

March 2020



Connecticut FREEMASONS

Not just a man. A Mason.

Elias Ashmole
1617-1692

Christopher Wren
1632-1723

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GRAND HISTORIAN'S SYMPOSIUM

SPECIAL ONLINE INSERT: CHARLES SCHOFIELD, III,
AWARDED PIERPONT EDWARDS MEDAL

THE CALL TO THE 231ST ANNUAL COMMUNICATION
OF THE GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. OF CONNECTICUT

MASONICARE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR
BOARD SERVICE

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



Bro. Melvin E. Johnson
Most Worshipful Grand Master

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RW Deputy Grand Master

Bro. William E. Bohman
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RW Grand Junior Warden

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Bro. Edward C. Page
RW Grand Junior Deacon

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RW Grand Junior Steward

Bro. Joseph R. Krusienski
RW Grand Chaplain

Bro. Andrew R. Melillo
RW Grand Historian

Bro. Carl H. Anderson
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Bro. Brian E. Beals
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Bro. James M. Anderson
Deputy Grand Secretary

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

*Not Just A Man.
A Mason.*



*Elias Ashmole, 1617-1692
by John Riley c. 1681-1682.
-Wikimedia Commons*



*Christopher Wren, 1632-1723
by Godfrey Kneller c. 1711.
-Wikimedia Commons*



WB Stephen M. Thal and Keenan

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**SPECIAL NOTE:
GRAND LODGE
ANNUAL COMMUNICATION
APRIL 4, 8 A.M.
HARTFORD MARRIOTT,
15 FARM SPRINGS ROAD,
FARMINGTON, CT 06032**

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



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Grand Historian's Symposium – Kindling the Fire *by Melvin E. Johnson*

*The mind is not a vessel to be filled,
but a fire to be kindled. - Plutarch*

On March 21, I will be hosting the 2020 Grand Historian's Symposium dedicated to kindling that fire for you who choose to join with 110 of your fellows and brothers in seeking more light by deepening your understanding of the role the Enlightenment played in shaping our Landmarks and Ancient Charges. You will come to appreciate the role Freemasonry played in shaping history and spreading the Enlightenment throughout England, Europe and America during the 17th and 18th centuries.

You will have the opportunity to follow the development of Masonry in Scotland and England, its spread to Europe and America, as well as what made the Masonic lodges unique and perceived as dangerous to the absolute rulers of that time. This includes arrests by the Paris police, the Papal condemnation of 1738, and crackdowns by the Dutch. You will gain a better understanding of the tension between followers of Sir Isaac Newton and his principles and the atheists, libertines, and pantheists who also sought to influence Masonry in those early years.

We are indeed fortunate to have Doctor Margaret C. Jacob, PhD as our keynote speaker for this first Grand Historians Symposium. She is an outstanding Enlightenment scholar and arguably the premier scholar on 1600s and 1700s Freemasonry.

Doctor Jacob is the author of three outstanding books covering Freemasonry's formation. They are "The Radical Enlightenment," "Pantheists, Freemasons and Republicans; Living the Enlightenment, Freemasonry and Politics

in 18th century Europe," and "The Origins of Freemasonry, Facts and Fictions." She is the author or coauthor of some 49 other books and 25 papers, most of which deal with the Enlightenment.

She will have time dedicated for answering your questions following her presentation.

After lunch Hillary Anderson Stelling, director of collections and exhibits at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library, will talk on Jeremy Cross's, "The True Masonic Chart." This book covers the symbols in Blue Lodge and Chapter Masonry. Incidentally it contains virtually all of the symbols found on my apron.

Our own Grand Historian, RWB Andrew Melillo, follows with a talk entitled "The Accidental Origins of Connecticut Freemasonry 1750 to 1790 and the Men and Events Who Shaped It." We will meet up close and personal some of those men we know only by having lodges and awards named for them.

Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island WB David Lavery's talk is entitled "Craft and Commerce: Reforging the Mystic Tie Among the Vicissitudes of 18th Century Rhode Island" The development of Freemasonry and its spread in colonial Rhode Island should prove a fascinating topic. This will be followed by RWB Walter Hunt, Grand Historian of Massachusetts, discussing the resources and assistance available for those doing their own historic research. Something you may be inspired to do. We finish with another Q&A session.

Expect an outstanding day of fellowship and learning. Hope to see you there. See the inside back cover for details.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS

David D. Alexander
Federal Lodge No. 17

Trygve Hansen
Ark Lodge No. 39

Donald F. Anderson, Jr.
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Arthur J. Lussier
Compass Lodge No. 9

Hillard L. Bowe
Center Lodge No. 97

Frederick Richard Nestrock
Unity Lodge No. 148

Charles J. Brennan
Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14

David Carepenter Philippi
Putnam Lodge No. 46

Ronald G. Clark, Sr
Federal Lodge No. 17

Frederick Harrison Platt
Valley Lodge No. 36

John DiBacco
Meridian Lodge No. 77

Lawrence D. Weiss
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125



Tax Return Assistance Offered at Masonicare Health Center

Masonicare is once again hosting an IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) site, which offers free tax help to households earning \$56,000 or less or who cannot prepare their own tax return.

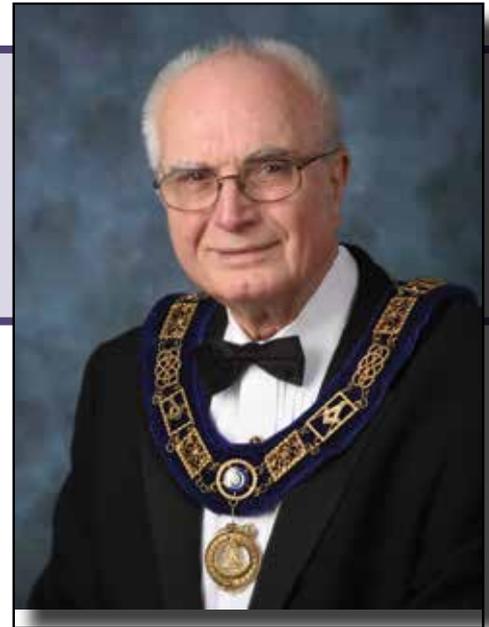
Tax returns are prepared by IRS-certified volunteers. The service is open to the public. Tax returns will be prepared **by appointment only** on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (last appointment) through Friday, April 10.

This year, the VITA site will be located at Masonicare Health Center in the clinic/outpatient services area by the Sturges 2 entrance. To schedule an appointment, please call the Masonicare HelpLine, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at **(888) 679-9997**.



Grand Master's Message

by Melvin E. Johnson



Last Saturday, I had one of the most rewarding of all my days as Grand Master.

It started with the most recent in the series of strategic planning meetings that we instituted a year ago. In those meetings we identified a series of goals the Grand Line officers agreed were necessary for us to accomplish to improve the health of the Fraternity and see that each brother is given the opportunity for a rich, rewarding, and uplifting Masonic experience.

A series of initiatives were agreed upon to reach those goals over the next four years. Specific tasks were attached to each goal. Some were to be accomplished in one year, others over the next two, continuing over the next four years. This was RWB Stephen Petri's meeting and it was gratifying to see the progress we expect in his year and how the accomplishments of the past year will be built on for the future.

However, as much as this assures the Lodges of continued and increasingly effective support, it does not relieve the officers in each lodge from doing a thorough review of their situation and what the trends in their lodge say where they will be three years from now. The information available on Grand View allows you to easily examine

the status of your membership. Share this data with at least the elected officers.

Maintaining positive momentum requires committed and informed cooperation over years. Restoring it

if it is lost requires even more, but can be done. Your District Deputies and Grand Line Officers are committed to seeing you succeed. Lean on them and take advantage of the resources being made available. Also, review your financial needs and resources and be honest with each other in your assessment. Then you too can turn over the keys with confidence when your term ends.

The day ended with watching a DeMolay degree. If you ever feel you need a boost in your morale and confidence in our future, attend a DeMolay or Rainbow degree. They will love having you there and what it will do for your spirits is priceless.

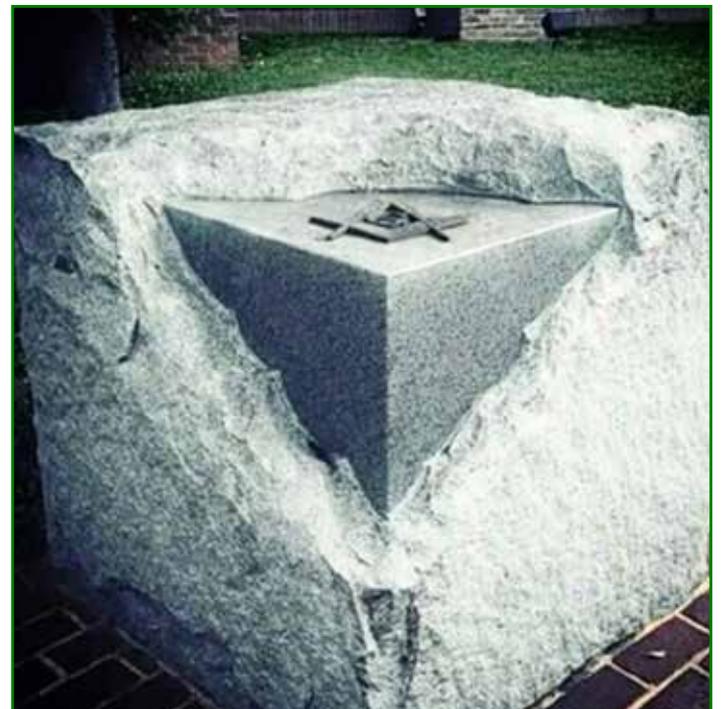
New Perfect Ashlar Recognition *by Edward C. Page*

Since its inception, the Perfect Ashlar Award has been a great tool for new Masons to become familiar with who we are and opportunities available to them through education and information, and to assist in mentoring.

The Perfect Ashlar Award is for members not having yet completed a full year, and to ensure a fundamental understanding of Freemasonry. And now to encourage lodges to embrace this well designed program and to take advantage of all it has to offer their members, MWGM Melvin E. Johnson has enhanced this award by commissioning a plaque for any lodge that has three Perfect Ashlar recipients in one year between one Annual Session and the next Annual Session, commemorating this significant event.

MWB Mel elegantly elected to have the criteria be three Perfect Ashlar recipients, to recognize the significance of the number three in the fraternity, which is referenced and symbolized throughout the rituals, protocols, and in many other ways.

For more information regarding the Perfect Ashlar Award and/or its enhancement, please contact RWB Edward C. Page at awards@ctfreemasons.net.



Grand Chaplain's Message

by Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski



My brothers, we are reminded that it is the internal and not the external qualifications of a man that Masonry regards. We are taught to strenuously support our laws and regulations. By brotherly love we are taught to regard all of humanity as one family, the high the low, the rich and the poor and that we are created by one Almighty Parent. Masonry therefore unites men of every country, sect and opinion, and conciliates true friendship among all those who might have remained at a perpetual distance.

In our modern society everyone wants to make their own rules. I remind all brothers that we must conform to our rules for the honor and glory of our fraternity. Very often most masons learn degree work and become highly regarded as a ritualist. The ancient landmarks of the Order we are carefully to preserve. Therefore, I ask that we study the landmarks as well as ritual so that we do not deviate from our established usages and customs.



Grand Historian's Corner

Andrew R. Melillo

The Connecticut Grand Lodge was up and running, and the Sun shone brightly on its early affairs - but sometimes when things shine too brightly, someone is bound to get burned. While Masonry was flourishing under the leadership of the second Grand Master William Judd, Esq. the political and social climate in the State of Connecticut was in turmoil. Richard J. Purcell writes in, "Connecticut In Transition: 1775 - 1818": *during the decade, 1790-1800, there was practically no political life in the modern sense. Elections were not contested... Hardly two percent of the population voted.* Since 1662, Connecticut was governed by the same charter; the Congregational Church was the established state church, and the legal requirements to be eligible to vote, were strict. By 1790, this system reduced the state's governance into the hands of about thirty families, all of which were financially, socially, and politically interconnected. To effectively control and dominate the government, only a majority of seven seats on the Connecticut Council was needed.

