

January 2021



Connecticut FREEMASONS



*Let's Try This
Again, Shall We?*

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

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



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Not Just a Man. A Mason.



Connecticut
FREEMASONS

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OF CONNECTICUT A.F. & A.M.**

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Let's Try This Again, Shall We?

by Francis G. Way

2021. The only year in this century whose numbers progress incrementally: 20...21. For those who might be into numeric symbolism, that might be a refreshing change from 2020.

A year ago, January's article centered on 2020, as in 20/20 vision, and focusing in on what Masters needed to do to help their lodges improve:

"Perfect vision," as some call it, is 20/20. [...] But perfect vision or not, the year 2020 might just be a really good year to give a 20/20 look at your lodge and to see, "warts and all," just how well its doing.

Boy, did we get it wrong!

If you're into numeric symbolism, then 2020 was not a year of laser focus with perfect vision on what you could do to improve your lodge. It was a year of stagnation, of plans unfulfilled (and plans that were never even kicked off), and of lodges standing pat....

Or was it?

German Field Marshall Helmuth Moltke said, and we'll paraphrase here, "No battle plan ever survives first contact with the enemy." If you prefer a more contemporary take on it, heavyweight champion Mike Tyson put it this way, "Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth."

MWB Charlie Yohe is fond of saying, "plan your work and work your plan," but before the newly minted Worshipful Masters of 2020 had a chance to maneuver their troops to put their plans into action, an ill wind blew in from the east, and all labor in the quarry halted in its tracks. Masonry got punched in the mouth.

But was it really a year of stagnation and unfulfilled plans? Not necessarily.

Lodges embraced technology, and within a couple of weeks, Zoom became the tool that lodges used to meet. Well, not exactly, not at first, as stated communications were not possible over Zoom. But brothers could stay in touch and reach out to see if anyone needed anything.

Fast forward to later in the year, when in-person meetings became possible, and hybrid stated communications were allowed. Brethren who could get out, would, and brethren, some of whom no longer drive at night or who found travel difficult in general, or who were at high risk, were staying in but were now participating by Zoom. While it certainly wasn't something any lodge may have included in their plan, it certainly was an improvement in the life of the lodge.

As we move into a new year, some Worshipful Masters have been elected to a second term, their lodges intending to give them a chance to experience something akin to a normal year in 2021. Some lodges have elected new Worshipful Masters. As 2021 progresses, there is hope that life will return to normal, and if that is the case the Worshipful Masters in the class of 2021 may have a chance to plan their work and work their plan. If they do, they would do well to recall the advantage that technology, and tools like Zoom, Teams, Slack, and Webex, have provided, and to continue to embrace them. Brothers who may not get out often may just get online, and that's a lodge improvement for 2021 we can all get behind.



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



2020 Grand Lodge Officers (left to right)

Tony Angelica, Associate Grand Tiler
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F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., R.W. Grand Junior Steward
Richard C. Memmott, Jr., R.W. Grand Tiler
Robert J. Kovi, Associate Grand Tiler
James M. Anderson, Deputy Grand Secretary
Missing Shane Dufresne, R.W. Grand Senior Steward





*At the close of another year
we gratefully pause
to wish you a warm and happy
Holiday Season!*

*The officers and brothers of
The Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut*

*Stephen W. Petri
M.W. Grand Master*

*Grant S. Gould
R.W. Grand Secretary*

*Newton "Bud" Buckner, III
R.W. Grand Treasurer*

Grand Chaplain's Message

by Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski



The past year has been very trying not only to us but to all of humanity. As we look forward to 2021, we all hope that things will improve, and we can be back to somewhat of a normal life.

I look back on life and recall things that I never thought would come true. A man on the moon, phones that can be used to call others and take pictures, and computers that that can give us an array of knowledge. Now not only have we witnessed a man on the moon but also space stations. I remember having three dimes to call home and a phone booth on every corner.

Many years ago, I used a mimeograph machine to publish bulletins and a stencil to insert graphics and now I can use the

computer not only to change fonts and colors but to print colored pictures.

Many of our Masonic bodies have helped to make many strides in medical research. Therefore, I remind all to look around and see the miracles that we see every day. I thank God for all who are helping humanity and remind all to be thankful for every blessing we have. May all of humanity have a positive attitude and continue to ask God to 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

Michael Thomas Agnew
Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

Roger A. Bailey
St. John's Lodge No. 2

Edward Durkee Perrine Gross, Jr.
Madison Lodge No. 87

Richard Wayne Haslam
Granite Lodge No. 119

Norman Burton Kantrow
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Roger Dyson Larson
Washington Lodge No. 81

Thomas H. McGuire
Wolcott Lodge No. 60 Wayne R. Meier

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Alan Edward Wexelman
Fayette Lodge No. 69

Theodore Robert Whiton, Jr.
Union Lodge No. 31

Ernest C. Wignall
Somerset - St. James Lodge No. 34



Grand Historian's Corner

Andrew R. Melillo

Patriot and Tory. The American Revolution was a civil war. Masonry – imported from England – survived. Americans, in their traditional notion of the *City Upon a Hill*, shining bright as an example to the world, Jamestown predated Plymouth by 13 years. The fiery passion of Winthrop's *Christian Commonwealth* did not reflect the same vision and interests of the planters of Virginia.

The South was *bold* and *Cavaliere* – the North was modest, but *properly pure*. The Plymouth Plantation was founded by Separatists – of which the Grand Historian is descended from John Alden and his wife Priscilla Mullins, daughter of William and Alice Mullins; PGM Robinson shares the same bloodline of descent. The early fathers of Plymouth and Boston would find their work in vain some 130 years later when the Church of England began its mission in the New World. Feinstein, a local Stamford authoress, wrote in her history book of that place:

...it is plausible to infer a link between the expansion of Episcopacy in western Connecticut and the establishment of Freemasonry, a new kind of organization on the Stamford scene.

By 1740, the Connecticut elite witnessed a challenge to the established church of state: Congregationalism. During this time, many found the old ritual and teachings of the Church of England more attractive than the arduous and puritanical practices of the other. Indeed, Feinstein caught a glimpse of something real when she wrote: “wherever there was an Episcopal society being formed, a Masonic lodge was not far behind.”

Evidence of this is found throughout the state. When Bishop Seabury made his rounds between New York and Connecticut, a group of Greenwich families purchased land from Israel Knapp and built a chapel for services on the Great Hill. This is now called Putnam Hill, named after Brother Israel Putnam, where he made his daring escape from the British in 1779. Knapp owned the public house (tavern) across the street from the land he sold to the Episcopalians, and that same tavern, which still stands today, provided the first known meeting place for Masons in Stamford and Greenwich. The jurisdiction then covered what is now New Rochelle, Rye, and Bedford, New York, and Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, and a part of New Canaan, Connecticut. Ezra Stiles, kinsman to the Grand Historian, and seventh president of Yale College even remarked:

We see the spirit of Episcopal Intrigue already working with great Cunning. It has set up & recommended the Fraternity of Freemasons & is pressing them apace into a Subserviency & Subordination to the great End of increasing the Church... The Freemasons have already within a dozen years increased from three to 13 or 14 Lodges.

