

*June 2020*



# Connecticut FREEMASONS

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

**GRAND MASTER'S EDICT NO. 2020-E002**

**IN MEMORIAM  
LEONARD F. D'AMICO  
MOST WORSHIPFUL PAST GRAND MASTER  
ARTHUR H. CARLSTROM  
MOST WORSHIPFUL PAST GRAND MASTER**

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

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



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“... I go to the woods. I feel the breeze, I revel in the sunlight on my face, and I fall into the gentle rhythm of one foot following another down the trail, waiting to see what each turn will bring into view.” (p.3)



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

*Not Just a Man. A Mason.*



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# Take A Hike. No Really, Just Take a Hike. *by Francis G. Way*

“There’s rattlesnakes. Don’t go into the woods or especially on that trail in the summer.”

I was 11, growing up in East Glastonbury, and my father was putting the fear of God into my brother and me because we lived in an area with a lot of rattlesnakes. He would know, he grew up there, hunting and fishing in those woods. Because we were outside all day and running around during our summer vacation from school, he wanted to be sure we were safe. The trail he mentioned was the Shenipsit Trail, part of which runs from Rt. 2 to Diamond Lake in Glastonbury, and which, given our young legs, vivid imaginations, and unquenchable energy, was within reach of our wanderings.

It took a trip to Las Vegas, Nevada, a couple of years ago to see my kids to get me back into hiking. The trails in Red Rock Canyon are about as different from the trails in Connecticut as you can imagine. Towering red rock formations rise on either side of you, and farther away the cliffs and mountains that the rock climbers inhabit are spectacular. It’s an amazing place. And yes, there are rattlesnakes, just a different species.

But I grew up in the Connecticut woods, and with COVID-19 making a mess of life, I have, more and more, taken to those woods. You can’t go to the store without a mask. You can’t go to a restaurant, and have a steak and a beer. You can’t go to Mass and receive the Eucharist. Everything is closed. Closed until further notice. And Zoom just ain’t cuttin’ it.

So I go to the woods. I feel the breeze, I revel in the sunlight on my face, and I fall into the gentle rhythm of one foot following another down the trail, waiting to see what each turn will bring into view.

And I think.

Most times after I’ve been going a while, it’s not even a conscious thinking, it’s a more primal experience, my brain wandering where it wants as my feet are wandering the trail. Deep thoughts rise to the surface in a brain calmed like a quiet lake on a still summer’s day. Ideas, stories, philosophy. It’s all there.

It’s a renewal of sorts, a refueling of something I have been long missing in my life, something that commitments to lodge, Valley, Commandery, and *Connecticut Freemasons* leave little time for. Something that lodge, Valley, Commandery, and especially Connecticut Freemasons, have stopped providing of late. Something that fresh air, sunlight, and warm temperature provides, while erasing, for just a while, all the chiropterine-scatological crazy of COVID-19.

And so I hike...

Last Saturday, a pretty glorious late spring Connecticut day, I parked at the end of Toll Gate Road in Glastonbury, and started walking. The road is the old New London Turnpike – the road to New London before Rt. 2 was put in – and it leads to an intersection onto the Shenipsit trail. These days the road is blue blazed, like the main trail, but back in my youth it was just “the old road.”

I came to the intersection with the main trail. To my right it would head at least 10 miles back into Cobalt. To my left, miles and miles north, ending in Somers, a couple

*Continued on page 9*

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

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# The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Connecticut



## EDICT

No. 2020 – E002

**Issued By:** Stephen W. Petri, Most Worshipful Grand Master  
**Issued To:** All Lodges under the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut  
**For Use On:** Monday, June 1, 2020 until Tuesday, June 30, 2020  
**Purpose of Edict:** Meetings Suspended Until June 30, 2020

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, Governor Lamont issued a declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed spread in Connecticut; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to such declaration, Governor Lamont has issued twenty-four (24) executive orders to suspend or modify statutes and to take other actions necessary to protect public health and safety and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 appears to be higher for individuals who are 60 years of age or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, all social and recreational gatherings of more than 5 people are prohibited; and

**WHEREAS**, the functions and operations of Connecticut Freemasonry do not meet the standards for "Phase 1" (One) of the State's "REOPEN CONNECTICUT" program to exempt it from the social and recreational gathering limitations imposed by Governor Lamont.

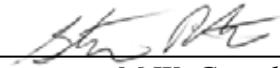
**Now therefore**, I, Most Worshipful Brother Stephen W. Petri, do hereby cancel all previously agreed upon scheduled events requiring the attendance of the officers of the Grand Lodge Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Connecticut through to June 30, 2020 or until cancelled by me; and

**Now therefore**, All Lodges and Brothers of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut are directed to cancel any Masonic activities through to June 30, 2020 or until cancelled by me, that would come in conflict with the Governor of Connecticut's Executive orders, which have been put in place to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and protect the general population.

With the need to have social distancing, feelings of isolation can occur. Masons are encouraged to keep in contact with their brothers and to continue providing of Brotherly Relief, taking appropriate precautions to avoid injury to oneself and the brother in need.

Given under my hand and seal this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May A.D. 2020,  
in the city of Wallingford, Connecticut



  
M.W. Grand Master

# Grand Master's Message

by Stephen W. Petri



These have been trying times. We have lost brothers, family members, friends and notably three Past Grand Masters: Bro. William F. Carpenter on March 28, Bro. Leonard F. D'Amico on April 30, and Bro. Arthur H. Carlstrom on May 8. On a personal level, my mother lodge has lost a brother, Arthur P. Mostel MD, who petitioned, was made a Mason, and was raised by me when I was the Master. They will all be deeply missed.

We have lost much, but we have also gained. Brothers realized how important fellowship is to them. The members are calling and checking on brothers and helping those that need assistance. Lodges are holding frequent web meetings just to talk and catch up and perhaps raise a glass or two together. In general men have discovered they do not have local connections and relationships with other men in their communities and are searching for what we have in Masonry. They are contacting us about becoming a Masons.

We are all anxiously waiting to hear the plans our government leaders are developing for the phased reopening of schools, businesses, and social events, and wonder about our ability to socialize and meet as lodges once again. While writing this article I have been watching the governors of both Connecticut and New York describe their plans for the upcoming summer and how to open-up public meeting venues. It is not clear how this is going to end up. I know what I would really like to do, but the question is "what is the right thing to do?"

I believe, regrettably, that our ability to meet as we did before is going to be severely hampered until next year. We will all need to adjust to the new normal as we keep to our social distancing to stay healthy. As we better understand the governor's plans we will notify you how we can proceed to begin meeting again.

As you should know, the office has been closed with the staff working remotely from their homes since Governor Lamont ordered non-essential and non-profit organizations to close their offices. The Grand Secretary and the office staff have developed a "re-opening protocol" for the office that will be sent out soon.

As we plan to move towards the new normal there is one brand new event, mentioned in last month's paper, that the Grand Lodge still hopes to hold this year – the First Annual

Grand Lodge Family Picnic. The picnic will be held on Saturday, August 15, at Castle Hill Farm, 1 Sugar Lane, Newtown, CT (<https://www.castlehillfarm.net/>). Admission will be free for active youth Rainbow and DeMolay. Keep an eye out for more information.

What are you doing with your time? Studying ritual, working on your proficiency, taking the "Masters Path" training course? Now is also a good time for lodges to work on improving their key communications channels such as updating member emails and phone numbers in Grand View, updating websites, Facebook pages, Instagram, Twitter and other social media channels. To help lodges with their websites, the Grand Lodge has been offering online video tutorials from WP101.com to brothers on how to use WordPress through links on the help desk website. The links to these tutorials are being moved to Grandview (<http://ct.grandview.systems>) under Resources/Master Masons/Training. We offer this training, free of charge, as a service to all Master Masons of Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

A final comment. I have received a number of requests for information about the new "Virtual Lodge" being created by Grand Lodge as told by RWB Frank Way in last month's paper. There are no plans to create one. I think Bro. Way may have gotten fooled last April. Thankfully, that story has not risen to the level of the Grand Lodge of California vs. Grand Lodge of Connecticut "how to wear your Masonic ring" brouhaha.



THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE  
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  
**Leonard F. D'Amico, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master**

Most Worshipful Leonard F. D'Amico served the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut as the 154th Grand Master in 2000. His Masonic career spanned 64 years during which time he was honored as a recipient of the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze. He passed away on Thursday, April 30, 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 D'Amico is survived by his wife, Harriet D'Amico, a daughter and two sons. Letters of sympathy and condolence for the family may be sent to his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bart (Deborah) Hogestyn, 11 Newgate Road, Oxford, CT 06478-1578.

Fraternally,

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

Grant S. Gould  
R. W. Grand Secretary



*Brother Leonard F. D'Amico  
154th Most Worshipful Grand Master of the  
Most Wordhipful Grand Lodge of the State of Connecticut  
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
laid down his working tools on April 30, 2020..*

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**It is with sadness that we announce the death of  
Arthur Henry Carlstrom, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master**

Most Worshipful Arthur H. Carlstrom served the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut as the 163rd Grand Master in 2009. His Masonic career spanned more than 55 years during which time he was honored as a recipient of the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze. He passed away on Friday, May 8, 2020.

The burial service will be private.

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 Carlstrom was predeceased by his wife Marilyn Hubbard Carlstrom and is survived by two daughters, Judith Carlstrom and Cynthia Brophy. Letters of sympathy and condolence for the family may be sent to the "Family of Arthur H. Carlstrom", c/o Brophy, 3103 Tanzanite Circle, Fort Mill, SC 29708.

Memorial contributions may be made to "CT Freemasons Foundation" Permanent Endowment Fund, PO Box 69, Wallingford, CT 06492 or to Grand Chapter of CT, OES, Office Fund, PO Box 143, Plymouth, CT 06782

Fraternally,

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

Grant S. Gould  
R. W. Grand Secretary



*Brother Arthur Henry Carlstrom  
163rd Most Worshipful Grand Master of the  
Most Wordhipful Grand Lodge of the State of Connecticut  
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
laid down his working tools on May 8, 2020..*



# Letter to the Ladies

by Patrice Murphy

Contact Patrice at [FirstLady@CTFreemasons.net](mailto:FirstLady@CTFreemasons.net)

## We need a yenta.

That was MWGM Stephen's view of what some lodges need in order to know what's going on in each other's lives. That is especially true now that the regular rhythm of lodge attendance and Masonic events has been disrupted by COVID-19. Maybe brothers need a yenta not in the narrow sense of a gossip or matchmaker, but the gentler notion of a community-serving person who knows everything that is going on and is good at spreading the word.

I'm always reluctant to buy into clichéd statements about gender differences, but there is a fair bit of research to say that women seem to be better at this than men. The [Field Guide To The Yenta](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/articles/201201/field-guide-the-yenta), (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/articles/201201/field-guide-the-yenta>) published in *Psychology Today* quotes Rutgers anthropologist Helen Fisher, who says that women, with their more active estrogen and oxytocin systems and their better-developed intuition and sense of caring, are more biologically inclined than men to be matchmakers.

