

April 2020



# Connecticut FREEMASONS

*Not Just a Man. A Mason.*



*Stephen W. Petri Installed as the  
174th Most Worshipful Grand Master of the  
Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut*

*Officers of the  
Grand Lodge of Connecticut  
A.F. & A.M. 2020- 2021*



**Bro. Stephen W. Petri**  
Most Worshipful Grand Master

**Bro. William E. Bohman**  
RW Deputy Grand Master

**Bro. Bruce R. Bellmore**  
RW Grand Senior Warden

**Bro. Joseph J. Porco**  
RW Grand Junior Warden

**Bro. Newton Buckner, III**  
RW Grand Treasurer

**Bro. Grant S. Gould**  
RW Grand Secretary

**Bro. Edward C. Page**  
RW Grand Senior Deacon

**Bro. Les B. King**  
RW Grand Junior Deacon

**Bro. F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr.**  
RW Grand Junior Steward

**Bro. Andrew R. Melillo**  
RW Grand Historian

**Bro. Carl H. Anderson**  
RW Grand Almoner

**Bro. Brian E. Beals**  
Deputy Grand Treasurer

**Bro. James M. Anderson**  
Deputy Grand Secretary

To be installed at date TBD

**Bro. Rinaldo F. Magliano**  
RW Grand Marshal

**Bro. Shane Dufresne**  
RW Grand Senior Steward

**Bro. Joseph R. Krusienski**  
RW Grand Chaplain

**Bro. Gary Graham**  
RW Grand Organist

**Bro. Richard C. Memmott, Jr.**  
RW Grand Tiler

**Bro. Robert J. Kovi**  
Associate Grand Tiler

**Bro. Frank R. Mangiero**  
Associate Grand Tiler

**Bro. Mark H. Hawkins**  
Assistant to the Grand Master

**At the time this issue of the Connecticut Freemasons paper was in final stages of preparation, MWGM Melvin E. Johnson ordered an installation of Grand Lodge Officers to be held on Sunday, March 22, 2020. Stephen W. Petri was installed as MWGM at Union Lodge No. 5 in Stamford. Please see page 6 for the entire order.**

**As a result of this order we had to revamp the cover story and the photos. But articles written by, then MWGM Melvin Johnson and then Deputy Grand Master Stephen Petri, are as they were when submitted prior to the order and the installation of Grand Lodge Officers.**

**These are indeed unusual times.**



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

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Connecticut  
**FREEMASONS**

**Volume 15 - Number 10**

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

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# Grand Lodge Installation in the Time of COVID-19

*by Francis G. Way*

One hundred and fifty years from now, when future brothers look back at the proceedings from 2020, they will see an aberration from the usual carefully planned and crafted Grand Lodge session and installation of Grand Lodge officers. Changing plans and venues seemed to be the theme of 2020 even before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic that has so greatly affected the world.

In late winter it was learned that the Red Lion hotel in Cromwell, long the site of the Grand Lodge Annual Communication, had been shut down by the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Services because of tax issues. Grand Lodge scrambled to make other arrangements, and the move of the Grand Lodge session to another venue and weekend caused a ripple effect throughout Connecticut Freemasonry, as other annual meetings of grand bodies were moved.

Shortly after that, the effects of the COVID-19 virus began to be felt in the United States. As the Centers for Disease Control began releasing more and more restrictive guidelines, Grand Lodge developed smaller and smaller plans for the Grand Lodge session, in keeping with those guidelines.

Finally, on the eve of the deadline for all non-essential businesses to close, and all citizens urged to remain home, the Grand Lodge made a final plan to adhere to the Constitutions and install the Grand officers for 2020-2021.

On Sunday afternoon, March 22, at Union Lodge No. 5 in Stamford, the home lodge of incoming Grand Master Stephen Petri, the installation of Grand Lodge officers occurred. With most of the officers present, the event was broadcast over Facebook.

MWB Melvin E. Johnson, installing Master, exercised his prerogative to install his successor, ably assisted by MWB Theodore J. Nelson, Past Grand Master, as installation Marshall. Most Worshipful Brother Stephen W. Petri was installed as the 174th Grand Master. Adding to the unique nature of the day, Brother William E. Bohman, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, was installed remotely via online video.

The remaining Grand Lodge officers were installed: Brother Bruce R. Bellmore, RW Grand Senior Warden; Brother Joseph J. Porco, RW Grand Junior Warden; Brother Edward C. Page, RW Grand Senior Deacon; Brother Less B. King, RW Grand Junior Deacon;

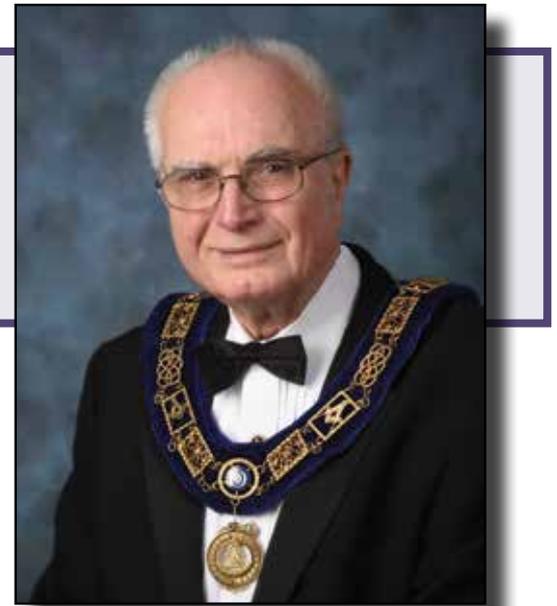


*Deputy Grand Master Stephen W. Petri presented for installation by Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Theodore J. Nelson.*

*Continued on page 8*

# Grand Master's Message

by Melvin E. Johnson



The most important point I would like to make in this last opportunity to address you as Grand Master is that we are poised for an epic year. I am looking forward to it with great anticipation. RWB Stephen has a very positive vision for our future and has the tools and team in place to enable that vision to be actualized.

A major challenge he is addressing is increasing the number of potential new candidates. First, so we can improve their lives by sharing our Masonic experience with them. Secondly, so we can ensure that we are selecting good individuals with the right motives to become not just men but Masons. Finally, we cannot continue to allow our great fraternity to lose members. We have too much to offer that our society needs to allow that. RWB Stephen has a well designed program that promises to substantially increase the numbers of those examining the suitability of membership.

That said, we have to be in a position to deliver on the promise or we will continue to have brothers leaving because they do not see the value of their membership. The core value of course is brotherly love and fellowship. We do a good job with this, but have to be ever alert to attempts to disrupt it. We have a much expanded program for community action activities to satisfy

Brothers who find that an important part of their experience. The Eric W. Manner Master Ritualist Award has been implemented to recognize those for whom ritual has special importance. We have designed a Masonic University program that will be rolled out soon, had two events featuring noted professors and the Committee on Masonic Education is moving forward on several fronts to satisfy those seeking more light in Masonry. These pieces being in place, and a continuing focus on educational programs and fellowship activities by our Lodges should make the value of membership apparent to everyone.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who have played such an important role in making this such an outstanding experience. Deborah Fowler and Erika Cortezano-Garcia as well as RWBs Buckner and Gould, whose labors on behalf of us all go well beyond any job description and make a priceless contribution to our ability to function, deserve special thanks.

## Photos: Grand Lodge Installation *continued from page 3*



# Deputy Grand Master's Message

*Stephen W. Petri*



Normally the Deputy Grand Master's message for the April paper would be about his plans for the upcoming year and congratulations to his predecessor on a job well done.

That would be in a normal time.

These are not normal times. We are in the midst of a pandemic caused by a novel coronavirus. In the last 24 hours, as I am writing this, Governor Lamont has issued an executive order prohibiting gatherings of 250 or more people; local schools are closed; colleges and universities have ordered students home as they close campuses and begin virtual classes; Broadway is dark; and the President of the United States has declared a national emergency.

People are scared. Close to home, there are long lines to enter stores whose shelves are bare of food, paper products, and hand soap, Forget about finding any hand sanitizer.

In compliance with state directives, the Grand Lodge has had to cancel the hotel reservations for the Annual Session which was to be held at the Hartford Marriott Farmington. The Annual Session is typically attended by some 600 Connecticut Masons, as well as dozens of guests from Masonic jurisdictions throughout North America. At time of this writing, a radically smaller Annual Communication is being planned for April 4, with just enough to satisfy the requirements of our Masonic constitutions and install the elected and appointed Grand Lodge officers while obeying state directives and keeping everyone safe from possible infection.

With all this disruption and uncertainty, I am thankful to be able to address you as Connecticut's incoming Grand Master of the world's oldest fraternity. That claim carries with it three certainties that are embedded

in our character as Masons and the stability and strength of our fraternity: Faith, Brotherly Love and Relief.

It is faith in a higher power that all Masons carry in our hearts. There will be fear, sorrow and tears. However, God remains our constant hope and a constant source of encouragement. This is not glib or easy, but a comfort we can draw upon in times of great uncertainty.

Brotherly Love, and Relief which is our mutual commitment to care for the sick and elderly. It is imperative that we keep our obligations near and dear to our hearts. Pick up the phone and call your brothers, their families, widows and orphans to see if they need assistance or just a friendly voice to ease their fear and isolation. Check up on the older members of our Masonic families. Call them, say hello, how are you, is there anything we can do for you? Just knowing someone cares can make a big difference. Do what you can to aid and assist.

Eventually this crisis will pass, and we will all have to live with our actions as we navigated this challenge. As Masons, we should aspire to be proud of how we have weathered this situation – individually and collectively. To borrow the Scottish Rite's new marketing motto, let us show the world what it means to be "Not just a Man. A Mason."

