

September 2021



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**CALL TO THE SEMI-ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF
THE GRAND LODGE AF&AM OF CONNECTICUT**

**CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF MASONICARE**



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



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Most Worshipful Grand Master

Bro. Bruce R. Bellmore
RW Deputy Grand Master

Bro. Joseph J. Porco
RW Grand Senior Warden

Bro. Edward C. Page
RW Grand Junior Warden

Bro. Newton Buckner, III
RW Grand Treasurer

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Bro. Les B. King
RW Grand Senior Deacon

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RW Grand Marshal

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Bro. Brian E. Beals
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Bro. James M. Anderson
Deputy Grand Secretary

Bro. Donald R. Skinner
Assistant to the Grand Master



Table of Contents

District News - It's the Engine Room..... 3

Call to the Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication ... 4

Grand Master's Message ~ William E. Bohman..... 5

Down East Maine Flyer 6

Master Mason Farm Degree Flyer..... 6

Halloween in Salem Flyer 7

Technology Changes at Grand Lodge..... 7

Masonicare's Call..... 8

From the Desk of Jon-Paul Venoit..... 9

Eastern Star Chapters Look Forward to Reopening..... 9

CT Freemasons Foundation Appeal..... 10

Growing League Of Women / GLOW 11

Grand Chaplain's Message..... 12

Grand Historian's Corner..... 13

Congratulations to our 75 and 50-year Brothers 13

Districts

 District 1..... 15-16

 Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 19-26

 District 9..... 35

Donate Life..... 27

Criminal Background Check Screenings to be Proposed .. 17

iPads at Masonicare Health Center Helping Families 18

Valley of Hartford, AASR..... 28

Lafayette Consistory 29

Booster Lists 30-31

Welcome to Our New Brothers! 32

343, Twenty Years - A Remembrance..... 33

Called By The Grand Architect..... 34

Sphinx Shriners..... 36

Pyramid Shriners 36, 39

Ashlar Village Residents Fund 15 Scholarships..... 37

Working Tools of the Modern Freemason..... 37

Craft at Labor, Craft at Refreshment 38

Luke Lockwood Award Honors LeadingAge President..... 39

Grand Masters Day at Masonicare..... 40

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.

Not Just a Man. A Mason.



**Connecticut
FREEMASONS**

Volume 17 - Number 2

Publisher

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

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District News – It's the Engine Room of *Connecticut Freemasons*

by Francis G. Way

We have long had a saying here at Grand Lodge Publications – the District News section is the engine room of the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper.

While it is true that there are other types of articles submitted, ranging from education, to opinion, to esoteric, and we have our monthly columns (Grand Master, Grand Historian, Grand Chaplain, Donate Life, among others), it is the District News section that drives the publication.

This was apparent in early 2015, when MWB Marshall Robinson, several years before he was Grand Master, communicated to us at a publications meeting that the Craft wanted the District News section back. The section had been absent for a while and was clearly missed by our readers. We added the section back in, and it wasn't long before we were running articles on lodges from each of the nine districts.

But it was never more apparent how important District News is than it was during 2020, when COVID-19 shut Masonry down. We kept publishing, and we never missed an issue – in fact we published right through our usual month off, putting out an August issue. But District News shrank, and articles that were submitted mostly seemed to be about food drives. Food drives are a wonderful thing, and that was one of the few activities that any lodge could do, so we ran articles about food drives and filled in space where we could, writing as needed and soliciting other articles.

Pre-COVID-19, a month with only 20 submissions would have been a light month indeed (40 is a heavy month and 25 is the start of the sweet spot). But during 2020, a month with 20 submissions was a cause for joy. It's just the way it was. We would drop to 32 pages, increase the white space a bit, and do our best.

Starting this past April, we noticed an immediate increase in submissions, and have had more than 30 in each issue since. Most of those submissions are District News. The lodges are saying, "We're back and this is what we are doing!" As one example, I have, for years, seen the Montgomery Lodge No. 13 lobster sale event show up in Craft At Refreshment. This month, we finally have an article about that event. Masonry's back, and we're doing some awesome things!

It's always interesting to see what new and varied activities the lodges come up with, either to support the community and charitable endeavors, to educate the brothers, or to come up with creative ways to do the degrees. These articles inspire other lodges to try something similar – and any brother who has served as a Warden or Worshipful Master knows that coming up with new events and activities can be a challenge.

Each September for more than 10 years, the *Connecticut Freemasons* has tried, in the cover story, to feature a brother or some other person who influences Masonry or has an interesting story that might inspire the Craft. This September, we are featuring the Engine Room of our publication – all the brothers in all the lodges that sent in articles and photos. These brothers are back to labor in our quarry, and they are doing good work, square work, and true work.

