

May 2020



Connecticut FREEMASONS



**THE MASONIC
FAMILY IN
THE TIME OF
COVID-19.**



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



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



Volume 15 - Number 11

Publisher

THE GRAND LODGE
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Connecticut Freemasons – The COVID-19 Issue *by Francis G. Way*

There's no doubt about it, these are unusual times. This COVID-19 pandemic has created dramatic changes all over the world. It is said that the Himalayas are visible from India for the first time in ages due to so many people staying home has lessened the air pollution. Sports, except for re-runs on television, are completely shut down. School is total telecommuting, and depending on who one listens to, the results from these changes are either a nightmare or the greatest things since Zoom.

Even here at the *Connecticut Freemasons* there have been a lot of changes. When I left on March 11 to visit my daughter in Las Vegas, the April issue was pretty well set. By the time I came back one week later, in what would have been a long strange trip if I had been the only one experiencing delays and cancellations, and canned water on the plane – those were the norm on March 17 and 18 – everything was up in the air. The emergency installation of the Grand Master and Grand Lodge officers was a very last minute, squeeze it in kind of thing, and the issue was constantly changing, right up until it was mailed off to the printer. Rest assured, that is not the norm for this publication!

This issue, the May issue, would normally be all about Grand Lodge Annual Session, and Grand Commandery Annual Conclave, and Craft at Labor would be full of Master Mason degrees as lodges try to raise their Fellowcrafts before summer break. There would have been advertising for Grand Masters Day, and lodges, valleys and Commanderies would be reminding their members that marchers were needed for the Grand Masters Day parade. But not this year.

And so, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em, as the old saying goes.

With that attitude, and a call from MWGM Stephen Petri to the lodges to send articles about how they're coping with these strange new times, this issue became all about COVID-19. If nothing else, it will be a great read 100 years from now, much the same way newspaper articles from the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918 are interesting. To future Grand Historians, you're welcome.

But we believe it's more than just a great read for the next century. It's the story of how the brothers of our little state are coping, becoming inventive, getting back to basics in helping their brothers, and even a bit of philosophy and opinion.

Sit back and enjoy this issue. It's surely like nothing we've ever seen before, and we hope will never see again. But to paraphrase Brother Winston Churchill, this might be "our finest hour."

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

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OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we announce the death of

William Francis Carpenter, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master

Most Worshipful William F. Carpenter served the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut as the 151st Grand Master in 1997. His Masonic career spanned 50 years during which time he was honored as a recipient of the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze. He passed away on Saturday, March 28, 2020.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

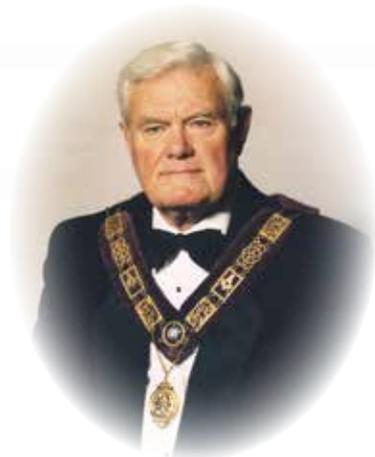
Once regular lodge activities resume, it is the will and pleasure of the Most Worshipful Grand Master that each Connecticut Masonic Lodge Altar be draped for a period of thirty days in memory of our departed Past Grand Master.

Brother Carpenter was predeceased by his wife, Barbara (Bobbie), and leaves behind his children Janice Cyr, Donald Carpenter, and Randall Carpenter. Letters of sympathy and condolence for the family may be sent to his daughter, Mrs. Janice Cyr, 1016 Palisade Circle, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577.

Fraternally,

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

Grant S. Gould
R.W. Grand Secretary



Brother William F. Carpenter
151st Most Worshipful Grand Master of the
Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut,
laid down his working tools on March 28, 2020.

Grand Master's Message

by Stephen W. Petri



The COVID-19 pandemic has hit like an earthquake. The seismic shock has knocked all the things that have been carefully prepared for the future off the shelves, scattering them across the floor, breaking some, bending and denting others and putting all of that planning into a huge jumble. We don't know how long this pandemic will last or what the final repercussions will be. But we must plan and move forward. So, I would like to tell you about some of the good and interesting things that are coming up from the Grand Lodge.

The Associate Grand Almoner

I have created a new appointed Grand Lodge position called the "Associate Grand Almoner." The Associate Grand Almoner's mission is to serve as a resource for the lodges in his district. They will work with Bro. Carl Anderson, the Right Worshipful Grand Almoner, to, at the lodge's request, help identify resources, services, and support available for the local lodge's relief efforts. RWB Anderson has discovered that many of the requests that are received by the Grand Almoner are not financial, but informational in nature, these are the types of things that an Associate Grand Almoner can help bring to a lodge.

The new AGA's are Adam Plotnick, 1st District; Paul J. Garavel, 2nd District; Joe Zannino, 3rd District; Gary E. Cohen, 4th District; Rudolph Cabata, 5th District; Robert B. McKay, 6th District; Ray Moore, 7th District; C. A. Duke, 8th District; and Fred Watts, 9th District. Congratulations, brothers!

BeAFreemason.org & Daily Inquiries

There is a new website, BeAFreemason.org, which was developed by the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and sponsored by both the Scottish Rite Northern and Southern Jurisdictions and Shriners International. BeAFreemason.org has been created to be a central hub of accurate and true information about Freemasonry for the general public with an eye towards general Masonic membership growth through education, and includes a form to submit an inquiry. We are averaging three new inquiries a day, two from BeAFreemason.org and one from our existing website's ERM system. The reborn Membership Committee is now chaired by WB Bob Polito, who has been following up with the web leads and making preliminary investigations before the prospect is assigned to a lodge. If you are interested in joining the Membership Committee, please contact the Grand Lodge office.

Grand Lodge Family Picnic

The first "Annual Grand Lodge of CT Family Picnic" will be held Saturday, August 15, at Castle Hill Farm, 25 Sugar Street, Newtown, from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. All members of our Masonic family are invited! Active Rainbow Girls and DeMolay youth are admitted for free! Food trucks will be on hand, and we are looking

at having a band. Now we know this will not truly be "The First Annual Grand Lodge of Connecticut Family Picnic." There has been a long and storied history of Grand Lodge picnics, but we have not had one in many years and the Grand Line decided last year that we would make it a priority to re-boot the tradition. There will be a minor fee to pay for the use of the farm. The Grand Junior Warden, RWB Joe Porco, has been working hard on putting this event together. With the way the year has been going, I believe this will be a much-enjoyed event. Expect more information to follow.

New Features on Grand View

The brothers at Grand View continue to improve and add new features and functionalities to the system. Some of the new features are a completely redesigned Feed and Social. Social is gone and has been replaced with "Feed" where members of a lodge can quickly and easily communicate with other members of their lodges. The feed functionality is intended to be smaller and more lodge focused. There are plans to expand the groups to regions or districts that will be rolled out in the coming weeks.

New "events and calendaring" features will simplify the sharing of events and dates by the lodge secretaries. A new attendance tracking feature will easily allow secretaries to record who has attended lodge by allowing brothers to check-in using their smart phone. Lodge members will now be able to see the contact information for brothers in their lodges. New prospect management updates will help manage and track new inquiries, especially those coming in from the internet, so they won't get lost and fall between the cracks.

There are many other new features, but these will be mostly be of interest to secretaries and Masters of lodges. If you have not yet signed into Grand View, you should do so now and take advantage of the new features. For help signing into Grand View for the first time contact the Grand Lodge office or your District Deputy.

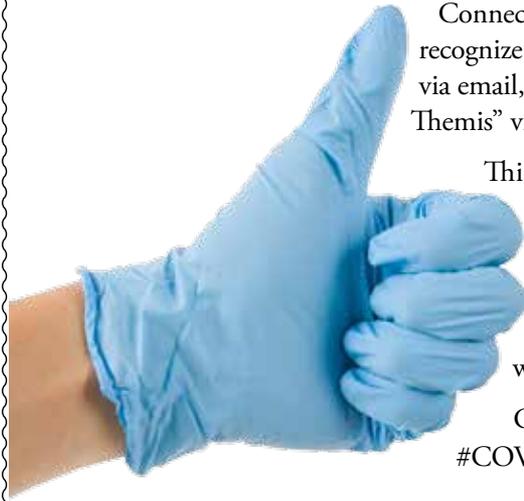
Connecticut Freemasons Booster Support – Online!

Now you can support *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper online! You spoke and we listened. There is now a PayPal dropdown **Connecticut Freemasons Booster** form on the Grand Lodge home page, just below the PDF version of the paper. Use the dropdown to select your level, click the "Pay Now" button and then follow the directions. You can pay

Continued on page 7

Freemasons of Connecticut Chosen as #COVIDWarriors

by Francis G. Way



Connecticut State Representative Themis Klarides, House Republican Leader, has started a program to recognize people or groups who are making a difference during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are nominated via email, and if chosen, are recognized as #COVIDWarrior and called out in her weekly “Thursdays with Themis” videos.

This week, the first week, along with the staff of the Willows Nursing Home in Woodbridge, the Freemasons of Connecticut were recognized as the first #COVIDWarriors to be named. The nomination highlighted some of the stories that appear in this issue that relate what the lodges are doing to support not only their brethren, but the people in the community.

The announcement was made in her weekly email, and in this video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yu9jjQmMdY0&feature=youtu.be>).

Congratulations to all the brothers of our jurisdiction who have gone above and beyond, and truly are #COVIDWarriors.

Lodge No Vacancy, Really! by Ted Nelson

I've been a Mason for 33 years and like most of you, I have never seen a pandemic. I am in awe of how our liberties have been put on the sidelines while unelected, so-called experts say we can no longer exercise our first amendments rights of assembly, and state governors have issued orders that only “essential” personnel can work and the rest of us have to stay home. I have been blessed with a back log of work to process, good health, and my trades are considered essential. Clearly that is someone's opinion. I only hope that opinion doesn't change. My heart breaks as equally for those who have been stricken by this disease, as well as those who industries have closed overnight.

I know you won't be surprised to read that I love going to lodge. I'm one of the crazy ones who not only looks forward to good degree work and fellowship but also the laborious stated business meeting. I love the reading of the minutes just to hear the names of my brothers recited and a reminder of some funny event that may have happened at the last meeting. I'm the brother who has been begging other brothers for years to come to lodge! Join us for the umpteenth time to see one of the three degrees. Hopefully, rendered with dignity to impress upon the mind the tenants of our institution.

Now I'm told by the authorities that I can't go to lodge. I'm incensed! Are we sheep that don't know how to care for each other or ourselves? This demand was so swift and so all-consuming that we have been isolated and unable to protest. To me it's my only concept of what the German Blitzkrieg must have been like during WWII. It just happened, and all you are left with is the devastation. I wish that we had been given suggestions of how to take care of ourselves without the need to close down entire

industries, our lodges, and houses of worship. While this has all happened overnight it will take years to re-build the booming economy that we enjoyed and almost took for granted just two months ago.

Once we are allowed (I can't believe I just wrote that) to go back to lodge, I'm hoping that those of you who have been out of the habit of going to lodge will come out and enjoy fellowship with us again. Those who felt like we were boring might just stop by and offer something different – break the old habits and suggest ways of engaging us in other endeavors.

Do you miss lodge, temple, or church? I, for one, sure do. What I love about our fraternity is that many of our fore-brothers were also the founding fathers of our great nation and our constitution is unlike anything the world has ever seen. I always thought my lodge or a lodge would be there. Like the lines from a James Taylor song Fire & Rain “I always thought I'd see you again.”

Life is wonderful, and our God has blessed all of us, but I'm reminded that life is fragile and we shouldn't take it for granted. We do need to be safe and protect each other. I have the habit of ending many of my writings with “See you in lodge.” Now I hope to get back to lodge soon. It really is true, you don't know how much you will miss someone until they are gone. Who knew our lodges and our freedom of assembly could be taken away from us so easily? I miss you, I miss our fellowship, I miss your handshake, your smile, and good council my brothers. Keep the faith! See you in lodge soon.

Grand Master's Message *continued from page 5*

with credit or debit cards or a PayPal account. The funds are used to help cover the printing and mailing expenses of the paper.

Masonic University

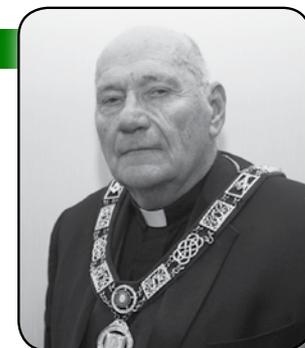
We will be launching a new Masonic University in Grand View this year, which is based upon the Grand Lodge of Maryland's "Solomon Society." The questions and answers have been changed to reflect Connecticut Freemasonry's rituals, rules & regulations. There will be a series of multiple level exams and tasks, each earning specific achievements progressing towards the final "diploma." MWB Gary Arseneau and his team, and the Grand Lodge officers and are in the

process of finalizing the program for the premier Masonic educational challenge of this grand jurisdiction.

