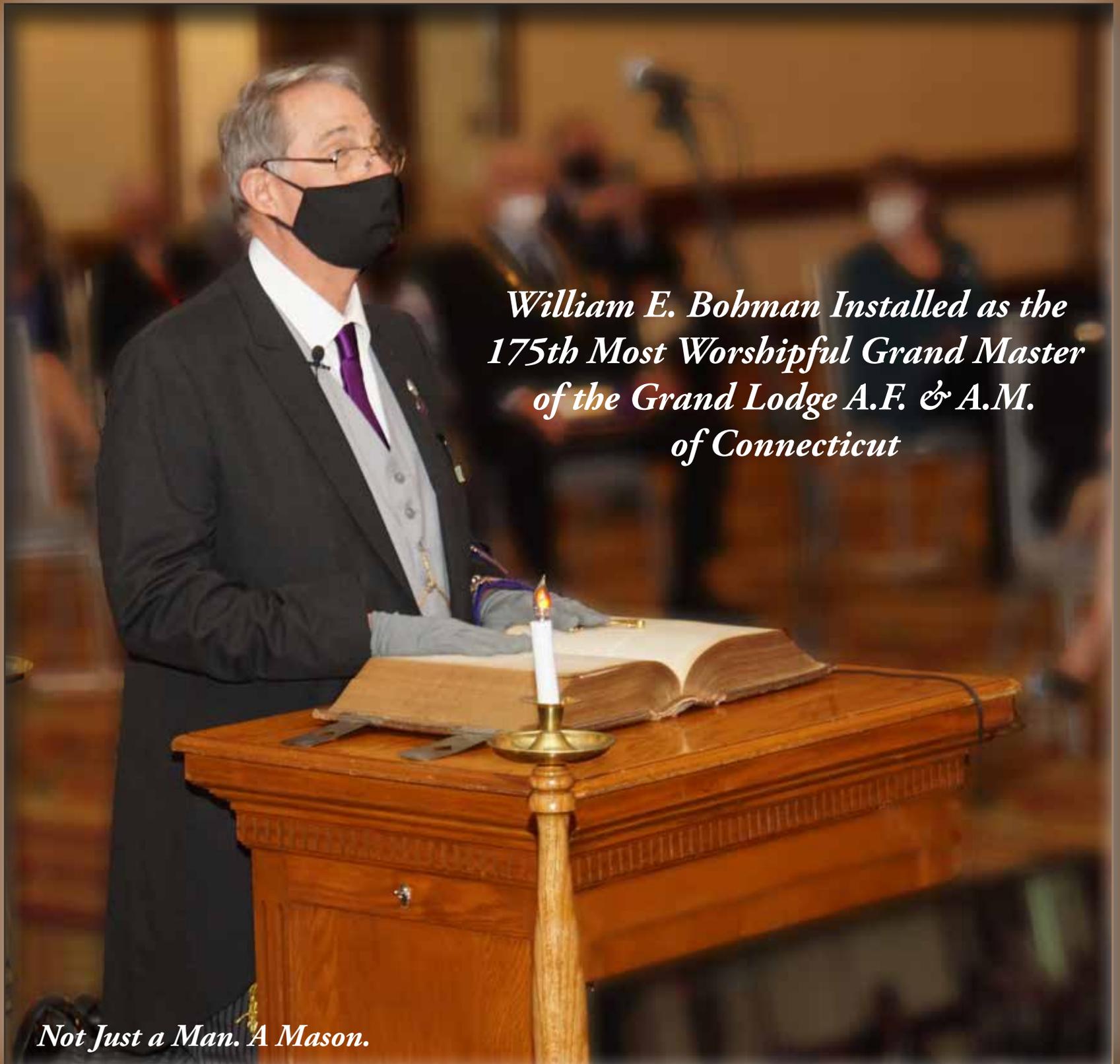


May 2021



Connecticut FREEMASONS



*William E. Bohman Installed as the
175th Most Worshipful Grand Master
of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M.
of Connecticut*

Not Just a Man. A Mason.

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



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Most Worshipful Grand Master

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Bro. Donald R. Skinner
Assistant to the Grand Master

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



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**THE GRAND LODGE
OF CONNECTICUT A.F. & A.M.**

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Theodore J. Nelson, Chairman

Francis G. Way, Editor

Jeff S. Bartlett

Bud Buckner

Rev. Carl H. Anderson, Masonicare

Adam Raider, Masonicare

CREATIVE/LAYOUT Pat Kalinauskas

CONTRIBUTORS

John Amarilios

David R. Blythe, Sr.

Lisa D'Addeo Bohman

William E. Bohman

Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Richard F. Denno

Rev. Harry (Chip) Elliott

William L. Greene

Joanne Kimball

Jamie Paul Lamb

Andrew R. Melilo

Marshall K. Robinson

Jon-Paul Venoit

Ken Wade

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

69 Masonic Avenue • Wallingford, CT 06492

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

1:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

203-679-5903 • 800-529-4161 (in-state only)

Fax: 203-679-5996

email: grandlodge@masonicare.org

web: www.ctfreemasons.net

Not Just a Man. A Mason.

The 232nd Grand Lodge Annual Session

The 232nd Grand Lodge Annual Session was held in a hybrid format on April 10. After a year of mostly shutdown Masonry, the session was able to be held over several sites and many homes due to the advantages of technology. Grand Line officers, Past Grand Masters, and other invited guests gathered at the Hartford Marriott in Farmington. Current District Deputies, Associate Grand Marshals, and Associate Grand Almoners gathered at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Newington, Past District Deputies and voting lodge officers participated via a special Zoom session that permitted voting, and all others followed the livestream on Facebook. No doubt this modern technology would have seemed overwhelming to those brothers who attended the earliest sessions of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Stephen W. Petri called the session to order at 9:15 a.m. After the roll of lodge was called, the necrology was read. Distinguished guests from the appendant bodies were recognized: Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Royal Arch Masons Jeffrey A. Flynn; Most Puissant Grand Master, Royal & Select Masters, Martin Ede, and Right Eminent Grand Commander, Knights Templary, James S. McNeely, IV.

The colors were presented in exemplary fashion by a color guard from DeMolay, with State Master Councilor Dominic Rowland giving the flag speech.

Distinguished guests from other jurisdictions – Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Delaware, Washington D.C. and Prince Hall of CT – were introduced and welcomed.

The Past Grand Masters were introduced, after which Grand Lodge was called to refreshment.

Distinguished guests from the concordant bodies were introduced, and recognized, with speeches and presentations to MWB Petri.

There followed a presentation by Masonicare, and a talk on BeAFreemason.org by MWB Petri.

The Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation was convened. MWB Charles Yohe, RWB Robert Everest, and MWB Marshall Robinson were elected to the board. There was also a discussion of possibly transferring the annual funding of the CHIP program to the MMAP program should CHIP run its course and end.

A lunch break followed, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., after which the Grand Lodge returned to labor. A vote was taken to accept the reports, and a vote was held to correct a voting error that occurred at the Semi-Annual



Photos continued on page 4

232nd Grand Lodge Session

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Session in October 2020. At that time, MWB Charles Yohe was voted in as trustee, but he already was a trustee, and his term was not expiring. MWB William L. Greene was elected trustee.

There was much discussion of the background checks legislation. As the Grand Master felt that the Craft needed more time to become familiar with the proposal, the vote as tabled until October.

The Grand Lodge was called to refreshment in preparation for the installation of Grand Master-elect William E. Bohman at 3 p.m.





William E. Bohman Installed as 175th Grand Master

by Francis G. Way

At 3 p.m. on April 10, after the 232nd Annual Session of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Connecticut was called to refreshment, Brother William E. Bohman was installed as the 175th Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut. Reflecting the somewhat loosened restrictions caused by the progress against the COVID-19 pandemic, the Grand Lodge held the session and installation in person, with a livestream available.

The installing suite consisted of MWB Gary Arseneau, Installing Master; MWB Theodore J. Nelson, Installing Marshall; and WB Burton Turner, Installing Chaplain. All three brothers are also Honorary Members of the Supreme Council, AASR NMJ, 33rd Degree, as is Most Worshipful Brother Bohman.

After an opening prayer by WB Turner, MWB Nelson presented Brother Bohman for installation, after which he took the obligation, administered by MWB Arseneau, on the family Bible, passed down through generations of Lady Lisa Bohman's family.

MWB Brother Bohman was invested with his collar and jewel by WB Turner, a longtime friend and brother.