The Grand Almoner, Carl Anderson, and the newly created Associate Grand Almoners will be available to answer questions and give guidance. Carl can be contacted by email at [grandalmoner@ctfreemasons.net](mailto:grandalmoner@ctfreemasons.net).

## Photos: Grand Lodge Installation *continued from page 4*





*The Grand Lodge*  
*of*  
CONNECTICUT

**NOTICE OF INSTALLATION OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**

**Whereas:** on March 20, 2020, the Governor of Connecticut issued the following Executive Order:

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7**

Restrictions on Workplaces for Non-Essential Businesses.....Non-essential businesses or not-for-profit entities shall reduce their in-person workforces at any workplace locations by 100% not later than March 23, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.

**Whereas:** on March 20 the Press Release accompanying the order expanded on it as follows:

The governor is calling this his “Stay Safe, Stay Home” initiative. The plan recommends that state residents do the following:

1. Effective at 8 PM on Monday, March 23, all non-essential businesses statewide should close;
2. Non-essential public community gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason should be canceled (e.g. parties, celebrations or other social events) are canceled or postponed at this time;

**Whereas:** it may appear that having an installation of officers after March 23 would be in violation of this order.

**Whereas:** I deem going indefinitely without having the duly elected officers installed is not in the best interest of the Craft.

**Whereas:** Subpart 72 of the Rules and Regulations governing Installation of Officers applies to Lodges. I am, to the extent necessary, dispensing with any application it may have by custom or otherwise to the Grand Lodge.

I am **ordering that the installation ceremony** be held at Union Lodge 5 at 47 Kirkham Place Stamford, CT 06906 at 2 PM on Sunday March 22, 2020 for the sole purpose of installing the suite of officers elected at the October Semi-Annual communication and those appointed to serve in their several positions in the Grand Line.

**Whereas:** Executive Order No. 7, does not permit this to be done with more than minimal notice, I am doing so with such notice to the Craft as is reasonably possible. In addition, the safety of our Brothers and the current restrictions on public gatherings make it necessary to conduct these ceremonies with a minimal audience, so only those specifically invited will be allowed to attend.

# Press Release: Installation of Grand Lodge Officers

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grand Lodge of Connecticut AF & AM installs Grand Lodge Officers for 2020 - 2021.

Stamford, CT, March 22, 2020 - The Grand Lodge of Connecticut AF & AM installed Grand Lodge Officers on Sunday for 2020-2021 – thirteen days ahead of schedule.

Outgoing Grand Master Melvin E. Johnson explained the surprise move to protect against the growing Coronavirus threat.

“We have been trying to figure out how to meet the Grand Lodge’s constitutional obligation to hold an annual communication and install elected Grand Line officers. Obviously, our big April 4th meeting could not happen – it usually brings together more than 600 masons from across Connecticut and New England. With the Governor announcing the closure of all on-essential services from Monday, March 23rd, we had to make a fast decision”

The installation occurred at Union Lodge No.5 in Stamford with 12 of the 21 Grand Lodge Officers in attendance present including one by videoconference. Johnson installed his successor, Stephen W. Petri and the attending Grand Lodge Officers. Theodore (Ted) Nelson served as installing Grand Marshall.

For the first time in history of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut the entire installation was streamed live on Facebook to include those who were unable to attend.

Everyone spaced themselves around the Lodge in line with social distancing guidelines.

“It is not the way any of us wanted to do it” said newly installed Grand Master Stephen Petri. “But the Grand Lodge and lodges across Connecticut must do our part to slow the spread of the Coronavirus and keep the most vulnerable members of our community safe.”

“Not only is it the right thing to do, it is our sworn obligation as Freemasons to obey the lawful directives of government and fulfill our duty as citizens.”

For Petri, the one ray of sunshine was being installed into the top job in his home lodge. Stamford’s Union Lodge No.5 was

chartered in 1763, making it the fifth oldest lodge in Connecticut and older than the United States.

Johnson added there is concern that in the coming months, Connecticut Freemasons (who refer to each other as brother and meet in lodges) will be feeling enormous pressure socially, financially, and possibly spiritually.

“Distancing is actually the opposite of what we do as Freemasons. We are the world’s oldest fraternity – all about building brotherly connection one-to-one, in our lodges and in the community. Right now we have to continue our mission while physically distancing ourselves to keep the community safe.”

“Some brothers will almost certainly experience family illness, bereavement and economic stress. In this difficult situation, Stephen and I wanted to ensure a smooth transition that maintains strong leadership for the fraternity,” he said.

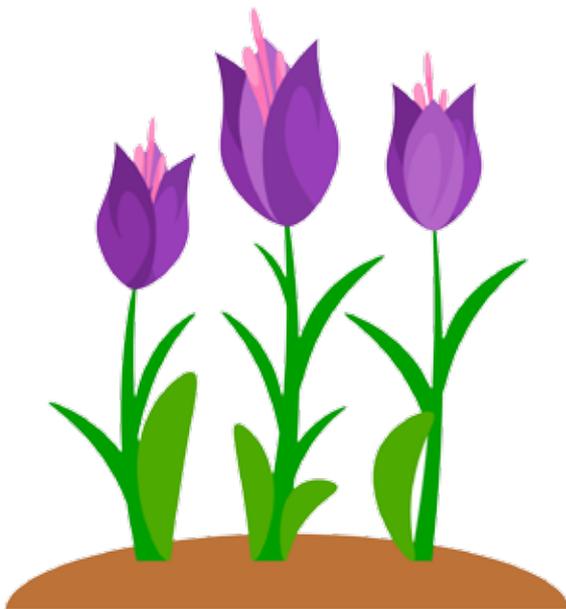
“Step One was to install the Grand Lodge Officers who were elected last October or appointed. Step Two will be to reschedule the annual meeting for a later date when we are able to bring brothers together and open the Grand Lodge.”

Petri noted his appreciation for Johnson’s support and the commitment of all the Grand Lodge Officers.

“We’ve been working together for some time as a team, to ensure that the annual changing of the guard causes zero disruption to our work for the fraternity. This situation just ratchets that commitment up another notch.

“Even with a fast-growing pandemic and the State of Connecticut shutting down all non-essential activity outside the home, we are committed to helping masons and lodges across Connecticut fulfill their duty and be the best they can be – for each other and for our communities,” added Petri.

“I cannot think of a more important time to be a Mason.”



*Least we forget it is Spring, and in April many will be celebrating religious holidays in some sort of modified fashion.*

*We wish you,  
and those for whom you care,  
a Happy Spring,  
Happy Passover  
and Happy Easter.*

# Grand Lodge Installation

*continued from page 3*

Brother F. Matthew Heinrich, RW Grand Junior Steward, Brother Andrew R. Melillo, RW Grand Historian and Brother Carl H. Anderson, RW Grand Almoner.

Brother Rinaldo E. Magliano, RW Grand Marshal; Brother Shane Dufresne, RW Grand Senior Warden; Brother Joseph R. Krusienski, RW Grand Chaplain; Broother Gary Graham, RW Grand Organist; Brother Richard C. Memmott, Jr., RW Grand Tiler; Bother. Robert J. Kovi, Associate Grand Tiler; and Brother Frank R. Mangiero, Associate Grand Tiler;. will be installed at a later date. The Grand Treasurer, RWB Newton Buckner III and Grand Secretary, RWB Grant S. Gould, remain the same.

MWB Petri gave a short address, expressing his hope that all brothers and their families would be remain safe in these trying times.

No one, save the Grand Architect of the Universe, knows what the future holds. When this current trial passes, and it will, for trials and tribulations always do, it may be that the Grand Lodge will meet in some sort of session to handle the business it could not handle now. One thing however, is guaranteed. Freemasonry in Connecticut marches on, under the guidance of a new Grand Master, installed in the most unusual circumstances in living memory.

## *WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!*

**St. Luke'sLodge No. 48**

**Adam P. Boneker**

**SenecaLodge No. 55**

**David Lee Franceschetti**

**SenecaLodge No. 55**

**Scott Richard Kevorkian**

**SenecaLodge No. 55**

**Robert L Newsome, Jr.**

**AcaciaLodge No. 85**

**Daniel Basar**

## *CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS*

**John Chris Beal**  
**Anchor Lodge No. 112**

**Edmund A. Jayaraj**  
**Harmony Lodge No. 42**

**Eugene F. Martin**  
**King Solomons Lodge No. 7**

**Roland R. Raymond**  
**Brainard Lodge No. 102**

**Dean Wentworth Spencer**  
**Temple Lodge No. 16**

**John E. Woodilla, Jr.**  
**Seneca Lodge No. 55**



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# Grand Chaplain's Message

by Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski



My brothers, there seems to be a lot of confusion and turmoil in the world. Everyone does not know at times who to believe or what to believe. As Masons we must profess a belief in God. We are taught to have compassion for all of humanity. Although we may differ in creed or theology, we still must remember that we are linked together by brotherly love and truth. We need to educate humanity about the principles that we stand for.

This is the time of year that we celebrate the Passover and Easter which share the theme of liberation and triumph. The Passover this year lasts from sundown April 8, 2020 to sundown April 16, 2020. Holy Week is from April 5, 2020 to Easter on

April 12, 2020.

As I write this article, we must bear in mind how careful we must be when greeting each other, but this does not stop us from praying that we develop vaccines to combat the coronavirus. All Masonic meetings have been affected. We might have to practice due diligence until we can greet each other not using the signs of our order.

I hope and pray that we will always be mindful of the severity that is before us and we ask the Supreme Architect of the Universe to guide all humanity.