No gender stereotyping there at all.

Anyway, MWGM's remark set me thinking about how men and women communicate: what they choose to talk about, the structure and the ease with which they can move beyond the niceties that divide us to explore the personal and the vulnerable.

I mentioned last month that the MWGM joined the Masons during another period of enforced isolation, when he was the primary caregiver for our very young daughters while running his IT consulting business from home. Those early months were wild: two baby girls under two, both in diapers, the full adorable catastrophe. Every parent who has cared for closely spaced children knows exactly what I mean.

A trip to the supermarket was a major haul, with one daughter strapped on his chest in a BabyBjörn, the other on his back in a toddler backpack. A perfectly balanced parental packhorse.

MWGM certainly stood out. A tall guy with a red beard wrangling two young children through the grocery aisle mid-morning was not a common sight in lower Fairfield County. Our town, within commuting distance to New York City, was typically

emptied of fathers around 7a.m., with a noticeable drop in testosterone until twelve hours later. Daytime hours were generally the domain of stay at home moms and nannies.

It was a pretty lonely life for MWGM. The mommy network did little to welcome dads. I soon noticed that my normally gregarious husband was pretty much confined to interacting with the children and his (mostly female) clients. Although he would occasionally come across another dad with preschoolers, neither man would step up to make a connection.

My completely unscientific prediction is that a woman isolated in parallel circumstances would, within a week, have found the one other at-home mom in the area, set up a rendezvous at Starbucks, swapped life stories and scheduled a revolving playdate.

Somehow, men seem to need a vehicle, a structured pathway, to get to the intimacy that women build very easily. This brings me back to Freemasonry.

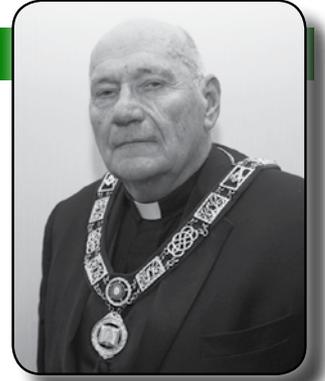
A wise Masonic lady (wife of the then Master of the lodge and herself a senior executive of a global credit card company) once speculated that the ritual and related lessons of Freemasonry provide the structure men need to talk intimately about character, morality and what it means to be a man. Our society does not make it easy for men to engage in these deep conversations, which do not usually happen around a bar or at a game. Her sense was that this was why the ritual is such a valued part of Freemasonry, and a major reason why so many Masons find the friendships they build within the Craft to be among the deepest and most rewarding in their life.

Having found the bridge – and come to rely upon it for camaraderie and deeper understanding among brothers – I can imagine then how hard it is for Masons to be cut off from the regular rhythm of meeting in lodge.

It's a big step beyond a coffee date at Starbucks – and that's what makes it so worthwhile. I remind myself that for the Masons in our lives who value making this effort, the loss during COVID-19 lockdown is great indeed. Ladies, this is a time to support our Masons!

# Grand Chaplain's Message

by Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski



All are now dealing with the coronavirus. It has changed how we meet as Masonic bodies. Zoom seems to be the way that we are communicating. I remind all of one of the tenets of our profession: relief. "It is a duty incumbent on all men but particularly on Masons. We are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. To sooth the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and to restore peace to their troubled minds is the great aim we have in view. On this basis we form our friendships and establish our connections."

By this tenet we are reminded of the bond of love that binds us. We must give an attentive ear for a brother in need and give him good and timely counsel. In all our obligations we are particularly reminded how we are to help, aid, and assist one another. If any brother needs counsel, feel free to contact me.

If any lodge needs assistance, contact RWB Carl Anderson, the Grand Almoner.

I especially extend my sympathy to the Carpenter, D'Amico and Carlstrom Families. In the last month, these three Past Grand Masters have gone to that house not made with hands and eternal in the heavens.

I thank them for all the time and knowledge that they have given us.

On the behalf of all I keep their families in my prayer and thank them for their support.

May God continue to bless us during this pandemic

## Take A Hike. Not Really, Just Take a Hike. *continued from page 3*

of miles from the Massachusetts state line.

"There's rattlesnakes."

Old indoctrination dies hard, even 50 years later. Being afraid to take a chance, to walk on the edge, to stay safe, makes life very easy indeed. And keeps you stuck inside a box, like COVID-19 has us all stuck inside our homes. A warm, safe, fuzzy box. But a box all the same.

I took a step, and then another. And another. For the first three-quarters of a mile I was cautious at every tree across the trail, or every rock where a timber rattler could be sunning. But I soon realized that, given my size, and the heaviness of my gate, they would sense me long before I ever saw them, and they would probably just move. Before I knew it I was in a rhythm, and moving along the trail, enjoying the sunlight, and calming the storm that most days rages in my brain.

So my best prescription for COVID-19 is take a hike. Try it. It's as easy as putting one foot in front of the other. Just watch out for snakes.

SUNDAY



JUNE 14, 2020



# Grand Historian's Corner

Andrew R. Melillo

The Civil War was a defining moment that propelled America toward her destiny. There were many Masons within the ranks of the roughly fifty thousand enlisted Connecticut men. It was a war between families – and the Craft. The fraternity had gone to war – yet each Mason never abandoned their obligations on the battle field. In a haunting echo of that fraternal fact, the Grand Lodge of Tennessee sent a communication to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and in their response, they wrote,

*Brethren, we, with you, deplore the present unnatural and deeply distressing condition of our national affairs... but if this whirlwind threatens to overwhelm us, yet in this last extremity, the still small voice of Masonic faith will be uttered and heard, saying, "Brethren, there is help at hand in this time of need. Surely your God is our God; your faith our faith; your landmarks our landmarks..."*



Daniel Merritt Mead

Of the many Masons who fought from Connecticut, one was Brother and Major Daniel Merritt Mead. Daniel was in the Yale Class of 1854

and practiced law in New York and Connecticut. He was a charter member, and the first Junior Warden of Acacia Lodge No. 85 of Greenwich, and first

formal historian of the town, publishing his book in 1857, the same year Acacia was meeting under dispensation. Brother Daniel M. Mead,

*enlisted as Captain of I Company, in the 10th Regiment, Conn. Volunteers, on September 6, 1861. The Tenth was mustered into service at Camp Buckingham near Hartford, Connecticut. From there, the regiment, Mead's I Company included, entrained for Annapolis, Maryland, where it was assigned to the First Brigade of "Burnside's Division." With two months of training and drill to form and firm it, the regiment shipped out on transport for its first engagements in North Carolina. The Troops remained on board for more than five weeks. Provisions were barely adequate. Sickness quickly seized the confirmed men and for the most part, life aboard the transport was miserable. Finally, on February 7, 1862, they landed on Roanoke Island, where, to the astonishment of the regular army officers on hand, the Tenth Regiment "fought like veterans." From that point on, the Tenth fought in practically all the nameless battles, fights and skirmishes that took place in eastern North Carolina and along the James River in Virginia for the remainder of the war. The battle record reads like a provincial Piedmont train schedule: Slocum's Creek, Plymouth, Trenton, Tarboro, Rawle's Mills, Hamilton, Williamstown, Goldsboro.... One Brigade Commander had said of them, "...for steady and soldierly behavior under most trying circumstances....they may have been*

*equaled – but never surpassed." The tribute had been paid for dearly. Some few lucky ones had returned home to Greenwich in that weary September. The majority had been cut down by cannon shards, musket balls, exhaustion and disease. Daniel Merritt Mead had been one of those who fell. Promoted to Major for valiant service, he had contracted typhoid fever in the summer of 1862. Sent home, he died in Greenwich before the leaves had turned color that same year. Daniel Merritt Mead had been, at twenty-eight, a lawyer, historian and proven leader of men under fire. What accomplishments he might have reached – for his town, his state and his country – had he survived the War of Secession.*

While the war ravaged on in the distant south, Connecticut Masonry flourished. In 1862, the Grand Lodge recorded 6,727 Masons in the state. By the end of the war, the number was 9,939 members. By 1870, it was 13,072. The war inflicted terrible atrocities against the human race – and yet it also accomplished great things: making all men Free, and preserving the Union. When the men returned home, they sought institutions that brought men together under one banner - and the quarries beckoned the best from amongst their ranks. With a war of destruction behind them, they now associated together, eager to work and to build.

The Craft, much like the nation, looked upon their future with a romantic destiny in what could be achieved – as a united whole. With so much devastation and destruction from the war, many of the Masonic minds in Connecticut focused

Continued on page 11

## Grand Historian's Corner *continued from page 9*

towards building fraternal bonds and to help, aid, and assist their fellow Mason. As Case and Tapley write:

*Charity may begin at home but when certain "causes" are publicized or disasters appear in the newspaper headlines, the Fraternity responds very generously. Among those which stand out are the Masonic College in Kentucky; the Five Points Mission in New York City; the pestilence in California during the gold rush; the Washington Monument Fund; Yellow Fever epidemic in New Orleans; Ladies Association to preserve Mount Vernon; Louisiana flood, Ohio floods, Galveston tidal wave; Charleston earthquake, etc.*

Then came the Chicago Fire. The nation responded with immense compassion, including the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, sending a railcar with tools and more than \$1,000. So much charity flooded into Chicago that the excess was calculated, and was sent back on a pro rata basis. The Connecticut Grand Lodge received a check for \$332. It was this money which prompted Grand Master, Luke Aldophus Lockwood, to set it aside and begin the realization of the Craft's dream of a Masonic home. Most Worshipful Brother Luke A. Lockwood, a Greenwich native, and kinsman to the Grand



*Luke A. Lockwood*

Historian, was initiated at Union Lodge No. 5 in 1856, and was the son of Frederick Lockwood and grandson of Frederick Lockwood, Sr. both Masons of Union Lodge No. 5. He was a prominent lawyer in



*King Edward VII  
of England*

New York City. He was a personal friend of King Edward VII, who as Prince of Wales was Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England for 27 years, the rule being, one cannot be both Monarch and Grand Master. The king made Luke Lockwood the sole representative of English Masons in North America in 1895 and the citation, intact with Prince Albert's own signature, is still in possession of Acacia Lodge. Lockwood had a remarkable personal, and

Masonic career. He undertook the first written draft of the laws and ancient landmarks of Freemasonry entitled, *Masonic Law, and Practice, with Forms*. In 1905, Most Worshipful Brother George G. McNall

*Continued on page 12*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS

**J. Kemler Appell**  
Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14

**John A. Birdsall**  
Union Lodge No. 31

**William A. Bonney, Jr.**  
Unity Lodge No. 148

**Marshall Breiner**  
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

**John R. Brown, Jr.**  
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

**Edmund Carl Dahlstrom**  
Washington Lodge No. 19

**Harold B. Dickey**  
Coastal Lodge No. 57

**Marc J. Dinerstein**  
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

**Thomas A. Gannoe**  
Bay View Lodge No. 120

**Forster L. Grant**  
Uriel Lodge No. 24

**John A. Hammar**  
Washington Lodge No. 70

**Gary Aram Kazanjian**  
Columbia Lodge No. 25

**David W. Knecht**  
Washington Lodge No. 19

**Richard Dietrich Martens**  
Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

**Robert William Nash**  
Corinthian Lodge No. 104

**Roger N. Payne**  
Federal Lodge No. 17

**Frank P. Prelli**  
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64

**Ronald S. Rainey**  
Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3

**David B. Woodmansee**  
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

## Grand Historian's Corner *continued from page 11*

motioned, in recognition of Luke Lockwood's attainments, that a committee be formed,

*for the purpose of arranging for a suitable tribute to our appreciation and esteem for our Worshipful Brother, Past Grand Master, Luke A. Lockwood to be presented to him on the occasion of his Golden Anniversary in Masonry.*

And yet, with a committee formed for that purpose, making the preparations for September 1906, when in seemingly perfect health, Most Worshipful Brother Luke A. Lockwood died at his home in Riverside, on November 20, 1905. He now rests quietly beneath the clay, next to his wife, Mary Louise Lyon, at the St. Andrew's Episcopal Burial Ground in Stamford, Connecticut.