During the second half of the 1790s, while

Brother Ephraim Kirby and Brother William Judd and many others, were arguing for a new state constitution, Noah Webster was against it, stating; *Never...let us exchange our civil and religious institutions for the wild theories of crazy projectors; or the sober, industrial moral habits of our country, for the experiments in atheism and lawless democracy. Experience is a safe pilot; but experiment is a dangerous ocean, full of rocks and shoals.* Grand Master Judd was supported by Past Grand Master Pierpoint Edwards. He declared that Connecticut did not have a constitution, and that change would obviously not originate with those in power, for rulers will not willingly diminish their own powers. In response to this, delegates were chosen by democratic caucuses in ninety-seven towns and formed an irregular convention to draw up a platform for of a new constitution - Brother William Judd sat as chair. Many of the elites in Connecticut looked upon this convention as treason.

William Judd had served as Grand Master since May of 1791. During his tenure there was an average of three lodges chartered each year. Wherever he was campaigning for a new state constitution, often a new lodge would

be chartered in that very area, but it did not always coincide like that. The number of lodges he chartered continued to grow, and what was once a manageable situation of some sixteen lodges, became forty-four lodges, and with more anticipated to be chartered. In less than eight years, some twenty-eight lodges came upon the scene. Under Judd's watch, it was full steam ahead. Yet in 1798, the brothers shut the dampers, and adjusted the speed. Judd was out. A new Grand Master was elected: the Honorable Stephen Titus Hosmer of Middletown. If the first decade of the Grand Lodge was a year of expansion and growth, the next eighteen years under Hosmer, were a period of conservative consolidation and regulation. Judd's vocation and political career also took a downward turn. There is a letter in the national archives from Judd to the newly elected President, Thomas Jefferson, on December 14, 1801 asking for a job. Any job. Recognizing the awkwardness of his letter, Judd wrote: *This Communication from a Stranger may possibly be considered rude by some but that frankness which becomes a Republican I presume will not be considered as disrespectful by the President of these States; for republican*

Continued on page 10

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

Sometimes, our best qualities are revealed in moments of adversity. Take, for example, the recent fire in the kitchen at Masonicare at Ashlar Village. Fortunately, there were no injuries. However, the fire did disrupt dining services for a couple of weeks. At a residential community the size of Ashlar Village, that could have been disastrous. But the impact of the fire and any related inconveniences for our residents were minimized thanks to some amazing teamwork by our staff.

Executive Chef and Dining Director Steven Hendrickson, Food Quality Assurance Coordinator Jessica Osborne, Chef Steve Sabo, and the entire food service department at Ashlar Village and Pond Ridge saw to it that residents continued to enjoy delicious, well-prepared meals. Facility Operations Director Vern Grant and his team worked closely with the Fire Marshall, the Health Department, the building inspector, and our vendors to

make sure that repairs were done properly and up to code. Throughout the entire process, our Vice President of Residential Operations, Bro. Peter Morris, kept everyone focused on the comfort and well-being of those we serve.

I'm grateful to everyone who pulled together as a team to overcome a challenging situation. I am really proud of their hard work and dedication to getting things back to normal for our residents.

I am also pleased to share that Masonicare has received a Platinum Level Healthy Workplace Award from the Business Council of Fairfield County. The award is acknowledgement of our Benefits Department's efforts to promote a healthier workforce. Masonicare employees work hard to care for our residents and patients, so it's important that they not forget to focus on their own well-being.

I hope to see you at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication coming up later



this month. Until then, thank you for your support of Masonicare!

Sincerely and fraternally,

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

President and CEO of Masonicare



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Andrew C. Bronson**

**Madison Lodge No. 87
Jeffrey Craig Springer**

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Wallingford, CT 06492



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(203) 679-5996
grandsecretary@ctfreemasons.net

231st ANNUAL COMMUNICATION
OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M.
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

The 231st Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A. M. of Connecticut will be held at the **Hartford Marriott Farmington, 15 Farm Springs Road, Farmington, Connecticut (I-84, Exit 37 - Hotel is located in Farm Springs Office Park) on Saturday, April 4, 2020.** The formal opening of Grand Lodge will be at 9:30 A.M.

This is the "CALL" to that meeting.

Registration will start at 8:00 A.M. Please note: **All voting delegates must register at the registration table and present their 2020 Dues Card to the Grand Tiler upon entry to the session.** Registration will be by Lodge number as designated by posted signs in the area.

A proxy form will be sent directly to the Lodge Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden should they: 1) not be able to attend this Annual Communication in person [proxy must be executed in advance]; 2) be entitled to vote by virtue of holding one of these offices in more than one lodge; 3) be entitled to vote by virtue of being a Grand Lodge Officer or a Permanent Member of Grand Lodge. Please inform any Brother who is attending as a proxy that he must present his 2020 dues card. All Brothers entitled to vote should bring the Apron and Jewel of their office, whether as Permanent Member, Lodge Officer or serving as proxy.

Your attendance at this Annual Communication is important. We will consider available Reports of Standing and Special Committees, Grand Lodge Officer Reports, and any other business proper to be considered, all subject to the usual rules. **There may be certain changes to the Rules & Regulations which will be considered for adoption.**

Please note the following Sections of our Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations regarding Lodge representation:

Section 2300. Roll Call at Regular Communication.

Immediately before the closing of a Regular Communication of the Grand Lodge, the roll shall be called, and any Lodge found to be unrepresented shall be declared delinquent, unless it shall have been previously excused.

Section 2301. Penalty if Lodge Is Not Represented at Regular Grand Lodge Communication: (reads in part) "A Lodge neglecting to be represented at a Regular Grand Lodge Communication shall incur the penalty of two hundred and fifty (\$250) dollars . . ."

The Grand Lodge Office cannot make hotel reservations. Lodges and Brothers are responsible for making their own reservations

with the **Harford Marriott Farmington.** We encourage you to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. **March 16, 2020 is the cutoff date room reservations.** For hotel reservations please call 800-228-9290 Group Code: BDLCT. *Please mention the Grand Lodge Session when making your hotel reservations.* Driving directions are on the following page.

ALL "LODGE HOSPITALITY ROOMS" MUST BE CLOSED AT A "REASONABLE HOUR" ON FRIDAY.

VOTING: Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, District Deputies, Past District Deputies, current Associate Grand Marshals, and current Grand Lodge Standing Committee members must register in order to vote. Each voting delegate will register **only once, either by virtue of his highest attained Grand Lodge Masonic office or Committee Membership or, if he chooses, as an elector (proxy) on behalf of his lodge.** The use of proxies is encouraged where appropriate to ensure full representation of constituent lodges.

FRIDAY BANQUET: The Grand Master's Banquet for Grand Lodge Officers, Distinguished Guests, members of the Craft and their ladies will be held on Friday evening, April 3, 2020 at 7:00 pm with a social hour at 6:00 pm in the Grand Ballroom. All Brothers and their ladies are invited to attend. Please make every effort to get your reservation in early as this banquet is sold on a first come - first serve basis. **Any request which is received in the Grand Lodge Office after March 23, 2020 will result in tickets being held for pickup at the door.**

A banquet reservation form for the Friday night banquet is enclosed for your use. The entrée will be Filet Mignon \$55.00, Grilled Salmon \$45.00, or Vegetarian \$40.00 and all by advance order. All prices are per person and include tax and gratuity. Please make all checks payable to the "*Grand Lodge of Connecticut*" and mail with the banquet reservation form. Banquet tickets will be mailed to those placing an order prior to March 23, 2020. It would be appreciated if a self-addressed, stamped envelope was also included. For orders received after that date, tickets will be held at the door.

"Not Just a Man. A Mason."

(Continued on page 9)

(Call to the 231st Annual Communication continued from page 8.)

SATURDAY LUNCH: Also on Saturday, April 4, 2020 at 12:00 Noon, the Past District Deputies Association of Connecticut will host a luncheon. Tickets are \$30.00 per person. All Brothers are invited to attend. Reservations can be mailed to Bro. Brian Beals, 175 Mercier Ave, Bristol, CT 06010 or call 860-620-4102. Lunch will also be available at other Hartford Marriott Farmington venues and or surrounding areas.

Brother Lodge Secretary, please note that proxy forms will be mailed directly to the top three officers of your Lodge. Please remind them of their responsibilities to be present at Grand Lodge or to sign their proxy and give it to someone else.

With my fraternal best wishes
Grant S. Gould
R.W. Grand Secretary
February 1, 2020

Hartford Marriott Farmington, 15 Farm Springs Road, Farmington, CT 06032
(I-84, Exit 37 ~ Hotel is located in Farm Springs Office Park) (860) 678-1000

Traveling North

Rte. I-91 North to Rte 9 North - Exit 20S
(once on exit take left fork)
Route 9 North to Rte. I- 84 West
Exit 37 Fienemann Road
End of exit go straight to Farm
Springs Road

Traveling South:

Rte. I-91 South to Rte. I-84 West
Exit 37 Fienemann Road
End of exit go straight to Farm Springs
Road

Traveling West

Rte. I-84 East -Exit 37 Fienemann Road
End of exit go straight to Farm Springs
Road

Traveling East:

Rte. I-84 West - Exit 37 Fienemann Road
Left off of exit - Travel under the bridge
Right on to Farms Springs Road

"Not Just a Man. A Mason."

Grand Lodge Annual Communication ~ Friday Banquet Reservation

Hartford Marriott Farmington, Farmington

Friday, April 3, 2020 at 7:00 pm

****Tickets must be presented at dinner for collection by the wait staff****

Entrée: Filet Mignon **or** Grilled Salmon **or** Vegetarian Meal

Please send _____ ticket(s) at \$55.00 each for Filet Mignon

Please send _____ ticket(s) at \$45.00 each for Grilled Salmon

Please send _____ ticket(s) at \$40.00 each for Vegetarian Meal

Enclosed is a check for _____

Make checks payable to "Grand Lodge of CT"

Please enclose a SASE and Mail to: 69 Masonic Ave., Wallingford, CT 06492

Return before: March 23, 2020

Mail Tickets to: _____

Address: _____

Signed _____ **Title:** _____

**See Page 11 for Past District Deputies Association Luncheon
Reservation Form at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication.**

Connecticut Freemasons Foundation

In accordance with its by-laws, the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation will conduct a brief meeting and election of representation to its Board of Directors at the will and pleasure of the Most Worshipful Grand Master during the Annual Stated Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Connecticut. All members of the Grand Lodge who are in good standing are invited to attend.

Fraternally,
Charles W. Yohe, Chairman

Grand Historian's Corner

continued from page 6

Integrity scorns Adulation – I hope and believe I shall be pardoned while I feel & express, the frankness of A Soldier and the dignity of a Citizen, determined to be free dutifull and Obedient... One year later, the Sage of Monticello answered Judd's pleas, and made him a commissioner of bankruptcy for Connecticut. Most Worshipful Brother Judd, who chartered so many lodges, died in 1804, while still actively calling for a new state constitution – never to witness the fruition of his, and many other's sacrifice and hard work, in 1818.

Stephen Titus Hosmer was born January 10, 1763. He was an American lawyer who would eventually serve as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Connecticut. He was born in Middletown, yet he received his degrees at St. John's Lodge No. 8 in Stratford. He must have affiliated with St. John's Lodge No. 2 when he returned to Middletown, because he served two years as Worshipful Master of that lodge. He was the son of Titus Hosmer, a member of the Continental Congress, and his wife, Lydia Lord. He was a Yale graduate and sat on the Connecticut Council for ten years. Hosmer married Lucia Parsons, the daughter of Brother, General Samuel Holden Parsons. In other words, Hosmer was of the very class, that Judd and others across the state, were fighting to reform.