## Grand Historian's Corner

Andrew R. Melillo

The autumn of 1826 was a tumultuous season in Connecticut Freemasonry. The excitement resulting from Morgan's disappearance hurled a destructive downpour on Masonry. It eroded massive chunks from its foundation. Yet while the storm washed away sizeable portions – Connecticut Masonry was built with square work, and thus survived – but it was not easy to rebuild. Many brothers held the line year after year, just to keep the edifice up. As C. Harris Scofield of Union Lodge No. 5 in Stamford wrote it the early 20th century,

The anti-Masonic frenzy lasted for many years, families were disrupted, men known to be Masons were ruined in business, the Churches everywhere fulminated against the craft. One hundred and thirty-seven newspapers opened up the floodgates of violent abuse. No term was too vile or harsh to vilify Masonry. Many ministers induced

their churches to refuse the communion to Masons, refusing even consolation to the dying unless they recanted and denounced the Order. Under this terrible pressure, the Lodges suffered, their members withdrew in large numbers and many charters were surrendered.

And indeed, many charters were surrendered. Yet, who was William Morgan? How could one man disappearing in New York, have such a devastating effect on the reputation of not just lodges, but even the lives of individual Masons hundreds of miles away?

Morgan was born in Culpeper, Virginia. He was a bricklayer and stone cutter. He claimed to have been a Captain in the War of 1812, yet Virginia military records do not support this claim. He was a man of, "no repute, of idle and dissipated habits and harassed by debt. His time was spent mostly in barrooms, and no credence could be given to any statement he might make." In a series of letters to William L. Stone from prominent anti-Mason, President John Quincy Adams, "he [Morgan] was a hard

drinker, and his nights and days were spent in tippling houses to the still greater neglect of his family. He joined in the drunken carousals of the vilest and most worthless men, and his disposition was envious, malicious and vindictive." Morgan removed to York, Canada and operated a brewery. It was destroyed by fire, and Morgan returned to America destitute. He lived for a time at Rochester, and then eventually Batavia, New York. He claimed to have been a Mason in Canada, and at other times, in some foreign country, and succeeded in entering the lodge in Batavia.

After Morgan was rejected by a Royal Arch Chapter, he associated with David C. Miller, the editor of the Republican Advocate. Miller had been initiated in Albany but did not advance, after the lodge became increasingly concerned with the developments of his character. As C. Harris Scofield states,

These two, with visions of wealth from an exposé of Masonry, printed material

Continued on page 10

supposed to reveal the secrets of Free Masonry to the uninitiated. Being arrested by a hotel keeper of Canandaigua for larceny, Morgan was committed to jail. From this he was released, but again arrested and taken out of the state. From that time all trace of him was lost. Documentary evidence leads to the belief that he was paid \$500.00 on his arrival in Canada and his pledge was given never to return. This was done, not by Masons, but by his partners in the crime, Miller and others, who desired to get Morgan out of the way, in order to reap the financial harvest accruing from the sale of the book. On October 4, 1826, fifty thousand circulars were distributed detailing his disappearance. Public meetings were held in Batavia, and prominent Masons were foremost in demanding an investigation, while the cry was raised that Morgan had been abducted and killed. On October 7th a body was found in Lake Ontario, which was claimed by the opposition to be Morgan's although his own wife failed to recognize it. Nevertheless a public parade was held, and the body interred as that of Morgan. A Mrs. Munroe of Canada, hearing of the case, traveled to Batavia, had the grave opened, and positively identified the body as that of her husband, Timothy Munroe. The body was taken to Canada by the widow, but it was the event for which the politicians were looking, and the apostle of anti-Masonry, Thurlow Weed, took advantage of it, saying he was good enough Morgan till after election.'

With the nation in an uproar over Morgan's disappearance, the Grand Lodge considered it unwise to charter new lodges. For example, when brothers in Jewett City [New London], Woodstock and Plymouth petitioned Grand Lodge for charters, they were read and deferred.

The destructive effects lingered each passing year. In 1828, seventy-three lodges were laboring in Connecticut, sixty-six were represented, yet only forty-five reported

initiations. By 1829, sixty-two lodges were represented, and Grand Secretary William H. Jones reported, "a large and increasing delinquency in the returns from subordinate Lodges, on account of the prevailing excitement and panic which was now existing over the subject of Masonry." The returns were so meagre, that Jones recommended not to publish them, and the vote passed. By 1831, the anti-Masonic fervor was at its height. At the Hartford Session in May, there was "a quorum of subordinate lodges represented," yet no figures were published. Also, all the incumbent Grand Lodge officers that year, save the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, refused to serve again. Thomas Hubbard, originally from Pomfret, but at that time, a faculty member of Yale Medical School, was elected Grand Master.

At the session in 1832 at New Haven, forty-four lodges were represented and they listened to Most Worshipful Brother Hubbard, "speak at considerable length, on the present state of the Masonic Institution, and on the duty of Lodges and of individual Masons, under the unreasonable and fanatical excitement which now exists in relation to the Order." That same session, the Grand Lodge issued a, *Declaration of Freemasons of The State of Connecticut*. It defended the values and morality of the Institution and its members. It was supported by 1,500 individual Masons. By 1833, only thirty-seven lodges were represented, and all fines placed on delinquent lodges were forgiven. That year twenty-six initiations were reported from eight lodges. In 1834, twenty-six lodges made returns, with twenty-two initiations reported by seven lodges. Also, at that session, Adelphi Lodge No. 63 of New Haven requested to surrender their charter and it was granted. The following year Salem Lodge No. 71 did the same.

In 1835, Grand Master William H. Ellis of New Haven was re-elected, but Grand Secretary David Kimberly, declined re-election. Brother Eliphalet G. Storer was elected. He served the office for twenty-six years and his good work, as well as a tragic event, will be discussed in the next publication. That year, Orient Lodge No. 62, of East Hartford surrendered its

charter, and the pattern continued. By 1847, eight lodges were represented with less than 40 brothers attending the session. By 1850, while the returns were still low – the number of men made Masons for that year was significantly higher than in the 1830's. Some two-hundred and thirty-five initiations were reported. It was an encouraging sign – it demonstrated that people were petitioning lodges again, and that the torrential downpour of the last twenty years was beginning to ease up. The downpour became a mist, and the clouds began to break. For the first time in living memory, Brothers began to see the Sun once more. The Report on Foreign Correspondence at the 1851 session wrote,

...we feel a proud satisfaction in congratulating the Grand Lodge on the high degree of prosperity which characterizes the present position of Masonry in this State, we are pleased to notice the healthy and flourishing condition of the Order in all sections of our beloved country. The working tools of our profession appear to be in the hands of accomplished craftsmen, who are busily engaged in rearing the proud turrets of our stately Masonic edifice...

While the outward layer of the Masonic foundation was ripped apart by the fanatical excitement of Morgan's storm, the core foundation of Connecticut Masonry withheld the onslaught. A renewed optimism emerged. St. John's Lodge No. 3 in Fairfield [Bridgeport], proposed to the Grand Lodge to erect a suitable monument over the unmarked grave of the Father of Connecticut Masonry, the late Worshipful Brother, General David Wooster. Where Connecticut Masonry once bowed its head to the storm, the Craft now lifted its head back up and bid farewell to the retreating tempest. It was back to basics, back to the beginning, back to Wooster and the founding of the nation. This renewed rise began with commemorating the Father of Connecticut Masonry. Wooster, along with the aspirations and hope of Connecticut Masons, was raised up from the quiet sleep of death.

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

**Barry Frederick Azia**  
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140

**Charles Henry Brush, Sr.**  
Shepherd - Salem Lodge No. 78

**Learned Thomas Bulman**  
Annawon Lodge No. 115

**Robert Lawrence Burns**  
Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

**Erwin H. Dessales**  
Coastal Lodge No. 57

**Frank August Engel, Jr.**  
Ashlar Lodge No. 332

**Robert D. Gilbert**  
Federal Lodge No. 17

**Robert Jay Hallock**  
Harmony Lodge No. 42

**Paul M. Hennessey**  
King Solomons Lodge No. 7

**David Hogarth**  
Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3

**Robert Gordon McQuarrie**  
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11

**Wilbert Eugene Nead**  
Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

**John William Page**  
Columbia Lodge No. 25

**Christopher Hale Porter**  
Unity Lodge No. 148

**Kevin John Renkavinsky**  
Corinthian Lodge No. 104

**Arthur Julius Renn**  
Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142

**Alvin Lee Rider**  
Somerset - St. James Lodge No. 34

**David W. Schmidt**  
Fayette Lodge No. 69

**Arthur Burton Steeves**  
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

**Thomas Kennedy Sturges, Sr.**  
King Solomons Lodge No. 7

**Lawrence H. Webster**  
Wooster Lodge No. 10



## 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](mailto:jvenoit@masonicare.org). Thank you for your assistance and participation.

Sincerely and fraternally,

David A. Gessert, Chair

Nominating Committee

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### 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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

# From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

## President & CEO of Masonicare

As I write this month's column, I am following the seemingly hourly updates about the worldwide coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We knew it was only a matter of time before the virus, which originated in China and was first detected in the U.S. in the Seattle area, would find its way to Connecticut.

To better respond to the rapidly changing nature of the outbreak, and make sure we're doing everything possible to protect our residents, patients, and employees, I established a COVID-19 Task Force at Masonicare with representation from all of our affiliates and key vendors. We have been meeting regularly to monitor the virus and our organizational readiness as the situation unfolds.

We supported the Department of Public Health's decision to impose visitor restrictions on all nursing homes to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. We knew this would be difficult for residents and patients at Masonicare Health Center, as well as their loved ones. But most people we spoke to were appreciative of

the steps taken to ensure the safety of those in our care.

