

October 2020



Connecticut FREEMASONS



*Geometry-Euclid, Astronomy-Ptolemy, Sacred Sciences
and Liberal Arts detail of the Triumph of St. Thomas
Aquinas, Spanish Chapel in Santa Maria Novelia
Principal Dominican church in Florence, Italy.*

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



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Assistant to the Grand Master



Euclid, the father of Geometry



Helping a Brother's Widow



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Not Just a Man. A Mason.



Connecticut
FREEMASONS

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

Geometry treats of the powers and properties of magnitudes in general, where length, breadth, and thickness, are considered. By this science, the architect is enabled to construct his plans; the general, to arrange his soldiers; the engineer, to mark out ground for encampments; the geographer, to give us the dimensions of the world, delineate the extent of seas, and specify the divisions of empires, kingdoms, and provinces; and by it, also, the astronomer is enabled to make his observations, and fix the durations of times and seasons, years and cycles. In short, Geometry is the foundation of architecture, and the root of the mathematics.

William Preston, *Illustrations of Masonry*

Geometry (from *geo* meaning “earth” and *metron* meaning “measurement”) is defined as “a branch of mathematics that deals with the measurement, properties, and relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces, and solids.” The origins of this science may be traced to several disparate early cultures in an effort to quantify lengths, areas and volumes. Specifically, the recorded history of geometrical works dealing with the science’s application in astronomy, surveying and construction begins in Mesopotamia and Egypt in the 2nd millennium BCE. That the word geometry literally means “earth measurement” is indicative of its origin in these first applications – specifically in regard to astronomical observation, since it is only by segmenting the ecliptic into its current sexagesimal divisions that the Sumerians arrived at the concept of a circle having 360°. Some authors, however, have attributed the impetus for the development of the science to surveying land and delineating agricultural tracts.

The sexagesimal number system is central to understanding and communicating our experience in and of the cosmos and, thereby, the geography of the Earth. This system was first conceptualized by the ancient Sumerians who observed the length of the solar year and thereby quantified the 360° of the ecliptic – yielding very close to one degree per day. This astronomical orientation provided mankind with the first practical frame of reference by which he could describe the position of celestial and, consequently, terrestrial objects in space. This model was subsequently applied to our planar angles, hours, minutes, seconds, and forms the very foundation upon which geometrical theory was erected. For it was only by establishing the 360° of a circle that we have recourse to this system which enables us to describe, say, the 60° angles of an equilateral triangle, the 120° angles of a hexagon, and the 90° angle of a square, or “the fourth part of a circle.”

The first of the pre-Socratic philosophers in the 7th century BCE, Thales is credited with using geometrical formulæ to discern the height of the pyramids and the distance of ships from the shoreline; he also used geometrical principles in deductive reasoning. A geometrical proof for the latter application was described in the third book of Euclid’s *Elements* (the 31st Proposition), wherein it is stated that the diameter of a circle always subtends a right angle to any point on the perimeter of a circle. This may also be described using the Masonic *Point Within A Circle* diagram, wherein a diametric line is drawn through the center point and another point is drawn on the perimeter; if a line is drawn from the two extremities of the diametric line to the point on the

Continued on page 5

Grand Master's Message

by Stephen W. Petri



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SUMMER?

I cannot believe how quickly the spring and summer have passed. Without the usual markers and milestones that are created by our social interactions, this year had just flown by in what feels like an instant. I cannot believe it is autumn.

BROKEN RECORD

Brothers, again you are reminded “As an Entered Apprentice; what come you here to do?” I continue to receive complaints about brothers foisting their political viewpoints upon other members of the craft and the public in general. This is happening in person, via emails and most especially on social media. I must again remind all brothers that political commentary and religious discussion are prohibited. In these polarized and contentious times, the continued rhetoric only hurts personal relationships that our membership, communities, and this country rely upon. Denigrating people who have opposing ideas is playing into the hands of extremists (from all sides) and foreign nations who seek to divide our society by flooding social media with disinformation, conspiracy theories, and incitements to violence.

The disregard for the tenants of Freemasonry, brotherly love, meeting on the square, and the prohibitions on discussing politics or religion is damaging Freemasonry and this country. Again, I urge brothers to stop the political rants. My weekly Zoom meeting with the North-East Grand Masters ranging from North Carolina to Maine and out to Ohio report the same concern that this issue is deeply damaging to Freemasonry.

Fellowship is the foundation upon which the temple of Freemasonry is built. It needs to be solid and strong to keep the structure from collapsing.

Meet your brothers where you agree, and where you disagree let it pass.

OCTOBER SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION

This continues to be a unique year in many ways, which makes thinking “out of the box” a standard procedure. This October’s Semiannual Communication will be held as a hybrid session with a limited number of on-site attendees, voting members on a Zoom webinar, non-voting members on a live streaming feed accessed via Grand View, and for the first time all ballots for the election of Grand Lodge officers and other propositions is being sent out and returned via the United States Postal Service. It is going to be an interesting Semi-Annual Communication and I am looking forward to this challenge.

GRAND VIEW

Do you know how to access Grand View? Have you signed in and created your user account and password? Grand View will be the portal through which members can attend the up coming Semi-Annual

Communication. Make sure you have created your account and logged in before the Semi-Annual.

ONE DAY CLASSES

One day classes!

This is something that

I really want to make happen for this year. We are hoping that the governor will raise the current limit of twenty-five before we hold the one-day classes. There is some very interesting information that came from the analysis on our membership data that shows one-day Masons track the same as regular three-degree Masons once they become a Master Mason. The surprising difference is that we are losing 25% of the regular three-degree Masons before they become Master Masons.

I also plan to have catch-up degrees or fill in degrees for Brothers who have taken their Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft degrees but have not been able to complete their degrees. I have asked Most Worshipful Brother Chip Stamm to lead this charge, and to notify those Brothers and give them the opportunity to come to a one-day course and finish up and become Master Masons.

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES AND NEW MEMBERSHIP

During these challenging times men have discovered that they are looking for more meaning and social connection in their life, and they believe that Freemasonry might help meet this need. We continue to receive requests through our Grand Lodge website and the Scottish Rites and Shriners website, BeAFreemason.org, for information on Freemasonry and how to become a Mason. We have been working hard developing a technological system with business processes to track and manage this influx of new inquiries, and to see them through their becoming a Master Mason. When BeAFreemason.org website was first turned on back in February, it brought in many requests due to the advertising that the Scottish Rite was paying for to promote the website. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic effectively stopped the Lodges from being able to process inquiries, the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction decided to put a hold on advertising purchases which lowered the number of requests we received. The Northern Masonic jurisdiction has recently decided to restart ad buys, so we are expecting to start to receive a new influx of membership requests. Keep an eye out at your lodge for new requests coming in.

Did I mention those inquires are going through Grand View? Have you signed into Grand View yet???

Be safe brothers.

Geometry

continued from page 2

perimeter, then a right angle will always be produced. Looking at this diagram from the perspective of Thales' Theorem, we find that the Saints John represent the extremities of the diametric line through the center point; the Volume of Sacred Law is on the upper perimeter of the circle; if a line were drawn from each of the Saints John, then their vertex would always form a square. There is a mention in the above passage regarding "going round this circle", seeming to cryptically indicate that any point on the perimeter of the circle will always yield a right angle, if the extremities of its *catheti* are tied to the points *B* and *E* of the Saints John, to whom the Lodge is dedicated. From this perspective, the diagram seems to be emphasizing, in geometrical symbolism, that Freemasons ("the point represent[s] an individual brother") are advised to "act upon the square" throughout their entire sphere of influence, a domain indicated by the circle. When viewed in this way, the Point Within A Circle diagram becomes a rather intriguing speculative symbol, the esoteric meaning of which is made accessible by applying the interpretive lens of operative geometry.

