Lodge No. 43

Ronald Everett Zissell
Washington Lodge No. 19

SEPTEMBER

Alfred Richard Kirschner
Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14

Ellis Howard Paine
Putnam Lodge No. 46

Angelo Charles Pedrazzin
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

Robert Decker Shaw, Jr.
Federal Lodge No. 17

William J. Stevens
Unity Lodge No. 148

OCTOBERr

Robert W. Branch, Jr.
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

Edward L. Schmidt
Unity Lodge No. 148

Robert L. Simons
King Solomons Lodge No. 7

Donald P. Smith
Columbia Lodge No. 25

NOVEMBERr

Ralph E. Anderson
Somerset - St. James Lodge No. 34

Robert B. Bailey
Compass Lodge No. 9

John L. Beers
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Richard G. Crane
Washington Lodge No. 19

Clifford Hervey Divine, Jr.
Washington Lodge No. 70

Arnold H. DuBail
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

Paul H. Garneau
Columbia Lodge No. 25

Leon J. Gouin
Compass Lodge No. 9

Charles Thomas Hall
Wooster Lodge No. 10

Stanton P. Johnson
Morning Star Lodge No. 47

Frederick Ludwig Kaiser
Hiram Lodge No. 1

R. James Leone
Evening Star Lodge No. 101

Henry L. Long, Jr.
Federal Lodge No. 17

Donald H. Pitcher
Corinthian Lodge No. 63

Jonathan Earle Potter
Somerset - St. James Lodge No. 34

Heinz D. Rosskothien
Evening Star Lodge No. 101

Donald W. Sargeant
Acacia Lodge No. 85

Gerrit Hans Vonderheyde
Temple Lodge No. 65

Donald E. Wetmore
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

DECEMBER

Gary Aram Kazanjian
Columbia Lodge No. 25

Joseph Dunbar Lang
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

John W. Shaw
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

Burton J. Tuttle, Jr.
Jeptha Lodge No. 95

Michael John Whitelaw
Bay View Lodge No. 120



Does History Hold the Key to Our Membership Decline?

by Charles W. Yohe

Some years ago, among a stack of papers and materials from a lodge that had ceased to exist, I found a small gem entitled *The Masonic Year – 1924*. This diminutive book is filled with numerous tidbits garnered from various Masonic publications of the day. It also provided membership statistics for Grand Lodges, Grand Chapters, Grand Councils, and Grand Commanderies. It is interesting to note that the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island reported 16,257 members for the year 1923 while neighboring Connecticut had 39,689 and Massachusetts reported 110,018. I have little doubt that current Grand Masters of those jurisdictions would be ecstatic to realize membership numbers approaching 50 percent of those reported amounts.

Despite the robust numbers of Masons throughout the United States at that time, and keeping in mind that annual dues represented a much larger proportion of a man's wages, it is interesting to read some of the perceived issues that were limiting not only the number of members that Freemasonry was attracting, but more especially the lack of members who actively attended lodge. (Does that sound familiar?) Remember, this was 1923. There was no television, no computers, and no internet. There was no Thursday night or Monday night football nor were there rock concerts to attend. Prohibition was in full swing and would remain so until its repeal in 1933.

According to the IRS, in 1923, there were fewer than 8 million taxpayers. Six million of those earned between \$1,000 and \$4,000 per year. There were a reported 2,853,000 Masons that year according to the Masonic yearbook. Do the math and the conclusion one reaches is the average Mason earned between \$1,000 and \$4,000 per year. Although the yearbook does not indicate the average dues charged by Grand Lodges, the following may shed some light on what they were: "If we charged twenty-five dollars a year as minimum dues in Michigan we wouldn't be able to initiate all of our successful applicants if we worked six nights a week. Men want the thing that is hard to get. It's human nature. That's why, we believe, some lodges barely exist on three or four dollars a year dues."

Further, the *Illinois Freemason, September 1923* reported "Throughout the United States there is a prevailing opinion that Masonic dues are entirely too low and that they should be increased to a point where the dues will sustain the lodge. It is pointed out that where dues are low, the lodges are compelled to capitalize on candidates and as a result, resort to methods to get work which are not altogether legitimate. It is pointed out that the average man will pay \$100 per year dues in his club and will resist the small payment which a lodge frequently asks. The general belief is that Masonic dues will have to be increased to meet the growing responsibility of the Craft."

Here we are nearly a century later and my lodge dues are \$85 per year, \$65 of which goes directly to the Grand Lodge. Are you kidding me? Do you really think you can properly maintain a building and send regular mailings to the members on \$20 per year? My lodge is not a "wealthy" lodge. In fact, recently the small cushion we had

has been depleted due to a merger with a neighboring lodge whose building had bankrupted them and is now doing similar damage to my lodge. Where Masonic lodges should be conducting fundraising in order to support worthy charitable causes, most are fundraising to support their own operations.

Beyond the reality many lodges are facing that they can no longer adequately finance the maintenance and upkeep of their buildings, is the fact that as we seek to reverse the trend of declining membership, are we positioned to attract and retain good men or are we 'shooting ourselves in the foot' by pricing membership too low?

Currently, the leadership in several Grand Lodge jurisdictions is embarking on marketing campaigns designed to increase awareness of the Masonic fraternity and to attract men to seek membership. Have they thought through the process completely or are they setting themselves up for another failure? If our local lodges are not operating in a way that delivers on the 'promised experience' that the marketing campaign touts, the result will likely be a revolving door where new Masons are initiated on one side and will exit on the other side a few years later.

Some of the anecdotes from 1923 indicate that in almost 100 years, Grand Lodges have done precious little to correct the local lodge deficiencies that likely result in the large number of dimits and suspensions for non-payment of dues that Grand Lodges continue to experience. Here are a few that may sound like 2019:

"A 'Back to the Lodge' movement is reported from South Australia. The idea is by a personal canvas to seek out the members who have ceased attendance, ascertain their reasons for the apparent indifference, and induce them to again come to the communications. A laudable undertaking, beyond question. But until the meetings of a lodge can offer to the average man an attraction to compete with other sources of entertainment or instruction, pleadings or reproofs will be met in vain. When a lodge will seek to really interest and inform the brethren, making attendance a matter of value for the time spent, then there will be no cause for complaint. That so many now fail to attend is an indictment of the programs that are considered sufficient." – *National Trestle Board, August 1923*

"Men of intelligence and real value to the organization remain away from the meetings because they are satiated and even bored by the ceaseless reiteration of degree work, with nothing to inspire new thought or urge to productive work for men." – *National Trestle Board, March 1923*

"The Craft has become an animated interrogation point. It is crying for knowledge, information, and education. Will we arise to the demand, or will we give them a stone when they are crying for bread?" – *William F. Kuhn, PGM, Masonic Tidings, April 1923*

Masons are admonished not to use Masonry for personal or financial gain. That is why some jurisdictions forbid the use of the