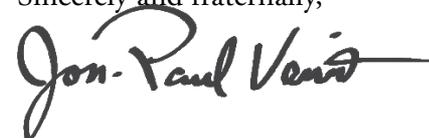
In more upbeat news, Masonicare announced its winners of the 2020 Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing: Stephanie Allen, an LPN at The Towers in New Haven, a community to which Masonicare provides assisted living services; Erin Cerrito, a nurse from our Masonicare Home Health & Hospice branch in Wallingford; and Renee Hernandez, LPN at Masonicare Health Center. Please join me in congratulating Stephanie, Erin, and Renee on being recognized for their compassion, attention to detail, willingness to go above and beyond for their patients, and ability to stay calm in critical situations. They are each, in their own way, a credit to their profession and to Masonicare!

We announced some changes last month at the Health Center, including a plan to transition our underutilized Acute Care Unit into a skilled nursing unit where residents can rehabilitate in a beautifully equipped environment. We're



also planning to expand our inpatient psychiatric services to meet a growing demand. These and other changes are part of an ongoing strategy to reinvest in MHC which, after all, is where Masonicare was born.

Sincerely and fraternally,



President and CEO of Masonicare

## Be a Connecticut Freemasons Booster!



Name or Lodge \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

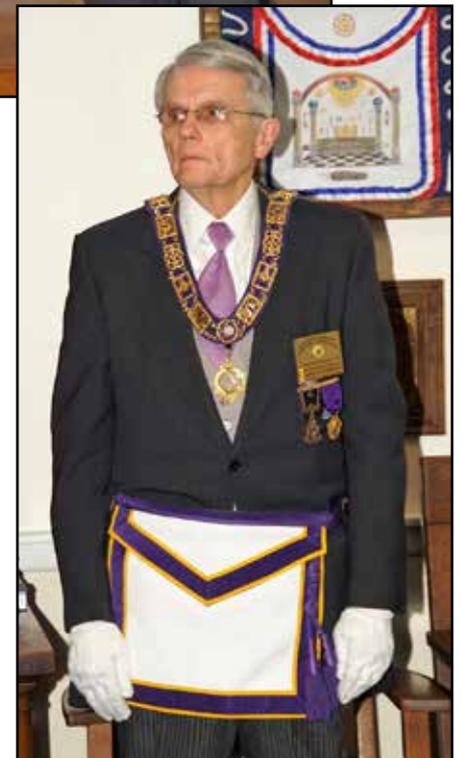
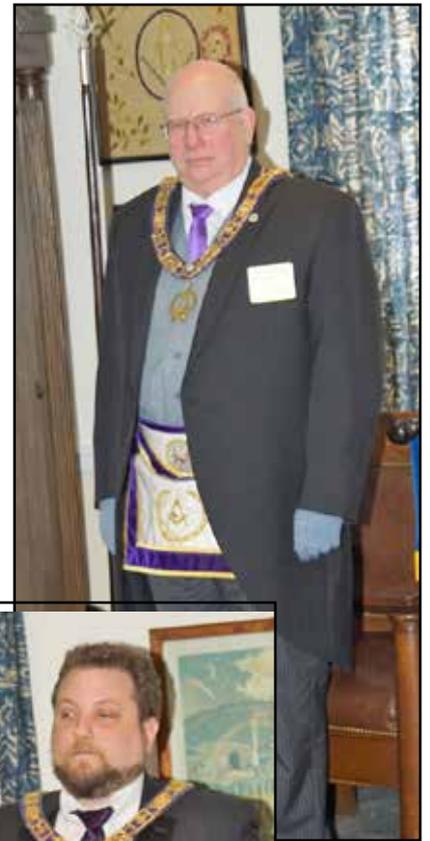
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Booster appearing as \_\_\_\_\_  
Makes checks payable to: Grand Lodge AF&AM of CT • 69 Masonic Avenue • Wallingford CT 06492  
Booster support is not deductible as a charitable contribution under IRC Section 170(c).

### LISTING FOR 11 ISSUES:

- Individual Booster  
\$25-\$49.99
- Grand Booster  
\$50-\$99.99
- Grand Master's Circle  
\$100 or more
- Lodges & Organizations  
\$75 or more

Photos: Grand Lodge Installation *continued from page 5*



# 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

*Continued on page 16*

## Charles Schofield

*continued from page 15*

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.

## Photos: Grand Lodge Installation

*continued from page 14*



## PYRAMID SHRINERS

### Clowning Around At The Stepney Elementary School Winter Carnival

*by Donald M. Casey, Jr*

**N**obles from the Pyramid Shrine Temple Clown Unit in Stratford, participated at the 11th Annual Stepney Elementary School Winter Carnival. This event held in Monroe consisted of games, moon bounces, and tossing whipped cream pies at the educators. The Pyramid Shriner Clowns dazzled students from the school with balloon twisting crafts and games. In addition, Pyramid Shriners were able to share their mission of providing assistance to needy children receiving medical care at the Shriner's Hospital.



# How Does Masonry View the Millennial Mind Set

by Russell Scull

Masonry has survived for hundreds of years. The millennials have survived the toils and tribulations of us for some 30 of those years. Each new generation embraces and rejects established practices of prior generations. Remember the 60's?

Masonry's embedded rituals, structure, and positive belief in man has been the foundation of its longevity. We, who are not millennials, need to remember our frustrations when we joined. We now realize that we did learn from those whispers of guidance. It is our turn to embrace the next step in our evolution and give similar whispers of guidance. We cannot grow and continually prosper without embracing our future by the Millennials that are joining today. Let us view today's Millennials as tomorrow's foundation.

**GARAVEL**

CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep RAM SUBARU

**Paul Garavel, Dealer**

**GARAVEL CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE RAM**  
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**Gotta Get to Garavel**



**ANSANTAWAE LODGE No 89**

**Mets vs. Phillies**

**June 20, 2020 – Game time 4:10pm**

Cost \$46 per ticket, Open to all men over 21  
Payment must be received by **May 10, 2020**

We will be meeting at the lodge  
to take the train around noon.

Reservations can be made with either:  
Jeff Brockett [wm@ansantawae89.org](mailto:wm@ansantawae89.org)  
Kevin Wiersman [jw@ansantawae89.org](mailto:jw@ansantawae89.org)

*What we have done for ourselves alone, dies with us what we have done for others and the world, remains and is immortal*  
*- Brother Albert Pike*

# District 1

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



## Washington Lodge No. 19 Donates to Project Warmth *by Roy Nealon*

Every year Washington Lodge No. 19's Fellowcraft Club donates to Project Warmth of Monroe. Project Warmth is a Monroe operated charity. All monies received go to helping folks in town. This year the Fellowcraft Club donated \$750.

*Henna Ali - Director of Senior Services,  
Ken Kellog - First Selectman of Monroe,  
WB Anthony Agosto - President Fellowcraft Club, and  
WB Roy Nealon - Secretary Fellowcraft Club.*



# District 3

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



## District 3 Traveling Gavel – Morning Star Lodge No. 47 Starts a Tradition *by Jim Rafferty*

Morning Star Lodge No. 47, in Seymour, wanted to start a Traveling Trowel in District 3. Their Worshipful Master, WB Perry Bartovic wanted to encourage traveling and brotherly love among the lodges in District 3.

For a lodge to take possession of the Traveling Trowel, they must contact the Worshipful Master or Secretary of the lodge that currently has the trowel and inform them they plan on visiting that lodge for a stated or annual communication.

The lodge visiting must have at least four brothers from that lodge with up to date dues cards and work their way in (at the discretion of the Worshipful Master).

If more than one lodges visits on the same evening, the lodge with the greater number of brothers takes the Trowel.

Finally, after taking possession of the trowel, the lodge must notify the District Deputy of the change of possession.

As soon as Morning Star Lodge made the Traveling Trowel available, Harmony Lodge No. 42 visited with six brothers and took claim to the Trowel.

Will Morning Star Lodge reclaim it? Will it travel to another lodge? Or will Harmony Lodge keep it?



# District 4

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



## Connecticut Brothers Travel To Georgia To Raise One of Their Own *by Stuart Post*

On Friday, December 13, 2019, traveling papers in hand, two brothers of Temple Lodge No. 16, in Cheshire, left Connecticut to journey nearly one thousand miles to Georgia. WB Garret Post and WB Stuart Post had an important Masonic reason for traveling afar. Gary's second son and Stuart's brother, Mark Post, were to be raised as a Master Mason at Roswell Lodge No. 165 F& AM, on Saturday December 14.

Upon their arrival, Brothers Gary and Stuart were met with warm southern hospitality, given a tour, fed a huge breakfast, and they chatted with the Brethren and made new friendships. When it came time for lodge to open they were presented with Georgia's Grand Master's Challenge Coin and recognized as traveling Past Masters, retired military and former first responder respectively.

They soon returned the favor by presenting Roswell Lodge with a copy of Temple Lodge's history, the bound book that Brother David Stewart had compiled and assembled for Temple Lodge No. 16's 225th anniversary a few years prior.



*(l-r): Newly raised Master Masons; Bro. Tanner Wilson, Bro. Mark Post, and Bro. Michael Lane with WM Tony Fernandez of Roswell Lodge.*



*WB Garret Post, Bro. Mark Post and WB Stuart Post*

The degree began and they knew not what to expect...but soon found out. Although it was evident that they were in a lodge of Masons and there was some familiarity, there were both subtle and not so subtle differences throughout.

The first half went as expected, but when it was time for the obligation, they learned that there were at least five additional sections added to the already lengthy obligation they already knew.

The degree concluded with WB Gary raising his son and WB Stuart at his brother's side. It was an emotional and heartwarming event not only for the Brothers Post, but for all Brethren present. The occasion marked the continuance of the Post family Masonic legacy with both WB Stuart and Bro. Mark being the 4th known (and 5th suspected) generations of Masons in the family.