Lodge membership continued to grow at an accelerated rate, but the Grand Lodge also continued to remind its constituent lodges to follow the uniform ritual, and cautioned against levity in performing the work. A Grand Lecturer was instituted to help travel and achieve this standard, however, he complained about how seldom he was invited places, so the solution became to make Deputy Grand Lecturers for each county. And while hiccups and issues like this pervaded the Craft across the state, problems of such a technical nature, were much preferred to the problems of the Morgan excitement. Connecticut Masonry continued steadily on, and barring the unfortunate Webotuck Incident, or Most Worshipful Brother Israel M. Bullock laying down his working tools while still in office (the first Grand Master to whom this has happened), or a Master of a lodge being disciplined for ignoring the Grand Master's orders not to attend a monument unveiling of Nathan Hale in Masonic regalia (just to name a few)...the Grand Lodge both prospered and got on with its constituent lodges and its neighboring jurisdictions.

For many of the oldest Connecticut lodges, their centennial anniversaries were drawing nigh, including that of Grand Lodge. In 1862 there are accounts of the anniversary celebrations by St. John's Lodge in Bridgeport [Fairfield] and St. John's Lodge in Hartford – followed by St. John's Lodge in Norwalk in 1867 and King Solomon Lodge No. 7 in Woodbury. With Masonry flourishing and the more unhappy days of Masonic excitement and the Civil War far behind them, the 1889 Centennial Celebration of Grand Lodge was anticipated with great fanfare. The Grand Master for the Centennial Year was Most Worshipful Brother John H. Swartwout of Union Lodge No. 5 in Stamford. A memorial volume was printed by Grand Secretary Joseph Kellogg Wheeler for the occasion, full of biographical and historical material touching upon the last 100 years of the Grand Lodge and its members. A portion of Most Worshipful Brother Swartwout report on the occasion stated:

*On July 10th, was celebrated the Centennial Anniversary of this Grand Lodge. The day was fair though threatening, yet a glorious day for the work on hand, enabling the four thousand (4,000) Masons in line to march with apparent comfort. As the bell tolled the hour of twelve, the procession turned into Elm Street, passing the Grand Master and Associate Officers in review...*

*At the opening of the exercises a very pleasing circumstance occurred. Finding no gavel provided with which to call the assembly to order, I espied the Worshipful Master of Union Lodge No. 5, who cheerfully presented his gavel for use. It thus happened that the gavel used at the centennial, was not only from my own Lodge, but the one used by me, while Master of the Lodge and as Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut. The value of that gavel has materially increased. Among our guests, were representatives from the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Utah. –*

*During the evening, a concert and banquet, followed by speeches closed an eventful day, honored and reflecting honor upon Masonry, not merely in our own, but in sister jurisdictions. –*

During the Centennial year, Connecticut Masonry had reached a height in membership of 16,813 Masons – a remarkable turn-around. The nation solidly re-unified, and with a manifest sense of purpose – looked out upon the horizons with zeal and confidence. So too did Connecticut Masonry reflect this attitude. The nation had been swept with a romantic ideal of American fortitude and industry. A new society had emerged from the low and bloody depths of 1865, and it beckoned the most industrious and courageous of men. In January of 1900, with 17,446 members in the Connecticut Craft, Most Worshipful Brother George G. McNall, another Greenwich man, ended his year reporting such confidence, saying,

*The year has been one of prosperity to the craft in this jurisdiction, marked by an increase of membership quite as noteworthy from the quality as the quantity of the material. This is as it should be. In our human existence there can be no halting; we must either advance or retrograde...*

And indeed, Connecticut Masonry did not retrograde – it propelled forward with faith and courage, and was to call even more to its fold – and to achieve, still yet, greater heights. It was a new age, a new century, a period of limitless possibility and wonder – of technology and innovation – and Connecticut Masonry was to play its part.

# From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

## President & CEO of Masonicare

In May, we celebrated National Nurses Week, which runs May 6 through May 12, the birthday of legendary nurse Florence Nightingale.

Nurses like our latest GEM (Go the Extra Mile) Award winner, Masonicare Health Center's Julie Dean, can have a profound impact on the lives of our patients and their families. The family that nominated Julie for a GEM award wrote that she went out of her way to make them feel comfortable while their mother received hospice and palliative care at the Health Center. They recalled how Julie calmly and clearly outlined the stages and expectations of the dying process, offered a shoulder to cry on when needed, and laughed with them when appropriate. "Julie," they wrote, "certainly demonstrated that she has a vocation rather than a job." I believe that's true of all the best nurses.

I see and hear feedback all the time from families who say that a particular Masonicare nurse's compassion, patience, communication skills, and attention to detail had made a difficult situation much easier. Now, more than ever, nurses are the backbone of our organization and I join with the rest of the Masonicare family in thanking these very special caregivers for all they do, every day, to deliver on our promise to those we serve.

Also helping in that effort are our dedicated recreation therapists, who are working to keep our residents engaged and connected with their loved ones during this extended quarantine. For Mother's Day, family members were invited to record a video message for Masonicare residents and staff delivered those messages on laptops at all of our communities. They also arranged social distancing-safe window visits and delivered gift bags to "Mothers and Others."

We also saluted our residents and brave caregivers at Smile Parades through our Wallingford campus and past our local homecare branch and accepted with gratitude additional donations of personal protection equipment from vendors and staff. Metro Bis restaurant in Simsbury generously fed hundreds of our Masonicare Health Center employees with meals distributed by volunteers from Compass Lodge No. 9.

As I write this month's column, hospitalizations from the coronavirus in Connecticut are on the decline and preparations for a gradual reopening of the state are underway. We are planning, too, for how that will impact Masonicare. But we are still working incredibly hard on all fronts to reduce the risk of exposure to our residents, patients, and employee team members. The first confirmed cases in our skilled nursing facility last month underscored the pervasiveness of the virus,

and the need for continued vigilance.

Apart from being the most serious public health crisis in most of our lives, the COVID-19 pandemic is also having significant negative effects on the economy. At Masonicare, we are feeling those effects in the form of reduced census across all of our service lines and higher costs for some critical supplies. Although we expect these conditions to be temporary, we have taken some steps to reduce expenses without impacting the high quality of care that our residents and patients expect and deserve. These included the furlough of some staff and the reassignment of others.

We also moved ahead with the next phase of our strategic plan to strengthen Masonicare Health Center by partnering with best-in-class providers to outsource pharmacy, rehabilitation therapy, and radiology services. The pandemic will pass, and when it does, we need to be prepared to get back on track with our goal of streamlining operations to focus on the things we do best: residential living, geriatric mental health, skilled nursing, and home and community based services.

Thank you for your continued support of Masonicare and our ageless commitment to caring.

Yours fraternally,



# Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr., Secretary Emeritus

If one were to look up tolerance, one of the Scottish Rite Degree Core Values, they would find that the dictionary would say it means “Recognition of, and respect for, the opinions, beliefs, or actions of others; Capacity to withstand pain and hardship.”

As Scottish Rite Masons, we saw degrees that taught us the value of the first meaning of tolerance (recognition of and respect for the opinions, beliefs, or actions of others). However, many of us are now experiencing that other meaning (capacity to withstand pain and hardship). We have been forced into home confinement, social distancing, dependence on others for help, being forced to work from home, or even laid off. I do not think any of us ever thought that a virus could last more than just the duration of a normal flu.

On behalf of the members of the Scottish Rite and all members of our Masonic family, I would like to thank those members of the Valley of Hartford, or any of their family members, who are first responders, or essential workers, keeping us safe and providing us with those necessary services that we need on a daily basis during these past several months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although the Valley of Hartford Spring Degree schedule, activities, and events have been put on hold until further notice, we will have to bear with the inactivity. However, the Scottish Rite Supreme Council, the Valley Office, and the Grand Lodge, are doing everything they can to help relieve the burden you might be facing. Not only are they keeping you informed via phone calls from Grand Lodge and Supreme Council, as well as Constant Contact emails, but they offer help to members who might be in need of assistance -- “for truly we are the type of fraternity that looks out for the welfare of its members.”

The Supreme Council is offering financial assistance to those in need because of layoffs, off whether it be to pay medical bills or other needs. They are also keeping the Core Values of the Scottish Rite alive by showing DVDs of Scottish Rite degrees streaming on the internet on Thursday evenings. To view them one needs be a member and to register using one’s membership number and setting up a password. They have already shown the new 4th and 17th degrees, as well as the 12th, 23rd, and 26th degrees. So, if you are viewing them, Supreme Council is noting your participation and they can be stamped into your Scottish Rite Passport when presented to the valley secretary. If you do not have

a passport book, contact the Valley secretary to obtain one.

With no end to this pandemic in sight, all we can say is hang in there and we shall overcome. Whether it be in July, or later on, the time will come when we can once again enjoy gathering with friends and meet on the level with fellow brethren, either in our homes, at the Valley, or in church. Until then, please, as they say at roll call on TV police shows, “Stay safe.”



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Valley of Hartford

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Or, learn more about the Scottish Rite by  
visiting the Supreme Council, NMJ,  
website: [www.scottishritenmj.org](http://www.scottishritenmj.org)

**Applicationa for the 2020 Fall Class  
are now being accepted.**

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For more information about becoming a member of the  
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Valley Secretary, Valley of Hartford AASR.  
(860) 666-0712 Email: [office@valleyofhartford.com](mailto:office@valleyofhartford.com)  
[www.valleyofhartford.org](http://www.valleyofhartford.org)

# The Great Light vs. The Zombie Apocalypse

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

As this is being written in early May, both degree work and social activities are being postponed to later dates with the hope that the restrictions on assembly are lifted in the foreseeable future. Nothing is certain however, and the latest dates for degree work are posted in the accompanying box ad. Do not rely on those dates blindly and I would suggest you call the office at the phone number below before traveling for any degree work.