The *Tetraktys* of the Pythagoreans embodies the point, the line, the plane and the solid. The top row of the *Tetraktys* depicts one single point, which is described as "that which has no part," having no dimension, only position, and is the primary geometrical abstraction. The second row depicts two points, suggesting a line, which is described as a "breadthless length [which] lies equally with respect to the points on itself." The next row of the model depicts three points, because three points, when triangularly connected, form the most basic plane. A plane is described in Euclid as "a flat, two-dimensional surface." In the final row of the *Tetraktys*,

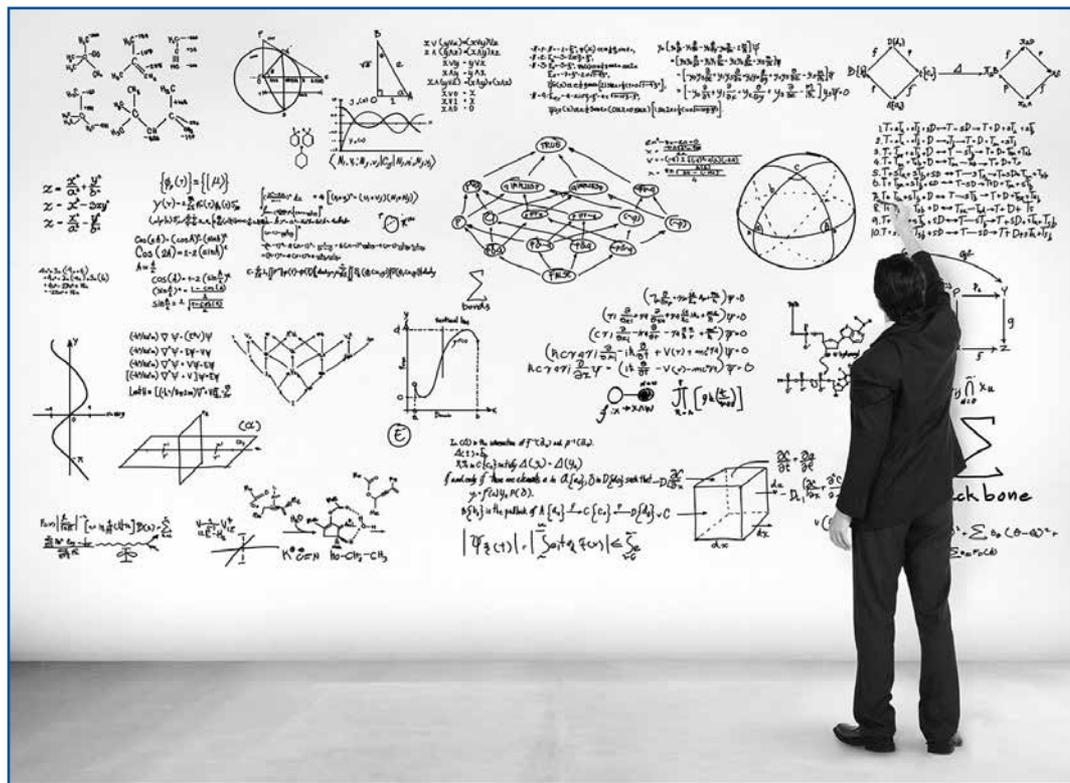
there are four points, which are the necessary elements to construct the most basic solid, the tetrahedron (meaning "four faces"). Thus the *Tetraktys* geometrically symbolizes the abstract point of pre-existence, since a point is literally no-thing – it merely defines a theoretical position in space; the point moves and becomes a line, which has but one dimension; the points are then triangulated, a process which yields a superficies, or a two-dimensional plane; the fourth point is then added, yielding a tetrahedral shape in three-dimensions. The *Tetraktys* illustrated such sublime truths to the Pythagoreans that they deemed it "holy" and were said to have taken their oaths upon it.

The Pythagorean Theorem states that the square of the hypotenuse (the longest side, opposite the right angle) of a right triangle is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two *catheti* (legs). The theorem is most popularly expressed in the mathematical equation: $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$, where *a* and *b* represent the length of the *catheti* subtending at the vertex of ninety degrees, while *c* represents the length of the *hypotenuse*. Though the discovery of the theorem has been popularly attributed to Pythagoras, its

true origin remains obscure. The oldest extant example alluding to knowledge of the theorem is found in the form of an ancient Babylonian artifact known as *Plimpton 322*. Written in cuneiform script impressed on a clay tablet, *Plimpton 322* dates from 1790-1750 BCE and contains a list of several Pythagorean triples. Though he almost certainly did not discover the theorem, we can say with a good deal of certainty that Pythagoras was familiar with it. It is said that, upon the realization of the theorem's implications (an event which had apparently inspired a great deal excitement in the philosopher), Pythagoras cried "Eureka!" (meaning "I have found it!") and sacrificed a *hecatomb* (one-hundred oxen). This reads as hyperbole, however, as this would have been quite an unusual act from one who was ostensibly vegetarian.

Special right triangles like the Pythagorean Theorem were known to have been used in ancient Egypt and triangles having a ratio of 3:4:5, particularly, were used by a certain class of Egyptian builder known as *Harpedonaptae*. The *Harpedonaptae*, literally "rope stretchers," were a skilled class of astro-geometers who

Continued on page 13



THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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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 130th 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.

Grand Chaplain's Message

by Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski



It is hard to believe that for about seven months we have not met in person. We must remember that as Masons we owe our duty to God, our neighbors, and ourselves. The belief that God is our guide in all that we do is a requirement. Our neighbors are all the people of the world. People in modern times seem to put themselves and their needs before considering the rest of humanity. Patience must be a virtue that we have to learn to practice with more vigilance. The world today is a fast society, and all want instant gratification. Looking back only a few years we did not have the vast communication that we have today. The internet has so much information that many people cannot think independently in a rational manner.

I often wish that society could slow down and have respect for life and the needs of others. I can remember receiving the polio vaccine when I was in 2nd grade. No one said, "I do not want the vaccine." I pray that when we have a vaccine for the

coronavirus that people will take it for the good of humanity.

Time goes by very swiftly and it has been 19 years since 9/11. Many people had so much courage and helped other in an exceedingly difficult time. We need to do the same during the pandemic.

I continually pray for all who are helping to keep society safe. I pray that the violence that we see every day will cease. In conclusion I pray for those who have gone to their eternal reward.



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

William Borofsky
Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142

Gerald Brandle
Union Lodge No. 31

Kenneth J. Frey
Friendship Lodge No. 33

Carl Edgar Jacobs
St. Alban's Lodge No. 38

Sivert Raymond Jacobson
Evening Star Lodge No. 101

Matthew Theopelos Jenetopoulos
Trumbull Lodge No. 22

Robert S. Jones
Liberty-Continental Lodge No. 76

Adam W. Leighton
Valley Lodge No. 36

Henry Paul Lizotte
Compass Lodge No. 9

Russell J. Muller
Evening Star Lodge No. 101

James Alan Post
Warren Lodge No. 51

Charles Joseph Smyth
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Kirkor Dikran Tavtigan
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140

Bard Clark Teigen
Composite Lodge No. 28

Sterling Norman Viets
Washington Lodge No. 70

Frederick F. Williams
Montgomery Lodge No. 13





Grand Historian's Corner

Andrew R. Melillo

Courage isn't a brilliant dash, a

daring deed in a moment's flash; it isn't an instantaneous thing born of despair with a sudden spring. It isn't a creature of flickered hope, or the final tug at a slipping rope; But it's something deep in the soul of man, that is working always to serve some plan.

Such words were written by British-born, American poet, Edgar Albert Guest – a brother of Ashlar Lodge No. 91 in Detroit. And that speaks volumes to the character and courage of the greatest generation.