Continued on page 13

(800) 982-3919 – The Only Number You Need Beyond 911

by Charles W. Yohe

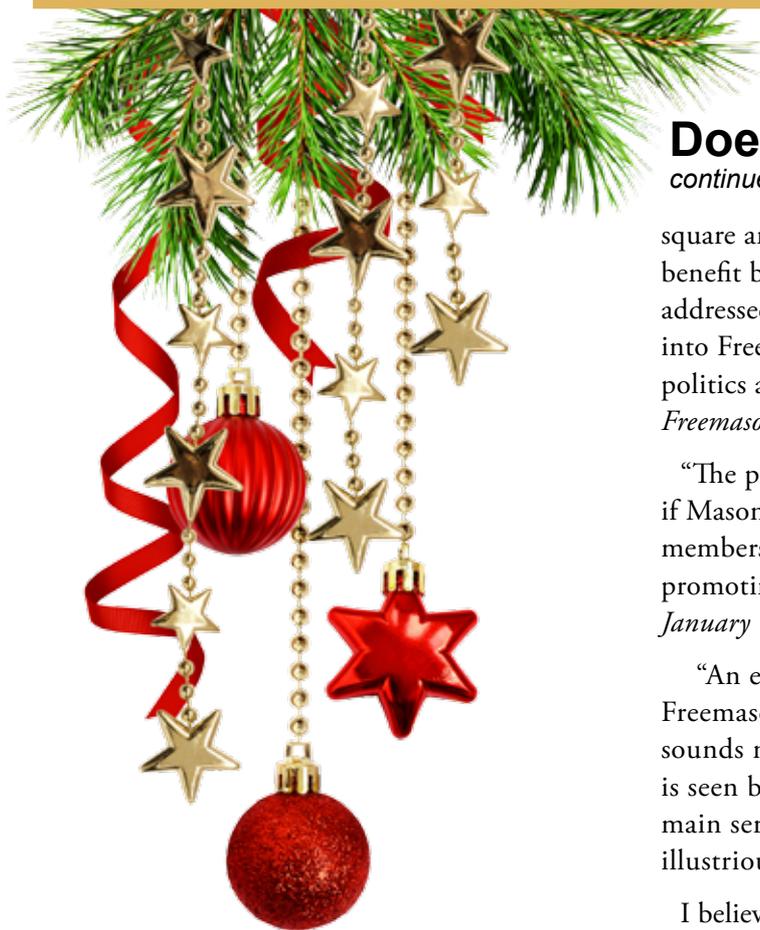
Take a minute, reach in your wallet, and pull out your Blue Lodge dues card. First, check the expiration date on the front. New dues cards will be arriving within the next month! Now please turn the card over and look at the back. In the middle of the back you will find the telephone numbers that you can use to reach the Grand Lodge offices. However, on the bottom rear of the card is the most important number available to you and your family! It is the number for Masonicare Community Services – (800) 982-3919. **If you or a family member need help or assistance, that is the number to call.**



That number will connect you to personnel in RWB Carl Anderson's office. They will be able to advise you and direct you to the right help that best matches your situation. Remember, you may be calling for help for a family member or friend.

Also, you should alert your spouse, significant other or family member to call that number if you are unable to do so. By doing so, you will be connected to someone within Masonicare who can provide appropriate assistance. RWB Anderson is also the Grand Almoner, and in that capacity may be able to arrange for assistance outside of the Masonicare organization.

Remember, (800) 982-3919, it's the only number you need beyond 911 and it's on the back of your dues card.



Does History Hold the Key

continued from page 12

square and compasses on business related cards, invoices, signage, etc. Masons can benefit by applying Freemasonry's teachings to their dealings in life. This too was addressed in 1923: "Men are not expected to take their business, politics or religion into Freemasonry but they are expected to take their Freemasonry into business, politics and religion because Freemasonry is a set of constructive principles." – *Illinois Freemason, February 1923*

"The purpose of Freemasonry is to educate the individual to do the right thing and if Masonry is to function to the point of greatest efficiency, we must as individual members, give the best that we have to it, and become an active part of the whole in promoting the principles it promulgates." – *Clark W. McKenzie, PGM Tyler-Keystone, January 1923*

"An eminent Masonic writer has said: 'I would not give much for your Freemasonry unless it can be seen. Lamps do not talk, but they shine. A lighthouse sounds no drum, it beats no gong and yet far over the water its friendly spark is seen by the mariner. So let your actions shine out your Freemasonry. Let the main sermon of your life be illustrated by your conduct, and it shall not fail to be illustrious.'" – *Masonic Herald, April 1923*

I believe a comprehensive study of history can provide 2019 Freemasonry with the information and tools necessary to reverse the debilitating trend of declining membership, if only we and our Masonic leaders are willing to study and apply its teachings. "Whenever you have to stop to think whether a thing is right or wrong, you may be pretty sure it is wrong." – *Tyler-Keystone, August 1923*

A Decade of Annual Appeal Funding for Masonicare Health Center Residents' Dental Needs

by Emma Tuthill

Ten years ago, just before the holidays, Caroline Hebert, Registered Nurse and Manager of the Outpatient Specialty Clinics at Masonicare Health Center (MHC), learned that a resident without dental coverage needed a tooth extraction that day. Working with The Masonic Charity Foundation, she was granted Annual Appeal funds for the resident's procedure. Since that day, the dental care program at the Masonicare Health Center, supported in part by the Masonicare Annual Appeal, has provided 150 residents in financial need with 228 tooth extractions and 35 sets of dentures.

"Dental care is a primary quality of life issue," Hebert said. "The Masonicare Annual Appeal ensures that all of our residents have the best care, dignity, and respect that they deserve. When I think about the first resident helped by the Annual Appeal, I wonder what her holidays would have been like without that tooth extraction."

Since 2009, Hebert has tracked all of the dental patients at MHC supported by the Annual Appeal on two posters in her office, as a reminder to herself and others of all the residents who've had the chance to smile again.

"I think of all the residents who have come and gone and how happy they were. I get the hugs, but it's all thanks to the Annual Appeal and all the wonderful donors who give."



Caroline Hebert's posters tracking all of the Masonicare Health Center residents helped, teeth extracted, and dentures provided since 2009.

If you're interested in making a donation to the Masonicare Annual Appeal, please call The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut at (203) 679-5555 or visit www.masonicare.org/mcf.

* * * Attention All Past District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals * * *

The Eric W. Manner Master Ritualist Award program is rolling out, and we need your help as evaluators.

Participants in the program will have a passport and will be working their way through a specific list of ritual. Upon receiving permission from their current District Deputy, will be evaluated on those certain ritual selections in front of two evaluators. The pool of evaluators will consist of all the members of the Ritual & Ceremonies committee, along with Past District Deputies and Past Associate Grand Marshals who volunteer. Once they are successfully evaluated on the specific piece of ritual, the evaluators will sign off on it in the brother's passport. The brothers will progress through five stages of the program, receiving a pin for each stage completed, and culminating with the Eric W. Manner Master Ritualist pin and an award certificate.

It will not take a lot of your time, but on occasion you might be contacted by a brother who needs to be evaluated. The criteria for evaluation will be provided to you when you volunteer. Ideally a brother should choose different evaluators for his evaluations, and thus we'd like a good sized pool of evaluators. And ideally a brother from Stamford should not have to travel to Putnam to be evaluated, nor should an evaluator have to travel from Lakeville to Stonington to evaluate a brother. The brother and the evaluators will mutually agree on a location – keeping in mind it should be a private location as ritual is being rehearsed – preferably a lodge.

Please consider volunteering to help in make this program a success. If you wish to volunteer your time, please contact Frank Way – fgway33@gmail.com or (860) 659-7416, or Matt Heinrich – fmheinrich@snet.net.