There is no denying that a significant portion of the nation finds itself in the throes of an existential crisis. Almost everyone I know has lost at least one person to the, as of yet, continuing pandemic. The heartache of being isolated from the victims of the disease, especially in their last days, as well as the emotional cruelty of being unable to be present during the funeral is too much to take for many people. This is a rare time of sadness globally – and for affected members of the fraternity.

It is times like this that call for guidance – and our GREAT LIGHT – that invaluable tool found in each of our lodge rooms, and which each one of us is gifted a copy of when raised, should be consulted. For let “he who has ears, let him hear.” The Great Light is a manual of life covering most every circumstance mankind might encounter, and within its dense text one can find advice on the most salutary course of action that can be taken when any situation is encountered.

The Parable of the Calming of The Storm at Matthew 8:23-27, finds the Nazarene asleep aboard a ship traversing the sea. During the travel a storm arises and buffets the ship causing his travel companions to fear catastrophe will befall the ship. He awakens from his slumbers and admonishes the seas and winds to calm down and they indeed do. But what does it mean? Jesus being asleep signifies that he was in a calm and peaceful consciousness, knowing that there was nothing to fear for “thy will shall be done.” Divine Law mandates that they who remain consistent with the Light at all times should not allow fear to overcome them. Fear, in essence, is a form of negative

prayer. When experiencing fear we as builders, are constructing an image of exactly that which we do not want to manifest. But unfortunately, we are focusing our minds on the negative thought form. Once thus formed, we run a higher risk of it manifesting.

Fear is a state of consciousness that is very low and very self-oriented. We as workers of Light, must transmute this state by redirecting our attention and desire natures to a higher state of consciousness. Instead of fearing, we should attempt to attain an acceptance of the situation – an “it is what it is” mindset, and not mistake this for passivity or apathy. Once we accept the new environment we must adapt and recalibrate so as to live harmoniously within this new situation. We are not victims of an external force, but students of life given the opportunity and

challenge of a new set of circumstances. Once we attain this higher level of consciousness we can transmute this acceptance even higher, shifting our consciousness to a number of intermediate steps leading to a state of Love where long term satisfaction and pleasure of giving to and helping others, replaces the short-term ego satisfaction of gain. Beauty, peace and inner quietude become a goal in life in this exalted state of consciousness.

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

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

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

All of this having been said, the parable's suggestion of striving for inner peace while living in accordance to the Divine Laws and pushing aside the impulse of fear also have profound practical biological implications.

Much of our society is experiencing fear, being subjected to a non-stop onslaught of information and news related to the problem. No matter how well intentioned the provision of this data is, much of the population is experiencing non-stop stress and anxiety. Instances of domestic violence, assault, and other improper reactions abound, and new “hot spots” seem to pop up where none existed mere days before.

Rudimentary human biology consists of a series of gastric

*Continued on page 16*

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

**Robert James Blair**  
Solar Lodge No. 131

**Robert Paul Fette**  
Annawon Lodge No. 115

**Neil Conrad Karash**  
Meridian Lodge No. 77

**William Francis Carpenter**  
Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4

**David Joseph Hadden**  
Warren Lodge No. 51

**Steven Patrick McMahon**  
Columbia Lodge No. 25

**Salomon Chevalier**  
Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149

**William Gardner Hicks**  
Brainard Lodge No. 102

**Hudson Peel**  
Day Spring Lodge No. 30

**Ervin W. Crook**  
Center Lodge No. 97

**Stephen Reed Johnson**  
Warren Lodge No. 51

**Douglas Sabart Porter, Jr.**  
Manchester Lodge No. 73

**Richard Butch Dean**  
Seneca Lodge No. 55

**James Alan Victor**  
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89



**The Great Light** *continued from page 15*

and glandular systems designed to convert nourishment to energy. This energy can be employed in two different ways, each with vastly different metabolisms and glandular systems, each intentioned to preserve and sustain the physical body in diverging situations encountered in life, namely either in a Growth mode or a “Fight or Flight” mode. In the former mode, the energy converted from food is used by the body to support the vitality of the various bodily functions, including, and this is critical, the sustenance and support of the immune system. The latter mode directs the available energy to the “Fight or Flight” modus, which releases stress hormones from the adrenal glands (cortisol and adrenaline) to enable the body to encounter or rapidly retreat from a perceived threat. This redirection of energy to the production of stress hormones shuts down the supply of energy to the immune system, as well as to other vital functions, such as digestion, the spleen and to the viscera in general, which are deemed by our biology secondary in importance in times of immediate threat. (You won't need to digest if the tiger has you for lunch). The “Fight or Flight” response is designed by nature to sustain our physical body for relatively short periods of time, sufficient to escape from the proverbial saber tooth tiger or street mugger. In the current environment however, if one permits themselves to experience unending bouts of fear they will experience not only a glandular exhaustion from constantly

producing stress hormones, but also deny nourishment and the resulting energy to the other glandular systems, especially the immune system. One's health is thus compromised at a time when one should be fortifying the immune system to fend off any viral incursion. Fear thus becomes the catalyst for a weakened constitution which is less able to contend with the current viral threat. In essence Fear (negative prayer) then helps enable the condition which we are so intent on avoiding in the first place.

As every Entered Apprentice is instructed at the onset of his Masonic Journey: Your trust being in God, your faith is well founded...Follow your guide and FEAR NO DANGER.

*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.*

# District 1

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



## Corinthian Lodge No. 104 Sends Volunteers, Donates to Area Charities *by A. J. Plotnick*

On Saturday, April 25, Brothers Ashante McPherson, Sharief Bines and grumpy Past Master Adam J. Plotnick, of Corinthian Lodge No. 104, spent the day collecting food for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. The Black Rock Yacht Club donated \$1,500 worth of food, donations were received from 85 cars, and \$1,300 in cash and gift cards was collected.

Senator Richard Blumenthal, Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim and Channel 12 news made a special appearance.

Bridgeport Rescue Mission is dedicated to fighting poverty from the inside out. They provide vital services to men, women, and children dealing with hunger and homelessness, enabling them to return to the community healed and whole.

On May 3, the brothers helped Operation Hope at First Church in Fairfield. Approximately \$1,800 in gift cards and donations were received from people in 150 cars.



# District 8

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



## Coastal Lodge No. 57 Keeps In Touch *by Roger Read*

*by Roger Read*

During this virus time, the Worshipful Master of Coastal Lodge No. 57 has been issuing Master's notes and has hosted a meeting every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. In this way, the fellowship among the brothers has been maintained and knowledge about charity work during this trying time is shared. Worship Brother Phil Baumann has collected interesting items for his Master's Notes and diligently sent them out each week.

Coastal Lodge #57

#12

May 2020

### Masters Notes to Craft; Quarantine Day #51

What am I doing? The days all seem to be running together. Hello, is there anything else to do besides this long "honey-do" list. How many times am I going to be kicked out of the house. What is the airspeed velocity of an unladen swallow? What do you mean? African or European swallow?

Once again, I send out this message from my "quarantine" bunker in North Stonington. Our zoom meeting the other night produced some new faces. See if you can recognize who they are. We continue to have fun on the weekly Zoom meeting. Even if you don't have a camera set up, you can still join in and make your voice heard.

LODGE OFFICERS

- MASTER: WB PHIL BAUMANN
- SW: ANDREW PEDRO
- JW: JOHN FIFER
- TR: WAYNE LABARRE
- SEC: WB PHILLIP BATHURIN
- CHAP: RWB JOHN PLANTE
- MARSHAL: WB KEN HANER
- SD: PAUL JOHNSON
- JD: CLYD BRANN
- SS: BETH BEEBE
- JS: ROBERT STATION
- ASOCS: ADLER HODGE
- ASOCS: BUCK WILLIAMS
- TL: MICHAEL BRINSON
- MENTOR: WB KRIS DORSETT
- MENTOR: RWB CRAIG PEDRO
- ALM: RWB C.A. BINE
- HIST: PGM ROGER READ



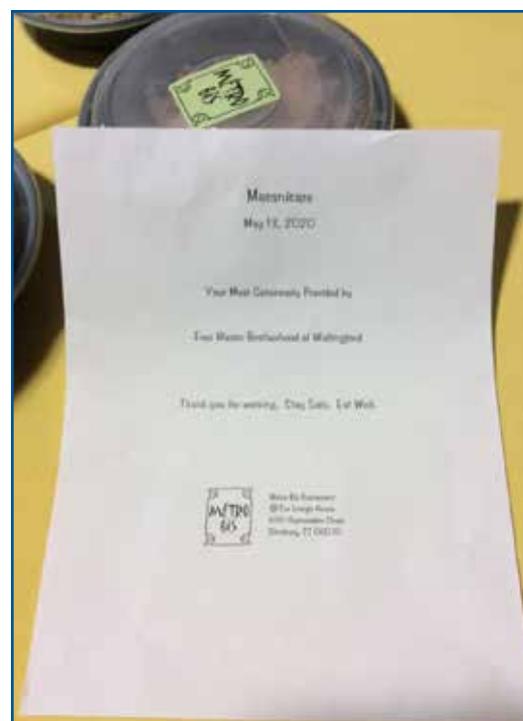
## Compass Lodge No. 9 and Metro Bis Chef-Owner Provide “Thank You” Meals for Masonicare Health Center Staff

by Christian Schunmann, WM

Compass Lodge has had a long relationship with the Chef-Owner Chris Prosperi of Metro Bis in Simsbury. Chef Chris has cooked events at the lodge for more than a decade and more recently for the lodge’s Cornerstone fundraiser dinners. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Chris and his team made it a point to feed frontline staff and first responders.

Brothers Steve Greenwood and Ron Hanson Jr., contacted me regarding the work that Metro Bis was doing. Brother David Gessert suggested that it would be nice to see about feeding the staff at Masonicare Health Center (MHC) who were also frontline workers.

The lodge decided to approach Chris Prosperi with the idea and gave Metro Bis a donation that subsidized the cost of the preparing meals and delivering them to Wallingford. Metro Bis cooked complete dinners that included choices of chicken, fish, pork, beef, and a special for vegetarians. As you can see in the photographs, it all worked out well. Kudos to Metro Bis. Over a two day period Metro Bis prepared and delivered 400 meals to the MHC staff in Wallingford!