Of the 44 lodges that existed when Hosmer took his office, only 14 were added during his tenure – or only an average of .77 (less than one) a year, compared to Judd's three. Yet, while Hosmer was cautious to charter new lodges, many hundreds of new Masons were made during his time in office. Chartering new lodges was good, but such growth also needed to be made practical and manageable, and there were still many crises facing Masonry and the State. As Case and Tapley wrote:

Over its first quarter century, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut had but three Grand Masters. As this period ends, the State was in the midst of political unrest, and on the verge of an upheaval which resulted in the adoption of the Constitution of 1818. This struggle, no doubt, had its effects in the Grand Lodge, some of which must be taken for granted, although it can be read between the lines.

When Hosmer was elevated from a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Connecticut, to its Chief Justice, he sent a letter to the Grand Lodge session asking not to be considered for Grand Master. In 1816, Hosmer's Deputy Grand Master, Solomon Cowles of Farmington, succeeded him. Cowles served for two years. During Cowles tenure, only one charter was issued – to Seneca Lodge in Torrington. The next Grand Master was installed in 1818: Oliver Wolcott, who had been elected the 24th governor of the state the year before. He was duly elected and installed as the fifth Grand Master, and one of only two Brothers in the history of Connecticut Masonry to have been elected from the floor. Wolcott served for about three years, and the several Brothers that followed him in his office did not serve for any long period of time: Lyman Law served for two years; Ralph Isaac Ingersoll also two years; and in 1825, Elizur Goodrich, Jr. served one year. Under these Grand Masters, new lodges were chartered, a Grand Lecturer was established and utilized [somewhat], and, a plan for masonic districts and district deputies was proposed but, once again, voted down.

It appeared that no one could match or maintain the continued respect and command of Judd or Hosmer. Yet, while a new chapter was brewing within the affairs of Connecticut's Grand Lodge and its constituent lodges, an unforeseen event hit Masonry like a thunderbolt: The Morgan Affair. With more than 60 lodges laboring in the state by 1826, Masonry was in relatively good shape – chartering new lodges and growing membership, now up to nearly 4,000 members. The Morgan Affair cast out a dark cloud seemingly overnight, and it threatened to wash away all the hard-fought gains of Masonry in Connecticut during the last seventy-six years. William Morgan was missing in Batavia, New York – and the entire nation blamed the Freemasons. Good and worthy brothers were now the targets of their very own communities.

GARAVEL

CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep RAM SUBARU

Paul Garavel, Dealer

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Gotta Get to Garavel



Past District Deputies Association

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

In conjunction with the Annual Communication
of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, we will hold our

Annual Reunion Luncheon
beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 4, 2020

at the

Hartford Marriott Farmington
15 Farm Springs Road
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The luncheon menu will include roast beef on a roll with horseradish creme, creamy dijon potato salad, pickle, New York cheese cake (gluten-free dessert option available), coffee, and tea.

Tickets are \$30 per person.

Please make checks payable to: *Past District Deputies Association* and mail by March 23, 2020 to:

Brian E. Beals, Treasurer
175 Mercier Ave
Bristol, CT 06010

Please: Enclose a stamped self-addressed, stamped envelope with your reservation.
Thank you!



Past District Deputies Association – Annual Reunion Luncheon April 4, 2020 - \$30 pp

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for the cost of _____ reservations.

Name: _____ Cell: _____

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Email: _____

The Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences: Grammar *by Jaime Paul Lamb*

Grammar teaches the proper arrangement of words, according to the idiom or dialect of any particular people; and enables us to speak or write a language with accuracy, agreeably to reason and correct usage.

[Preston (Oliver, commentary), *Illustrations of Masonry*, New York: Masonic Publishing and Manufacturing Co., 1867, p. 47]

Grammar (Greek: γράμμα, or gramma: meaning “letter”) is the set of rules underlying the use of a language. Since the end of the 18th century, grammar has been considered as falling under the broader purview of linguistics, which is defined as, “the study of human speech including the units, nature, structure, and modification of language.” Grammar does not include more mechanistic concerns such as spelling and punctuation; these are dealt with under the domain of orthography. Native speakers of any language are endowed with the grammar, or rules, of their language – as these are largely acquired without explicit instruction. In the West, the earliest known Greek work on the subject is Dionysius Thrax’s *Art of Grammar* (Τέχνη Γραμματική) around 100 BCE; Thrax was a student of Aristarchus of Samothrace, having attended his school at Rhodes. Works on Latin grammar began to emerge near the beginning of the first millennium of the Common Era, most notably in the work of Lucius Orbilius Pupillus (114-14 BCE) and Remmius Palaemon (1st

century CE). Latin grammar, as taught in the trivium, was largely influenced by the Priscianus Caesariensis’ (500 CE) *Institutes of Grammar* – a work produced in the Late Antiquity which had become canonical in the liberal arts programs of the Middle Ages.

The art of grammar is foundational to any further study, as its contingent subjects, such as rhetoric and logic, are predicated on a thorough grasp of its rules. The composition of concise and impactful expressions in letters, words and speech is indispensable if one wishes to participate in either private or public discourse in any meaningful way; for without this primary structural framework, we are left with only incoherent and disjointed concepts existing in a soup of frustration and misunderstanding. In Freemasonry particularly, grammar is the underlying structure of our lectures and ritualism, not to mention grammar’s centrality apropos the immense body of supplementary literature which forms such a large part of the individual Mason’s search for further Light. There simply is no Freemasonry – in our present understanding of the Craft – in the absence of grammar. But even beyond its application in the speculative Craft, operative stonemasonry itself is predicated on the “grammar” of architecture – lest we forget that the orders of architecture are bound by the rules of harmony, symmetry, ratio, and proportion.

It is obviously beyond the scope of the present article to provide a grammatical re-education from the ground up. However, if you are reading at this level and can effectively communicate your thoughts into words, then you have evidently grasped at least the basics of English grammar. Our primary concern is to illustrate that the art of grammar can be seen as the underlying cognitive framework governing not only language but also other systems. In this broader sense, we can conceive of a grammar of ethics, a grammar of morals, a grammar of philosophy, etc. Demonstrably, there are aesthetic sets of rules that govern and differentiate the various domains of human expression: musical composition, architectural orders, literary styles, fashion trends, cinematic and theatrical direction, etc.

If the reader would like, they could, perhaps, devote this month (until the publication of the article on Rhetoric, next month) to becoming aware of the wide role grammar plays in our lives; from email and letter composition to the modes of grammar present in disciplines other than writing and speaking.

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LEGISLATION:
GRAND LODGE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL MATTERS
Section 2102. Nominations Prohibited
April 2020

Discussion:

Our regulations prohibit nominations of a member to an office. The proposal is made to recognize the unique responsibilities and qualifications needed for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. The proposal would allow for the establishment of a selection committee process whereby brothers interested could submit their names and qualifications to the committee and the committee would vet the resume's and present a slate of up to three brothers for the membership to elect to office.

Proposed change:

Section 2102. Nominations Prohibited. With the exception of the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, no nominations shall be made either in the Grand Lodge or any Lodge; and any Mason making a nomination shall be disciplined therefor. For the offices of Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, the Grand Master shall appoint a screening committee consisting of at least one Past Grand Master, two current Grand Lodge line officers and at least one member at large who shall be appointed by the Deputy Grand Master. The committee shall solicit candidates from the membership, vet their qualifications and present a proposed list of no more than three candidates for election.

A lodge Worshipful Master may use a screening committee for the offices of lodge Secretary and Treasurer consisting of at least one Past Master, two current Lodge line officers and at least one member at large who shall be appointed by the Senior Warden.

Existing provision

Section 2102. Nominations Prohibited. No nominations shall be made either in the Grand Lodge or any Lodge; and any Mason making a nomination shall be disciplined therefor.

District 1

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



Union Lodge No. 5 Returns Lost Items to Prince Hall Grand Master *by Richard Gross*

On October 22, 2019, brothers of Union Lodge No. 5 in Stamford visited St. John's Lodge, PHA on Greenwich Avenue, to return personal belongings of another Mason after they had oddly come into Union Lodge's possession.

Earlier in the year, a box mysteriously turned up on the doorstep of the lodge containing Masonic regalia such as aprons, sashes, certificates, documents, and photographs. Upon further inspection, it was realized that these belonged to Prince Hall Past Grand Master Benjamin Whittaker. After phone calls to St. John's Lodge, and a conversation with their current Worshipful Master Thomas Owens, it came to light that MWB Benjamin Whittaker was now 91-years old and living in an assisted living facility.

WB Owens knew him personally and was able to convince him to come out and attend one of their regular communications. Not knowing of the special occasion, MWB Whittaker was asked to sit with WB Owens in the East. After regular business, three members from Union Lodge were welcomed into the lodge and introduced by WB

Owens. They had brought a large bin containing all of the Masonic regalia, aprons, certificates, and photographs belonging to MWB Whittaker and presented them to him.

MWB Whittaker was beside himself and could not believe the items had turned up. In addition to the aprons and certificates, there was a large painting of MWB Whittaker and his late wife that nearly brought him to tears. MWB Whittaker went on to explain that his home was broken into after he moved into the assisted living facility and nearly everything was taken and believed to have been lost forever.

One of Union's brothers said, "The only logical explanation we could think of was that perhaps someone recognized the square and compass and dropped it off at our Lodge thinking we'd know what to do with it. Luckily, we were able to track down the owner and return them to whom they rightfully belonged. It was our pleasure in returning these items to him."

The presentation was a joyous occasion for everyone involved. WB Owens joked about the lodge no longer having to buy MWB Whittaker a replacement apron, now that he had found his original! After the presentation and the meeting, all went downstairs together to St. John's dining hall where the brothers enjoyed a meal and exchanged stories and memories of times past. It was a fantastic night filled with good food, jokes, and fellowship.



District 3

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



Liberty Continental Lodge No. 76 Presents 50-Year Pin *by Mark Orsini*

Worshipful Master John McManus and the brothers of Liberty Continental Lodge No. 76 in Waterbury gathered on Monday February 3, to a honor a member on a Masonic milestone. Brother Raymond E. Teach was the guest of honor for dinner the was presented his 50-year anniversary pin by Grand Junior Steward Shane Dufresne. A wonderful evening enjoyed by all.

(Continued on page 18)



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD SERVICE

March 1, 2020

To Prospective Board Members:

By this notice, the Board of Trustees of Masonicare hereby issues a Call for Nominations of candidates for election to the Board of Trustees of Masonicare and The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. To be considered for service, nominees need not specify in which board they are interested in serving. Interested individuals should request a Nomination Application by completing and returning the questionnaire below.

Applications should be submitted to me and postmarked no later than April 24, 2020. Applicants will be contacted to schedule interviews.

Nominees should have qualifications in business, corporate leadership, finance, law or medicine, which qualify them for board service. Candidates should be aware that board members assume fiduciary duties with respect to their service, and that violation of these duties can entail personal liability. Service on our boards requires a considerable time commitment, varying with the needs of each corporation. While Masonicare's board is comprised of those who are specifically members of the Masonic fraternity or related appendant bodies, affiliate board membership may also contain qualified members of the local community.

MASONICARE is the Parent Corporation of our system, and all nominees must be members in good standing of the

Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, with the exception of three who shall be members in good standing, and appointed one each from The Grand Chapter of Connecticut, Order of the Eastern Star; the Order of the Amaranth State of Connecticut; and Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of Connecticut. The Board of Trustees is composed of no less than twelve but no more than fifteen members. Three seats must be filled annually by members in good standing of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, through the nomination and election process. The term of service on this board is three years, commencing in November 2020.

The term of service for The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut Board of Directors is one year commencing in November 2020.