We will get through this worldwide challenge, but it will take time. Remember Freemasonry's tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Watch out for your brothers and their families. Keep each other close even though we must be separated. We are stronger together. God bless and protect you all. And now may the blessing of Heaven rest upon us, and all regular Masons; may brotherly love prevail; and every moral and social virtue cement us.

Grand Chaplain's Message

by Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski



Brothers and sisters of all Masonic bodies: I address all of you because we all depend on others to be successful. In my last message I mentioned the coronavirus. We are now in a pandemic since that last article I wrote. This is the first time in my life as a clergy that services are being celebrated virtually.

Most of us are communicating by Zoom and other social programs. I especially keep everyone in the world in my prayers that we can all work together to overcome this dreadful virus.

It especially saddens me that our Grand Master Stephen Petri had to make many decisions. We must all have a zealous attachment to our duties. We are to be quiet and peaceful not only to our peculiar state but be true to our government and our country. In these trying times we should not be disloyal or rebel but be patient to legal authority. In closing I continually pray that all of us try and work together and that God may guide us in these troubled times.

Brothers all,

On behalf of the Grand Master, the Grand Lodge officers and staff, of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, **we would like to THANK** all the first responders (police, fire, medical), doctors, nurses, APRNs, CNAs, PCAs, social workers, therapists, pharmacy, diagnostic and lab technicians, housekeeping and maintenance staff, home healthcare providers, retail personnel, and truck drivers for the magnificent job that they are doing under such unbelievably difficult and heartbreaking circumstances during this Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Please stay safe as you care for our loved ones in these difficult times.

Our hearts go out to you and your families.

Fraternally,

Grant S. Gould

R.W. Grand Secretary

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



Grand Historian's Corner

Andrew R. Melillo

After decades of braving the Morgan storm, Masons were setting their aspirations toward a renewed sense of optimism. Grand Master Benoni A. Shephard reported in the Grand Lodge Session of 1851 that he had received a communication from the Secretary of St. John's Lodge No. 3 to finance and install a proper memorial over the grave of Brother, General David Wooster, in Danbury. The lodge pledged \$100 to the cause, and was convinced other lodges would follow their lead, for in September of 1850 they wrote to the Grand Master:

Ought not the memory of so great and good a man as General Wooster to be perpetuated on marble, that future Ages may know his Masonic virtues as well as his patriotism in achieving our Independence?

Brother Stephen A. Hurlburt represented Union Lodge No. 40 of Danbury at the session. Hurlburt presented a petition on the distinguished character, virtues and qualities of General David Wooster as a man and Mason, while soliciting the cooperation of this Grand Lodge. A committee was formed consisting of Brother Hurlburt, Francois Turner of Hiram Lodge No. 1, and John H. St. John of St. John's Lodge No. 3. On the next day, the committee requested \$100 be appropriated from the funds of the Grand Lodge for the purpose of erecting a memorial over Wooster's grave. It was adopted, and was followed by a resolution from Alexander Hamilton [not the Founding Father] of St. John's Lodge No. 3 that the first four officers of the Grand Lodge, together with the first three officers of Union Lodge No. 40 be a committee to *superintend the erection of the Wooster Monument, and to receive and pay out all funds raised for that purpose.*

While a more positive energy flowed into a Masonic revival with Wooster's memorial, the Morgan storm had produced many visible challenges within the Craft. In 1852, Grand Master William E. Sanford and his Deputy Grand Master, David Clark, reported the

restoration of Adelphi Lodge in East Haven, and visited eleven other lodges to witness and review the quality of their work. As Case and Tapley write,

Much remained to insure a uniform mode of work: A system of District Deputies; quarterly Grand Lodges of Instruction; specification of an official monitor or chart; even appointment of a Grand Lecturer.

This continued into 1853 when Most Worshipful Brother Sanford called a Special Communication at the beautiful hall of St. John's Lodge in Bridgeport. At this communication were represented twenty-four lodges, largely from the western part of the state. It was here that a committee was appointed to,

perfect the work and lectures. A high-ranking composite team from all eight counties, demonstrated the approved form of opening and closing lodge; processing of applications and the manner of balloting; and the ritual of all three degrees. All the work was approved and adopted as the standard uniformity, and recommended to all lodges.

Braving the Morgan storm had also demonstrated the precarious reality that the quality of the masonic work had suffered, and was in need of renewed energy and effort. The work was in such a neglected state that Deputy Grand Master David Clark indicated his disapproval of the levity and inattention of the brothers during degree work. And as Case and Tapley write of him, *he deplored the introduction of more than one candidate at time; and suggested that more careful consideration of applicants was advisable. He warned against 'travelling mendicants' and stated that Lodges were being imposed upon if they gave any relief money in addition to lodging and/or meals.* The lodges took note.

The public celebration of the Centennial of the Washington Inaugural in 1852 was such a success in Connecticut, that the Craft continued their efforts to collect the necessary funds to

raise the Wooster memorial. Deputy Grand Master David Clark, filling in for the absent Grand Master Sanford, reported in 1853 that the city of Danbury had allocated \$500 to the memorial, that the lodges throughout the state had generated \$1000 and the State government was to provide \$1,500. James G. Batterson was chosen to create the memorial from Connecticut brownstone. By 1854, after the careful oversight, energy and hard work of now Grand Master David Clark, the memorial was ready to erect. Attending the event on April 27, 1854, was the Governor Charles Hobby Pond, Masons from New York, Rhode Island and Ohio, as well as more than half of the lodges within the state. Danbury was swept away by the nearly thirty thousand people who flocked to the event to witness the great multitude of brothers processing from Union Lodge No. 40's lodge room to the grave site. Sealed into the stone of the monument are a great many relics, papers, and items – and as the top stone was being lowered into place the group sang, *Ode to Masonry.* Masonry was back on the rise. At the Grand Lodge session in 1859, with Grand Master John C. Blackman of St. John's Lodge No. 3 taking the helm, Columbia Lodge No. 25 in South Glastonbury was back at labor, giving some of its previous jurisdictional territory to Daskam Lodge No. 86. A new lodge was chartered in Madison (No. 87), and; Columbia Lodge No. 26 in East Haddam, Temple Lodge No. 65 in Westport, and Harmony Lodge No. 67 in New Canaan had their charters restored. The next year, 5,854 Masons were registered on the roster list in the entire state (with a total population of 460,147 citizens), and six-hundred and forty-two initiations were reported.

And yet, as Masonry was back on the rise, two tragic events occurred in 1861. Eliphalet G. Storer, the current Grand Secretary since 1836, had a print shop in New Haven. This made him an ideal candidate to serve as Grand Secretary, as he was able to both dutifully record the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, as well

Continued on page 10

Ed Note: Unlike Tom's other article in this issue of *Connecticut Freemasons*, which was his annual April Fool's spoof, this article is very serious and very worth clipping out and putting on the fridge. There are

so many resources here the quarantine may be long over by the time you get to check out all of them....

Connecticut Beats The Virus By Going Virtual

by Thomas Acuosti

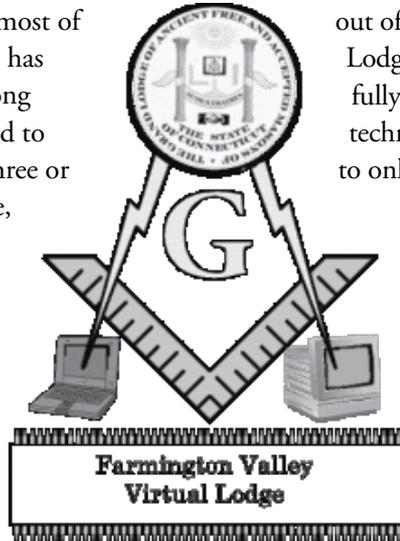
According to an upcoming article in the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut will be the first U.S. Grand Lodge to charter an all-internet based lodge. According to the article by editor RWB Frank Way:

While there have been a few other lodges calling themselves an "internet lodge," none of them have actually been constituted as internet only, or "virtual" lodges; most of them are what I'd call hybrid lodges. The UGLE has Internet Lodge No. 9659, but the members belong to other lodges, and the lodge itself is not allowed to confer the degrees. Besides, they actually meet three or four times a year in a physical building. Likewise, Ireland's Lodge 2000 is also a hybrid, meeting quarterly in a building, and without the ability to confer degrees. On this side of the pond, a couple of states have attempted to start some kind of internet lodge, but none of them have been actual lodges, in the sense that they can meet, confer degrees, and have regular communications. In fact, I can't think of any offhand that are even still operating.

The most successful attempt at an online, virtual lodge has come, surprisingly, from our neighbor to the north. Well, considering that it is based in, and chartered by the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, maybe it's not so surprising; as anyone who has ever driven through the area can attest, there's nothing out there except frozen tundra, except for maybe two months in the summer, when there are nothing but mosquitoes and biting horse flies. That aside, Castle Island Virtual Lodge, CIVL (or "Civil," as it's known among the various internet groups) is mainly a research lodge, although it is allowed to confer the degrees if they can do so in a building.

CIVL about the closest any Grand Lodge has come to an actual lodge that meets only on the internet, until now.

Owing to advances in internet meeting technology which weren't even on the horizon five years ago, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut has given dispensation for a new, entirely internet-based lodge. Operating out of the town of Southington, with the officers and most members coming out of the 5th Masonic District, the Farmington Valley Virtual Lodge (UD). FVVL (or Favvil, as the members call it) will be a fully functioning Masonic lodge, using state-of-the-art meeting technology, and the officers will have the ability to confer degrees to online candidates.



While a virtual lodge for the state has been in the works for some time, the recent COVID-19 pandemic has obviously made an impact on garnering the approval of the Grand Lodge, which has cancelled its own annual communication, and has ordered the brick-and-mortar lodges to suspend their own communications for the foreseeable future. The Grand Lodge sees FVVL as the first of a number of virtual lodges that will be instituted around the state ("around" being merely a term of availability, instead of location).

With the possibility of the pandemic causing a closure of public meetings running into the next few months, it's quite likely that most of the lodges in the state will remain dark throughout the summer month and not re-open until September. We are hoping that the success of FVVL will quickly lead to more such lodges opening in Connecticut by the end of the year. Then we will truly be able to have fellowship with other brothers in the privacy and safety of our own homes.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!



Temple Lodge No. 16
David Matthew Rochford

Temple Lodge No. 16
Jeffery Scott Summers

Temple Lodge No. 16
Mithie Tharson

Composite Lodge No. 28
Charles A. Gousse

Union Lodge No. 40
David Benson Carlson

Union Lodge No. 40
Vianei Batista Scheeren

Universal Fraternity
Lodge No. 149
Jean R. Dumas

Universal Fraternity
Lodge No. 149
Jean Maurice Dussek

Grand Historian's Corner *continued from page 9*

as print them. In his print shop he kept a majority of the records and archives of the Grand Lodge. Between 1859 and 1861 he had managed to transcribed the Grand Lodge records and print them into a newly bound two volume edition in 1861. Shortly after Right Worshipful Brother Storer had published these transcriptions, a fire broke out in his print shop. The shop was entirely destroyed, along with some of the oldest Connecticut masonic records. Whilst most of the records were transcribed, and thus saved by Storer, there were still many items and documents that were forever lost. Storer was at an advanced age in 1861 and so his shop, along with his typical steadfast diligence and care over the Grand Lodge archives, were neglected. Storer was elected as Grand Secretary one last time in the 1861 session, however, he gave up writing the review of Foreign Correspondence on account of his *circumstances of much debility of physical qualifications which better fitted him as an inmate of the infirmary rather than the laboratory*. That same year a fire-proof safe was recommended in which to store all Grand Lodge records.

The second tragic event was the outbreak of the American Civil War. After the attack on Fort Sumter on April 12-13 in 1861, the country was entrenched in a bitter and bloody battle of divided and warring states. With Grand Master Howard B. Ensign being elected to a second term, Connecticut was thrown into the national chaos – but while the public life of citizens was greatly troubled and animated as a result of the attack – Freemasonry kept its cool. The great trial of civil discord would put Connecticut Masonry, as well as Masonry in every state, to the test. Would the mystic tie be broken by the Civil War? In 1861, this did not seem to be the case for as Case and Tapley assert,

Only a faint echo of the 'outside turmoil' was heard inside the Masonic Hall at Hartford where the 'flourishing order' of Freemasons in Connecticut met in Grand Lodge session... Before battle lines were drawn, \$245 had been sent to Relief Lodge in New Orleans... and Howard B. Ensign made only a passing mention of the 'disorganization, rebellion and war' which had just begun.

Just as American Union Lodge had offered masonic connection and fraternal bonds during a time of crisis in Revolutionary War, there were calls from the Connecticut 4th and 5th Regiments to charter military lodges while away from home. Connecticut Union Lodge No. 90 was chartered in the 4th Regiment, but seeing how it did not labor satisfactorily, when the 5th Regiment requested a dispensation for Ensign Lodge No. 91, it was not granted. The early record book, with only a few pages filled out, for Connecticut Union Lodge No. 90 still exists and is presently stored in the Grand Lodge archives. And though the nation was divided, and the cannons continued to roar on the distant battle fields in the South, Connecticut Masonry stayed the course – yet there were still issues for Connecticut Masonry to resolve. When Grand Master Ensign was succeeded by Brother Alban P. Hyde in 1862, the Grand Lodge still reported that

standard degree work was yet to be universally adopted... that more care should be exercised at the ballot-box... that there should be no advancement without proven proficiency and that liquor was now forbidden in all rooms adjacent to Lodge rooms, it have been excluded for use in the Lodge room forty years before.