Following the obligation and installation of MWB Bohman, the other Grand Lodge line officers were installed: RWB Bruce R. Bellmore, Deputy Grand Master; RWB Joseph J. Porco, Grand Senior Warden; RWB Edward C. Page, Grand Junior Warden; RWB Newton "Bud" Buckner, Grand Treasurer; RWB Grant S. Gould, Grand Secretary; RWB Les B. King, Grand Senior Deacon; RWB Rinaldo F. Magliano, Grand Junior Deacon; RWB Shane Dufresne, Grand Marshal; RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr.; Grand Senior Steward and RWB Mark Hawkins, Grand Junior Steward.

Worshipful Brother Donald Skinner, WMB Bohman's AGM during his term as District Deputy in District 5, was appointed a special assistant to the Grand Master.

In MWB Bohman's first remarks as Grand Master, he indicated that this year was not about him, but about the Craft. He briefly touched on the programs he plans to implement, among them the Master's Achievement Award, the "Six Steps to a Petition." He introduced family present, and friends, and thanked several people, most especially his wife Lisa.

Following the installation ceremony, non-Masons left the room and MWB Bohman was rendered Grand Honors for the first time, taking time from MWB Arseneau. MWB Bohman then closed in ample form and began the labors of his term.



Photos by Ben Jordan, Photo Images Co., Newington, CT

Grand Master's Message

by William E. Bohman



My brothers, this is my first opportunity to talk directly to you since installation. There are two things I want you to know: one, how grateful I am to you for the privilege of serving you as your Grand Master and two, this year will be all about you not me.

As you know, I want Masonry to be as open as the law will allow. To that end, last week I issued my first and, I hope last, edict on the subject of COVID. It says, obey the law, COVID is still here, and we have an obligation to protect each other. I leave it up to you to keep current on and follow the Governor's most recent instructions.

All the programs I have announced for this year —the Master's Achievement Award, the Six Steps to a Petition, the expanded Perfect Ashlar Award and the expanded Almoner program-- are designed to help you plan and have a successful Masonic year. Your Grand Line officers have

said we want you to have the most spiritually uplifting, educationally enlightening, socially engaging and just plain fun Masonic year you choose.

My Brothers, May is finally here, the snow has gone, trees are budding, and leaves are appearing. We have been forced to endure a Masonic winter now it's time for Masonic spring. It won't happen overnight and there are brothers who will not be comfortable in lodge for months to come but, for those who are comfortable it's time to get going. Schedule your Awards Nights, your summer picnics, and the degrees we haven't been able to portray. There are lots of men waiting in line. Remember, what you don't use you lose.

Photos of Grand Master's Installation

continued from page 5



Photo by Ben Jordan, Photo Images Co., Newington, CT



Photo by Ben Jordan, Photo Images Co., Newington, CT

Photos continued on page 11

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



EDICT
No. 2021 -E001

Issued By: William E. Bohman, Most Worshipful Grand Master
Issued To: All lodges under the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut
For Use On: Beginning on Monday, April 12, 2021, and until further notice
Purpose of Edict: Modifications to lodge stated and special communications physical attendance limits.

Whereas: The Governor of Connecticut continually modifies the various rules and guidelines restricting gatherings of people, in the State, to control the spread of COVID-19; and

Whereas: We need to continue to look out for the health and safety of our brothers; and

Whereas: Pursuant to Executive Order No. 7NNN, masks or cloth face coverings that cover a person's nose and mouth are required to be worn when in public.

Now therefore, I, Brother William E. Bohman, Most Worshipful Grand Master, do hereby ORDER AND DIRECT:

- 1) All lodges are to follow the current COVID local, state, federal, and CDC guidelines;
- 2) Hybrid meetings may continue to be held at the discretion of the Worshipful Master.

This edict shall supersede previous edicts regarding meeting limits and shall remain in effect unless further modified, terminated, or it expires.

For the State of Connecticut's most up to date "Sector Rules for Reopen" go to <https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/Sector-Rules-for-Reopen>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. E. Bohman".

Bro. William E. Bohman
Most Worshipful Grand Master

The Six Steps to a Petition *by William E. Bohman*

In the April edition of the *Connecticut Freemasons*, I outlined the Master's Achievement Award. It is a tool for Worshipful Masters and Wardens to use in developing well rounded, and hopefully successful, year their lodge.

Like all the programs I will highlight for 2021–2022, my goal is to help the Craft have the most spiritually uplifting, educationally enlightening, socially engaging, ritualistically rewarding and just plain fun, year you choose.

This month I will review the “Six Steps to a Petition” program. It is available for you to download and print from Grand View. It is a workbook, designed to help a lodge brother interview a man who has approached Masonry through our EMR portal and build a written record for potential use by a future Investigating Committee.

We know next to nothing about the men who contact us through the EMR portal. They may be great people who we would be honored to call a brother. But it is also possible they are criminals we would never knowingly invite to join our Masonic family.

The Six Steps to a Petition workbook leads a lodge brother/interviewer through six interviews with a prospective petitioner:

- The First Step is a telephone call where the lodge brother introduces himself, explains the Six Steps process, asks the prospect if he is willing to participate, asks him to prepare a list of question about Masonry and then sets up an appointment to meet for the Second Step.
- The Second Step allows the prospect to ask his prepared questions and provides time for the lodge brother to explain why the Six Step process is being used for men inquiring through the EMR. The Second Step is also where a questionnaire is given for the prospect to fill out and where a very small homework

assignment is given. If a prospect doesn't follow through with the questionnaire or his homework that speaks volumes about his interest in Masonry.

- At the Third Step, the prospect goes over his questionnaire and homework with the lodge brother and has the opportunity to ask more questions that may have come to him as he learned more about Masonry.
- The Fourth Step is where the prospect meets other members of the lodge. This is a social setting where everyone is comfortable and engages in general conversation. This is a meeting where the prospect and the members of the lodge should be asking themselves if this new man is a good fit for their Masonic family.
- The Fifth Step is a lodge social function where the prospect is encouraged to bring his wife or significant other. If the prospect has made it this far the lodge members will be aware of his interest and will want to meet him for themselves.
- The Sixth Step is where the prospect is given a petition and the process of meeting with the Investigation Committee and the lodge vote on his petition is explained.

My brothers, the “Six Steps to a Petition” program is my effort to help you figure out who, among all the men who are expressing interest in Masonry, is worthy to be called brother. You do not have to use it. If you do choose to use it you can pick and choose what pieces of it make sense to you. Whatever you choose, it is the obligation of all of us to guard the West Gate so our Masonic family will be there for future generations.

BROTHER ARTHUR NORMAN JOHNSON 1926-2021

On April 5, Brother Arthur Norman Johnson laid down the working tools of life and answered the summons sent by the Grand Architect of the Universe to the Celestial Lodge above. Brother A. Norman as he was known, or “Norm” if you were lucky to have known him long enough, was a 73-year member of the Craft, and a familiar presence in most Masonic bodies in the state and across various jurisdictions. To say he was a pillar of Connecticut Freemasonry, or an icon among his peers, would be to sell him short. He was very well known and very well respected, and almost larger than life.

Upon hearing of his passing, one brother who knew him remarked, “A. Norman was a true mover and shaker. I can’t think of many, in our time, who were more influential. That he will be missed is a vast understatement. He’s up there with Ephraim Kirby, Pierpont Edwards, and David Wooster. He marked an era.” Another offered, “A Norman Johnson was a true gentleman who absolutely ‘talked the talk and walked the walk.’ He touched so many brothers – we do our best by A. Norman by paying forward what he taught us.”

A. Norman Johnson was born in Hartford on August 31, 1926. Schooled locally, he then attended Yale University earning a Bachelors’ Degree.

In business, Brother Johnson worked for many years in the finance sector, rising through the ranks of Connecticut National Bank & Trust to Vice President, until 1972 when he then served as an investment consultant until his retirement. He served as Corporator at Hartford Hospital and Mt. Sinai Hospital and was Honorary Trustee of the Open Hearth, a shelter for men experiencing homelessness.

His interests ranged from finance, to sports cars and other fine automobiles. During his lifetime, Brother Johnson travelled the world, including cruises, African safaris, and a trip on the Orient Express.

Brother Johnson was a member of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Hartford, CT.