And that work drives our humble publication.

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

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web: www.ctfreemasons.net

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

GRANT S. GOULD
GRAND SECRETARY
69 Masonic Avenue
Wallingford, CT 06492



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REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL
GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. of CONNECTICUT
OCTOBER 16, 2021

Due to the current protocols of Masonic care and to comply with the current state/federal mandates, it is necessary to make format changes to our Semi-Annual Communication again this year.

The 2021 Regular Semi-Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut will be held at the **Scottish Rite AASR, Valley of Hartford, 207 Deming Road, Newington, Connecticut on Saturday, October 16, 2021.** *This will be a Zoom meeting with only the Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, District Deputies, Associate Grand Marshals, one (1) representative from each lodge, and special guests in the lodge rooms. Voting for officers, legislation items, and Masonic Board of Trustees will be achieved through mail-in paper ballots.*

Information regarding registration and participation in the video conference will be forthcoming. Please review your membership information in Grand View to verify your email address. To register on Grand View, go to www.ctfreemasons.net > Member Portal > Member Registration and follow the instructions. Please call the Grand Lodge office if you have any questions on the membership registration.

The formal opening will begin promptly at 9:00 A.M. Recommended arrival time is 8 am. Please note it is anticipated that the session may extend slightly beyond noon, but it will conclude by 12:30 P.M.

This Regular Communication is called for the purpose of electing Grand Lodge Officers for the year 2022. In addition, we will receive certain committee reports, act on any legislation changes which may be in order for consideration and other issues, time permitting, as directed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother William E. Bohman. Section 8203 of our Masonic Law does permit action on changes to the Rules and Regulations which are raised from the floor or motions presented in Committee Reports at the meeting without prior notice to the craft.

The explanation of legislation items is published in the September (page 17) issue of the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper.

The current committee reports (October 2021) will be posted on the Grand Lodge membership system (Grand View).

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

Due to the potential of COVID-19 restrictions being reinstated, we will closely monitor the situation and advise of any changes or cancellations.

With my fraternal best wishes,

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

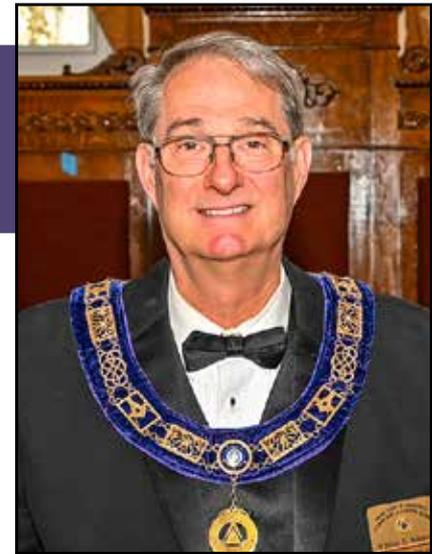
Wallingford, Connecticut
September 1, 2021

Grant S. Gould
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

TO BE READ AT THE NEXT STATED COMMUNICATION UPON RECEIPT

Grand Master's Message

by William E. Bohman



My brothers, how can it be possible summer is coming to an end? I hope each of you and your families have had time to get away and spend time together.

I want to thank the lodges and Worshipful Masters who have taken the initiative over the summer to have degrees for those who have been waiting, in some cases, for an exceptionally long time.

I also thank the lodges, Worshipful Masters, lodge secretaries, and EMR coordinators who have worked to vet the men who have expressed interest in Masonry. As I have said before, we often don't know these men, and we need to work with them to discover who they are and if they would make good Masons.

As of this writing COVID-19 has not forced the state of Connecticut, with some municipal exceptions, to close. The Grand Lodge AF & AM and its constituent lodges in Connecticut are open. We will remain open until or unless government instructs otherwise.

I want to take this opportunity to remind you of some Masonic events that I will be attending this fall.

1) The Down East Table Lodge on September 18, 2021, at Moria Lodge No. 15 in Brooklyn. This is a very well run and especially fun table lodge. I urge you to attend. You will not regret your decision.

2) Grand Master's Day at Masonicare in Wallingford. This is their "125th Anniversary II." The real anniversary was last year. There will be a parade for the residents and a silver cup will be awarded to the Masonic District with the largest contingent in the parade.

3) Master Mason Farm Degree in Suffield put on by Composite Lodge No. 28 and Sequin Level Lodge No. 140. If you have never attended an outdoor degree or if you have, you will not want to

miss this degree. There will be great ritual work and fantastic food.