Continued on page 19

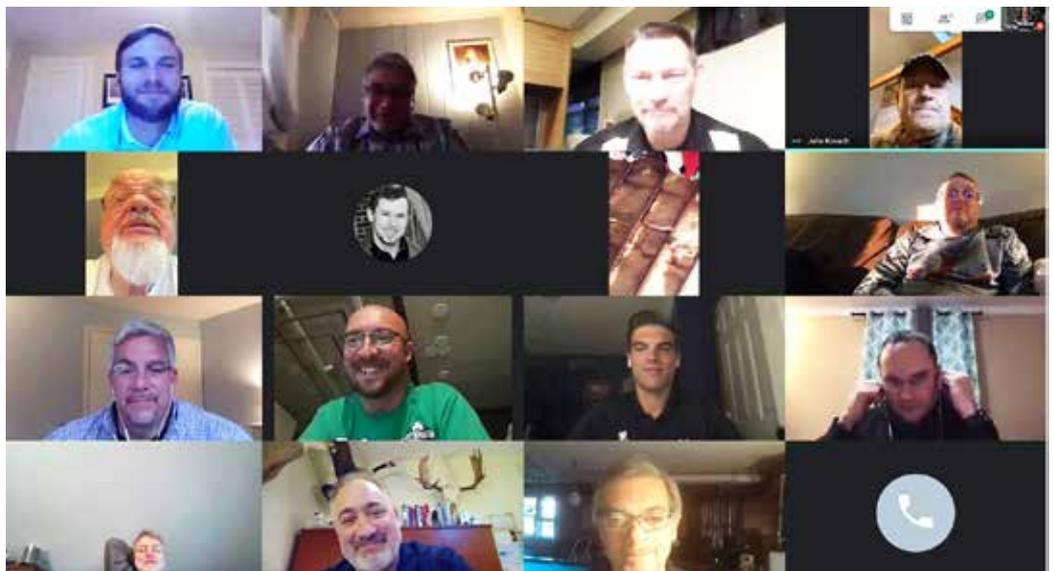


## **Meridian Lodge No. 77 and the Morgan Affair** *by Nicholas Valinsky*

On May 4, the brothers of Meridian Lodge No. 77, with various other brothers from across the state, logged on to Google Meet for their regular Monday night meeting. The brothers of Meridian have been using Google Meet to visit with one another since the Covid-19 pandemic forced the shuttering of in-person lodge meetings in March. Over the past few weeks, the conversations in these meetings have organically evolved from expressions of fear and uncertainty to ones of a shared experience of navigating these strange times and a hope for better days.

After checking in with the brothers, acknowledging sickness and distress amongst the Craft and reporting the news of the day, this meeting was an exciting one as WM Nick Valinsky gave a presentation on the Morgan Affair of 1826 and its Masonic connection. The brothers in attendance were led through the chronology of the case, the disappearance of William Morgan, the resulting trials, and concluded with a discussion on the effects on Masonry at large stemming from the incident.

It was an interesting night accented by a discussion of Meridian Lodge's own lineage. After Morgan's disappearance in 1826, Freemasonry was blamed as an organization and persecuted on a level not seen prior. There was even a national political party that rose up with the sole purpose of advocating against Freemasonry. Membership dramatically decreased as a result. It was not until roughly 25 years later in the 1850s, when Masonry began to return to normal and lodges began to spring



up again. Interestingly enough, Meridian Lodge was part of that reemergence and was one of the first new Connecticut lodges that was founded during this era in 1851.

While the Morgan Affair can be classified as an early case study on the power of the media and the corresponding hysteria it can create, it is also a story of perseverance. During those dark days of the 1830s and 1840s, it seemed as if the whole world was against Freemasons, yet the Craft persisted. Masonry survived and remains intact and viable today due to the resilience of those brethren. We should look to our brothers of the past for inspiration today during these strange times and remember their fortitude to keep moving forward with the hope that it will all get better soon.

# District 5

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



## Respect and Honor Shown During Pandemic *by Patrick Kilby*

Several police and fire departments from the central Connecticut area showed respect and honor for Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14 Junior Warden Jude Medena, who is a police officer with UCONN Police Department. Brother Jude lost his father unexpectedly just before the Easter holiday.

The family was unable to hold a normal funeral service due to the COVID-19 virus situation. Several brothers from Frederick-Franklin organized food and flowers, which were delivered to Officer Jude and his family. Senior Steward Patrick M. Kilby, who is also a marine patrol officer, coordinated and organized a police and fire department solidarity processional past Officer Jude's home for him and his family. In attendance were: Bristol Police Department, Bristol Fire Department,



Connecticut State Police, Farmington Police Department, Farmington Fire Department, Plainville Police Department, Plainville Fire Department, Plymouth/Terryville Police Department, UCONN Police Department and the Waterbury Police Pipes and Drums who provided a bag pipe player who played Amazing Grace.

The outpouring of those people who wanted to show their honor and respect to Brother Jude and his family spoke volumes during such a difficult time. This is what brotherhood is all about! Be safe!

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[grandsecretary@ctfreemasons.net](mailto:grandsecretary@ctfreemasons.net)

Date: May 18, 2020  
From: Grant S. Gould  
RW Grand Secretary  
Re: Protocol for the resumption of business at Grand Lodge office

Brothers all:

We anticipate a “soft reopening”, if you will, of the Grand Lodge offices on Monday, June 1st in accordance with direction from the Governor’s office and the advice of Public Health officials. This will be a gradual process and subject to change as we adapt to changing circumstances.

- **Office hours will be Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 5 PM.** No one will be allowed in the main office area except for immediate office staff (Deb, Erika, the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary) and the Grand Master. The Grand Secretary will resume his weekly schedule of Monday, Tuesday and Thursday on that date. The remaining staff will transition from working at home to the facility at their own pace, given personal concerns for safety and comfort levels.
- **The facility itself will initially remain closed to outside visitors. All others are asked to continue to do business via phone or email.** If a personal visit is deemed absolutely necessary, it will be by appointment only, and be conducted in the conference room, strictly in accordance with recommended social distancing. There will be a supply of disposable masks available for any such meetings.
- **The outside door to the facility will be unlocked; the interior door will remain secured.** This will allow for the uninterrupted delivery of mail and packages, but prevent unannounced visitors. Items that need to be picked up or dropped off can be left in that area between the doors.
- The facility will not be made available for any meetings by committees or other Masonic-related bodies for the foreseeable future. We can facilitate setting up meetings via conference calls, if need be, for those groups.

I ask for your understanding and cooperation in these difficult times. My primary concern here is the safety and comfort of the office staff and you, those we serve. We remain available to assist you and your Lodges as before, and as conditions improve, we look forward to the resumption of normal activities.

Fraternally,

*Grant S Gould*

# Musings *by Ricky McDonnell*

Well here we are, still in lock-down of sorts. I sincerely hope you're not hurting too bad and if you are then maybe you can find solace through our great fraternity.

They say Freemasons do things in threes, so this shall be my last attempt at boring you, my fellow brothers of the mystic tie.

I thought I'd stay with the threes theme and impart a little of my Scottish ritual:

The working tools of an EA are the 24-inch gauge, mallet, and chisel.

The working tools of an FC are the square, level, and plumb rule.

The working tools of an MM are the skirret, compasses, and pencil,

I am more than happy to outlay this ritual, but I don't think I should here, therefore if anyone is interested I am more than happy to respond via email at ricky30091@gmail.com

I can't leave you without mentioning the apron. The wonderful lambskin apron and all it alludes to; why pack it away into a closet for decades only to be draped on your deceased body at burial/cremation?

They say a face with wrinkles is one showing character; a well-used tool with all of its dents, marks, chips and soil is one of character; a gray-haired old person is (usually) one of knowledge, experience and character so why not the apron? How can a speculative Mason presume his apron that's been hidden away since his MM Degree can have any of the above attached to it. Sure, I can accept "it's traditional" but why, how, and where from?

I can truly say that I have enjoyed (most of) my U.S. Freemasonry, joining Blue Lodge, York Rite, Scottish Rite, and my beloved Widows Sons. I have met some of the best brethren one could wish to meet, some of whom have gone to join that Celestial Lodge, and with whom I shall continue to engage with until I return to my native land next year – coronavirus permitting of course.

Let's all work together for the good of Freemasonry, our respective countries and therefore throughout the world. Remember your obligations and the Charges and you can't go far wrong.

## Now You Can See Your Own Masonic Record!

Our new Grand View membership system enables all Grand Lodge of Connecticut brothers to access their own records and update their contact information (address, email, telephones). You will also be able to view your Masonic history and any offices you held.

From the "My Portal" you will have direct access to your lodge's information. Also under "My Portal" you also will have access to a number of different Masonic related "Resources" at your fingertips. Under "Master Mason" you will find the **Rules & Regulations, Master Path Program, the Master Ritualist Award information, and the Official Lodge Directory**, among other items.

Under "Seminars" you will see a number of informational Masonic lectures that you may view at your leisure.

So join your other brothers in this new and exciting way of coming together with your lodge!

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### To access your record, go to:

- The **Grand Lodge of Connecticut website** at <https://ctfreemason.net> and select "**Member Portal**". This will bring you to the Grand View sign in page, **select Member Registration at the top right and follow the directions.**

- If you have any problems, please call the Grand Lodge office at 203-679-5903 or email at [grandlodge@ctfreemasons.net](mailto:grandlodge@ctfreemasons.net) for person to person help.

# The Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences: Rhetoric

by Jaime Paul Lamb

*Rhetoric teaches us to speak copiously and fluently on any subject, not merely with propriety, but with all the advantages of force and elegance; wisely contriving to captivate the hearer by strength of argument and beauty of expression, whether it be to entreat or exhort, to admonish or applaud.*

-Preston (Oliver, commentary), Illustrations of Masonry

Rhetoric is the theory and practice of persuasion in spoken and written discourse; by it, one may influence or motivate one's listener or reader. The art of rhetoric is formal as well as functional, in that the structure and sequence of the speech or text should comprise a suitable vehicle for the substance of a central argument or proposition. Though there exist Mesopotamian and Egyptian works on the subject, rhetoric had been formally taught and practiced from the time of the ancient Greeks until the middle of the 19th century and was considered an indispensable component in the curricula and training of orators, councilors, statesmen, lawyers, historians and poets. In more recent times, the domain of rhetoric has been expanded to include journalism, digital media, advertising and creative fiction.

In ancient Greece, as today, rhetoric was used to sway political opinion and, consequently, public oration on matters political was a common practice in the polis as well as its courts and assemblies. The Sophists (600 BCE) were the first to codify and instruct others in the art of rhetoric and were very active in the political sphere; they also made their services available, for a fee, to those who were unskilled in the art but found themselves in need of representation. Plato was critical of the Sophists, particularly Gorgias, who he argued were doing a deliberate disservice to truth in the practice of their deceptive oratorical gymnastics – hence the negative connotation of the word *sophistry*, which is defined as “subtly deceptive reasoning or argumentation”. Aristotle tried to resuscitate the reputation of the art of rhetoric – which had suffered abuse by the Sophists and Plato – by narrowing its focus and classifying various genres of rhetoric: deliberative (political), forensic (judicial) and epideictic (ceremonial).