# The Pledge of Allegiance and The Star Spangled Banner

ISBN 9781072526773 – Written by John White. Reviewed by WB John A. Amarillos

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*American patriotism is an understanding of this nation as a means whereby God is building his kingdom on Earth” - Page 34.*

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If there was ever a guidebook to what America is, and what being American entails, this 320 page book is it. I'll start by telling you what it is not: It is not some politically correct apologia about the actual or perceived failing of the nation's cultural history, internal politics or its foreign policy. It is also not a conservative polemic espousing a dogmatic line covering economic and geopolitical issues. No, this book does not address the fleeting pedantic economic and political concerns that seem to embroil and consume each successive generation of Americans.

What the book does, in a most thorough manner, is address the more profound, eternal verities that encompass the concept of America and what true Americanism really is. It transcends the mere political and economic power concerns that hold most Americans in a thrall.

The founding fathers were men who were far more than simply statesmen, politicians, military tacticians, or philosophers. They were in an essence true spiritual adepts who understood that, at its inception, the nation would address a burning need within collective humanity as it existed in the mid-18th century, for a venue for souls

to expand and explore spirituality and their individualistic desires so as to allow them the FREEDOM to explore right and wrong. After centuries of suppression and imposed dogmatic religious restraint, the time had come for humanity to begin progressing forward in their spiritual development again. In order to attain this goal, a nation state dedicated to individual freedom had to be formed. For only through personal freedom can the individual soul have the unfettered experience of choosing its own path in its current life. Only this way will the individual soul have the chance to have impressed upon it the fruits of its good and bad choices. Thus we can see that the America is not simply an industrial, economic or political entity, but a spiritual vehicle by which humanity can progress towards a collective maturation of its soul and spirit.

This book, written for the most part in the voice of the author, painstakingly develops the above in step-by-step detail. It is a fabulous exposition of the spiritual science underpinning the *raison d'être* of the nation, and unlike most patriotic tomes found in print, develops for the reader a true understanding of what America is and how it is profoundly different than any other nation tate in existence, now or in history. The spiritual underpinnings of the nation are almost always omitted through ignorance in such books, or otherwise attributed to a mere availability of choice of venue for spiritual expression.

I am afraid that some might, through ignorance, or lack of attentive attraction, view this work as a religious doctrine. It is not. It is a profoundly spiritual exposition of the unspoken and sadly forgotten truths which underpin the nation and much of our entire modern civilization which has been built upon its shoulders. The widespread dissemination of the information contained in this book is vital if the nation is to maintain a true course of survival through an epoch of upheaval or tribulation in the future. It is important that all Freemasons know and understand the true nature and essence of what America is, for in difficult times the population at large becomes solely oriented to its materialistic survival. Many times it is in such a context that Pearls of Great Price, such as individual liberty, are hurriedly and haphazardly sacrificed for a mere fleeting morsel of stale fodder. This could be a great loss for the citizens of this nation,- as well as the world, for the spiritual freedom underpinning the concept of America might be allowed to extinguish.

In summary, this is a profound work that encompasses all aspects of true Americanism and which should be digested and understood by all the members of our fraternity if we are to “right the ship,” and effectuate positive and correct change on our society going forward.



## Hiram Lodge No. 1 Extending A Hand To a Fallen Brother

by Michael Calderone



While all Master Masons make a solemn vow to extend a hand to help a fallen brother they may not always know how to do so. Hiram Lodge No. 1 took steps in February to better prepare its members with a first aid presentation given by Hiram Past Master, WB Rich Calabria.

WB Rich, a paid firefighter and licensed paramedic, addressed a crowd that packed the Egyptian Room at the Temple in New Haven. He introduced the brothers to The Chain of Survival, or the steps to take when an emergency presents itself. Included in these procedures, WB Rich touched on the Heimlich Maneuver, CPR, and the AED kit.

The AED is a defibrillator device which guides one through the process of treating a victim of suspected sudden cardiac arrest. It provides real-time guidance through step-by-step voice commands and CPR guidance. These items are available for purchase and should be considered for all Masonic Temples. Brothers are not growing younger and training and devices like this could help a brother in our care.

As fate would have it, a senior member of Hiram Lodge No. 1 suffered a fall the very night of WB Rich's presentation and, luckily, both he and the entire Lodge was prepared to extend an outstretched hand. Will your lodge be ready?

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## The Care You Expect ... When It's Needed Most

by Adam Raider

At Masonicare, we place our patients' health and safety above all else. During this coronavirus (COVID-19) health emergency, we are working diligently to keep our residents, patients, and staff safe while continuing to offer the high quality, compassionate care you have come to expect from our providers.

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic is unlike anything the world has experienced in over a century, Masonicare has policies and procedures in place that help guide us in any situation we may encounter. In the case of this public health crisis, we have activated all of those measures. We limited access to all of our buildings and offices, instituted daily screening of all staff and visitors for travel and symptoms, enhanced staff training, stocked anticipated supplies, cancelled group recreational activities at Masonicare Health Center and our residential communities and, with the closing of our resident dining rooms, implemented direct-to-door meal delivery.

We established a dedicated task force led by President and CEO WB Jon-Paul Venoit and including our Medical Director, leadership from all of our service lines, and representatives from Nursing, Infection Control, Risk Management, Materials Management, Finance, Information Technology, and Environmental Services, among others. The group meets at least daily to monitor and address the latest developments from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC), World Health Organization, and State of Connecticut agencies. In addition to those groups, we receive regular updates from our various trade organizations, colleagues, and vendors from throughout the healthcare community.

We are providing important information about COVID-19 to our residents, patients and employees, along with instructions on what to do if they have any of the symptoms, and frequent reminders for the best ways to reduce the risk of infection.



Our website, [Masonicare.org](https://www.masonicare.org), includes a page dedicated to our coronavirus preparedness with updates from Bro. Venoit, while our social media channels are focusing

on life inside the continuum, where our dedicated recreation staff working to ensure that residents have access to activities and safe social interaction and making technology available so they can communicate via video chat with friends and loved ones.

Conditions are changing rapidly, so we're pushing ourselves to stay one step ahead and be prepared for any contingency.

"We will continue to utilize the best practices and highest standards as we face this situation along with you," said Venoit. "Our ageless commitment to caring is unwavering and we are confident in our ability to provide the best possible care."

# District 6

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



## Revolutionary Visitors at Washington Lodge No. 70

by Mark Keenan

The Past Masters Master Mason Degree on February 24 at Washington Lodge No. 70 included visits by not only the lodge's namesake, Worshipful Brother George Washington, but also Brother Charles Cornwallis! These revolutionary brothers not only attended but participated in performing Ritual. Brother Washington, portrayed by Washington Lodge Past Master WB Paul Hendricks, delivered the Lecture, while Brother Cornwallis delivered the Charge. Brother Cornwallis explained that while the two were enemies on the battlefield, they were also brothers and of course respected and treated each other as such. Brother Washington explained that he was at the Lodge once again to mark the recent anniversary of his birthday, and Brother Cornwallis was there at his invitation. Cornwallis was portrayed by Washington Lodge Past Master WB Jon White, WB White is also a Past Master of the Lodge of Concord No. 7233 of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE).



(l-r): WB Jon White as Cornwallis and WB Paul Hendricks as Washington.

The name of George Washington occupies a prominent place in Masonry, and his connection with the Craft is a source of pride to every American Freemason. Brother Charles Cornwallis, better known as Lord Cornwallis, is known to Americans as the British commander who surrendered to the Continental and French Armies following the Battle of Yorktown. *The Surrender of Lord Cornwallis*, an oil painting by John Trumbull, completed in



(l-r): WB Jon White, Brother Robert Dodge, WB Paul Hendricks, WM Mark Keenan and WB Steve Matthews.

1820, hangs in the rotunda of the United States Capitol in Washington, D. C. It commemorates the outcome of this last major land battle of the American Revolution, which caused the British government to negotiate an end to the conflict. Lord Cornwallis also served as a civil and military governor in Ireland and India and brought about significant changes including the Act of Union in Ireland and the Cornwallis Code and the Permanent Settlement in India.

The Past Masters degree team was led by WB Steve Matthews in the East. Washington Lodge No. 70 is one of four lodges in Connecticut allowed to perform Ancient Ritual, which WB Matthews performed expertly. The lodge's Senior Deacon, Brother Robert Dodge, was raised as an exemplar for the degree. Brother Dodge was originally raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Alna-Anchor Lodge No. 43 in Damariscotta Maine in 1987 and can now say that he has also been raised in his current lodge!

# District 9

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



## Moriah Lodge No. 15 Leap Year Sweetheart Dance

by Christina L. Page

In the Quiet Corner of Connecticut, Moriah Lodge No. 15 hosted its first sweetheart dance. Patrick Auger, Junior Steward, came up with the idea since February is a month for love and romance, and the members selected Leap Year weekend to make it even more memorable. Bob Scharlack, Senior Warden and President of the Building Corporation, started selling tickets and visiting local lodges to really promote the event.

After lodge members Ken Boundy, Chaplain, and Patrick Auger brought up the tables and chairs, Ladies Kim Messier, Lenore Auger, Mary Scharlack, and Shea Feeney, the 13-year-old daughter of Worshipful Master Adam Feeney, transformed the old lodge into a romantic setting for the night of the dance. New white linen tablecloths sprinkled with red and pink rose pedals, hearts and candy, and of course candles, set the loving tone for the guests, while sparkling red hearts hung from the ceiling. WB Feeney, the event's disc jockey and emcee, filled the room with music as guests arrived.