Please feel free to address any questions you may have regarding this process to Jon-Paul Venoit, President and CEO, 203-679-5000 or jvenoit@masonicare.org. Thank you for your assistance and participation.

Sincerely and fraternally,

David A. Gessert, Chair

Nominating Committee

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION FOR BOARD SERVICE

Requests for a Nomination Application can be completed by returning the attached request. Once completed, the form should be sent to David A. Gessert, Chair of the Masonicare Nominating Committee, via U.S. Postal Service to the address listed below; by Facsimile to 203-679-5001; or you may send the information electronically to droemmele@masonicare.org. A Nomination Application will be sent to all applicants for completion. The Nomination Application may be returned via U.S. Postal Service, Facsimile, or electronically. Please indicate your preference.

David A. Gessert, Chair
Masonicare Nominating Committee
Masonicare
22 Masonic Avenue, P.O. Box 70
Wallingford, CT 06492

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Daytime Phone Number (_____) _____ Evening Phone Number (_____) _____

Fax Number _____ Email address: Address: _____

I would prefer the application to be sent to me via: _____

Masonic History – Opinion

by Alex Nosevich

I read with great interest the article in the December issue regarding “Does History Hold the Key to Our Membership Decline?” Many of the points of MWB Charles W. Yohe are certainly true today, but they lack a complete history of the evolution of the Craft.

As we all know the history and the sacred rituals were founded at the time of the building of King Solomon’s temple where slaves performed the menial tasks and stone cutters (Masons) were afforded the freedom due to their talents to create the monuments and images of the deities. As a result of this talent, they formed a guild to protect the knowledge of the Craft!

Membership required a secretive ritual recommended by those of the craft to protect the fraternity. There were a series of steps, similar to an apprenticeship, before attaining the degree of Master Mason.

In the early days of the 20th century people did not enjoy the flexibility nor freedom to travel. If you were a resident of a city or town, you grew up with your family and friends as most lived in proximity to each other. The Masonic fraternity, volunteer fire department, sewing circles, PTAs and other civic groups were the social gatherings that brought people together. The high watermark was the laying of the cornerstone for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in 1923 in Alexandria, VA.

Our reputation of being a secret, bigoted organization is completely false! You can surf the internet and find any and all regarding the Craft. The Prince Hall Masons and The Garibaldi Square Clubs have combined to promote the true spirit of Masonry.

In the 21st century people are consumed with high tech and online video games. Families are no longer connected as an East Coast family may have sons, daughters, and grandchildren living elsewhere.

The community attraction to the craft is waning. I had once proposed that family and friends be able to attend some aspect of the rituals, to some degree, as with award nights.

In order to promote the continuance of the Fraternity we must promote the purpose, objectives, and good will to the public.

Music: A Building Block Of The Past, An Inspiration For The Future

by Russell Scull

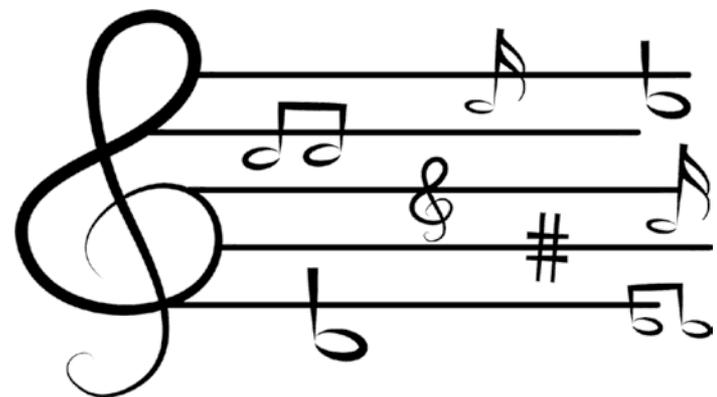
We have felt its charms and it has elevated us with joy. Where is the music today? Where are the brothers who lead us in this sublime science that affects us with passion by sound?

A few months ago, I shared the excitement of Leadership Training 101, presented by York Rite. The recurring theme was to embrace the changing paradigm. Where have all the organists gone? Gone to ivory keys in the way beyond. The answer, my friends, is blowing in the wind, the answer my friends is we need anew.

Technology is an incredible tool and has been utilized in many facets of the Craft. Monthly reports for Grand Lodge, mailing lists for dues

letters, Trestle Boards, etc. My lodge is embracing technology, and we are bringing back music, one of the seven steps of the spiral staircase. It’s not perfect yet, but the brothers of the lodge are using the building blocks of the past to inspire the brothers of the future.

I find it hard to believe that my lodge is the only lodge in Connecticut using Wifi, Bluetooth speakers, and a music playlist to gently agitate the agreeable and sublime passions. What is your lodge doing about this science that affects the passions by sound?



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Hiram Lodge No. 18 Celebrates New Entered Apprentices

by Bill Hillman

Hiram Lodge No. 18 of Sandy Hook celebrated their youngest Entered Apprentices following a special dinner and lodge meeting on January 22. Brothers Bryan D'Souza and Christopher Follen were initiated with brothers of several lodges present, along with District Deputy, RWB Jeff Feinson and his AGM, WB Paul Moncuse. WB Chris Gould of Union Lodge No. 40 presented the "Door Lecture" for the candidates.

Newly admitted Brother Follen is the son of WB Chris Follen, and is following in his Dad's masonic footsteps, quite literally, as WB Follen serving Hiram Lodge as Senior Deacon.

(front l-r) Bro. David Carlson, RWB Jeff Feinson, Bro. Bryan D'Souza, Bro. Christopher Follen, WB Chris Follen, Bro. Eric Geoffroy, WB Bill Dene (middle l-r) RWB Joe Porco, WM Tom Milligan, RWB Bill Hillman, RWB Tony Neri, Bro. Rui DeSousa, WB Tony Don, Bro. Al Ballwig (rear l-r) RWB Dick Hubert, WB Paul Moncuse, MWB George Greytak, WB Chris Gould, WB Marty Maciag



Union Lodge No. 40 Reminds Brother to "Forget Me Not"

by David A. McClain

At last Fall's Masters and Wardens Seminar, RWB Nick Ives, Chairman of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut Committee on Masonic Education, challenged those in attendance to rethink not only how they would plan their year as Master, but also how it would be presented. On a frigid February night, with the smell of dinner wafting from the kitchen at home, would Brothers really want to put on a suit and brave the elements for a "Stated Communication" and yet another serving of chicken francaise? At the seminar, the brothers in attendance spent time workshopping their calendars for the upcoming year and sharing some different ideas. I took RWB Ives's challenge to heart, and set out to not only plan but put into action a calendar for my year in the East with business only Stated Communications.

This plan has already begun to bear fruit. The night of February 4 was cold and rainy in Danbury, yet instead of ten or less brothers showing up to lodge for a glorified business meeting with an education moment, almost 30 brothers from four different showed up for Taco Tuesday with a special presentation of the film "Nazis vs Freemasons." Stewards Gary Ljungquist and Dave Carlson prepared a taco bar in the newly renovated dining and fellowship area of the lodge that was "¡muy caliente!" A few brothers brought guests for dinner who were interested in learning more about Masonry and who will hopefully decide to knock on the door. An excellent meal and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Following dinner, the brothers moved to the lodge room, and after opening the lodge in due form and efficiently moving through any lodge business, the lodge was put at ease for the educational program. WB John Arizzi had tset up the projector and sound bar in advance and all



brothers present were able to take in the 50 minute film documenting the Nazi treatment of Freemasons, their theft of Masonic property and the seizure of Masonic documents and records in occupied Europe during World War II. The film also followed the trail of the Masonic records as they changed hands and traveled to the Communist Soviet Union, and the quest of a small group of dedicated scholars to have these records returned to their rightful owners.

After the film there was a discussion of not only the film, but how the themes involved translate to Masonry today. An article was read from Grand Lodge of Iowa's website about the history and symbolism of the Blue Forget Me Not, and all brothers in attendance received a "Forget Me Not" lapel pin to wear in honor and remembrance of the brave brothers who kept Freemasonry's light alive during those dark times.

While a small sample size, this is the template I plan to follow the rest of the year - meetings that are interesting, educational, and engaging, not just stale debates about paying the internet bill and rereading the last meeting's minutes! Thank you to RWB Brother Nick for the inspiration!

RWB Chip Schofield Named ‘Guardian of the Game’ for XFL Opener *by Francis G. Way*

The XFL is a brand-new football league that is re-imagining the game of football with a fan-friendly focus and some updated rules to speed up game play. Their inaugural weekend was February 8-9. The New York franchise, the Guardians, feature a “Guardian of the Game” on their website each week.

The Guardian of the Game is an “everyday hero” and is nominated by the fans. RWB Chip Schofield, a recently retired Naugatuck police officer and Past District Deputy of District 3A, was chosen as the New York Guardians “Guardian of the Game” for their first game on February 9. RWB Chip’s story is laid

out in an article on the XFL web page (<https://www.xfl.com/en-US/teams/new-york/tickets/guardian-of-the-game-chip-schofield>). It also describes his battle with high-grade metastatic neuroendocrine carcinoma, a very rare cancer.

The article highlights the efforts of RWB Chip’s daughters to raise awareness of his rare form of cancer by designing and selling t-shirts that include Chip’s motto, “In this fight, I’m not alone.” The shirts are available at a cost of \$20 (small through XL) and \$25 (2XL through 4XL) by contacting RWB Shane Dufresne at (203) 808-7697 or shanedufresne@ctfreemasons.net.

RWB Brother Chip was featured in an article in last month’s Connecticut Freemasons paper, describing the 3rd Masonic District getting together to enjoy breakfast with him. The 3rd District is also participating in a #ChipStrong event – the #ChipStrong Fest at the Shamrock Bar and Grill in Waterbury on April 5 at 1 p.m. There will be raffles, food and drink and live music by Soul Pilot. More information will be available, including how to obtain tickets, on the 3rd District Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3rdDistrictBLC>.



St. Paul’s Lodge No. 11 Hosts Robert Burns Night in Litchfield *by Ricky McDonnell*

Saturday, January 25, was the birthday of Brother Robert Burns, and was celebrated throughout the world and in the little town of Litchfield, CT.

This was the seventh such event by Brother Ricky and his wife Jeanette, albeit the first in Litchfield, with the proceeds going to the Friendly Hands Food Bank in Torrington.

There was no ice or snow this year but there was rain until later in the evening, but that did not deter MWGM Mel Johnson, MWPGM George Greytak, RWB’s Bohman, Dufresne, Macary, Spencer, Watts and CA Duke from attending, to mention but a few.

Bro. McDonnell’s wife stepped up once again to cook the wee beastie and also the dessert, with St. Paul’s Lodge chef Bro. Fischer

completing the meal of beef wellington and stuffed chicken.

RWB John Spencer addressed the haggis and also gave the immortal memory, while RWB Steve Hudson memorized Burns’ poem, “To a Louse.” The Selkirk grace was given by WB Dzurmak who also toasted the Lassies, while his wife Tracie responded with a toast to the Laddies.

Brother Fitzgibbons sang “A Man’s A Man For A’ That” and Jeanette McDonnell sang the usual “Star O’ Rabbie Burns” with all 100 present joining in the chorus. Brother Branch was the piper and did an awesome job. MWGM Johnson recited “Epigram on Rough Roads.”

The evening came to a close with MWB Mel

giving a farewell speech followed by Rabbie Burns well known “Auld Lang Syne.”

It goes without saying that many thanks are given to those who helped put this event together either before, during and after, that allowed the lodge to donate \$2,500 to the food bank. Sadly, it must be mentioned that Maureen, the food bank’s founder, passed away the previous Sunday although her nephew, Bro. Kincaid, and food bank representatives Jessica and Jane attended the event.