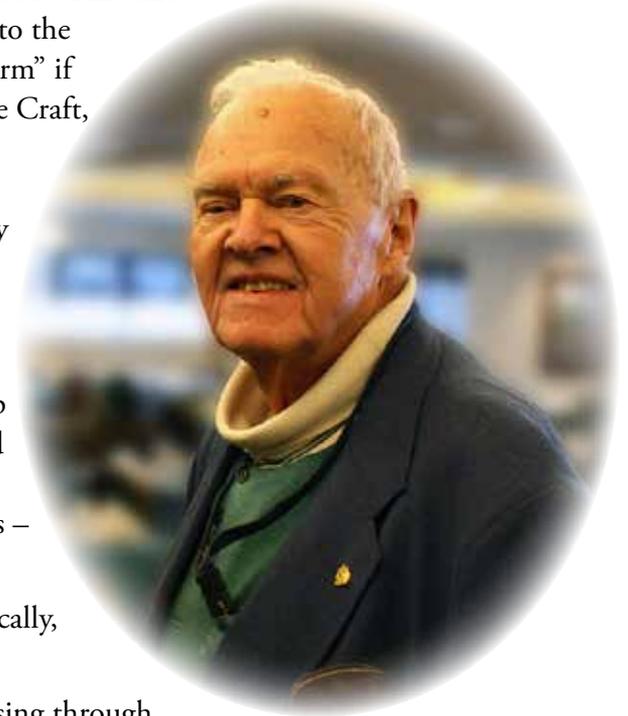
He was a 73-year member of Wyllys Lodge No. 99 (now Wyllys-St. John’s Lodge No. 4), having been initiated an Entered Apprentice on December 29, 1947, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on February 2, 1948, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 8, 1948. He served as Worshipful Master of Wyllys Lodge in 1958.

On April 2, 1969, Brother Johnson was awarded the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.

He served the Grand Lodge of Connecticut as a Grand Trustee from 1978 through 1994. Many Masonic organizations, including The Masonic Charity Foundation, also benefitted from his financial acumen.

Brother A. Norman joined the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in March 1949, a 72-year member. He served as Most Wise Master of Cyrus Goodell Chapter of Rose Croix in 1961-62, and as Commander-in-Chief of Connecticut Consistory in 1974-1975. He was coroneted an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, 33rd Degree on September 30, 1970 in Milwaukee, WI. In September 1979, Illustrious Brother Johnson was crowned an Active Member of the Supreme Council Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and in September 1994 was elected to serve as Deputy for the State of Connecticut. For distinguished service to Freemasonry, Illustrious Brother Johnson was awarded the Supreme Council Medal of Honor in 1997.

Brother Johnson was also a member of St. Andrew’s Conclave of Red Cross of Constantine of Hartford. He served as Puissant Sovereign in 1982 and was a trustee from 1983 until his passing.



Arthur Norman Johnson
Photo courtesy of the
Masonicare Corporate Marketing Department

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Grand Chaplain's Message

Rev. Harry Elliott (Father Chip)

In this day and age of living out a "new reality" of trying to manage life in the midst of a pandemic, it seems that the world around us continues to descend into further fracture and division. Politics, race, religion and a myriad of other differences take center stage and too often appear in the headlines of the newspapers. Yet we as members of a fraternity are called to strive for the better things.

For guidance we can turn to the Psalmist who stated in the 133rd Psalm:

Oh, how good and pleasant it is,
when brethren live together in unity!
2 It is like fine oil upon the head
that runs down upon the beard,
3 Upon the beard of Aaron,
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

4 It is like the dew of Hermon
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing:
life for evermore.

These words should be familiar to every Freemason that reads them. They are words that, if we try, could truly change the lives of many people we interact with on a daily basis.

My prayer for all of us is that we strive to live in unity, heal the wounds of those around us, bridge the differences that divide us and continue on our most excellent path of "Making Good Men Better."

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless you and yours and keep you safe.

A. Norman Johnson

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In York Rite, he was a member of Pythagoras Chapter No. 17 Royal Arch Masons, exalted a Royal Arch Mason on January 27, 1949; a member Wolcott Council No. 1 Royal & Select Masters, received and greeted on February 7, 1952; and a Sir Knight of Washington Commandery No. 1 Knights Templar, knighted on April 11, 1952. In December 2017 he was awarded the Sword of Merit by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

He was a member of the Royal Order of Scotland and served as the Connecticut area representative for many years.

He was a Noble of Sphinx Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine in Hartford and Newington.

A man and brother is not merely a list of achievements, awards and accomplishments, however. Brothers who knew A. Norman will well remember his quick wit and dry sense of humor. His low-key off-handed remarks could give one pause, and then a huge smile as the humor of the remark became apparent.

More than his humor, however, was his willingness to teach and mentor. Some may remember Brother A. Norman helping a

brother, new to tying bow ties, tie his bow tie, giving instruction along with humorous comments. Others will remember leadership lessons taught ("don't bring an idea, bring a plan" and "we can try it for a year, if it doesn't work out, we don't have to continue it") that carried over beyond Masonic organizations into everyday jobs and life. All will remember a just and upright Mason, so worthy of emulation.

The light of Freemasonry is just a bit dimmer with A. Norman Johnson's passing, and he will be missed by all who had the good fortune to know him. Reflecting on his passing, one is reminded of the ritual of the installation of officers, where the teaching of the Compasses is described: "The Compasses teach us to limit our desires in every station, that rising to eminence by merit, we may live respected and die regretted." Truer words could not be spoken about Brother A. Norman Johnson. He lived well respected by his brethren, and his passing is now much regretted.



Grand Historian's Corner

Andrew R. Melillo

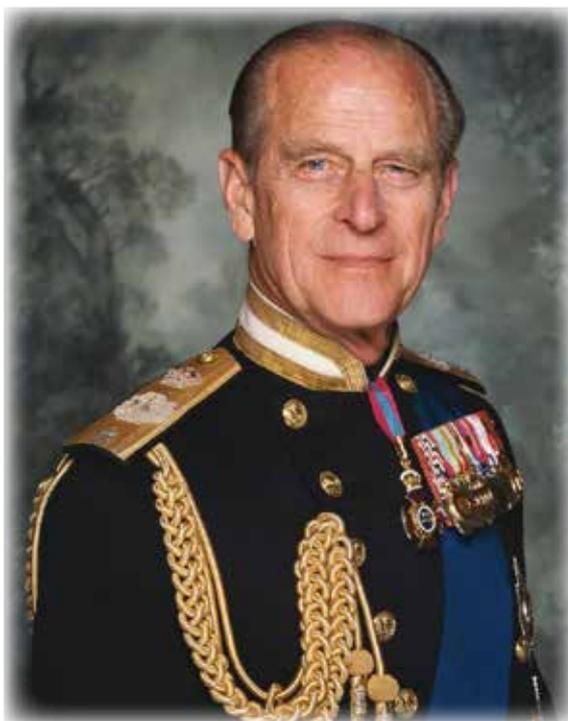
IN MEMORIAM

In obedience to the will of the G.A.O.T.U., however unworthy I may be to offer such words on this deeply sad, but no less important occasion than paying the Craft's last respects to the memory of our deceased brother, his late Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; who though descended from an illustrious race of kings, and surrounded with all the honors a grateful people and universal Craft could bestow, as a man and a Mason was on a level with us who assembled in a regularly constituted lodge. And no more than we secure from the inevitable stroke of death – who makes his demands with equal boldness at the palace of a prince, as at the cottage of the meanest peasant –

For many years it has been the glory and happiness of this truly Antient and Honorable Society, to have its interest espoused by this royal person, who being fully sensible of the great advantages accruing to making from its Wisdom, Strength and Beauty; and in imitation of the wisest and grandest of kings, thought it neither condescension nor dishonor to patronize and encourage the *Professors of the Craft* –

And as the Influence of his Masonic virtue was not confined to the narrow limits of Europe or Asia or America or any part of the world, but diffused itself from east to west, and reached even us within these peaceful walls [the lodge], no less extensive, no less interesting therefore is the immense bereavement – but although in him, my Brethren, as a member of this honorable society we have lost one of our greatest ornaments...a glorious Prince – yet as he has taken leave of this society, to join that of the Celestial Choir above, let us put bounds to our grief, and still rely on 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, and proportion. And in some measure to deserve his protection let us strictly adhere to the sacred rules of our order which when daily observed compose and quell the rougher passions and

humanize the soul to friendly offices which introduce the calm sunshine of cheerful contentment. And like the glorious luminary which opens the day, diffuse joy and gladness to all mankind. Finally as we are invested with that distinguished badge which at this day is the glory of the greatest Potentate on earth – give me leave my brethren to recommend a thorough observance of every part of our duty, let us in particular maintain and ever act upon the glorious principal of universal benevolence, and may it more and more influence our conduct till we shall follow our royal deceased brother, His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh to those happy realms where love and peace forever bloom.



Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Brothers, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh has laid down the working tools of life. The Grand Historian cannot take credit for the aforementioned words eulogizing the Prince in totality, for he sought to perform an exercise. One that both gives a eulogy to the death of so great and good a man of the Craft, and emulates the words of Brother, the Reverend Abraham Beach of Cheshire, eulogizing Brother, His Royal Highness William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland.