The Puritan forefathers of Connecticut – so hell bent on control and oversight – did not trust the ritual and secrecy of *The Lodge*. The ritual was historically woven to Old England, and the secrecy of the fraternity made them shake with horror. The introduction of the practices and manners of Old England was intolerable on the soil of New England.

The vestry of the Episcopal Church has much the same structure as a lodge – there is a Secretary, Treasurer, Junior Warden, and Senior Warden, and instead of a

Worshipful Master at its head there is the Rector. The good Reverend Dane Boston, formerly of Christ Church Greenwich – the mother church of the Grand Historian, and one steeped in Masonic history – once remarked, *there are only two positions in the Church – Rector and non-Rector...* a familiar proposition to the members of the Craft.

Old Hiram was chartered in 1750, and St. John's No. 2 in Middletown – that bustling city along the Connecticut River – followed in 1754, and have the oldest known extant records of raising a Master Mason. Jehosaphat Starr, *an old and well experienced Master Mason of mature age*, he having been made a Mason along with Wooster at the Siege of Louisbourg, was chosen as the first Worshipful Master of the second lodge on Connecticut soil.

As Case asserts in a national publication, St. John's Lodge No. 2 in Middletown,

was a very active commercial center as well as being close to the geographical center of the road net of the colony. Coasting vessels and those in the West Indies trade were able to reach it by the Connecticut River, and slow moving transport overland did not have very far to travel from any corner of the colony.

Much like Middletown, the third oldest Connecticut lodge, St. John's Lodge No. 3, also had the same type of people petition the lodge for membership, yet their business centered around New York City. The earliest names on the record show that it was tied to New York Masons – and received the help and assistance of members from St. John's Lodge No. 1 of New York. The oldest minute books are currently in the possession of the Grand Historian and are being transcribed and digitized. And will soon be transported to Litchfield for complete restoration.

Continued on page 8

Grand Historian's Corner *continued from page 7*

The charter of St. John's Lodge No. 3 is the oldest New York Masonic document in existence. They should take pride in this and do well to preserve it. The Charter Master was Eleazar Hubbell, another kinsman to the Grand Historian, and today the lodge has moved to an area close to the first meeting place, which was at Sgt. Richard Hubbell's homestead. It is a privilege of the Grand Historian to serve as Chaplain of this lodge that began in his ancient ancestor's home.

Hartford had a bit of activity with the funeral of Col. Nathan Payson. While the Father of Masonry, Wooster, had fallen as a patriot in Ridgefield – he belonged to the same universal brotherhood as Colonel Payson. Where Wooster was a zealous adherent to the cause of liberty – Colonel Payson was equally a zealous supporter of the Crown. The event of Colonel Payson's funeral in 1761 at Hartford, a man who fought for king and county alongside Israel Putnam, was of such a magnitude – it prompted brothers who came for the occasion, Israel Knapp being one of them, to petition the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for a charter. As Dorothy Ann Lipson writes in her monumental work, *Freemasonry in Federalist Connecticut, 1789 – 1835*:

The history of St. John's Lodge of Hartford typified the transformation of colonial institutions into an American one. Because of the strong correlation between Masonic membership and Anglophilia, St. John's probably had more Tories proportionately among its members, as the Revolution approached, than did the population of Hartford County as a whole. Although a vague aura of Toryism shrouded the fraternity, St. John's Lodge members also took the idea of the supranational, universal character of their fraternity seriously. Eventually Masonic universalism made the fraternity available to them as Americans, or as Connecticut men, rather than as English colonials.

She goes on to write:

... This event [Payson's funeral] was different enough from the austere funeral rites of Connecticut Congregationalism in its military and Masonic panoply for the New England Summary of New London to publish a description of it. The funeral had attracted the 'greatest concourse of People that has ever been known on such an occasion.'

By 1763, St. John's Lodge was meeting at the Black Horse Tavern, operated by the family of Samuel Flagg, a charter member of that lodge.

As the rhetoric and energy of American patriotism built up and grew in the 1760's, so was equally fervent the allegiance of American colonists to the ancient British Crown and their membership within the Masonic fraternity. The good Reverend Abraham Beach, from Cheshire, and member of Temple Lodge No. 16 of that place, eulogized in 1766 William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. It was a rare occasion for a group at that time to gather and eulogize a distant aristocrat with ceremonial pomp and occasion. The Reverend Beach stated that the Duke had been:

Fully sensible of the great advantages accruing to Mankind from its Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty.

And as Lipson wrote,

Cumberland may have been their patron, but they owed their very existence to the 'Smiles and Protection of that Supreme Architect of the Universe, who first formed and from time immemorial has preserved this Society in Order, Harmony & Proportion.' The craft would, despite the loss of their noble leader, continue to observe the 'glorious Principle of Universal Benevolence' that form the basis of the association. Thus Beach put the lodge and the meaning of membership into a context of universal fraternity, independent of English noble sponsorship or the Premier Grand Lodge. Emphasis on the universalistic rather than the English roots of Masonry helped move the fraternity from a colonial to an independent political frame of mind.

And so, it was thus – a people bound by common language, religion, culture, and blood were divided. And so, it was thus – besides all those differences, besides the immense opposition by those in the American colonies, the bond of universal brotherhood survived. Col. Nathan Payson, a loyalist to the core, was the same man who fought side by side with General Israel Putnam in the French and Indian War. One of the great testaments of character and conscious in the Revolution was Freemasonry. Indeed, the Revolution would prove who was loyal to one cause or the other, but more importantly it proved something greater – that regardless of political and social differences the Institution of Freemasonry prevailed. Upon the ancient soil of Connecticut in New England, the Craft bound men together while the war tore families apart.

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From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

Last year was an agonizing one for the Masonicare family, particularly during the late autumn as COVID-19 tore through our skilled nursing facility. The virus didn't care about how well we fared during the first wave last spring. It was silent, invisible, and merciless. The sense of loss and helplessness felt by our employees in the face of an unstoppable outbreak weighed on them terribly, but they fought through it with tremendous courage.

That's why I was shocked and disheartened to see that TIME magazine had chosen anyone other than all healthcare workers as Person of the Year for 2020. That's not a political statement – it's based on firsthand knowledge of how hard our nurses, CNAs, therapists, housekeepers, dining services staff, and others have worked throughout the pandemic, the hardships they've endured, and the risks they've taken.

I'm reminded of a note I recently received from the granddaughter of a resident on 6 Ramage, among the units hardest hit at Masonicare Health Center. She wanted me to know how much the compassion shown by all of her grandfather's caregivers had meant to his loved ones. It was a powerful reminder of the impact we have on the lives of others and how, even in the face of a heartbreaking loss, there is room for gratitude. Her message read, in part:

"I hope the Masonicare family will acknowledge these employees in some way for being such wonderful caregivers and let them know how incredibly thankful our family is for them. While we sit on the outside, unable to be with my grandfather in his

last moments when he should be surrounded by his family who loves him so much, I am comforted knowing that there are people on 6 Ramage providing what we wish we could."

Had the editorial staff at TIME spent a day on 6 Ramage, well, I think they might have reconsidered their choice.