The tickets were just \$35 per couple and included an all-you-can-eat buffet with choice of pasta shells, meatballs, sausage in a spicy sauce, biscuits, salad, beverages and dessert, all prepared by Moriah Lodge Junior Warden and District 9A Associate Grand Marshall Greg Messier and his wife Kim. Dessert, a divine chocolate and raspberry cake, was made by WB Feeney.

As people enjoyed spending time with their loved one, they also chatted amongst themselves, getting to know one another. WB Feeney selected songs to encourage the group to get up and dance, also got out on the dance floor himself to teach them the "Git Up" by Blanco Brown, and "The Cupid Shuffle" by musical artist Cupid. And as this was a sweetheart dance, he also slowed things down. The lights were dimmed

and the couples held each other closely as they danced in the candlelight to songs like, "Wonderful Tonight" by Eric Clapton, "Hey Pretty Girl" by Kip Moore, and "Tennessee Whiskey" by Chris Stapleton.

Throughout the evening, guests had the opportunity to purchase tickets for the wide selection of door prizes, and WB Feeney would announce the winners of each of the prizes as the names were drawn. There were lottery tickets, wine baskets, gourmet gift baskets, and even a couple's basket.

The evening ended with the two young girls who had kept guests; water cups full, served hors d'oeuvres, cleared empty plates and addressed any needs, dancing to the "Cha Cha" by DJ Casper. Sisters, Savannah and Cierra Buisson, daughters

of friends of WB Messier, entertained the guests and then WB Feeney thanked everyone who attended. One of the special guests in attendance was Lady Jean Maxim, recent widow of Past Master Frank E. Maxim, III. RWB Frank was a mentor



to many members of Moriah Lodge and had a huge impact on keeping the lodge chartered, so having her attend was a highlight for the evening.

As guests left, the lodge members disassembled the beautiful setting, cleaned it up, and the old lodge room was returned to its usual quiet state awaiting its next event, which is their first monthly car cruise on April 6 from 5-8 p.m.

# Ladies In Freemasonry Together (L.I.F.T.)

by Edward C. Page

Most Worshipful Grand Master Melvin E. Johnson took office and began his term with some new initiatives. One of those was to recognize the women who support their Freemasons behind the scenes needed a way to connect and share what it is like to have an active Freemason in their life. He asked Christina Page, the wife of RWB Edward C. Page, Grand Junior Deacon, to create a social media platform to implement his idea. She was honored to accept his invitation to bring it to fruition.

Christina began by creating a name for the Facebook group and assigning an acronym that embodied the spirit of the group. Knowing that no matter how she used the word Freemasonry in the group's name that it could cause some confusion as to what role women play in Freemasonry, she decided on L.I.F.T., Ladies in Freemasonry Together, and wrote a vision statement to define the group's intent: *Connecticut MWGM Melvin E. Johnson felt strongly that there was a need for ladies to have a forum dedicated to them that was created by women, for women, and managed by women. We welcome all ladies of active Freemasons to participate. Our vision is to act as a resource for ladies to have a comfortable place to ask questions, share concerns, disseminate information, and to connect with other ladies who share their lives with a Freemason.* With MW Mel's approval, she launched the site on February 13, 2020 and created a logo shortly thereafter.

The group gained momentum quickly and after its first week had grown to over 150 members, and doubled that by the second week. Christina opted to include ladies of any active Freemason,



from any state, not just the great state of Connecticut, with the notion that seeing what other ladies do and enjoy throughout other states and jurisdictions would lend to a more extensive database of suggestions and ideas.

As the word got around, ladies of Canada wanted to join and soon it became a continental membership. Some of the interesting topics the private group discusses are ladies programs, themes for events, gift ideas, recipes and the ups and downs of being involved with an active Freemason. This "women only, no men allowed" forum allows for comfortable conversations and a way to recognize that other women have similar thoughts and concerns. It is meant to strengthen the sisterhood bond that exists through their association of a Freemason.

Mrs. Page also had a special request of the members, asking them to invite ladies of Freemasons who had been called to the Celestial Lodge. Pointing out that as "ladies travel along the path of a Freemason they meet incredible women and make instant connections with them and that can often lead to a void in a lady's life, and often lost connections... They are and will always be part of the Masonic family." Christina says they have several Masonic widows who are participating in the group and sharing their experience.

This special group of ladies continues to grow and Christina looks forward to seeing how the members develop and guide the discussions further. She's also hoping that after reading this article, you will encourage your lady to join the group, even if she herself isn't active along your side, she is still very much effected by your role as a Freemason and could benefit from simply seeing she is not alone. You can locate L.I.F.T. by going to the Connecticut Freemasons Facebook group page and looking for the group listed under it, or by searching for L.I.F.T. in Facebook and sending a request to join.

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# COVID-19, Lodges and a Connecticut Freemasons Request

by Francis G. Way

As you know, the bulk of the content of the *Connecticut Freemasons* comes from lodges and is mostly news of their activities. The content in this issue is from events that took place before COVID-19 went full-bore crazy and even then, this issue is a little sparse.

With Masonic activities ramping down for what we all hope is just a short while, the staff at Connecticut Freemasons is presented with the difficult task of publishing while there is little lodge content coming in. We have no plans of suspending publishing, even for just one issue. Unlike Broadway, our show WILL go on.

With that in mind, I would invite all lodges in our jurisdiction to submit a story or stories about how you all are coping with these strange times. Are you helping out in any way in your community, to alleviate the challenges faced by your neighbors? Are you helping our brothers who may be at risk (and probably a whole lot of our brothers are!)? Are you keeping in touch as a lodge with all of the wonderful electronic means that are available today? What else are you doing to cope?

You don't have to be Shakespeare, you don't have to be Ernest Hemingway, you don't have to be Norman Mailer, Thomas Pynchon, or John Steinbeck! Just write a short article that tells us how you're doing. I will, however, give bonus points to anyone who submits an article in the style of those robust authors just mentioned! Oh, and if you do it like Joe Friday requests ("Just the facts, ma'am"), it will surely make it in....

We at *Connecticut Freemasons* will, as always, try to keep you up to date on whatever closings are in place at the time of publication (or whatever may be starting to open up – keeping it really positive here, right?). But we want to be sure to give you some good uplifting content, and let you know how your brothers are doing across the state.

And finally, please be safe, don't hesitate to reach out to your brothers, and, as we are always taught, pray.

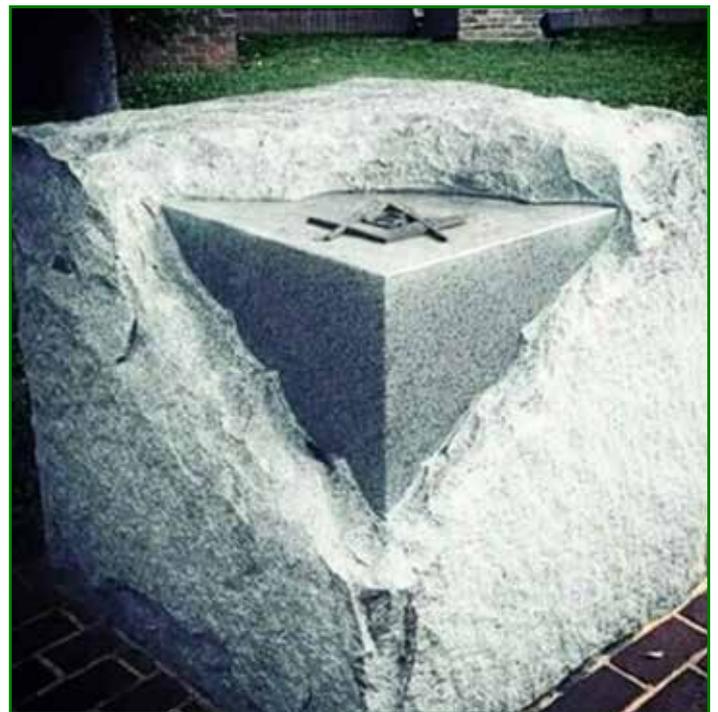
## New Perfect Ashlar Recognition *by Edward C. Page*

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](mailto:awards@ctfreemasons.net).



# Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr., Secretary Emeritus

April brings April showers, but April also means that the Valley of Hartford will be concluding the 2019-20 degree schedule on Saturday, April 18, with the presentation of 23rd Degree DVD and the live portrayal of the 32nd Degree. This year the Valley of Norwich and their candidates will join us for a joint Consistory Day. The session will be followed by the usual Prime Rib luncheon. The degrees get started at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to join us for the luncheon, please get your reservations in ASAP to the Valley secretary. The price if paid in advance by April 16 is \$20. If reservations are made without payment the price in \$25.

The Valley of Hartford would like to welcome the following candidates, who are scheduled to become 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Masons on that day:

Andrew Ambery and Nicholas G. Koziara (Wylls-St. John's Lodge No. 4), Joseph J. Luchetti (King Solomon's Lodge No. 7), David H. Prior (America-St. John's Lodge No. 8), Campfield A. Heinrich (Uriel Lodge No. 24), Knong Nuey, Frank E. Pysz, Derek A. Bensley (Composite Lodge No. 28), Thomas Damon-Smith (Friendship Lodge No. 33), Henry Peacock, Jr. (Valley Lodge No. 36), James H. Ashburner (Estuary Lodge No. 43), Jeff S. Bartlett (Jerusalem Lodge No. 49), Jeremy M. Gaffrey (Washington Lodge No. 70), Aldo Prario (Manchester Lodge No. 73), and Zachary C. Marotte and John A. Morales (Washington Lodge No. 81).

