

September 2020



# Connecticut FREEMASONS

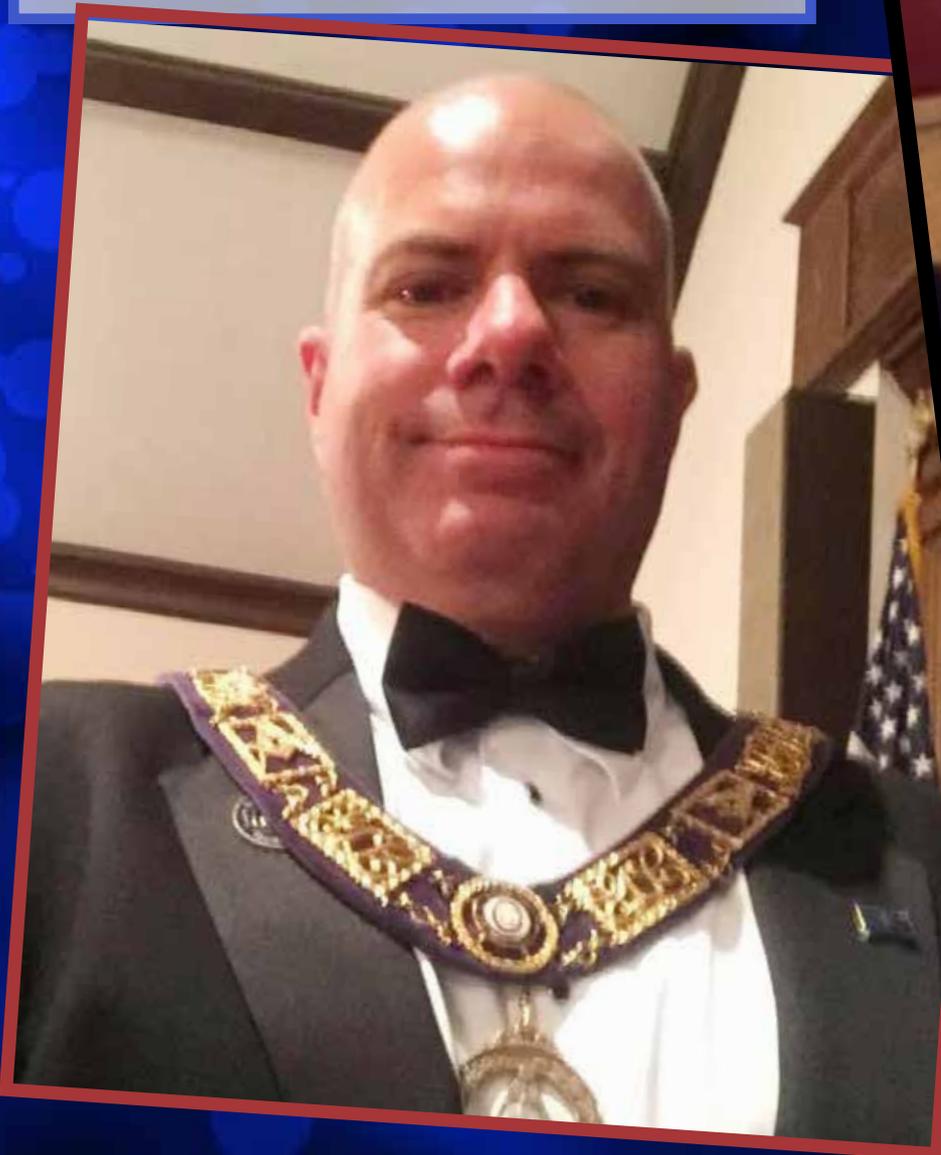
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**CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING  
OF MASONICARE**

**IN MEMORIUM ~ MWB SAMUEL B.  
WALKER, PGM**

**A TALE OF TWO BROTHERS**



*Not Just a Man.*

*A Mason.*

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A. F. & A. M. 2020-2021**



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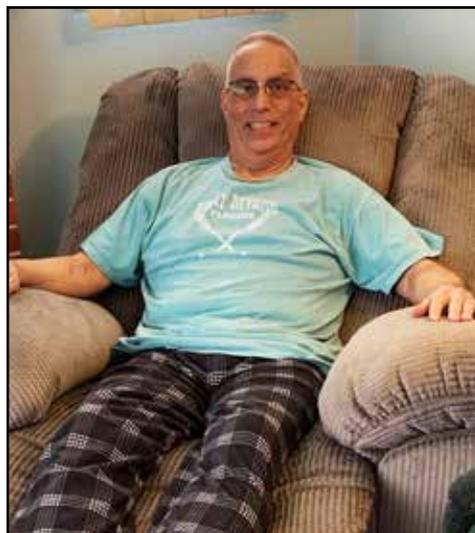
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*M.W.B. Samuel B. Walker, PGM*



*W.B. Eric Liegh Papoosha enjoys the simpler things in life.*



Grand Master's Pin

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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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**FREEMASONS**

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# “I Have Cancer; Cancer Doesn’t Have Me” *by Francis G. Way*

Since March, the “C-word” that has been front and center in the national psyche has been COVID-19. The news – national, local, print, internet, and television – has been all COVID, all the time, bombarding everyone with raw data (interpretation, statistical analysis, and meaningful conclusions often left to the individual reader or viewer) and stories of spikes and curves and masks and phases and, in some locations, even what constitutes “food.”

Amidst this inundation there are brothers for whom the C-word has an entirely different meaning. It has less to do with masks and raw data and phases, and a lot more to do with chemotherapy and radiation and biopsies and stages. Their C-word is cancer.

RWB Chip Schofield, Past District Deputy of Masonic District 3A, had been experiencing abdominal discomfort and sometimes severe pain for almost two years before his diagnosis. Visits to the ER and his doctor indicated that things were “within normal limits.” About two months after his retirement as a police officer, doctors found a 6.7 cm tumor on his pancreas and that the cancer had spread to several lymph nodes. His original oncologist advocated a “watch and see” treatment, but increased levels of pain resulted in an after-hours call to the office. The on-call oncologist decided “watch and see” was not good enough and ordered many imaging tests and biopsies. The results indicated neuroendocrine cancer, but, worse, he had two different types of neuroendocrine cancer.

Beginning in December 2019, RWB Chip started chemotherapy. Originally, he was slated to have chemo three days in a row, every three weeks, for five cycles. The first day’s session was around 5 hours, the second and third day were around 3 hours. It was quickly determined that he would need chemo for the rest of his life, and that he would probably never be in remission. By February, after some aggressive growth, the doctors determined he needed radiation treatments as well.

By April, after suffering all of the effects one might expect (hair loss, muscle fatigue, loss of appetite, neuropathy in hands and feet), they doctors determined his bone marrow had taken a hit and they needed a break in the treatments to allow his body some time to heal.

When he was diagnosed, RWB Chip was angry, and felt doomed, helpless, and ashamed. He began reading Facebook posts on neuroendocrine cancer groups and become more depressed. But then he stopped! He made his peace with having cancer, and decided it was time to fight back. He decided to lead the attack against the cancer that had invaded his body. In February, he connected with a brother who provides him with acupuncture treatments. Those treatments have given him relief from the metallic taste in his mouth and the neuropathy.

RWB Chip recently celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary and his 50th birthday, neither of which he was sure he would see. In late July, scans showed that his tumor had decreased significantly and there is less cancer activity. Still, his doctors cannot make a prognosis because there is not enough data. He’s focusing on the fact that the cancer is stable.



*Charles (Chip) Louis Schofield, III, and wife Melissa*

WB Eric Papoosha, Associate Grand Marshall of Masonic District 5A, had not been feeling well late in 2019, but his doctors could not pinpoint the cause. After many tests, he eventually was diagnosed with a very rare form of Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma (Angioimmunoblastic T-Cell Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma – ATIL). ATIL accounts for only 1-2% of the cases in the United States.

*Continued on page 8*

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

**Samuel B. Walker, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master**

Most Worshipful Samuel B. Walker served the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut as the 149th Grand Master in 1995. His Masonic career spanned more than 64 years during which time he was honored as a recipient of the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze in 1981 and the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Silver in 1999. He passed away on Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

A Memorial Service was scheduled for Monday, August 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Robinson, Wright & Weymer Funeral Home, 34 Main Street, in Centerbrook. Brother Walker's services were conducted outside in observance of social distancing precautions. A Masonic Funeral Service was conducted by Estuary Lodge No. 43 during the memorial service.

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.

Letters of sympathy and condolence may be sent to his wife and family to, Calice Sterling, 204 Bushy Hill Road, Deep River, CT 06417-1562.

Fraternally,

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

Grant S. Gould  
R.W. Grand Secretary



*Brother Samuel B. Walker,  
149th Most Worshipful Grand Master of the  
Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Connecticut  
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
laid down his working tools on August 4, 2020.*

# Grand Master's Message

by Stephen W. Petri



## Like No Other Year

I do not have to tell anybody that this year is unlike anything that has been seen in 100 years, and unfortunately it does not look like we will get back to the old normal soon. Probably not for another 12 to 18 months. Hearty handshakes and brotherly Masonic hugs have given way to the elbow bump; the whispering of good counsel in a brother's ear is now done wearing a mask. We have had to think outside of the box this year and try new and different things, such as the new modified degree work and lodge ritual to keep all present safe and allow brothers to visit virtually. This year's October session will be unlikely to have more than 25 people physically present and will need to be webcast via Zoom. There have been some unexpected upsides – such as Lodges using hybrid ritual that has allowed virtual attendance by brothers that have not been in lodge for many years.

## Lodges Must Certify With the State

It is important that all lodges complete the self-certification requirements of the State of Connecticut under the "Office" sector before they start meeting again. From the State's website "Connecticut businesses will be allowed to reopen in planned phases. But before you can open your doors, you must self-certify that you are following strict safety guidelines to keep your employees and customers safe."

An important thing to understand is all actions to self-certify need to be completed, including training of the lodge, prior to completing the State of Connecticut certification registration. Failure to complete actions prior to self-certification will cause that certification to be null and void. Businesses without a valid certification will be closed.

A guide has been created for all Connecticut Masonic lodges and building corporations and is available on the Grand Lodge's membership portal <https://ct.grandview.systems> in Resources-> Master Masons-> COVID 19 Materials-> "Instructions for State Required Self-Certification to Reopen Lodges."

Connecticut's rules and guidance for reopening change frequently as new information or circumstances arise. For the most current information go to <https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/Sector-Rules-and-Certification-for-Reopen>.

## The October Session

I was hoping by the time the October session came about we would have the opportunity to have a normal semi-annual session. Unfortunately, this will not be the case. Other grand lodges have cancelled their annual and semi-annual meetings, and decided to keep their officers elected and appointed in place for another year to let the pandemic pass. Some others are holding their sessions virtually. In Connecticut, we are expecting an attendance limit of 25 people to be in effect at the time the October session is held. We have decided our semi-annual communication will be held virtually, with a small number of Grand Lodge Officers to be present in the building, making a feed available through Zoom for brothers to be able to attend and vote virtually. It is our plan to use a third party company to enable confidential electronic voting. More information will be coming as we finalize these plans.

## Another Year for Lodge Officers?

Brothers have been asking me about what to do for the COVID-19 Worshipful Masters who have lost their year, and if they should give them another year. Many of those Masters had spent years serving the lodge, and preparing for their turn in the East, only to have it disappear before their eyes. My answer to them is it is up to the lodge and the officers of that lodge to decide. If the officers are willing and able to stay in place for another year, and the lodge votes to keep them that is OK and probably a fair thing to do. It also gives the junior officers the ability to make their suitable proficiency in the preceding chair before they move up, which is good for the lodge. In the end it is a lodge decision by a vote of the brothers.