My confidence that 2021 will be a better, brighter year than the one we leave behind was bolstered when the Food and Drug Administration approved Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use. We finally have a powerful weapon in the war against this terrible disease. I hope you will consider getting vaccinated. Please take the time to learn more about the vaccines: how they work, the steps taken to ensure their safety, and why they're necessary.

I wish you all the very best and thank you, again, for your support of Masonicare.

Sincerely and fraternally,



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"Character, not circumstances,
makes the man."

~Bro. Douglas MacArthur
Manila Lodge No. 1, Philippines

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR
75-YEAR BROTHER!**

**John P. Goodridge
Wylls-St. John's Lodge No. 4**



**AND TO OUR
50-YEAR BROTHERS!**

**Alan K. Spear
Coastal Lodge No. 57**

**Jack Daniel Mackay
Union Lodge No. 40**

**WELCOME TO OUR
NEW BROTHERS!**

**Ark Lodge No. 39
Jeff Ezulike**

**Ark Lodge No. 39
Eshon A. Spruill**

**Brainard Lodge No. 102
David Scott Clement**

**Brainard Lodge No. 102
Zachary Bryce Larkham**

**Annawon Lodge No. 115
Lonnie Reyes**

**Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125
Joseph Maxwell Kopman-Fried**

**Wolcott Lodge No. 146
John J. Byrnes**



The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation

by Charles W. Yohe

Apparently one of the best kept secrets of Connecticut Freemasonry, The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation is entering its second decade of service on behalf of you, the Connecticut Masons! So, what is the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation (CTFF) and what does it do? The Foundation is an IRS 501(c)3 designated charitable entity that was created as the charitable arm of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. Since its inception 10 years ago, it has donated over one million dollars on your behalf to both Masonic and non-Masonic charitable causes. Every voting member of the Grand Lodge is also a member of the CTFF. The CTFF has a nine member board of directors that consists of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden, and six directors at large that are elected by you. Directors at large are elected for staggered three-year terms and may succeed themselves once before being ineligible for continued service.

The CTFF relies on you, the members of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, for the financial support that enables us to continue to make a positive impact and make the world a better place. What do we support through your generosity? Annually, we make significant financial contributions to Connecticut Rainbow for Girls, Connecticut DeMolay, the George Washington National Masonic Memorial, the Masonic Service Association of North America, the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory in Utica, NY, the Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, the Grand Almoner's Fund, CT CHIP, the National Masonic Foundation for Children, the Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut, the Shriners Hospitals in Springfield and Boston, and the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program.

In addition to these major Masonic-related programs, your foundation also provides financial support for the educational endeavors of local Connecticut organizations such as Roaring Brook Nature Center, Horizon Wings (wild bird rehabilitation and public education), and KEYS (providing instrumental music instruction to disadvantaged children in Bridgeport), as well as for the Lodge Matching Fund

program. Finally, each year, your CTFF responds to requests from other Grand Jurisdictions for aid in response to natural disasters that affect other parts of North America. Donations are sent in response to hurricanes, tornados, floods, mudslides, and fires. In the past, donations were sent to Florida, Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, the Carolinas, Texas, Louisiana, Iowa, California, and Guatemala. So far, in 2020, donations were made to Louisiana and Iowa. When requests are received, the foundation acts on your behalf.

The CTFF contributes more than \$150,000 each year on your behalf with zero effect on your dues and assessments! From where does the money come? First, and foremost, we rely on YOUR generosity. Each year, the Grand Master issues an appeal for support of your CTFF. Any contributions you make are tax deductible in accordance with 501(c)3 guidelines and 100% of your donation is used for charity. Your

CTFF Board of Directors are volunteers who give of themselves without any monetary reward for service. In addition to your donations through the Grand Master's Annual Appeal, your foundation relies on the income generated by an investment account that is managed by Glenmede, the same entity that manages the Grand Trustees' funds and Masonic Charity Foundation funds.

Every Connecticut Mason can reflect with pride on the good works that are supported by the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation. The support we provide on behalf of the membership of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut is exemplary. Do YOU want to feel even better? Help the CTFF make an even bigger

impact! If you haven't already done so, please send your contribution to the Grand Master's Appeal for 2020. You may make checks payable to The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation and mail to P.O. Box 69, Wallingford, CT 06492 or, if you prefer, make a donation online through Paypal (<https://ctfreemasons.net/the-connecticut-freemasons-foundation/>). Please do it today! All you'll feel is good while doing good and helping your Connecticut Freemasons Foundation do even more.

See page 30 for donation information.

Call for Nominations for Connecticut Freemasons Foundation

The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation is accepting nominations to fill two vacancies for service on its Board of Directors beginning in April 2021. All interested Master Masons who are members of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF&AM are eligible for service.

Interested Brothers should submit a resume that lists contact information and includes work and personal experience that could prove to be an asset to the operation of the Foundation. Resumes must be received in the Grand Lodge office no later than Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Please send all correspondence to The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, P.O. Box 69, Wallingford, CT 06492. The nominating committee will bring forward a list of nominees for consideration and vote at the annual meeting which will be included as a part of the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in April 2021.

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 M.W.B. 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. A seminar in April 2019 was so successful we immediately received a request by a school district to sponsor another seminar 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 brochure that was mailed to you. 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,

M.W. Grand Master 2020

NOTE: Donations can be made via PayPal on the Grand Lodge website: www.CTFreemasons.net

XXX-----XXX

Make check payable to: CT Freemasons Foundation – mail to PO 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**
- Unrestricted Fund**
- Other – please note in the memo section of your check**

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

Please send notice of my gift to: _____

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



District 1

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



Stratford Halloween Drive-Thru *by Pete Garcia*

Despite the pandemic, this past Halloween showed that when Masons pull together in brotherhood and a display of faith, hope, and charity, anything is possible. An awesome turnout by brothers from Corinthian Lodge No. 104, America-Saint John's Lodge No. 8, and the Pyramid Shriner Clowns offered a great experience filled with wonderful smiles from very happy children who were able to safely parade and receive "tricks and treats." Their parents and guardians were happy as well.

The "Halloween Drive-Thru" was a great show, and it was testament to the community who received us and made the brothers a part of their lives. Thank you to the brothers and to Stratford for making this happen.





Jerusalem Lodge No. 49 Awards 50-Year Pins *by Jeff S. Bartlett*

Brothers gathered in the Ridgefield lodge on a chilly December evening to pay tribute to Willard Carter and Walter Wieland. Each has been a Ridgefield resident and Freemason for more than five decades. Further, they share a connection in that Willard was on Walter's investigating committee.

The ceremony was led by Grand Junior Warden Joe Porco, who was joined by RWB John "Jeff" Feinson, the District Deputy for Masonic District 2B, and aided by Worshipful Master Stephen Dudzic and lodge secretary, RWB William Deickler. The histories of the brothers were read, noting the dates of their degrees and various offices they held through the years.

Each brother shared the spark that began their Masonic journey. RWB Walt explained that his father was a Mason, and Bro. Willard was inspired by both family and curiosity about the fraternity.