While Passover and Easter occur in April this year, and the second Friday of month is Good Friday, the monthly Sphinx Shrine luncheon will still be held. The menu is soup, eggplant, meatballs, pasta, salad, bread, butter, coffee and homemade desserts. The price is only \$10 per person, payable at the door. But advance reservations are required (call Barbara at



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

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**REMAINING 2020  
SPRING SCHEDULE**

**Sat., April 18 ~ Consistory Day - 9 a.m.**  
**23rd Degree DVD - Awarda Presentation -**  
**32nd Degree Live,**  
**Registration and pick-up of**  
**luncheon tickets starts at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Prime Rib Luncheon at noon.**

**Thu., May 7 - Annual Business Meeting**  
**and Election of Officers - 7:30 p.m.**

**Reservation forms for the**  
**Consistory Day Luncheon can**  
**be found on the Valley website:**  
**<http://www.valleyofhartford.org>**

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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](mailto:office@valleyofhartford.com)  
[www.valleyofhartford.org](http://www.valleyofhartford.org)

860-666-5449). The luncheon is open to friends, family, and co-workers.

If you have not submitted your child or grandchild's scholarship application, the deadline has passed. Late applications will not be accepted.

If you have not paid your 2020 dues, please submit them ASAP, especially if you want to attend Consistory Day and take advantage of the subsidized luncheon price.

Once again, we will also be celebrating Passover and Easter in April. And although the second Friday of the month falls on Good Friday, it has been decided that the normal routine of holding the monthly Friday join luncheons with the Sphinx Shrine, that the luncheons will be held. The menu will consist of: soup, eggplant,

meatballs, pasta, salad, bread, butter, coffee, and home-made deserts. Price of only \$10, which is payable at the door. However, advance reservations are required, no walk-ins. Reservations are to be made through Barbara at (860) 666-5449. Remember the luncheon is open to any family members, friends, and co-workers

If you have not yet submitted your child's or grandchild's college scholarship application, with all necessary documentation, SORRY it is TOO LATE. Also, if you have not paid your 2020 dues, please submit them ASAP, especially if you want to attend Consistory Day and take advantage of the subsidized price of the luncheon.

Other upcoming dates:

- Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Thursday, May 7 at 7 p.m.
- The Annual Family Picnic and Scholarship Presentation, Sunday, July 16,
- The Annual 5K Run/Walk to Benefit the Children's Dyslexia Center, Saturday, July 25

Other dates, including Family Life events will be listed in future articles, and also via email, so please keep the Valley office updated with any changes to phone number, email address or U.S. mail address. Also see the Valley's website: <https://valleyofhartford.org/events/familylifeevents>

If you know a Master Mason who would make a great Scottish Rite Mason, or if you are a Master Mason reading this article and you have interest in joining, the Valley has informational DVDs available on request. Contact the Valley Secretary, Bro. Tony Angelica at (860) 666-0712.

If a Blue Lodge is interested in a program on Scottish Rite, please contact Ill. Brother Jeff Flynn, 33rd at [jedge60@yahoo.com](mailto:jedge60@yahoo.com) or Bro. Frank Dlugoleski MSA at [fdlugoleskis@gmail.com](mailto:fdlugoleskis@gmail.com).

# Step by Step is the Way to Light

by John A. Amarillos, MSA, [membership@lafayetteconsistory.com](mailto:membership@lafayetteconsistory.com)

The month of April will see the Consistory involved in its traditional Hospitality Suite duties at Grand Lodge. The Hospitality Suite is an exceptional venue for Grand Lodge attendees to meet and socialize, as well as quench one's thirst or snack. This widely anticipated feature of the Grand Lodge festivities is always a good time.

Degree work this month, on April 27, features most everyone's favorite – the 22nd Degree – so called “singing degree” as the cast deliver their lines whilst singing them! This is a uniquely Scottish Rite experience and we are truly lucky to have members who are not only accomplished ritualists, but troubadours as well! The size of this degree, and the audio requirements, are very well matched to the recent upgrades at the Leo H. Lohrman Theatre in Stratford. In order to avoid disappointment it is highly recommended that you make a reservation to attend, so that adequate seating will be available. The degree will be preceded by the 6th Degree on video, and any brother desiring to start their Scottish Rite Journey can do so as well, in which case a recorded 4th Degree will precede the 6th Degree. It is necessary to RSVP for the degree as well as the dinner which starts at 6 p.m. before the degrees. Please call the office at (203) 375-0064 any time night or day to leave your message.

Last month we were discussing the Great Light. The path of Masonic Alchemy is one of slow steady gains. Permanent change in the desires of our personalities or natures cannot be attained overnight. Change comes slowly and requires steady and unceasing repetitive effort. Lifelong habits or bad habits cannot be broken by forcing change or resistance. By giving a particular habit, tendency, desire or personality constant inordinate thought, the effort will eventually exhaust and overcome the seeker attempting change.

Masonic Alchemy provides a framework in which the change can be effectuated in step by step fashion over a period of time. The gradual elimination of an unwelcome tendency is the only way it can be successfully excised from our collection of physiological or mental habits. One simply is replacing one habit for another. Eventually the new mode of behavior becomes effortless as we gradually adopt it in place of the former unwanted proclivity.

Clearly we must initially desire to effectuate change. Once our desire nature adopts the idea of change, then the implementation of a new behavioral pattern can be slowly put in its place. Many times, we must displace the old habit rather than trying to cut it out “cold turkey.” Redirecting one's attention from the undesirable behavior to an unrelated matter

or activity is often effective, as one's attention is redirected from the unwanted desire to another preoccupation. How many times have I missed lunch because I was too immersed in work or some other activity that required an urgent resolution? Amazingly when you become so preoccupied with an unrelated concern, your unwanted tendency is easily – and effortlessly -- forgotten – redirected if you will. Now if my attention is not redirected in such a manner, I am sure that my lunch would be a front and center preoccupation in my mind by 12:15!

Trying to effect change in mind, thought and body is a process. Our Masonic rituals, if listened to repeatedly in an attentive manner, will eventually effect change within us. As we digest the words of the ritual, and if we attempt to make the symbols ours by researching them, studying them, and practicing them, we will slowly, unnoticeably, and without drama or struggle, effectuate the changes I alluded to above. We must displace all our errant thinking, feeling and desiring in a slow and repetitive manner with the words and concepts that emerge from our rituals. This is a process – it takes time and effort, with no few failures along the way. There is however, no other way to effect major changes which will last a lifetime once implemented.

*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, April 27, 7:30 p.m.**  
22nd Singing Degree Live plus  
6th Degree Video - Stratford Theater

**Monday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.**  
32nd Degree- Live - Stratford Theatre

\*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](mailto:Office@LafayetteConsistory.com) or call 203-375-0064.

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

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

# 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**

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

**Tue., April 7, 7 p.m.**, Union Lodge No. 40, Danbury, Brotherhood in Action - *137 Greenwood Ave, Bethel, CT, Join the Brothers of Union Lodge as we help Brotherhood In Action, a local food bank prepare for their Easter Distribution. We will meet at Brotherhood In Action, behind Danceline Bethel, and family and friends are welcome to join us in volunteering!*

**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.*

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

**Mon., April 27, 7 p.m.**, Seneca Lodge No. 55, Torrington, Masons Night Out/Sawyers Bar & Grill, 79 Center St, Torrington, CT, Food, Fun, and Fellowship

**Sat., May 2, 8 a.m.**, Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3, Fairfield, *6th Annual Habitat for Humanity Work Party*

**Sat., May 2, 9 a.m.**, Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, Union 5 Breakfast

**Sat., May 2, 5 p.m.**, Columbia Lodge No. 25, South Glastonbury, *Derby Night: Dinner & Bluegrass, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Reservations by April 25*

**Sun., May 3**, Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, *Homecoming Celebration for Stephen Petri*

**Sun., May 3, 7 a.m.**, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, Breakfast Fundraiser

**Sun., May 3, 8 a.m.**, Putnam Lodge No. 46, Woodstock, Mother's Day Breakfast, \$8 per person.

**Tue., May 5, 6:30 p.m.**, America-St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, *Annual Awards Night Dinner All friends and family are welcome.*

**Fri., May 8, 6:30 p.m.**, Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Ladies Dinner, Carmines di Vega, 1500 Whalley Ave, New Haven, CT

**Sat., May 9, 8 a.m.**, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, *Red Cross Blood Drive*

**Sun., May 10, 10:30 a.m.**, Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, Officers Roundtable

**Thu., May 14, 6:30 p.m.**, Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Ladies at the Table

**CHECK PAGE 30 FOR CANCELLATIONS OR POSTPONEMENTS DUE TO COVID-19. CALL THE SECRETARY OF THE LODGE IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.**

# 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

**Wed., April 15, 6:30 p.m.,**  
King Solomon's Lodge No. 7,  
Woodbury

**Tue., April 21, 6:30 p.m.,**  
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8,  
Stratford, Dinner

**Tue., April 28, 7:30 p.m.,**  
Fayette Lodge No. 69,  
Ellington

**Thu., May 7, 6:30 p.m.,**  
Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3,  
Fairfield

## FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES

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

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

**Tue., April 21, 6:30 p.m.,**  
Union Lodge No. 40, Danbury, Dinner

**Tue., April 21, 7:30 p.m.,**  
Seneca Lodge No. 55, Torrington, Dinner

**Thu., April 23, 6:30 p.m.,**  
Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Dinner

**Wed., April 29, 7:30 p.m.,**  
Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142, Easton

## MASTER MASON DEGREES

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

**Mon., April 20, 6:30 p.m.,**  
Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford,  
Dinner

**Thu., May 7, 6:30 p.m.,**  
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington,  
Dinner

**Mon., May 11, 7:30 p.m.,**  
Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville

**CHECK PAGE 30 FOR  
CANCELLATIONS OR  
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TO COVID-19. CALL THE  
SECRETARY OF THE LODGE IF  
YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.**



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

# Cancellations ~ Postponements

All items are supplied by the lodges or other Masonic bodies. The *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper is not responsible for errors. When we are able to resume meeting and traveling, please contact the secretary of the lodge or other organizations to verify all times and events.