This Duke was the son of King George II of Great Britain and was made a Mason in a military lodge while serving in Belgium in 1743 [for the full and original speech of Brother Beach go to page 16 of St. John's Lodge No. 4's Bicentennial History Book]. It is Brother Beach's words that the Grand Historian used, with several and necessary alterations to eulogize the loss of Brother Philip in an attempt to connect remembrances and eulogies spoken thus within the Connecticut jurisdiction of Royal Personages of the Craft. The words borrowed by the Grand Historian do pause his narrative of Connecticut Freemasonry, but it is a pause to reflect on the life of so great and good a man – a unique member of the Craft – a Duke, a Prince, a Brother.

His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh became a Mason at the age of 31 years. He, being an avid Navy man and Commander,

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Grand Historian's Corner

continued from page 11

he was initiated into Navy Lodge No. 2612 on December 5, 1952. He was passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft on March 6, 1953 and the United Grand Lodge of England issued his Master Mason certificate on May 7, 1953.

To quote the United Grand Lodge of England's quarterly paper:

"The Duke of Edinburgh was known to drop into meetings at his Lodge almost unannounced. Navy Lodge has a storied past and an amazing roster of luminaries appear upon its membership roll. The Lodge prides itself on being the premier Naval Lodge in the world, with an unparalleled history that includes four monarchs as past members – King Edward VII, King Edward VIII, King George VI, and King George II of the Hellenes.

The Duke of Edinburgh was patron or president of some 800 organizations, with special interests in scientific and technological research and development, the encouragement of sport, the welfare of young people, and conservation and the environment."

Brother Philip was an environmentalist before it was fashionable, and he made contributions both to the social and political sphere

of influence that progressed mankind into a better and more prosperous future.

The Grand Historian once again begs pardon to the Connecticut Craft in taking a brief pause from his chronological narrative of Freemasonry in Connecticut. The subject and occasion being too great to overlook or ignore. Prince Philip was an accomplished statesman, philanthropist, Royal, family man, and brother. He has laid down his working tools and the Connecticut Craft should reflect on the death and loss of so great and good a man from Freemasonry – for a Royal and benefactor of science and improvement of mankind never deemed it derogatory to level himself with the Craft and to patronize its assemblies. Sleep well, Philip, you have been born unto that undiscovered country, safe travels, and may Light Perpetual shine upon your immortal soul.

Photos and the Connecticut Freemason

by Francis G. Way

A picture is worth a thousand words according to the old saying, and the photos that appear in the *Connecticut Freemasons* bear that out. They add something to any article and help preserve the memory of a special event. We always love to get photos with article submissions.

Lately, however, the photos that have been coming in have been barely on the edge of being printable. While trying to avoid discussion of megabytes and kilobytes, file resolution, and print quality, we can generally say that the larger the file size on the photo, the better.

One mistake that is commonly made is downloading a photo from a web page and expecting that will be good enough. When photos are made available on web pages, their file size needs to be small because the photos (like the rest of the web page) travel over the internet from the web server to your browser. File sizes can be smaller because incredible resolution is not often required. But that same photo would look horrible in newspaper or magazine. It's the nature of the process.

So if you need to download a photo from a web page, try to download one that is the largest size and highest resolution available. (If you are downloading a photo from a web page, we also really need to discuss attribution, but that's another article for another time.)

If you are taking photos, make sure the settings on your camera or your phone are set to the highest resolution/file size possible. Yes, the "small" setting will produce photos that take up less room on your phone, but does not produce photos that are great for print media. And if they are too big to email, we have ways of working with you to get them to us – although email has come a long way in allow large attachments.

Photos and images always liven up a story. It's a shame when Pat tells me she cannot work with a photo because it is too small. So make it big, and your photo will make a big splash with your article.

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

In the previous issue of Connecticut Freemasons, I shared with you how changes in our industry had prompted Masonicare to explore reducing the number of beds at our skilled nursing facility in Wallingford. On April 8, myself and other members of our senior leadership team participated in a hearing with the Connecticut State Department of Social Services to talk about why a reduction of beds at Masonicare Health Center is necessary and how it could benefit those we serve over the long-term. I'd like to share some highlights of our plan with you.

We are requesting to reduce MHC's licensure from 357 beds to 260 beds, a figure much closer to average daily census. This will eliminate four-person rooms, nearly double the number of private rooms, improve our ability to isolate patients with infections, and allow us to better serve more clinically complex patients that require private rooms.

Ultimately, we expect this to result in improved infection control processes, greater privacy, and a better overall experience for residents, patients, and visitors.

While we await the state's response to our request, renovations are set to begin on the expansion of our Geriatric Medical Psychiatric Program. Once the unit is completed, Masonicare Health Center will be better positioned to meet a growing demand in this area.

I want to thank Bro. Stephen W. Petri, MWPGM, for his outstanding leadership during such challenging times, as well as for his support and advocacy on behalf of Masonicare. As well, I offer my congratulations to our new Grand Master, MWB William E. Bohman, and all the newly installed Grand Lodge Officers.

Of course, I must also reflect on the passing of WB A. Norman Johnson. "Norm" was a longtime member of the former Board of Managers of Masonicare. After many years of service, he was made an Emeritus Board Member of the Masonicare Board of Trustees and

Emeritus Board Member of the Board of Directors. He was also a generous benefactor of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

With a background in the finance and banking industry, A. Norman made sure Masonicare invested wisely in its future, making possible the construction of Ashlar Village, among other projects. In fact, it was his home for the last 12 years of his life. Most evenings, you could find him chatting with friends in the Fireside Lounge before heading into the dining room for dinner. I will miss seeing him there.

The A. Norman Johnson Apartments on our Wallingford campus, which opened in 1999, were named in his honor in gratitude of his many contributions to Masonicare.

I had tremendous respect for A. Norman. He was a quiet man but a man of great intellect and vision. He asked good questions and delivered straight answers. His dedication to the mission of Masonicare was inspired by his deep commitment to Freemasonry. He belonged to the fraternity for an astounding 73 years! I honestly cannot imagine where our organization would be today if not for him.

Sincerely and fraternally,



May 5: Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo in Mexico, it is Spanish for "Fifth of May". More popularly celebrated in the United States than in Mexico, the date is associated with the celebration of Mexican-American culture and is observed to commemorate the Mexican Army's victory over the French Empire in 1862. More recently Cinco de Mayo has become a celebration within the Latin-American cultures in the United States.



Pyramid Shriners Fundraise for Children at Rite Aid Pharmacy

by Donald M. Casey Jr.

Pyramid Shriners conducted their 4th annual spring fundraising event at Rite Aid Pharmacy in Monroe. Pyramid Shriners distributed informational pamphlets and coloring books to patrons at the pharmacy. In addition, donations were collected, and funds will be used to assist needy children receiving medical care at Shriners Hospital.

(front row l-r) Donald M. Casey, Jr. and Daryl Lminggio. (back row l-r) Larry Plotnick, Adam Plotnick, and Pedro Garcia.



District 3

Lodges 7, 11, 12, 17, 42, 47, 55, 64, 76, 78

Morning Star Lodge No. 47 Regains 3rd District Traveling Trowel

Last year Worshipful Master Perry Bartovic of Morning Star Lodge No. 47 had a thought on how to encourage traveling around District 3 by having a Traveling Trowel made.

For a lodge to take possession of the Traveling Trowel, they must contact the Worshipful Master or Secretary of the lodge that currently has the trowel and inform them they plan on visiting that lodge for a stated or annual communication. The lodge visiting must bring at least four brothers, with up to date dues cards, and work their way in (at the discretion of the Worshipful Master). If more than one lodge visits on the same evening, the lodge with the greater number of brothers takes the Trowel. Finally, after taking possession of the trowel, the lodge must notify the District Deputy of the change of possession.

Last year Harmony Lodge No. 42 took possession of the Trowel but then the COVID-19 pandemic struck, limiting the ability to gather. The Trowel stayed dormant at Harmony Lodge until restrictions were lifted. Shepard-Salem Lodge No. 78 made an attempt to gain the Trowel but, unfortunately, didn't meet all of the requirements.

Morning Star Lodge let Harmony Lodge know they were coming and showed up with seven Master Masons and an Entered Apprentice. What a great night for Morning Star Lodge to regain the Trowel and even better a great night of fellowship.





Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 News

The enthusiasm of Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88's Worshipful Master David Larsen is contagious. "We are having a spectacular start to our year, even with COVID still in our midst. Because of WB Malt's dedication to getting the degrees done last fall, it put us in a great position to raise five Master Masons on March 6. It's only March, and we've had three degrees of Masonry already. There's a whirlwind of activity going on at our lodge, and I'm proud to be the one steering the ship. Last year, the brothers voted to give the town of South Windsor a police dog. His name is appropriately "Mason." He's going through his 15-week training course at the State of Connecticut Police Academy. The brothers have also voted to donate firefighting equipment to the South Windsor Volunteer Fire Department. I'm very excited about how this year is turning out, so please get involved and be a part of the lodge activities. We have the incoming Most Worshipful Grand Master coming to our lodge for our awards ceremony in September, and hopefully, we will be able to have some semblance of normalcy back at our lodge."