RWB Robert Charles Moon Awarded Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze

RWB Robert Charles Moon

was born to Charlie and Eleonore-Anna Moon on April 7, 1954. He has been a resident of East Haven for over 45 years. He attended

Union Grammar School

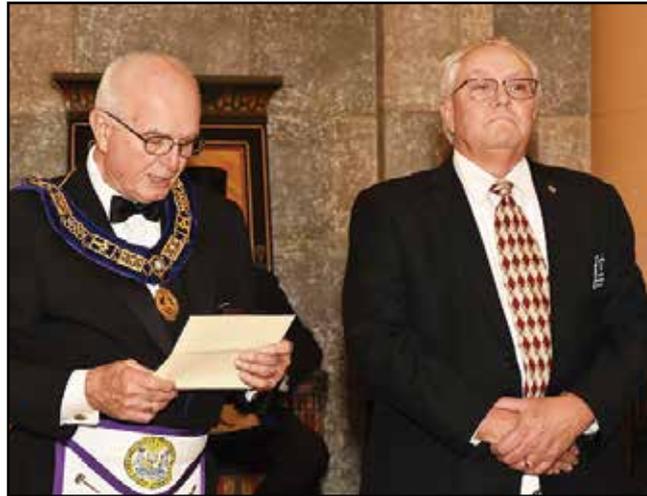
and East Haven Junior High School and graduated from Cheshire Academy in 1972, where he participated in baseball, was the manager of basketball team, a sports reporter for the school newspaper, and President of the Press Club. He attended both Western New England College, where he was a member of the Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity 1972-1973, and the University of New Haven. However, after just 2 years of college the family business beckoned him.

Robert was married to Josee J. Lamarche on September 3, 1976 and together they have three children, Liza-Ann Seipold, Robert F. Moon and Erik C. Moon, and now have four grandchildren, Andrew and Sarah Seipold, and Charlotte and Thomas Moon.

Robert has been the President of Moon Cutter Company since 1985, family run and operated, now in its third generation. Not only is Robert concerned about keeping his company in the know for the 21st century, he has also been an industry leader and has held a seat on the Board of Directors for the United States Cutting Tool Association since 2000.

Robert has also been deeply involved with his children's lives, whether it was taking them to dancing, singing lessons, swimming, hockey or football practices. He has always supported his wife and children in their interests. When both his daughter and middle son chose to attend private school, Robert would spend endless mornings driving them to school. Robert also worked as Carnival Volunteer for Our Lady of Pompeii Church from 1992-1996.

Robert served on the Board of the East Haven Youth Hockey Association from 1985-1995, as the corresponding secretary, and was also inducted as a lifetime member from 1987-1995. He was also the Founder of the Connecticut Lightning's Hockey Team, an



organization helping young men receive college scholarships.

Robert has been a member of Hiram Lodge No. 1 since 1998. He was initiated an Entered Apprentice on March 30, 1998, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on April 9, 1998 and raised as a Master Mason on May 14, 1998. He served as Master of the Lodge in 2003 and 2010, has been the Chaplain multiple times since first serving in 2004, Assistant Secretary from 2006 to 2018 and served as a Trustee of

the lodge from 2004 until his election as Secretary in 2018. He also served as a member of the Masonic Quality of Life Fund.

He is an active member of Hiram Lodge No. 1 and attends nearly all the events and meetings. He is always ready to volunteer to assist in any task whether it be ritual, administrative, or just helping out in general.

Robert served as District Deputy of Masonic District 4A for 2007 and 2008 under Most Worshipful Brothers William L. Greene and Robert Stika. He was ably supported by his brother in law, WB Charlie Rome, who served as his Associate Grand Marshal.

Robert enjoys many hobbies, but especially golfing. On the weekends he can often be found playing at Muni (Alling Memorial) Golf Course as early as possible where his tee shots occasionally will wake an unsuspecting squirrel. He also enjoys working on his lawn and is an excellent cook.

In 1978, Robert was diagnosed with a disease called Celiac disease, which is intolerance to wheat and gluten and he was instrumental in forming the Greater New Haven Celiac Association. The GNHCA is a support group, which help people who are newly diagnosed with Celiac disease and their families. As a pioneer of this organization Robert held cooking demonstrations and was even highlighted in the New Haven Register for his efforts.

In recognition of his service to our fraternity, his community and to the state of Connecticut, the most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Connecticut is pleased to present RWB Robert Charles Moon the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.



RWB George Frascarelli Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal In Bronze

RWB George Albert Frascarelli was born in Hartford,

Connecticut on March 19, 1944, to Antonio and Philomena Frascarelli. He attended Hartford Public High School and then Central Connecticut State University. He married Laura Bristol and together they have four wonderful children: Kara, Todd, Richard and Elizabeth. George and Laura share their home with Mason, yes that is correct, Mason, a German Shepherd and Casper the cat. They are also blessed with seven grandchildren.

George worked as a system programmer for Aetna for 20 years. He was promoted to Technical Support Manager for a new data center and he and his family were transferred to Dallas, Texas. In Dallas, George left Aetna and took a position with Dresser Industries as their Technical Communication/Database Manager. It wasn't too long before Dresser was bought out by Halliburton Corporation.

George's position was Director of New Technologies for divisions of Halliburton under future Vice President Dick Cheney. Then a division of Halliburton offered George a new position which meant an opportunity for George to return to Connecticut, and Laura said he would take it!!

George retired in 2006 and took up farming with his father-in-law, WB Dave Bristol. In retirement George also enjoyed gardening, fly-fishing and wine-making. He allegedly tried his hand at moonshine but didn't care for it.

As George's free time opened he turned his interest towards Masonry, and rightly so, for having married into a family with long Masonic standing, it was natural that George would become engaged. George's father-in-law and brother-in-law have long been involved in Masonry.

George was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on Nov 16, 2009, and earnestly accepted his responsibility to occupy his first chair as Junior Deacon in January 2010. He continued the line progression and served in both 2013 and 2014 as Worshipful Master of Village Lodge No. 29. George took his responsibility to Masonry and his lodge

seriously, honorably fulfilling his duties and then some in each of the chairs he occupied.

George recognized that more masonic knowledge would be helpful in his lodge and within Masonry in general, and he was appointed to the Committee on Masonic Education in 2011, and continues to be actively involved on the Committee. It can be said that George is a stickler for detail, and while some may not always see a need or subscribe, whatever George has had his hand in, ends with a quality finish.

George began a new electronic initiative called "Masonic Trivia" for Village Lodge in 2011, while he himself was learning the lodge ritual. By accident, he one day sent it out electronically using what he later found to be an incorrect distribution list. In a panic, he asked Right Worshipful Brother Ben Isaacson for help in retrieving his email message. Ben told George he was hearing a favorable response to 'Masonic Trivia,' and then what began what George started as a small effort blossomed into an esteemed and enjoyable learning tool for over many brothers. Today, over 1,400 brothers receive the Trivia in their inbox every Saturday at 6 a.m.

Many retired brothers have corresponded with George and thanked him for the Trivia program. It is now being sent to brothers in various other states, and as far away as Great Britain. It is an easy and fun educational tool for brothers to access and learn small but meaningful facts about their Fraternity.

George received a Citation of Appreciation from the Grand Lodge in 2014 for his Masonic Trivia program. Not to be outdone, George went on to create a very successful mentoring program for Village Lodge in 2014, and he continues this initiative today. He gives his time to instructing new Entered Apprentices and Fellow Craft Masons in the workings of the lodge and ritual.

George affiliated with Saint Andrews Lodge No. 64 in Winsted in 2014 and became Worshipful Master there in 2016. He is currently serving as Treasurer, a position he accepted two years ago. George serves on both Village Lodge and Saint Andrews building associations. He was also recognized as Village Lodge Mason of the Year award in 2011 and 2016.



George joined the Valley of Hartford Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in 2010 and was elected Village Lodge Trustee in 2018.

George was appointed Right Worshipful District Deputy in Masonic District 5A by MWB Marshall K. Robinson in 2018 and reappointed by MWB Melvin E. Johnson in 2019.

George has a busy life and is committed to Masonry, and will lend his hand to whatever is needed, whether it be cooking for his lodge, helping a start-up lodge, organizing tag sales and volunteering to serve meals to nursing home residents on major holidays, to name but a few.