Many Connecticut Masons served their country during the Civil War and their exploits will be mentioned in the next publication. Yet during this time of national strife, Connecticut Masonry, while still attempting to revive the quality of its masonic work, was back on solid footing and the Morgan affair was a memory of the distant past. The Craft reported 7,037 members in the sixty-six lodges that reported to the Grand Lodge in the 1863 session, with seven-hundred and eighty-nine new initiations. Yet with the Civil War, families were ripped apart. This tearing asunder of families and the chaos of political life, was alleviated by the Masonic institution which sought to bring men together under one fraternal bond under the Fatherhood of God – a message that many in the United States were happy to receive and live by in the 1860's. With each passing day, the Civil War brought no solace to the nation, while Freemasonry did. The nation was at war with itself – yet this time Masonry was an institution that provided solutions to the public crisis of death and division. And so, through the lapse of time and the devastations of war and the destruction it wrought on all public and private life and happiness, Connecticut Freemasonry, notwithstanding, survived. The nation needed unity, and the fraternity provided it. Even while the Civil War raged on, there was hope in the future, and courage in freemen's hearts. The mystic tie was not broken, and the Ancient Craft once more, called all good and honorable men to the quarries.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS

Bjarne C. Abildgaard
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

Wentworth B. Floyd, III
Widow's Son Lodge No. 66

Richard L. Gelgauda
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Frederick A. Kayal, MD
Union Lodge No. 40

Bernard Edmund O'Keefe
Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14

James Andrew O'Neill, Jr.
Composite Lodge No. 28

Richard W. Rulf
Village Lodge No. 29

Joseph H. Weaver
Montgomery Lodge No. 13

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

Gary Leonard Barker
Compass Lodge No. 9

Emil J. Kleemann
Compass Lodge No. 9

William George Ober
Washington Lodge No. 19

George Perry Beckwith
Somerset - St. James Lodge No. 34

Frederick G Kleyn, III
Masonic Lodge of Research No. 401

Daniel McKinley Paine
Fayette Lodge No. 69

Edward Bernard Blasco
Washington Lodge No. 81

Robert Morgan Kullberg
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

Frank A. Pinto
Washington Lodge No. 19

Vernon Kimball Cleaves
Compass Lodge No. 9

Richard Barton Lasher
Hospitality Lodge No. 128

William Sutherland Rankin, II
Village Lodge No. 29

Louis Vincent Downar
Bay View Lodge No. 120

Michael Lyon
Widow's Son Lodge No. 66

Rodney Richard Reinhard
Temple Lodge No. 16

Richard L. Fuqua
Meridian Lodge No. 77

Harry August Muller
Coastal Lodge No. 57

Allan Bowton Schwartz
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Roger J. Hache
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64



Theodore E. St. Amand
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

Roy Gordon Hallberg, jr.
Anchor Lodge No. 112

James Patrick Willott
Brainard Lodge No. 102

Eastern Star Helps Fill Face Mask Gap for Masonicare Staff

Nursing homes and home health workers were far down on the list when it came to getting their orders filled for personal protection equipment (PPE). The needs of hospitals and first responders were at the top and even for them dispersion of supplies was not meeting the need. Masonicare was doing what it needed to do to keep their residents and staff safe but without enough PPE, and masks in particular, things could change quickly.

Masonicare Board of Trustee Member Janet Berry, and Masonicare President and CEO Jon-Paul Venoit, both Eastern Star members thought of approaching other Star members to help with one particular item — face masks. Janet contacted *Star Matters*, Star's email news, the word went out to subscribers asking help from those who had sewing machines, and Star members responded.

Help making face masks came from unexpected sources. Daughters of the Nile in Connecticut, a Star member in Massachusetts, even non-members began sewing masks. Residents of Masonicare who did not have sewing machines cut materials and made kits to sew. Masks came from all

four corners of Connecticut. In just shy of three weeks more than 800 masks, and even some gowns, were delivered to Masonicare where they were washed and sesterilized at Masonicare's Wallingford facility and then put to use. It's amazing what the Masonic family and their friends can do when the call goes out.

As the *Connecticut Freemasons* goes to press, this project is being completed. The latest word from Masonicare is that the homemede masks are being used and PPE suppliers are able to ship the necessities to Masonicare. That's good news!



A Time When the World Needs Freemasonry

by Andrew Pedro

People are struggling more than ever. Aside from the events of 9-11, this is the first true hardship my generation has seen. Everywhere you look, families are losing their livelihoods, businesses are shutting down, and countries isolate to prevent further dismay. It seems that within the next few months, the resolve of the American people along with the rest of the world will be tested in a way that my generation had not seen. But, during all of this chaos, I have found comfort in my family, friends, and my brothers.

When I was first raised as a Mason, something very small started to happen. As I traveled with my father, or just went to my regular lodge nights, a new face would appear. A brother unknown to me would introduce himself and congratulate me in coming to the fraternity. He would most likely always end with the same thing: "If you ever need something, here's my card." Now my generation doesn't exactly have a stack of business cards at the ready, but either way, a brother who was new to me would always give me some way of reaching out to them, if I should ever need something. In the days of this pandemic, it's become difficult to count the number of brothers that have reached out to me just to check in, and see how things are going for me and my family. I

find myself doing the very same, with a simple text, call, or even email, just letting a friend and brother know that I am here if anything is needed. And this is what the world will need in the coming days.

Humanity, going forward, is going to look towards the principles of Freemasonry. Food banks will need supplies replenished. Soup kitchens will need volunteers to combat the struggles of unemployed families. Even something as minor as a neighbor needing to borrow something to get through the week. These very simple helping hands are the exact reason I became a Mason, and they are the cornerstones of this magnificent institution; Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love.

So in this trying time, think to yourself about why you became a Mason. Remember the obligations we have all taken, and find some sort of comfort in knowing that we, as brothers, have an extraordinary opportunity in front of us to truly give back to a hurting and healing world. With waves of turmoil crashing against shores of uncertainty, it will be the lighthouse of Freemasonry that withstands, and guides the weary traveler to safety.

Masonicare: On the Front Lines

by Adam Raider

Editor's note: this is an updated version of an article that appeared in the print edition of "Connecticut Freemasons."

Precautions and screening processes across the Masonicare organization are in effect and will remain in place until there is no longer an imminent threat of exposure to COVID-19.

All employee team members, third party vendors, and providers must enter through a single main entrance at Masonicare Health Center, our residential communities, and other offices. In addition, they undergo a daily screening, which includes a thorough exposure questionnaire and daily temperature scan prior to the start of every shift. All personnel who enter our buildings are required to wear, at minimum, a cloth mask. All direct caregivers are required to wear surgical masks.

Along with the rest of the healthcare industry, we are still confronted with a nationwide shortage of personal protective equipment. These include masks, face shields, gloves, and gowns. However, we have been fortunate to receive donations of supplies from various sources, including Quinnipiac University, the Wallingford Fire Department, and Mobile Electronics. Curtis Packaging of Newtown, the company that produces packaging for Titleist golf balls and other products, donated thousands of face shields. Even our residents and employees have chipped in by sewing homemade masks.

We have had employees who were quarantined prior to testing positive for COVID-19. In every instance, we reviewed the

employees' assignments and closely monitored every resident or patient with whom they may have come in contact. Before they are able to return to work, any employee who tests positive for the virus will need to provide documentation from his or her medical provider that they are cleared to return to work with no restrictions.

Following is an overview of how we're responding to the virus across our various service lines. For the latest, you can also visit our website, www.masonicare.org.

Masonicare Health Center:

Under authorization from the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the former Acute Care Unit at MHC has been temporarily designated an isolation unit for Masonicare residents who test positive for COVID-19 as well as symptomatic residents who are awaiting COVID-19 test results. In early April, MHC admitted its first COVID-19 positive patient to this unit – an independent living resident who had been discharged from a local hospital to undergo short-term rehabilitation.

MHC's screening process has become more efficient (and wastes a lot less paper) with the introduction of electronic screening.

Our Residential Communities:

On March 28, a resident of Masonicare at Ashlar Village tested positive for COVID-19. The resident was seen in our clinic, admitted to a local hospital, and received care for symptoms

Continued on page 17

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

By now you have probably heard that, due to uncertainties surrounding the coronavirus, it was necessary to cancel next month's Grand Masters Day festivities on Masonicare's Wallingford campus. I am told that this is only the second time in our storied history the event has been cancelled, the first occurring during World War II. Along with MW Grand Master Bro. Stephen Petri, I share in your disappointment that we won't be gathering together under the big tent in June, but we'll look for other ways to honor our residents in the name of Masonry later this year.

It was equally difficult, in a season marked by Easter, Passover, and other religious holidays traditionally spent in celebration with family and friends, having to urge our independent and assisted living residents to maintain their self-quarantine. That's why I felt a great sense of relief when I read this note of appreciation to our staff from a resident of Masonicare at Ashlar Village:

"I know I speak for our residents when I say that we have felt extremely protected and cared for by our management and staff. You have all exceeded expectations during these extraordinary times with great dedication,

selflessness, concern, and loving care. It doesn't get better than that!"

I am confident that the restrictions, precautions and screening measures Masonicare has in place – among the most stringent in our industry – are working to reduce the risk of infection. I am grateful to our residents for their patience and understanding as we work to keep them safe and comfortable in their homes and at Masonicare Health Center during these unprecedented times.

I'm also deeply appreciative of the work our employees are doing and the sacrifices they're making in the face of this pandemic. Across Connecticut, at Masonicare residential communities and homecare branches, we're flying banners of caring and hope like the one below for all to see. Our caregivers are true heroes.

Masonicare's leadership team continues to meet daily to monitor the virus and our organizational readiness as the situation evolves. We're updating our policies and procedures as the need arises in accordance with state and federal agencies.

Like so many other organizations throughout our state and nation whose



mission is to care for older adults, we have mourned losses due to COVID-19. But we have also witnessed acts of love, kindness, and generosity, some of which you can read about later in this issue, along with a summary of how we're responding to the virus across all of our service lines. It's how I know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that we'll get through this together.

Yours fraternally,

Jon-Paul Venoit

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Gotta Get to Garavel



Happy
Mother's
Day

You Don't Know What You Got 'Till It's Gone

by Patrice Murphy

I once heard a brother confess that his wife knows more about what's happening in Connecticut Freemasonry than he does – because she reads this newspaper cover to cover each month.

She laughingly confirmed his suspicion, saying, “You don't tell me anything. How else will I know what's going on?”

The standing joke is that we Masonic ladies have to be clever, creative, and sometimes clairvoyant to understand the fraternity that demands so much time of the Mason in our lives – be he husband, boyfriend, father, brother, son, or friend. Often our Mason is so busy being busy that we are left wondering where he's gone.

In just a few short weeks, coronavirus has changed all that. Suddenly our hard-working Mason is at home. A lot.

For some of us, it has enabled more quality time together, rebuilding habits of companionship and slowing down to a pace we had forgotten could be so enjoyable.

For others, it has brought stress and fear. Of the prospect of infection and illness – for ourselves or loved ones. Of the economic fallout just beginning to surface from a battered economy. Of derailed potential as students, bosses and business owners. Of disconnection and loneliness we may find hard to navigate.

We are reminded to be careful what we wish for. A slow-down is nice, but enforced social distancing is another thing entirely. Like Joni Mitchell sang, “You don't know what you got till it's gone.”

The good news is that we are resilient and capable of making good out of this experience. We are young and old; home makers, workers, students and volunteers; teachers, healers, designers and makers. I know that across the country, we are finding ways to steer and support our families through this challenging time.

We can also draw considerable comfort from Freemasonry, even while our favorite Mason's lodge is closed and all those evening and weekend events are cancelled. Brothers are

being encouraged to check in on each other, with a reminder of their Masonic obligation to offer care and comfort not only to brothers but also their families. Hopefully that is showing up already in ways that you can see.

Ideally, we can also enjoy connecting with other ladies across this Masonic community. Christina Page, wife of Edward Page, Grand Senior Warden, has created a space for us on Facebook appropriately called LIFT – Ladies In Freemasonry Together. It's a casual, friendly group just for us (no brothers allowed!) where we can ask questions, make connections, and share experiences. To join, just message Christina via Facebook. And look for more on LIFT next month in this column.

In the meantime, I really want to hear about your experience right now.

How are you finding the enforced social isolation? Are you at home with your Mason or on the front lines?

What are the pleasures of this time? How are you coping with the stresses and fears?

If you are 'social distancing' together at home, how has being less active changed your man's connection to Freemasonry? And how has that impacted you?

Send me your musings at firstlady@ctfreemasons.net. If you do, I will share some of our news next month.



Introducing Myself

This new column is intended to be a regular letter to the ladies who love and support Freemasons across Connecticut.



My husband Stephen Petri is Grand Master of Connecticut. In Masonic parlance that makes me First Lady during his term of office, an honorific I will attempt to invest with moral support for Stephen and practical service to all the ladies associated with Connecticut Freemasonry.