Hartford Evergreen Lodge Funds SWPD Canine Program with \$15,000

The following excerpt from a letter from a South Windsor Police department official tells part of the story:

"Mr. Larsen, I have some exciting news! This afternoon our newly selected Canine Handler, Officer Zachary Cosenza, picked his new partner! I would like you and your Brothers to know that Mason, a 13-month old German Shepard, is the newest member of our police family!

This is an exciting time for our agency, and I wanted you to hear the news from me first."

An article in the Hartford Courant tells the rest of the story.

"Mason's name honors South Windsor's Hartford Evergreen Masonic Lodge No. 88, which donated money covering the cost of the dog, refitting a cruiser, and other resources, police spokesman Sgt. Mark Cleverdon said. The lodge has also funded body cameras, and a mountain bike unit."

"Mason will be trained to track missing persons and crime suspects, Cleverdon said, and in the future, police also expect to train Mason in finding narcotics. The shepherd will be doing demonstrations for the public, an attraction, in particular, for kids."



WM Dave Larsen, Brothers Dave Prior and Brian Warren meet Mason and his handler, Officer Zachary Cosenza

Hartford Evergreen Lodge Supports SWFD with \$23,000 Grant

Hartford Evergreen Lodge presented the South Windsor Volunteer Fire Department with \$23,000 to purchase new technical rescue equipment.

According to Timothy Papp, Deputy Chief of Training/Special Operations of the South Windsor Fire Department, "The town of South Windsor is continuing to grow with regards to both residences and businesses. As the town grows, we as the Fire Department need to grow with it. The town has seen an enormous increase in the last few years of large businesses coming into town. The most recent we have seen are the new Coca-Cola and Home Depot buildings. Additionally, there is a new Amazon warehouse being built next to the Home Depot. These are just a few new buildings that will add to the already

Continued on page 16



Example of new technical rescue equipment used by the South Windsor Fire Department

busy truck traffic we have in town. Furthermore, a very unique transportation change we will see in town will be the use of the railroad for importing/exporting.

With the increase of this type of transportation, there is also an increase of accidents involving tractor trailers or the train. These type of incidents require specialized equipment and training. Many of our members are already trained in handling these type of incidents, but we don't have the right equipment to perform the rescue. Currently, we would have to request the equipment from surrounding towns, which would increase the length of time to extricate a trapped patient. The addition of this equipment would increase our rescue capabilities to the Town of South Windsor, as well as neighboring towns if they needed assistance. Thank you."

WB Greg Stump Completes First Section of Master Ritualist Award

On March 1, WB Greg Stump, Past AGM, was recognized for completing the first section of The Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut Eric W. Manner Master Ritualist Award. RWB Don Scroggs, District Deputy, made the presentation.

This award is intended to recognize any Master Mason in Connecticut Masonry who has demonstrated skill in mastering the ritual, and to inspire others to improve their skills. The award is divided into several sections. The satisfactory completion of each lecture and section is recorded in a passport, and incremental pins awarded upon the completion of each section.



The Master Ritualist Award is awarded when all sections have been completed.

Brother Ed Minor Honored with Plaque by Hartford Evergreen Lodge

On March 15, Worshipful Master Dave Larsen unveiled a plaque in honor and memory of Brother Edwin O. Minor (November 8, 1937 - July 19, 2019) the lodge's longtime organist. WM Dave commended Brother Brian Warren on his diligent work in overseeing this project. Jillian Warren, Brian's daughter, demonstrated artistic skills that proved to be invaluable. She is very talented. Thanks also to Brother Dave Prior. The plaque was placed on the lodge organ where



WB Greg Stump, PAGM

Brother Minor provided beautiful music for many years. An official unveiling of this beautiful plaque took place on March 15 at 6:30 p.m. Ed's wife, Marge, and other family members, attended. Brother Ed was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on April 14, 1975.

Growing League Of Women | GLOW

by Lisa D'Addeo Bohman

I know, it's only been a month since the debut of Growing League Of Women, but is anyone starting to feel the GLOW yet?

Remember, GLOW is all about getting in the mindset that lodge buildings can be more than just a meeting place for the Masons in our lives; they can serve as hubs where we women can establish new or deepen existing friendships with other women by expanding our shared social, educational, cultural, professional and charitable experiences cross-generationally. In this little corner of the newspaper, you will find inspiration and ideas as to how you can come together, either as individuals or in groups, to create programming and/or experiences with other women that are specifically focused on your needs, whatever your life stage.

So let's continue our journey looking at the month of June:

National Seashell Day

The Connecticut shoreline waters are starting to warm. What better time to get to know this part of our state a little better. How about something simple like packing a potluck picnic and some chairs and heading to a spit of sand to talk and take in the salt air. And speaking of salt, how about some self-care at a local spa that offers a salt scrub or salt massage or even a massage with marine mousse (yep, that's a real thing) to get your skin glowing and melt away stress and muscle tension. For those that want to feel the wind in their hair and learn a new sport at the same time, check out Sound Sailing Center, where you can learn how to become a competent sailor without owning a boat through their hands-on approach.

National Gardening Week/Perennial Gardening Month

What better way to build relationships than to share your knowledge and bounty with others. If you grow flowers a little or a lot, you know there comes that time when you have to split some plants to keep them healthy. How about starting a plant exchange where you either add to what you have or give someone what they need. Did you know that the Federated Garden Club of CT offers courses for anyone to learn more about plant care and gardening. And for those of you who are a little more advanced, UConn offers a Master Gardener Program. Don't feel like doing all that work but want to enjoy the beauty? – Many historic homes and parks in Connecticut support beautiful gardens; great for walks, nature exploration with children, or to learn something new.

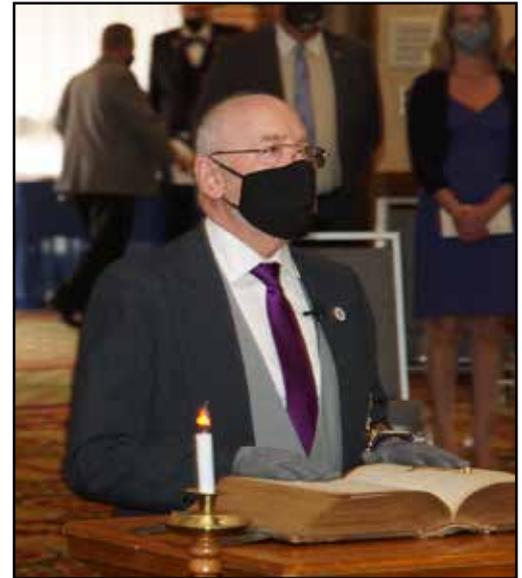
Take Your Dog To Work Day/Hug Your Cat Day

The benefits of owning a dog or cat have been well documented. Did you know that in addition to local rescue organizations, veterinarian offices also need supplies to help care for their patients – old towels and newspapers are a couple items our veterinarian is always happy to have. Many people do more research when buying a car than they do in getting the right dog for their family. Organize a class for friends and family with an expert who can help identify which dog might be the right fit and the commitment involved. In hard times pets as well as people need food. There are food banks, rescue organizations and shelters looking for donations of wet and dry food; or you can start your own Pet Food Pantry. And what better way to get your daily steps in and/or reduce stress than by participating in Agility or Rally training or getting certified in Pet Therapy.

These are just a few ideas to help you get your GLOW on. Looking forward to sharing more with you next month. Let's GLOW!