4) Halloween in Salem, Massachusetts. This bus trip starts at 8 a.m. from locations in Stratford, Wallingford, and Newington. The people of Salem really put on a show. Anyone from 5 to 105 will return home wide-eyed after a great day with our Masonic family.

Finally, I want to remind the Worshipful Masters, the leaders of my four programs for 2021-22.

1) The Master's Achievement Award: Worshipful Masters this would be your award and it's up to you to get your documentation organized and submit it for review.

2) The Six Steps to a Petition: If you use this program, it will help you separate the qualified from the unqualified men who express interest in joining Masonry.

3) The Perfect Ashlar Award: This award encourages your new Masons to travel and learn about how Masonry is done outside your home lodge and rewards them for their efforts.

4) The Almoner Program: The program keeps us in touch with the brothers we don't see on a regular basis so, if necessary, we can help, aid, or assist them if/when they need us.

Brothers, keep up the good work. Thank you for everything you do for your lodges, for all the communities we all belong to across Connecticut and the work you do for Masonry.

Support Our Future.



Support Our Masonic Youth!

DEE'S ANTIQUES

\$ PAYS \$ TOP DOLLAR ☎ 203-235-8431

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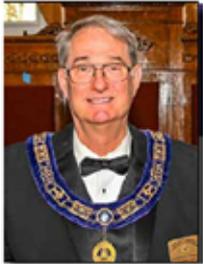
ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF YE OLDE TABLE LODGE

Down East Maine

Lobster or Steak
 Table Lodge Master
 R. W. Edward C. Page

Saturday, September 18, 2021
 At 4:00 pm
 Moriah Lodge #15 A.F. & A.M.
 220 Providence Rd.
 Brooklyn CT 06234

Please specify: Lobster or Steak; Donation \$40.00
Steak & Lobster Donation \$50.00
Twin Steaks Donation \$50.00
Twin Lobsters Donation \$55.00



WE WELCOME
BROTHER WILLIAM E. BOHMAN
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER
OF MASONS IN CONNECTICUT
 MORIAH LODGE #15 A.F. & A.M.
 FIRST CHARTERED LODGE BY
 THE GRAND LODGE OF CONNECTICUT
 OCTOBER 15, 1790

ORDER YOUR TICKETS AT:
www.eventbrite.com/e/down-east-maine-lobster-or-steak-tickets-159241733311
 or scan the QR Code
 and follow instructions



Information: edwardcpage@live.com
 Event is tiled, open to all brothers, Entered Apprentice
 Reservations, donation, cancellations:
 by Thursday, September 16, 2021



**DOWN EAST MAINE
 LOBSTER OR STEAK
 Saturday, September 18**

DEADLINE: Thursday, September 16

Order your tickets at the following website
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/down-east-maine-lobster-or-steak-tickets-159241733311>

**or scan the above QR Code and follow
 the instructions**



**MASTER MASON
 FARM DEGREE
 Saturday, October 2**

DEADLINE: Thursday September 30.

Order your tickets at the following website
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-mason-farm-degree-tickets-159245931869>

**or scan the above QR Code and follow
 the instructions**

Dress For
Outdoors

Bring Your
Own Chair



Master Mason Farm Degree

Presented by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of the State of Connecticut

Made possible by:
Composite Lodge #28
Dinner provided by:
Sequin Level Lodge #140



OCTOBER 2nd

Dinner to begin at 5pm
Degree at Sundown

Only 200 seats available to any Master Mason
\$25 Per Seat

Order your tickets at
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-mason-farm-degree-tickets-159245931869>
 or scan the QR Code and follow the instructions




955 South Grand Street, West Suffield, CT 06093
 Look For Event Signage

Halloween in Salem!

Fun is a family day in historic
Salem, Massachusetts!

Saturday, October 23, 2021

Cost: \$45 per person.

Buses leave at 8 a.m. from Grand Lodge in Wallingford,
Scottish Rite in Stratford, or Scottish Rite in Newington.

Board returning bus: 8 p.m. sharp!