In recognition of his service to the fraternity, his community and to the state of Connecticut, the most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Connecticut is pleased to present Right Worshipful Brother George Frascarelli the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service

District 1

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



Washington Lodge No. 19 — Not All Work And No Play

Worshipful Master David Papp and Senior Deacon David Gianetti show that Masonry is not all work and no play. Spending a relaxing time fishing on the river recharges the batteries for the final push through the end of the year



District 5

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



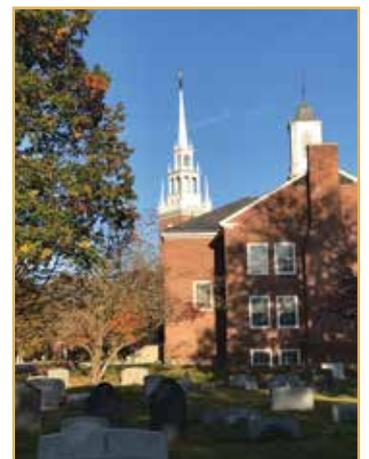
Hospitality Lodge No. 128 Helps Replace Veterans' Cemetery Flags

On a sunny fall Saturday, October 26, several brothers of Hospitality Lodge No. 128 assisted volunteers from the American Legion in replacing the memorial flags on the graves of veterans in First Church Cemetery in Old Wethersfield.

Worshipful Master Ted Hasty, and Brothers Doug Maliszewski, Joe LaRosa, Jim Payette, and James Neary represented the Lodge in this remembrance of the veterans who gave so much for the American way of life.

Hospitality's participation was put together without much advance notice but this service is already on the lodge calendar for next year.

Should any lodge wish to assist in similar activities in their home town, they should contact their local American Legion.



District 5 continued on page 18



Hospitality Lodge No. 128 Awards Night

On Wednesday evening, October 23, Hospitality Lodge held their awards night in the lodge room of Unity Lodge No. 148 in New Britain. Their usual meeting place, the Solomon Welles House in Old Wethersfield was unavailable.

The assembled brethren and guests enjoyed a fine meal in the dining room before adjourning upstairs for the awards and recognition. RWB Ted Hasty, Master of Hospitality Lodge welcomed everyone and, as is his regular custom, personally greeted all of the assembled brothers.

Special guests for the evening were RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Assistant to the Grand Master, RWB William E. Bohman, Grand Senior Warden, and MWB Melvin E. Johnson, Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Brothers Alberto Dieguez and Douglas Maliszewski, Junior Warden and Senior Deacon respectively, received 5-year pins.

RWB Brian Beals received a 40-year pin and RWB Mark Parasiliti received a 25-year pin.

With the years of service pin awards completed, RWB Hasty announced the winner of the inaugural RWB Eric W. Manner Mason of the Year Award. The award was decided by the vote of the lodge at an earlier meeting, but were kept secret. The first RWB

Eric W. Manner Mason of the Year was WB Matthew Griffin, Secretary of Hospitality Lodge.

Following the Mason of the Year award, RWB Hasty had RWB Richard R. Jones escort Mrs. Diana Manner, widow of RWB Eric W. Manner, to the East, where she was greeted by MWB Johnson, and RWBs Bohman, Heinrich and Way.

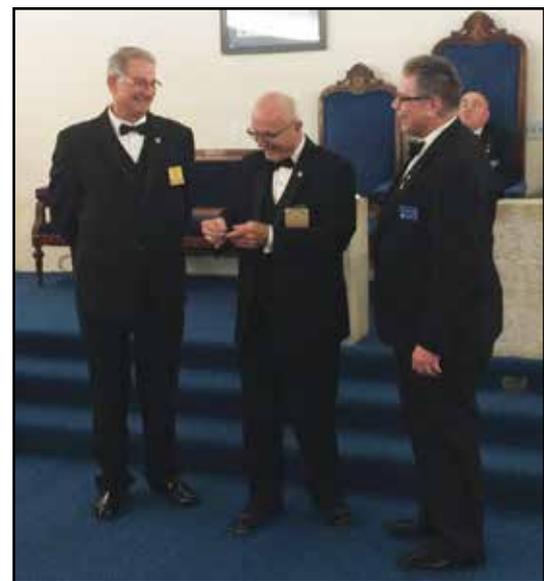
A few days earlier, at the Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication, the Grand Master rolled out the Eric W. Manner Master Ritualist Award Program. On this evening, the Most Worshipful Grand Master awarded the first Master Ritualist Awards, posthumously, to RWB Eric W. Manner. The certificate and pin were presented to his widow, Dianna. RWBs Heinrich and Way briefly explained the program before the Grand Master made the presentation.

After a few emotional moments, followed by a little levity to allow those assembled to catch their breath, RWB Fank Way was escorted to the East and presented with his Past District Deputy Jewel by MWGM Johnson, on behalf of Hospitality Lodge.

All in all it was an inspiring evening, filled with the fellowship and warm feelings that abound at Hospitality Lodge.



RWBs Bohman, Heinrich, Way and MWB Johnson present the Eric W. Manner Master Ritualist Award to RWB Manner's widow, Diana Manner, as RWB Jones looks on.



MWB Johnson presents a Past District Deputy jewel to RWB Way.

District 6

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

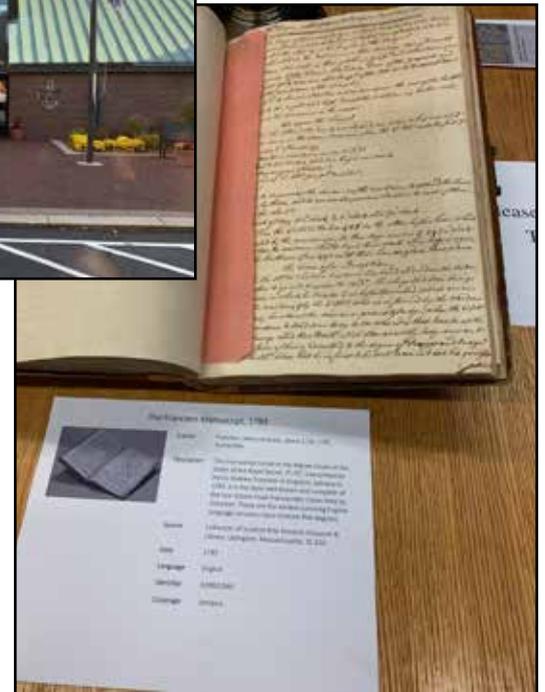


Composite Lodge No. 28 Hosts Scottish Rite Museum Tour by Charles Jewart

On Saturday, October 26, brothers and family from Composite Lodge No. 28, accompanied by members of the Philosophic Lodge of Research, Fayette Lodge No. 69 and Excelsior Lodge No. 3 PHA, ventured to Lexington for a behind the scenes tour of the Scottish Rite Museum and Library, guided by Ill. Brother Bruce Work. The tour visited areas of the museum not usually seen by the public and rare documents, such as the Franken Manuscript. They also had a tour of the archives.

After the tour and lunch, the next stop was the Battle Road Trail connecting Lexington and Concord for the first battles of the American Revolution.

(See page 2 for the color view of the stained glass window)



Cyrene Commandery No. 8 Portrays Order of the Temple for Inspection

On Tuesday evening, November 12, Cyrene Commandery No. 8, in Middletown, portrayed the Order of the Temple for their annual inspection.

With SK Michael E. Seamon, Right Eminent Grand Commandery, and members of his Grand Commandery line in attendance, serving as inspecting officers, Cyrene Commandery conferred the Order of the Temple on Russell Scull. A steak dinner preceded the evening's work, with a special dessert of whoopie pies, homemade by Lori Cowie, wife of Cyrene Commandery's Recorder, REPGC Vince Cowie.