Photos of Grand Master's Installation

continued from page 6



Photos continued on page 19

Installation Photos, Grand Lodge District Deputies, Associate Grand Marshals, and Associate Grand Almoners on Sunday, April 11, 2021

continued from page 18



**Scottish Rite Theatre,
Newington, CT**



***WELCOME TO OUR
NEW BROTHERS!***

St. Paul's Lodge No. 11
Alexander James Avallone

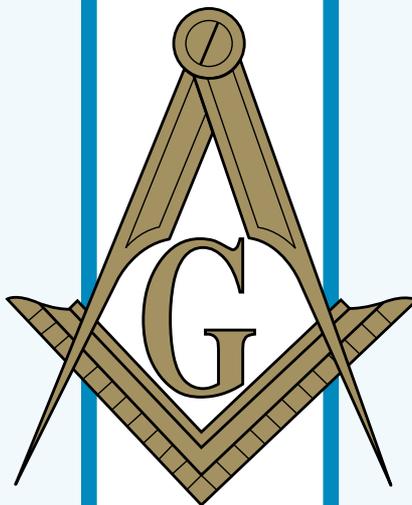
St. Paul's Lodge No. 11
William Bradford Clinton

St. Paul's Lodge No. 11
Trevor Vicent Doll

St. Paul's Lodge No. 11
Timothy David Tribou

Wooster Lodge No. 79
Scott David Eaton

Wooster Lodge No. 79
Derek Scott Mansfield



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

Sperie Perakos
Hiram Lodge No. 1

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

Thomas W. Duncanson
Acacia Lodge No. 85

Robert A. Gandolfo
Montgomery Lodge No. 13

Kenneth D. Holcomb
Brainard Lodge No. 102

Charles F. Howell
Old Well - St. John's Lodge No. 6

Clinton M. Hurlbut
St. John's Lodge No. 2

Keith G. Johnson
Warren Lodge No. 51

Donald B. Robertson
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

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Order of the Eastern Star, A Family Organization *by William L. Greene*

On April 14, at Sachem Chapter No. 57, Order of the Eastern Star, Brother Michael Brinson, along with his mother Dale Brinson, his sister Rene Brinson, and his daughter Cierra Brinson, were initiated as members of the Order. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the closing down of the chapters, this was the first initiation of members into the order in Connecticut, since November 2019! The meeting and initiation was held at Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34 in Preston. It observed all State of Connecticut, Grand Lodge of Connecticut, and Order of the Eastern Star guidelines and restrictions on health check, face masks, and social distancing.

Brother Michael comes from a long line of Masonic family members. His grandfather was a Mason and his mother and sisters were Rainbow Girls in Pensacola, Florida. Brother Michael said to me after his initiation, “As I only have women in my family, it is a blessing to be able to keep my Masonic family heritage going. We met so many good people tonight, and we are all honored to be a part of this Order.”



A Visit With The Yohe's

by Marshall K. Robinson

In the middle of February, Miss Linda and I visited Charlie and Barbara Yohe at their new place in Palm Coast, Florida. Getting there and back turned out to be somewhat of an adventure in itself. It seem that all flights to Orlando are filled to capacity with families of every description, all headed to Disney World and back. I should have opted for another airport destination in Florida.

In spite of the travel, the trip was good and it was especially good to visit the Yohe's. Their new house is gorgeous and has its own dock and canal. Their development is on a canal system that

connects directly to the Intercoastal Waterway. Very nice indeed.

Charlie and Barbara are always fun to be with. We dined in and we dined out and everything was great.

On Tuesday, February 16, Charlie and I visited his Florida lodge, Bunnell Lodge No. 200 in Bunnell, Florida. It was wonderful, just like a year ago. We walked in and were met by the Worshipful Master and their treasurer, WB Mike Fitting, of Montgomery Lodge No. 13 in Lakeville. We had dinner in the dining hall with the brethren and went upstairs to attend lodge. No masks, no fear, no paranoia, just a super evening. We should be doing this in our state. Maybe when the sheep mentality subsides, we will.

Just a short note to let you know that the Yohe's and Freemasonry are doing well in Florida.



The good ship Yohe.



Captain Yohe giving us a tour of the intercoastal waterway.



Charlie and Barbara decorating their mail box for St. Patrick's Day.



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Your Gifts in Action: Richard and Donna Slater

by Joanne Kimball

The day in 2017 that Donna and Richard Slater made their move to Masonicare at Ashlar Village was a fortunate one indeed for the retirement community. In four short years, the Slaters have found so many meaningful ways to enhance the lives of their fellow residents, neighbors, and friends on campus. Some of their generosity stems from their mutual backgrounds with the Masonic family.

Donna's mother was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and a Worthy Matron. Her father was a Mason, and Donna was a Rainbow Girl. Richard was a Mason with Compass Lodge No. 9 in Wallingford. They learned early on what it means to be a part of the Masonic family and the positive effects that Masonry has on the lives of those around them — especially seniors.

Richard hails from Wallingford and grew up on his family's dairy farm. His love of aviation led him to many career achievements, such as becoming the Director of Aviation Maintenance at an FAA (Federal Aviation Agency) certified repair station service center for a major engine manufacturer. He also taught at their engine service school. Prior to retirement, Richard became an instructor at the School for Aviation Maintenance Technicians at the Sikorsky Memorial Airport.

Donna's extensive professional background is in senior healthcare. A highly experienced clinical nurse, she served as Director of Nursing at many long-term care centers in Ohio and Pennsylvania. She later worked in New York and Florida for Medicare Contractors, serving as a Senior Operations Administrator. One of her responsibilities was to act as a Congressional Liaison, working with Senators and Congressmen to help Medicare beneficiaries resolve healthcare payment issues. Her final career move was to Connecticut, where she was the Compliance Officer at Yale New Haven Hospital. After retirement, Donna started her own consulting business, providing guidance on Medicare and Medicaid

payment and regulatory issues to physician practices and hospital physicians.

Donna shares, "Working in these professional capacities helped me really understand the financial gap between what it costs to take care of patients in long-term care — and what Medicare and Medicaid reimburse. This critical funding gap can affect quality of care and creates barriers to some services for patients who are in need. So, when we first heard about

the Masonicare Annual Appeal, we understood immediately why giving to it is so important. As a former nurse, I've seen why having funds that pay for 'extras' for the long-term care residents, such as iPads to connect virtually with family members; hearing aid batteries and newspaper subscriptions; and CNA accompaniment to physician offices truly enhances their lives."

In addition to the Slaters' generous annual gifts, Donna — with her indefatigable energy — loves pitching in with her time and expertise. She volunteers at the Masonicare Health Center, providing administrative support in the Admissions Office and working with residents with dementia.

Donna completed training for the Chaplaincy Volunteer Program, just prior to the pandemic closure, and serves as Chair of the Ashlar Village Welcome Committee. She sings in the chorus, serves as the music librarian, and participates in the Ashlar Village Safety Committee. Recently, Donna completed two years of service on the Ashlar Village Association Board of Representatives.

"We want to help make sure that our neighbors, who may outlive their funds through no fault of their own, continue to have a good quality of life here at Masonicare," observes Richard. "It's a hallmark of the Masonic tradition that we care for others, and you never know who may find themselves in need. It could be any one of us, which is why giving to the Masonicare Annual Appeal — big as well as small gifts — is essential to the well-being of our whole community."



The Grand Lodge has adopted a Lifetime Membership Plan.

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NEVER PAY DUES AGAIN!

1966 – My Year In The East

by Ken Wade

The year 1966 is very meaningful to me, as I was in the East 55 years ago. I look back with satisfaction on that year and our labors. In reading my Master's messages in those monthly bulletins (yes, monthly – ask any Master and he will tell you composing a message doesn't come easy – we sent out bulletins each month), I read with pleasure of the events and the success of each. Attendance was very good, usually 30 to 40 brothers on the sideline at degree work and at special events such as table lodges, awards night, old-timer's night, Past Masters night and even evenings when just a program was presented. Of course, back then we had 541 members in Brainard Lodge and most lived in Connecticut.

What supported that attendance was the fact that all lodges in the 8th District kept each other informed with their bulletins, and we enjoyed the presence of brothers of the other lodges at our events. We made visitations to other lodges in the 8th District, often 15 to 20 brothers visiting the other lodges, and other lodges came to Brainard. Union Lodge No. 31, Bayview Lodge No. 120 and Brainard Lodge No. 102 exchanged visitations for degree work. Each lodge's officers visited the other two lodges and presided over a degree.

We enjoyed Catherine Sherer's beautiful singing at our installations and programs. Brother Joseph A. Rabitaille, Jr., also a noted singer, sang at programs and the circumambulation during the Master Mason degree. Brothers Henry F. Schrader and Charles F. Munger were organists, and each had their own flamboyant touch. Henry with the more classical style and Charlie put some zest into his performances. Both were dependable attendees for the degree work also.

There was the Inter-lodge Committee. Its promoted and cemented fraternal relations between the New London lodges, recommended and advised on matters of mutual interest and benefit and planned for the future of Freemasonry in New London. The committee met several times a year and pondered the question, "What if?" Due to the downward trend, lawlessness, and blight in New London should the lodges go under one roof? Should they move to Waterford where the taxes were far cheaper because of the Millstone power plant? Safety and security were an issue. The side street's homes were in shambles and redevelopment was in progress. One night when the custodian, Brother Frank Sentell, was leaving, as he closed the door, a knife was thrown and stuck in the door a few feet away from him. Traffic was terrible and wouldn't slow down for the members to cross to the parking lot.

Union Lodge and Brainard Lodge were ultimately forced to move their Charters to Niantic in 1996 because of high property taxes and insurance in New London.

One of the most important events to take place in my year in the East was the joint pledge of The Knights of Columbus, B'nai B'rith, and Grand Lodge to combat forces of immorality, non-patriotism, and defiance of law and order. Together we endeavored to demonstrate our steadfast devotion to the American principles by proposed radio and TV programs. This pledge of support was presented to the Governor of Connecticut at a joint meeting of these three organization's which I was proud to have attended.