Bro. McDonnell was humbled and grateful to receive a presentation of the Robert Burns Masters jewel from St Paul’s Lodge No. 11. He will wear it as a tribute to the wonderful brethren and his 15 years of service to when he returns to the United Kingdom early next year.



District 4

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



Time Travel at Hiram Lodge No. 1 *by Jeffrey A. Blayman*

On a frigid night in New Haven brothers amassed in the Egyptian room at the lodge to enter three new brothers into the Craft. Brothers from around Connecticut attended as the chairs filled up along the North and South. Everyone was eager and excited for the Colonial EA degree put on by the brothers at Hiram lodge No. 1.

The officers of the lodge dress in period specific clothing with waistcoats and knickers. The use of only candlelight is an additional treat as the flickering flames create dancing shadows throughout the lodge room. The candidates were made ready and after receiving the benefit of prayer they began to lay the foundation of their new life as they circumambulated the room. Worshipful Master Frederick A. Marotti brought the three candidates to light along with the help of many wonderful officers including SD Bro. Tullio Milani who took charge of the candidates, WB Michael Calderone who delivered the Bible Lecture, as well as JD Bro. Albert R. R. Johnson who presented the Charge of the degree. One other brother whose contribution cannot go unrecognized was RWB Ted Doolittle who offered

a wonderful and quite lengthy 3rd section lecture, rounding out the educational portion of the evening and enlightening all the brothers.

Congratulations to new Hiram Brothers Dan Casella, John Murray, and Rommell Noche, on beginning their journey.



Continued on page 20

Ashlar Lodge No. 332 Installs Officers for 2020

by Eleanor Thal

On Saturday evening, January 7, a gathering of 105 Masons, residents, and friends witnessed the installation of WB Stephen M. Thal as the 13th Master of Ashlar Lodge No. 332.

The Colors were presented by St. Elmo Commandry No. 9 and WB Gary Jensen piped in Brother Thal and his seeing-eye dog, Keenan.

MWGM Melvin Johnson brought fraternal greetings from Grand Lodge and Brother

Jon-Paul Venoit, President & CEO of Masonicare extended cordial greetings to the assembly.

The installing team consisted of MWB Charles A. Buck as Installing Master and RWB Greg Whitehouse as Installing Marshall. WB Thal was presented the gavel by MWGM Melvin E. Johnson and MWPGM Alexander Jarvis PHA, who is also member of Ashlar Lodge No. 332.

At the conclusion of the installation of the officers, MWB Buck and Past AGM Russell W. George, installed Keenan as Worshipful Guide Dog. Keenan was invested with an apron and jewel of his office, the doggy bone.

As Worshipful Guide dog, he is charged with the responsibility of guiding his Master past the many obstacles of life, leading him safely along that path which proceeds toward fuller light. Because of his already proven service and loyalty, there is no doubt Keenan will serve with esteem and dignity.

It was a delightful evening of pageantry and decorum along with levity and humor. Many in attendance had not witnessed an installation before and stated they were most impressed with the “class act.”



RWB Charles Louis “Chip” Schofield, III, Awarded Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze



Charles Louis “Chip” Schofield, III, was born on August 4, 1970 in New Britain, CT to Charles Louis Schofield II. He has a brother, Platte F. Clark. Chip is the grandson of Charles L. Schofield (1912-1996).

Chip graduated from Kaynor Technical High School in Waterbury in 1989 where he studied plumbing. After graduating, Chip worked in the warehouse of Northern Windustrial, where he sold plumbing supplies. He later worked at Stamford Winnelson where he managed the front end, selling plumbing supplies to contractors.

He was hired as a Police Officer by the Naugatuck Police Department on September 24, 1999. He worked in the Patrol Division until June 2012. During his time in the Patrol Division, he was assigned as a School Resource Officer at Naugatuck High School from September 2008 to June 2012. He was then assigned to the Detective Bureau from June 2012 until his retirement. He was assigned to the Youth Division, where he investigated the most heinous of crimes, those against children. During his investigations in the Youth Squad, it was found that many women were victims of domestic violence. He helped many women seek assistance from Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury. Safe Haven is a non-profit organization that provides emergency shelter and free comprehensive support for women and children. Chip and the brothers of Shepherd Salem Lodge conducted numerous food and clothing drive to support Safe Haven. Over the years, these drives netted Safe Haven thousands of dollars in much needed clothes, supplies and money for women and children.

During his police career he earned numerous commendations, including a lifesaving medal. Some of the other commendations were for arresting dangerous and violent criminals. He has long served as a role model for the youth of Naugatuck. He was a DARE officer for numerous years, teaching fifth graders about the dangers of drugs. He was the head advisor

of the Naugatuck Police Explorer Post #882, a program designed to teach and instruct 14-20 year olds who are interested in a law enforcement career. For all his hard work and achievements, he was awarded the Naugatuck Exchange Club Police Officer of the Year Award in March 2012.

Chip has also volunteered his time in other capacities in Naugatuck. He volunteered in the Union City Little League softball program and the Wolcott Softball Travel League. He is currently working on a project to renovate the Legion Field playground, to making it handicap accessible.

Chip retired from the Naugatuck Police Department on September 27, 2019. He immediately began his next career as a Security Officer for the Watertown Board of Education on September 30, working in the town’s three elementary schools, keeping students and staff safe and to continue his passion, serving as a mentor to children.

Chip was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on September 22, 2009, passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft on October 27, 2009 and raised as a Master Mason on November 11, 2009 at Shepard Salem # 78. He served as Master of the lodge in 2014. He then served the Grand Lodge as District Deputy for the Third District in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

He became a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason of the Valley of Waterbury and the Lafayette Consistory on December 13, 2014. He affiliated with Liberty-Continental #76 in January 2017. He also was on the Waterbury Temple Board, recently serving as the president. Chip has been involved in many projects in the Third District, one of them being the Purple Pumpkin Project, which he started at Shepherd Salem. It is a project to bring awareness to Epilepsy. Other lodges followed suit and have done the same.

Chip has earned the respect of the brothers in the Third District as a brother who is fair, level headed and one who always gives good counsel to others. He has a way of bringing brothers together to do good work and get things done. He has excelled in both his professional career



and in Masonry by making other people look good while he himself shied away from the spotlight. But the spotlight found him on January 29, 2020 when he was awarded the Third District Blue Council Mason of the Year Award for all of his hard work and dedication to the Third District.

But what Chip is most proud of is his family. Chip married the love of his life, Melissa, on July 14, 1995 and they are fast approaching their 25th wedding anniversary. He is proud of the life they have built. They have raised three daughters, Kyrstin, Erin and Megan. He is extremely proud of the fact that all three are attending or have graduated from college. He is also proud of how all three have grown into amazingly strong women. Their family also includes their three Labrador Retrievers Holly, Brody and Colby.

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 Charles Louis Schofield III the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.

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

Alfred Carmine Adinolfi

Temple Lodge No. 16

Richard Elwood Backe

Washington Lodge No. 81

Harrol W. Baker

Manchester Lodge No. 73

Sanford N. Billings, Jr.

Coastal Lodge No. 57

Hugh E.D. Busb

St. Luke's Lodge No. 48

Jeffery Todd Chete

Anchor Lodge No. 112

Harry L. Croneberger

Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116

Leroy E. Dwinells

Union Lodge No. 40

Richard C. Fiorillo

St. Alban's Lodge No. 38

Perry E. Gann, Jr.

Coastal Lodge No. 57

Willis Byron Hoar

Uriel Lodge No. 24

James Patrick Keaveny

Coastal Lodge No. 57

George Frankland Kerr

Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140

Richard Allen Levitsky

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John Dwight McElroy

Estuary Lodge No. 43

John Frederick O'Neill

Wooster Lodge No. 79

John A. Ramirez

Morning Star Lodge No. 47

James B. Tuttle

Manchester Lodge No.73

Finding Prospects, Making Candidates and Building Brothers: First Steps for Success

by Arnie Grot

What does it take to succeed as Worshipful Master? For me it has been a demanding and yet very rewarding experience serving as Columbia Lodge No. 25's Master for five terms spread evenly over 25 years, Thrice Potent Master of Charter Oak Lodge of Perfection, twice as High Priest of my Pythagoras Chapter, as Eminent Commander of Washington Commandery, the oldest Commandery in the western hemisphere, and as Thrice Illustrious Master of Wolcott Council. The success of these Masonic bodies, and correspondingly my success in the years that I served those roles, was due to the labors of my brothers and companions. I was able to steer them in the direction they, and these bodies, needed to go.

Fortunately, I was able to use leadership skills that I learned in my career and several volunteer organizations.

“You want the type of confidence and pride that comes from being proud of the person you see in the mirror, regardless of what others think.”— Real Help: An Honest Guide to Self-Improvement by Ayodeji Awosika

During my career as a Materials Engineer at Pratt & Whitney, I became involved in the company's Quality Improvement Program (Q+). In QIP training, we learned that people work for personal incentives that require the least effort, are the most rewarding and enjoyable, or the least boring. It is human nature for people predominately operate with this “What's in it for Me” principle. Good leaders learn to apply this principle in getting others involved in the success of the organizations that they lead.

I honed these “people” skills as member of the Q+ Steering Committees in Research, Development and Production Departments. Our improvement projects were staffed by volunteers over which the leader had no direct power.

I further enhanced my leadership skills as Chairman of my professional society the

Hartford Chapter of ASM International, on two community campaigns of the United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, and as District 53's District Governor of Toastmasters International.

Taking officer roles in your Lodge will help you to build these skills. Basic to involving your brothers is knowing what they want from their Freemasonry experience. Yes, you need to have knowledge of and understand the tenets, ritual and practices of Freemasonry. However, your brothers do not need to hear everything you know all at once. Too much information can scare them away. Your task is to provide them with the specific knowledge and immediate support to take their next step. Keep in mind, many of your brothers march to a different drummer as they have their own preferences and enjoy doing things that are more than likely different from your own. The simplest way to get to know these differences is to listen to what they talk about – Ask open ended questions. When you hit upon their favorite topics all you will be able to do is listen! – and observe the things they like to do.

Here are the first steps in making a Mason:

When they are potential prospects, get to know them by asking open ended questions. In Q+ we were taught to ask “Why?” 5 times to get to the root cause of the excitement. Ask about their career, their family, their hobbies and interest in Freemasonry. Information that you give them at this stage is geared to them wanting to learn more and hopefully join. This is where you explain that their experiences in the Masonic journey will help them enhance areas of their lives in ways important to them. Use your Masonic experience in one or two of these areas most aligned to their interests. When they ask for a petition, they become full-fledged prospects. You need not tell them much more than they need to complete the petition and return it to the lodge. Offer them the opportunity to bring the completed petition to the lodge before a stated communication where they

can meet members of the Lodge. Having them at a pre-Degree dinner or public event gives ample time for brothers learn more about them.

The return of a petition makes them potential candidates. Having the Avoucher and Recommender sign the petition in front of several brothers will let the potential candidate know that his request is taken seriously and that only qualified men are accepted. Information to be imparted now is on how the petition will be presented at lodge and the Worshipful Master will form a committee to meet with him. This committee will ask him questions to get to know him and as such to build a case (based on his qualities) for the members of the Lodge to ballot positively on his request to join. The committee will ask him for three references. With a ballot in his favor, he is now a Candidate to take the three degrees of Freemasonry.

A brother's Masonic journey really ramps up with his Entered Apprentice Degree. He is now eligible to participate in many aspects of the Lodge. In the training as an Associate Grand Marshal, we were tasked to present each newly initiated Brother with the Perfect Ashlar Award application. The Perfect Ashlar program is designed to get a new brother involved in the workings of his Lodge by introducing him to Masonic works. Completing 10 of the 18 items listed, within a year of being raised, earns him the award. He can start as an Entered Apprentice. This program is a great tool for his Avoucher, Recommender and Mentor to have in guiding him on his journey. Fraternal relationships are forged through working with his Brothers. It is these relationships and doing good work that keep brothers coming back. We are all stronger for them.