SK George Mudry V, Eminent Commander of Cyrene, opened the Commandery in short form, and proceeded to receive the Right Eminent Grand Commander and his staff. The introductions were handled by SK Edward Varjebedian, Generalissimo of Cyrene.

Following the reception, Eminent Commander Mudry suspended business briefly to allow officers to switch places for the Order. SK Francis G. Way, Eminent Grand Junior Warden served as Eminent

Commander for the Order, and SK James S. McNeely IV, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Master served as Prelate. It may, or may not, be true, that "Bring forth the kneeler" was heard just before the knighting.

The Commandery ably conferred the Order upon SK Scull, and an evening of hard work by the knights suitably impressed the candidate, now Cyrene's news Sir Knight.

With the hour drawing late, following the completion of the Order, the officers again resumed their regular places and stations, and, following closing remarks by Right Eminent Grand Commander Seamon, SK Mudry closed the Commandery.

While Cyrene Commandery did have help from a couple of Sir Knights who are not Cyrene members, they have been steadily working to increase their membership and bolster their line. But all in all it was a night of good work, and good fellowship, and knightly honor.



Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr., Secretary Emeritus

Let's have an old-fashioned Christmas,
 What a day of delight it will be,
 Hanging wreaths of spruce and cedar,
 Bringing home the fresh, green tree.

Candlelight shines by teach window,
 Springs of holly on mantel and door,
 Spicy-sweet smell of gingerbread cookies,
 Pies and puddings baking by the score.

Bright sleds skim frozen hilltops,
 Velvet snowflakes in radiance beam,
 Ice skaters glide like quicksilver,
 In the moonlight's golden gleam.

Make it an old-fashioned Christmas,
 May each waiting heart feel the glow,
 That grows with the ringing of sleigh bells,
 Drifting over th soft-silvered snow.

– Elizabeth Weaver Winstead

On behalf of the Valley of Hartford, I would like to wish you and your family members a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday season.

The Family Life season movie schedule got underway in November, in spite of Brother Ed Schilkie being laid up, with a showing of

“Christmas With The Franks” on November 17, followed by “Mixed Nuts” on November 24. You can still join us for the December Sunday showings: “Fred Christmas” on December 1, “Family Man” on December 8, “Arthur Christmas” on December 15, and “A Christmas Carol” on December 22. All showings begin at 3 p.m. Popcorn and water will be provided for free, but please register in advance so that we can plan to have enough on hand. Contact the Valley office at (860) 666-0712 or office@valleyofhartford.com

Future Family Life events in the planning stages are a fishing trip, a night at the theater, bowling, golf, and a museum trip. Watch this space for more details.

It will soon be time to apply for Abbott or Valley of Hartford Scholarships. Scholarship applications will be available beginning January 1, 2020 on the Supreme Council web page, or from the Valley office. They need to be submitted to the Valley no later than April 1, 2020. For applications to be accepted, applicants need to submit two signed and dated copies of the application, an official high school/college grand transcript in a sealed envelope, a FAFSA report, and any letters of recommendation.

The December Friday Luncheon will be on Friday, December 13. Lunch will be a ham dinner, coffe, and homemade desserts. All this for just \$10 per person. Advance reservations are required and may be made by contacting Barbara at the Shrine office (860) 666-5449.

The Valley will be back to labor on February 6, 2020, as we welcome new candidates for

the Spring Class, with the live portrayals of the 4th and 14th degrees. If you know of any fellow Mason who might be interested in joining the Scottish Rite, Valley of Hartford, have him get his application into the Valley office as soon as possible.



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

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

*May the Light of Christmas
 Shine on You and Bring
 You Tidings of Joy!*

**HAPPY HANUKKAH ~
 MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**FROM THE OFFICERS &
 MEMBERS OF THE VALLEY
 OF HARTFORD TO ONE AND ALL.**

**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, Valley Secretary,
 Valley of Hartford AASR.
 (860) 666-0712 Email: office@valleyofhartford.com
www.valleyofhartford.org**

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

Raising Consciousness Still Further

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

We end this year with a presentation of the crowning glory of the Rite on Monday, Dec. 2. The 32nd degree will be presented live at 7:30 p.m. This will be preceded by a live presentation of the 19th degree at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will precede both degrees and reservations should be made with the Consistory office to ensure the avoidance of disappointment.

Degree work features a live presentation of the 7th degree, preceded by a video presentation of the Consistorial 20th degree on Monday November 18. The Lafayette Consistory will also present the 19th and 32nd degrees live on Monday, December 2. Check the adjacent ad for times and reservations.

Family Life events (which are open to members, candidates and their immediate families) include the annual Christmas concert trip to the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall in Boston, which will take place on December 7, and the Holiday party will take place on the afternoon of December 8 at the Woodwinds Event venue in Branford. Call the office for more details or to make reservations!

The Scottish Rite Veterans Recognition Program

Are you a Veteran? This year the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction will recognize all Sublime Princes who have been honorably discharged from the United States Military or Uniformed Services. Veterans will receive a custom-designed pin and certificate to commemorate their military service and to honor their dedication to the core values of 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Freemasonry. All veteran members are encouraged to go to the ScottishRiteNMJ.org and update the record of their military service if they have not done so already. I understand that the pins and certificates will be awarded at a ceremony to be held in Stratford sometime in 2020 on a date to be announced.

Last month we discussed personal dominion over the material world and how this is a first step in elevating our consciousness and that this is alluded to, and suggested, by the Entered Apprentice Degree.

The next step is the Fellowcraft degree which addresses an entirely different realm of challenge, one which builds on what we have accomplished thus far in the EA. What gives direction and motivation to our physical works is our emotional and desire natures. It is through these that we strive to do, and often accomplish, what was previously thought unattainable. It is also through the distortion or perversion of

our emotions and desires, that the greatest crimes and sorrows manifest in our existence. Consider the pathetic demands and subsequent laments of the three criminally errant workmen whose uncontrolled desires led them to commit the most heinous of crimes... and who rued them most pathetically subsequently. How many crimes, wars and assaults, road rages and infidelities have occurred and continue to occur daily as a result of uncurbed appetites of a variety of sorts?

On the altar of the Fellowcraft one point of the compass lies above the square. This alludes to the nascent liberation of the spiritual part of the candidate from the complete immersion in the materiality symbolized by the square. The senses come under the control of the emotional energy of the individual, thus in order to develop a constructive outlet

for the individual's energies, he must first learn to control the senses. This mandates that the Fellowcraft learn how to achieve balance by reigning in and controlling the emotions which seek satisfaction through the senses.

Learning how to transmute elemental fires into spiritual light is the significant task of the FC. The work involves learning how to curb the outbreaks of all emotions, even under trying circumstances, and keeping a composure even when confronted by injustice or other provocation. This goes hand in hand with making faithful attempts to master

the animal energies resident within all of us. Further, as Builders, we must learn and master the creative forces and dedicate them to our spiritual development.

Lastly, the pinnacle of the work of the Fellowcraft, is to transmute personal affection into impersonal compassion, and to dedicate his senses, desires and emotions to the solving of human problems. The soul which is resident within is but a small part of diety. The realization that we are but parts of a greater sum must overcome the emphasis on the individual personality. When the Fellowcraft realizes that it is only through dedication to compassionate service for the improvement of others, he has attained to the actual degree of Fellowcraft.

He has understood that in order to live in a manner which is consistent with the goals of our Order he must eventually be governed

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention all Master Masons!
UPCOMING SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES

Monday, December 2
19th Degree Live at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 2
32nd Degree Live at 7:30 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.