Three distinctions were made regarding the forms of rhetorical oration, these are known as the modes of persuasion, or the rhetorical appeals: ethos [ἦθος], pathos [πάθος] and logos [Λόγος], as found

in Aristotle's Rhetoric (4th century BCE). Ethos referred to how authoritatively the orator displayed mastery of the subject at hand. This was achieved by being fluent in the technical vernacular of the subject and involved a demonstration that the orator was indeed qualified in the given field. Pathos involved appealing to the emotions of the audience. The words *sympathy*, *empathy* and *pathetic* are derived from pathos. Pathos was best achieved by inspiring an emotional resonance with the audience through value judgements and conveying a sense of justice – such as arguing that a certain perspective or position *feels* right. In some cases, pathos is achieved by appealing to the imagination, hopes and fears of the audience – and, at times, the worst-case scenario of holding a position contrary to that which is being promoted by the orator. Logos, from whence we get the word *logic*, is the appeal to reason in which facts and figures are used to support the orator's thesis. However, unsupported, mis-contextualized or falsified data may be presented in an effort to confuse or mislead the audience. We will further address logic, or dialectic, in the next article in this series.

Under the custodianship of the Roman Empire, the art of rhetoric was reorganized and repurposed. Being a highly valued aspect of civic life, several notable rhetoricians were produced in the Empire, Cicero (106-43 BCE) being the best known and most referenced. The Roman orator and rhetorician, Quintilian (35-100 CE), codified the five canons in his *Institutio Oratoria* (95 CE) as: invention (*inventio*), arrangement (*dispositio*), style (*elocutio*), memory (*memoria*), and delivery (*actio*). Invention pertains to the formulation of a thesis or argument; arrangement is concerned with the sequencing of the argument; style deals with the idiom and tone; memory refers to the process by which the orator digests and recalls the information; and delivery is concerned with pacing, dynamics, gesticulation and the overall *presence* transmitted by the orator. Freemasons will immediately note that several of these canons – particularly those of memory and delivery – are necessary components of successful and impactful ritualism.

If the reader would like, they could, perhaps, devote this month to becoming aware of the wide role rhetoric plays in our lives; from the memorization and performance of Masonic ritual to the most effective way to break it to your wife that you've added yet another Masonic event to your calendar.

## CANCELLATIONS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in compliance with the Executive Orders of the Governor of Connecticut, by Edict of the Most Worshipful Grand Master Stephen W. Petri, lodges and brothers of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut A.F. & A.M. are directed to cancel any Masonic activities through June 30, 2020.

From Sphinx Shriners email news: East Hampton Old Home Days Parade has been canceled.

# Millennials and Social Media: What We Can Learn from Them as Masons

by Nicholas Valinsky

The Millennial generation may only make up a small percentage of the total membership, but it is one that should not be so easily dismissed.

Millennials are generationally defined as individuals born between the years of 1981 and 1996. From the Wall Street Journal to the gossip magazines, this generation has been labeled a “killer.” Millennials have supposedly “killed off” a great deal of previously held golden calves including home ownership, cable, and brick-and-mortar stores. However, this generation’s refusal to accept certain elements as norms has allowed Millennials to become innovators who embrace change and with it, startups. Facebook, Lyft, Spotify, and Airbnb are all brain children of Millennials. The common thread between all of these is simple: efficiency and specialization.

The Millennial generation is often portrayed as having short attention spans, and little room (or money) for clutter. This all culminates in a generation that is unwilling to accept the status quo as mandatory; that often breaks with tradition in pursuit of new ideas which emphasize a more specifically tailored lifestyle rather than “one size fits all.” This perspective all but lends itself to where Freemasonry stands today.

Membership in fraternal organizations is declining. It is an issue faced not only by Freemasonry but by many other organizations at large with a group model. This includes new membership as well as member retention. From one Millennial’s perspective, there is hope out there for a change in this pattern of decline but it comes with pivoting.

Speaking as someone who is classified as a Millennial, who joined the Craft as a 23-year-old, there is a draw to Freemasonry for young people. The potential of finding likeminded individuals who can be trusted,

to share in the bonds of friendship and brotherly love, has been and will always be an instinctive draw for men, regardless of what generation from which they come. In that respect, Freemasonry is not reserved for middle-aged men.

The experience of becoming a Mason can, for some, be the initial spark that spurs them to seek out membership within our ranks. For many men of this generation, the idea of a quality ritual experience, especially one which has remained largely unchanged for centuries, is alluring. They want that degree experience that invests them with an emotional attachment to the organization that they are joining along with the brothers who are initiating them. That degree experience is what binds us as Masons. It also represents a very specialized experience that only a few men proportionally possess. The problem is that we are not doing our best to expose those men out there who are interested in such an experience to the means of pursuing it.

How we solve this problem is where Freemasonry can and should take a page out of the Millennials’ playbook and that is to leverage a free startup idea to its benefit: social media!

Social media is where news, fashion trends, and our conversations live and die in this digital age. It is here that many potential members are scrolling every single day looking for new content, new ideas, new experiences. If these men are open to the experience of becoming a Mason and already on social media, we, as Masons, need to embrace that Millennial thought of efficiency and go to where we know they are and not simply hope these good men come to us.

By failing to expose potential new members to Freemasonry through pictures, videos, and even podcasts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., we lose the

opportunity to develop that prospective member’s interest. We also miss out on the ability to humanize the men within the lodge who these prospective members may otherwise see as hypothetical men of the past; who are more easily found in a history book. Through social media we have the opportunity to drive home the point that yes, Masons are real men in your community and you can become one too!

By putting a face to Freemasonry and proudly displaying a picture of brothers in tuxedos on a degree night on Instagram, or documenting the fellowship a table lodge brings on Facebook, we are sending a metaphorical life line to men out there itching to join along with creating a first impression to those who may have never considered Masonry before. In doing so, we enable ourselves to take ownership of the portrayal of Freemasonry; not the movies, or the internet conspiracy theory websites. We empower our lodges to not only market themselves but also to allow a petition to begin with a direct message.

Speaking from experience, there are good men out there who are hungry to become Masons, to not simply receive their degrees and go NPD in two years, but be productive members of their lodges for years to come. Additionally, there are also good men out there who would make excellent Masons but simply have not been exposed to it yet. We must make ourselves available to them so that these men know, in this digital age, that we are out there too.

As Generation X will tell you, a guy by the name of Steve Jobs was pretty successful with one idea: *Think Different*. I believe that through social media, the Millennial generation is saying the same thing to Freemasonry. The only question is are we listening?

# The Xennial Masons *by Nicholas H. Ives*

In an effort to better understand our members, The Committee for Masonic Education (CME) is working collectively on a series of articles about the generational differences among the craft. One of our greatest assets we have as a fraternal organization is our ability to connect quality men across generational age groups. The mentoring that naturally occurs is valuable to so many of us. As our writers explore each generation from their perspective I am certain that within our differences is a place for common understanding and an appreciation for our different stations in life and the events that shaped our identities.

Being born in 1978, I am part of a unique cohort generationally - the Xennials. The Xennial generation was born between 1976 and 1982. This is a bizarre mini-generation that exists in a six-year period, shaped by technological change. The internet as we know it began to develop for public use in the mid 1990's. Up until that point I lived an analog life, with a telephone on the wall and high long distance bills from AT&T. My girlfriend (and later wife) was living in Los Angeles at the time and I can attest that those calls were not cheap. I was called back home from play each night by my mother yelling as loud as she could out of the front door - I came running home quickly. There was no mobile communication as we have today, just the typical land-based communication that had served the world well for years.

In the 1990's there was a big shift in communication and computers that would change the way we see the world. Xennials were in high school in the early part of the decade and I can remember the push to involve computers in every aspect of the classroom. It was a big deal to have something typed on a word processor. Many of us played Oregon Trail in school as an instructive tool, as it was thought to be a cutting edge educational tool. It changed the way we looked at how things were produced. Instead of the analog methods we had learned for years in middle school, we were running into the computer era. This was all happening while transitioning to our career lives. There was a big need for "computer guys" however you defined that. There was no major high speed internet per se, just dial-up that allowed us to use e-mail, Instant Messenger and even AOL when the dial-up server was online.

Along came the 2000's, the Y2K scare and the realization that computers were a vital part of our life. The globe had truly become interconnected. Colleges were buzzing with thefacebook.com and how exclusive it was to connect with your classmates.

Xennials were the upstarts, the first generation asked to know how to use email on their first day on the job. The transformation to a digital world had begun and the xennials were riding the wave. Now in our 40's the Xennials are in the heart of the Masonic membership roster. While the average age of a CT Master Mason is in his mid 60's, the average Fellowcraft is

currently 41 years old. There are a few characteristics that this block of Masons have in common that are instructive for us to know as we seek out this age block for Masonic Membership.

1. We like computers but are still figuring out the smartphone. Unlike our millennial brothers we did not grow up with a mobile computer in our hand. This means we like traditional email and phone calls. We talk a long time on the phone. We can text, but don't expect much back. When we are in the car we are almost always on the speakerphone chatting, but never texting.
2. There is a cynical hard-nosed entrepreneurialism born from the GenX side of our generation. We watched the dot-com boom and bust and will work hard because we know that failure is right around the corner if we don't. However, there is an optimism that gives us hope that we can change the future.
3. Be patient when introducing us to new technologies. We have had to learn them all from scratch and adding just one more thing might drive us nuts.
4. Social Media is awkward for us. We might post on Facebook but you won't catch us TikTocking or Snapping each other. My wife and I tried Snapchat only to forget what we texted last and the whole account had to be deleted. We liked the privacy of email newsletters and jokes; let us keep those messages private please!
5. Get us engaged on something and we will not make excuses until it is done. Xennials have had to make major adaptations throughout their lives and will adapt to solve your problems too. While a GenX might complain about what the purpose of the task is and a millennial might forget to do it, we Xennials bridge that gap.

While I might poke a bit of fun at the generations at the shoulders of the Xennials, the reality is that there are many characteristics of both the elder and younger groups that make us up. We are certainly prime territory for Masonic membership, most of us have children that are getting older and our minds are looking around to see what else is out there to make our lives have deeper meaning. If you give us a call, we might just pick up the phone to attend your next community event. But please, no more texting...

# Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Connecticut Makes History with 193rd Grand Conclave *by Francis G. Way*

**O**n Saturday morning, April 18, via Webex conference, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Connecticut made history. For the first time in the existence of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA, one of its constituent Grand Commanderies, held a virtual Grand Conclave and Installation of Officers. The Grand Commandery had previously broken new ground when they had become first to receive permission to hold their Grand Conclave by video conference.

That morning, by one hour, the Grand Commandery's 193rd Grand Conclave was reconvened. One hour later, the Grand Commandery of Nebraska became the second Grand Commandery to hold a virtual Grand Conclave.