In Connecticut, membership was growing – but the greatest challenge lay ahead – both before and after the World War II. In 1939, after years of appeasement, Hitler invaded Poland and thus began the military struggle of World War II. In 1941, after that day which will live in infamy – America entered the fray – and with it, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Connecticut answered the deep lamentations of the Goddess of Liberty. In his annual address, Grand Master Anson F. Keeler wrote the following words in 1942:

Some men, sometimes evil men, set events in motion. Some men, indeed most men, are at the necessity of meeting events as they arise. Your officers have confronted a year of swiftly changing events and have of necessity shaped policies to meet those changes. A year ago nearly all of Europe was at war. Masonry in Continental Europe was interdicted, its property expropriated, its members in concentration camps, in exile or dead. A year ago the United States stood as a theoretically neutral nation, theoretical in the sense that while we had held a national election based on the premise of 'all aid to Britain short of War' we were so far committed in sympathy and fact that we were, actually, just 'short of war.'

He goes on to write:

This Grand Lodge, one year ago, heard from the eloquent lips of RWB Carl H.

Claudy, a plan and plea for Masonry's participation in service, to the men in the armed forces of the United States. This plea prompted a motion offered by RWB Ansel A. Packard that your Grand Master be authorized to pledge the requested equivalent of ten cents per member for the support of the Masonic Service Association plan for service to men in the armed forces.

No assessment needed to be levied upon the members of the Connecticut Craft – the funds were voluntarily raised. The first Masonic Service Association opened in Connecticut in 1942, due to the energetic leadership of MWB Morris B. Payne. The second opened in Hartford. It was located on the second floor at the Masonic Temple on Ann Street. Today it has become an apartment complex with a bar on the ground floor. During the time of the war, it served a far more nobler purpose not just as a Masonic temple, and Grand Lodge headquarters, but a place where service members were able to find shelter, company, and the comforts of home. For example, as Case and Tapley write,

When the Grand Lodge Office closed for the day, some of the staff simply moved across the hall and spent the evening making coffee and pancakes, and serving doughnuts and cheerful conversation to young men in uniform. Many of them were away from home for the first time and were suffering the pangs of homesickness. A helpful and charitable act!

The Connecticut Craft in wartime was in full operation. It did what it could provide not just for its members, but for all its countrymen. After the victory in Europe was won a survey demonstrated that some 26 percent of all Masons in Connecticut had entered the armed forces. This resulted in many officers and especially useful members of lodges not being present during these combatant years – and the lodges felt their absence. Yet, like every good Mason, patriotism is not just an ideal – it is a duty. When the Republic called upon Her citizens – Connecticut Masons answered the call.

There is no need to describe the events of World War II – for its history is clearly written elsewhere, and far better than the Grand Historian could ever do justice. After such a long, bloody, and costly war – Liberty and her children prevailed. Connecticut Masonry, and its members played their part. And then a curious thing happened in the immediate post-war period in which a Grand Master of this state played a direct part. For the first time, Freemasonry was established upon the distant shores of Japan.

After the nuclear bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the American Army occupied Japan, not to pillage and conquer – but to help rebuild and stabilize. The grandfather of the Grand Historian was stationed there as a 1st Lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers. Many of the servicemen were brothers; they felt not just the nostalgia of their families and native towns, but their ancient landmarks as well. At the request of Bertram C. Wright of Uriel Lodge No. 24, he wrote to the Grand Master in Connecticut asking for dispensation for brothers to continue to meet and labor.

MWB Charles Ramage, received the letter from Brother Wright. At the Annual Session of 1948, Brother Ramage writes the following,

Shortly after my election to the office of Grand Master, I received a letter from Brother B.C. Wright, a member of Uriel Lodge No. 24, Merrow, Connecticut, regarding the possibility of forming a Military Lodge in Tokyo, Japan. Brother Wright is a Major in the United States Army stationed at Tokyo and represented a group of brethren who are members of the National Sojourners Tokyo Chapter No. 267 and The Allied Masonic Club of Tokyo. After careful consideration and discussion of this matter with the members of the Craft whose judgement is most sincere, I advised Brother Wright that I would be most happy to cooperate with him in forming a Lodge in Tokyo similar to the one already under dispensation in Stuttgart, Germany.

Continued on page 10

Grand Historian's Corner *continued from page 9*

A petition dated June 12, 1947, was sent to Ramage, and he made it clear that he would grant the brothers a dispensation, and not a charter, to empower them to assemble as a Lodge and to *Enter, Pass and Raise Freemasons in a regular manner until the next Annual Session of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Connecticut*. After two years, with the final months showing no communication to the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, and after the Grand Lodge of the Philippines came vigorously back to life after the conclusion of the War – the Tokyo Lodge, given dispensation by Connecticut, was formally incorporated within the Grand Jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines in 1949, as Tokyo Lodge No. 125. A fun coincidence of events is that, on April 5, 1950, while the Grand Lodge of the Philippines held a special communication to bring Tokyo Lodge No. 125 officially into the fold, the Connecticut Grand Lodge was holding its own Annual Session. Different peoples collided in a bloody conflict in World War II – and in the end – they were brought together in the harmony of the Brotherhood of Masonry. The Grand Lodge of Connecticut made this a reality on the world stage.

One of the new offices established during the post war period in Connecticut Masonry was the Grand Historian. Not every masonic jurisdiction has one, and Connecticut was not to get their own Grand Historian until 1953. Grand Master George S. Hull had appointed Right Worshipful Brother James Royal Case as Historian of the Grand Lodge. And his work was so effective and appreciated, that it was recommended the office be made a permanent position. The current author has the privilege to be the third such person to fill the office – and who infinitely understands and appreciates how truly he stands on the shoulders of giants. These giants have names to him: Case and Littlefield. Without their work, his would be made more impossibly difficult.

The next publication will discuss the good life and labor of RWB Littlefield, but in the light of Connecticut Masonry and its involvement in World War II, and to commemorate the establishment of an official historical record for the Grand Lodge – a snippet of RWB Case's life will be here included:

James R. Case was a native of Colchester. He was educated at Bacon Academy in that town, and went on to UCONN, and then to Teachers College in New York City, Northwestern, and Columbia University Graduate School. He was a teacher in the Hampton Institute in Virginia for several years before returning to his native nutmeg state where he served as the 4-H Club Agent in Fairfield County. From his time in the cadet corps, until his days as Colonel, he had thirty-five years of service in the National Guard Reserve, twelve years of active duty during WWI and II, including eight years in Military Government assignments in Europe and the Pentagon.

He was made a Mason in Uriel Lodge No. 24 at Merrow, Connecticut, in 1916, he was a Life Member of Wooster Lodge No. 10, King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Eureka Lodge No 83, and

American Union Lodge No. 1 (Ohio – but originally chartered in Connecticut – remember General Parsons). He held the office as Senior Warden in the Army and Navy Lodge No. 306, Fortress Monroe, Virginia, and was Past Master of The American Lodge of Research, New York. His many other Masonic affiliations also included that of Honorary 33° membership in the Supreme Council, AASR, NMJ.

His narratives as Grand Historian, provided the histories and biographical notes of leaders in the Fraternity, and constitute the foundation of attempting to provide, the complete story of the rise and progress of Freemasonry in Connecticut. RWB Case was awarded the Pierpont Edwards Medal of the Grand Lodge and many other comparable awards from the Grand Lodges of New Hampshire, Nova Scotia, the General Grand Chapter, and the Grand Encampment.

He published many articles whether in the Connecticut Square and Compasses magazine, the Royal Arch Magazine, the Knight Templar Magazine, the National Sojourner's Magazine, the Empire State Mason, the Norther Light, The New Age, Indiana Freemason, Philalethes Magazine, and many others. Much of his work as been printed in the Transactions of the American Lodge of Research.

He was a fifty-year member of the Connecticut Historical Society, genealogist of the Dawley Family of Rhode Island, and served as the Head of the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Whenever you think that you have idle time – remember the name of RWB James Royal Case. He is the very sturdy rock upon which the pillar of this office will forever stand true and trusty. God Bless his name and legacy.