## Grand Master's One Day Classes

At my request, RWB Tim Wheeland, the Grand Senior Warden of Ohio, has run an analytics report on our membership data and found some interesting statistics. One of the most interesting was that "One Day Masons" and traditional three-degree Masons statistically track the same over fifteen years. However, we lose 25% of the traditional three-degree Masons before they become a Master Mason. Also, there are brothers who have not finished their degree work who might be interested in finishing. Therefore, I have decided to hold Grand Master's one day courses to help move the backlog of petitioners and also to help brothers who have not had the opportunity to complete their degrees. We are expecting to be limited to 25

total participants, so we are looking at ways to provide multiple classes. The first of these one-day degrees should be starting the beginning of November. Keep an eye out for more information.

## EMR and Membership

As you may have seen the Grand Lodge is searching for a person to be responsible for membership acquisition, retention and recovery, and to handle advertising and communications on social media. Building membership with men of quality needs to be one of our highest priorities.

The beginning of this year started off very strong with new membership inquiries coming in from the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction's BeAFreemason.org website. Because of COVID-19 the advertising that was being used to help generate those leads was put on hold as it was difficult to meet and interview potential candidates in person. During this time, it was discovered there was not a fully developed and documented process and system to handle incoming inquiries for membership.

A great deal of time has been spent developing and testing new procedures and technologies to receive, communicate, assign, and track new membership inquiries. Education programs have been created to train those that will be making the assignments and the brothers in the lodges on how to receive, track, and update the information on the new request in Grand View. I think this will be a great leap forward to increasing our membership.

One of the interesting consequences of COVID-19 has been to show many men that they are missing something important in their lives – something that Freemasonry offers in the form of fellowship, a sense of brotherhood, and ties to the community. Men are searching for what we have. I am pleased that we now have a better way to receive and track these requests, and to ensure that they can be moved properly through our process.

As always stay safe and be well my brothers.

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REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL  
GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. of CONNECTICUT

Due to the unprecedented times we are currently living in and to comply with the current state/federal mandates, it necessary to make format changes to our Semi-Annual Communication.

The 2020 Regular Semi-Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut will be held in the auditorium of the **Scottish Rite AASR, Valley of Hartford, 207 Deming Road, Newington, Connecticut on Saturday, October 17, 2020.** *This will be a Zoom meeting with only the Grand Lodge Officers in the lodge room. Voting for officers, legislation items, and Masonicare Board of Trustees will be achieved through mail-in paper ballots.* **Information regarding registration and participation in the video conference will be forthcoming. Please review your membership information in Grand View to verify your email address.**

The formal opening will begin promptly at 9:00 A.M. Please note it is anticipated that the session may extend slightly beyond noon, but it will conclude by 12:30 P.M.

This **Regular Communication** is called for the purpose of electing Grand Lodge Officers for the year 2021. In addition, we will receive certain committee reports, act on any legislation changes which may be in order for consideration and other issues, time permitting, as directed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Stephen W. Petri. Section 8203 of our Masonic Law does permit action on changes to the Rules and Regulations which are raised from the floor or motions presented in Committee Reports at the meeting without prior notice to the craft.

The Annual Communications committee reports (April 2020) and the current committee reports (October 2020) will be posted on the Grand Lodge membership system (Grand View). **The pending legislation items are published in the September 2020 issue of *Connecticut Freemasons*.**

- ★ Please see the August or September issue of the CT Freemason periodical (newspaper) for instructions on sign into our membership system (Grand View).

**Proxy forms will be mailed directly to the lodge officers.** Sections 2300 and 2301 of our Rules and Regulations state that a Roll of Lodges will occur. This will be done electronically.

With my fraternal best wishes,

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

Grant S. Gould  
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

Wallingford, Connecticut  
September 1, 2020

TO BE READ AT THE NEXT STATED COMMUNICATION UPON RECEIPT

TO: All Voting Members of Masonicare Corporation  
FROM: Bro. Robert F. Polito, Chairman, Board of Trustees

**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

**ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
MASONICARE CORPORATION**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2020  
Scottish Rite AASR, Valley of Hartford  
207 Deming Road  
Newington, Connecticut**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. \***

*This will be a Zoom meeting with only the Grand Lodge Officers in the lodge room. Voting for officers, legislation items, and Masonicare Board of Trustees will be achieved through electronic voting. **Each voting member will be sent the Zoom link, log in credentials, meeting identification number, and electronic voting instructions in advance of the meeting.***

This meeting is being held as part of the Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication. Please make every effort to attend.

The purpose of the meeting is to vote upon the following issues:

- Approval of the 130<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
- Election of Trustees
  1. Bro. Patrick M. Birney – Compass Lodge #9
  2. Sister Bonnie Shulz McWain - Frederica Chapter No. 110, Order of Eastern Star
  3. Bro. Robert F. Polito – Trumbull Lodge No. 22
  4. Order of Amaranth Representative – Honored Lady Susan Koty, Eliza Macoy Court #1

Board of Trustees,



Robert F. Polito  
Chairman  
Masonicare Corporation

\* Actual time is at the discretion of the Grand Master.

# I Have Cancer; Cancer Doesn't Have Me *continued from page 3*



He began treatment at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. He is currently on his third different chemotherapy. He began his first chemotherapy on January 9, but by April it was determined that the chemo was not aggressive enough and was changed. He recently started that third type of chemotherapy in a clinical trial. His most recent PET Scan showed that there is still cancer in his lymph nodes. The goal is to be cancer free and in remission, then he can receive a stem cell transplant.

In spite of many setbacks, all his blood work is looking good and his levels are getting better. The next PET scan will be the only way to truly determine how he is doing and that is scheduled for September 11.

These brothers live daily with cancer, and from their trials and tribulations we learn of grace, bravery, hope, and faith. Each day they get up and face the reality of their situation, with all of the challenges that it presents.

RWB Chip credits his loving and supportive family, and his faith, in helping it make it through each day. He is the father to three amazing and strong women, and his mantra is “I have cancer; cancer does not have me!” He realizes that he is not alone in his battle, that family and friends are with him.

WB Eric indicates that since his diagnosis, his life has become very simple. He went from working six days a week to spending the majority of his day in his recliner (funded by a fundraiser by his lodge, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140). He watches TV or listens to music. He looks forward to the meals prepared by his wife Rosemary, who is, as he says, “my primary caregiver and my rock.” He does try to do things every day but gets tired very quickly, and that limits what he can do.

Brothers seeing other brothers in these situations will naturally wonder what they can do to help. WB Eric strongly urges his brethren to donate blood or platelets with the American Red Cross. He has had too many blood and platelet transfusions to count, and credits them with saving his life. He also has a GoFundMe that was set up early this year (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/eric-papoosha-will-beat-cancer>). Words of encouragement on Facebook or Messenger also help. RWB Chip says having a brother reach out to have lunch or coffee is very helpful. And any conversation that doesn't have anything to do with cancer! As he says, “I'm still me. What would we have talked about before cancer? What would we have done?” Both are very thankful for the continued support and prayers from their brethren.

Knowing that there are other brothers out there battling this disease, each brother passed along helpful advice. RWB Chip is emphatic that brothers who are fighting cancer are not alone. He urges them to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about what they're feeling, and to educate themselves about the disease they have. His middle daughter told him he had a choice to make – curl up in a corner and give in to cancer or fight it and be an example to others. WB Eric stresses a positive attitude and realizing that each day is a gift. “Have faith in God, don't go through it alone, keep family and friends close, and have someone there to listen.”

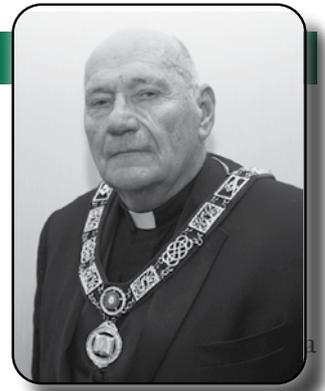
There are other brothers in our jurisdiction who have or will be diagnosed with cancer. These brothers are just two stories – as is sometimes said in the fraternity, “two representing...” In these most unusual times, where the inconvenience of wearing a mask, doing virtual lodge, and staying home a lot seems insurmountable, it would be wise for the rest of us to remember that there are some brethren for whom the C-word has a completely different meaning, and with it, a completely different challenge. To remember that we should reach out and help wherever possible... and, in the well known words of the Senior Warden in a most memorable part of the ritual: “Pray.”



*WB Eric Liegh Papoosha enjoys the recliner and the simpler things in life.*

# Grand Chaplain's Message

by Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski



As members of humanity, we should practice virtue to all created beings. We are taught to be rational and intelligent beings as well as industrious ones. We should never be content while our fellow creatures are in want when we may have the power to relieve their stresses without inconvenience to ourselves. By a survey of nature, man in his infancy is more helpless than many other creatures. Man languishes for days, months and years totally incapable of providing sustenance for himself, incapable against many trials that beset him. Man is not independent of other beings. Dependence is one of the strongest

bounds of society. Man was formed as a social creature. In this pandemic time, it has become extremely hard not to interact with those of our many Masonic organizations. We must continue to be diligent in all that we do to be safe and help each other. Please pray for all who are helping during this trying time. For those who have given their lives to help humanity, may they rest in peace.

May God bless all.

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

**Earl Rayne Bond**  
Coastal Lodge No. 57

**Alexander Gershman**  
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

**Donald G. Poehnert**  
Fayette Lodge No. 69

**David A. Brown**  
Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34

**Douglas Allen Gray**  
Hiram Lodge No. 1

**Robert F. Reid, Sr.**  
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

**Edward Caceres**  
Union Lodge No. 5

**Harold Greenblatt**  
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

**Frederic B. Richardson**  
Brainard Lodge No. 102

**Hildreth A. Cummings**  
Granite Lodge No. 119

**Newton D. Holbrook, IV**  
Village Lodge No. 29

**Frederick William Schmalz**  
Composite Lodge No. 28

**Henry N. Diamond**  
America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

**Harry A. Holden**  
Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3

**Raymond Walker Taylor**  
Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3

**John Edward Echlin, Jr.**  
Widow's Son Lodge No. 66

**Bruce V. Johnson**  
Manchester Lodge No. 73

**Fernando Falsario Villaluz**  
Brainard Lodge No. 102

**Charles Lewis Erickson**  
Washington Lodge No. 70

**Hugh W. Klockars**  
Widow's Son Lodge No. 66

**James Joseph Fahy**  
Acacia Lodge No. 85

**Gary Lee Mordan**  
Temple Lodge No. 16





# Grand Historian's Corner

Andrew R. Melillo

In light of the atrocities from the Great War, which today we know as World War I (for little did the men at this time understand that it would lead to the next conflict – WWII), the Connecticut Craft sought once again to do what the outside world could not achieve – create and establish a greater feeling of the Masonic Brotherhood. Most Worshipful Brother Frank L. Wilder, wrote in his 1923 address to the Craft: that,

*In company with other Masonic organizations, we have tried to arouse among the membership, a greater feeling of loyalty to Masonry, its history, lessons, and traditions; to avoid all semblance of religious or class feeling and to keep constantly before them that our country was founded by Masons and that upon us rests a greater duty as the successors of the government, giving to every man without regard to race, creed or religious belief, his due as a man for an equality of opportunity in all things, and by setting the example of fairness, toleration and moderation.*

And here it is seen that the Craft was pushing farther ahead than the rest of American Society not just what it was historically, or was then, but what it must become in the future. While the men of the Masonic union were yet imperfect, they were leading society into a direction that was far ahead of the uninitiated circles – yet, like all progress, it takes time. For only a strong edifice can be built one strong stone at a time. The Connecticut Craft helped unite people during the Civil War, then in the country's romantic push towards its destiny, achieved great heights in technology and industrialization. After the Great War, the world understood how irresponsible the push towards war was when the means of destruction, did not match an equally advanced moral compass. The goal, nay the greater challenge, was to promote values and institutions that promoted all men living in harmony.