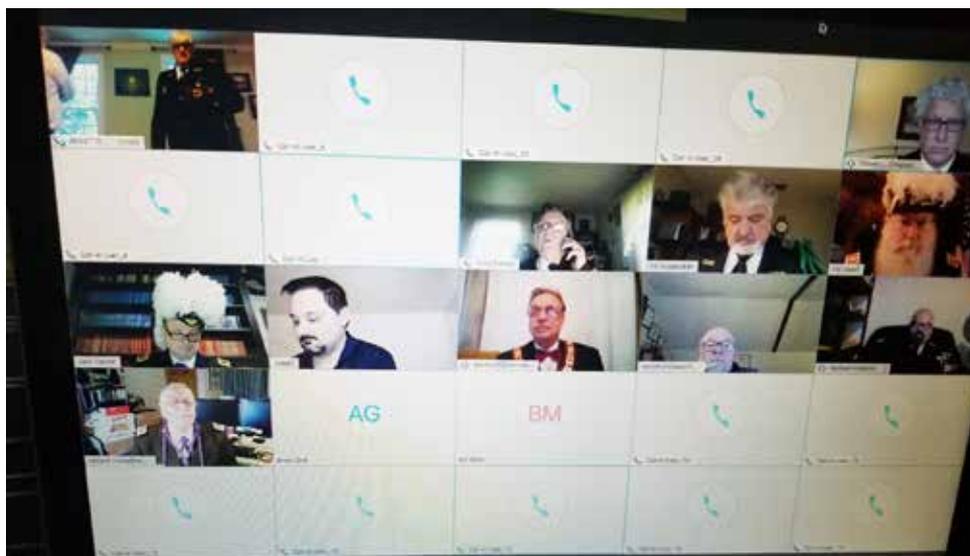
The Grand Commandery of Connecticut had already shown its versatility when the Red Lion Hotel in Cromwell closed, starting a domino effect among Grand bodies in Connecticut. Grand Lodge had to move its annual session both physically and in time, rescheduling for April 4, the date previously held by Grand Commandery. Grand Conclave was rescheduled for April 18 at the Four Points Sheraton in Meriden, its usual venue. As the COVID-19 pandemic became more dire, the venue was changed to York Masons Hall in East Hartford, with only those essential members of the Grand Commandery attending. As the allowed numbers for gathers shrunk further, Grand Conclave moved into cyberspace, the Grand Commandery receiving permission to hold a virtual meeting.

Sir Knight Michael E. Seamon presided, and while there was no formation of the honor guard and arch of steel, dignitaries were introduced and welcomed. While Most Eminent Grand Master Jeffery N. Nelson had been scheduled to attend, his mother had passed away the night before and he was regrettably and understandably absent. Sir Knight Jack N. Harper, South Central Department Commander, and candidate for Right Eminent Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment, was in attendance and welcomed. Sir Knight Stuart K. Drost, Northeast Department Commander, was at the home home of Sir Knight,

James S. McNeely IV, to serve as Installing Commander for the installation.

The usual reports were presented, and voted. Perhaps for the first time, a vote in the affirmative was indicated by maintaining silence.

Following reports, the election of officers was held. By unanimous ballot the following Grand Commandery officers were elected: Right Eminent Grand Commander, James S. McNeely IV; Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Craig T. Nelson; Eminent Grand Generalissimo, William D. Passera; Eminent Grand Captain General, Edward C. Page; Eminent Grand Senior Warden, Francis G. Way; Eminent Grand Junior Warden, George A. Mudry V, Eminent Grand Treasurer, Edward R. Ham; Eminent Grand Recorder, Vincent A. Cowie.



*Sir Knights signing in on Webex for the first ever virtual Grand Conclave of a Grand Commandery*

The Grand Commander -elect made the following appointments: Eminent Grand Prelate, Edward Varjabedian; Eminent Grand Associate Prelates, Bruce R. Bellmore, Joseph Krusienski, and William E. Weisert II; Eminent Grand Standard Bearer, Harold Elwell, Eminent Grand Sword Bearer, Steven Chiappalone; Eminent

Grand Warden, Kenneth Roach; Eminent Grand Sentinel, Richard Allen. Eminent Grand Historiographer, Martin Ede; Eminent Grand Correspondent, Charles D. O'Neill; Eminent Grand Organist, David Soderberg.

Following the election and announcement of appointments, the installation was conducted. SK Stuart Drost installed SK McNeely at his home, with suitable assistance from SK McNeely's son Jack. It is rumored that the transfer of the red cord took place in a parking lot in Middletown, with appropriate social distancing practices followed.

It is hoped that Commandery life can return to normal soon. As this goes to press, Sir Knight Nelson's General Order No. 12 is in effect, prohibiting in person Templar gatherings until further notice, but allowing virtual meetings (with no ritual or Orders performed).

# Masonic Memorization

by Michael Calderone

I've often read on Masonic websites, "While you're in quarantine learn your ritual!" But, for some, time is not the issue. More often brothers are given nothing more than a code book and left to their own devices. So, here are a few tips from me, a drama teacher, on how to memorize effectively.

Like teenagers memorizing Shakespeare, the first key to memorizing your ritual is to know what you're saying. If you know that "mote" means "may" in old English, you may remember it better! No one at lodge wants to hear a string of words that have no sense or meaning to you!

Next, if your lodge provides you with a text of your ritual (with all of the pertinent secrets omitted, of course!) then write out your OWN letter code. The physical process of writing each individual letter makes a more secure connection in your brain. Even if your lodge provides you with a letter code I still suggest you create your own version; again, so long as you do not break your Entered Apprentice obligation!

Once you have created your letter code and know what word each letter represents, recite each sentence aloud while touching each letter with the tip of your pencil. When you come to a word you cannot recall, circle that letter with your pencil. Then look up that word and start again from the beginning. Once you can get through that circled letter without looking you are allowed to erase it. Try memorizing this famous line from *Romeo & Juliet*.

*But, soft! What light through yonder window breaks?*

*It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.*

*Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,*

*who is already sick and pale with grief,*

*that thou her maid art far more fair than she!*

Later, I'll have you try memorizing the speech using this technique. At the end of this article is the letter code for this quote. Don't forget step one: make sure you know what you're saying!

- But, Soft = Wait; quiet!
- Yonder = That
- Breaks = Coming through
- Fair = Beautiful

Once you can get through your ritual's letter code without having to circle any word, then you are ready to wean yourself off of the letter code. At this point, see if you can recall your line of ritual without looking at the letter code. If you get tripped up, look at the letter code FIRST and find what letter you are stuck on. Hopefully, the letter itself will be enough to jog your memory. If not, then and only then go back to the text. Always start from the beginning if ever you get tripped up. Eventually, you will be able to get through the ritual without letter code or text.

In these isolated times, when we are unable to meet with our mentors and mentees face to face, technology can be a big help. I did say we are left to our own devices! I have successfully coached younger brothers with letter code via text messages and, more recently, through the Zoom chat feature! I will often ping a young brother with a text simply saying, "IH" which can look like I misspelled "Hi" when in fact I am hailing him! I know the brother is with me when he responds "IC" and from there we take a walk through the Grip right up to the Word (at which point I say, "That's enough!") If ever he gets his letter code out of order, I simply text back, "Nope," in which case he either fixes his mistake or asks, "What's the fourth word, again?" The back and forth is engaging and fun.

Okay, time for your Romeo quote. See how long it takes for you to get through the letter code without looking at the text above. Circle any letter that trips you up. Give the above text one last read through, cover it over and begin:

B,S! WLTYWB? IITE, AJITS! A, FS, AKTEM,  
WIASAPWG,TTHMAFMFTS!

I kept the punctuation in as additional clues; and will sometimes substitute letters or even emoji (pictures for us old folk!) to help remember.

Kudos, brother! Now, not only do you have a method to help you on your journey, you also have a romantic bit of classical literature to woo your beloved!

## During these stressful times, Masonicare's Community Services team is there for you.

If you are looking for someone to talk to, Masonicare Community Services offers "Conversations of Hope." You can schedule a time to speak with a counselor or spiritual advisor by calling **Masonicare's Community Services Helpline at (888) 679-9997.**

Feel free to share this with a friend, family member, or anyone who could use a listening ear. They look forward to speaking with you and helping you through these challenging times.

## At The Threshold of Destiny (The Sacred Knowledge Cycle: Part I)

*by Zach Marotte*

"To drink of Joseph's cup is to divine the will of the The Great Architect. No more shall such pleasures be desired, once you have each encountered the pattern of your will." Spoke the Sage to his students as they circumambulated the Corridor of Whispers, where prophecies lived.

Darkness reigned in those days, when the sacred Word had been forgotten, and a deceitful, violent generation ruled.

However, the spirit of that age was unable to reach those whose quest for light outweighed the carnal limitations of the outer realm.

Concealed within the four walls of Possibility,  
Where echoes of the past united with the revelations  
Of the present, the mystic tie was fulfilled  
With a covenant of purpose, sealed with a declaration.  
"This day, we acknowledge a Truth greater than this world!"  
Resounded the voices of the Mystic and his Fellows  
As they completed their circuitous route to the  
Base of Jacob's Ladder.

Pillars of Cedar, Ashlar, and Gold  
Surrounded the base of the staircase.  
Ascending the steps, they entered  
the Celestial Lodge, where three gates  
presented themselves.  
Above each gate was a word in a language foreign to the Fellows of the Craft.

The Mystic identified each gate as Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty,  
And bade the Fellows of the Craft to choose which path they would  
traverse.

Each student went his separate way into an undiscovered country,  
To build an undying temple and to reclaim that which was hidden.

## Wacky Holidays in June.

To think that someone actually got paid to think up the following:

June 1  
Flip A Coin Day

June 2  
National Bubba Day

June 3  
Repeat Day (I said "Repeat Day")

June 6  
National Yo-Yo Day

June 12  
National Flip Flop Day

June 18  
National Splurge Day

June 19  
World Sauntering Day

June 20  
National Hollerin' Contest Day

June 22  
National Onion Ring Day

June 26  
National Catfish Day

June 28  
Paul Bunyon Day

June 29  
International Mud Day  
Waffle Iron Day



# Not Just A Mentor, An Inspiration

by Tom Gondek

**A**s Freemasons, we spend a lot of time on the idea of mentorship which enables us to effectually retain new brothers and to us all better men. The one thing we do not talk enough about, though, is what inspired us to become a Freemason.

Brother Rich Radziwon was a member of Granite Lodge in Haddam and I lived just a few miles away from him and his wife Bev in Higganum. My father and Rich were best friends and through their friendship my brothers and I grew up knowing this amazing man. I had a special place in my heart for Rich. Our birthdays were almost the same, mine on the 7th his on the 8th, and he was always someone in whom I could confide as I grew older. I looked to him for advice on how to deal with my father who was an alcoholic and at times abusive. Rich was kind, gentle, understanding and empathetic. He was the first man in my life who was not afraid to show his emotions but for the most part he was a jolly and friendly man that everyone enjoyed having around. These were qualities I wanted in my life and that I have tried to emulate.

When I found out that Rich was a Freemason I asked my father what a Freemason was and was told not to pursue Freemasonry as it was against our religion. However I never stopped thinking that if Rich represented even one Mason then it was something I wanted to be a part of because so many things that Rich embodied were true to the making of a not just a Mason but a better man.

Many things happened in the ensuing years. I joined the Air Force, got married, had a child, became involved with the normal things like Little League and church groups. I never once forgot about being a Mason though and finally, in 2010, I was given the chance to become a brother in this great fraternity.