And as the great Case and Tapley assert - just like after World War I, interest in Masonic membership in Connecticut, increased to a new peak, 48,394 members. Yet in 1950, a change came suddenly and without warning – in 1958 the first serious loss occurred with twenty-eight members folding. As Case and Tapley write, *Year by year the losses went from 28 to 148, to 297, to 371, and on until in 1974 it reached a high of 1,168*. The war, after such sacrifice and courage – gave a boost to Masonic membership, but a decade after its conclusion – membership began to rapidly drop off and no one was the wiser. A new age was beckoning, and one that was at odds with the traditional, and ancient roots of the Masonic institution. This did not mean Connecticut Masonry was doomed – but a societal transformation was beginning to take root and the consequences were just beginning to reveal themselves. Masonry was still a strong institution – but it had yet to reconcile itself with the rapidly growing, modern world – a world which was only made possible by the victory of World War II.

¹ The only reason the Grand Historian made reference is to his grandfather is for one purpose, and one purpose only – to encourage any Brother, whether he be a Baby Boomer or a Millennial – to go and seek out your family's history – the WWII generation was the greatest generation of the past century. This generation is, alas, leaving us for that next life at an alarming rate. If you have a family member who served, who is still upon their earthly pilgrimage – waste not time – go and speak to them, listen to them, learn their story and record it – and make that testimony a blessing to you and your family's American legacy. Let it not be lost

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

Last month, Masonicare held a series of virtual town halls for all of our employees across Connecticut. The program, which we call “State of Masonicare,” gives myself and other members of our senior leadership team an opportunity to talk about where we are as an organization, what we’re doing well, areas where we can do better, our plans for the future, new policies and benefits information, and other subjects of interest to our staff. Time is set aside for employees to ask questions. It’s one more way that we’re trying to keep the lines of communication open and foster a culture of honesty and transparency.

These town halls are usually conducted in person at every Masonicare location, not over webinar, so this year’s experience was very different than what any of us are accustomed to. But in the age of COVID, webinars and other virtual gatherings are our best option.

Among other topics, we talked about the need for continued diligence at work, at home, and in the community to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus. We’re taking note of even the slightest uptick in reported cases in the state, preparing for the likelihood of a second wave. Being proactive served us well in the early days of the pandemic, and we’re committed to sticking with that strategy.

Since none of us can predict with any certainty what next week or next month will bring, taking it one day at a time is essential. So is reminding our employees that we’re all in this together. And making sure that we continue to celebrate our successes.

I was excited to surprise one of our Hospice Specialty Nurses, Jennifer Petrini, with a GEM (Go the Extra Mile) Customer Experience Award for helping fulfill a patient’s dying wish to attend her son’s wedding.

As the wedding date approached, Jen’s patient – Val – was deteriorating quickly. On the day of the wedding, she couldn’t even get out of bed. So Jen and Val’s family arranged for Val to watch the

wedding via Zoom. Jen took out the dress Val had planned to wear to the event and draped it over her, and the family did a wonderful tribute to Val as part of the ceremony.

When Val passed away about 24 hours later, the family requested that Jen return to make the pronouncement. As part of the postmortem care, Jen did Val’s hair and placed her in the dress that she and her daughters had picked out together. Family members appreciated the time and care Jen spent making Val look the way she would’ve wanted to be remembered.

Jen doesn’t do these things for awards or accolades, but because she truly cares for her patients and their loved ones. She said that people in her profession “have an opportunity every day to interact with humanity and maybe shift and change the world for the better.”

If that doesn’t sum up the reason why any of us are here, I don’t know what does.

From all of us at Masonicare, please be safe.

Yours fraternally,



Ed. Note: This rebuttal to the September Lafayette Consistory article by John Amarilios was received from Captain Roger L. Hall of Coastal Lodge No. 57

Rebuttal to September Lafayette Consistory Article *by Roger L. Hall*

The article states that as Masons we 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.

I submit, did our founding fathers obey this rule? If they were here today, would they be worried about the socialist agenda threatening our country?

Do Not Countenance Disloyalty or Rebellion (Part 2)

by John A. Amarilios, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

The Annual Walk for Dyslexia is, as of the time of writing, still scheduled to begin on Sunday, October 4, at 1 p.m., with registration starting at noon, from the Waterbury Learning Center at 529 Highland Avenue. For up to the minute status reports you can call the Walk Chairman, Russ Griswold, at (203) 755-9179 or (203) 465-0830. A picnic lunch is scheduled for after the walk. All proceeds benefit the Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut. This is typically a rain or shine event, but given the COVID uncertainties, call before leaving for the event. If you cannot make the event, donations are very gratefully appreciated, and can be made out and mailed to: CT Children's Dyslexia Centers, 529 Highland Avenue, Waterbury, CT 06708 please memo "Walk Contribution" on your check.

Video degree work continues unabated, virus or not, thanks to technology at headquarters in Lexington.

The following degree festivals will be held on the NMJ website:

Saturday, October 3 - 4th, 6th, 15th and 23rd Degrees will be offered starting at 7 a.m. at the Leo H Lohrman Theatre in Stratford

Saturday, October 24 - 4th, 17th, 19th and 26th Degrees will be offered starting at 7 a.m. at the Leo H Lohrman Theatre in Stratford

Monday, October 5 - 4th and 20th Degrees, following a Stated Communication of the Valley of Bridgeport

Monday, October 19 4th, 15th and 22nd Degrees, at 7:30 p.m.

If you desire to take the degrees and have not petitioned yet, you should contact the Consistory office for a petition and related dues details at (203) 375-0064.

Last month we examined a sliver of the EA charge alluded to in the title above and concluded that disloyalty or rebellion to temporal authority is counterproductive to our efforts at Masonic alchemy and the spiritual transmutation that seekers

wish to accomplish. If one is devoted to the search for Light, descending into the moldy labyrinth of temporal politics is simply a trap that will keep you from focusing on your search for light.

So, what do we do when the temporal world becomes so oppressive that our search for light is impeded or made impossible due to edict or law? The Great Light again sheds its light on how to proceed: Romans 13:2 suggests that rebellion will have (adverse) consequences. Romans 13:7 suggests compliance with taxation and other demands of

temporal authorities.

If compliance with temporal authority becomes too onerous, the first step is to walk in the steps of the Founding Fathers who left Europe and moved on to greener pastures in the New World.

This is exactly what is prescribed in Matthew 10:23 "...flee ye into another..." This advice preserves the physical vehicle (the body which houses the Master within) and allows those who flee to continue working on

their spiritual transmutation. In history, many have had to relocate several times in order to attain the requisite peace necessary to do their Great Work. John 18:36 reminds us that the transformative work comes first and is wholly uninvolved with the material and temporal realms. The primary battle we should be focused in on is light seeking and spiritual, not material. Romans 12:18 implores us to live as peaceably as possible with others. Matthew 26:52 warns that "...all that take the swords shall perish with the sword..." Since those who seek the light are fighting to extend their mortal lives in order to allow their souls to complete their light oriented goals, rebellion is anathema to that goal. A score of years ago I ran into a Masonic mentor who taught me that the soul purpose of our existence here is to learn "what not to do." The accumulation of material wealth and temporal power is akin to a bright light attracting moths to a flame.

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



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.

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

Continued on page 13



Euclid

were called in to survey and delineate the foundations of buildings according to terrestrial and celestial coordinates defined by the architect; this was done in order to ensure that they were laid square and cardinally oriented. Egyptian architects were aware of the fact that a triangle having a ratio of 3:4:5, with five units being the length of the hypotenuse, always yielded a perfect square at the vertex of the *catheti* of three and four units. To this end, the *Harpedonaptae* fashioned ropes which were knotted or otherwise marked with, for example, twelve-unit measures ($3 + 4 + 5 = 12$) or any other multiple of the 3:4:5 ratio. This marked rope was then used to establish a perpendicular extending off of the astro-geometrically defined main axis. Here we see the construction of the aforementioned Cartesian coordinates x (main axis) and y (perpendicular), with the z (vertical) coordinate being established later, by means of a plumb line, thereby establishing the three dimensions of length, width and height. The Greek essayist, Plutarch (46-120 CE), after commenting on the Egyptian's veneration for the 3:4:5 triangle, likens the three sides to the Egyptian trinity: Isis (a , base), Osiris (b , vertical) and Horus (c , hypotenuse).