I first learned about Freemasonry when Stephen joined the fraternity. Only later did I discover that my great-grandfather in Australia had also been Master of his lodge and Grand Senior Warden for the Grand Lodge of Queensland.

Early on, Stephen sought out Masonry to build connection and fellowship with other men. At the time, he was running a business providing IT network support to an all-female client roster and was also the primary caregiver for our two infant daughters while I travelled for work. Today, he admits he was drowning in estrogen – the Masons pretty much saved his sanity. I was just grateful that he chose to spend his time in a fraternity committed to 'making good men better.'

Today, we are wannabe empty-nesters in Darien. Our girls Brooke (19) and Claire (18) are officially off at college, coronavirus permitting. They are fine young women, for which Stephen deserves a heap of credit.

Having watched them grow up with Masonry in their lives, Stephen was overjoyed when Brooke asked to join Eastern Star soon after her return from a gap year in Germany. Father and daughter were actually initiated into OES together at Marie Lafayette Chapter No. 111. For Stephen, it was a poignant experience to be able to share some of the richness of Freemasonry with his daughter in this way. While Brooke is at college in Maryland she attends OES at Annapolis Chapter No. 46. Our younger daughter Claire is also keen to join OES.

I work as a management consultant, advising on leadership, innovation, and corporate growth. Most people remember me for my Australian accent. My favorite things are the theater, reading a good book, and sailing with Stephen, just us two. He says he is captain of the ship, and I am admiral of the fleet. Sounds good to me.

You can reach me with questions, comments and suggestions at firstlady@ctfreemasons.net.

Swinging into Action: The Valley of Bridgeport

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

As I pen this today, we are still in the throes of the COVID-19 virus induced emergency, and it is unclear whether this unhappy state will still prevail when you finally get a chance to read this. Given the state restrictions against group assembly this past month, obviously all the degree work and Family Life events that had been planned earlier this year have been POSTPONED, but not cancelled. If the emergency rolls forward, you can expect further postponements, as required, and I would suggest you refer to the periodic emails that are being sent to the membership keeping them apprised of the revised dates. The Annual Meeting of the Valley of Bridgeport has also been postponed and will hopefully occur in the fall, circumstances permitting. If you are not on the mailing list, or wish to join the Rite, drop me a line at membership@lafayetteconsistory.com and we'll get you on the email list and/or information will be sent to you by return.

The absence of in-state degree activity at the theatre in Stratford does not preclude members from taking the on-line degrees. The Rite has established "Watch Parties" that are now, during the month of April, being streamed from the Northern Jurisdiction's Membership Website on Thursday evenings. Email notifications of the upcoming degrees are being transmitted by the respective Valleys. I had the privilege of attending an online 17th Degree on April 9, along with over 700 other brothers from the fifteen states that comprise the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. You may be stuck at home, but you can still work at completing your passport, as viewing the degrees online count towards your passport completion. At the conclusion of the degree you are given a link to register your attendance (and you must log on to the website at the beginning, so make sure you have your member ID # or username handy).

The Valley of Bridgeport initiated a program for incapacitated and older brothers (over 70 years of age) three weeks ago. Through the largesse of a number of our younger brothers, who indicated a willingness to help, these brothers will locate and deliver to those in need, any household items that cannot be obtained for one reason or another (masks, at this time, excluded). If you, as a member of the Rite, fall into these two categories, please call the Consistory Offices anytime, night or day, and leave a message and we'll try to coordinate a response. This, of course, is subject to the existence of the emergency, and the absence of any relevant restriction against movement should it ever occur. The office number is (203) 375-0064.



"The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside of the family relation, should be one uniting all working people, of all nations, and tongues, and kindreds" - *President Abraham Lincoln*

In March, we broached the topic of the Samaritan woman that occurs in the Great Light at John 4:7. We discussed her willingness to be of service to others who were not of her own kind and the fact that she was being tested by the Nazarene, to determine if prejudice guided her acts of kindness. It was ever so timely a topic, and as it

was being written I never suspected that it would be so relevant to the world we would be living in a few short weeks afterwards. These are sad times for humanity and the unfortunate stresses and deprivations that have been visited upon most all our brothers and sisters are well documented in the press. The worst of times brings out the best in many people – but it unfortunately brings out the worst in others. "Bias Incidents" on people of Asian descent have become somewhat widespread in our society and have been promulgated by ignorance and fear. Such behavior, indicative of a deep-seated bigotry, has no place in an enlightened society. We as Freemasons recognize the profound realities of the Brotherhood of All men, and understand that all persons, regardless of the exterior shell they possess in this lifetime, are but sparks of the divine Light. The exterior shell simply provides the vehicle, and the attendant experiences, which that small individual spark of divine light requires in order to reach its state of self-realization. To make the soul damaging mistake of directing resentment or hate towards a certain type of vehicle incurs the penalty of the Law: "As ye sow so shall your reap." Accomplished Master Masons realize that directing corrosive energy towards others, simply invites a reflection back of that malevolence with damaging consequences in the long run. It is best, for one's own internal Light, to keep out of step with such misguided Populist notions or else risk karmic damage or actual extinguishment of the Light which one possesses. May the Light be with you during these difficult times.

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, June 22, 7:30 p.m.
20th Degree, Live
(RESCHEDULED) - Stratford Theatre

Monday, June 29, 2020, 7:30 p.m.
22nd Singing Degree Live
(RESCHEDULED) - Stratford Theatre

PLEASE CONTACT the Consistory office to confirm Degree presentations prior to leaving to attend.

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

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

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

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Valley of Bridgeport 2422 Main Street Stratford, CT 06615 Office@LafayetteConsistory.com 203-375-0064 | Valley of New Haven 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com 203-269-0336 | Valley of Waterbury 529 Highland Avenue Waterbury, CT 06708 cdoneill@snet.net 203-754-8209 |
|--|---|--|

For more information, contact the Valley near you or email Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com.

Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr., Secretary Emeritus

Because of the coronavirus (COVID-19), it has been a difficult couple of months for everyone. Passover and Easter were not celebrated in the usual way and everyone was limited in their daily life. It affected the Valley also and forced the cancellation of our spring degree schedule. Hopefully this outbreak will be coming to an end as this Masonic newspaper is published and delivered to everyone in the Masonic family.

However, since I cannot predict the future, and based on conversations with the Valley Secretary, it looks like the Valley will be forced to hold the current class of candidates over until the fall. They will be unable to complete the necessary required degrees, and the required number of degrees this spring, and no degrees are scheduled before that time.

Because of this uncertainty, Ill. Brother John Kessler, the Commander-in-Chief of the Valley of Hartford, feels that the Valley should postpone, the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, scheduled for May 7, until a later time and date. The Annual Workers Night Banquet and Installation of Officers, scheduled for May 14, will also most likely be cancelled. Consider it cancelled unless you have received your invitation as of the May 1, if you are qualified to receive one.

Depending on whether or not things start to improve and we get back to a normal routine, the Valley will make a determination regarding canceling the Annual Family Day picnic and the 5K Road Race to support our Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut



So much for the doom-and-gloom related to these cancellations! The officers and I hope that you are surviving this extraordinary period in our lives and that you have been able to survive the stress, physiological, and physical effects of being cooped-up.

It is hoped that the CORE values portrayed in the Scottish Rite degrees have been helpful in dealing with the stress and uncertainty these times.

The two CORE values that comes to my mind, which I feel will help us all through this troubling period, REVERENCE FOR GOD and DEVOTION TO COUNTRY. God knows how much we can handle and our nation was built on the motto "in God we trust." At the same time, I remember what Constanz said as he was at the altar: "My hope is in God." Above all, we need to be tolerant and believe that this outbreak will be under control in a short period of time, and that we can get back to normal. As Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself."

A reminder: There are brethren who many not have family or other support. If you know such a brother, see if you can help him, even if it is only a phone call to see how he is doing.

Also, keep your contact information up-to-date at the Valley office, who will forward it to the Supreme Council headquarters. That way you will be better informed and up-to-date with what is happening at the Valley of Hartford and Supreme Council.

Most of our members should have received a phone call from our Commander-in-Chief, Ill. Bro. John Kessler, 33rd, with a message about what is currently happening at the Valley regarding currently scheduled activities, and offering assistance to any brother requiring help, however it might be needed. So welcome to our new future way of communicating. We hope that it was helpful. If you do need help and call the office and get no answer, the secretary will get back to you as soon as possible. For a faster way of getting a response you can email office@valleyofhartford.com, as that is checked regularly.



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visiting the Supreme Council, NMJ,
website: www.scottishritenmj.org

Applications for the 2020 Fall Class
are now being accepted.

For more information about becoming a member of the
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite or to receive a Scottish
Rite informational DVD, contact Tony Angelica, 32°,
Valley Secretary, Valley of Hartford AASR.
(860) 666-0712 Email: office@valleyofhartford.com
www.valleyofhartford.org

Masonicare: On the Front Lines

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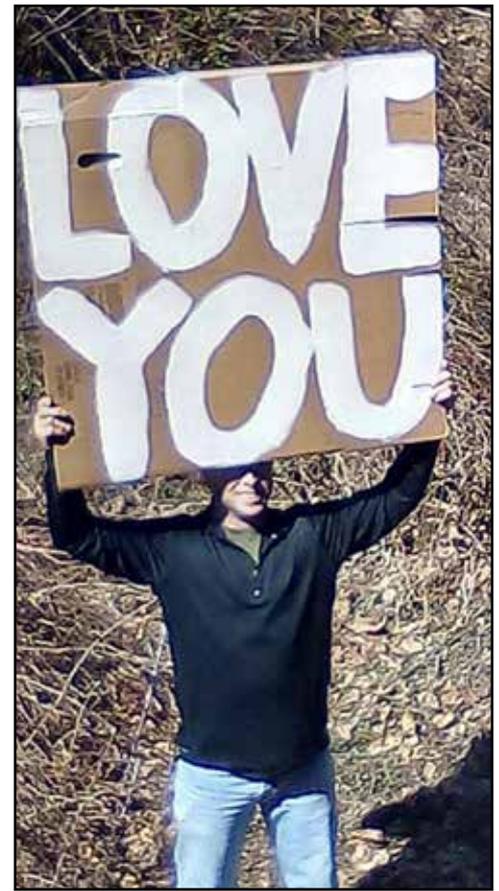
associated with the virus before being discharged to the isolation unit at MHC. That resident has since been discharged back to an unoccupied cottage at Ashlar Village to continue recuperating. Sadly, through the end of April, three residents of the Pond Ridge assisted living community who contracted COVID-19 succumbed to the virus.

To reduce the risk of exposure, all residents of Ashlar Village, as well as Masonicare at Mystic and Masonicare at Chester Village, have been strongly urged to shelter in place. All dining rooms are closed and group activities suspended. Meals and mail are delivered directly to residents.

Home and Community-Based Services:

At any given time, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice is handling multiple active and suspected COVID-19 cases, with the East Hartford branch seeing the greatest number of referrals.

Employees of Masonicare Home Health & Hospice and Masonicare at Home (Homemaker Companions, Personal Care Attendants and Live-In Attendants) self-monitor every day.



District 1

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



Washington Lodge No. 19 Pin Presentation

On March 14, Washington Lodge No. 19 presented pins honoring brothers with five through 65 years of service. MWPGM Charlie Buck presented the 50-year awards to WB David Knecht and Brother Richard Whitcher. Afterward, everyone celebrated at the lodge's St Patrick's Day corned beef feast.



MWPGM Charlie Buck and his suite, presented 50-year pins to WB David Knecht and Brother Richard Whitcher.



WB Anthony Agosto and WB Roy Nealon receive 10-year pins from WM KikoDeLaCruz



Brother Dean Gwazda receives his 5-year pin.



WB Tommy Delmastro receives 30-year pin from the Worshipful Master.



The Whitcher brothers, Tom and Harry, receiving their 40-year pins.

District 1 in the Time of COVID-19

by Mark Hawkins

Temple Lodge No. 65

Temple Lodge has been meeting weekly via Zoom for informal check-ins. In doing so, they were able to organize a weekly meal contribution to the Norwalk Hospital staff of approximately 15 pizzas every Thursday with the help of Fire Engine Pizza, which is owned by a brother. They will continue this for the next month or so to help support the staff during this difficult time. Bro. Scott Adelman, a member of the lodge, is also in the process of printing some positive-themed smiley-face T-shirts related to the pandemic. All of the proceeds will go towards Operation Hope and the Gillespie (Homeless) Center of Westport.



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District 1: In the Time of COVID *continued from page 18*

Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142

During April, Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 will be taking the opportunity to beautify their lodge building and grounds. They will take proper care to ensure that they are adhering to the six feet social distancing guide. On the plus side, their cable towers extend well beyond that! In addition, they are working at putting together a Fellowship Social night via a platform, such as Zoom.

America St. Johns No. 8

This month America St. Johns No. 8 is staying connected. They have completed a number of “call-em-alls” to brothers of the lodge to see if any brothers or their families need any help and to notify everyone of lodge events that have been cancelled or postponed.