Unknowingly, Rich had followed all of my accomplishments through the years and when I became Master of Center Lodge No. 97 in 2014 he called me and congratulated me on becoming Master. We had a great talk, remembering the “good old days.” I didn’t hear from Rich after that as his Parkinson’s Disease became worse, and when I was appointed District Deputy in 2017 he and his wife were invited to my presentation but he was unable to attend. I decided to visit Rich at his home since I has not actually seen him since my father’s funeral in 1999.

I showed up on a crisp fall day, wearing my apron and jewels. Bev answered the door and after a long, warm hug she brought me to see Rich. He instantly recognized me, smiled and as we shook hands and hugged he told me how proud he was of me and how much I accomplished in my life and as a Freemason. We sat and talked a bit and in the end he told me that he always knew that I would make a fine Mason. With tears in our eyes I told him that he was my inspiration and I would always be indebted to him for all that he helped me with and how much I admired him which eventually led me to becoming a Freemason.

On May 1, Rich lost his battle with Parkinson’s. I have lost a friend and more importantly brother; one of my mentors who taught me how to be a Freemason long before I became a Freemason. Rich was truly a brother of the Craft and an inspiration. If it weren’t for Rich I would probably not have pursued Masonry. I look forward to seeing Rich again in the Celestial Temple through the grace of the Grand Architect. Rest well brother, your work is done and what a fine job you did on this earth.



**A sound head, an honest heart, and a humble spirit are the three best guides through time and eternity.**

**- Brother Walter Scott**

# Three Masonicare Nurses Recognized with Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing

Three Masonicare nurses are being recognized with the 2020 Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing which celebrates RNs and LPNs from any healthcare setting who demonstrate excellence in clinical practice, leadership, and/or education. Masonicare nominated three outstanding nurses for the award: Stephanie Allen, LPN, The Towers in New Haven; Erin Cerrito, RN, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice; and Renee Hernandez, LPN, Masonicare Health Center.

In the process of becoming an RN, Stephanie Allen has made a significant impact on resident care at The Towers (where Masonicare provides Assisted Living Services) by serving that community with enthusiasm, efficiency, and an ability to stay calm in the most stressful of circumstances. Her supervisor describes her as someone who “looks for solutions instead of excuses.”

Treating every patient as an individual, Masonicare Home Health’s Erin Cerrito works hard to establish trust and build rapport with her clients so that she’s better able to tailor care to their unique needs.

Renee Hernandez was a logical choice for charge nurse. When Masonicare Health Center transitioned to a new electronic medical records system, Renee was someone that other staff knew they could turn to for help. Families also respond well to Renee because she takes the time to explain a resident’s condition in ways that they can understand.



*Erin Cerrito, RN, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice*



*Stephanie Allen, LPN, The Towers in New Haven*



*Renee Hernandez, LPN, Masonicare Health Center*

JP Venoit, President and CEO of Masonicare, said, “As a continuum, Masonicare embraces a wide range of nursing practices and these three outstanding nurses exemplify the dedication and compassion of a Nightingale honoree. They are role models for their peers and we thank them for their generous contributions to our organization and those we serve every day.”

Masonicare is Connecticut’s largest non-profit provider of senior care, providing a full continuum of care to residents and patients which includes independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing, home health care and home hospice and palliative care. The Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing is statewide nursing recognition program is open to full or part-time RNs and LPNs.

## So What Are Ya Readin’? *by Francis G. Way*

Last month I wrote a quick article on some shows on Netflix and Amazon Prime Video that might be worth a watch. This month I’ll tackle reading.

I know a lot of brothers that have used this time of mostly staying home to engross themselves in Masonic reading, plumbing the depths of esoterica, or perfecting their ritual. All fine pursuits. But I took a somewhat different tack.

Over the last nearly 25 years as a Mason, one area of my life that has noticeably shrunk is reading for enjoyment. Before I became a Mason I was a voracious reader. I like Stephen King, as one example, and would no sooner finish one book then it would be back to the library to grab another. When those ran out I would wait, and wait, and wait for an eternity until his next new book came out. And it wasn’t just Stephen King.

In the middle of reading Tom Clancy’s series of a book, a family member had a heart attack. We gathered at the hospital to wait for the visit to the cath lab and eventual bypass surgery. Knowing that I would

be waiting a good long while, and almost to the end of one of those two-pound paperbacks, I grabbed the next book in the series (always plan ahead right?) and took that too. They each barely fit in my jacket pockets, four pounds of paperback balancing me out. Two weeks later I ordered a Kindle.

In addition to King and Clancy, here were many other authors that were favorites and filled countless hours in doctors’ waiting rooms, or waiting for dance lessons or sports practices to end that I killed by escaping into a great book. But once I became a brother, and especially after becoming an officer and becoming “involved,” some of that time just slipped away. But COVID-19, for all its warts, had one silver lining. It gave me some of that time back.

When I was 12 years old I spent my summers mostly outside, roaming the neighborhood, playing with my brother and the neighbor kids. But sometimes in late July and August it was just too darned hot, and so I would grab a book, sit under a tree, and read. In mid-summer I picked up a book at the library called *Have Spacesuit, Will Travel* by Robert

*Continued on page 31*

## So What Are Ya Readin'?' *continued from page 30*

Heinlein. While Heinlein is a noted author of adult science fiction, he also wrote a dozen science fiction books for kids – what would be called “Young Adult” fare today. Inside of a couple of chapters I was hooked. And hooked hard. I wasn't sitting under a tree, sweating away, in East Glastonbury...I was on the moon, and a planet near Vega 5, and before a tribunal formed of all the sentient beings in the universe. Needless to say, the rest of the summer I could not get my hands on enough science fiction.

And so it was that last summer I was standing at a table of paperback books in the lobby of the 99 Restaurant in Glastonbury. All the books cost \$1 and all of the money went to support the Boys & Girls Clubs. I picked up a book of science fiction short stories called *Extreme Science Fiction, New Generation Far Future SF* edited by Mike Ashley. I took it home and put it on the bookshelf, because I do still read real books instead of just my Kindle. It caught my eye a couple of weeks ago, and, having plenty of COVID-induced free time I thought “now is as good a time as any.”

The stories are mostly all hard science fiction, for the most part by authors still living in 2006 when it was published. Gregory Benford, Lawrence Person, Stephen Baxter, Alastair Reynolds (his contribution, a space opera novella called *Merlin's Gun* was excellent), Geoffrey A. Landis and Robert Reed all contributed. Science fiction giants Clifford D. Simak, Theodore Sturgeon and Harlan Ellison were also included. A fascinating piece, from 1909, by B. Vallance provided a bit of mystery, as no one is really sure who B. Vallance was, and no one has ever found anything

else he (she?) ever wrote. But the story, *The New Humans*, was downright intriguing – a bit of Jules Verne with a liberal helping of H.G. Wells.

I haven't mentioned each story, but if you like science fiction even a little, it would be well worth your time to check out any one of those fine authors.

While my science fiction addiction became a gateway to Sword and Sorcery and Fantasy, and volumes like *The Lord of the Rings* are iconic in my library, I'll save that subject for another time, along with some thoughts on great horror fiction.

Besides renewing my love affair with science fiction, I have recently returned to history as well. Before COVID-19 hit, I saw *1917* in the theater. That gently nudged me to learn more about World War I. I have spent hours of time learning about the Civil War and of course, World War II, but World War I was something I never studied. So, I have been reading two books, one by Hew Strachan, *The First World War*, and another, of the same title, by Gilbert Martin. It is a heavy subject, but it is clear that the origins of that war far preceded 1914, and, as we all know, its after-effects were felt until mid-century.

Now you may, or may not, like history or science fiction, and if you don't like to read at all, then this article probably wasn't for you. (If not, I'll tell you that I have heard that *Red Dog*, on Amazon Prime Video, is supposedly the next *Tiger King*.) But if you have any interest in those areas, hopefully some of these suggestions will be worth your while.

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## COVID-19 Transplant Questions & UNOS

by Richard F. Denno

In this time of COVID-19 and pandemics, where do those with transplantation questions turn to for answers? How has the corona virus impacted the recovery of lifesaving organs, tissues and corneas during this time? How has the virus affected the vital steps and procedures required for successful transplants?

UNOS, the United Network for Organ Sharing, is an organization to which every member of the transplant community belongs; from Organ Procurement Organizations (OPS) to the nation's UNOS transplant hospitals and virtually every organization with a connection to transplantation.

UNOS is the organization that deals with organ allocation; dealing with who receives an organ transplant. When the call comes in for a much-needed organ, UNOS prioritizes organ allocation by a set criteria, which includes items as time on the waiting list, urgency and where the organ is in respect to potential recipients. Hearts need to be recovered, transported and transplanted in a much shorter time than a kidney or liver.

UNOS is where answers can be found on the impact of COVID-19 on transplants. Their web address is [www.unos.org/covid](http://www.unos.org/covid). Updates are provided on both the virus, transplantation,

answers to most questions you have on organ donation and registration. If ever there was a time to go online and register as an organ donor, that time is NOW. Among the lives of those loved ones lost to the virus are people who had registered as donors. Health issues created by the infection have eliminated others from the possibility of donating.

I implore you to not allow this horrible virus, which has so devastated our world and very lives, to add organ transplants to its list of devastation. We've been told we will come through this and be stronger for our efforts and caring. Please, let that apply to our organ, tissue and eye donor programs throughout the country.

Become an informed donor and register online at [www.registerme.org](http://www.registerme.org). To learn how you can make a difference, and join us in our efforts to save lives through organ donation, contact me at [toursone@comcast.net](mailto:toursone@comcast.net).

Be safe in these difficult times and remember: "Don't Take Your Organs to Heaven – Heaven Knows We Need Them Here."



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

by Edward C. Page

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

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

The group gained momentum quickly and after its first week had grown to over 150 members, and doubled that by the second week. Christina opted to include ladies of any active Freemason, from any state, not just the great state of Connecticut, with the notion that seeing what other ladies do and enjoy throughout other states and jurisdictions would lend to a more extensive database of suggestions and ideas.

As the word got around, ladies of Canada wanted to join and soon it became a continental membership. Some of the interesting topics the private group discusses are ladies

programs, themes for events, gift ideas, recipes and the ups and downs of being involved with an active Freemason. This "women only, no men allowed" forum allows for comfortable conversations and a way to recognize that other women have similar thoughts and concerns. It is meant to strengthen the sisterhood bond that exists through their association of a Freemason.

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

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



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## A Smile Parade Says “Thank You” in a Heartfelt Way!

by Sandy Potter

A Smile Parade on May 6 around Masonicare’s Wallingford Campus was a fun way to show appreciation for front-line workers including medical staff and all of the support staff who go above and beyond every day to ensure the health and safety of Masonicare’s residents and patients. And, what better day to have it than on National Nurses Day and the kickoff to National Nurses Week.

Masonicare’s staff is grateful to those from Masonicare, from in the Masonic family, and from the local community, who decked out their vehicles in a show of gratitude and to honor the everyday heroes at Masonicare who are working tirelessly to care for the residents.

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