Most Worshipful Brother Wilder continues in his address:

*Then and then only will we be doing our full duty as Masons and for the community in which we live.*

*It is because we are Masons that so great a duty of leadership is laid upon us. Are we equal to it or has the institution passed into the things that were rather than something which is and will be? The answer will be found in the record of the next few years.*

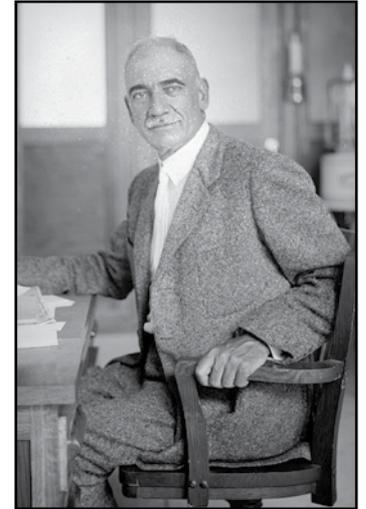
In light, of this great and good message by Wilder, the returns demonstrate an interesting conclusion. While it was the due to every man to have an equal access to opportunity in all things, and by setting the example of fairness, toleration, and moderation – these were Masonic values for the Craft – and many times they did not apply universally to all men who knocked at Masonry's door. At this time in Connecticut, nearly one out of every three petitioners were rejected. When there is a standard, the temptress of higher membership mustn't be obliged.

In 1919 the membership averaged about 280 members per lodge, with a total of 111 lodges throughout Connecticut. The exception were three lodges: Hiram Lodge No. 1, St. John's Lodge No. 4, and Hartford Lodge No. 88, with about 1,000 members on their roles. Ten years later, seven lodges exceeded that same threshold. In addition to the first three mentioned: Wooster Lodge No. 79, Olive Branch Lodge No. 84, Corinthian Lodge No. 104, and Annawon Lodge No. 115. Guarding the West Gate does not mean to be stringent, or overbearing, or perhaps impolite. It is the duty of Masons to ensure that all who enter the enlightened fold are just that – enlightened, upright, just, fair, seekers after truth, and above all – men who can be tried, and are willing to be tried again.

Some men with exceptional personal, civic, and Masonic attributes during this time, were Brothers John Quillion Tilson and Arthur Franklin Lewis, both New Haven bulldogs.

Brother Tilson was born in Clearbranch, Uncoi County, Tennessee in 1866. He graduated from Yale Law School in 1893, and four years later was admitted to the bar, and began his practice in the very city of his alma mater. When the Spanish American War broke out in 1898, he served as a Second Lieutenant

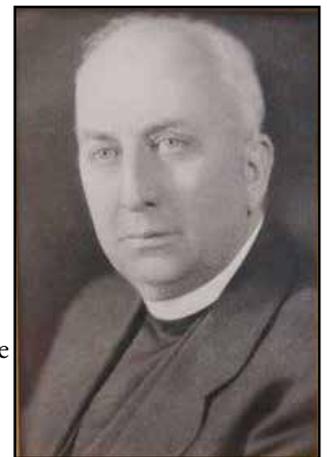
in the Sixth regiment of the United States Volunteer Infantry. It was from his practice in New Haven that he launched a career in politics, winning his first election in 1908, and after a brief



John Q. Tilson

loss between 1912 to 1915, served in Congress until his resignation in 1932. He was the majority leader for the 69th, 70th, and 71st Congress, with a brief stint serving as Speaker of the House. He hailed from Old Hiram.

Brother Lewis was born on February 29, 1872 in Nichols, Connecticut. He was the son of the Reverend Frank B. Lewis and Georgiana Frances Ambler. He attended Hopkins Grammar School in New Haven and assisted his father



Arthur Franklin Lewis

in church work. He was ordained a deacon on June 24, 1896, and a priest on November 11 of that same year. He served churches in Montana, where his father was active, and then Delaware City, Delaware, and Leonia, New Jersey. Eventually he made his way back to his native Nutmeg soil and was at St. James' Church in Ridgefield from 1900 to 1903. Then Christ Church in Unionville, and St. John's Church in North Haven where he served from 1907 to 1924. From 1924 to 1945 he served the parish of St. Michael's at Naugatuck. He was

Continued on page 13

# From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

## *President & CEO of Masonicare*

I will confess that these last six months have been the most stressful of my 30 years working in senior care. But I have also never been more proud of this organization and the efforts of our employee team members – from our caregivers who never let their own anxieties overshadow the concern they had for their patients, to the IT professionals who quickly made it possible for us to have over 130 individuals work remotely...something I could never have imagined before the pandemic began.

I chalk up much of our success to cooperation and collaboration, so I was pleased that a family member of one of our residents took notice by nominating three employees at our memory care community in Wallingford for a GEM (Go the Extra Mile) Customer Experience Award. Resident Care Associate Leitia Lacey and Recreation Therapy Aides Athena Rivera and Jamie Rodriguez were recognized for their efforts to keep our residents comfortable and engaged under these unusual circumstances. The nomination read, in part, “I know their jobs are not EVER easy, especially now. I thank them for all the extra moments of caring. It helps those of us on the outside cope knowing that our loved ones are cared for.”

EVERYONE who wears a Masonicare badge has contributed to the fight in some way, and that fight will continue for the foreseeable future.

Like many of you, we had some cleaning up to do last month after Tropical Storm Isaias barreled through the area, knocking down trees and cutting power to thousands of homes and businesses. Masonicare at Chester Village needed to switch to generator power temporarily, and quite a few of our employees lost power at their homes. Otherwise, Masonicare’s operations chugged along as usual.

With COVID-19 continuing to spread throughout the country, we are preparing for a second wave here in Connecticut – a second wave that might coincide with the change of seasons. As we look ahead to the end of summer and the beginning of fall, we’ll need to be extra diligent.

We are continuing to comply with state-mandated COVID-19 testing. Out of the thousands of tests administered since late June, only a handful have come back positive – another indication that our rigorous screening and safety procedures are working.

As I have mentioned on several occasions in this space, Masonicare has a strategic plan to change the way we deliver healthcare services, reduce our dependence on government payer sources, and seek out new partnerships. Even in the midst of

a pandemic, we can’t lose sight of that plan. Because, as the old saying goes, “this too shall pass,” and when COVID-19 is behind us, or at least under control, we’ll be on course to transforming Masonicare into an organization that can survive and thrive in the 21st century.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Masonicare.



Yours fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon-Paul Venoit". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

## ***CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS***

**Richard E. Frazier**  
**Friendship Lodge No. 33**

**Robert A. Herold**  
**Manchester Lodge No. 73**

**Oliver James Purnell, III**  
**Fayette Lodge No. 69**

**Graham L. Williams**  
**Corinthian Lodge No. 63**





# Letter to the Ladies

by Patrice Murphy

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

## Relearning Powerful Lessons For A New Age

Have you seen *Hamilton*? I mean of course *Hamilton: An American Musical* by Lin-Manuel Miranda, now in its sixth year on Broadway. Or the recently released movie of the play, or the book-about-the-play, or even the cast album.

My family was lucky enough to see the live show a year ago. I am keen to see the movie of the original cast performance, once I get over my indignation at having to pay \$30 to Disney Plus. You can bet that the rewind button will get a workout, since the sung-and-rapped-through production clocks in at twice the speed of a typical musical. *Hamilton* demands – and rewards – close attention.

Miranda describes *Hamilton* as about "America then, as told by America now." The costumes reflect the late 17th century and the play is grounded by Ron Chernow's doorstep of a biography. However, the story of Alexander Hamilton and the founding of America is told entirely by actors of color. Miranda represents the revolutionary energy of our emerging nation by connecting to an immigrant and minority experience that is just as recognizable today as then – scrappy and insistent.

I love the way this retelling of the historic story grabs our attention and makes us hear it anew.

It conveys so well the ambition and innovations of America's founding fathers and the extraordinary ways in which they shaped this nation. We are reminded how fragile and fraught was the enterprise in which they spoke aloud the expectation of a free and self-governing society, then constituted its essential structure in an entirely new form of government. Having declared independence, and then framed and fought to implement the Constitution, they had then to build the muscle of government and set the character of the nation in its institutions.

Freemasons were enormously influential throughout this process of nation formation. They were nine of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, fully one-third of the signers of the U.S. Constitution, and almost half the generals in the U.S. Constitutional Army – including George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette. Freemasons know all this, because it is part of the proud history taught in the fraternity.

*Hamilton* invites a fresh audience to know this history of ideas and actions. My favorite part is Washington's aching farewell from office, which as much as his military leadership and service as our first president, defined the character of our government.

By early 1796, President George Washington had decided not to seek reelection for a third term and began drafting this farewell address to the American people. He had actually hoped to retire four years earlier after just one term as president but had been persuaded that his continued leadership was needed for the survival of the young country. The same arguments were made in 1796 but by then, no matter how many people urged four more years, he believed his duty was to withdraw from office gracefully and return to the life of a regular citizen.

Washington's farewell address went through numerous drafts in consultation with Alexander Hamilton. In the final 32-page handwritten address, he urged Americans to avoid excessive political party spirit and geographical distinctions. In foreign affairs, he warned against long-term alliances with other nations.

*Hamilton* brings that pivotal moment to a new generation. Some two hours into a performance that echoes the physical and emotional exhaustion Washington feels after decades of serving his country, Lin Manuel Miranda has him say to Hamilton:

*I wanna talk about neutrality...*

*I want to warn against partisan fighting...*

*Pick up a pen, start writing.*

*I wanna talk about what I have learned.*

*The hard won wisdom I have earned.*

When Hamilton protests that for the people he should continue to serve, he has to serve, Washington replies:

*No! One last time*

*The people will hear from me*

*One last time*

*And if we get this right*

*We're gonna teach them how to say goodbye.*

With these simple words, George Washington expresses his radical determination to yield power in a way that forces America to learn the entirely new practice of a peaceful and orderly transition between administrations. In these early years of the republic there was no presidential term limit. Many would have been comfortable with ongoing, benevolent rule by a beloved leader. It was Washington's conviction that beyond the requirements of the constitution, the country needed to be taught the importance of knowing "how to say goodbye."

Continued on page 13

## Grand Historian's Corner *continued from page 10*

chaplain of the House of Representatives, as well as for the Connecticut General Assembly from 1925 to 1926. He also was the chaplain for the Naugatuck police and fire departments. His services as chaplain were not just civic, but also extended to the military where he was reserve chaplain for the United States Army from 1925 to 1945, all while serving on the board of managers for the Masonic Home, as well as the Masonic Charity Foundation. Brother Lewis was raised at Shepherd-Salem Lodge No. 78 on June 6, 1902 and eventually affiliated with Evening Star Lodge No. 101 and Corinthian Lodge No. 103. In 1906 he served as Master of Evening Star, and six years later as Master of Corinthian. In 1936, he was elected Grand Master of Connecticut. His ashes were scattered in Lakeview Cemetery in Bridgeport.