My officers supported and assisted me in running an auction of donated items from the families of the brothers to raise funds for Brainard Lodge's 100th Anniversary Fund. The celebration would take place in 1967. The auction was hampered by bad weather and only added \$287 to the fund.

RWB Willis J. Snow composed a letter, at my request, that was sent to

the servicemen of New London county serving in Viet Nam. Their names and addresses were published in the local paper. The letter expressed our support and appreciation to them for defending the principles of our country and all free countries that enjoy the freedoms of democracy. I received many letters of appreciation from those serving.

During my year in the East, it was Brainard Lodge's turn to host the emergent communication to a local church in honor of St. John the Baptist. With officers and members of Union Lodge No. 31, we were welcomed at the First Baptist Church on State Street having previously notified the pastor, Rev. Merle H. Mason, of our plans to attend as a group.

I'm sorry to say, that only two of my officers are still with us, Brother Leonard Doll, who was my Jr. Deacon and WB James J. Sullivan, my Sr. Steward. All the rest, including the trustees at that time, have traveled to that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Another tradition was the annual visit to the Masonic Home and Hospital to visit our guests there and officiate the Sunday Service. RWB Willis Snow presided as Chaplain for this event for over twenty years. Sister Cathy Sherer and Brother Joe Rabitaille sang at many of these events. Afterwards, the group of about thirty stopped at a fine restaurant for dinner on the way home.

There were many more events and meetings, the details of which are too much for allotted space. I hope you find my messages interesting and historically informative.

What's All This Esotericism Stuff? by Jaime Paul Lamb

When most of us think of esotericism, we usually think of those abstruse subjects that a relatively small number of Masons are interested in, such as: alchemy, Qabalah, magic, astrology and the Tarot. Some of us may even think of these subjects as being far outside of the purview of our work in the Blue Lodge. But I intend to convince you that: 1) Freemasonry is necessarily and unquestionably esoteric; 2) the aforementioned occult arts have been addressed in the context of Freemasonry since the beginnings of the Speculative Craft; and 3) that the “secrets” and the “Mysteries” of the Craft are two different things.

First, we must agree that words have meaning and that, when we use them, we are doing so deliberately. If this is the case, then we must define what we mean by “esoteric.” Merriam-Webster’s says:

“ESOTERIC \es-uh-TAIR-ik\ adjective. 1 a : designed for or understood by the specially initiated alone b : requiring or exhibiting knowledge that is restricted to a small group; broadly : difficult to understand 2 a : limited to a small circle b : private, confidential 3 : of special, rare, or unusual interest.”

If you just read the definition above and do not see how this could readily be applied to Freemasonry, please read it again. From a certain perspective, it nearly defines Freemasonry. In fact, to say “esoteric Freemasonry” is about as redundant as saying a “yellow banana.”

Notice, however, the conspicuous absence of words like “Qabalah” and “alchemy” in Webster’s definition – that’s because esotericism and occultism are not synonyms. Freemasonry is not an occult society, per se – though the study of occult subjects has closely attended Masonic studies. Early Speculative Mason, Elias Ashmole, for example, was collector and curator of alchemical texts and, according to De Quincey, a “zealous Rosicrucian;” William Preston was a member of the “Cabala Club” (the latinized spelling of “Qabalah”) and may have even deposited cryptic qabalistic ideas in our ritual; Albert Pike was deeply versed in the work of the occultist Eliphas Levi, quoted him at length in his *Morals & Dogma*, and dealt heavily in Qabalah, alchemy, astrology, and magic; Albert Mackey included entries on nearly every occult subject in his *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*; in fact, nearly every Masonic commentator has found occasion to reference the occult arts in their work. We must digest this and ask ourselves why this is the case and how might we benefit from the study of such arts.

As Masons, we have secrets and Mysteries – these are not the same thing. I contend that the “secrets” are the signs, grips, and words – but the Mysteries (note the capital “M”) comprise the transmission of Universal Truths (e.g., the Fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man and the immortality of the human soul). The secrets are the “modes of recognition” and the means by which we protect our Mysteries, -- those things we were obligated to “forever conceal and never reveal.” Let’s consult Merriam-Webster’s again for some clarity on what we mean by the word:

“MYSTERY \ 'mi-st(ə-)rē \ noun 1a: something not understood or beyond understanding : ENIGMA [...] c: the secret or specialized practices or ritual peculiar to an occupation or a body of people the mysteries of the tailor's craft d: obsolete : a private secret 2: profound, inexplicable, or secretive quality or character [...] 3a: a religious truth that one can know only by revelation and cannot fully understand [...] c(1): a secret religious rite believed (as in Eleusinian and Mithraic cults) to impart enduring bliss to the initiate (2): a cult devoted to such rites”

I don’t know about you, but a few words and handshakes do not qualify as sublime, ineffable, and revelatory truths to me; they are merely how we may know one another. The Mysteries, however, are experiential and initiatory; they dawn upon the initiate like the substance of a dream and permeate his being. They were often transmitted by means of “Mystery Plays.” which were allegorical tragedies (like the one with which every Master Mason is familiar) traditionally performed by the medieval trade guilds, who were themselves often referred to as “Mysteries.” The Mysteries are transformational – and one can never return to one’s pre-initiated state after having experienced them, just as a pickle never reverts to a cucumber.

In conclusion, I would like to propose the following statements as true: Freemasonry is, by definition, esoteric; the occult arts have always had a place in the context of Masonic research; the secrets and the Mysteries are not synonymous; the Mysteries comprise the active initiatory component in Freemasonry, which is guarded by the secrets.

Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr.

Around holidays I often include the phrase “The happiest times in life are those spent with family” in my articles. Perhaps now as COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted, we can add “*and friends*” to it. Isn’t it great to say that? I was glad to be able to gather with some family members now that the lockdown at my current residence has been eased. Also, I am personally thankful that I did not lose a family member to COVID-19. For those of you who did, and were not able to be by their side, the Valley of Hartford would like to express our deepest sympathy on your loss.

Things are looking good for the future regarding portraying live degrees for a new class of candidates, renewing old acquaintances, and developing new ones as we welcome all the who have joined the Valley since the lockdown. At this time, we are still not able to enjoy pre-degree dinners, live portrayals of degrees, and the social periods that follow them, nor the Annual Worker’s Night & Installation of Officers or the Annual Family Picnic. According to Commander-in-Chief Ill. Bro. Richard R. Jones, 33rd, those events will likely not happen before the fall. But the fall class for new candidates might be likely held. That decision is scheduled to be on the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting.

The only date on the agenda for this spring is the Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 5, at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. This meeting is scheduled for a limited number of Valley members under the current restrictions allowed by the State of Connecticut and Grand Lodge. If held in person, there will be no social hour following the meeting as usual. Should greater restrictions be put in place before that date, the meeting will be held via Zoom. Please contact the Valley office that you are planning to attend if we are forced to make it a Zoom meeting, we can contact you.

Currently, the 5K Race/Walk that raises funds for Children’s

Dyslexia Center will not be held again, this year, since the timeline to find sponsors, order shirts and trophies, arrange for help, food, timers, etc., is very short.

Regarding the Scottish Rite Spring class, the candidates scheduled to see their final degree, the 32nd on April 22 at the Scottish Rite Cathedral with a limited number of attendees. The following brothers are scheduled to take that degree: Bro. Vincent J. LaBella of Columbia Lodge No. 25, Bro. Thomas J. Gondek of Center Lodge No. 97, and Bro. Joseph L. LaRosa of Unity Lodge No. 148.

Remember that if you find an interested brother who wants to join the Scottish Rite, have him fill out an application online at the Supreme Council’s web site <http://scottishritenmj.org/join>, or through the Valley of Hartford website. If he would like more information about our portion of the Masonic fraternity, DVDs are available through the Valley Secretary.

Have you been taking advantage of our monthly movie schedule that we have provided? The May films scheduled are: May 7, for Mother’s Day, the movie is “Mother’s Day”; May 28 is, Memorial Day, the movie is “Saving Private Ryan.”

For those of you who may not have heard, the Valleys of Norwich and Hartford, lost a 73-year member of the Scottish Rite. Ill. Bro. A. Norman Johnson, 33rd, passed away on April 5. Besides being an Active Emeritus of the Scottish Rite for Connecticut, one thing that made him unique was that after all his years as a Scottish Rite member, he was still attending degrees at the Valley.