Online registration: scan the QR Code or
visit www.eventbrite.com/e/halloween-in-salem-tickets-159251382171

Reservation deadline:
September 23, 2021



Contact: Jack Farkas at
jack@lafayetteconsistory.com

 Sponsored by the Grand Lodge
AF&AM of Connecticut



**HALLOWEEN
IN SALEM**
Saturday, October 23

DEADLINE: Thursday, September 23

Order your tickets at the following website
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/halloween-in-salem-tickets-159251382171>

**or scan the above QR Code and follow
the instructions.**

Technology Changes at Grand Lodge

The Grand Lodge telephone, network access, and systems support have historically been provided to Grand Lodge through Masonicare. As our operations increasingly require greater use of technology and the ability to work both from the office and remotely, the Grand Lodge officers, in consultation with Masonicare IT, have been reviewing alternate solutions that would be in the best interests of both Masonicare and Grand Lodge operations. Ultimately, the decision was reached to establish separate network and telecommunications systems for Grand Lodge. The network conversion is complete, and the telecommunications upgrade will occur over the coming weeks. As part of this conversion, our @masonicare.org email addresses will be discontinued. Our phone numbers will essentially remain the same, as will most of our email contacts. All are effective immediately and are listed as follows.

Grand Lodge Email Addresses:

Grand Secretary Grant Gould	grandsecretary@ctfreemasons.net
Grand Treasurer Newton Buckner	grandtreasurer@ctfreemasons.net
Administrative Assistant Deb Fowler	dfowler@ctfreemasons.net
Secretary Erika Rose	erose@ctfreemasons.net
Grand Lodge Office	grandlodge@ctfreemasons.net

Grand Lodge Phone Contacts:

Main Office line	(203) 679-5903
Grand Master's office	(203) 679-6932
Grand Treasurer Newton Buckner	(203) 679-5454
Grand Secretary Grant Gould	(203) 679-5453
Administrative Assistant Deb Fowler	(203) 679-6206
Secretary Erika Rose	(203) 679-6236
Grand Lodge Fax	(203) 679-5996

TO: All Voting Members of Masonicare Corporation

FROM: Bro. Robert F. Polito, Chairman, Board of Trustees

OFFICIAL NOTICE

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

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021
SCOTTISH RITE AASR, VALLEY OF HARTFORD
207 DEMING ROAD, NEWINGTON, CT**

Time: 9:00 a.m. *

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

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

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

- Approval of the 131st Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
- Election of Trustees
 1. Bro. Kevin J. Hecht – Friendship Lodge No. 33
 2. Bro. Theodore J. Nelson - Brainard Lodge No. 10
 3. Bro. Mark D. Winne – Composite Lodge No. 28
 4. Order of Eastern Star Representative – Worthy Matron Laura Michnowski, Ashlar Chapter

Board of Trustees,



Robert F. Polito

Chairman

Masonicare Corporation

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

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

Healthcare providers like Masonicare are facing a unique set of challenges. We have to look for new ways to grow our business, adapt to changes in the industry, and compete to recruit talented employees... all while continuing to deal with a pandemic.

Despite another flare-up of COVID-19 at Masonicare Health Center in July and August, we pressed on with renovations and improvements that will give us a new, state-of-the-art rehab unit and an expanded behavioral health hospital. Taken together, these projects represent a significant investment in the future of Masonicare Health Center and our ability to offer services in high demand.

With the COVID-19 Delta variant threat growing, and infection rates creeping upwards, we are staying vigilant. Governor Ned Lamont has urged all residents to wear masks in public indoor spaces, but we took a proactive approach by making masks mandatory again for all staff and visitors at our residential communities and branch offices. And, having already mandated vaccination for all of our employees by June 30, we were also well positioned to comply with the Governor's executive order that employees in long-term care settings in Connecticut – including residential care homes, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living communities, and managed residential communities – be vaccinated if they have direct access to patients or residents. Masonicare was among the first in our industry to mandate vaccinations, and I am convinced that decision saved lives. Everyone else is playing catch-up.

Along with our Corporate Marketing team, I received many questions from local media about whether we believe

vaccinations turned out to be effective in preventing more severe illness in those infected. The answer was a resounding YES. Even though vaccinated individuals can still contract COVID-19 – especially the more contagious Delta variant – they are far less likely to require hospitalization. Breakthrough cases like those at Masonicare Health Center will happen, but the outcomes have generally been more manageable.



As of this writing, our Grand Masters Day Family Festival is still on for Saturday, September 25. Our goal, as it was always intended, will be to honor our residents. There will be festive food, bands, motorcycles, antique cars, marching units and a competition for Masonic districts for the Grand Master's Cup – awarded for the greatest attendance of a Masonic district at the parade. After having to skip last year's festivities, I'm looking forward to welcoming Grand Masters MWB David Pinkins and MWB William E. Bohman, as well as other members of our Masonic family. Complete details are on the back page of this issue. I hope you will join us!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon-Paul Venoit". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eastern Star Chapters Look Forward to Long-awaited Reopening in September

Eastern Star chapters across Connecticut are looking forward to reopening in September. It's been more than 17 months since COVID-19 caused chapters to be closed. Chapters will be following the mandates of the state, and of each town. At this time the governor has left the wearing

of masks up to individual towns, Currently not all towns have mandated masks for gatherings inside buildings.