One might conjecture that the Egyptians hold in high honour the most beautiful of the triangles, since they liken the nature of the Universe most closely to it, as Plato in the Republic seems to have made use of it in formulating his figure of marriage. This triangle has its upright of three units, its base of four, and its hypotenuse of five, whose power is equal to that of the other two sides. The upright, therefore, may be likened to the male, the base to the female, and the hypotenuse to the child of both, and so Osiris may be regarded as the origin, Isis as the recipient, and Horus as perfected result.

- Plutarch, *Moralia* Vol. V, "On Isis and Osiris"

Echoing this ancient sentiment, Mackey, in his Encyclopedia, had written the following of the right-angled triangle...

The right-angled triangle is another form of this figure which is deserving of attention. Among the Egyptians, it was the symbol of universal nature; the base representing Osiris, or the male principle; the perpendicular, Isis, or the female principle; and the hypotenuse, Horus, their son, or the product of the male and female principle. This symbol was received by Pythagoras from the Egyptians during his long sojourn in that country, and with it he also learned the peculiar property it possessed, namely, that the sum of the squares of the two shorter sides is equal to the square of the longest side-symbolically expressed by the formula, that the product of Osiris and Isis is Horus. This figure has been adopted in the Third Degree of Freemasonry and will be there recognized as the Forty-seventh Problem of Euclid.

- Entry: "Triangle"; Mackey, *An Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and its Kindred Sciences*, Everts & Co., 1884

If the readers would like, they could, perhaps, devote this month (until the publication of the article on Music, next month) to becoming aware of the wide role geometry plays in our lives; from gift-wrapping to the contemplation of the Pythagorean monad, dyad, triad and tetrad of the *Tetraktys*.

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Charles D. O'Neill: (203)-770-4818, cdoneill@snet.net
or any member of the Valley.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS

William M. Boden
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11

William C. Breen
Annawon Lodge No. 115

William B. Dumbauld
Union Lodge No. 31

Richard J. Fiala
Granite Lodge No. 119

Frank W. Gangloff
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11

Harvey James Hartin
Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3

Wilton Finch Hawes, Jr.
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11

David Franklin Jewell
Somerset - St. James Lodge No. 34

E. Parker Lilya
Center Lodge No. 97

Harris G. Neal, Jr.
King Solomons Lodge No. 7

Howard F. Ryan, Jr.
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

David Sorman, Jr.
Morning Star Lodge No. 47



Brothers, Get Your Faces Out and Smile!

by Michael D. Sabia, Jr.

As local lodges and Masonic bodies float through the uncharted waters of this COVID-19 world, one very pressing issue is still at the forefront: membership and retention. It goes without saying that the focus of our Masonic meetings need to return to the education and enrichment of Masonic principals we hold so dear to us. However, the ever-pressing issue remains as to how we get prospective members to enter our doors in the first place.

Recently I observed two local lodges host open events. Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 hosted the Easton Town Party on the green space in front of their lodge. The second was Union Lodge No. 5 which hosted a car show.

What do these events have to do with Masonry? Well, perhaps nothing at all, but they do bring people, men in particular, into our view, and put us into their view. Image is everything in this day and age, and many lodges suffer from lack of exposure to their local community. There are many ideas and functions with which lodges can involve themselves in their towns, especially using what the Committee on Community Action has to offer (CTCHIP, the Organ Donor Program, and many others).

But we are not limited to just that. You can have your lodge sponsor events, as these two lodges and many others have done. Positive exposure in the community, whether charitable or not, will pull like-minded men in the community to our doors, if only to ask questions. But you must be willing to put the work into it. Sponsoring an event in your town can be accomplished if you have the space, or you can secure a venue. You can also host speaking engagements where people come out to listen to a plethora of topics in your lodge building, or even outside if you have the space. The idea is to get people to see we are here. Many of the things I've heard my non-Mason friends say is "I didn't know you guys were here!"

But be warned, do not be lax in the vetting process nor ease up on the application process: quality over quantity is still best for our group. Getting our face into the view of the community is the way with which we may see more knocking at our outer door, and hopefully the door to the preparation room thereafter.

Finally, due to the current COVID-19 environment, any event you sponsor or host should fall within the regulations of the State of Connecticut, as well as the current edicts of the MW Grand Master of the State of Connecticut.

May you all stay well and be blessed.



Brother Irvin Daubert of Temple Lodge No. 16 to Celebrate 100th Birthday

by John White

On October 8, Brother Irvin Daubert of Temple Lodge No. 16 will turn 100. He has been a member of the fraternity for 70 years.

Irv is a former Army Air Force sergeant and a World War II veteran. He served as a member of a B-24 Liberator bomber crew in Europe, flying from England into France and Germany. He was a staff sergeant and armorer/gunner. He had to ensure the armament in the plane was working properly at takeoff.

Irv made 35 missions into enemy territory from January 1943 to until the war's end. A typical mission lasted about eight hours and was flown at 35,000 feet. Temperatures at that altitude are 40 to 60 degrees below zero. The plane had no heater; the only warmth Irv and his crew members got was from heavy clothing and gloves. Miraculously, Irv says, no one in his crew was injured during those 35 missions, although there were close calls—one close enough that it left a piece of flak in Irv's boot. He still has the piece for good luck.

Irv mustered out of the military in October 1945. He earned six medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross. The award ranks between the Bronze Star and the Silver Star, which are given to individuals for heroism in combat. The DFC is a group award given to Irv's plane crew for "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight." In addition, he received the Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Award. He is a member of Cheshire's VFW Post 10052.

Irv moved to Cheshire in 1950 and resided there until 1971. At that time, he and his wife moved to Cape Cod. They returned in 1998. Irv's wife of 71 years died in 2014.

A native of Pennsylvania, Irv was raised to Master Mason in Eastern Star Lodge No. 44 in Willimantic in 1950. The lodge is now incorporated into Ionic Lodge No. 110 of Windham. He is a 32° Mason in Scottish Rite at the Newington Consistory, a Knight Templar in Cape Cod Commandery, and a Shriner at the Sphinx Shrine of Newington.



Do Not Countenance Disloyalty or Rebellion

continued from page 12

With elections coming shortly, I would suggest that government is a reflection of the society, not of the leadership. The society enables the leadership, not the other way around. If we, as Masons, were to inculcate the society at large, in our ideals and in the messages that our symbolism impart, the society would mandate that its leadership reflect these values. We have, in a few short generations abandoned or forgotten this moral and ethical duty to effectively instruct and inculcate,

not only our members, but the public at large. Our nation's leadership simply reflects this negligence.

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 membership@lafayetteconsistory.com or call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064.

District 3

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



King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 Holds 2020 Food Drive

by Richard Miska

On Saturday September 5, the Masons of King Solomon's Lodge, No. 7 in Woodbury conducted their seventh annual food drive on behalf of the Community Services Council of Woodbury. The brothers requested contributions from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. to support those in need.

During the coronavirus lockdown and loss of jobs, the services of the Community Council are needed more than ever and the people of the greater Woodbury area responded accordingly. This year, the food drive collected 50 percent more food and twice the amount of cash than was collected at last year's record event. The kindness and graciousness of the people of Woodbury are inspiring.

The Woodbury Food Bank provides weekly access to 125 families and seniors in need. This program serves to support proper nutrition and to enable families to conserve scarce financial resources for other household necessities. In addition, the Council's supplementary energy assistance program offers additional support to meet urgent heating oil, gas, and electricity needs that are not met through the State of Connecticut and energy providers. The crisis assistance program enables authorized clients to request short-term financial help with critical emergency needs. The holiday program seeks to brighten the holiday season for client families by providing dinners with all the trimmings through the Food Bank.

In addition to drop-off points around town, deliveries are also accepted at the Woodbury Food Bank, located at the rear of LaBonne's and the Newtown Savings Bank plaza, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Fridays.