## RESCHEDULED

**Union Lodge No. 40, Danbury, 240th Anniversary of Union Lodge Celebration** has been rescheduled from April 4 to **Saturday, October 3, 2020, 6 to 11 p.m., to take place at the same location, Anthony's Lake Club, 10 Christopher Columbus Blvd, Danbury, We will have more information about the rescheduled event in the next few weeks. All tickets that have already been purchased will be honored at the rescheduled date.**

## CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**Cosmopolitan Lodge No, 125**  
Cancelled all events and meetings through April 15

**Washington Lodge No, 19**  
All activities cancelled through April.

## NOTICE OF LODGE BUILDINGS CLOSED

**New Haven**

**East Hartford York Rite**

## OTHER MASONIC BODIES

Scottish Rite  
4/20 Valley of Hartford 28th Degree  
(cancelled/postponed)

**Sent from Companion James S. McNeely -**

3/16	St. Johns Commandery (cancelled)
3/17 & 31	St. Elmo Commandery (cancelled including IORC and Malta)
3/17	Red Cross of Constantine (cancelled)
3/18	Suffield York Rite Bodies (cancelled)
3/19	Hamilton Commandery (cancelled)
3/20	New Haven Commandery (IORC and Malta Cancelled)
3/20-21	CT Rainbow Grand Assembly (postponed)
3/21	Tri-State Council Festival (postponed)
3/28	York Rite College (postponed until 4/25)
4/4	Grand Lodge of Connecticut (cancelled)
4/12	Easter Service at Masonicare (cancelled)
4/12	Grand Encampment Easter Service (cancelled)
4/19-20	Grand Council of PA (postponed)
4/23	Grand Chapter of CT OES (cancelled)

The following are Suspended/Closed:

All Connecticut DeMolay activities and functions.

New Haven Masonic Temple is closed – all activities cancelled (Franklin Chapter, Harmony Council, New Haven Commandery)

East Hartford York Masons Hall is closed – all activities cancelled (Pythagoras Chapter, Wolcott Council, Washington Commandery)

**The Following Connecticut Lodges** have Suspended Activities (not an inclusive list please check with Lodge Secretaries) { Washington 70, Columbia 25, Hospitality 128, Union 31

**The Following US Grand Jurisdictions** have Suspended Masonic Activity:

Delaware	Indiana	Pennsylvania
Massachusetts	Illinois	Ohio
Missouri	Arkansas	Maryland
New York	New Jersey	Maine
Oregon	Washington	Virginia
New Mexico	Tennessee	Florida
Wisconsin	Rhode Island	Washington D.C

Again please let me know as more schedule changes occur so that I can add them to the list.

Thanks, James



# Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*<sup>SM</sup>



## That was Then — This is Now!

by Richard F. Denno

**O**n March 9, I submitted my article for the April issue of the *Connecticut Freemasons*. It was about the upcoming Donate Life Blue & Green Walk to be held on April 26. It spoke of all the fun and fellowship we would all have in Windsor. Lodges were encouraged to form ‘sub-teams’ under the CT Freemason’s team. Our fundraising and community awareness goals were lofty, but for Freemasons very attainable.

But that was THEN – This is NOW. As I sit here writing this replacement piece, our whole world has been turned upside down. If I never hear the words “Coronavirus, COVID-19” ever again it will be too soon. By the time the April *Connecticut Freemasons* reaches you, I’m sure many more chapters will have been written to this story. Your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program hopes you have stayed healthy and will continue to do so.

Our committee and Donate Life will still be celebrating Donate Life Month, which is in April. Go online to [www.neds.org](http://www.neds.org) and learn about up coming events you and your lodge can participate in. Our committee will be partnering with NEDS (New England Donor Services) on many exciting

Donate Life/Masonic organ donor events, however these events are predicated on the events of the virus and our governments success in defeating this horrible pandemic.

Through Grand View, our fantastic new Grand Lodge communication system, you’ll be updated about upcoming organ donor volunteer opportunities and invited to participate.

One of the most important lessons that this crisis has taught us is that life itself is very so precious. Each additional day is another opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our loved ones, brothers and friends. If you haven’t yet registered as a donor, you can learn about donation and register at [www.registerme.org](http://www.registerme.org). Be sure to encourage those you love to do the same.

Remember – Don’t Take Your Organs to Heaven – Heaven Knows We Need Them Here!

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# The Freemason Podcast...A Different Approach

by Jim Rafferty



A little over a year ago, RWB George Mudry, along with other brothers from Morning Star Lodge No. 47, started a podcast. RWB George felt that with decline of membership in the Craft, it was his way to bring interest back. The podcast evolved, and episodes later included WB Joe Zannino and WB Ken Tarwood.

Brothers George, Joe, and Ken reached out to interested men and brothers around the world, from as far as Australia and Amsterdam! They have touched on many topics in Masonry and interviewed a host of people, including Grand Master Melvin

Edward Johnson and celebrities such as Brother Scott Wolter, of TV's "America Unearthed", WB Pat Miletich, UFC Champion, and WB Art Del Cueto, Vice President of Border Patrol Agents.

The podcast has also helped with fund raisers for the Shrine, and has raised \$8,500 for RWB Chip Schofield as he courageously battles cancer. In addition, they began a program called MOVE (Masonic Outreach to Veterans Everywhere) to assist Veterans who miss the camaraderie of being in the military and that Freemasonry can provide.

The podcast has brought many members to the Craft, from here in Connecticut, as well as around the world. Through their Facebook page, listeners contact the hosts to ask questions on how to join. George, Joe, and Ken, with help from Brother Jim Rafferty, direct them to their local Grand Lodge's web pages. There has are also brothers who have stepped away from the fraternity in the past but now have a renewed interest after listening to the podcast.

On Sunday, February 16, the Freemason's Podcast reached a milestone of 100 episodes. They are working hard to raise and return the Fraternity to the glory it once had. Have a listen, you might be surprised. You can find the Freemason Podcast on social media sites Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and listen to them on Apple iTunes, Spotify and numerous other media streaming apps.



# A DeMolay Mom's Message

by Virginia Martin

I am proud of my sons.

They are respectful.

They are considerate.

They are responsible.

They are compassionate.

And they are human.

They are learning and watching how to model themselves as good citizens in their adult lives.

They fall down and learn how to stand up.

Their tireless effort to accept defeat and help others in need as they too learn these life lessons is amazing for kids in today's world.

Their abilities to make commitments and continue friendships that form bonds is a testament to the lessons they are receiving.

Their hearts and integrity are true to themselves and those they consider friends and family.

**They have embraced all that DeMolay stands for.**

At the age of 12 in 2017, my eldest son joined Nathan Hale Chapter which meets at Unity Lodge No 148 in New Britain. I had only just learned about Masonry and the youth guidance program it also provided not long before. I trusted in it as a community experience that could lead him in positive ways toward adulthood.

The guidance and support of the Chapter and State Officials, and Moms and Dads was and is amazing. Their calm definitive beliefs in actions and conversations confirmed my questions and trust.

I was nervous and not as knowledgeable as I felt I should have been before taking this endeavor on.

I say these things as I have been through the blind trust and hopeful feelings that I am doing right by my children.

I speak to new incoming parents who are nervous and hope they are calmed by being able to have an honest conversation about what some of them are learning about for the first time.

I watch now as both of my sons are current members by their own choice.

I see how DeMolay has helped them grow in more than just their Chapter and State roles by the experiences and characteristics they are actively learning.

I have never regretted it.

I am proud to say I have 2 boys involved in the Freemasonry program of DeMolay and am GRATEFUL beyond these words.



# The Sisters' Project Funds Newly Refurbished Family Lounge at Masonicare Health Center

For close to a decade, The Sisters' Project has graciously supported Masonicare's Inpatient Hospice Services on the Acute Care Unit, providing hospice patients and their loved ones with increased comfort at a time when they need it most. The Sisters' Project is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded by a group of women in Wallingford committed to raising funds in support of cancer patients and their families. Since 2011, Masonicare has been a major beneficiary of the group's fundraising efforts.

In the fall of 2019, The Sisters' Project generously funded the refurbishment of the family lounge on 3 Central at Masonicare Health Center, including updated furniture, window treatments, lighting, and artwork. In a ribbon cutting ceremony on February 4, 2020, the lounge was unveiled and has already been able to provide a private, serene space for residents and their families. The Sisters were also honored for their long-standing support of Masonicare's Inpatient Hospice Services with the dedication of 3 Central as "The Sisters' Project Way."

"The Sisters' Project is so pleased to have been able to help outfit the new family lounge at Masonicare Health Center. The creation of this peaceful haven allows us to continue our mission to bring tranquility to cancer patients and their families in our community," said The Sisters' Project President, Judi Gallagher. "We are particularly proud of the naming of this area as 'The Sisters' Project Way' and are honored to partner with Masonicare as they respond to patient needs and enhance their palliative and long-term care."

In addition to furnishing the family lounge, this



year's donation will supply embroidered blankets to comfort and warm patients and their families and provide continued coffee and snack service for both the Acute Care Medical Unit and 3 Central.

"We are so grateful for the continued generosity of The Sisters' Project," said Jennifer King, Executive Director of The Masonic Charity Foundation. "Their excellent support over the years has truly helped to create a peaceful and homelike environment for Masonicare's hospice patients and their families cared for in our Wallingford facility."



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# Wine & Beer

TASTING

**Stay tuned!**

*The May 1st date has been postponed... new date coming soon*



**6:00 PM**  
*to*  
**9:00 PM**

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