Daytime Lodge No. 144

Since the onset of the Coronavirus Daytime Lodge’s principal objective is to keep in constant contact with all of their lodge brothers. They have been using all forms of communication: phone, email, texts, and social media to check on brothers and their families. Their goal is making sure no one is in need of any assistance from now until the time that the virus has passed. The good news... our brothers are reconnecting their bonds and looking forward to continuing these communications.

Ivanhoe Lodge No. 67

Ivanhoe Lodge hosted a Zoom meeting with all its brothers on April 8, and it will continue to stay in contact with everyone through social media as

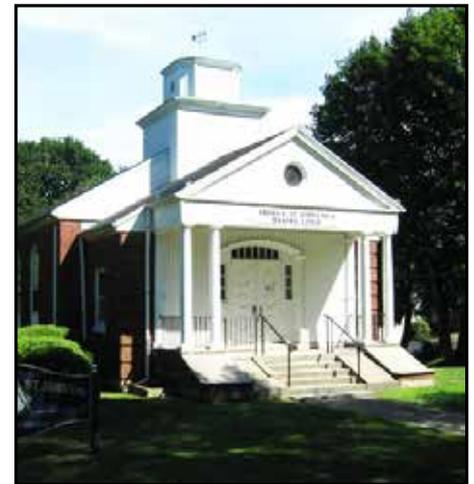
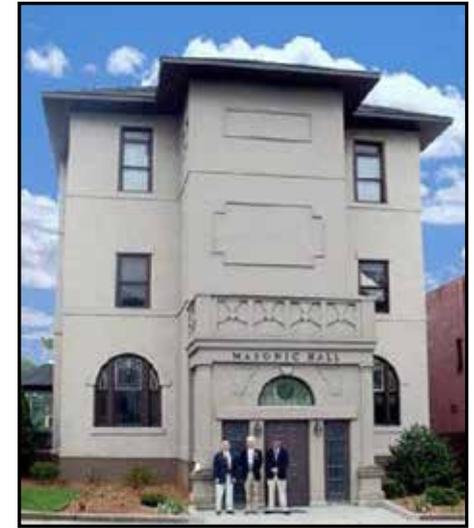
long as is necessary. So far all the brothers and their families are doing well and staying safe.

Acacia Lodge No. 85

Acacia Lodge made donations of N95 masks and hand sanitizer to the Greenwich Police Department two weeks ago. They held a first trial get together on Zoom this past Tuesday, and will hold another on Tuesday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Corinthian Lodge No.104

The brothers of Corinthian Lodge No. 104 have been meeting weekly via Zoom and have started a lodge group text chat, where they text every morning to start the day with some brotherly love. This is a great way to keep in touch and also see the brothers. They have also delivered food to some brothers in distress, called on their older members and donated supplies to the Milford Hospital. In addition, Corinthian Lodge No.104 will be presenting a check to the Bridgeport Boys & Girls Club, as they are handing out food to needy families.



District 2

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

Union Lodge No. 40 in the Time of COVID-19 *by John Arizzi*

With the announcement by the Governor that all non-essential businesses would shut down in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the officers of Union Lodge No. 40 met to discuss the lodge’s response. As one of our Past Masters, Kevin White, put it, “It is times like these where a lodge can truly define itself.” With that in mind the officers decided to put into action a plan to support local businesses, show appreciation for first responders and hospital workers, and reach out to those in need.

The following weekend, Union Lodge No. 40 went into action with a plan for “Targeted Takeovers.” The lodge has been working with local restaurants to promote a night where the community orders takeout

from one particular restaurant with the lodge “matching” dinners for first responders, the hospital, or the homeless. The idea is to give these local, locally owned establishments a boost to business in the hopes that it will help them survive and keep workers employed just a little longer.

So far Union Lodge has been successful at boosting takeout orders on each event by over 100 dinners and the lodge has provided dinner to the Danbury Fire Department on-duty shift platoon and Danbury Hospital workers, as well as, a special hot Easter Breakfast for the homeless through a partnership with the Dorothy Day House. In addition, the lodge has raised funds through contributions from the brothers to be in a better position to help our brothers in need, and channel some dollars to non-restaurant businesses. We are all in this together, and it is times like these that we need to shine!

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Strange Occurrences at Danbury Masonic Temple

by David A. McClain

Recently, a number of seemingly supernatural events have taken place at the Danbury Masonic Temple. While ghost stories have persisted among the brothers for years, on the night of February 26, and over the following days, there were multiple eyewitnesses to paranormal activity throughout the building that has yet to be fully explained. On that Wednesday night, the brothers of Ark Lodge No. 39 were scheduled to meet, and Brother Walt Holder was busy in the kitchen when the stove malfunctioned and would not heat up. The Temple Board was contacted, but before the broken stove could be investigated, further activity began to occur.

Soon the lights outside of the lodge room and in the newly renovated bathrooms began to turn on and off on their own! According to paranormal expert Doug Hogate Jr., renovating an older building can sometimes be the catalyst to spur spirit activity, and the ground floor space that includes the kitchen, bathrooms, and dining and fellowship spaces just underwent a significant remodel. Furthermore, the oldest portion of the building was originally a mansion built in the mid-19th century.

“Imagine being at your house and someone comes in and starts tearing walls down and remodeling,” Hogate says. “They could be thinking, ‘This is my house. What are you doing to my house?’”

However, over the next few days the activity was reported in other areas of the building as well. Tenants away from the renovated area reported electronic equipment such as computers and lights turning on and off on their own. Security system motion sensors were triggered with no one there, as well as the fire alarm, but no fire was present.

Bill Phillips, a paranormal author and medium who has appeared on the “Dr. Phil” show writes, “Spirits are energy currents, so it is easy for them to manipulate electricity and cause phones, televisions, computers, and lights to flicker.”

Tenants also reported being cold, as if someone had turned off the heat. According to ghost hunters, a cold spot in an area is an indicator of paranormal or spirit activity and many ghost hunters use digital thermometers or heat-sensing devices to measure such temperature



changes. With the Daughters of the American Revolution scheduled to honor General David Wooster, the Father of Connecticut Freemasonry, and place a plaque at his memorial less than a mile from the lodge on May 16, perhaps the spirit of General Wooster had returned to visit the craft and was making his presence known!

Rather than calling in a group of teenagers and their Great Dane, the members of the Temple Board instead contacted both Eversource and a local licensed electrician. It was found that utility work outside the building had likely led to a tripped breaker and backfeeding through the panel and which had caused the boiler to reset. After the electrician reset the breaker and after Worshipful Brother Christian Soderquist restarted the boiler, the activity went quiet. For now.

If you would like to come and check out the Danbury Masonic Temple for yourself, the brothers of Union Lodge No. 40 meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays and are always willing to give a visiting brother a tour of the temple. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m., if the “spirits” don’t turn off the stove!

District 3

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



King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 Remains a Rock for Its Members *by Richard Miska*

It was a quiet week in Woodbury Connecticut, out there on the edge of the county. The brothers of King Solomon's Lodge No.7 were told to stay at least six feet apart and not to gather in groups greater than five. This put a serious damper on the activities of a Masonic lodge known well for its hospitality, but Freemasonry remains alive and well in the greater Woodbury area. New and old technologies are being employed to keep brothers in touch, including the introduction of such platforms as Slack and Zoom Teleconferencing. Several members were virtually present at MWGM Petri's installation and have been joining the 3rd District in weekly "Online Fellowship" meetings.

Our lodge technologists were able to help those who remain less-than-savvy in that realm to get online and keep the communication

flowing. The regular meeting schedule is being maintained through online communications. We've even seen brothers who haven't been in lodge in quite some time due to distance or ailment. At the meeting held on April 1, a "Grand Unveiling" was presented to the membership of our original 1790 (Pierpont Edwards) Charter from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut which was lovingly restored, preserved, and framed. Watch for a separate article on this.

While the ritualistic opening and closing of the lodge are being suspended along with the business of admitting and raising new brothers, the committees are still at work planning and rescheduling activities and performing updates to the building, and positioning our investments. Lodge leadership is developing a "divide and conquer" approach to calling brothers who have not been connected digitally. For the sake of posterity, Meeting Minutes are still being entered into the record to tell the tale of this unusual period in CT Freemasonry.

We look forward to meeting together and sharing a meal again but remain connected through the tenets of Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love.

Shepherd-Salem Lodge No. 78 in the Time of COVID-19 *by Jack Baril*



Here at Shepherd Salem Lodge No. 78 in Naugatuck, we have been meeting virtually for some fellowship utilizing the Facebook Messenger video feature. We have had a few nights of this virtual fellowship to talk and see how our brothers are holding up and to share many laughs with each other. We have also been participating in the 3rd District wide Zoom video meetings that have been taking place. There is also a plan to use Zoom meeting to share a Masonic documentary as education in place of our upcoming meeting. Also for our brothers who do not use the video chats, we have been maintaining contact thru personal contact as well as call-em-all and emails.

Liberty-Continental Lodge No. 76 in the Time of COVID-19 *by John J. McManus, IV*

The brothers of Liberty-Continental Lodge No. 76 have been busy in the past few months. We were able to present a brother with his 50-year certificate and pin. We were looking forward to hosting a special event for RWB Steven Chiappalone, and having his District Deputy Presentation later this April, which had to be postponed for now.

Our lodge has also been working hard to rebuild our membership, which I am proud to say that since November, 2019, we have

initiated four brothers as Entered Apprentices, two of whom were initiated just this past February. We also have one brother who has passed to Fellowcraft and is waiting to be made a Master Mason.

Through all this craziness our lodge sticks together; brothers are constantly in contact with each other by phone, text messages and social media. Some brothers also get together, usually once a week, on FaceTime and Skype, and talk about what's going on, how everyone is doing and if anyone needs any type of help. They all agree that they cannot wait to get back to lodge and have that brotherly social bonding that we had before this outbreak.

We also look forward to getting those brothers made Fellowcrafts and Master Masons and continuing to build our lodge for the betterment of Freemasonry and our community.

District 4

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



Ashlar Lodge No. 332 in the Time of COVID-19 *by Stephen Thal*

In this unusual springtime our lodges remain closed but our spirits and those around us can be elevated with cards, emails or, best of all, a telephone call. The requirements of self-isolation imposed can take its toll on our psyche. While we know these efforts are necessary they do come at a cost.

Ashlar Lodge No. 332 has taken this quiet time to contact many lodge brothers who have not had an opportunity to attend lodge for various reasons like geographical distance, sickness, or other distress.

We have contacted more than 40 brothers to date, and it has been both enlightening, joyful and yes, sometimes sorrowful. Through these contacts we have been able to update our roster with new telephone, email, and physical addresses.

One brother now living out of state wanted to reconnect with Bro. Carl Anderson and Jennifer King from Masonicare, and we were able to make that happen.

During April we will continue to contact brothers not yet reached. We will also take time to evaluate any lessons learned from this period of time and its impact on the lodge and our greater community. As an example: How will our CHIP program be affected?

Please be assured that the Master, officers, and brethren of Ashlar Lodge No. 332 share concern for your safety and good health.

Zooming Out of Isolation *by Jason E. Morse*

March 21 was the first ever virtual Festive Board for Quinta Essentia Lodge No. 500 of New Haven. With the ongoing coronavirus isolation measures and the desire of brothers to maintain contact, it was decided to utilize one of the many digital conferencing services available today to hold the non-tyled portion of the lodge's scheduled meeting that evening. Other lodges have begun doing the same and Quinta Essentia is by no means the first to have met for fellowship in this manner.

The usual format was observed with a cocktail hour complete with five toasts followed by discussion over dinner. Nearly all were clad in formal attire and one of our brothers used a digital image of the usual venue, the Graduate Club in New Haven, as a backdrop to complete the feel of being there. Toasts are given by brothers randomly chosen by the Junior Warden just before the hour begins and consist of one toast each for Fellowship, Service, Dignity, Commitment and Enlightenment. Others are sometimes given but the preceding five are always done. Discussions during dinner usually follow a program by a guest speaker or a brother of the lodge, and can go on for much longer than anticipated, sometimes leading to conversation straying far from the topic at the onset. The lodge always do its best to allow discussions to evolve organically ensuring that creativity and imagination are the basis of what is discuss. Brothers may speak or just listen, whichever they choose, although in a room full of current or Past District Deputies and Past Masters, there are few that are quiet for long.



The conversation of the evening revolved around how to keep members engaged when, unlike other lodges, Quinta Essentia does not have the usual flow of new brothers (one brother is raised per year during a busy year, by design) to inject new energy into the group. Some had their dinner while participating in the conversation just as they would if it were an actual Festive Board. Many ideas were introduced, discussed and most were well received. Time will tell as to how effective those ideas will be if or when they are incorporated into the lodge. The most important information derived from the exchange was the awareness of potential issues followed by a frank and open discussion on how to avoid them.

Admittedly, the discussion was atypically cumbersome with most brothers not used to the online format. There really isn't a substitute for being able to look brothers in the eye. However, this can be overcome by merely growing used to this online, remote form of communication. No method of replacing face-to-face discussion is perfect, but during a time when all are forced

to isolate from one another, any form of contact is better than none at all. There are many different applications that can facilitate online conferencing, are easy to use, and have free versions. All one must do is choose one, learn how to use it, and then inform their brethren of where to obtain the same. Once that is accomplished, agree upon a time and meet.