The brothers of King Solomon's Lodge who participated in 2020 were Wayne Anderson, Mark Cohen, Lorenzo Gaudio, Mitch Goldburgh, Colin Harley, Jeff Leavenworth, Steve Lewis, John Novak, Don Sharpe, Lee Warner, and Albin Weber.

Information on the programs of the Community Services Council may be obtained from CSCW President Robert Taylor at community.services.council@gmail.com or (203) 263-3869.



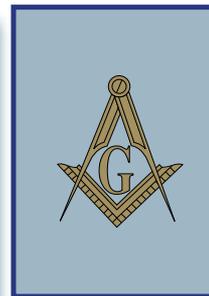
*District
Deputies
and
Associate
Grand
Marshals
2020-2021*

**1
A**



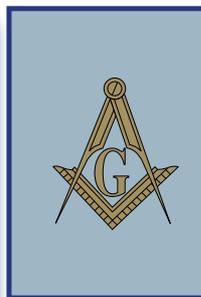
District Deputy
R.W. Mark S. Agnew
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Richard J. Gross

**1
B**



District Deputy
R.W. Christopher S.J. Jennings
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Barry F. Belardinelli, Jr.
No photo available.

**1
C**



District Deputy
R.W. Mark H. Hawkins
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Barry E. Buzzell
No photo available.

**2
A**



District Deputy
R.W. James A. Saraceni
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Peter W. Doice

**2
B**



District Deputy
R.W. John E. Feinson
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Paul M. Moncuse

**3
A**



District Deputy
R.W. Michael A. Adams
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Mark W. Dzurnak

**3
B**



District Deputy
R.W. Steven J. Chiappalone
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Jack J. Baril, Jr.

**4
A**



District Deputy
R.W. Scott B. Bumps
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Glenn A. Jacques

**4
B**



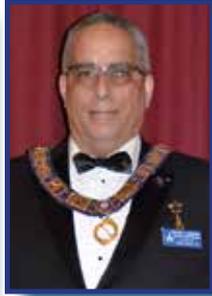
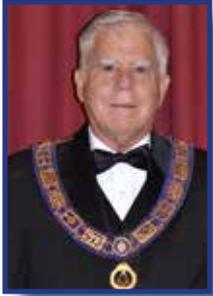
District Deputy
R.W. Shelby P. Jackson, III
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Konstantinos Antoniou

**4
C**



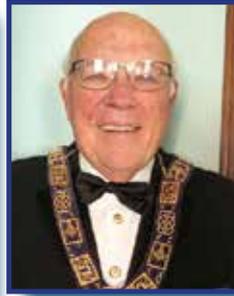
District Deputy
R.W. Kristian M. Maiorino
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Daniel M. Luft

5
A



District Deputy
R.W. Robert H. Everest
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Eric L. Papoosha

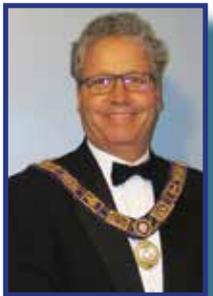
5
B



District Deputy
R.W. Eric J. Charette
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Rudolph L. Cabata

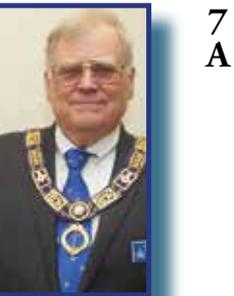
*District Deputies
and Associate
Grand Marshals
2020-2021*

6
A



District Deputy
R.W. David S. La Fargue
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Christopher D. Ramsey

6
B



District Deputy
R.W. T. Donovan Scroggs
Associate Grand Marshal
Bro. Carlton A. Stidsen

7
A



District Deputy
R.W. James H. Landry
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Charles A. Seagrave, II
No photo available.

7
B



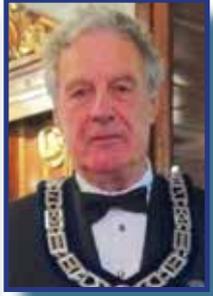
District Deputy
R.W. John R. Main
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. David S. Smith

8
A



District Deputy
R.W. Richard L. Allen
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Robert G. Krawic

8
B



District Deputy
R.W. Kristopher J. Dorsett
No photo available.
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Phillip E. Rathbun

9
A

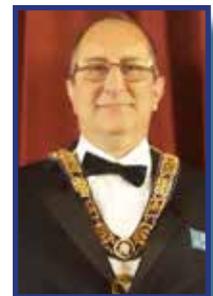


District Deputy
R.W. Robert S. Eubanks
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. William Frederick Pierce, III

9
B



District Deputy
R.W. Robert G. Barrows
Associate Grand Marshal
Bro. Gregory J. Messier



Associate Grand Marshal At-large
W.B. Lee R. Martin

District 9

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



Uriel Lodge No. 24 Initiates Five Entered Apprentices Despite COVID-19 *by Paul Watson and Robert Stack*

On September 9, Uriel Lodge No. 24 met for its first “live” meeting since March to initiate five candidates into Masonry. It was a challenge and a lot of work to comply with COVID-19 requirements, but it was a successful night.

Pictured in the foreground from left to right are District Deputy RWB Richard Barrows, WM Robert Stack, and Associate Grand Marshall WB Greg Messier. In the back row,

new Entered Apprentices, Brothers Carl Graveline, Matthew Dietrich, James Andrew Collard, Zachary Deutscher, and Justin Trzaskos.

The Lodge's annual inspection was also performed that evening.



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 for person to person help.

MW Bro. Melvin E. Johnson, PGM Presented Certificate of Appreciation

by William L. Greene

At a recent lunch meeting at the Bidwell Tavern in Coventry, Brother Melvin E. Johnson, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his interest in, and support, of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial during his year as Grand Master. The mounted certificate was presented by MWPGM William L. Greene, ambassador for Connecticut to the memorial.

This presentation would have normally been made during the April, 2020, Grand Lodge Annual Session, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was not possible as a “surprise” abbreviated session had to be quickly held 13 days early to enable the installation of the 2020-2021 Grand Lodge Officers prior to the closure of all non-essential service in Connecticut.



Pyramid Shriners Clown Around for Needy Children

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.



Nobles from the Pyramid Shrine Temple Clown Unit in Stratford recently created a dance video to the song titled “The Git Up” by Blanco Brown. Each clown choreographed a dance to coincide with the song lyrics. The video concluded with a Noble being pied in the face. Most importantly, Pyramid Shriners were able to share their mission of providing assistance to needy children receiving medical care at the Shriner’s Hospital.



Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr.

Over the centuries Masonry has overcome many obstacles, as has Scottish Rite during its 207 years of history, and our own Valley of Hartford. As the legendary Hall Of Fame baseball player Yogi Berra once said, "It ain't over 'til it's over," and that sure applies to 2020. First, the COVID-19 virus shut down the country and resulted in the cancellation of many of our planned degrees and family life events. Then it was a record-breaking hot summer. So, what is next!?

The Valley's fall 2019 class was not able to complete their degrees, nor was the spring 2020 class able to see live portrayals. Neither class was able to see the 32nd Degree and become full-fledged members of the Scottish Rite in April.

But that did not stop the Supreme Council or Blue Lodges from finding new ways to keep their members informed and active. Programs like the Supreme Council's Thursday night degree presentations and the use of Zoom and other programs by our different Masonic bodies, Blue Lodges, Scottish Rite Valleys, and many other Masonic organizations kept their members involved.

And even though many are now able to go back to work, and businesses are able to open under certain restrictions, our Masonic bodies still exist under restrictions that do not allow us to enjoy the fellowship and commonality that the Masonic organization is known for.

So, what are current Master Masons who would like to further their Masonic knowledge by joining the Scottish Rite to do? Supreme Council has come up with a way for those Masons to move forward. They will be offering them the opportunity to attend any one of three scheduled 1-day classes that will be offered this fall. They will be able to view the required Degrees, via the internet, from their homes on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. The dates are: October 3, October 24, and November 14.