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

Continued on page 23

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

Ronald Lisle Bickford
Shepherd-Salem Lodge No. 78

Ralph Thornfelt Carlson
Friendship Lodge No. 33

Ralph Thornfelt Carlson
Friendship Lodge No. 33

Stanley Harrison Dingwell
Putnam Lodge No. 46

Clifford Harry Erickson
Ionic Lodge No. 110

Salvatore Pasquale Fiore
Liberty-Continental
Lodge No. 76

Norman K. Hilpert
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11

Stephan Michael Kellner
Corner Stone-Quinebaug
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Gotta Get to Garavel

Nutrition Consultations Educate, Comfort Masonicare Patients and Families in Need

by Emma Tuthill

It goes without saying that food is an essential part of life. However, we may not give much thought to what and how we eat until it becomes a challenge. Nutrition consultations with professional dietitians are an essential part of learning to navigate the obstacles that come with certain diagnoses or medical procedures.

Thanks to donations to the Masonicare Annual Appeal, the cost of these important consultations is covered for community-based patients in financial need.

Erica Rivera, a Registered Dietitian with Masonicare Home Health & Hospice (pictured here), sees community-based patients with a range of challenges.

“I see patients if they are dealing with a medical condition or issue that is likely to affect their nutritional status. Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s diseases can affect swallowing ability. Cancer might affect appetite. Whether they have a feeding tube or pressure ulcers — all of these factors play a role in patient nutrition.”

“Without Annual Appeal funding, Masonicare patients in need could not afford these nutrition consultations, and their overall health status would be negatively impacted,” Rivera reflected.

The goal of enhancing quality of life

through proper nutrition can look different for each patient.

“With Home Health patients, we typically focus on helping them return to their baseline,” Rivera said. “There’s a focus on food intake, calories, and maintaining weight.”

Because food and emotions are so inextricably linked, nutrition consultations are also about empowering the patients themselves.



“I worked with one Home Health patient who had a feeding tube for safety reasons,” Rivera recalled. “She was very upset about needing a feeding tube and initially wanted nothing to do with it. I worked with the patient, empathizing with her frustrations, while also

advocating for the necessity of the feeding tube. After a few follow-ups, she really took control and realized it wasn’t keeping her from enjoying life. She could still get out of the house, meet friends, and do the things she wanted to do, even with the feeding tube. Her experience became more and more positive with each visit.”

For Hospice patients and their families, these nutrition consultations can be a source of comfort and understanding.

“There’s more of a focus on nutrition for comfort and for pleasure with Hospice patients, helping them enjoy the most of what could possibly be their last days,” Rivera explained. “Education for family members is also important. They might need to be reminded that it’s okay for their loved one receiving hospice care to be less hungry. Family members can associate food with holidays and celebrations, so sometimes their loved one’s lack of appetite at end of life can be difficult for families. It helps to focus on honoring that patient where they are, at any given moment.”

If you’re interested in making a donation to the Masonicare Annual Appeal, please call The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut at 203-679-5555 or visit www.masonicare.org/mcf.

Raising Consciousness

continued from page 21

by impersonal principles. By volitionally jettisoning his orientation to the personal, and honestly reorienting it to the impersonal, he will experience an elevation of consciousness. Again this step could take years, if not decades, or even an entire lifetime to attain. Do you have anything more gainful to do with your life?

As always, Lafayette Consistory, and the Valleys of Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury stand ready to help further your understanding of the Three degrees of Freemasonry. Should you have questions about the Scottish Rite, please feel free to contact me at the email address above, or call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064.

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

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

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

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*

EVENTS

Wed., December 4, 6:30 p.m.,
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, Litchfield, Pizza Fest

Sun., December 8, Coastal Lodge No. 57, Stonington, Ladies at the Table, Widows, Past Masters and Veterans dinner.

Sun., December 8, 8 a.m., Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, Annawon Lodge Breakfast, \$7
All you can eat. Eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, toast, coffee and OJ.

Sat., December 14, Valley Lodge No. 36,
Simsbury, Holiday Party

Sat., December 14, 9 a.m., America-St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, Annual Christmas Breakfast w/ Santa, *We will serve breakfast for our families (pancakes, sausages, muffins, fruit), enjoy story time with Santa and we will hold a raffles for the kids to win presents. This is open to all Masons, their friends and families.*

Sun., December 15, 6 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1.
New Haven, *Holiday Party. The Woodwinds, 29 School Ground Rd, Branford*

Wed., December 18, 6:30 p.m., Union Lodge No. 5,
Stamford, Ladies at Table and Awards

Thu., December 19, 6:30 p.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, Stated Communication & Holiday Party, *Semi-public, guests, significant others and children welcome!*

Sat., December 21, Seneca Lodge No. 55,
Torrington, Holiday Open House,

Sun., December 22, Hanukkah Begin



Wed., December 25, Christmas Day

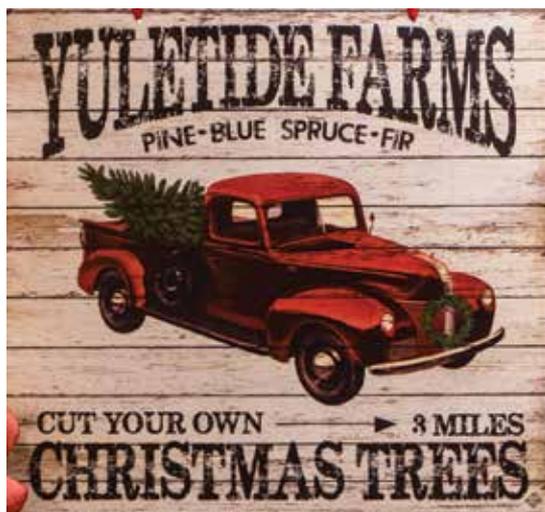


Fri., December 27, St. John the Evangelist

Sat., December 28, 7 p.m., Union Lodge No. 5,
Stamford, Holiday Party,

Wed., January 1, New Year's Day,

Sun., January 12, 8 a.m., Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, Annawon Lodge Breakfast, **\$7 All you can eat. Eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, toast, coffee and OJ.**

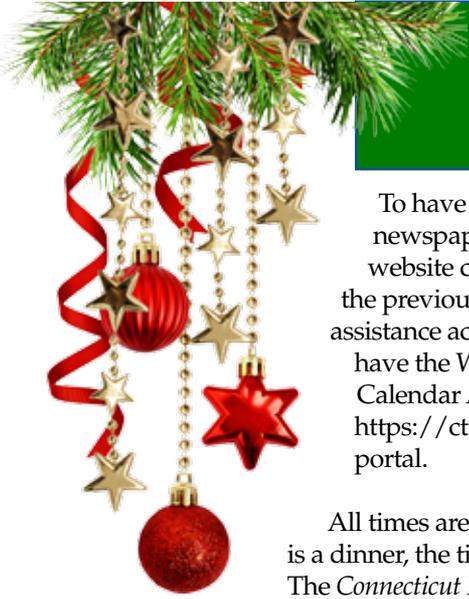


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To have your lodge events appear in the newspaper, please update your lodge website calendars prior to the 10th of the previous month. If your lodge needs assistance accessing the website please have the Worshipful Master, Secretary, or Calendar Admin 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.*