Unless the virus causes chapter closings again, before the official visitation of a chapter, the Worthy Grand Matron will be in touch with the Worthy Matron of that chapter, and any special information will be posted on *Star Matters*, Eastern Star's email newsletter.

For information about the Order of the Eastern Star in Connecticut, please go to the website, www.ctoes.com.



CONNECTICUT FREEMASONS FOUNDATION, INC.
 A 501(c) (3) Tax Exempt Organization
of the GRAND LODGE of ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS
of the STATE of CONNECTICUT

William E. Bohman
 Grand Master

PO Box 69
 Wallingford, CT 06492

My Brothers, Family, and Friends,

Due to COVID-19 we are asking for your help for our brothers in need and our Connecticut affiliated organizations, such as Order of DeMolay and CT Order of Rainbow for Girls, who have not been able to host their own fundraising activities during the past year. Masonry has always taught that we should each seek to be better members of society and, in so doing, leave the world better than we found it. *The Grand Master's Appeal gives us all the opportunity to support that effort.*

The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation is the charitable arm of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and uses the Foundation income from its endowment, together with your personal donations to the Grand Master's Appeal, to fund its worthwhile giving on your behalf. **This is a 501(c)3 corporation organized to accept tax deductible contributions.** Your continued support enhances our ability to help the organizations associated with our Masonic Family.

Again, this year, the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc. is pleased to continue its expanded support of the Grand Almoner's Fund within the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and the Matching Grant Program which assists our local Lodges in charitable activities. Your generous response to this Grand Master's Appeal will assure continued support of the organizations listed below. Please give what you can without injury to yourself.

Your gift may be restricted by designating your specific charitable goal in the memo section of your check.

Your support for 2020 totaling \$134,700 includes donations to:

- Grand Almoner's Fund
- Grand Lodge Matching Grant Program
- CT DeMolay
- International Order of Rainbow for Girls
- CT CHIP (CT Child Identification Program)
- The Masonic Charity Foundation/ Quality of Life
- CT Freemasons Foundation General Endowment
- 32nd Degree Children's Dyslexia Center of CT
- George Washington National Masonic Memorial Medical Research Lab
- Masonic Model Student Assist Program
- Masonic Service Association
- Organ Donor Project
- Kids Empowered by Your Support/Horizon Wings
- Shriners Hospital: Boston Burns Unit/Hospital for Children, Springfield

Fraternally,

William E. Bohman
 M.W. Grand Master 2021

The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation Inc. Board of Directors:

Christopher J. Earle, Chairman, Trumbull No. 22
 Paul L. Watson, Secretary/Treasurer, Uriel No. 24
 William E. Bohman, Valley No. 36
 Bruce R. Bellmore, Hiram No. 1

Robert H. Everest, Valley No. 36
 Joseph J. Porco, Hiram No. 18
 Garret W. Post, Temple No. 16
 O. James Purnell, Fayette No. 69
 Marshall K. Robinson, King Hiram No. 12

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

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:

Name: _____

Address: _____

\$1,000 _____ Grand Master Donor

\$500 _____ Master Mason Donor

\$250 _____ Fellowcraft Donor

\$100 _____ Entered Apprentice Donor

\$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$10 _____

Other Amount _____

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. _____

Growing League Of Women | GLOW

by Lisa D'Addeo Bohman

Welcome back! I start with a great big shoutout to the members of Union Lodge No. 40 in Danbury and its master David McClain. The lodge was the recent recipient of the Grand Lodge's Master's Craftsman and Builder Awards, recognizing their efforts to use their facilities for more meaningful programs and activities that are focused on the needs and expectations of members' spouses and families; thus making the lodge as a whole more relevant, involved, and a much greater benefit to all. Now that's how you GLOW!!

So, let's look at some great ways you can keep Growing the GLOW:

Autumn is officially in the air. Best known for Halloween, October also is the time for cozy sweaters, hot cider, apple and pumpkin picking, football, and beautiful foliage.

Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals and the environment. To honor their companionship and unconditional love, many area congregations of various faiths celebrate by holding a **Blessing of the Animals**, typically the Sunday nearest October 4, where they welcome both people and their animals. To observe this special day, you could gather a group of women who are fellow pet owners and/or lovers and attend one of these services. Or, you can show your love for pets in other ways: Gather pet owners at your lodge and invite a local veterinarian to talk about pet healthcare and disease prevention; collect towels, old newspapers, unopened cans and bags of dog and cat food and donate them to a local shelter; or get your extra steps in by a group of you helping to walk someone's dog that is older or suffering from a health issue.