However, they will not qualify for full membership in the Scottish Rite until they receive the required 32nd Degree to obtain full membership in the Valley. Therefore, the Valley of Hartford is planning to hold the 32nd Degree on Saturday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Scottish Rite Cathedral under the restrictions that are in place at that time.

If you know of a current Master Mason who would like to further their Masonic knowledge, see if they might like to submit their application to the Scottish Rite at this time. They can take advantage of the 1-day classes since each class will offer three different degrees in addition to the 4th Degree.

Should you, or they, have any questions please feel free to contact Secretary, Bro. Tony Angelica at the Valley office at (860) 666-0712, or by email at office@valleyofhartford.com

As for future Family Life Events or member-only events, the Secretary will be notify everyone via email. If you have changed your email address, just opened one, or have not yet given it to the Valley office, please do so as soon as possible if you are interested in keeping in touch with what is happening in the Valley.

Our new Commander-in-Chief, Ill. Brother Richard R. Jones, 33°, is planning on holding at least one activity each month, because the Scottish Rite Mission is:

- (1) Provide inspiration for our members through meaningful programs and degrees.
- (2) Provide convenient opportunities for our members to enhance their lives.
- (3) Provide enjoyable programs and fellowship activities for our members and their families.



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

**THE VALLEY IS NOW ACCEPTING
APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP
IN THE SCOTTISH RITE.**

**This fall, in connection with the Supreme
Council, NMJ, we are offering a chance
for Master Masons to join the Scottish Rite
by offering three 1-day classes:**
Saturday, Oct. 3, from 9 a.m. to noon
Saturday Oct. 24, from 9 a.m. to noon
Saturday Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to noon

**For more details about these events,
see out Valley of Hartford article.**

**See what we have to offer by visiting our
website: www.valleyofhartford.org
Or, learn more about the Scottish Rite by
visiting the Supreme Council, NMJ,
website: www.scottishritenmj.org**

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

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Grand Lodge Proceedings for the Year 2018
For Bro. Marshall K. Robinson
M.W. Grand Master

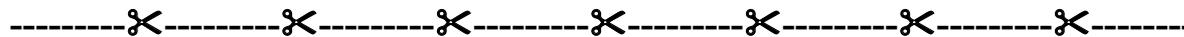
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2018

Grand Lodge Records

Connecticut



Two Hundred Thirtieth Annual Report

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In Memorium - Allan V. Johnson	Kenneth Kirschner	Dean True
In Memory of Rebecca A. Schoeck	George M. Leaman*	Scott Werner
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Continued on page 31

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BOOSTERS

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LODGES &

ORGANIZATIONS

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Fellowcraft Level

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Union Lodge No. 40

Entered Apprentice Level

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Coastal Lodge No. 57

Columbia Lodge No. 25

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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.

Northeast Department Conference Takes Place Via Zoom

by Francis G. Way

On Saturday, September 12, Knights Templar from the eight states that comprise the Northeast Department of the Grand Encampment met virtually on Zoom for their annual Department conference. Originally scheduled to be held in Albany, like almost every other event adversely affected by COVID-19 and not canceled, the conference was held in cyberspace.

Had the conference been held in Albany, on the evening before, September 11, the banquet would have featured a special presentation of the Knight Patriot ceremony. The ceremony was created by REPGC and current Northeast Department Commander SK Stuart K. Drost has been performed annually at Hamilton Commandery No. 5, and it is a tribute to all who have served the country, either in the armed forces, or as first responders. As the presentation would have occurred on the 19th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, it would have also served as a memorial to all who lost their lives on that dark day. Instead, the conference began with a short portion of that ceremony, movingly delivered by SK Drost, and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The conference was open by the Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Sir Knight Jeffery N. Nelson.

The strong emphasis of the day was on membership. For the Grand Encampment, membership is not Priority 1. It is Priority 1, 2, and 3. The Most Eminent Grand Master has ordered that all Grand Commanderies will have membership committees, and in turn, every constituent Commandery will name a membership committee. The bulk of the morning was taken up with a review of the tools, resources, and programs available to those committees, and short presentations by the Grand Commandery membership chairmen regarding what they are currently doing and what their plans are. The exchange of ideas was beneficial to all.

After a 40-minute lunch break the conference resumed and presentations included an update on legislation planned for

the next Triennial (scheduled in Minneapolis in August 2021), including a discussion of the status of the Knight Templar apron, a video presentation on the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and all their good works, and the report of the Most Eminent Grand Master.

SK Jeffery N. Nelson covered many topics, and of special interest was his explanation for General Order No. 12, which prohibits all in-person Knights Templar activities. As he explained, having a jurisdiction that encompasses all 50 states and several countries, Templar activities can include many Sir Knights gathering from many locations. Even at a state level, gatherings can include many Sir Knights from all over a state. He contrasted that with a Blue Lodge, which might have brethren from a small local area. With that increased risk in mind, General Order No. 12 is still in effect.

He also described the work that went into creating the vision statement and mission statement for the Grand Encampment. The mission statement provides guidance and describes the benefit of the organization and to whom that benefit is directed. It is the “lighthouse on the shore by which the organization can determine its direction.” Decisions that meet the object of the mission statement are good and will move the organization in the right direction. Vision statements, on the other hand, create motivation in the organization and paint a picture of the desired outcome. Great care went into crafting the statements:



Mission statement: To provide every Christian Freemason the opportunity to extend his Masonic journey through the chivalric experience.

Vision statement: Templary continues to be the most prestigious Masonic organization. We are a group of men proud to wear the uniform of the cross who share a common faith, mind, and spirit. Through the practice of Christian virtues, we testify to the world that we are leaders in our community and fraternity.

Both statements uphold the motto of the Grand Encampment: “Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar.”

The conference concluded with information about the upcoming Triennial, which will be held in August 2021 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*SM



This is Your Son's Heart – Beating in My Body

by Richard F. Denno

The title of this article is an emotional quote is mentioned at many Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program presentations. The story behind it is both powerful and moving.

One morning in 2009, my beautiful bride Midge and I were having a delicious breakfast at Lottie's Country Kitchen in Glastonbury. The Finocciaro family, Marsha and Thomas and their children, Amy and Mark, owned the restaurant. Marsha noticed my Donate Life lapel pin and a conversation started. Their son, Gregory, who was part of a construction road crew working on the side of the highway, was struck and killed by a driver who suffered from seizures. On September 30, 2005, Greg's heart and four other organs were recovered and transplanted in five needy patients. Kimberly Plaster, from New Hampshire, was the recipient of Gregory's heart.

How do you thank someone who has saved or vastly improved your quality of life? Many families, either recipient or donor, want



Bro. Louis Schluntz with grandson Grayson.

to reach out to the other family. This is accomplished by the interested family writing an anonymous letter to the other family. "It took me a little more than a year to complete a letter to the family," said Bill Seery, a liver transplant recipient. Due to the emotional nature of the subject, many recipients wait for a year or longer before corresponding. "Every time I started, the emotions were so intense I would end up crying." While some families do connect and form lifelong relationships, many letters go unanswered. "I never did receive a response from the donor's family. It was difficult for me to write, and it had to be difficult for them making that decision," noted Seery.

The Finocciaro family and Kimberly Plaster did decide to meet a year later.

Taking Marsha's hand, Kimberly put it to her chest. "Feel this? It's your son's heart beating in my body. If it were not for your kindness, I wouldn't be here today." At organ donor presentations, both speaker and the audience get very emotional. When the talk is over, there is not a dry eye in the house. The families have kept

Continued on page 28

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This is Your Son's Heart Beating in My Body

continued from page 22

in touch over these past 15 years; their life affirming experience bonding them together. Lottie's is now operated by the Finocciaro children, Mark and Amy Beach and her husband, Mike.

Louis Schluntz, Anchor Lodge No. 112's Tiler, is the newest Connecticut Freemason to receive a transplant. Over 25 years ago, Lou suffered the first of three heart attacks. His heart became weaker over the subsequent years, hastened by a bout of pneumonia in late November 2016. He eventually had a Left Ventricle Assist Device (LVAD) implanted in early 2019, for a possible bridge to transplant if he so desired. On July 22, 2020, Lou received his new heart.