"Being active in Masonry for five decades is an easy thing to do if you are willing to get involved and have active brothers to work and socialize with," explained RWB Walt. Over that time, he would sit in nearly every seat, including twice in the East as Worshipful Master. He has served as lodge historian since 2013.

Among the appeals to Bro. Willard was the ability to attend other lodges. He told of how he enjoyed visiting a lodge in Ohio when traveling to see a daughter and her family. Ultimately, he found camaraderie to be among the chief benefits of Freemasonry.

Looking back, both brothers had many fond memories. Bro. Walt shared some of his high points including the birth of his son on the day he was first installed as Master in 1976; his service as AGM; conducting a CHIPs program when Master the second time; and helping bring the The Battle of Ridgefield to life with a large-scale reenactment in 2017.

As the evening concluded, Bro. Willard was seen borrowing a book on Masonic history, proving that learning is a journey that never ends. Congratulations brothers.



RWB. Bill Deickler fastens the 50-year pin to RWB Walt Wieland's jacket.



Bro. Willard Carter, RWB Walt Wieland, and WM Steve Dudzic. Treasurer Charles O'Neill looks on in the background.



RWB Walt Wieland, RWB John "Jeff" Feinson, and Bro. Willard Carter (foreground). Treasurer Charles O'Neill and WM Steve Dudzic (background).

District 3

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

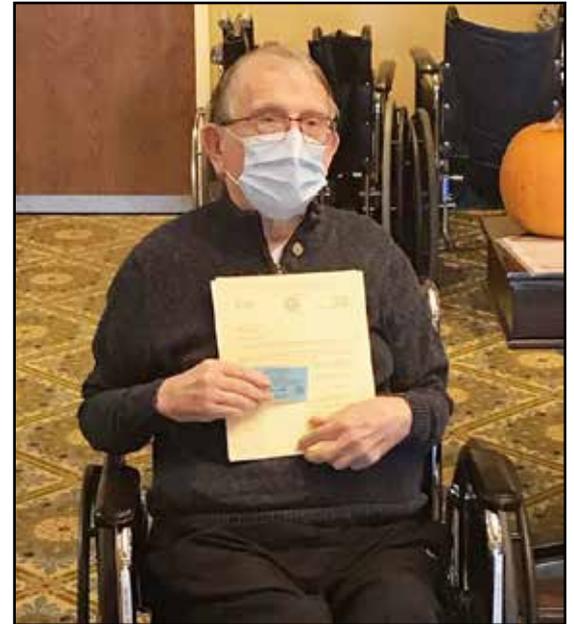


WB Roger Payne Receives 50-Year Pin

by Shane Dufresne

On Saturday, October 31, Worshipful Brother Roger Payne was presented a 50-year pin at Masonicare. The pin was presented by RWB Shane Dufresne, Grand Senior Steward. Grand Almoner, RWB Carl Anderson's assistance made the presentation possible.

WB Payne was overjoyed to receive his pin. He is looking forward to when he can celebrate with the brothers from his lodge, Federal Lodge No. 17.



District 4

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



Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 Supports Toys for Tots

by David Cole

On Wednesday November 18, Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 in Branford came together to support the Marine Corps' Toys For Tots charity. This was the first, and hopefully one of many, events to support the charity. A special thank you to Senior Steward Brother Randy Frazier for putting the event together.

The lodge had a great turnout and filled 15 Toys for Tots boxes, totaling approximately 1500 toys, which was enough to fill a 26-foot U-Haul truck. It was amazing to see the amount of people who showed up. Everyone had a great time.

The Marines said that they usually do 25-30 events by mid-November, but due to COVID-19 the lodge was their only event so far. All the toys collected will be distributed in New Haven County.





Hospitality Lodge No. 128 Donates to Wethersfield Social Services for Christmas *by Francis G. Way*

Since its chartering in 2012, Hospitality Lodge No. 128 in Wethersfield has focused a good portion of its philanthropic efforts in support of Wethersfield Social and Youth Services. Collecting canned goods and toiletries at each stated communication or helping to provide turkeys at Thanksgiving are just some of the ways the lodge has supported, through Social Services, those at most need in the community.

For the Christmas season in 2019, the brothers and their ladies went shopping. Armed with lists provided by Social Services, they bought toys for the age groups requested, and dropped them off at the department in Town Hall. While the needs didn't change in 2020, the method of providing assistance did.

Due to COVID-19, the department requested monetary donations in lieu of toys. The donations will be used to purchase gift cards that will be given to needy families, who can, in turn, use them to purchase toys. While not as much fun as spending an evening "being a kid again" and shopping, the brethren fully understand the need to be safe.

On Wednesday, November 25, WM Alberto Dieguez presented a donation of \$400 from the lodge to Alexander Texiera, the Assistant Director of Wethersfield Social and Youth Services. WM Dieguez was accompanied by SW RWB Francis Way, JW Brother Doug Maliszewski, and Secretary WB Matt Griffin. The lodge hopes that when COVID-19 is finally just a memory, they will be able to once again go shopping for the Christmas season.



(l-r) JW Doug Maliszewski, Erica Texiera, Secy Matt Griffin, WM Alberto Dieguez, SW Frank Way



WB Don Skinner and WB Paul Holjes

Valley Lodge No. 36 Participates in Toy Drive *by Don Skinner*

On Tuesday December 15, Valley Lodge No. 36, in conjunction with the Salvation Army and the Simsbury Main Street Alliance, delivered approximately 30 bags of toys collected over the past two weeks to the collection site at The Farmington Inn. The lodge has participated in this toy drive for over 25 consecutive years.

Many thanks to those in the Farmington Valley and the brothers of Valley Lodge who helped.

Sequin Level Lodge No. 140 Installs Officers for 2021

by Lee Martin

On December 12 Sequin Level Lodge No. 140 held the installation of 2021 officers in masked pandemic style.



RWB Bob Everest installed Worshipful Master Tad Bistor.

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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.

The Coronavirus Could Not Beat Masonic Family Generosity

by Pat Kalinauskas

The pandemic did not stop the Masonic family from doing what they are well known for -- being charitable. Members of National Camping Travelers, the Order of the Eastern Star, and the Grand Lodge AF&AM office donated toys and made monetary donations to purchase what amounted to three stretchers piled high with toys. The toys were delivered to the emergency department at St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury for the pediatric trauma unit on December 12, 2020.

Just because the coronavirus turned the world upside down, did not mean the need went away. If anything, it made the Masonic family's generosity even more important. This toy drive has helped the Waterbury inner-city hospital for 10 years now. Not expecting any toys from the Masonic group because of the pandemic, the staff at the hospital's emergency department were thrilled to receive them. A big, big thank you to all who donated toys, made monetary donations, picked up toys, and delivered the toys!



Right Worshipful Brother William R. Deickler Receives Pierpont Edwards in Bronze



Right Worshipful Brother William R. Deickler was born on September 23, 1961, to Barry and Judy Deickler. He has three older sisters, Kathy, Leigh, and Beverly. He is a “cradle” Episcopalian. He grew up in Bedford Hills, NY, graduated from Fox Lane High school in 1979, and graduated college with two degrees in 1982 and 1983 in Building Construction and Engineering Science. Bill started in the building business in 1977 when he built his first house from the ground up with his father.