These are but two examples of Connecticut Craftsmen, who knocked on Masonry's door, were not denied – and through their great energies helped push the fraternity forward in its mission. They were men of sound upbringing, education, fortitude, and zeal. They were national leaders, men of God, and who put themselves forward to lead their fellow citizens and Brothers into the future. When Grand Master Wilder wrote in 1923 that the coming years would show whether the Connecticut Craft was something that passed into the things which were – rather than is and will be – it was men like Tilson and Lewis who demonstrated that answer. And while the Connecticut Craft recovered from the horrific devastation witnessed during World War I, the time was fast approaching when the Brothers and their families would have to face the pending horrors, and answer the Republic's call to help fight

and destroy a still yet whispered, but growing rumor, of a growing totalitarian, and despotic power in Europe and beyond. It would be the most testing and trying of times for Connecticut Masons and the free society in which they lived. When the world was befuddled on how to answer the growing concern – it was the men in the Masonic quarries that did not hesitate – and answered the cries of that ancient American Goddess: Liberty.



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## Letter to the Ladies *continued from page 12*

Hamilton protests:

*HAMILTON: Mr. President, they will say you're weak.*

*WASHINGTON: No! They will see we're strong.*

*HAMILTON: Your position is so unique.*

*WASHINGTON: So I'll use it to move them along.*

*HAMILTON: Why do you have to say goodbye?*

*WASHINGTON: If I say goodbye, the nation learns how to move on. It outlives me when I'm gone.*

Equally poignant is Washington's personal desire to retire and live the rest of his life outside public scrutiny. He quotes a favorite passage from the Bible:

*Like the Scripture says:*

*"Everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree  
And no one shall make them afraid."*

*They'll be safe in the nation we've made.*

*I want to sit under my own vine and fig tree.*

*A moment alone in the shade.*

*At home in this nation we've made.*

The song's second half includes an excerpt from the actual historical text of Washington's farewell address: Hamilton reads the address as Washington sings the same words. With modesty and tenderness, Washington asks forgiveness for his shortcomings and eagerly anticipates his well-earned rest in the bosom of the country he loves:

*Though, in reviewing the incidents of my administration, I am... too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. I shall also... hope that my country will view them with indulgence and that after forty-five years of my life dedicated to its service with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as I myself must soon be to the mansions of rest.*

*I anticipate with pleasing expectation... the sweet enjoyment of partaking, in the midst of my fellow-citizens, the benign influence of good laws under a free government, the ever-favorite object of my heart and the happy reward... of our mutual cares, labors and dangers.*

Today we know how completely Washington's advice on disunity and foreign alliances has been ignored. However, his decision to teach his countrymen how to stand without him was an early lesson that was well learned. I am immensely grateful to a scrappy, dancing, rapping musical for telling a new generation this important story.

# Do Not Countenance Disloyalty or Rebellion

by John A. Amarillos, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

Members of the Rite will have an opportunity to complete 10 different degrees this October. On October 3, there will be a virtual reunion via the member portal at the NMJ Website. The 4th, 6th, 15th and 23rd Degrees will be offered starting at 7 a.m. On October 5, there will be a stated meeting at the theater at 7:30 p.m., followed by the showing of the 4th and 20th Degrees on the big screen. On October 19, three degrees will be shown at the theater at 7:30 p.m., namely the 4th, 15th and 22nd Degrees. Lastly, on October 24, the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction will offer yet another virtual reunion at 7 a.m. and it will present the 4th, 17th, 19th and 26th Degrees at that time. All brother Masons desiring to take the degrees should contact the Consistory office for petition and related dues details. Despite the uncertainty related to COVID, our Masonic labors can continue unabated this fall while we utilize technology and science to overcome the risks attendant to putting on live degrees.

A quick reminder that the Annual Walk for Dyslexia is, as of the time of writing, still scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. (12 p.m. registration) from the Waterbury Learning Center at 529 Highland Avenue. For up to the minute status reports you can call the Walk Chairman at (203) 755-9179 or (203) 465-0830. A picnic lunch is scheduled after the walk. All proceeds benefit the Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut. If you prefer, you can mail a contribution to Children's Dyslexia Centers, 529 Highland Avenue, Waterbury CT 06708 and note "Walk Contribution."

After having taken his first degree, the newly initiated brother is charged, in part: "... In the state, you are to be a quiet and peaceful subject, true to your government and just to your country; you are not to countenance disloyalty or rebellion but patiently submit to legal authority..." During these trying times this issue has come to the forefront in many localities in our nation. These instructions may become even more relevant in the near future as imponderable and significant changes might manifest in our society and culture. The question arises as to how one should conduct themselves should the conditions become untenable to the conscience of any brother. Clearly the above

charge prohibits disloyalty or rebellion. So what should one do? The answer lies in the Great Light, that trove of wisdom which lies open in each of our lodges, and which hopefully has found a home on your bookshelves. I once again remind you that we are dual entities, merged into a seamless working unity – composed of a temporary physical vehicle which houses our immortal master within.

Romans 13:1-7 reminds us that the individuals or political structure in place are there for a reason. Deity intends that the spiritual master within be given an opportunity to encounter a myriad of circumstances thus enabling the immortal spiritual self to garner experiences with conditions which are both good, bad, liberating, and oppressive. Only if the immortal master experiences oppression and injustice will it not take for granted a subsequent period of liberty and freedom. Deity owns the theater and the political leaders are simply using it to relate an instructive epoch on the souls which are present during this period.

The rulers during any particular epoch determine what is good and bad in their perspective and their imposed legalities (which may greatly stray from the teachings contained in the Great Light). However, the Great Light instructs us to conform to these man made-rules and laws (however distasteful) in order to learn to cope with oppressive environments. During the rule of such political systems one can only expect to be punished for any transgressions of these rules and laws. For example, if I decide to clear cut trees on my property and burn them in open air, the relevant local authorities will cite and fine me because the government in place today deems regulation of tree cutting and the ban on open air burning a good thing. It will do me no good to go before a Superior Court judge to argue that it is my property and my trees and I should be able to do what I desire with them. Another good example is seat belt wearing. I will be the first one to say that a man has a right to eat a windshield if he wants to, but our current government has made it illegal to drive without wearing a seatbelt.

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**Attention all Master Masons!**

**OCTOBER SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES**

Oct. 3 - Virtual Reunion, Degrees: 4, 6, 15, 23  
Opens 7 a.m., Degrees 9 a.m.

Oct. 19 - Stratford Theatre, Degrees: 4, 22, 15  
Video only, Social Distancing, 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 24 - Virtual Reunion, Degrees: 4, 17, 19, 26  
Opens 7 a.m., Degrees 9 a.m.

Please check with the Consistory Office before coming to the Theatre should restrictions arising from COVID-19 cause changes in the schedule.  
Virtual Reunions are online.

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

Continued on page 15

# Our Masonic Obligation

by Andrew Pedro

In the past few months, it has been hard to ignore the current state of our beloved country. Too many instances of division and separation have plagued news outlets and social media alike. This has made it difficult to see the brighter side of things amidst the turmoil of COVID-19. In the coming months America is going to continue to be tested and the people of this country could use any small spark of hope to continue wading through these dark times.

One of the noblest concepts of the United States of America is the idea that all men are created equal. That no matter what your background may be, you have the opportunities to make something of yourself and you have the abilities to follow your dreams. This concept is one of the cornerstones of our institution.

Freemasonry opens its doors to all men, regardless of social status, monetary income, or race. As Masons, we are able to show the country and the world that we are all equal. We are able to show that no matter your political views, your race, or your upbringing, men of all walks of life can have the same respect for each other knowing that we are all on the level.

As we go forward in the coming months, it is up to us to maintain the unity. It will be the small acts of kindness that we as Masons commit every day that keep our communities together in such a harsh time of division. As our nation hurts, it will be the principles and morals that we as Free and Accepted Masons uphold that help heal so many divided hearts.

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## Do Not Countenance Disloyalty or Rebellion

*continued from page 14*

The principle of lawlessness and crass selfishness in many cases underpins this resistance to law. The government in place (for better or worse) determines what is good and bad. Deity has given the authorities the right to determine what is Right and Wrong during their tenure of rulership. Romans 13:5 reminds us that we are to obey these rules or otherwise we will be subject to the penalties attendant to non-compliance, and we will lack a clear conscience. The lack of a clear conscience leads to a ceaseless penalty of ongoing worry, doubt and stress thus subjecting our soul's "vehicle" to an accelerated wear and tear, jeopardizing our longevity, and perhaps abbreviating the time which our soul can do its work on the mundane plane.

Romans 13 illuminates the concept that disobedience to authority will eventually bear unavoidable adverse consequences. The same goes with the taxing authority of the government in 13:7. Since governments rule as a result of Deific providence, revolt or disobedience against the government is in fact an act against Deity, whose proxy that government is for a finite period of time.

None of this relates to the issue of changing or reformulating the government as it may be currently constituted, however we can now see the root and reason for this part of the E.A. charge and what it intends to impart.

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

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or any member of the Valley.

# Hartford Chapter No. 56, National Sojourners Inc., Officer Installation

by William L. Greene

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hartford Chapter No. 56, National Sojourners, Inc., has continued meeting via Zoom virtual meetings. Using guidelines set forth by Brother and Col. Robert W. Roth, USA (Ret), national president, the chapter is able to hold all meetings, conduct business, elect the officers for 2020-2021, and conduct the Installation of officers.

This was a great way to conduct business and more importantly stay connected with good fellowship and fun sharing of events in our lives. In addition, an unexpected advantage to Zoom meetings was that members who live a long way from Connecticut were able to attend meetings for the first time in a long time, some for many years!

Installation of officers was done at the June meeting and the installing officer and installing marshal was Brother and Lt. Col. William G.L. Turner (Ret), past national president. The remainder of the installing team were members of Hartford Chapter No. 56. Brother Bill did an outstanding job conducting the ceremonies using the standard installation ceremony, modified as necessary, for virtual means. All the officers of Hartford Chapter No. 56 and William Ledyard Camp, Heroes of '76 were installed.

We believe that even when this terrible virus is over, the chapter may use this virtual method for a meeting from time to time so that our out-of-state members can enjoy meeting together.



*The Connecticut Freemasons received the following letter to the editor referencing the Grand Masters' Joint Statement that appeared in the July issue:*

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I have been reading the recent issue of the Connecticut Freemason, July 2020 and was taken aback by the third paragraph on page 4, stating that the late Gail L. Smith was an early champion of mutual recognition in the 1970s. While this is no doubt factual information, I would like to comment that it was the 1964/65 Grand Master, Irving E. Partridge, Jr. who first instigated the action to bring fellowship and brotherhood with the Prince Hall Masons and the Connecticut Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. I personally treasure the beautiful silver-plated serving tray presented to my father-in-law at the time

by the Prince Hall Masons. Irving E. Partridge, Jr. was a leader in the spirit of brotherhood. He and his lovely wife, Mary, were also the first Grand Master of Masons to have a private interview with Pope Paul.

I treasure his memory and felt the need to make this comment.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Martha Angrave Partridge,

P.M. Wethersfield Chapter No. 97, OES (now a part of Good Intent Chapter)

Emerita Trustee, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice

P.S. I also send kudos to JP Venoit and all at Masonicare for their dedication and accomplishments of all at MHH&H during these stressful times of COVID-19.