A Harvest Fair

I bet there are a lot of you out there that craft, knit, sew, crochet, bake, can, or cook a mean chili. Why not gather those you know and hold a **homemade harvest festival**. You could offer goods for purchase such as knit hats and mittens, crochet baby blankets, crafts such a jewelry or stenciled cards, swap canned jams or relishes, and/or hold a chili cook-off. What a fun and fall way to share your skills and knowledge with others.

Coffee With A Cop Day

Any gesture of kindness is a good thing where our law enforcement officers, who protect us day and night, are concerned. What about inviting a local police officer to a **coffee and chat** where you can discuss personal safety, proper car seat installation, bicycle safety, current scams of which to be aware, or any other topic that is important to the group. Or how about getting to know your local law enforcement better by observing a '**Hero's Day**' where a group of you provides them with a free lunch. Or why not participate in a local citizens' police academy where you will gain a better understanding of the role of police in your community.

National Depression Screening Day

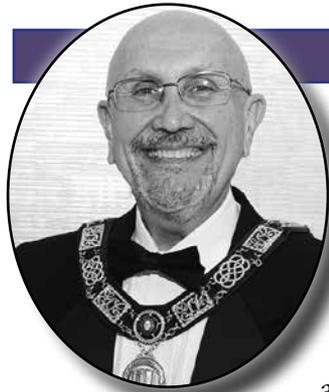
Women in general, and women of childbearing age in particular, are diagnosed with depression more often than men. Being active, though hard to do at times, can go a long way toward living well with a depression diagnosis. Some activities you can embark on or promote with your growing league of women include exercise, yoga or meditation, grabbing lunch together, catching up on the phone, connecting with nature, and/or crafting.

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month –

Getting a mammogram is one of the most important things you can do to detect breast cancer early!

ICYMI -- Grand Master's Day and The Finale to Masonicare's 125th Anniversary are slated to be celebrated on Saturday, September 25 at Masonicare in Wallingford. The day kicks off with a large parade featuring fife & drum corps from around the state, vintage cars, motorcycles, representatives of our many Masonic bodies, and many more surprises. New this year-- a trophy is to be awarded to the Masonic District that has the most participants on-hand that day!

Looking forward to seeing/meeting you on September 25 and to sharing more ideas with you to help you find your **GLOW** next month.



Grand Chaplain's Message

Rev. Harry Elliott (Father Chip)

Goliath is that great big giant of an obstacle that seems unbeatable, insurmountable, and impossible. It is that one huge problem that you think just might be your undoing – a difficulty so great that it has you entertaining the thought that you are close to throwing in the towel.

So, have you met Goliath?

Perhaps you have met him in the past. Or maybe Goliath is troubling you even now. It could be that he is a vague fearsome figure in your future. No matter, most of us have a Goliath or two in our lives. Is our current Goliath called COVID? Or is your Goliath another giant lurking in the corners of your mind ready to leap out and challenge you at any moment?

I want to encourage you to confront Goliath today – to deal with this enemy that robs your life of hope and joy. If you pay close attention to the people around you, you will discover that every one of us is now or has in the past been living in Goliath's shadow. I've been there too, and will be again, and it is from biblical truth as well as personal experience that I say to you, freedom from Goliath is good news indeed. Freedom from Goliath is a gift from God!

I feel quite safe today in saying that much of the pain in our lives can be traced to the "Goliath Factor." The Goliath Factor is that something within us that shrinks back in fear or anxiety when life's difficulties show up.

The story of David and Goliath recounts the earliest, purest days of David's journey and sets the background for the long narratives of the greatest King of Israel's life. King Saul of Israel had been plagued by the Philistines throughout his reign. The contrast is between the chief warrior of the Philistines and the King of Israel who along with his troops is "dismayed" and "greatly afraid." The threat represented by Goliath is too much for them.

When young David (who is not yet old enough to be conscripted into military service) comes to camp, he sees past the obstacle to the source of all strength. It is clear to him that the contest is between Goliath and God – not between Israel and Goliath.