Freemasonry has withstood greater challenges than what we are facing now, and if we keep an open mind while taking advantage of the technology available today, we will continue to survive for many years to come. The Craft, both collectively and individually have a great opportunity to reflect on what is most important and how to preserve who and what we are. Perhaps if brothers learn how to embrace fellowship even in an electronic forum, it can reduce some of the emphasis on the less important parts of a typical business meeting, transforming a major part of reduced engagement and declining membership into a gathering where brothers want to be.

District 5

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



It's a Lifestyle

by Raul Tovar, Jr.

When you're a younger Mason, you always hear the "veteran" brothers speak of "living up to the principals of Masonry." How "Masonry is less of a club, more of a lifestyle." At first, it's hard to understand that. Honestly what could a guy in his mid-twenties, early thirties, have in common with men well into their retirement years?

Most young people will tell you, that even in an age of social media, of instant communication and connection, that we are not allowed to ask for help. We were told that assistance from anyone but yourself invalidates your achievement; that to rise to the top sometimes you had to step over your friends. Many of us in the current workforce are hesitant to share ideas and thoughts with people for this reason, and an "inclusionist isolation" culture has begun to take hold in society.

As a young person, we take that idea of "looking out only for me" into the lodge. As you advance in the degrees: "Oh, I'm ready to move on and know all my information, I didn't bother to help the guys who went through the ceremony with me." For community service events: "Well that seems like too much of a grunt level job, let someone else handle it, I'm more of a 'management' type." In the lodge: "Well if I'm not the Worshipful Master, I don't have to know all my lines or show up; they're fine without me." "I helped at two or three events this year; I better win Mason of the Year at Awards Night." We associate success in lodge with accolades, just as we have been taught in our upbringing.

However, as time moves on in your Masonic career, through the lessons of the ritual, the education the lodges hold, and sheer osmosis, you begin to learn and understand that it takes a village of caring people to live a successful life. One begins to understand that it was never about the "old culture" and "new culture," it was simply about being open to receiving new ideas and shaping them to fit the life you wanted to lead. You begin to understand that being involved wasn't for personal glory, but because you felt you could support your brethren in that manner. You realized that the word "brother" is more than

a mere title, but a responsibility. Everyone in the lodge, no matter how big or small, contributes something to each other, and all those contributions help build everyone's personal temple.

Then the year 2020 decided to test all Masons with living up to the tenants of Friendship and Brotherly Love. With the rules set by local and state governments to stay at home to protect those who would be most at risk to the rising pandemic, many of those being men who sit next to us in lodge, it would seem that the place we go to for help building our personal temples with the craftsmen who we trust was being taken away from us. That Masonry was being put on hold.

But those words still ring true, "Masonry is less of a club, more of a lifestyle."

Many lodges (mine included), in response to the state and our Grand Lodge's "Stay Home" order, could not imagine going weeks or months without seeing their friends and brothers, and many signed into Skype, Zoom, or other various online meeting sites and enjoyed some conversations and fellowship. Officers of lodges have been exchanging emails regarding the status of their individual lodge and plans on how to execute events once they could meet again. Some brothers have taken to YouTube, or meeting sites to present Masonic Education, to keep the Craft stimulated during these times. Older brothers, and widows, have been getting wellness checks from the younger guys, to make sure they had their medication or groceries. Brothers deemed "essential" by their job keep the world turning. Masons from around the world have reached out on social media to talk to people they would have never spoken to simply because they've been presented an opportunity to do so. Even the very simple manner of a phone call or text to



one another has become more frequent, and so well received.

As a society, we can only really feel what we have experienced, World Wars, Cold Wars, regime changes, civil movements, financial crises, all those things come from books that we simply read to remember. To us, this current moment is the worst moment in human history because it has been the toughest of our personal lives. Generations from now will simply read it about it in history class the way we read about Constantinople or Plymouth Rock. We must remember that, like so many other moments in history, this one too will pass. The real question then becomes, how do we overcome this moment in history, and come out better from it? When we become the "old," "veteran" brothers, how are we going to tell that young twenty-something-year-old kid how we did as brothers? We have been trusted by our lodges to travel and build the example of what we want the world to be. And I firmly believe we're doing this right. Masonry has existed for more than 300 years, some of those years being worse than others (some being much worse than most), yet here it stands. We are carrying the banner our fore-brothers have given us and we'll keep it going for those that follow us. Masonry, and its teachings, are not on pause, we're on full and active display. It's a matter of continuing to practice the one simple principle: "Friendship and Brotherly Love are a lifestyle."

District 5 continued on page 24



Evening Star Lodge No. 101 in the Time of COVID-19 *by Eric J. Hagadorn*

All is well with Evening Star Lodge No. 101. Masonic activities have been suspended until the pandemic has subsided. In the meantime, we've been hunkering down with our families and keeping in touch with each other in case anyone needs anything.

District 6

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



Hartford-Evergreen Lodge No. 88 in the Time of COVID-19

by Robert Malt

Last year Hartford-Evergreen Lodge No. 88 in South Windsor responded to the need of Pauline's Stock Pot Kitchen, which is a local soup kitchen in Windsor, that needed a new stove and oven. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pauline's was in need of additional funds to continue to support the local community at a greater capacity and with a focus on



(l-r) WB Robert Malt and Angelo DiMauro, kitchen director at Pauline's Stock Pot Kitchen.

being able to provide takeout meals. Hartford-Evergreen provided Pauline's

with an additional \$1,500 to achieve their goals.

Also, during this time we are trying to look after each other, but more especially our older brothers who must remain isolated at home. From a simple call on the phone to delivering groceries, we are looking after each other. Lack of physical communication has been difficult, so we have leveraged Microsoft Teams to hold a virtual meetup to give everyone an opportunity to say how they are holding up and just to hear a friendly voice.



(l-r standing) WB Fred Schmalz, Bro. Bob Dynak, Bro. Roger Bristol, WB Tom Duclos. (l-r kneeling) WB Greg Stump, WB Robert Malt, Bro. Lou Lamphear, and Bro. Pat Jones, at Pauline's Stockpot Kitchen, June 2019.

Columbia Lodge No. 25 In the Time of COVID-19

by Walt Grube

At Columbia Lodge No. 25, we sent a message to our brothers via email. For those without email, the message was printed and mailed. Also, for those without email, a personal phone call was made to insure that they know the lodge is here for them.

The message encouraged the brothers to call on the lodge for any needed assistance. It also advised them to follow the guidelines recommended by their state and local authorities, and to stay home as much as possible. There was also a Master's Message, as might normally be included in a Trestleboard.

Finally, the message stressed the importance of the lodge Almoner Fund. It encouraged brothers to contact the Lodge Almoner for any needed assistance, and also to contribute to the fund. In less than two weeks we have already received over \$600 in contributions!

District 6 continued on page 25

Composite Lodge No. 28 in the Time of COVID-19

by Kevin Zorda

As with many of the lodges across the country, Composite Lodge No. 28 in Suffield is doing what it can to navigate these extraordinary times. In April members of the lodge began utilizing social media to stay in touch and support each other while maintaining social distancing. As guidance emerged from the Grand Lodge through dispensation emails, we have been utilizing virtual social meetings a couple nights per week. We are scheduling one session during our normal meeting nights and times in order to attempt to keep some sense of normalcy.

As it appears that the situation is not likely to change quickly, we are expanding our plans for April. Virtual gatherings will continue as well as phone, social media, and email communication. Just this evening I completed a fun publication I have entitled *The Ruffian's Muse* to distribute to brothers of our lodge to pass the time and stay connected. This publication contains recipes, puzzles, poetry, interesting Masonic tidbits, and more. My hope is that this will bring a smile to my brothers and keep them engaged in Masonry. Our plan is to publish this weekly.

As always, our main focus is to insure the safety of our brothers, their families and our community. Supporting those working hard to care for the ill, and most importantly showing each other brotherly love and friendship while we continue to practice social distancing.

District 7

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



Anchor Lodge No. 112 had a Busy First Quarter *by Robert Baird*

January 11: Jarod Bushey, a third generation Master Mason was installed as Master of Anchor Lodge. His father, Michael L. Bushey (of Libanus Lodge No. 47 in Bristol, VT) addressed those assembled and his son.

March 9: Peter Nickolos Daniolos, became a second-generation Mason when he was initiated as an Entered Apprentice. His father, Nickolos P. Daniolos, a member of Anchor Lodge, attended the degree.

March 7: WB Chip Seagrave III was the Master of Ceremonies at a successful Blue Lodge Council Table Lodge event at the American Legion Post in Marlborough. WM Bushey was in the East and Deputy Grand Master Stephen W. Petri delivered the keynote address. Notable items during the meeting were a moment of silence for departed brothers since the last Council Meeting, and Estuary Lodge No. 43 took home the Traveling Gavel. The event was marked by excellent catering provided by Barbara and Bro. Ray Moore and the proceeds from the 50/50 raffle combined to make the event a financial success. It was a sold-out event, with 57 brothers in attendance, and it marked a new chapter of distinction in our Blue Lodge Council participation.

March 24: Anchor Lodge hosted an emergency blood drive. The blood supply nationwide is critically low due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Many of the lodge's brothers helped set up and made this drive possible. In addition, all those who participated did so on short notice and many gave the gift of a donation. Chip Seagrave lead the lodge's efforts to assemble members together for this life-saving effort, and it was the of our most successful blood drives held at Anchor Lodge to date.

The American Red Cross sent a summary of the event and stated: "Great day yesterday, thank you!! We had 47 people register, 9 deferrals, 2 QNS (didn't fill the bag) and ended up with 36 good pints. Don't forget those 36 pints can help 108 patients in need."



District 7 continued on page 26

Washington Lodge No. 81 Holds Annual Awards Ceremony for 2020

by Zach Marotte

From 1-3:30 p.m. on Saturday January 25, Washington Lodge No. 81 held its Annual Awards Ceremony. During the course of the ceremony, WB Phil Gorman and Brother Dave Brown were awarded their 10-year pins. WB Kurt O'Neil was presented with an award for his

outstanding service to the lodge in organizing each pancake breakfast over the past several years.



(l-r) WB Michael Moody, WM Steve Saebrig, and Sarah Backe.

In a particularly emotional moment in the ceremony, WB Mike Moody was presented with a medallion previously owned by RWB Richard Backe, who had personally requested that the Medal be given to WB Moody. The Medal was presented to WB Moody by WM Steven Saebrig and RWB Richard Backe's daughter, Sarah, for his distinguished service to the Craft over the past 35 years.

WM Steven Saebrig presented WB Bernard Pawlicki with his 40-year pine. Finally, Brothers John A. Morales and Zach Marotte were each presented with a White Apron Award by WM Steven Saebrig for their dedicated service to the lodge last year.



(l-r) WM Steve Saebrig and WB Bernard Pawlicki

District 8

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



Ledyard Boy Scout Troop 12 Helps with Grocery Shopping for Homebound Neighbors

by Les King

Brother David Nelson, a member of Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 in Montville, and Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 12 in Ledyard, got an idea from a radio program about "Invisible Hands Delivery" in New York City.

Knowing several homebound individuals in the local community that are unable to leave their homes to do their own shopping due to the virus outbreak, he thought the Troop could start the program locally. After discussions and approval from the Ledge Light Health District and with the support of his assistant scoutmasters, the deliveries began last month.

It has been a great success over the past few weeks. The order forms go to Brother Nelson, and include the recipient's preferred store and contact information. Volunteers contact the recipients, introduce themselves, and get the shopping list and payment information.

The "Shoppers" are usually child-parent teams. Going to stores in

masks and gloves, they use self-checkout when possible to reduce contact with others. If an item is out of stock they will call the recipient to ensure a proper substitution would be suitable.

They bag the groceries and deliver them to the recipients house for a contactless delivery at the door, talking to the recipient over the phone before leaving.

The Boy Scouts enjoy the challenge, full of gratitude they are able to help someone else in their time of need. It is a great service to the community helping out some of their most vulnerable neighbors in the times we are living through.

Boy Scout Troop 12 and Brother Dave Nelson, keep up the good work.



District 9

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



Uriel Lodge No. 24 in the Time of COVID-19

by Robert Stack

Reporting from Uriel Lodge No. 24 in Merrow, a friendly, small section of Mansfield nearby UConn. This month we plan to have a “Fellowship Night,” virtually, via the Zoom platform on-line. Zoom is a common platform for multi-user conferencing that has a small fee for the meeting organizer. It is similar to Skype or Microsoft Teams, but it has a good reputation for handling 100 or more users. We won’t be dealing with that many, but we are fortunate to have a rather well attended lodge. For the event, the basic purpose will be to get together and see how we are all coping with the COVID-19 situation.

Unfortunately, we are dealing with the loss of our Junior Steward, Brother Travis West, due to COVID-19. Travis was a social worker, who dealt with prison inmates. In particular prisoners who are fathers, who he helped cope with their family matters. Well fitting a role for a Mason, but it was there it is felt he contacted the virus. A Masonic service will be held at some point in the future.

Beyond that, we intend to discuss how best to reach out and connect with our brothers who may be incapable of supporting themselves due to travel restrictions, especially those who are in the high risk categories. I also plan to offer a short program on modern Masonic history for the uninstructed, up to the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. That will be in an upcoming installment. Hopefully this on-line event will attract, entertain, and invigorate some members who have been stuck in the house, void of social interaction for the last few weeks.