## District 1

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



## Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3 Discovers Photo of Original Lodge Building

by James D'Acosta

Worshipful Master Andrew Flasko discovered this photo of Fidelity-St. John's Lodge's original building. Established in 1762 in Fairfield, Fidelity-St. John's is one of America's oldest lodges. In this current era of specially designed Masonic buildings, seeing this family home supplements common knowledge of early meetings in taverns and enriches the understanding of the evolution of the Craft in the United States.





## King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 Supports "Spread The Light"

by Richard Miska

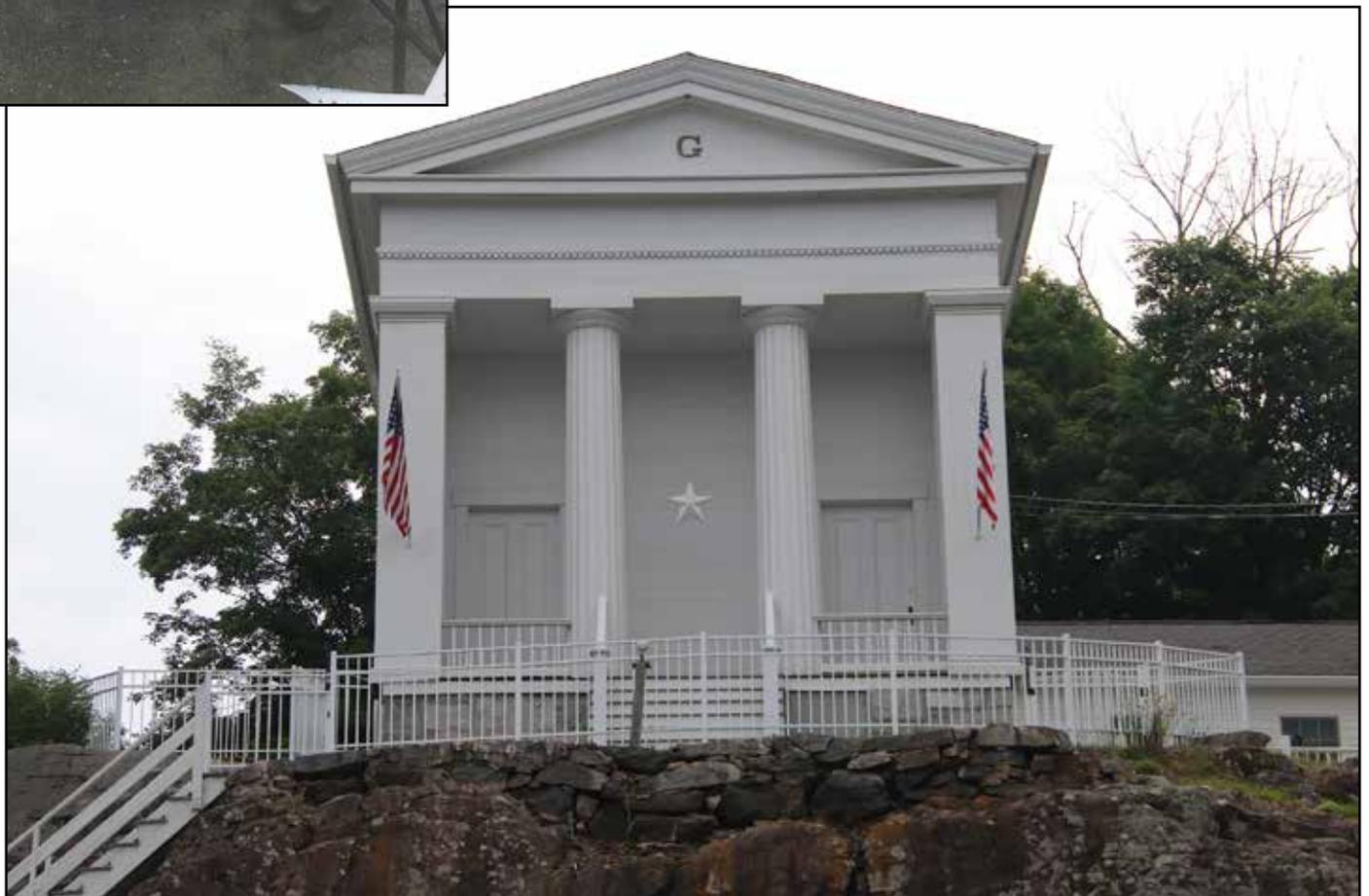


King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 proudly presented a \$400 check to Robert Taylor, president of the Woodbury Community Services Council, in support of their "Spread the Light" campaign. The "Spread the Light" campaign helps restock the shelves of the Food Bank which have been depleted to levels not seen in a long time due to the pandemic.

As a thank you for the donation, King Solomon's Lodge was given a "Spread the Light" star to hang from the lodge during the July 4th holiday.

The Council will hang a similar star on one of the town greens on behalf of King Solomon's Lodge with the following dedication: "Thank you to all of those who have selflessly donated their time helping others in this time of need."

The lodge has always been a shining beacon on the rock, and now has a star hanging proudly in the portico to cast even more light to those around us.



Continued on page 19

## Traveling Apron - St Paul's Lodge No. 11

by Ricky McDonnell

When I affiliated with St Paul's Lodge No. 11 in Litchfield, being the only Englishman, the Brethren jumped at the chance for me to research an apron that had come into their possession from a local chap, Mr. Fred Tieman.

The apron was in a bad state, folded into an envelope bearing 'ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE' on the front, a wax seal on the reverse, a date stamp that alluded to the year but not century, and an address. I was also handed a note with a soldier's name, Corporal Sydney John Walker, and a synopsis of his short career. Easy to trace right? No.

Having been in the UK Services, I was able to determine that this envelope had been sent in September 1885, probably from Corporal Sydney John Walker's Army regiment, The 19th Hussars.

After extensive research of local lodges in Liverpool, Manchester (family was traced there from Liverpool), the garrison town of Aldershot, and eventually the UGLE Librarian, it transpired that no such man had been a Freemason in England at, or around, the date in question.

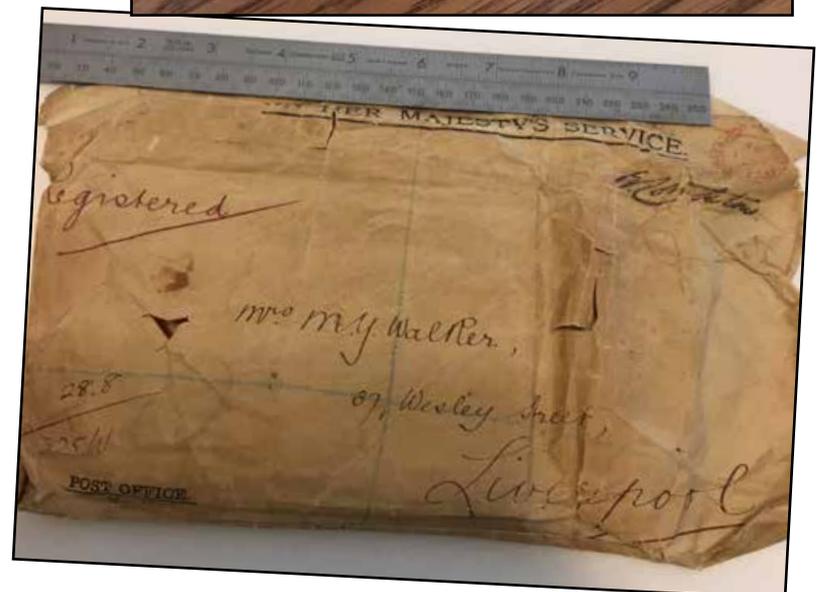
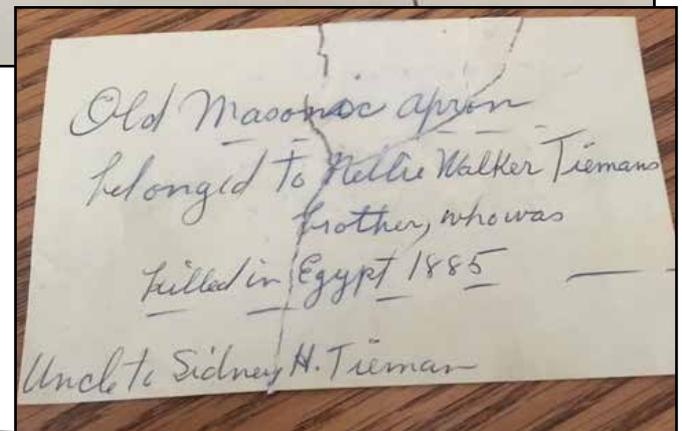
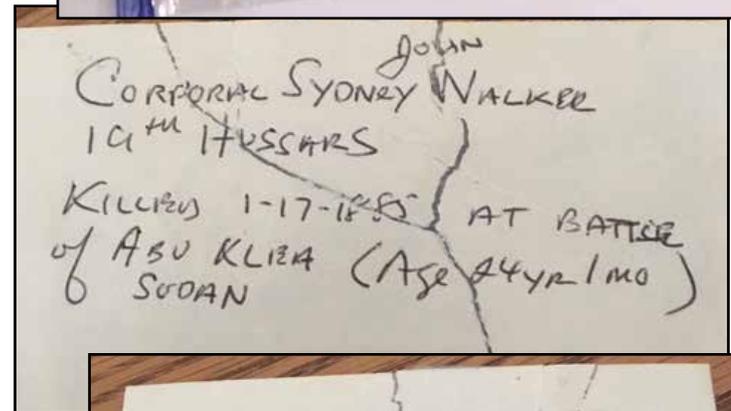
Here is the history:

Corporal Walker was a member of the 19th Hussars on his way, with his regiment and others, (1,100 troops in all) to help relieve General Gordon at Khartoum. On the way by the most direct route they were ambushed by 12,000 Sudanese fighters, sustaining 74 deaths, and killing 1,100 Sudanese over a 15-minute firefight. Seems a short time but a firefight of that intensity must have been absolutely horrifying. The full story can be read online with many interesting details.

I was able to share some of Corporal Walker's documents with his great grandson, Fred, among which was an IOU for £30 - quite a large sum in those days. Unfortunately, this document did not have a name attached, so the rest of the story is conjecture. A Freemason holds his apron in such high regard that I believe he would have given it to Corporal Walker as a surety of being repaid; unfortunately, this was not to happen, but the apron continued through his possessions until it arrived at my cluttered desk.

Although somewhat sad that we couldn't place the apron, St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, shall mount it in a frame just to give honor to what surely must be a Freemason's integrity and the sad loss of a hero from the past.

Also, I received certificates, belonging to Fred Tieman's wife, from the Grand Lodge of Scotland for Master Mason and Mark Master Mason for Brother William Lindsay of Lodge St. Mirrin, Paisley, Scotland - her great grandfather. This lodge is still light so I shall return them when I am next in Scotland, hopefully next year.



# District 9

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



## Moriah Lodge No. 15 Serves Free Spaghetti Dinners *by Edward C. Page*

Moriah Lodge No. 15 embarked on a mission to help their community during these unprecedented times. Many individuals and families have been hit deeply with significant impact to all aspects of normal personal life. As a small, sleepy, New England town, Brooklyn holds great character in its residents, with great pride and profound dignity. To that end, Moriah Lodge wanted to demonstrate that their friends and neighbors were not alone and to show its appreciation to the community it serves, and that has supported its efforts over the many years.