The other side of his story involves the donor. "What little Lou was told about him, is that he died of a drug overdose and was in his late 30's to early 40's, and his organs were in good condition," said Heidi, Lou's wife. Lou is forever in his debt for a chance to continue living and watch his three grandsons grow up into young men. He especially thanks the doctors, nurses, and staff of Hartford Hospital, as well as the New England Donor Services (Donate Life CT).

Others have similar stories. "Because of my transplant donor family, I performed the wedding of my daughter and now care for her daughters," said heart recipient Chuck '2.0' Landau. He waited almost five years for his new (2.0) heart. Chuck returned to work for an additional 14 years, retiring in 2017. Landau has been very active in Freemasonry before and after his transplant.

Through the kindness of a total stranger, Midge and I were able to share 9 1/3 more years of 'precious moments' together. We traveled

the world, shared many times together with loved ones, and through the Freemasons and Donate Life met many wonderful people. In Midge's case, she was able to 'pay it forward.' She received her kidney transplant on December 3, 2008 and donated her two corneas upon her death in March 2018.

Transplants are NOT cures. They can, however, provide a longer and improved quality of life. These are those added precious moments that are truly what life is all about. It's Chuck 2.0 performing the wedding of his daughter, or Lou Schluntz watching his grandkids grow up. It's Bill and Lynn Seery visiting friends across the country and attending Masonic meetings.

In a previous column, I fantasized what would happen if I won that 1.5 BILLION-dollar Mega Millions prize. After taking it as a lump sum payment and paying the taxes, I estimated I would end up with a measly \$400 Million. I have asked over 200 people how much of that prize money they would be willing to give up if it would pay for a desperately needed heart for a loved one. In EVERY case the answer is always the same – ALL OF IT!

This entire 800+ word column can be distilled down to a couple of sentences:

- 1.) Organ donation extends and improves life and provides the time for precious moments.
- 2.) You have the power to Donate Life.

Remember: Don't take your organs to Heaven – Heaven knows we need them here!

Register as a donor at www.registerme.org



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Masons Pitch in to Help a Brother's Widow

by Rudolph Cabata

Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Gary Arseneau, and the brothers of Friendship Lodge No. 33, have been providing assistance to Priscilla Landry, the widow of Brother Joe Landry, for several years. In June, the brothers were installing window air conditioners at her home. In a conversation with Priscilla, Brother Gary learned that in order for her to stay in her home she needed a handicap ramp.

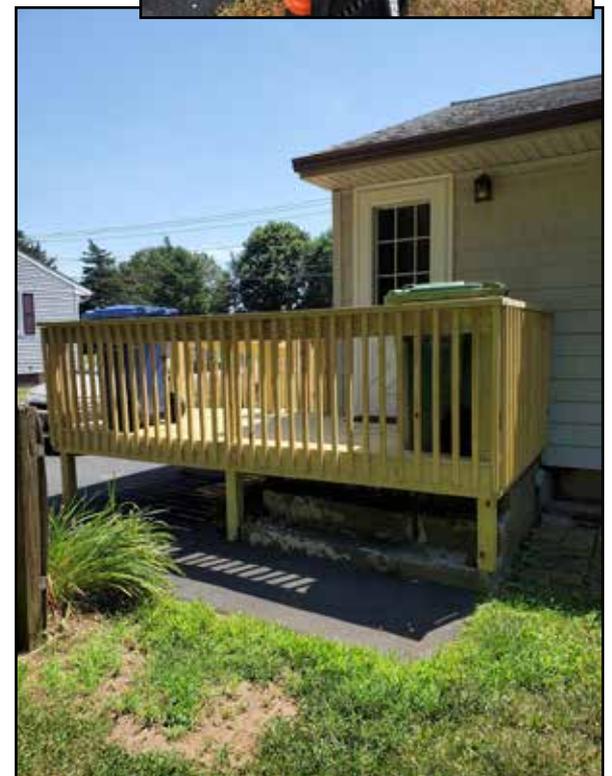
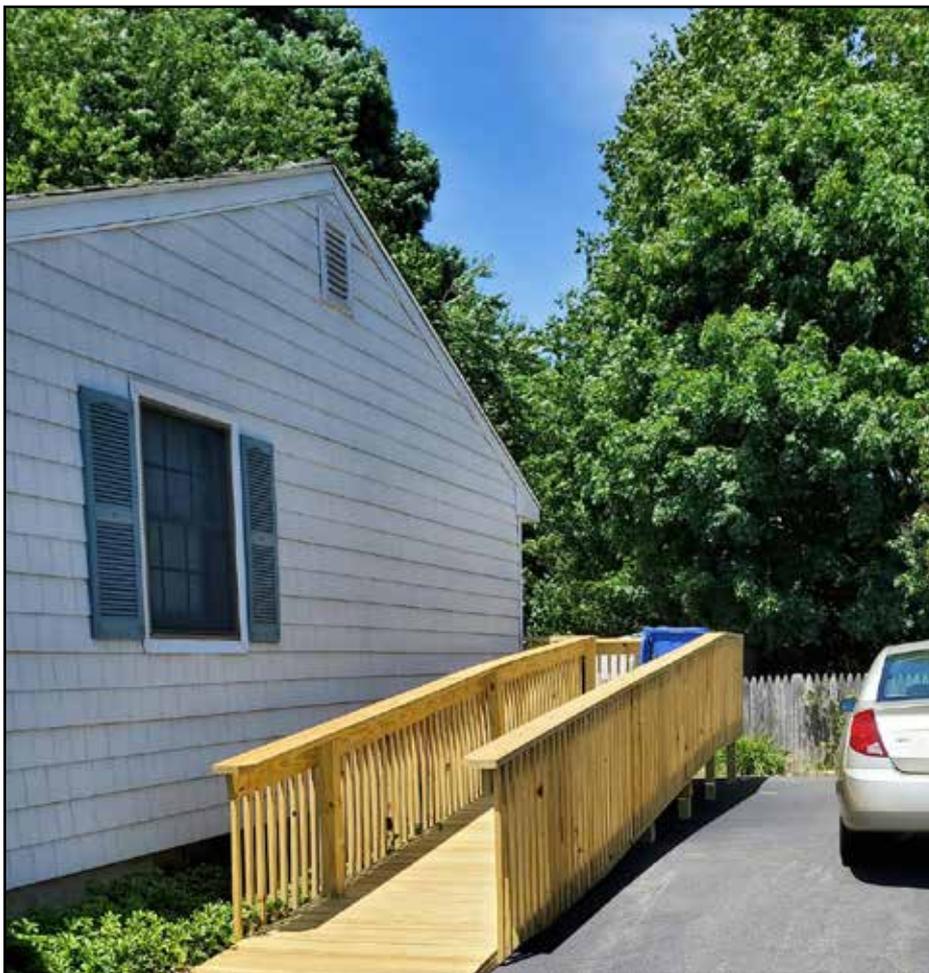
The cost of a new handicap ramp would be a particular financial hardship for Priscilla. After a few phone calls, Gary and the brothers of Friendship Lodge were able to secure a contractor to do the work, Friaoli Construction of Wolcott. Friaoli was willing to donate their labor costs, but the material costs would be over \$900.

Brother Gary contacted Brother Rudy Cabata, Associate Grand Almoner for District 5, and asked if there were funds available for the project. Brother Rudy then contacted Grand Almoner, RWB Carl Anderson, who was able to secure the funds.

Within three weeks of Priscilla declaring her need, the ramp was constructed, and the work was completed.

This represents another example of the charitable work that has been going on behind the scenes in many lodges. These are indeed difficult times, but by the coordination of Masonic resources, and learning what resources are available, a widow was able to remain in her home.

It may be true that when it comes to charity, the right hand should not know what the left is doing, but in this case, using all the Grand Lodge resources available provided a happy ending for the widow of a brother.





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