In 1984, Bill got his real estate license, formed William R. Deickler Contracting Inc., and bought his first home. He joined St John’s Episcopal Church in South Salem, NY, and immediately was appointed Senior Warden. He served on the vestry until his maximum term limit was up in 1993, whereupon the priest and vestry bestowed upon him the honorary working titles of Confidential Counselor to the Priest and Parish Advisor, which he still does to this day, while wearing many other hats.

Bill married Diana Lanza in August 1987. Their daughter, Amanda, was born in October 1989 and daughter Stephanie, in July, 1991. The family moved to Ridgefield in 1993. Bill had an interest in Masonry in the mid-1980s, but life was moving too fast. His biggest regret is that he hadn’t joined Masonry sooner. In spring, 1995, Bill submitted a petition to Jerusalem Lodge No. 49 in Ridgefield. He was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on October 7, 1996, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on November 4, 1996 and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on January 6, 1997. Bill had the honor of raising his father as a Master Mason on January 19, 1998. Bill got involved in the lodge right away as Junior Steward, while quickly excelling in ritual work. He moved through the chairs rapidly, serving as Worshipful Master in 2000 and again in 2001.

He was recognized as “Mason of the Year” at Jerusalem Lodge in 1999. He enjoys doing the Middle Chamber lecture in the Fellowcraft degree and filling other parts as needed. He decided to join the appendant bodies of Masonry to learn more. In December 1997, he became a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, and joined the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He joined Chapter, Council, and Commandry in 1998. He served as Thrice Illustrious Master in 2005-2006, High Priest in 2006-2007 and Eminent Commander in 2009. He was then invited to join York Rite College in June 2000, Council of Anointed Kings

in 2005, Anointed High Priests in 2006, the Knights Crusader of the Cross in 2008, Knights of the York Cross of Honour in 2010, was appointed to the Grand Chapter line in 2010, and joined the Royal Order of Scotland in 2012.

Bill served as Associate Grand Marshal Masonic District 1A in 2004-2005, and as Right Worshipful District Deputy of Masonic District 1A for three years between 2006-2008. He

was a member of the Custodians of the Work Committee from 1999-2000, and 2002-2004. He chaired the Rules, Regulations, and Jurisprudence Committee 2001-2005, Ritual Committee from 2004- 2007, Legal Matters Committee from 2005-2007, Trial Commission from 2011-2016, the Commission from 2012-2016. Plus he was president of Blue Lodge Council in District 1, and he continues to serve Jerusalem Lodge as Chaplain and Secretary.

In October 2001, Bill was appointed to the Board of Directors of Ashlar of Newtown, which later became Masonicare at Newtown. He is the past chairman of both the AAC (Administrator’s Advisory Council) and the Development Committee. He has served as Chairman of Masonicare at Newtown, Masonicare Health Center and Masonic Management Services. He was elected to the Board of Trustees of Masonicare in 2008, and in 2016 was elected as vice chairman of the board through November 11th, 2020. He was very instrumental in affecting a major overhaul of the bylaws for all the affiliate boards as well as the parent company, Masonicare, and most recently for Keystone. He is the current chair of the Bylaws Committee and is a past chair of the nominating committee.

Clearly, Bill loves Masonry and what it stands for. He is proud to be a Mason and serve his Masonic family.

In recognition of his service to our fraternity, his community and to the state of Connecticut, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Connecticut is pleased to present Right Worshipful Brother William R. Deickler the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.



Right Worshipful Brother Gary Harlan Ross Receives Pierpont Edwards in Bronze



Right Worshipful Brother Gary Harlan Ross was born at Hartford Hospital on October 10, 1946, the son of John Jacob Ross and Rosalyn Sachs Ross. His early life was spent in East Hartford and his teenage years in Wallingford. He attended Lyman Hall High School where he excelled in track and field, most notably as a sprinter, where he set numerous records at both the local, Housatonic League, and state levels.

Gary worked with his father for many years at his floor covering store in Wallingford. As a family they spent many weekends on the Connecticut shore sailing Long Island Sound from Bridgeport to Newport, RI. To this day, Gary is an accomplished sailor and has shared his skill and love of the water with his two children, Katherine and David.

After graduating high school, Gary attended Athens State College in Alabama, where he again excelled in track. He taught an accredited course in track technique for the Physical Education Department. Due to a long illness, he was unable to stay in Alabama and had to return to Connecticut for treatment at Yale New Haven Hospital, where he made a full recovery. Once able to continue his education, he resumed his studies at Wesleyan University in Middletown. He studied philosophy and music, continuing his journey as a dedicated musician. He taught private courses in accordion, organ, and piano. Many of his students received local and national awards. To this day, he is recognized and admired by his students, many of whom have kept in touch throughout the years.

Gary is married to Cynthia Ann Ross, a registered nurse, and they have two children, Katherine (31) and David (26). He moved his family to Salisbury in the northwest corner of Connecticut, first to Wells Hill Road, and later to a home he helped design located north of Salisbury on Rt. 41. To better provide for his family and supplement his income from teaching piano and accordion, Gary learned the craft of piano restoration from master craftsman, Angelo Andino of Steinway & Sons. He opened his first retail and restoration shop on Main Street in Lakeville. He later opened additional stores in Great Barrington, MA and Twin Lakes. To this day, he continues to restore and sell all types of pianos.

He is well known and respected in the community as an excellent musician and technician. Gary has worked on pianos

for celebrities in the northeast as well as for the Yale School of Music, Norfolk Chamber Music, Music Mountain, Close Encounters, Tanglewood, Indian Mountain School, Hotchkiss School, and many churches and synagogues. He ran the Music Department at Indian Mountain School from 1971 to 1974, and then ran the Music Department at the Dutchess Day School in Millbrook, NY. In 1976, he taught Electric Composition at the Salisbury School.



Gary is an accomplished composer. In 1982, he performed a piano recital that included eight original pieces. He also has performed as an actor many times on stage at the Sharon Playhouse. He is recognized as “the piano man” and has much deserved respect among the music and arts community.

Gary’s wife and children describe him as gentle, kind, and honorable – a man of his word. Friends comment that Gary would give the shirt off his back. Indeed, on numerous occasions, Gary has helped out brothers in need, both financially and by offering a helping hand where necessary. When Gary’s mother could no longer live alone in Florida, Gary helped her move to a suitable facility and made numerous trips throughout the year to be with her on special occasions.

Among his many interests, Gary has had a love for cars and has owned numerous collectible domestic and foreign vehicles, including a beautifully restored BMW motorcycle with sidecar. Gary is a master scuba diver and has earned his certification in rescue diving. For the past decade, Gary and Cindy have traveled throughout the world, a pursuit they look forward to continuing in the future.

Gary petitioned Montgomery Lodge No. 13 in the spring of 2000. He was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on January 17, 2001. The following January he commenced his steady climb through the officer chairs as Junior Deacon. He was elected to serve as Worshipful Master in 2007. Gary was appointed Associate Grand Marshal for Masonic District 2A in 2008-2009. He was appointed District Deputy for Lodges in the Northwest Corner in 2013-2014.