On Sunday July 12, at the first public event held at the lodge since the COVID-19 pandemic engulfed our planet, the lodge offered a free meal to the community. All food was donated by an anonymous brother to ease the financial stress on the lodge itself, as it too struggles financially. With the fine leadership of Worshipful Master, Adam Feeny, a plan was developed, clearly documented, presented, accepted, and executed to safeguard not only the general public, but the brothers and families that attended the event.

Local residents entered the property in their cars and followed ground markings to direct them. Orders were taken (number of meals), contact tracing documentation was obtained, and meals were prepared and delivered, with the resident never leaving their automobiles. Upon the guest's exit there was a final sign simply by saying, "Thank You." Personal protective equipment was worn at all times by the staff, from the time they entered the property to the time the event concluded.

Over 60 free spaghetti meals were provided to the community; using six pounds of hamburger, over four gallons of sauce, 16 pounds of spaghetti, eight pounds of premixed salad, six loaves of bread, and two large watermelons. Deliveries were also made to elderly shut-in's and other local residents. Although donations were offered, they were not accepted, as this was an opportunity for giving to the community to show the lodge's respect and understanding in these difficult times.

The success of the event was truly a team effort with WB Adam Feeny and his daughter Shea; Senior Warden Robert Scharlack, his wife Mary and son Brian; Junior Warden Greg Messier (on-site cook); Brothers Ray Kneriem, Leo Remilard, John Glenn II, and RWB Edward Page.



# NCT Holds State Rally

National Camping Travelers recently held their State Rally at the home of Ray and Sue Geer in North Stonington. Since the members of the Connecticut Chapter of this Masonic Family Camping Club had been working in Wallingford for Grand Masters day, rather than having the traditional camp-out, this group has held a camp-in for several years. The rally comes with one of the best barbecue dinners in the state. As we coming out of the quarantine restrictions of COVID-19, just being together as a Masonic family feels really good for everyone.

Some tough decisions had to be made about our plans for two big events the club usually hosts. One is our Annual Turkey Roast, which is now cancelled in its original form. The club will have a campout from October 16-18.

The second event is our Annual Toy Drive for St. Mary's Hospital ER Pediatric Unit in Waterbury with a brunch at the Dakota restaurant. At this time the Dakota is closed. But we are still accepting toys for the little ones and we will pick up donated toys. The Order of the Eastern Star in Connecticut has partnered with NCT for several years now. This drive has been a success every year with their cooperation along with Massachusetts NCT members, and more recently the Grand Lodge office staff. The need is still there. It's just a matter of changing how we get the toys. If you would like to donate toys, please email [patk4Labs@gmail.com](mailto:patk4Labs@gmail.com).



# Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr.

I hope that each and every one of you got a chance to enjoy the summer months as some of the restrictions that had been placed upon us were lifted, to do more things outside, visit with family and friends, and enjoy a few cookouts.

However, for some that was not the case, as far too many families suffered from the deaths of our fellow Scottish Rite brothers. We extend our deepest sympathy to all of them. Due to COVID-19, we were not able to pay our last respects, or attend wakes or funerals. Rest in peace our fellow and faithful brethren.

Since we are still unable to gather in fellowship, I hope you are taking advantage of and enjoying the live streaming that Supreme Council is using to help you enjoy the degrees that you might have missed.

Also, the Valley of Hartford is now using Zoom so you can be informed and attend meetings from home. The initial trial run appeared to be a great success as it was used for the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, that had been postponed from May.

The meeting was held on July 23. Following the opening reading of reports, the election took place. The newly elected officers are:

Charter Oak Lodge of Perfection: Thrice Potent Master Ill. Jeffery A. Flynn, 33rd; Deputy Master Ill. Earl Evans, 33rd, MSA; Senior Warden Charles M. Jewart; and Junior Warden Mark E. Blackaby.

Hartford Council Princes of Jerusalem: Sovereign Prince Kevin W. Stuck; High Priest, Paul D. Catanzaro; Senior Warden Robert V. Dynak; and Junior Warden Darryle J. Boyd, Jr.

Cyrus Goodell Chapter of Rose Croix: Most Wise Master Robert B. McKay; Senior Warden Jonathan Hibbard; and Junior Warden Deepak C. Saluru.

Nathan Hale Consistory S.P.R.S.: Commander-in-Chief, Ill. Richard R. Jones, Jr., 33rd; 1st Lieut. Commander, Walter Grube, MSA; 2nd Lieut. Commander, Alphonse Wright.

Valley Secretary Tony Angelica; Treasurer Ill. Anthony F. Keegan, 33rd and the following 33rd Degree brothers to serve on the Executive Committee: Ill. John F. Kessler, 33rd; Ill Robert A. Simon, 33rd MSA; and Ill. Gordon C. Willoughby, Jr., 33rd.

We were not able to hold several of our normal spring and summer activities. One of the more important activities is the summer picnic where we recognize, and present college scholarships to children and grandchildren of our members. This year the Valley received 32 application with one being rejected because it was incomplete. The Valley awarded four Abbott Scholarships of \$ 1,000 and 27 Valley of Hartford Scholarships of \$500 each.

Unfortunately, the Annual 5K Race/Walk to support our Valley of Hartford's Children's Dyslexia Center did not take place. When you pay your 2021 Valley of Hartford dues, sent out in a mailing from the Supreme Council in late July, please consider adding a small donation to support this annual event.

And please consider your support by using the giving tree on the wall in the lobby of our Scottish Rite Cathedral. For donations of \$10 or \$20 can put your name, or that of a family member, friend, or a business name on the tree. All donations are tax deductible and go to help support the Valley of Hartford's Children's Dyslexia Center. Make the checks payable to the Valley of Hartford, note that it is a donation to the giving tree, and list the name that you would like to be placed on the leaf.

As of the time of submission, the Valley is still not open for live portrayals of degrees. However, there are plans to show a movie in September, "The Man Who Would Be King" with limited participation.

Also, the 32nd degree will be held for candidates who were deprived of receiving the final degree in April. Only the candidates, selected officers, and key members, will be allowed to attend, to comply with state and Supreme Council guidelines. The degree will be a DVD presentation.

Please note that the Supreme Council will be holding several one-day classes for new membership in the Scottish Rite. Watch for the future email announcements from the Valley secretary or in the next issue of the Connecticut Freemasons.

**ANCIENT ACCEPTED  
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visiting the Supreme Council, NMJ,  
website: [www.scottishritenmj.org](http://www.scottishritenmj.org)

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

---

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

# LEGISLATION

## Item 1

### Committee on Legal Matters

#### Section 2102 and 3202. Nominations Prohibited

October 2020

#### **Discussion:**

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

#### **Proposed change:**

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

#### **Existing provision:**

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

Continued on page 24

# LEGISLATION

## Item 2 Committee on Legal Matters Section 3007. Returns to Grand Lodge October 2020

### Discussion:

With the implementation of Grand View for our membership database, the proposed changes are being made to reflect the Secretary entry of changes within Grand View rather than completing the paper returns historically done. This proposed change is offered by the Grand Secretary.

### Proposed change:

Section 3007. Returns to Grand Lodge. On or before the 10th day of each calendar month, except as hereinafter provided, each Lodge Secretary shall electronically submit into the Grand Lodge database all work done in the Lodge in the previous calendar month, including the full names, addresses, telephone numbers and complete dates of rejections, Entered Apprentice Degree, Fellowcraft Degree, Master Mason Degree, affiliations, reinstatements, dismissions, suspensions or expulsions for un-Masonic conduct and deaths. The Degree dates are submitted each time the Degree is conferred. Returns shall be required for all months. If there is no reportable activity for the previous calendar month, the Lodge Secretary shall notify the Grand Secretary by the 10th day of the month.

On or before the 10th day of January in each year, every Lodge Secretary shall electronically submit into the Grand Lodge database the "ANNUAL RETURN" forms which is intended to comprise reports which are only submitted annually. Therefore, the Annual Return packet of forms currently is made up of:

1. The Official Directory Report,
2. The Lodge Officers Report,
3. The Non-Payment of Dues (NPD) Report, and
4. The Exemption Report.

All monthly and annual returns shall be kept on file as a permanent record in the Grand Lodge Office.

The Grand Secretary may direct a lodge(s) to submit written reports as he deems necessary.

### Existing provision:

Section 3007. Returns to Grand Lodge. On or before the 10th day of each calendar month, except as hereinafter provided, each Lodge shall transmit to the Grand Secretary, on a form supplied by him, a monthly return of all work done in the Lodge in the previous calendar month, including the full names, addresses, telephone numbers and complete dates of rejections, Entered Apprentice Degree, Fellowcraft Degree, Master Mason Degree, affiliations, reinstatements, dismissions, suspensions or expulsions for un-Masonic conduct and deaths. The Degree dates are submitted each time the Degree is conferred. No return shall be required for the months of July and August, but the work for said months shall be combined with the return for the month of September, exception being a death or address change when they become known to the Secretary. Lodges of Research will file reports only following the months that they meet.

*Continued on page 25*

# LEGISLATION

## Item 3

### Committee on Legal Matters

#### Section 3008(c). Grand Lodge Dues and Per Capita Assessments

October 2020

#### Discussion:

Grand Lodge Per Capita assessments are due by the 10th of March and September. Given the timing to complete the taxable membership and invoicing as well as lodge closure during July and August, the proposal extends the payment deadline to the last day of the respective months. This proposal is being made by the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary.

#### Proposed change:

- c. Grand Lodge Dues and Per Capita Assessments:
  - 1. Any Regular Lodge failing to transmit to the Grand Secretary at least one half of its Grand Lodge dues and per capita assessments, on or before the **31st** of March of each year shall incur a penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each month or portion thereof that the payment is late. The penalty is in addition to the payment due. 10/05
  - 2. Any Regular Lodge failing to transmit to the Grand Secretary the remainder on or before the **30th** day of September of each year, shall incur a penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each month or portion thereof that the payment is late. The penalty is in addition to the payment due. 10/05

#### Existing provision:

- c. Grand Lodge Dues and Per Capita Assessments:
  - 1. Any Regular Lodge failing to transmit to the Grand Secretary at least one half of its Grand Lodge dues and per capita assessments, on or before the 10th of March of each year shall incur a penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each month or portion thereof that the payment is late. The penalty is in addition to the payment due. 10/05
  - 2. Any Regular Lodge failing to transmit to the Grand Secretary the remainder on or before the 10th day of September of each year, shall incur a penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each month or portion thereof that the payment is late. The penalty is in addition to the payment due. 10/05

Continued on page 26

# LEGISLATION

**Item 4**  
**Committee on Legal Matters**  
**Section 3008. Penalty for Failure to Make Returns**  
**October 2020**

**Discussion:**

The current regulation assessing a late payment penalty for supplies and paraphernalia is set at \$2.00 per month if the invoice is not paid within 60-days. The penalty applies whether the unpaid balance is \$10.00 or \$150.00. The proposed change is intended to eliminate the nominal \$2.00 per month penalty and simply allow suspension of any further services until the past due amounts are paid. The proposal also changes subsection (g) to clarify this applies to other invoicing not specifically enumerated within Section 3008. This proposal is being made by the Grand Treasurer.

**Proposed change:**

- g. Supplies, services and other miscellaneous invoices:

Invoices from the Grand Lodge, whose payment terms are not specifically addressed within the Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations, are to be paid within sixty days of the invoice date. Past due balances of lodge(s) and member(s) may result in suspension of the account until the outstanding past due balances owed Grand Lodge are paid.