PYRAMID SHRINERS

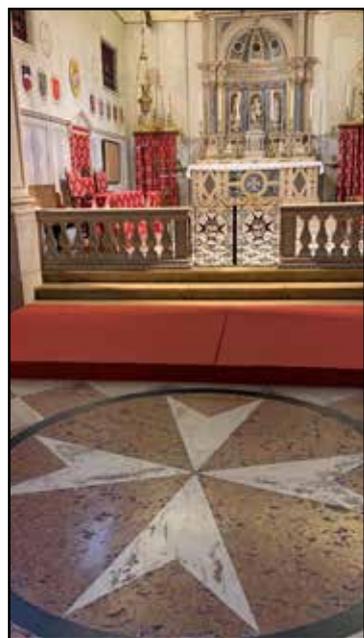
Clowning Around for Needy Children at The Connecticut Kids Fair *by Donald M. Casey, Jr.*

Nobles from Pyramid Shrine Temple Clown Unit in Stratford participated at the 16th Annual Connecticut Kids Fair. The clowns dazzled patrons with balloon twisting hats and animals. Patrons enjoyed balloon rockets launched by the clowns. In addition, the clowns shared an awareness of supporting needy children receiving medical care at the Shriner's Hospital.



Helping Needy Children by Donating to The Sneaker Fund *by Donald M. Casey, Jr.*

Nobles from Pyramid Shrine Temple in Stratford made a donation to The International Shrine Clown Association Sneaker Fund. The Sneaker Fund was started in 1973 by Pyramid Shrine Temple Clown Abe "Cooky" Flaks. It provides financial support for research aimed at finding improved treatments and techniques for children with burn injuries at the Shriner Hospital.



A Tale of Templar Knights in Venice

by Jeffrey A. Blayman

Venice was, for centuries, the center of Mediterranean life and during the Middle Ages several knightly orders created monasteries there to help pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land. These orders were the Templar, the Teutonic, and the Hospitallers of St John. The latter Order, officially the "Sovereign Military Order of the Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta" and also known as the Knights of Malta, were a chivalric order that rivaled the Templars.

The end of the Middle Ages led to the disappearance of most of these orders. But in Venice's Castello district, there is a small street where the Knights of Malta still reside in a church they reclaimed in 1312 after having been confiscated from the Order of the Templar Knights.

The Templar Knights, started by French knight Hugues de Payens in 1118, were originally called the Poor Knights of Christ of the Temple of Solomon, later known simply as the Knights Templar. They set up their headquarters on Jerusalem's sacred Temple Mount vowing to protect all Christian pilgrims to the city and

(Continued on page 25)

A Tale of Templar Knights *continued from page 24*

began amassing a great fortune from grateful pilgrims. The power of the Knights Templar grew exponentially, and in 1139 spread well beyond Jerusalem, when Pope Innocent II issued a Papal Bull giving the Templars extraordinary protections, including an exemption from paying taxes anywhere in the world.

The Templars first appeared in Venice in 1187 when the Archbishop of Ravenna gave them land to build a hospital and a church within the famous city. Although they resided here for a time, the Knights Templar were eventually persecuted, suppressed, and hunted down for their properties including the location in Venice.

In 1313, the knight Bro Nicola, from Parma, of the Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, presented himself to the leader of Venice, Doge Soranzo, to ask that the property that had belonged to the Templars be recognized as property of the Order of the Hospitallers of John. The request was granted and they acquired the former Templar headquarters consisting of a convent, a church dedicated to St. John the Baptist, a hospital and a military barracks.

Sadly even the Knights of Malta lost ownership and the church was converted into a theater for Napoleon during French Rule. After the fall of the Republic, in 1806, the convent and the church were confiscated yet again by the state. Then, in 1841, the Austrian Emperor returned the property to the Knights of Malta where they still carry out their activities of assistance and philanthropy from this humble church, steeped in knightly history. The Maltese crosses inlaid throughout the marble courtyard and in the church are some of the only truly original decorative elements left but they remind one of the immense history that the walls still hold. Just as Venice is in a perpetual state of decay, this knightly vestige stops one in one's tracks as it yearns to be explored.

If you are traveling to Venice and would like to visit, look up: The home of the Grand Priory of Lombardy and Venice located at 3253 Corte S. Giovanni Di Malta.



The Path to Light Through the Great Light

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

Lafayette Consistory continues into the heart of the winter degree season with a live presentation of the musical 20th Degree on March 30. It will be held at the New Haven Temple and reservations for dinner should be made with the office in Stratford. The social life crew will be getting ready for the Grand Lodge session, and as tradition has it, the Consistory will be hosting the Hospitality Suite at on Friday night April 3 in Farmington. Please stop by, say hello, slake your thirst, and meet your fellow brothers in comfort and relaxation!

A final reminder that the deadline for the Abbott and Valley Scholarships is fast approaching: April 1. Rules are listed with the application on line at <https://scottishritenmj.org/abbott>. You MUST provide a current official transcript with the application and remember two letters of recommendation are always better than one. Again, the deadline for filing application hard copies to the Valley Secretary is April 1. No electronic paperwork will be accepted.

The Blue Lodge degree system is designed to provide the serious light seeker with a path to attaining his goal. The Great Light which features prominently in our lodge rooms provides the keys to this alchemical transformation. In Matthew 11:13 we find "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." In my experience, an examination of the Great Light rarely occurs in lodge, and yet the entire construct of Freemasonic symbolism works in tandem with the laws and procedures that are laid out therein. Its placement in the lodge has multiple purposes. It has not been put there in the capacity of some decorative accoutrement. It is meant to be worked, studied and examined. Finding the keys to the definitions embedded in the exoteric verbiage of the Great Light has proven to be no small undertaking, but a path which makes the eventual discoveries pearls of a Great Price. In John 4:1-10, we follow the Nazarene through the land of Samaria. Samaria is described as "that which holds fast or which is binding." The attainment of Light and the successful completion of the transformation which leads us from the Entered Apprentices's state of Soul Slumber, to the Fellow Craft's condition of Soul Awareness, to the Master Mason's exalted state of Soul Consciousness, requires that all who seek the light must struggle to pass through Samaria. In other words, if one is ready to reach that higher state of consciousness he must fight to release himself from the things which bind humanity to the impermanent temporal world. He must release himself from what is carnal and disassociate himself from those things which bind his Soul

to the Earth. By fighting and attaining liberation from these magnetic distractions, all of which bind him to the undesirable, he will then become beholden of the eternal Divine truths which yield greater and permanent benefits. This path, that of the Master Mason, provides the brother who completes his transformation with freedom and liberation from the darkness of the temporary material plane.

One of the significant laws uttered by the Nazarene is that of "As ye sow, so shall you reap." In the context of these verses it alludes to the law of Reciprocity. As you make an effort, so shall you receive in return. If you wish to receive, you must be willing to give without hesitation, or secret calculation. The law states as laid out above, that we must first give if we are to receive. The great bulk of Humanity has it in reverse. They hope and beg for benefits but are unwilling to give in return. In these verses we see that the Samaritan woman was enthralled with the bondage of the material world – that of flesh, its desires and associated prejudices. His request of her made in John 4:7 was a test of her willingness to be of service to others who were not of her own race and to obtain a sense of whether prejudice guided her acts of kindness. Diety puts many such tests before each and every one of our lives.

When we encounter a bedraggled one, do we simply take into account such exoteric appearances, or have we attained to a level of Soul Awareness whereby we see beyond the tint of the epidermal layers housing that other Soul? Or better yet, when we approach that unfortunate mortal, have we attained Soul Consciousness and know full well, without exchanging a glance or word what that other soul needs, where it came from and what has happened to it?

That level of consciousness, defines your actual degree of true Masonic attainment. Don't mistake that with frills, jewels and accoutrements of office. Service to humanity, community and to the infirm or aged along with study of the Law as laid out in the Great Light is the path to True Light.

We will continue this study of Masonic Alchemy and the Nazarene's travels through Samaria next month..

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

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention all Master Masons!

UPCOMING SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES

Monday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.
20th Degree Live
will be portrayed in New Haven

Monday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.
22nd Singing Degree plus
6th Degree Video - in Stratford

*To begin your ScottishRite journey sign up now by visiting the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction website, <https://scottishritenmj.org/membership-application>.

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

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

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

Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr., Secretary Emeritus

The spring schedule is off and running. On February 6, even though the weather was on the rainy side, we saw the new 4th Degree. For those who remember the recent 4th Degree (Master Traveler), or the version before that (Secret Master), we hope you enjoyed the portrayal. The Supreme Council, NMJ, keeps trying to make the portrayals interesting and enjoyable, so that you keep coming back and not tire of the same old thing. The 4th Degree is required with the 32nd Degree to become a 32nd Degree Mason.

Speaking of making changes to a degree in order to make it more easily portrayed while still keeping the core values, the Supreme Council, NMJ, is currently reworking the 17th Degree. This is to allow smaller Valleys who do not have members available or cannot join with nearby Valleys to portray the 17th Degree in their valley. Now all Valleys can try to portray all 29 degrees over a period of years as most Valleys do.

In March we will portray the Rose Croix 18th Degree on Thursday March 19, (snow date March 26). The Valley will be wrapping up the spring degree schedule on Consistory Day, Saturday, April 18, showing 23rd Degree DVD and a live portrayal of the 32nd Degree.

Make your pre-degree dinner reservation for the 18th Degree – it is not too late. The cost is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Advance reservations are requested. The meal is served at 6:10 p.m. and you can still eat if you arrive a little late (until 6:45 p.m.). The degree starts at 7:30 p.m. There will be a prime rib luncheon on Consistory Day. Once again, advance reservations are required. The price is \$20 if paid in advance and \$25 if paying at the door. The degrees begin at 9 a.m. In both cases, make checks payable to the Valley of Hartford and mail them to the Valley office.

Valley News Updates:

- (1) The purchase of the Shrine property, as mentioned in the February article, is currently in the hands of the lawyers to work out the details and purchase price.
- (2) The theme for the March 13 Friday Luncheon (a joint Shrine-Scottish Rite event) is “Saint Patrick’s Day.” The meal will be Corned Beef with the usual trimmings plus dessert for only \$10, payable at the door. Advance reservations are required, no walk-ins are allowed. Make reservations by calling Barbara at (860) 666-5449. The luncheon is open to family, friends, and co-workers.
- (3) If you are interested in becoming more involved as an officer, in the degrees as a director or actor, or behind the scenes, contact Bro. Tony Angelica at office@valleyofhartford.com or (860) 666-0712.
- (4) The deadline for Abbott or Valley of Hartford Scholarships is March 31.
- (5) Future dates:

Thursday, May 7: Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

Thursday, May 14: Workers Night Banquet and Officer Installation

Friday, June 19: Foundation Members luncheon

Thursday, July 16: Summer Officer Planning Meeting

Sunday, July 19: Annual Family Picnic and College Scholarship Awards

If you have any questions or would like more information about any of the information above, contact the Valley of Hartford office at (860)

666-0712, or office@valleyofhartford.com. If you want to learn more about the Scottish Rite, informational DVDs are available upon request. The Valley of Hartford Office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between 9 a.m. and noon.



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

2020 REMAINING SPRING SCHEDULE:

Thu., March 19 ~ 18th Degree Live. 7:30 p.m.
Pre-Degree Dinner, 6:10 p.m.
(Reservation Required)
(Snow date ~ March 28).

Tue. March 31 -
Deadline for Submission of
College Scholarship Applications

Sat., April 18 ~ 9 a.m. Consistory Day
23rd Degree DVD -Awarda Presentation -
32nd Degree Live,
Prime Rib Luncheon will be held
after the degrees (approx noon).
Reservations Required.