Continued on page 12

RWB Ross Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal

continued from page 11

He affiliated with Housatonic Lodge No. 61 in an effort to assist the lodge that was struggling at the time. He continued to hold numerous offices in both Montgomery and Housatonic Lodges. He served as Worshipful Master of Housatonic Lodge in 2011 and 2012. After Housatonic Lodge voted to merge with Montgomery Lodge, Gary was granted an honorary membership in Seneca Lodge No. 55 in Torrington. There, he continues his tradition of helping out by serving as organist, and currently serves as Senior Deacon

At Montgomery Lodge's lobster sale fundraisers, Gary can usually be found at the table, doling out lobsters and clams to eager patrons, many of whom he knows personally. During the long and arduous process of selling the Housatonic Lodge property, Gary has single handedly kept the grounds mowed and trimmed, donating his time and equipment to do so without any compensation or remuneration.

In recognition of his service to our fraternity, his community and to the state of Connecticut, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Connecticut is pleased to present RWB Gary Harlan Ross the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.

Ed. Note: As many brothers are unaware of the process for nominating and choosing the recipients of the Pierpont Edwards Medal, we asked the Grand Secretary to furnish an explanation. We strive to run articles on the awarding of the Pierpont Edwards Medal as soon as we receive them from Grand Lodge.

Pierpont Edwards Medal

by Grant S. Gould

The Pierpont Edwards medal in Bronze is awarded in recognition of a Master Mason's "distinguished service to our fraternity, his community and to the state of



Connecticut." The medal bears a relief portrait of Pierpont Edwards, the first Grand Master in this Grand Jurisdiction on its front side, and on the reverse, the recipient's name is engraved, along with the year of presentation and "Distinguished Masonic Service." The medals may be awarded annually to no more than nine Past Masters in this Grand Jurisdiction, two Past Masters from another Grand Jurisdiction, and three Master Masons. There is also a Pierpont

Edwards medal in Silver, which can be awarded to no more than two Past Grand Masters of this or another Grand Jurisdiction, in recognition of their "eminent service."

Any Master Mason in good standing may be nominated for the Pierpont Edwards medal in Bronze, and any brother in good

standing may present that nomination. Nominations include a brief but concise biography of the nominee and includes both personal information on the brother as well as his Masonic and civic involvement. Grand Lodge has a guide available to assist in the preparation of the nomination, which ideally should be kept to two pages or less if possible.

Nominations are forwarded to the attention of the Grand Secretary, who will then present it to the Honors and Awards Committee. That committee consists of the sitting Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, most recent Past Grand Master, Grand Secretary and a brother at large who is a holder of the medal. The committee meets annually, generally in late June or early July, to consider nominations, but if a worthy nomination were to be received after that, the committee can be reconvened at the pleasure of the Grand Master. A unanimous vote of the committee is required for approval.

Every effort is made to keep the nomination and selection process secret from the nominee, so that he may be surprised at the presentation. The medal is presented by the Grand Master or his designee.

When a brother is selected for this prestigious award, the Grand Secretary will notify the brother who made the nomination and the home lodge of the brother, via the Worshipful Master. They are asked to select a date and venue for the presentation and to forward that information through the Grand Secretary so that the event may be made a part of the Grand Master's schedule.

One may feel free to contact the Grand Secretary with any questions regarding the process.

The Plumb

by Jaime Paul Lamb

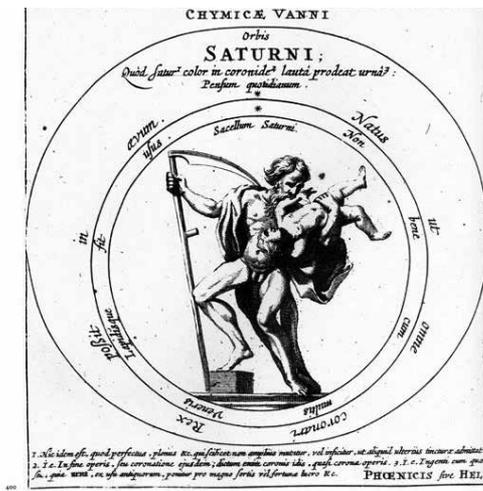
The plumb (alternately plumb bob or plummet) is a cord with a non-magnetic, usually lead, weight at one end, and sometimes affixed to a wooden frame. Operatively, the plumb is used to indicate a vertical direction, to prove a vertical line, or to measure depth, particularly of a body of water – to “plumb the depths.” as it were. It thereby represents the vertical axis, corresponding to the vertical Cartesian coordinate *z* (the *applicata*). The instrument has been in use at least since ancient Egyptian times. The plumb bob is still in wide usage throughout the building trades, though recently laser instruments have come into favor. The etymological root of the word plumb is the Latin *plumbum*, which means lead. It is from the word *plumbum* that the ascription of the initials Pb was attributed to lead on the Periodic Table of Elements. In its form as an adjective, the word shares its etymology with the word *aplomb*, which means confidence or poise, especially in trying times.

The plumb bob describes a vertical reference line pointing to the center of gravity, thereby proving a perpendicular. It is in this aspect that the plumbline, or plummet, has long been used as a metaphor for justice and righteousness. The instrument is employed in this metaphorical sense several times in the Bible. We read in the book of Amos, for instance, the following passage with which every Fellowcraft will be familiar:

“Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a *wall* made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand. And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more.”

(Amos 7:7-8)

The plumb was also an integral component of instruments used in early astronomical observation, such as the T-crossbar, quadrant, and astrolabe, as well as instruments of navigation and surveying. Only by establishing an accurate vertical reference point, at a 90° angle from a level



plane, could one calculate the aspects and relative positions of the stars and other celestial bodies. The same is true for navigation, which was contingent upon the stars and their positions. Accuracy in surveying was also dependent on fixed coordinates, as it is currently.

Lead, or *plumbum*, is sometimes associated with the *prima materia*, or first matter, in alchemical processes. This is partly because alchemical lead is considered “cold and moist” in opposition to alchemical gold being considered ‘hot and dry.’ Lead is seen as requiring perfection through a series of metallurgical, or mineral kingdom alchemical operations which would elevate this base metal to its exalted and incorruptible state. Thus, lead and gold are theoretically seen as representing the two extremes on an alchemical segment. In some alchemical and magical systems, the planetary glyph for Saturn is associated with the element lead. Interestingly, lead is sometimes personified as an old man bearing a scythe in some alchemical codices – not unlike Father Time or the titan Cronus, with whom Chronos was conflated due to their sharing the name Κρόνος, in the Greek.