Since in May we celebrate Memorial Day, I would like to thank all our members who served in the military, or are on activity duty, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE. It’s because of you we can say, “*America, Home of the Free, Because of the Brave.*”



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Valley of Hartford**
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**Applications for the next class
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**For more information about becoming a member of
the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite or to receive a
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Tony Angelica, 32°, Valley Secretary,
Valley of Hartford AASR.
(860) 666-0712
Email: office@valleyofhartford.com
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To Learn to Subdue My Passions - Anger II

by John A. Amarillos, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

Family life events are a key element in keeping brothers in balance as is promulgated by the 24-inch gauge. While studying and reflecting on the meanings of the 29 degrees of the Rite is a core endeavor, rest, relaxation, family, and fraternalism are also a crucial part of the development of the brother seeking more Light.

While the situation with the pandemic is yet unclear, the following dates have been tentatively set aside for the events as listed. It is highly recommended that you set aside the dates and make a reservation for these events as soon as possible, as we do not know if there will be attendance or other limitations in place at the time of the event. Being EARLY enough on the reservation list will “lock you in,” so to speak, should you register before the event capacity is reached. Call the office at (203) 375-0064 for reservations and deposit information.

The events this year are as follows:

June 6, 12:30 p.m. – Fishing trip leaving Clinton Harbor.

June 12, 8 a.m. – Trip to HQ at Lexington followed by 4 p.m. attendance at Fenway to see the Red Sox play the Blue Jays.

August 7, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. – Annual Clambake at Booth. Memorial Park in Stratford. Open only to Rite members and their families.

August 13, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. – at the Cigar Lounge in Stamford’s Research Dr.

August 21, 3 p.m. – Dinner and Show at Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, leaving Stratford by bus.

September 11, 6 p.m. – Valley of Bridgeport Officer Installation Dinner at Riverview Bistro in Stratford.

September 26, 12:30 p.m. – Fishing trip leaving from Clinton Harbor.

December 17, 6 pm. to 10 p.m. – Holiday Party at the Woodwinds in Branford.

Date TBA – Trip to Boston Pops Holiday Concert followed by dinner and shopping at Faneuil Hall.

Last month we delved into the writings of Marcus Aurelius, the Stoic Philosopher- Emperor who addressed the topic of subduing anger at great length. In his writings “Meditations,” he propounded methodologies that he named the “Ten Gifts from Apollo and his Nine Muses.” (Apollo was the Ancient Greek God of Healing and the Muses were akin to psychotherapeutic prescriptions.) These techniques were to be employed before a situation which engendered anger occurred so they would be best employed first thing in the day:

1. Remember we are social beings charged with the duty to help one another, designed to live in communities in some form of social setting. Thus, we have the duty to live wisely and harmoniously with others in order to meet our personal potential and maximize our abilities; Cooperation is critical to success in all aspects of life; Fellowship towards others is a crucial aspect of a successful and fulfilling life; Encounters with those who are unpleasant is an opportunity to exercise our skills at wisdom and virtue; Troublesome people are to be seen as a training partner for us to master Tolerance and Virtue. How can we learn to be tolerant and virtuous if we are not challenged to be so?

2. Consider a person as a whole – don’t focus in on the aspects of the person in question which you find most annoying. Visualize the troublesome person as a complete whole. As we widen the scope of our consideration of the other person, we are likely to dilute the facets which we find annoying. Those who are vicious lack love and are likely alienated from themselves but from others; We must learn to empathize with them and see them as the fruit of misguided beliefs or errors of judgment and not as intentionally malicious. The more you know about someone, the easier it is to forgive them:

3. Nobody does wrong willingly. If someone is doing something wrong, it is because they do not know any better; Think of these people as misguided and not as malicious and you will be able to deal with them in a kinder and gentler manner:

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention all Master Masons!
SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES
Thursday night degrees in March through April are available bi-weekly online through the Member Center at:
<https://scottishritenmj.org/>
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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Continued on page 31

To Learn to Subdue My Passions

continued from page 39

4. Nobody is perfect, including ourselves. Understanding that others are flawed, can help us respond to their weaknesses and behavior in a less emotional and forceful way. Reminding ourselves that we are not perfect can help us moderate our feelings of anger. If we realize that we are holding others to a double standard by criticizing them without acknowledging our own imperfections, we are likely to soften our reactions to them. Whenever we are angered by others, we should pause and look inwards and reflect on how we similarly go wrong ourselves:

5. You cannot be certain of other people's motives. We should never jump to conclusions about other people's motives and intentions since this frequently leads to an escalation of our anger. We superimpose on the behavior we witness, our guess of what really caused it. This brings to mind the proverbial example of the onlooker who sees a man plunging a knife into the chest of a prone individual. The onlooker assumes a murder is being perpetrated,

whereas the actor might very well be a medic or surgeon taking action to save an individual's life. Anger creates an unwarranted assumption of the motives of other people. Mind reading and jumping to conclusions about others motives is a common mistake in triggering the passion of Anger; We should always remain open to the possibility that other people's actions are motivated by perspectives or issues which are not in the wrong;

We will continue with the balance of the Gifts of Apollo next month.

As always, the 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.

May 31: Memorial Day

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. **Memorial Day 2021 will occur on Monday, May 31.**

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971.



Grand Lodge of Connecticut
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- Search for **Grand Lodge of Connecticut** or go to the website at <https://ctfreemasons.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.

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.

You will also have access to your lodge's information and Masonic information, i.e. Rules and Regulations, Official Directory, Master Path Program, etc. To reach general Masonic information go to "**My Portal**" then "**Resources**" and check things out.

Also under "**My Portal**" you will find "**Seminars**" and 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!



13TH ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

**The Geoffrey Cornish-designed
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180 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

Registration and raffle ticket sales starting at 9:30am, 11am Lunch, shotgun start at 12pm in a 4-player scramble. Dinner, silent auction, and raffle prize awards following tournament. Prizes for 1st and 2nd low gross and low net, longest drive and closest to the pin, men and women.

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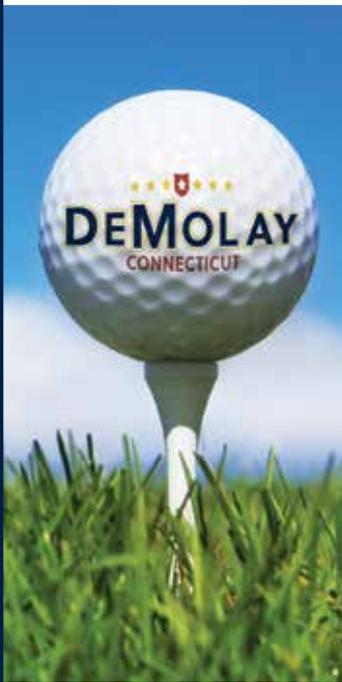
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REGISTRATION WITH PAYMENT DUE BY MAY 30, 2021



Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*SM



Why? *by Richard F. Denno*

Over the years that question has been asked many times concerning organ/tissue/eye donation. Actually, it's two questions. Why did you choose to register a donor and why didn't you choose to donate?

The first question is one with many positive answers for donors are people who give for loving reasons. Here are a few: They feel that through donation, they in fact didn't die, but live on through others. Every achievement or accomplishment experienced by the recipient is experienced by the donor as well. Thanks to the selfless act of donation, a proud parent is there at the church when their son or daughter exchanges their vows. Later, when children are born, it's again due to the loving donation of others. In the words of a recipient who was given a new heart, "without them, there wouldn't have been a me." At all the wonderful events of recipients, donor families can take pride, knowing that by the act of donation, others can enjoy more of those 'precious moments' that are the fabric of a life well lived. It's as easy as going online to www.registerme.org, learning about

donation, and taking the step that impacts so many lives.

The answers to why someone would choose not to register as an organ donor many times lie in the countless myths expressed over the years. Won't the doctors not try as hard to save my life, so they can get my organs? Isn't organ donation against my religion? Won't donation of my loved one's organs preclude a viewing at their funeral? The reason often heard is, "Haven't they suffered enough already?" The very selfless act of organ donation is to alleviate the suffering of others!

At www.registerme.org you'll find the answers to the whys & why nots. Then we hope you'll make the caring decision and make the most important impact on the life of another.

Remember – Don't Take Your Organs To Heaven – Heaven Knows We Need Them Here!



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May 9, 2021: Mother's Day

In the United States, Anna Jarvis, of Philadelphia, whose mother had organized women's groups to promote friendship and health, originated Mother's Day. On May 12, 1907, she held a memorial service at her late mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia. Within five years virtually every state was observing the day, and in 1914 U.S. President Woodrow Wilson made it a national holiday.

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.

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SATURDAY, MAY 15TH
VIRTUAL EVENT BEGINS AT 6:00 PM

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of those brothers who have been called by
The Grand Architect of the Universe*

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Union Lodge No. 31

Robert Jon Behler
Day Spring Lodge No. 30

Allen Bulmer
Compass Lodge No. 9

John Edward Casey, Jr.
Putnam Lodge No. 46

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