GRAND LODGE ANNUAL SESSION

Saturday, March 28, 8 a.m., Cromwell

ANNUAL MEETINGS

- Mon., December 2, 7 p.m.,
Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford
- Mon., December 2, 7:30 p.m.,
Meridian Lodge No. 77, Meriden
- Tue., December 3, 7:30 p.m.,
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford
- Tue., December 3, 7:30 p.m.,
Coastal Lodge No. 57, Stonington,
- Wed., December 4, 6:30 p.m.,
Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, Union
- Wed., December 4, 6:30 p.m.,
King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury
- Wed., December 4, 7:30 p.m.,
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, Litchfield
- Wed., December 4, 7:30 p.m.,
Columbia Lodge No. 25, South Glastonbury
- Wed., December 4, 7:30 p.m.,
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven
- Thu., December 5, 6:30 p.m.,
Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury
- Thu., December 5, 6:30 p.m.,
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington
- Thu., December 5, 7:30 p.m.,
Friendship-Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester

- Mon., December 9, 7:30 p.m.,
Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor
- Mon., December 9, 7:30 p.m.,
Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville
- Wed., December 11, 7:30 p.m.,
Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142, Easton
- Thu., December 12, 6:30 p.m.,
Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven

INSTALLATIONS

- Sat., December 7, 12 p.m.,
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford
- Sat., December 7, 1 p.m.,
Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford
- Sat., December 7 4, p.m.,
Meridian Lodge No. 77, Meriden
- Sat., December 14., 12 a.m.,
Friendship-Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester
- Tue., December 17, 7:30 p.m.,
Seneca Lodge No. 55, Torrington
- Tue., December 17, 7:30 p.m.,
Coastal Lodge No. 57, Stonington
- Wed., December 18, 6:30 p.m.,
King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury
- Wed., December 18, 7:30 p.m.,
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, Litchfield
- Sat., January 4, 12 p.m.,
Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville
- Sat., January 4, 3 p.m.,
Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREES

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

FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES

MASTER MASON DEGREES



Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*SM



Happy Holidays and Many More to Come

by *Richard F. Denno*

What a wonderful time of the year. It's the season for sharing "precious moments" with family and friends. Time to look back on those special occasions that make our lives so memorable. It's also the time to look forward to exciting life experiences in the coming year.

What's the most memorable gift you ever gave your loved one(s) in years past? If you're like me, it was the time shopping for and wrapping that special gift. The look on their face when they opened your gift made it all so perfect! My fondest memory was the imported German winter coat I gave Midge on our first Christmas together. The coat cost a fortune and was worth every penny. Then there was the Christmas we walked over a mile in snow 8" deep to spend time with dear friends. The warm eggnog time together with our loved ones made it a holiday we spoke fondly about for years and one I'll carry with me always.

All those special times of wonderful Holiday memories, and many more in the coming years

will be possible when you register online at www.registerme.org.

Think of it. You could give the gift the truly keeps on giving to someone on the organ donor waiting list. Of course this would hopefully be many years down the road. After all, you want to experience as many of those precious moments first. If your loved one is one of those in need of a lifesaving transplant, perhaps another special person will give that special gift to your loved one.

Why not become that special someone for others by becoming a registered organ, tissue and eye donor?

On behalf of your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program – HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!



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Gift to Masonicare Brings Awareness to, Memorializes Masons Killed in Holocaust

This fall, The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut was honored to receive two generous gifts, thanks to Bro. Martin L. Rudnick, PM, and the lodge to which he belongs, Corinthian Lodge No. 63, both of which will benefit Masonicare residents and patients in need.

The reason for the generous gift made by Corinthian Lodge No. 63 was simple. "I think all the lodges should make a donation," expressed Rudnick. "At our lodge, we have a number of Brothers and their wives, who live at Masonicare now and are rarely able to get down to lodge. So I felt these donations were a nice way to get the lodge involved with

Masonicare, and, at the same time, support our Brothers in need."

While preparing for the lodge's donation to The Foundation, Martin and his wife, Paula, decided to make a personal gift of their own, with a very special motivation.

"A number of years ago, Paula and I went on a lodge trip to Washington, D.C., where we went to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. At the museum, there's a small memorial where they list the different ethnic groups and people with disabilities who were targeted. There's one little plaque that says, 'Masons,' and it lists 85,000 as the number of Masons killed by the Nazis," Rudnick revealed. "I've never seen a memorial to the Masons other than that one. I thought it would be a nice tribute to make a donation to The Masonic Charity Foundation as a memorial for them."

Following recognition with his wife Paula for their personal gift, Martin was joined by Bro. Louis Brochu, PM, of Corinthian Lodge No. 63 to be honored for the lodge's gift at The Masonic Charity Foundation's annual Benefactor Luncheons this October. As new members of The Baldwin Society, their gifts will be held in perpetuity, serving not only as a living memorial for those Masons lost in the Holocaust, but an expression of Masonicare's ageless commitment to caring in the name of Masonry.



Paula and Bro. Martin Rudnick



Corinthian Lodge No. 63 recognized as a new Baldwin Society member of The Masonic Charity Foundation.



Corinthian Lodge No. 63 presents their gift to Jennifer King, executive director of The Masonic Charity Foundation.

Book Review of *Edgar D. Mitchell: The Man with the Cosmic Mind*

by John White

Edgar D. Mitchell: The Man with the Cosmic Mind by William V Rauscher. 1878 Press Company, 2019. Hardcover, 150 pages. Color Section., numerous photographs and illustrations. \$39.95.

The cover of this fascinating and important book declares it is “The story of a friendship between an Episcopal cleric and the sixth man to walk on the moon.” Yes, it is that, but it is much more. I say that as an “insider” who knows both the author and his subject. And let it be known here that his subject was also a Masonic brother.

Edgar Mitchell was part of the Apollo 14 lunar team. In February 1972 he became the sixth man (of a total of 12 so far—all American astronauts) to walk the lunar surface. It was a tremendous accomplishment for the NASA team, but for Mitchell it was, in a sense, only the beginning of a lifelong voyage from outer space to inner space and back again.

As he was looking at the Earth during a rest period on the return voyage, Mitchell experienced a startling change of consciousness which was characterized by religio-spiritual qualities of knowing that the cosmos has a deeper aspect to it than we humans see with our eyes. There is purpose and intelligent design behind it. He “saw” that through inner knowing beyond the rational intellect. It has been called, in Christian terms, an epiphany; in an eastern context, it has been called a samadhi. Both refer to the experience of knowing and perceiving beyond the senses. The ancient Greek word which Mitchell chose to use for explaining his experience is “noetic,” from nous, meaning “higher mind.”

When he returned to Earth, Mitchell retired from the US Navy and devoted himself to the study of the human mind so that he might help raise awareness of the divinity within us and show that the age-long record of man’s inhumanity could be overcome through a change of consciousness in people. He set up a research organization, The Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS), in California. I was his first employee; my title was Director of Education. In that capacity, as we were planning the organization, I suggested using the word “noetic” in the title, first, to avoid the baggage which the word “psychic” often carries with it in the scientific world and, second, to allow and include consciousness itself in the studies performed and intended.

One of the first people to encourage Mitchell into exploring the world of consciousness was an Episcopal priest, the Rev. William Rauscher of New Jersey. Rauscher had helped organize Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship to bring greater understanding to churches about the traditional subjects of life after death, mediumship,

spiritual healing and related topics such as psychokinesis or mind over matter (which applied to the Bible in instances such as Jesus changing water into wine and multiplying the loaves and fishes).

I, too, was a member of SFF. (It no longer exists, having morphed into the Association for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies.) So I knew Rauscher also, then and now. He began a friendship with Mitchell which lasted until Mitchell died at 85 in 2016. Their friendship was based on shared interests which went beyond the moon—and the sun and the galaxies—to the very genesis of the cosmos and to the nature of the Grand Architect of the Universe.