As a transitive verb, “to plumb” may also mean “to seal with lead.” In this form, we may consider the “plumbing” of the chest into which Set tricked his brother, Osiris. An abridgment of this ancient Egyptian myth, as told in Plutarch, runs roughly as follows: Set and the queen of Ethiopia, along with seventy-two accomplices, conspire to kill Osiris. Set produces a chest made to fit Osiris’ measurements, and offers the chest to any of the banquet guests who fits best inside of it. Of course, Osiris is a perfect fit and, while he is inside the chest, Set “plumbs” the lid, trapping Osiris within. The chest was then thrown into the Nile river, by which it was borne to Byblos, a coastal Phoenician city, where it became lodged in a tamarisk tree trunk. The tree was later cut down and used as a pillar in the palace of the king of Byblos; this is the origin of the *Djed* Pillar, or “Pillar of Stability.” Isis, who had been diligently searching for signs of her brother-husband, hears of the pillar and travels to Byblos to retrieve Osiris.

No Hammers Fell, Nor Ponderous Axes Swung

by John A. Amarilios, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

The Valley of Bridgeport plans to hold their stated meeting on Monday, February 1, at 7:30 p.m. A video presentation of the 4th and 23rd degrees will follow the conclusion of the meeting. The 4th degree is a mandatory starting point for all new candidates to the Rite and offers those brothers an opportunity to embark on their Scottish Rite Journey. The 23rd degree is a tribute and retelling of the final hours of the four military chaplains of varying faiths and denominations, who sacrificed their lives 78 years ago on the sinking troop carrier SS Dorchester in order to comfort and minister to their ship mates, rather than abandoning ship on February 3, 1943. It is a powerful history that underscores the principles values of the Rite. Given the ongoing pandemic crisis, please call the Lafayette Consistory office for advance reservations since there is limited seating due to social distancing restrictions. Also, please call the office as well before venturing out in February, to reconfirm the arrangements as these pandemic regulations are fluid and ever changing. There will be no meal offered prior to the meeting.

Both the Hartford 5K and the Stratford Turkey Trot were cancelled due to the pandemic last year. This has adversely affected the fund raising efforts for the Children's Dyslexia Centers. The Board of Governors have decided to offset this unfortunate loss of support by sponsoring a VIRTUAL WALK for Valentines Day, February 14. This is a safe, socially distanced alternative that offers everyone in the fraternity an opportunity to participate without having to travel, and that they can do safely on their own. Details can be found in the accompanying Lafayette Consistory News issue.

The Great Light advises at Kings 6:7 that at the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, "there was neither hammer nor ax, nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was building." Both light and gravity, powerful natural forces that incessantly and steadfastly work on this physical plane do so as well. It is well to consider, as this New Year dawns upon us all, to consider that the natural forces that operate silently

are the greatest forces known to man. While the rage of the tsunami, earthquake, or volcano may be shocking and gut wrenching in their effects, it is the silent presence of gravity which operates unceasingly, and ever prevails even during these devastating and calamitous events.

It is not through missiles, sharp trading, political casuistry, glib claptrap, nor even esteemed political or educational institutions by which we can accomplish the Great Work. It is however, by the silent and beneficent forces of love and light that man's spiritual evolution can be accomplished. The Grand Plan of the Architect of the Universe can only be accomplished in this knowing and loving silence.

While the eventual form and dimension of the work cannot be visualized by those who are working towards this end, eventually, the allegorical temporary scaffolding, cranes, and other accoutrements of construction will be removed when the job is done. Then the brother who has completed this Great Work shall set back and see the revealed Temple of Human Brotherhood and peace in which all men shall dwell in unity together. All Sublime Princes of the

Royal Secret have learned these verities. The Rite offers 29 lessons, in degree form, that will instruct you on various facets of building your own temple. Lao Tse in Chapter 64 of the Tao Te Ching has stated, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." If you are ready to manifest profound and lasting change, the Rite is here to help you succeed.

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

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention all Master Masons!

SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES

*Monday February 1, 2021
4th and 23rd Degrees (video)
at the Theatreat 7:30 p.m.
*Valley of Bridgeport
Stated Meeting at 7 p.m.

No meal will be offered. Seating is limited
due to social distancing mandates.
Check-in, temp checks, and masks required.

Must have reservations. Call the
Consistory office at 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.

Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr.

One can say 2020 was a controversial and emotional year. First, the coronavirus, followed by shut downs, social distancing, wearing face masks, a shortage of paper goods and cleaning supplies at stores, and a high number of hospitalizations and deaths due to the virus. Then, a record-breaking hot summer and a rollercoaster ride over all the seasons with storms, power failures, and a shortage of over 10 inches of rain. And through it all, we were somehow expected to enjoy the holidays without the usual gathering of family and friends. Regardless how you spent the holidays, I hope you enjoyed a safe and happy season. And with a vaccine in sight that might put an end to this pandemic, with the help of God's blessing, we will have a better holiday season in 2021.

Although 2020 affected the Valley, with the use of DVD presentations by both the Supreme Council and the Valley, we were able to confer the 32nd Degree on two occasions. The latest class took place on December 10. In keeping with the current state and Grand Lodge restrictions in place at the time, the ceremony was limited to just candidates, two officers from Nathan Hale Consistory, and the Valley Secretary. On behalf of all the Officers of the Valley of Hartford, its members, the Scottish Rite Deputy for the Connecticut, Ill. Bruce T. Work 33rd, Ill. Kevin J. Hecht, 33rd, Active for Connecticut, and the Actives Emeritus: Ill. Richard V. Travis, 33rd, Ill. A. Norman Johnson, 33rd, Ill. James R. Spencer, Jr. MSA, 33rd, Ill. Gail N. Smith, 33rd, and Ill. David Sharkis, 33rd, we say to the newest Sublime Princes, WELCOME TO THE SCOTTISH RITE.

We hope that in the near future you will be able to meet with us at the Valley, enjoy the fellowship of your brothers and enjoy seeing the degrees you have seen. It is also hoped that you will seriously

consider joining them on stage, or joining the other brothers in the audience.

Through the use of technology such as Zoom, the Supreme Council allowed both classes to see the required degrees presentations in the privacy of their own homes. The 32nd Degree which was shown at our Scottish Rite Cathedral.

Current members also had a chance to see any degree that they may not have previously seen via the Supreme Council presentations.

The shutdown not only cramped our style of presenting degrees live to our candidates and to our members filling their passport books, it also prevented the Valley office from holding its scheduled office hours, prevented holding the Annual Workers Night and officer installation, the Summer Family Picnic, and Family Life bus trips. But again, through the use of computer technology, Valley Secretary Bro. Tony Angelica, working with the different heads of bodies, was able to allow our members to see different programs such as movie nights. The latest efforts was the showing of eight popular Christmas movies during December for the whole family to enjoy.

I do not know when we will be able to gather again in fellowship at our Cathedral, but keep in mind that it will happen! Until that time, let any fellow Master Mason, who is not a Scottish Rite member, know that the valley is accepting applications for membership for the 2021 Spring Class.

If you are not receiving correspondence or emails from the Supreme Council or the Valley of Hartford, or if you have any questions regarding Scottish Rite business, contact the Valley Secretary at office@valleyofhartford.com or by phone at (860) 666-0712. And remember, always report any change of a new US mail or email address or an incorrect mailing address to the Valley Secretary as soon as possible



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

**LOOKING FOR MORE
KNOWLEDGE IN MASONRY?**

The Valley is now accepting applications for membership in the Scottish Rite Spring Class. This spring class, in conjunction with the Supreme Council, NMJ, offers the chance for Master Masons to join the Scottish Rite and become a member of the Masonic body that is considered the College of Freemasonry.