*Hero and Bro. Travis R. West
Uriel Lodge No. 24
Raised February 9, 2019.
Laid down his working tools
on April 6, 2020.*

Moriah Lodge No. 15 in the Time of COVID-19

by Adam Feeney

Hello and salutations from Moriah Lodge No. 15 here in the northeast corner in Brooklyn. There has been a lot of movement with us in the last couple of weeks. Many

of the brothers have been talking via email, phone, Facebook, etc. We just started to get into the Zoom application, it will be good to see brothers face to face.

We started to talk about what can we do for the community during this time, and we came up with a fundraiser. On May 3, we will be holding a drive-through only ham and bean dinner – people can drive up, order, and drive off. It will give the community a full meal at a discounted

price, and we are also asking for canned goods for the local food bank, which is struggling right now.

We try to keep updates from all brothers via Facebook and email. I am hoping that by the use of the Zoom app we can connect with more brothers. I hope this message finds everyone healthy and happy.

Honor to His Best Friend

This is the story of MW Bro. William L. Greene, Past Grand Master, and RW Bro. James W. Currier (Ionic Lodge No. 110), and the brotherly love that found a way to say “good-bye.”



They were best friends since their teenage years, both became Masons, and both joined the military. As it happens with many Masons, their fraternal bond strengthened their friendship. For more than a half century they shared this bond until one laid down his working tools on April 1, 2020.

In this time of social distancing and limited gatherings how does one say goodbye to another? How does one honor a best friend?

Since the brothers were close, their families were also close. The family, the friend, the minister and the funeral director, were all part of being sure this Mason would be buried with the honors he so deserved.

After the service the minister retired from the gravesite. The surviving friend who had been standing back more than the sufficient distance, was invited to pay his final respects. He was then able to give Masonic Funeral Grand Honors to his brother and place an evergreen sprig on his casket.

Full Military Honors could not be given because of the restrictions but the funeral director had an American flag at the grave site so Military Honors and that final salute could be given . . . from one brother to the other.

Don't Sit Alone in the Dark - Where to Go for Your Freemasonry Fix

by Tom Accuosti (<https://masonictao.com>)

As the social distancing and self-quarantines stretch on, Freemasons are feeling the itch to get out and have some fellowship with their brothers. While not quite the same as sitting around a table and chatting over coffee or an aqua vitae, many Freemasons have already found a way to indulge in discussion with like-minded brethren -- not just from their lodge, but from around the state, and even around the world.

For those who haven't done more than share pictures of their dinner or grandkids on Facebook, the social media giant has dozens of groups for Masonic discussion, both informal and educational. Some of the larger ones are:

The Winding Stairs Freemasonry Group

One of the fastest growing Masonic groups, with over 20,000 members (not all online at once), this moderated group has a wide mix of educational articles, questions from new and old Masons, some humor, and general information.

Masonic World Wide

A large, established group with a large percentage of members from across the pond. While mainly a chat group, one will find a lot of fascinating information here.

Freemasons Page:

One of the largest and oldest Facebook groups, there's something here for everyone. Chat, education, articles of interest, and plenty of humor to lighten the mood.

Freemasonry is not confined to just Facebook; Reddit, one of the largest online news sharing and social groups has a club (known as a subreddit) for every interest, including Freemasonry.

The Reddit Freemasonry group

([reddit.com/r/freemasonry](https://www.reddit.com/r/freemasonry)) This one of the largest active online groups outside of Facebook, and it has dozens of discussions going at any time.

The Lodgeroom UK

([lodgeroomuk.com/forumphpBB/index.php](https://www.lodgeroomuk.com/forumphpBB/index.php)) One of the oldest web forum based groups, and not limited to UK Freemasonry.

Those hoping for a more "live" online experience can join the Freemasonry group on Discord, a popular chat and messaging app. Those of you with a Discord account can find it at: discordapp.com/invite/fezFP88

For those of you who would prefer to listen to some background discussion instead the news, there are some fantastic podcasts by Masons, covering a wide range of topics of interest.

Some of the best known are:

The Masonic Roundtable:

([themasonicroundtable.com](https://www.themasonicroundtable.com)) A group of Freemasons running a weekly podcast, with guests, Masonic news, and some good-natured banter.

Masonic Lite

(www.masoniclite.com) Inspired by The Masonic Roundtable, a decidedly lighter flavored group of guys, just sitting around and talking about anything with a Masonic spin.

Whence Came You?

([wcypodcast.com](https://www.wcypodcast.com)) A more educational podcast, with a wide range of topics, presented by different speakers.

The Craftsmen Podcast

(www.thecraftsmenpodcast.com) A monthly podcast discussing "... the nuances of the Scottish Rite, humor of the York Rite, and all things Masonic, except for the secret handshakes. Sometimes we even share our favorite recipes."

Occult of Personality

([occultofpersonality.net](https://www.occultofpersonality.net)) With a focus on authenticity, accuracy, and quality, Occult of Personality peers behind the veil to provide recorded interviews with serious esoteric practitioners, scholars, and teachers from all over the world.

Finally, for those of you who would rather relax with some reading material, there are still some excellent blogs online.

The Midnight Freemasons

(www.midnightfreemasons.org) Topics of interest from a variety of authors.

The One Minute Mason

([oneminutemason.blogspot.com/](https://www.oneminutemason.blogspot.com/)) Short essays on various topics.

Freemasons Are Us

([freemasonsareus.wordpress.com/](https://www.freemasonsareus.wordpress.com/)) Mainly historical topics about the development of Freemasonry.

The Traveling Templar

(www.travelingtemplar.com/) A variety of history, information, and personal blogging.

Noble Science, Royal Art

([noblescienceroyalart.wordpress.com/](https://www.noblescienceroyalart.wordpress.com/)) Essays on various Masonic themes.

A list of other blogs, podcasts, and further online resources can be found at:

Ashlars to Ashes

([ashlars-ashes.blogspot.com/](https://www.ashlars-ashes.blogspot.com/))

Honor Our Native American Veterans *by Perne R. Maynard*

I recently took a Road Scholar trip to Arizona and spent time in the Pueblo Heritage Native American Nation. I spent a week on the reservations of the Hopi and Navajo American Indians and stopped at the Window Rock Indian National Monument. This monument tells the story of the heroic WWII and Korean War Indian Code Talkers. Without their sacrifice and unique Navajo language, there would have been many more Marines who would have died in the Pacific theater in World War II.

Chester Nez was the last code talker survivor; he passed away a few years ago. At the age of eight, Nez was sent to a school run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. His given English name, Chester, after president Chester A. Arthur, was given to him by one of the government-run boarding schools in Tuba City, Arizona. At an early age Nez was recruited by the Marine Corps, but kept his decision to enlist from his family and lied about his age to meet the enlistment requirements. He and 28 other Navajo Indians were recruited and trained in Platoon #382 formed at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego in May, 1942. This platoon grew to more than 400 Native Americans that served in the military during World War II as top-secret code talkers. Even those fighting shoulder to shoulder with them were not told of their covert function.

After the war, the Navajos were forbidden to speak of this service until 1968 when the code was finally declassified. Of the original twenty-eight Navajo code talkers, Chester Nez was the last member to tell his story. In his memoir, the eighty-nine-year-old Nez chronicled his war years and his life growing up on the Checkerboard Area of the Navajo Reservation, and the hard life that gave him the strength, both physical and mental, to become a Marine. His story puts a living face on the legendary men who developed what is still the only unbroken code in modern warfare.

This excerpt from the Great Courses Native Peoples of North American course further explains their value:

Origins of the Code Talker Program

“The idea to use Navajo cryptographically was first conceived by Philip Johnston,” said Dr. Daniel M. Cobb, Associate Professor of American Studies at The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. “A non-Indian, he had gained an appreciation for the complexity of the language as the son of missionaries in the Southwest. In the spring of 1942, 29 Navajo men were recruited to devise a way to send and receive coded messages during combat.”

...The first step after recruitment was for the Marines to devise a list of words in English that would need to be codified. Of course, the only words to be considered were words vital to military operation. According to Dr. Cobb, the initial list was 200 words, including terms like attack, bomber, observation plane, dive-bomber, and fighter plane. Once the list was compiled, rather than obtaining direct or even approximate Navajo translation, all members of the program sat and chose a word to associate with each term and translate that corresponding word to Navajo. “For bomber, they

came up with buzzard,” Dr. Cobb said. “For observation plane, they decided upon owl. For dive-bomber, they opted for chicken hawk.”

The list expanded far beyond air operations, as well. “Battleships became whales, submarines became iron fishes, destroyers became sharks, and tanks were transformed into turtles.”

Code Talking – From Strategy to Execution

The initial test of the Navajo Code Talker program ran in October and November of 1942 at Guadalcanal, with well-known code talker Chester Nez. “Chester Nez considered November 4, 1942, to be the most terrifying day of his life,” Dr. Cobb said. “Nez waded through chest-deep water, past the floating dead bodies of American and Japanese soldiers, and onto the beach. To get there, he had to violate Navajo taboos against coming into contact with the dead; eventually, he and his fellow radio operator set up along a tree line to begin transmitting coded messages.”

Not only was the program successful, but it also became vital to the entire Pacific campaign... During World War II, Navajo Code Talkers aided land missions, underwater demolition, and air reconnaissance. “During the first 48 hours after landing at Iwo Jima in February 1945, code talkers sent and received over 800 messages without error,” Dr. Cobb said.

As I traveled these reservations and heard the Native American stories, my admiration grew for their fortitude having to withstand their cultural struggles and physical hardships. With today’s talk regarding immigration, it is evident that we are the immigrants, and they were the original Americans. Our government had moved the Native Americans from their home lands to less desirable locations, and recently our government is still trying to take back these lands even right here in Connecticut. Yet they still today, maintain their traditions, love of nature, and for thousands of years have continued to maintain their cultural beliefs. Their sacred ceremonies parallel some Masonic time-honored traditions of our heritage.

So, my brothers, on this Memorial Day as we remember our fallen, let us continue to spread the Brotherly love of our tradition that makes our Masonic fraternity stand out in the world order of promoting Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love. As a veteran, I ask that this Memorial Day, you all take a moment of time to honor our fallen heroes. To paraphrase the Marine Corps motto, we are looking for a “Few Good Masons” who have the passion to volunteer and help our veterans as we honor their countries ultimate sacrifice.

Step up my brothers, and see that your lodge becomes involved in sponsoring programs at the local Veteran Homes and Hospitals located in Newington, Rocky Hill and New Haven. Maybe you can begin with a “Night Out with a Veteran” or an honor program for a deserving local veteran. Try a Veterans card night at a veteran home or your lodge. Once we have beaten this terrible virus it will be time to put your craft to work in your community. The world needs Masonic guidance in this changing world.

What Is the Significance of the Masonic Apron?

by Kevin Tate

The Masonic apron is unquestionably one of the most valuable symbols associated with our speculative order. When it is first worn as an apprentice, it is of pure white lambs skin; an emblem of that purity that we always connect with the lamb and the new born child.

In the first degree it is worn with the flap raised, making it a five-cornered badge, that represents the five senses, by means of which we enter into relations with the physical world around us, and thus constituting our “five points of fellowship” with the material world. But the triangular portion above, in conjunction with the quadrangular portion below, indicates that man’s nature

is a combination of soul and body. The three-sided emblem at the top added to the four-sided emblem beneath makes seven, the perfect number. It is declared in the words of an ancient Hebrew doctrine with which Freemasonry is closely allied (the Kabbalah), “God blessed and loved the number seven more than all things under His throne,” by which it is meant that man, the seven-fold being, is the most cherished of all the Creator’s works.

For the same reason a Masonic lodge has seven ceremonial officers, three principal and four subordinate, and for a lodge to be perfect requires the presence of seven brethren. This signifies that the individual man, by virtue of his seven-fold constitution, in HIMSELF constitutes the “perfect lodge,” if he will but “know himself” and analyze his own nature. Thus while “five” can “hold a lodge,” i.e., a man can be a man and live his life as a five-fold being, yet he must always remember that this is but a stage of growth, a place of incompleteness, and that he must ultimately prepare and add two more members (principles or powers) to his “lodge.” were he can be a true Master.

A Simple Handshake

by Francis G. Way

I have grown to hate the term “social distancing.” It sounds hollow and sterile. It had a smell it would reek of 1960s nursing home: cleaning products, feces, week old-urine, and mashed food, and that dry, papery old person smell. But even more than the term, I dislike social distancing itself.

When I was a young boy, my father, a brother Mason, taught me how to shake hands. He taught me that a firm handshake was a sign of character and integrity. Over the years, in meeting new people, I gauged them by their handshake. There were some self-thought manly men who tried to intimidate, and some who clearly had never been taught to shake hands, passing along a limp, dead-fish-like grip. The only man who ever got a pass on that score was the incomparable Dave Brubeck, who stated just before we shook hands, “please go easy, I make my living with my hands,”

flashing a smile that instantly lit up the entire hall. When I became a Mason, I thought it totally appropriate that we know each other by that certain friendly and brotherly grip.