A central point of the story is that God's strength is sufficient. Saul's armor is too much for the young lad to bear – he could

not even walk in it! His armor is the Lord, and his weapons are the simple tools he has used in the past. The purpose of this contest is, "...so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand." [vv.46-47]

The spiritual principle illustrated in David and Goliath is that *the Goliaths of our lives are not able to overcome the God in whom we trust*. However, the theory is easier to say than the truth is to embrace! When we face Goliath, we tend to lose heart as did King Saul and the Army of Israel. Yet it is the same Great Architect of the Universe who can still the storm of fear in our hearts. Throughout recorded history that fear, that doubt, is something most of us have endured. Many times, it takes the form of "*God... don't you care that this is happening to me - to us?*" Of course, the answer is that it is never God's care that has been withdrawn, but rather our faith that has weakened in the face of trial.

The Apostle Paul knew of facing Goliath. His writings provide a summary of all of the battles he confronted throughout his later life. Yet with every kind of hardship and persecution, the apostle is nevertheless not defeated. It is, he says, "*It is the power of God which has sustained me.*" Even in the midst of difficulty, Paul is able to see past the present difficulties to the source of his strength and describes the result when they are, "*...sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.*" [v.10] My friends, we identify with these stories because the storms — the Goliaths — that The Grand Master of the Universe defeats are the storms of fear in our hearts or the negative, scary to us, huge Goliaths of our lives. Sometime this coming month think of how much God gives each of us. God has definitely given us, and continues to give us, the strength to defeat our own personal Goliaths and still the storms we find ourselves trapped in.





Grand Historian's Corner

by Andrew R. Mellilo

At the
99th Annual
Communication
of the Most Worshipful

Grand Lodge of the State of Connecticut, held on January 19, 1887, in the New Haven Masonic Temple, the Grand Officers, brothers, and fraternal guests sat down to conduct business at 11 a.m. Presiding in the Grand Oriental Chair was Most Worshipful Brother Henry Howe Green. Most Worshipful Grand Master Green was born on August 4, 1840, in Brooklyn, Connecticut. He had attended Plainfield Academy. He was a successful man who was good with numbers. He had taught at Scholfield's Commercial Rhode Island, the same state from which his ancestor, Major General Nathaniel Greene, hailed. He eventually came back to Connecticut and to his native Brooklyn, where he had been raised a Master Mason in Moriah Lodge No. 15 in Danielsonville on March 7, 1866, and was chosen Worshipful Master in 1873 and 1878. After a busy public and Masonic career, he had been elected Grand Master almost exactly a year before from the present Grand Lodge session he found himself presiding over.

Attending the session were Grand Representatives from Dakota, Delaware, England, Ireland, Prince Edward Island, South Carolina, Washington Territory, and numerous other states. Nearly every constituent lodge was present, with Old Hiram at the very top of the list. The Grand Master began his annual address with the following words:

It is eminently proper that we should invoke the blessing of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, through whose favor we are permitted to-day, to assemble around our sacred altar in this beautiful city, to exchange fraternal greetings, to grasp the hand of friendship to review the labors of our subordinate organizations, to render an account of our proceedings for the past year, to devise means

whereby we may avoid in future those things which experience has taught us are wrong, and to legislate for the best interests of the craft in our jurisdiction...And now, my brethren, it afford me great pleasure to extend to you a cordial and fraternal welcome to this, our ninety-ninth annual communication.

Pleasant opening remarks, with warm fraternal greetings, seeking to not only ask the Supreme Architect for blessings but to help the Craft learn from its mistakes, do better in future, and to legislate for the best interests of the Craft. The MWB Luke Lockwood very likely cringed at such a statement, for he was of the opposite view. Lockwood had even written at great length on the notion, in that, moral men require no laws, for their actions are upright, true, and trusty and have no need for regulation. That to increase Masonic laws, rules, and regulation either indicated that Masons were bogging themselves too much in unnecessary form, or their membership lacked the ability to act upon the square and govern themselves accordingly. Three other brothers present at this meeting from Old Hiram also had a lot to fester about concerning such a statement. Grand Lodge was trying to regulate and change their ancient customs, or so they claimed – customs that were older than the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge. The officers of Old Hiram sought redress.

In the late 19th century Masonry, like the rest of the United States, was rapidly growing, prospering, and had deep romantic notions of both the path and their destiny in the world – but like any organization – Masonry is comprised of men, and thus imperfect. Not all was glimmering in the rising sun of American Exceptionalism – there were day to day disagreements and problems as well, whether in civil society or in the ancient and honorable society of the Craft.

The reports of the Grand Lodge session began to be read, one by one they were offered, until a peculiar one was read by the Grand Lodge particularly calling out Hiram Lodge. It stated the following:

Information has reached me from a reliable source, that the newly elected officers of Hiram Lodge No. 1, are openly violating the edict of the Grand Lodge, in regard to the manner of giving the DG of a MM. Being desirous of getting all the facts in the case, so that no injustice might be done Hiram Lodge, No. 1, I wrote the WM asking for information, and his reply is herewith submitted. I also directed the District Deputy to make an official visitation, January 13th, and the following is his report: I recommend prompt action on the part of the Grand Lodge, to the end that the dignity of this Grand Body may be fully maintained.