**Existing provision:**

- g. Supplies and Paraphernalia:

Bills for supplies and paraphernalia purchased from the Grand Lodge are payable within sixty days of the mailing date of the original invoice from the Grand Lodge. This applies to a Lodge purchase or a purchase by an individual. A penalty of a \$2.00 processing fee per calendar month shall be added to each unpaid overdue billing invoice until the payment is received by the Grand Secretary.

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

STEPHEN W. PETRI  
Grand Master 2020  
69 Masonic Avenue  
Wallingford, CT 06492



OFFICE  
203.679.5903  
CELL / TEXT  
203.249.0783  
[spetri@ctfreemasons.net](mailto:spetri@ctfreemasons.net)

July 31, 2020

My Brothers, Family and Friends,

It is the core principle of Freemasonry to contribute to relief of poor and distressed Master Masons, their wives, widows, and orphans. Since its inception in 1789, this principle has guided the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. In our desire to serve our Brothers and families, as well as the communities in which we live, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Connecticut created the CT Freemasons Foundation, its 501(c)3 charitable arm.

It is my honor this year to appeal to you to support the vital charitable activities of our Foundation, by making a tax-deductible contribution to the CT Freemasons Foundation. I have singled out three activities for your special consideration.

- First is the **Matching Grant Program**. It is designed to encourage Lodges to actively support charitable causes in their local communities by having the Foundation match the cash gifts made by the Lodges to those charities. The size and scope of this activity will depend on the support you give to it in this Appeal. The goal is to raise enough to match the first \$1,000, dollar for dollar, and next \$1,000 on a fifty cent per dollar basis.
- Second is the **Masonic Model Student Assistance Program (MMSAP)**. This is a highly successful 35-year old program which MWB Ted Nelson has reintroduced to Connecticut. Offered free to teachers and school administrators, it expands our commitment to protecting children as demonstrated by our CT Chip program. The MMSAP seminar described in the June 2019 issue of Connecticut Freemasons was so successful that we received a request by a school district to sponsor one exclusively for that district.
- Third is our **Grand Almoner's Fund**. As mentioned above, we are reminded continually of the importance of providing for "the relief of poor distressed Master Masons, their widows and orphans." Our Almoners provide a focus for ensuring this duty is carried out and the fund is an important element of that relief.

The Grand Master's appeal supports many other charitable activities which are described in the appeal brochure that was mailed to all brothers. Additional information on these programs, as well as an opportunity to contribute through PayPal can be found on the Grand Lodge website at [www.ctfreemasons.net](http://www.ctfreemasons.net).

Fraternally,

Grand Master 2020

*CT Freemasons Foundation is a 501(c)3 corporation organized to accept tax deductible contributions. Your gift may be restricted by either checking a box below or designating your specific charitable goal in the memo section of your check.*

**NOTE: Donations can be made via PayPal on the Grand Lodge website [www.CTFreemasons.net](http://www.CTFreemasons.net).**

XXX

XXX

**Make check payable to: CT Freemasons Foundation – P.O. Box 69, Wallingford, CT 06492-0069**

To assist the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation in their ongoing work, I/we donate to the Grand Master's Appeal as follows:

- Matching Grant Program
- Masonic Model Student Assist Program (MMSAP)
- Grand Almoner's Fund
- Other – please note in the memo section of your check

Donation Amount: Check # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If your donation is "in honor of" or "in memory of" (circle one) a loved one, please include their name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send notice of my gift to: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please have some contact me about how to include the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation as a beneficiary in my will. \_\_\_\_\_

CT CME SUMMER MASONIC READING EVENT

# JOIN US IN MASONIC SUMMER READING!

**THE MEANING OF MASONRY BY WALTER LESLIE  
WILSMHURST**

Join us in discussion throughout the summer as we dissect the thoughts of this great book about Masonry. Keep your brain at labor this summer!

Join us on Facebook in the Masonic Education Group. We will be having a LIVE disucssion show about the book on September 24th at 7:30pm on Facebook. Be part of the conversation and bring it back to your lodge!



The book is public domain and it is easy to find an older print copy or a free .pdf online.

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/CMEOFCT](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cmeofct)

# Masonic Summer Reading with the CME

by Nicholas H. Ives

This summer the Committee for Masonic Education wants to give you an outlet whereby you are able to think deeply about Masonry in a COVID appropriate manner. Many of us, as school children, participated in some form of summer reading. Even though we were out on the beach or the lake, we could take a few moments each day to stimulate our minds with a good book. While getting together in person has become a challenge this year, we can still use virtual means to connect with each other and talk about how Masonry can truly make us better men.

The CME will be reading Wilmshurt's *The Meaning of Masonry* this summer and leading discussion around the book. Personally, I found this book in the public library before I petitioned Meridian Lodge No. 77. It inspired me to think about the deeper meaning of life and how I could be more reflective through Masonry. While each of us will view the work differently due to differences in our life circumstances, the core values in the middle help us to discover the essence of Freemasonry.

We also chose this book because it is inexpensive -- the free PDF is available online as well as on Kindle. A paperback copy

on Amazon costs less than \$6. There are many in your libraries as well, deposited by our brothers years ago.

As you read the book, we will be posting prompts on the Masonic Education group of the CT Freemasons page on Facebook. Our goal will be to stimulate great discussions among Masons. We will begin those prompts in mid-August. On September 24, at 7:30 p.m. we will be producing a live show highlighting some of the topics and discussions the committee has had. You can watch that on Facebook as well. We hope you will contribute questions and comments to the show as we go along. If you have never been in a book club before it will be a great example of how you can bring that to your lodge, whether in person or online.

If you are a brother who craves Freemasonry and really feels like something is missing right now, this program might be a great way to reconnect with your craft. There are no "right answers" to a book discussion, the value is in seeing multiple perspectives and sharing yours. We hope you will join us!

## CANCELLATIONS

The Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star in Connecticut has suspended all subordinate chapter meetings through December 31, 2020, due to concerns about safety and welfare of its members during the coronavirus pandemic. The Worthy Grand Matron Jennifer L. Willich, and Worthy Grand Patron William L. Greene, are encouraging members to continue with virtual social gatherings.

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## Can I Help?

by Jennifer Cray, New England Donor Services Volunteer Program Manager

There are many people currently facing unprecedented challenges due to the coronavirus pandemic and many are seeking out opportunities to help others during these difficult times.

I work for the organ procurement organization (OPO) for New England. We coordinate organ and tissue donation in the six New England states and Bermuda. Our organization serves thousands of donor families each year who have generously made the decision to donate and honors the wishes of those who registered as donors and gave the gift of life. We are also responsible for increasing the number of registered donors in our service area.

In my profession I am often asked, "Can I help?" and the answer is always YES – by registering to be an organ and tissue donor! However, some still question if they are too old or if their health would prohibit them from being a donor. The fact is, there is no age limit for registering to be an organ and tissue donor. One of the oldest organ donors in the U.S. was 92. He was able to donate his liver which saved the life a women in her late 60's. Being older doesn't mean you can't be a donor.

Also, someone's prior medical history may not prohibit them from being able to help others through donation. Medical professionals will determine at the individual's time of death which organs and/or tissues would be suitable for donation and ultimately safe for transplantation.

We are hearing wonderful stories about "acts of kindness" and people searching for ways to help others. One of the easiest ways we can all help is by signing up to be an organ & tissue donor. This gives hope to the more than 110,000 critically ill patients in our country who are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. There is no greater act of kindness than sharing the Gift of Life.

Let's help each other by joining the donor registry at RegisterMe.org and say YES to donation each time you renew your driver's license or state ID. You can learn more about organ and tissue donation at NEDS.org or DonateLife.net.



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# The Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences: Arithmetic

by Jaime Paul Lamb

*Arithmetic teaches the powers and properties of numbers; which is variously effected by letters, tables, figures, and instruments. By this art reasons and demonstrations are given for finding out any certain number, whose relation or affinity to others is already known.*

-William Preston, Illustrations of Masonry

Arithmetic (Greek: ἀριθμός; *arithmos* meaning “number” and *téchne* meaning “art”) has been defined as “a branch of mathematics that deals usually with the non-negative real numbers including sometimes the transfinite cardinals and with the application of the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to them.” This science is the central component of what is now technically referred to as *number theory* – a term which has largely supplanted arithmetic since the early 20th century. Number theory is the branch of pure (abstract) mathematics devoted to the study of integers (non-fractional numbers), of which Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1855) commented “mathematics is the queen of the sciences – and number theory is the queen of mathematics.” Though, traditionally, the four operations of arithmetic are: addition (+), subtraction (-), multiplication (×) and division (÷), these are sometimes augmented by percentage manipulations, exponentiation and logarithmic functions.

By the dawn of the 2nd millennium BCE, we find definitive written evidence of arithmetical operations and, by 1850 BCE, a fully developed system appearing in ancient Mesopotamia. A short time later, we begin to see evidence of an algorithm for multiplication as well as the use of unit fractions in the *Rhind Mathematical Papyrus* dating from 1650 BCE, in Ancient Egypt. The numerical glyphs of the Mesopotamians and Egyptians are, like the later system of Roman numerals, clearly descended from simple tally marks, such as those used for counting. Because all of these systems initially lacked positional notation (a place-value concept, such as the one’s, ten’s and hundred’s place in the decimal system), complex operations had to be calculated using counting boards (precursor to the abacus; a stone or wood surface with bead or pebble markers) and, later, the widespread use of abaci.

Some common number systems possessing a positional notation include the decimal (base 10) and the sexagesimal (base 60) system. The decimal system was widely used by ancient cultures such as the Greek, Roman, Brahmin and Hebrew; probably having its origins in the method of counting using the fingers and thumbs on both hands. The sexagesimal system, though not commonly used in computational or logical applications, is perhaps the more important of these systems, as it is central to understanding and communicating our experience in and of the cosmos, in the broadest sense.

The sexagesimal number system, which was developed by the Sumerians in the 3rd millennium BCE, is the base system of such fundamental concepts as degrees, planar angles, hours, minutes and seconds; it is used to quantify our spatial and temporal orientation; it forms the quantitative basis of the method by which we organize and navigate our experiences in space-time. The Sumerians understood one annual solar circuit to be approximately 360 days, rounding down very slightly. This observation led to their seeing each day as one degree of that cycle. Ecliptically, one degree of the Sun’s apparent path around the Earth is divided into 60 arc-minutes, and one arc-minute is divided into 60 arc-seconds – which is the method by which we describe the location of celestial objects and events in modern astrophysics. Temporally, one hour is divided into 60 minutes, and one minute is divided into 60 seconds – which are minute subdivisions of the Earth’s rotation and revolution. Geometrically, there are a total of 360° (six 60° arc segments) in a circle – which is how we quantify the angles of any given polygon. The operative and speculative denominations of Masonry have also made much use of the sexagesimal system, as they both utilize the system of degrees based upon the divisions of a 360° circle, as established by the Sumerians.

In the second half of the 6th century BCE, arithmetic was combined with three other quantitative mathematical sciences, into what was collectively known to the Pythagoreans as the *mathemata*; these arts included arithmetic, geometry, harmonics (music) and astronomy, and corresponded to the later quadrivium. In the Pythagorean context, arithmetic (as well as the other subjects within the scope of *mathemata*) overlapped with philosophy and mysticism, often being couched in metaphysical terms. In the Hellenistic Period, it wasn’t until the work of Euclid (4th century BCE) that we see mathematics as being divorced from its mystical interpretations and treated as a discrete physical science. Slightly later, in his *Introduction to Arithmetic*, Nichomachus of Gerasa (60-120 CE) reintroduced mystical, Pythagorean perspectives to arithmetical operations by using the language of philosophy rather than that of formal equations. The work also leans heavily on the Platonic idea of number existing in corporeal realms or abstract planes – which is not quite as mystical as it sounds, since pure mathematics deals only with abstractions, as opposed to its applied forms in physics and engineering.