A handshake as a greeting, to Masons and the profane alike, is second nature. Several weeks ago my daughter invited me to participate in a kayaking excursion she was leading on the Colorado River on the Arizona/Nevada border. (At this point she instructed me that I could interject that I paddled from Arizona all the way to Nevada in a single day – if you’ve ever been there you will know what I mean). It was a small excursion that day, two other folks, a couple from Pittsburgh, Dave and Lauri, and when Dave and I met it was a reflex action to start to shake hands. We caught ourselves in time, and ended up bumping elbows, and then laughed. But that is how ingrained a handshake is.

With all this social distancing and staying home, brothers obviously are not attending lodge. That is something I miss greatly, and one of the things I miss the most is greeting my brothers with a handshake.

Some brothers receive just a simple handshake. For those brothers with whom I have become good friends, it’s the handshake/hug – you’ve seen it in all those mob movies or *The Sopranos* if you are wondering what it is. And for those brothers who are my best friends, it’s a handshake followed by a full-on hug. But the point is that none of those are happening right now.

In times like these it seems to be the little things you miss – well, that and maybe toilet paper – and my handshakes are no exception. In fact, missing these handshakes has reinforced for me just how important they are, just how meaningful and special. They are a microcosm of our brotherly love and friendship in the smallest of packages.

It could well be we are well into May by the time we’re allowed social proximity again, but I know that when that day comes, one of the finest pleasures will be to greet my brothers, and to shake their hands.

Musings: Part II *by Ricky McDonnell*

By the time you read this, one hopes the lockdown has been lifted, your family and friends have survived physically, mentally and financially, and you're ready to join in what we have all been missing these past few months.

I guess my main memory during this lockdown is the text message I received from the youngest brother of my lodge, St Paul's Lodge No. 11, asking about my welfare. Yes, it's our remit as Freemasons to care for one another, widows and orphans; how many can honestly say they did their bit? I'm not digging at your conscience but maybe reminding you of your Masonic obligations. Remember those? Ok, maybe a little dig but it's now time to move ahead with what we have and maybe realize how fortunate we are to have each other, a brother to call and disperse of our own heartache, or help relieve him of his, or just catch up on what is important to each of us.

How many of us used the extra time we had to read up on our ritual? For those lodges with degrees already scheduled on their trestle boards the new officers were already geared up for it but how many of us put the little blue book away thinking they'll get to it some other time and are now struggling to catch up?

I wasn't into this virtual stuff, preferring to actually go to the lodge and meet with my brothers, break bread, perform ritual, conduct lodge business and then, time permitting, have a chat over cake and cookies afterwards. Oh how I missed lodge meetings; I promise I won't fall asleep again WM.

A few of my brothers got together to enjoy their usual Friday breakfast. It was a little different inasmuch as we had to either get take out and eat in the lodge or take out and eat in the car lot; whatever the venue we enjoyed each other's company for that fleeting hour or so.

I guess the main reason for writing is that I miss you: Grand Lodge was cancelled, which is such a shame, as it's a great time to catch up with brothers from afar; those we don't get to meet with monthly. Also for all of those brothers who worked so diligently for various certificates; I know they'll get them but... I hope that I haven't ruffled any feathers as that was not my intention; I'm just being me.



CANCELLATIONS

As Secretary of Monker Grotto M.O.V.P.E.R. in Norwalk, CT, I am writing to notify you that all of Monker Grotto's activities are canceled until further notice, due to the coronavirus pandemic public health emergency. The specific meeting dates affected are as follows:

May 11, 2020

June 8, 2020

Fraternally yours,

Daniel V. Obuchowski, Secretary,
Monker Grotto

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One Connecticut Family's Donor Story

by Caitlyn Bernabucci, Manager, Development and Public Education
New England Donor Services

Organ donation saves lives. Each year, over 39,000 people receive life-saving transplants and over 1.5 million others are healed by the gift of tissue donation. While many do receive, 22 people die each day because of the shortage of organs for transplant. It is important for all people to consider being an organ and tissue donor. Anyone, regardless of age or health conditions, can register as a donor at RegisterMe.org—and commit to giving a gift that could heal another desperately in need. You could save the life of someone like John—a Connecticut husband and father to three. Here is John's story as told by his daughter, Angelica.

Early in 2018, our dad, John, was diagnosed with liver cancer and it was decided by his doctors that in order for him to get better, he would need a liver transplant to save his life. This hit our family hard. Our dad is one of those people who goes out of his way to do anything for everyone and never asks for anything in return. He loves his family and friends and just enjoys life itself. After finding out no one in our family was a match, we reached out to the community in search of a living donor.

We patiently waited in search of a living donor until October 2018, but could not find a good match.

Later that month, our dad received a phone call that changed all of our lives. He would receive a liver from a deceased donor. This was a miracle for our family. Our dad received his liver transplant that night. That transplant and his donor saved his life.

While we do not know who is donor was, we know that that person gave us our dad back. For that, we are so thankful.

In October 2019, we celebrated one year since his transplant surgery! Since the surgery, he is doing extremely well and we are eternally grateful to the New England Donor Services and Donate Life Organizations. We created Team Hribko for the Annual Blue & Green Walk/5K in support of my dad and to help increase awareness of donation.

To learn more about the Blue & Green Walk and show support, please visit www.bluegreenwalk.org



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So What Are Ya Watching? *by Francis G. Way*

Everyone is practicing social distancing and staying home. That's a beautiful thing. But even as a kid, in the dark ages when there were only three TV channels, the phone had a long spiral cord, and the internet was probably just a contraction of the words "interstate dragnet," we didn't have to stay inside as much as we are cautioned to do these days.

I'm not sure about everyone else, but I can say that in my household, there have been a few benefits to all this quarantining. First, every evening the three of us (my daughter, a cosmetologist just starting out on her career, still lives home), gather at the dining room table for dinner. As she isn't working, and I'm not heading out for lodge or York Rite, it means all three of us are home at dinner time so the meal is more organized than when the three of us are rushing around. That is a very welcome change. It reminds me of when the kids were little and that happened every night.

I know I've been doing more reading. I have a Kindle, and every day I get several emails from sites offering low-priced or free ebooks. I will download ones that look interesting, and if they don't grab me in the first 10 or 12 pages, they get deleted. It has been a while since I have had the time to read as much as I would like, so I'm enjoying this opportunity. You can get started at www.freebooksy.com.

And the family is also gathering to watch Netflix or Hulu. If you do Hulu or Netflix or Amazon Prime, here's a couple of ideas – if you haven't seen them, check them out.

The hottest thing on Netflix right now is *Tiger King*. This is truly a train wreck of a true story, and as if it were a real train wreck I just could not turn away. It profiles Joe Exotic, a big cat zoo owner in Oklahoma who had a running feud with Carole Baskin, a big cat rescue owner from Florida. Along the way you meet other interesting characters who color this story the way cayenne colors gumbo. To quote a former coworker of mine, "You just can't make this stuff up."

And my wife and I recently binged Season 4 of *Better Call Saul*. This is a prequel of sorts to *Breaking Bad* and continues the excellent writing and production of that amazing series. If you are one of the few who never saw *Breaking Bad*, it really is some of the best television ever produced and is definitely worth a look. For you trivia buffs, Vince Gilligan, the producer, got his start writing on *The X-Files*.

I like music, and have been a ZZ Top fan since high school. There's a great documentary on Netflix, *ZZ Top That Little Ol' Blues Band From Texas*. It profiles the group (they hold the record for the rock band with the longest running lineup of the same musicians) from their humble beginnings in Texas. It is a great story and you get great insight into Billy F Gibbons, Dusty Hill, and Frank Beard.

I will probably follow up the ZZ Top documentary with one called *The Other One* about Grateful Dead guitarist and songwriter Bob Weir. It looks to be pretty interesting.

Another excellent movie/documentary is called *A Futile and Stupid Gesture*. It is based on the book of the same name, about comedy writer Doug Kenney. Kenney, who co-founded The National Lampoon, and

who wrote most of its early material. Some may remember Kenney as Stork, from *Animal House*. Kenney passed away in 1980, from a fall while in Hawaii. He is buried in Newtown, by the way. The movie is full of characters whose names will be familiar to anyone who has seen *Animal House*, *Caddyshack*, *Saturday Night Live*, and *This is Spinal Tap!*

I'm also currently watching, off and on, a somewhat chilling series called *I Am A Killer*. These are interviews with prisoners, some of whom are on, or started on, death row, talking about their crimes. Police, district attorneys, and sometimes victims families are also interviewed. It can be pretty heavy duty so it is not something you would typically binge, thus the off and on status.

On Hulu, *11-22-63* is worth a watch. Based on a Stephen King novel, it is quite a good dramatization of the book, although some of the story lines are compressed. As an example, in the book the protagonist makes multiple trips back to 1963 through the time portal, but in this 8-part mini-series, it is all combined into one trip.

Amazon Prime is noteworthy for *Bosch*. I am currently waiting for the next season to drop. These are extremely well-done dramatizations of the Michael Connelly detective novels, starring Titus Welliver as the main character, Harry Bosch. The production quality is excellent, and it really captures of the feel of Los Angeles. Bosch is a detective in *LAPD*.

Their sports documentary *All or Nothing* profiles various sports teams, as they are deeply embedded and follow the team for a full season. As a rugger, I was extremely interested in their first season *All or Nothing: New Zealand All Blacks*. It profiled the New Zealand nation rugby team. Other seasons include the Brazil national soccer team, the Dallas Cowboys (hint, they don't win the Super Bowl), the Philadelphia Eagles, and the Arizona Cardinals. It is definitely worth checking out if you are a sports fan.

So those are some of the things I have checked out on TV. Next month, if we are still quarantined and social distancing, I may do this for books that I'm reading. Until then, stay well, be safe, and try to enjoy the little bit of down time we are having.



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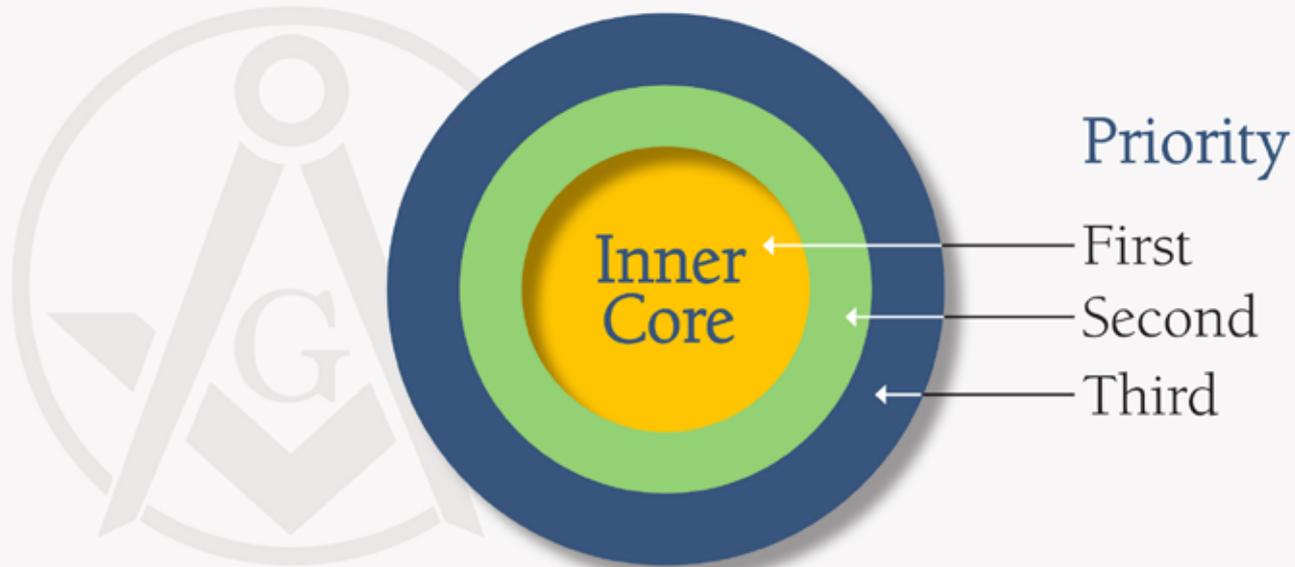
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Our Concentric Circle

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Many years ago, Masonicare created a state approved Concentric Circle policy that allows for the Masonic family to receive priority admission into our healthcare facilities. Below is a brief overview of the policy and you can contact Masonicare Community Services at 800.982.3919 with any questions that you may have.



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- A member of the Eastern Star or Amaranth in good standing at the date of application
- A husband or un-remarried widower of an Eastern Star or Amaranth member as defined above

Second Priority

- Second priority is given to parents, parents-in-law, unmarried children, and unmarried siblings of inner core Masons, Eastern Star and Amaranth members

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To the Masonic Family:

The COVID-19 pandemic has required all of us to make adjustments in our daily lives that we never thought possible. Because we cannot predict with certainty how long social distancing measures will be necessary, we have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Grand Masters Day festivities.

Along with the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, Most Worshipful Grand Master Bro. Stephen W. Petri, and everyone at Masonicare, we thank you for your understanding and look forward to honoring this occasion later in 2020.

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 [masonicare.org](https://www.masonicare.org)
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