IONS was the first of Mitchell’s endeavors to solve “the mystery of life,” but it was not his only one. Mitchell was a many-faceted adventurer in bringing outer space and inner space together. His interest in UFOs, for example, was very strong because, having been a teenager living in Roswell, New Mexico, he heard stories from neighbors about the strange things recovered from a flying saucer crash there. He stated publicly that he was convinced that UFOs are real and that there is a multinational government coverup about it.

His final major endeavor was a private scientific team he organized to develop mathematical descriptions of how quantum physics, the cosmos and the human mind with its psychic potentials were linked.

Mitchell’s thinking, writing and experience as a space explorer are presented here by someone who knew him intimately. Reading this book will bring that to you, along with intimate glances at the man as a human being who was married (three times, in fact), fathered children, earned a living, all while journeying through consciousness in its scientific and its spiritual aspects, and then communicating his findings to his fellow humans.

The publisher’s description of the book states: “The reader will hopefully experience a larger view of life on Earth and a feeling of awe for a universe almost beyond comprehension and worlds yet to be explored.” I think that is quite likely.

My Masonic Musings

by Ricky McDonnell

Ed Note: RWB Ricky McDonnell was initiated into the Craft in Scotland and offers a unique perspective on the challenges faced by Masonic Lodges in our jurisdiction.

I was initiated, passed, and raised into Freemasonry in a little lodge in Scotland. I'd heard of the Masons, my wife having been a Matron in one of their elderly care homes, but being unemployed after my discharge from the Royal Marines, living in Wales and not being able to support myself and family, I couldn't join. Later, in 1991 and with my own business in Scotland, I could.

I knew most, if not all of the 10, yes 10, brothers on the investigation committee; I was still grilled on the reasons why I wanted to join. Being older at 38 years old (wow! I was that young?) I guess my maturity and worldliness got me through.

I got warmed into the ritual by being installed the Lodge Sword-bearer; I won't get into the differences compared to this jurisdiction, but it was different. The various degrees conferred either at our own lodge or other lodges went without a hitch as we put our heart and soul into the ritual. The trouble is we didn't have a clue (I didn't anyway) as to the teachings we were supposed to be imparting. Even when I left Scotland, joined a lodge in England, and got over the differences in their ritual, I was still focussed on ritual alone...and the camaraderie.

I came over to this, my adopted country, intent on becoming an American Freemason, so I joined St Peter's Lodge No. 21 in New Milford about 13 years ago. The ritual was so different I thought I was in another country! And I had no idea how, at my age, I was going to memorize this newness. However, I persevered and became Worshipful Master in 2013 then Associate Grand Marshall, and finally District Deputy in 2017.

My point in all of this? Because I wanted to learn the ritual and become a fully supportive member of my lodge, I learned not only the little blue book but also the Rules and Regulations. I noted how different lodges worked, and how some did just enough to get by. I noted that those

Freemasons who wanted to be good at ritual for their own progression within the Craft, and those who weren't able to have memory retention, or didn't want to 'parade' around the temple, learned to become better men by way of subduing their passions.

I fear our main reason for losing so many brothers once they have been raised is that they join for their own prestige in having the title Freemason; we must be going wrong at the onset with the investigation committee. I know we're not expert investigators but how many Worshipful Masters are just grateful to get an application, then appoint whoever is available for the committee no matter how long they've been in the Craft. Maybe we need to iron out some key points to be asked by a dedicated investigation committee. Don't get me wrong, I'm not casting aspersions, but this needs to be addressed and unless it is we shall continue losing brothers.

Once a brother has become a candidate, initiated, passed, and raised, where does he go? What does he do? What does he learn? Do we put him in the kitchen? I'm sure he joined for that one – or do we stick him outside the door as tiler? That's a good way to learn, eh? These 'little' things are part and parcel of what's happening.

Men join for various reasons, some good, some not:

1. He joins for the label of becoming a Freemason
2. He thinks it's an advance on his college fraternity
3. He wants to mingle with other men
4. He has heard of the charitable work that Freemasonry does and wants to contribute by being a part of it.
5. He has heard of the symbolism and esoteric history and wants to learn by being at the sharp end.
6. He wants or needs to adjust his lifestyle

There are probably other reasons one can add, but these are my musings and these are what I can think of for now.

One thing I have learned, and continue to learn, whilst being a member of this fraternity, is that when I'm with my brothers I feel a comfort, a feeling of ease because we're all treading that same path towards that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. So mote it be!



Repetition Can Be A Key To Success

by Russell Scull

In our fast-paced lives of today, the phrase "once and done" is heard way too often. Once and done does not, and cannot, work in Masonry. I have had the pleasure over the past year to travel the state and visit lodges, chapters, and councils. What is evident is that those lodges, chapters, and councils who continually rehearse the ritual prior to meeting night present an enjoyable and educational experience for both the candidate and the members. This repetition of good work encourages all of us to become better men and Masons.

Practice makes perfect. We have heard that phrase seemingly from the beginning of time. Practice your handwriting, practice the musical instrument, practice your foul shot. Many of us did that and our handwriting is decent, our songs are recognizable, and we can make the shot. Let us take these lessons of repetition and apply it to our Masonic work.



BOOSTERS



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LODGES & ORGANIZATIONS

\$75 or more.

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The form to continue your financial support of this publication as a Booster is in page 26.



District 8

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



The Great Pumpkin (Suit) Traveling East (and West and North and South)...

Halloween seems to get lost these days. Walk into any store after Labor Day and it would seem that Santa's Workshop has moved in and set up, complete with trees, lights, and decorations even though there's not a hint of snow anywhere in the air south of Parry Sound, Ontario.



But Brother Andrew Pedro is doing his best to change that.

The travels of the Great Pumpkin Suit begin in the 8th District, at Coastal Lodge No. 57 where Brother Andrew is currently Junior Warden. When the calendar turns to October, the suit comes out. From there, Brother Andrew receives invitations to visit other lodges, wearing the suit. Over the last several years his travels have grown, and now lodges are hoping he will visit – sometimes even after the calendar page flips to November.

While some may find it garish, it definitely fills the bill of "coat and tie." It provides a little levity, certainly creates some talking points, and generally increases the fellowship in any lodge where the suit, and Brother Andrew, appears.

Brother Andrew is always up for traveling, but especially in October, wearing the suit, and will make every effort to attend any lodge that invites him.



Chuckin' Pucks For Children With Dyslexia

by Donald M. Casey Jr.

Scottish Rite Masons of Lafayette Consistory conducted a fund raiser at the Bridgeport Sound Tigers AHL game on November 9. Proceeds from the ticket sales and Chuck-A-Puck program will be donated to the Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut.

The Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut provide students with one-on-one professional tutoring at no cost to them or their families. These centers provide the highest quality multi-sensory reading and written language tutorial services for children with dyslexia. The main center is in Waterbury with a satellite centers in Bridgeport and Farmington.

Those who have have questions or who want to make a charitable donation please contact the center in Waterbury at (203) 465-0830.





SAVE THE DATE NUTMEGGER REUNIONS

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

Take this opportunity to meet and greet Bro.Melvin E. Johnson, Grand Master; Bro. JonPaul Venoit, Masonicare's President and CEO; and, Bro.Robert F. Polito Jr., Board of Trustees Chair; and to reconnect with many of your valued friends at this year's reunion!

FOR QUESTIONS or if you plan to be in Florida and would like to attend one of the reunions, please contact **RW Brother Carl Anderson at 203-679-6917.**

Wednesday, Feb 26, 2020 - Titusville
Thursday, Feb 27, 2020 - Ocala
Friday, Feb 28, 2020 - New Port Richey
Saturday, Feb 29, 2020 - Sarasota
Sunday, March 1, 2020 - Naples

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2020 NUTMEGGER REUNIONS



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May you find peace this holiday season.