If the reader would like, they could, perhaps, devote this month (until the publication of the article on Geometry, next month) to becoming aware of the wide role arithmetic plays in our lives; from balancing the family checkbook to the contemplation of the Pythagorean monad, dyad, triad and tetrad of the Tetraktys.

# BOOSTERS

*Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: August 16, 2020*

*An asterisks next to your name indicates that your support in the Booster list expires in one month. Please consider renewing your support of the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper at your current rate or at the next level up.*

*After reviewing all of the receipts for Boosters, the lists are the Boosters who are current (i.e., within the 11 issue window). If your name does not appear and you feel that you should be on the list, please contact us. **Note: Booster support is not deductible as a charitable contribution under IRC Section 170(c).***

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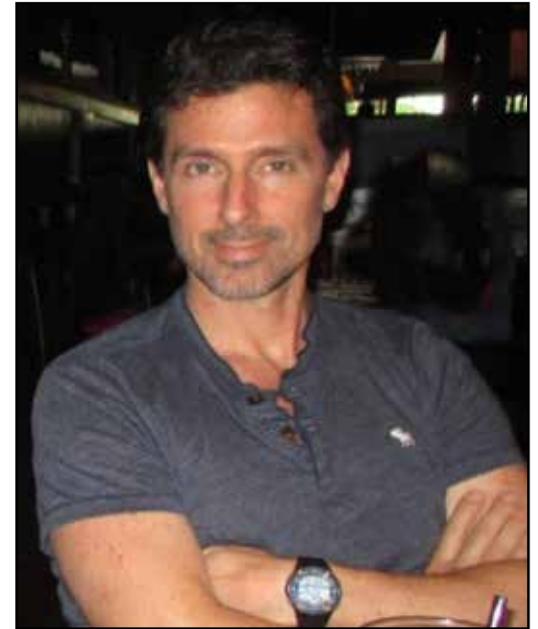
You spoke and we listened. There is now a PayPal dropdown *Connecticut Freemasons* **Booster** form on the Grand Lodge home page (ctfreemasons.net) just below the PDF version of the paper. Use the dropdown to select your level, click the "Pay Now" button and then follow the directions. You can pay with credit or debit cards or a PayPal account. The funds are used to help cover the printing and mailing expenses of the paper.

# Grand Almoners Zoom Meeting *by Adam J. Plotnick*

On Monday, June 22, the Associate Grand Almoners had a Zoom meeting hosted by RWB Carl Anderson and Brother Douglas Barry. This meeting was open to all Masons. The speaker was Sean Delehant, MA, LCPC-S, CP. Sean earned his graduate degree in Clinical and Community Psychology and is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor in Maryland and Washington, D.C.

The meeting focused on dealing with "these challenging times and the depression and anxiety that might accompany it." Helpful hints were recommended on dealing with depression and stress, socializing safely, the importance of exercise, sleep and healthy eating, building a support network, the possibility of medication, seeking professional counseling support, and managing drug and alcohol consumption. The meeting was followed by questions and answers.

For over 32 years Sean has provided individual, family and group psychotherapy for those struggling with depression, anxiety, and substance misuse. Sean is certified in psychodrama, sociometry, and group psychotherapy. He is a Certified Supervisor in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy, as well as a Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists Approved Supervisor. He is also a Love & Logic Workshop Facilitator. Sean presents as a trainer and educator locally, nationally, and internationally on topics of adjustment concerns, attachment, loss, and grief. Sean is currently a private practitioner serving the community online with counseling, life coaching, training, and supervision. For more information, he can be contacted directly at sean@psybercounseling.com.



*Sean Delehant, MA, LCPC-S, CP*

The Almoners guest speaker in August was Brother and Dr. Donald Schwartz. Bro. Ron is a great resource and had much to offer about COVID-19 and the great medical care that he oversees at Masonicare.

## Grand Lodge of Connecticut GRAND VIEW

### Now You Can See Your Own Masonic Record!

Our 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!

#### 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.

# Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut

by Russell Griswold

The Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization and a Scottish Rite Charity supported by the Masonic Family of Connecticut.

The Children's Dyslexia Center, Waterbury location, is situated at 529 Highland Ave, Waterbury, CT 06708. The Bridgeport location is at 961 Huntington Turnpike, Bridgeport, CT 06610 and the Hartford Area location is at 2 High Street within the Brick Walk Lane entrance #3, Farmington, CT 06032. Tel: (203) 465-0830.

In March, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced lockdowns and closures around the globe, causing the Children's Dyslexia Center of Connecticut to cease face-to-face tutoring operations. They were able to move forward with virtual tutoring, offering one-on-one lessons utilizing Zoom. This format continued for the summer term. We are all very thankful to have the ability to be proactive in these uncertain times.

Our tutoring plans for the fall term remain a work in progress. We are preparing for two scenarios: returning to the Centers for face-to-face tutorial sessions following and adhering to all state and corporate guidelines and regulations OR continuing virtual sessions via Zoom until it is deemed healthy for all to return to our Centers.

The pandemic also impacted some of our regularly scheduled fundraising events. Here too, proactive, alternative approaches to raising funds were employed. If there was ever a time we and our children needed your support, it is now!

Please attend and/or support our annual Dyslexia Awareness Walk. It will be on October 4, with registration starting at 12 p.m. and step off at 1 p.m. The starting location is at the Waterbury Masonic Temple located at 531 Highland Ave, Waterbury, CT 06708. The contact person is Russ Griswold at (203) 768-9533 or by email at docgriz49@gmail.com.

Registration Fees are as follows:

Children under 12: \$5

Ages 12 and older: \$15

Immediate family of two or more: \$25

Donations in the form of checks are payable to the CDC of CT.

***The Mission Statement for the Children's Dyslexia Centers, Inc. is to:***

Provide, free of charge, the highest quality multisensory reading and written language tutorial services for children with dyslexia, through a network of nationally recognized centers of excellence.

Promote and encourage education of tutorial trainees, professionals, and the public, to become resources in teaching children to read.

Advance the body of scientific knowledge of dyslexia through support of clinical research, to improve today's standards and tomorrow's care.



In Connecticut, this mission is carried out free of charge, without regards to race, color, sex, creed, sect, or Masonic affiliation.

We are walking to raise money to help children with dyslexia learn to read and write.

Up to 1 in 5 U.S. children are living with dyslexia. Dyslexia cannot be cured, but it can be overcome. The program offered at the Children's Dyslexia Centers Inc. offers the most effective treatment of its kind in battling this disorder. No one in the nation has a program remotely like it with one-on-one professional tutoring offered to children, and in Connecticut, it is free of charge.

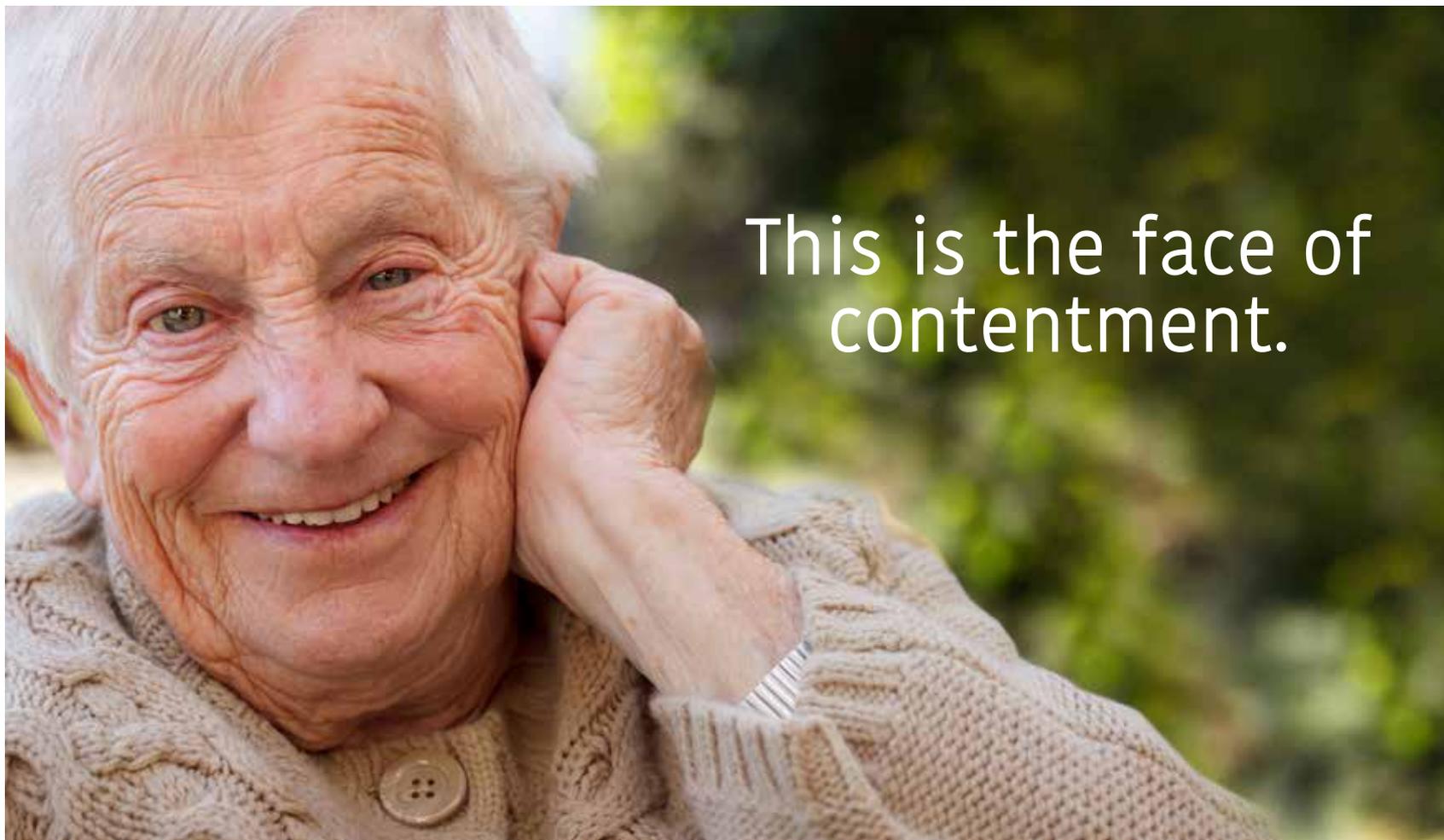
For an up-to-date status on the Walk due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

Visit [childrensdyslexiacenters.org/tutoring\\_waterbury/connecticut/](https://childrensdyslexiacenters.org/tutoring_waterbury/connecticut/).

And visit the Children's Dyslexia Center website [childrensdyslexiacenters.org/tutoring\\_waterbury/connecticut/](https://childrensdyslexiacenters.org/tutoring_waterbury/connecticut/) to learn more about the walk and to check for updates due to COVID-19.

Keeping all of you who attend our fundraiser safe is our highest priority. If you can attend, bring everyone you know and remember that the wearing of masks/face coverings and social distancing is critical for the health and safety of all participants.





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