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

Craft at Refreshment

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

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

RECURRING EVENTS

Every 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

EVENTS

Mon., March 2, 7:30 p.m., Meridian Lodge No. 77, Meriden, Table Lodge -- Mardi Gras Theme

Tue., March 3, 7 p.m., Union Lodge No. 40, Danbury, Duck Pin Bowling, 7 E Haymestown Ln, Danbury. *Join is for an evening of family fun! Meet us at 7 p.m. Pizza will be provided - friends and family of all ages are welcome!*

Sat., March 7, 6:30 p.m., Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, Robert Burns Night at Widow's Son Lodge No. 66, Join Widow's Son Lodge for their annual Robert Burns night celebration.

Thu., March 12, 7:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, St Patrick's Day Table Lodge.

Fri., March 13, 6 p.m., Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142, Easton, Fellowship Night at *Veroacious Brewing*, 246 Main St, Monroe

Sat., March 14, 7 a.m., Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3, Fairfield, Pancake Festival

Sat., March 14, 8 a.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, Red Cross Blood Drive

Sat., March 14, 6 p.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Sat., March 14, 6:30 p.m., Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, St. Patrick's Day Dinner, *Corned Beef Dinner, \$15 pp/\$25 per couple. RSVP by March 10.*

Sun., March 15, 12 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, St. Patrick's Day Parade, *Come march with the brothers of the 4th Masonic District down Chapel street in New Haven. All brothers are invited and can march or sit on the float.*

Mon., March 16, 7 p.m., Valley Lodge No. 36, Simsbury, Table Lodge: Irish Themed

Mon., March 16, 7:30 p.m., Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Table Lodge, Time and place TBD

Wed., March 18, 6 p.m., Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, Relic Brewery Outing/J. Timothy's Dinner 6 p.m. *Relic Brewery (95 Whiting St Plainville), 8 p.m. J. Timothy's (143 New Britain Ave, Plainville)*

Wed., March 18, 6:30 p.m., Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, St. Patrick/Equinox Dinner, *Open Dinner Program to Celebrate Saint Patrick's Day and the Spring Equinox. Save the date and invite family and friends more info to follow.*

Tue., March 24, 6:30 p.m., King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury, Thunder on the Rock Chili Cookoff, *Woodbury Brewing Company, 738 Main St S, Woodbury*

Sat., March 28, 9 a.m., America-St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, Am. St John's #8 Food Drive, Annual Food Drive with the Stratford Boy Scout troops. *This week is bag drop-off. All help*

is appreciated so please contact the lodge for more information.

Mon., March 30, 7 p.m., Seneca Lodge No. 55, Sawyers Bar & Grill, 79 Center St, Torrington, "Mason's Night Out," Food, Fun, and Fellowship"

Tue., March 31, 7 p.m., Masonic Scouters Association, Wallingford, *Annual Banquet at Hartog Center Ashlar Village, recognizing MWGM Mel Johnson and WB Tom Transue, past CMSA Chairman, \$31/pp. Cash bar after 6 p.m., Reservations Seth.Strobecker@gmail.com*

Thu., April 2, 6:30 p.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, Table Lodge

Fri., April 3, 1 a.m., Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3, Fairfield, Boston Fellowship Trip, More details to be determined

Sat., April 4, 9 a.m., America-St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, Food Drive - Food pick up, *This is the food pickup day. We need lots of help as we go around picking up food bags so we can sort, box and distribute the food to local food banks and shelters. Anyone with trucks or vans would be a huge help."*

Sat., April 4, 6:00 p.m., Union Lodge No. 40, Danbury, **240th Anniversary of Union Lodge, Anthony's Lake Club, 10 Christopher Columbus Blvd, Danbury, 240th Anniversary Black Tie Gala, DON'T MISS OUT! GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!!! \$75/pp – Table of 8 discounted to 7. There will be a 5-hour open bar, passed hors d'oeuvres, plated dinner, silent auctions and more! All proceeds benefit the Lodge's philanthropic efforts. Tickets may be purchased at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/85336300171> or by calling the Gala Chairman WB John Arizzi at (203) 733-7531.**

Sat., April 11, 9 a.m., America-St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, Easter Pancake Breakfast, *Annual Easter Breakfast: pancakes, sausages, muffins, fruit, juice, coffee and tea. Easter egg hunt for the children followed by a visit from the Easter Bunny. Everyone is welcome.*

Sat., April 11, 1 p.m., Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, Easter Egg Hunt, **Free event. Open to public. We will be selling Churros.**

Mon., April 13 6:30 p.m., Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville, Dinner followed by Military Whist.

Craft at Labor

To have your lodge events appear in the newspaper, please update your lodge website calendars prior to the 10th of the previous month. If your lodge needs assistance accessing the website please have the 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 SESSSION

Saturday, April 4, 8 a.m., Marriott, Farmington

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREES

Tue., March 3, 6:30 p.m.,
Coastal Lodge No. 57,
Stonington, Dinner

Wed., March 4, 7:30 p.m.,
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, Litchfield

Tue., March 17, 6:30 p.m.,
Seneca Lodge No. 55,
Torrington, Dinner

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

Wed., March 25, 7:30 p.m.,
Hospitality Lodge No. 128,
Wethersfield, Location TBD
Contact the Secretary

FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES

Mon., March 2, 6:30 p.m.,
Compass Lodge No. 9,
Wallingford, Dinner

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

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

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

Thu., March 19, 6:30 p.m.,
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140,
Newington, Dinner

Mon., March 23, 7:30 p.m.,
Evening Star Lodge No. 101,
Unionville

Thu., March 26, 6:30 p.m.,
Hiram Lodge No. 1,
New Haven, Dinner

Wed., April 1, 7:30 p.m.,
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11,
Litchfield

Tue., April 7, 6:30 p.m.,
Coastal Lodge No. 57,
Stonington, Dinner

MASTER MASON DEGREES

Sat., March 14, 9 a.m.,
Friendship-Tuscan Lodge No. 145,
Manchester,

Tue., March 17, 6:30 p.m.,
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8,
Stratford, Dinner

Tue., March 17, 6:30 p.m.,
King Hiram Lodge No. 12,
Shelton, Dinner

Wed., March 18, 7:30 p.m.,
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125,
New Haven

Thu., April 2, 6:30 p.m.,
Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3,
Fairfield

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



Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*SM



Roy Rogers's Trigger, Trust Funds and Statues

by *Richard F. Denno*

Don't you want to be remembered when you're gone? Dating back to the Egyptian Pharaohs and Roman Emperors, people have sought ways of being immortalized forever. In the beginning, statues were erected, and colossal monuments and buildings were constructed in their memory. Then came portraits, such as our presidents and other famous people. That's why gravestones were created.

Hollywood's Grauman's Chinese Theater added a unique way in 1927. Celebrities have had everything from their hands and footprints to other body parts and signature items pressed into cement and signed by the stars. Roy Rogers's horse, Trigger had his hoof prints imbedded in the cement. And why was this done? It was done so those famous people would be forever remembered by others.

In Bermuda, Johnny Barnes, one of the island's most beloved residents, stood at the Crow's Lane Roundabout (rotary) from 5:30a.m. to 10 a.m. each workday for over 35 years, waving to residents passing by on the way to work. He would blow kisses to everyone, tell them God loved them and to have a great day. Johnny was asked to pose for a life size bronze sculpture of him waving and blowing kisses to those passersby. The sculpture was created by world famous sculptor Desmond Fountain and was placed in the same spot Johnny Barnes stood ensuring that he will always be waving as in the past.

Charitable trust funds, established to benefit the less fortunate by loved ones, are both altruistic and a method of honoring and remembering them. Melba Corliss, a former employer of mine, left behind a scholarship fund in her name to provide educational funds

for those less fortunate. Because of her kindness, she will be forever remembered by the members of Zonta.

Through an organ & issue donation, you and I can more than achieve that same immortality. Through organ donation, family trees continue to grow as the years go by. As a donor, you become an important party of that family tree.

During World War II, German industrialist Oskar Schindler rescued over 1,500 Jews from certain death at the hands of the Nazis. Today over 7,000 descendants of the Schindler Jews live in Europe, the United States and Israel. Many from the Schindler's List and their descendants have gone on to make major contributions to our society thanks to the bravery of Oskar Schindler.

What important accomplishments will the organ recipients and their descendants provide, that will be a result of your generous donation? How will that donation impact the lives of their families, relatives and friends?

To become a participant and share in their good works and rewards, simply register online at www.registerme.org.

And be sure to be a part of the festivities at the Blue Green Walk., held on Sunday, April 26 in Windsor. The website to register is www.bluegreenwalk.org.

Better still, have your lodge form a team, such as Team Anchor Lodge No. 112, and be apart of Team CT Freemasons. Remember – Don't Take Your Organs to Heaven. Heaven knows we need them here!

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REGISTER ONLINE AT
MASONICARE.EVENTBRITE.COM
Must be 21 years of age or older to attend

Third Annual Wine & Beer Tasting to Benefit Masonicare Residents and Patients in Need

By Emma Tuthill

This spring, come to Masonicare at Ashlar Village to have a good time for a good cause! On Friday, May 1, The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut is hosting a Wine and Beer Tasting fundraiser to benefit Masonicare residents and patients in need across the continuum of care. Event dollars allow Masonicare Health Center residents to enjoy strolling musicians and receive dental care that wouldn't otherwise be covered by another source, as well as provide nutrition consultations and medication organizers for Masonicare Home Health & Hospice patients whose insurance does not cover these services, keeping them safe at home.

James Pyskaty – Past Master of Compass Lodge No. 9 in Wallingford, Past District Deputy of Masonic District 4C, and avid supporter of The Masonic Charity Foundation – is once again Chairman of the Masonicare Wine and Beer Tasting event, after its incredible success in 2019 with an attendance of over 440 and \$96,822 raised to benefit Masonicare residents and patients in need.

“Last year, we had some fantastic feedback from attendees, not only about how fun the event was, but how much they learned about Masonicare by being on campus. That’s an important part of the Masonicare Wine and Beer Tasting, too,” Pyskaty said. “I believe in this cause, and I like to see people have a good time. It’s great to be able to do both as Chairman of this year’s event!”

This year, we hope to see even more smiling faces, Mason and non-Mason alike, on Friday, May 1, 2020 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at Masonicare at Ashlar Village in Wallingford. Bring along your family and friends to enjoy fine wine and craft beer, delicious food, raffle prizes, and a live auction, all while supporting a wonderful cause. Even if you don't win a prize, you'll leave with a souvenir gift and great memories!



Reserve your place now by purchasing tickets at masonicare.eventbrite.com for the discounted price of only \$45 per person. Tickets are available at the door for \$50 each, but they may sell out before the event. You must be at least 21 years of age to attend.

If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Cavadini, Special Events Coordinator with The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, at 203-679-5571 or jcavadini@masonicare.org.

A special thanks to our presenting sponsors, Glenmede and Murtha Cullina LLP, for making this event possible, Ives Road Wine & Spirits for providing the wine and beer, and Morrison Community Living for catering the gourmet menu selection.



Cyrene Commandery No. 8 Installs Officers for 2020

by Francis G. Way

On Tuesday evening, February 11, Cyrene Commander No. 8 installed their officers for the 2020-2021 Templar year. For the first time in a long while, every officer chair was filled, yet another indicator of the quiet growth and revival going on at the Commandery in Middletown.

After a wonderful dinner of chili, prepared by Lady Lorie Cowie, the Sir Knights gathered in the Asylum. The Conclave was opened in short form by outgoing Eminent Commander George A. Mudry V. Business was quickly dispatched and then suspended, and the Commandery proceeded to install the officers.

The installation was ably accomplished by SK Vincent A. Cowie, PDC Northeast Department as Installing Officer and SK Robert Jones, Past Eminent Commander of Cyrene Commandery, as Installing Marshall.