**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**



Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*SM



New Year's Resolutions – Or Are they New Year's Actions?

by *Richard F. Denno*

Each year many of us sit down with pen and paper (or our computer) and make up this long, albeit well intended, list of ways we are going to better our lives and eliminate our bad habits in the New Year, such as cursing. Then “damn it!” we’re not an hour into the New Year and there we go breaking our first resolution.

This year, instead of making lists of resolutions you probably won't end up keeping, how about taking up causes that are meaningful to the brotherhood, your family, friends and beyond? We at your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program may be prejudiced, but we think helping get donors informed about organ/tissue/eye donation and registered at www.registerdme.org, is one of those causes that you can be passionate about and make such a difference in the lives of others. Now that's a resolution worth keeping.

This year, many of us were home due to the pandemic. We were able to finally accomplish projects that had been pushed aside. In cleaning out a closet, I found a journal that my beautiful wife, Midge, had written. On one of the pages in the journal, she had only a few lines written, but they were very powerful. They read:

5 Fundamental Ethical Principles

Do no harm – Make things better – Respect others – Be fair – Be compassionate.

These thoughts were from an organ recipient who was afforded more than nine additional years, thanks to the kindness of a stranger. In this past, most difficult of years, how many fortunate organ recipients were able to give back to others because of those added precious moments a transplant provided? How do organ recipients feel about their donors?

For those old enough to have watched The Andy Griffith Show in the 1960s, Frances Bavier portrayed sweet 'Aunt Bea. Perhaps the quote inscribed on Frances Bavier's tombstone expresses it best:

“To live in the hearts of those left behind – is not to die”

From your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program a safe and HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Remember – ‘Don't Take Your Organs to Heaven – Heaven knows we need them Here’

Craft At Labor



To have your lodge events appear in the newspaper, please update your lodge website Google calendars prior to the 10th of the previous month. If your lodge needs assistance accessing the website, please have the Master, Secretary, or Calendar Admin contact the Help Desk: <https://ctfreemasons.on.spiceworks.com/portal>.

All times are supplied by the lodges. If there is a dinner, the time in the heading reflects that. The Connecticut Freemason newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events and to inquire about dinner reservations.

Note: Due to COVID-19 it is highly essential that any brother wanting to visit another lodge for a degree contact the Secretary or Worshipful Master. Numbers are still limited, and while the event may be published here, it may not actually be happening.

BOOSTERS

Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: December 10, 2020

An asterisk 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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Now you can support *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper online!

You spoke and we listened. There is now a PayPal dropdown *Connecticut Freemasons* **Booster** form on the Grand Lodge home page (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.



DeMolay 2021 Charity Bowling Tournament

by Jack Campbell, State Junior Councilor

Connecticut DeMolay's story is not over; your story is not over. This is the meaning of a semicolon. It gives us hope and shows us that there are greater and better things to come.

Connecticut DeMolay wants to help bring that hope to everyone, so this year they have partnered with Project Semicolon to help fight for suicide prevention. Suicide is the leading cause of death in the U.S. for males between the age of 15 and 34, and the second leading cause for females in the same age range. Suicide is a silent killer that claims millions of lives every year. Lives that could have been saved. This is a narrative that can change through our support of those around us, and by raising awareness.

To help raise awareness, throughout the month of January, please join Connecticut DeMolay in participating in the 2021 Charity Bowling Tournament! This is not only open to Chapters, but to Rainbow Assemblies and Masonic Lodges as well. Each team is composed of four people, so feel free to have multiple teams per chapter, assembly, and lodge! Entry fee for the tournament is \$25 per team, and all proceeds will be going to

Project Semicolon. Each team can go to their local bowling alley on their own accord between January 1 and January 3.

Entry fees can be mailed c/o Brian Beals, 175 Mercier Ave, Bristol, CT 06010.

Also, an anonymous donor has pledged to pay the entry fee for any DeMolay Chapter or Rainbow Assembly, so the only cost incurred by a Chapter or Assembly would be the cost to bowl.

How to score and tournament format

Each player will bowl three games, game one will give each player a handicap (pins added to each game to balance scores), and games two and three will be the player's games for total pins. Each player's two games plus handicap is the individual's overall series. Each team's eight-game total is that team's score for the tournament. Each team is required to go to the desk and ask for a print-out of their scores. If this can't be done, they should record their games on paper by an advisor, a third party from another team, or spectator, or take a photo of the scores on the score screen.

DeMolay *continued from page 21*

Tournament trophies and awards

For reference, scratch games are without handicap. The following criteria is required to receive a trophy or certificate for an individual player:

- Highest Handicap 2 Game Series
- Highest Handicap Game
- Highest Scratch 2 Game Series
- Highest Scratch Game
- The Sportsmanship Award

Team awards are:

- 1st place
- 2nd place
- 3rd place
- Highest Scratch Team

There are also awards available for:

- Best DeMolay Chapter
- Best Rainbow Assembly
- Best Masonic Lodge

Connecticut DeMolay looks forward to seeing everyone participate and wishes you the best of luck on your bowling adventures!

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

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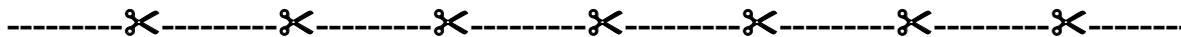


Two Hundred Thirtieth Annual Report

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Help fight hunger
one meal at a time.

Fill the Shuttle Food Drive

Help **US** help **OUR** communities.

Did you know more than 400,000 people in Connecticut struggle with hunger?
YOU can make a difference!

Drop your non-perishable food donations, now through January 18th at any of the following locations:

- 110 South Turnpike Road** - Main Foyer
- Masonicare Health Center** - Main Lobby
- Wright Residence** - Main Entrance Lobby
- Ashlar Village** - Bridgehouse Entrance
- Pond Ridge North** - Main Entrance

Look for the Masonicare Shuttle at East Center Market (IGA)

816 E. Center Street, Wallingford
Saturday, Jan.16th & Sunday, Jan.17th
(snow dates: January 23rd & 24th)
10:00am - 2:00pm

Please NO GLASS CONTAINERS.

All items collected will go to Connecticut Food Bank to benefit families throughout Connecticut.

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You're Iwited

Join Us for one or all of our **Virtual Zoom Nutmegger Reunions!**

Dates:

Monday, March 1, 2021, 2pm
Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 2pm
Friday, March 5, 2021, 2pm

Program will include:

MW Brother Stephen Petri,
Most Worshipful Grand Master

Updates about Masonicare from:

WB Robert Polito, Chairman of the Board of Trustees
WB Jon-Paul Venoit, President and CEO

RSVP Today!

Please email RW Rev. & Brother Carl Anderson
at canderson@masonicare.org or call, 203 679-6917
to register or for more information.

Program will available by Zoom or call-in feature.
The link and phone numbers will be provided one
week before the reunions.

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Let's keep the
connection going!



Since we are not able to meet in person
the event is free of charge.