SK Edward A. Varjebedian was installed as Eminent Commander. SK Ed has served Washington Commnadero No. 1 as Warder for many years, and when assistance was needed a Cyrene several years ago, he stepped up. He plans to build on the momentum that has been growing at Cyrene over the last couple of years, and is adding an emphasis on improving

tactics, appreciation for Cyrene's history, and social fellowship to the regular work the Commandery does.

SK James S. McNeely IV was installed as Generalissimo, SK George Mudry was installed as Captain General, and SK William Passera was installed as Treasurer. When it came time for SK Cowie to be installed as Recorder, SK McNeely and SK Steven Chiappolone, Eminent Grand Sentinal, stepped up to do the honors.

The following officers were also installed: SK Robert Jones as SW, SK Lloyd Drager, Jr. as JW, SK Russell L. Scull as Prelate, SK Herbert J. Olson as Warder, SK Robert S. Johnson as Standard Bearer, SK Walton B. Schlechtweg was Sword Bearer, SK Michael Messner as Guard, and SK Alan Carlson as Sentinel.

After all officers were installed in their stations and the Proclamation duly made, SK George A. Mudry met Eminent Commander Varjebedian on the level in the East. Removing his Commander's sword, SK Mudry presented it to Eminent Commander Varjebedian for him to have and use. It was a thrilling moment.

Final remarks were offered by SK James S. McNeely IV, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander. As part of his remarks, he

announced that, if tradition holds and he is elected as Right Eminent Grand Commander on April 18, he plans to appoint SK Edward Varjebedian, an Archdeacon at St. Stephen's Armenian Church, as Eminent Grand Prelate in the Grand Commandery line of officers.

All in all it was a fine evening of Templary in Middletown, and as the Sir Knights made their way downstairs and home, the feeling of eagerness to continue their good work and growth was still palpable in the air.



SK Edward Varjebedian, having just been installed, at his station on the dais.



SK George A. Mudry V (left) presents his sword to new Eminent Commander Varjebedian.



SK Varjebedian presents a Certificate of Appreciation for Lady Lorie Cowie to SK Vince Cowie. It expressed the appreciation of Cyrene Commandery No. 8 to her for all her efforts in keeping the Sir Knights well fed, with her meals, and especially her great desserts.



The officers of Cyrene Commandery No. 8

Assess and Improve – It’s Not Too Early.... Or Too Late *by Charles W. Yohe*

A new lodge year is under way! So, how are things going in your lodge? If you are the Worshipful Master, congratulations – and I hope your year has started out on a positive note. If it has, again, congratulations. But leaders of successful endeavors know there is always room for improvement. So, take the time to measure the start to your year and gauge the ways it could have been even better. If it hasn’t? Well then now is the time to fix it! Reflect on what has transpired in the first month of this new year and honestly appraise what you can do to ‘raise the bar’ and better serve your members. Part of this process should include meeting with your subordinate officers to get their input. Remember the old adage that ‘two heads are better than one’ and keep in mind that one of your responsibilities is to mentor the subordinate officers as they progress through the line. The key is COMMUNICATION!

Every organization, from the largest corporations in the world down to “Mom & Pop” store size, whether for profit or not, likely will find that their success or failure is due in large part to communication, or the lack thereof. Don’t let your lodge be a victim of a lack of communication. What percentage of your membership that lives within a reasonable distance to your lodge has attended your meetings since January 1? Generally speaking, the average participation/attendance for volunteer organizations is around 10%. Is your lodge doing better than that, worse than that, or about ‘average’? Are you satisfied with that attendance? If not, what are some of the things your lodge can do to improve those numbers? Remember that, as MWB Theodore J. Nelson always reminds us: “Freemasonry is a team sport.” It takes the team members, working together, to create a successful lodge.

First and foremost, COMMUNICATE with your members! Have you published a Trestle Board yet? Was a hard print copy mailed to the older members who don’t have or use social media or email? Was the information in the Trestle Board timely and interesting? If you’re not comfortable with or technologically savvy, identify one or more of your members who may be willing

to help you and your lodge by serving as a publications committee.

Secondly, have you analyzed your lodge’s membership? Take a look at your lodge roster! It is super easy to do with the new Grand View membership database. What are the ages of those members who you haven’t seen in lodge lately? Where do they live? Which of your officers or members live in close proximity to them? Are they willing to serve as transportation for those brothers who may not drive at night or who have other difficulties that keep them from attending?

Third, are your meetings worth the effort to attend? Remember, you are responsible for ‘setting the craft to work and giving them good and wholesome instruction for their labors!’ How have your first several meetings been? Was something offered at every meeting that made attendance worthwhile? Did you give your members a reason to return any time soon? If not, now is the time to fix the problem. Do you have a programs committee that can assist you in obtaining and scheduling quality programs that will interest and entertain your members? And yes, I said entertain.

Sporting events, concerts, movies, television – all are entertainment, and all have become huge businesses that consume our time and our money. Recently I read a blurb from 1955 saying “Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$50,000 to play ball?” We’re a far cry from that today. Ball players make huge dollars, the bat boy probably makes more than \$50,000 – and that kind of entertainment is what your lodge meetings is competing against. If you don’t make your meetings interesting and worth attending, then the only likely attendees will be your officers and a few ‘hardcore’ members who attend because they’re in the habit of doing so.

Don’t expect to turn your attendance around overnight, it will take time. That is especially true in a case where your lodge has been struggling in recent years and there is a history of a lack of programs. But if you want your lodge to survive and to prosper, the positive change needs to start somewhere – and it might just as well start with you.

Communicate! Identify a handful of key members of your lodge both from within the officer corps and your general membership. Sit down with them and develop a plan for improving your lodge and your meetings. Think about reviving some old, successful activities in which the lodge used to engage or introduce something new that could be of interest to your membership. Don’t be afraid to think outside the box! Hold regular meetings with your program and transportation committees to get progress reports and to fine tune your efforts. Above all, communicate what you are doing with your members. Publish both your intended programs and the results of the programs you have already offered. Develop interest among your members to attend your meetings. Give your members who didn’t attend a reason to say: “I’m sorry I missed that meeting. I’m marking my calendar right now, so I don’t miss the next meeting.”

If you’re not constantly trying to improve, then there is a very good chance that you will fall short and your lodge will suffer. Being the Worshipful Master of a lodge is not easy. This is not something that you can do ‘on the fly’ reliably or for any extended period of time, nor are you guaranteed success because you’ve done it before. Each year is different, and its success requires planning, preparation, communication and cooperation. Remember, the Worshipful Master is only one man. The intelligent cooperation of his officers will do much to lighten his load. Do this for your lodge and for those who will succeed you as Worshipful Master in future years. If you want a year that you can look back on with pride, you need to do the work now to lead your lodge in growing and improving. No matter how good your lodge is or has been, you have the rest of the year to make it even better. Communication is the key to a successful year! You hold the key to success. Use it to unlock your lodge’s full potential.



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20 20

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8:30AM - 4:00PM**

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SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC MUSEUM & LIBRARY

**Exploring the Origins of Freemasonry
with the Advantages of 20/20 Hindsight!**

Schedule

8:30-9:25

Registration

9:30-10:00

Opening Welcome, Prayer & Pledge

10:05-11:50

Keynote Speaker Presentation and Q&A

Freemasonry Seen Historically -
Evolution from the 1650's to 1800

Dr. Margaret C. Jacob, PHD, Professor
Emeritus, UCLA

Lunch

12:30-3:45

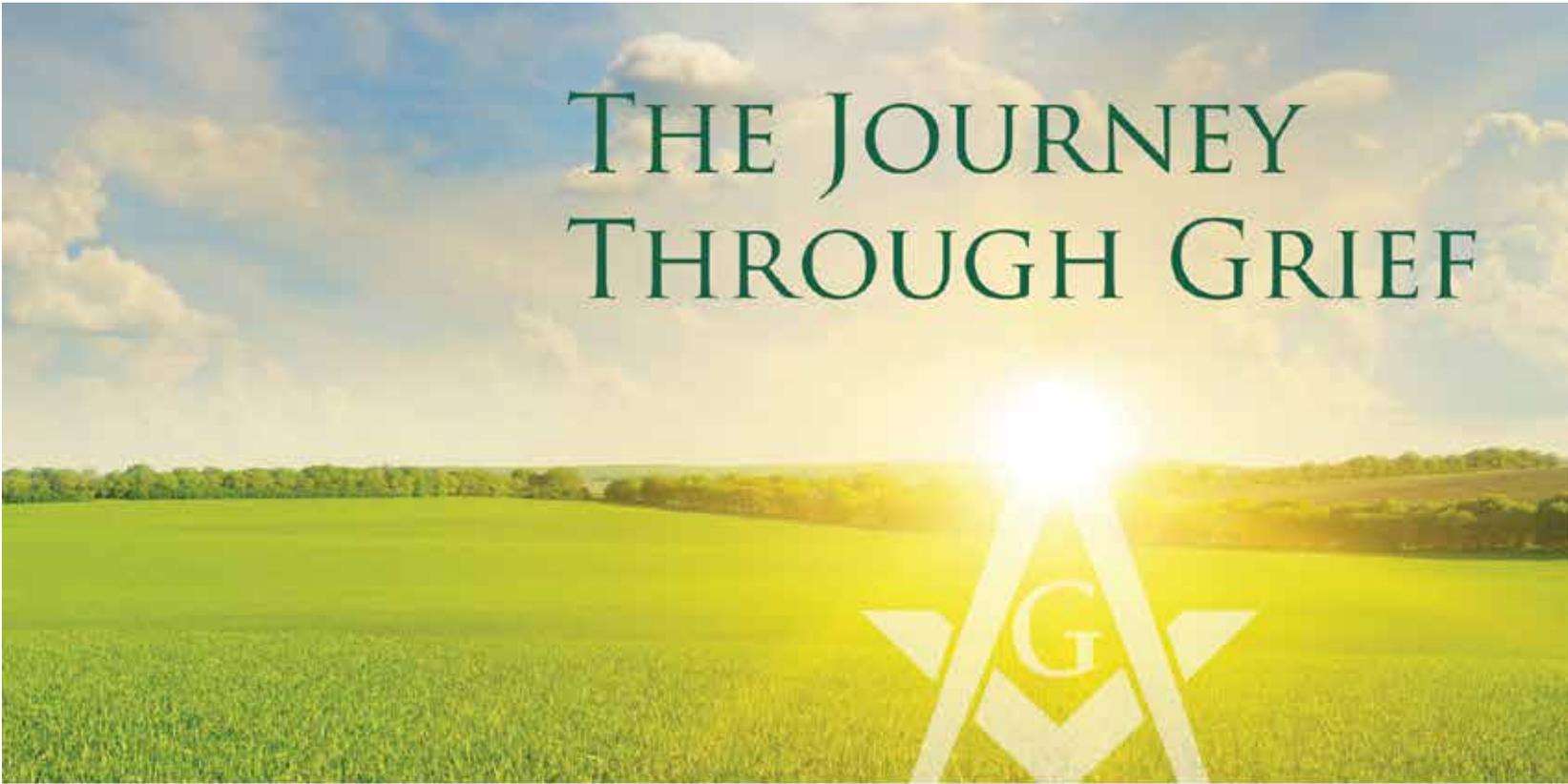
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Book Now! <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/92309505215>

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THE JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF



A PLACE TO SHARE

Inspired by a conversation with MWGM Melvin Johnson, Masonicare has created a new Facebook group called “The Journey Through Grief - A Group for Those Coping With Loss”. Open to all, the group is intended to be an online space for those coping with grief to share their experiences with others. Corporate Marketing, in partnership with the Hospice Bereavement Team at Masonicare manages and moderates the group daily.

You may join or refer someone you know to join at <http://bit.ly/2QTrkSi>.

REACH OUT

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact the Masonicare HelpLine at 888-679-9997.

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