After the morning session was over, the Grand Master set the Craft to refreshment until 7:30 p.m. At the evening session Brother A.L. Barnes, Past Master of Hiram Lodge No.1, submitted a protest alleging that the actions of the present acting Worshipful Master of said lodge in causing the records of said lodge to be altered, which was referred to the Committee on Grievance. After this action, probably to let off steam and to discuss the problems brought up during the day's events informally, MWB Green called the Grand Lodge from labor to refreshment until 9 a.m. the following morning. Once reconvened on January 20, the Committee reported back and determined, after speaking to all of the parties concerned, that there were many differences among the members of Hiram Lodge and that a further investigation would be needed before any resolution or report of the Committee could be given.

Shortly thereafter, the Special Committee which was formed to look into the distressing matter of Hiram Lodge reported the following:

... The committee... beg leave to report, that after a hearing of the representatives of Hiram Lodge, your committee are of the opinion, that the regulation of the Grand Lodge in question was willfully violated, by the brethren acting

Grand Historian's Corner continued from page 13

as Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden of said lodge, January 13, 1887, and recommend the adoption of the following resolution: Resolved, that John R. Hutchinson, Senior Warden, Newell T. Bassett, Junior Warden, and George E. Frisbie, Treasurer, of Hiram Lodge, No. 1, be and are hereby deposed from their respective offices in said lodge, and that an election be ordered by the MW Grand Master to fill the vacancies occasioned by the action of the Grand Lodge. Respectfully submitted by John H. Barlow, E.B. Rowe, and James McCormick.

Naturally tensions flared, and indeed the said brothers of Hiram were deposed. What exactly followed? It is difficult to say as it will never be known what was said in person, by whom, and to whom, and how – but a curious New York Times article from April 15, 1887, suggest that four months later there was still little reconciliation between the Grand Lodge and Old Hiram. For the article is titled, A Bitter Masonic War – Hiram Lodge's Revolt Against the Connecticut Grand Lodge – it reports:

New-Haven, Conn., April 14 – Some time ago the Grand Lodge of Connecticut ordered Hiram Lodge, No. 1, of this city, the oldest Masonic Lodge in the State, to change from its ancient style of secret work, and adopt the so-called "new work." This Hiram Lodge declined to do, and for so refusing its officers were deposed, and

were summoned to appear at Hartford on April 20th to show cause why their charter should not be revoked, their funds forfeited, and all of their number expelled from the order. The trouble has been brewing for some time, and the feeling between the two bodies is very bitter. Hiram Lodge refused to recognize the authority of the Grand Lodge, as her (Hiram's) charter antedates that of the Grand Lodge by many years, and the matter culminated last night in a declaration of war against the Grand Lodge, which will be fought to the bitter end. At a special meeting of Hiram Lodge last night Hiram voted unanimously to contest the authority of the Grand Lodge and ordered a secret circular transmitted to all the lodges in this State. The address says that the trouble with the Grand Lodge arose from its assumption of power to interfere with and change the ancient form of work in Hiram Lodge, a form of work promulgated by pioneers of the order in America, handed down from generation to generation and sanctioned by many years of use, not only into the blue lodge but in the Grand Lodge itself. The power thus assumed, Hiram Lodge declares, is unconstitutional, and on that ground, it proposes to resist it. Hiram Lodge declines to consider herself amenable to either trial or punishment by the Grand Lodge for any offense alleged in this connection, and she calls upon sister lodges throughout the State to sustain her in her fight against the unwarrantable assumption

of the Grand Lodge. "Against the rule of an oligarchy," the circular says, "Hiram Lodge will ever protest, and it now insists that the successful future of Masonry in Connecticut depends upon a more conservation administration of its affairs, and that to this end it is essential that such administration shall be entrusted to a Grand Lodge acting at all times within its constitutional restrictions, and with a purely representative membership, directly responsible to the blue lodges of the State."

By the beginning of Most Worshipful Brother Green's second year in the Grand Orient in January 1887, he had professed a very positive, proactive, and prosperous vision for the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and the Connecticut Craft as a whole. He wanted to begin the new session to exchange fraternal greetings, to grasp the hand of friendship, to review the labors of our subordinate organizations. Four months in, there was certainly a review of subordinate organizations. It appeared that even with the best of intentions from some for a fierce and zealous promulgation of legislating for the best of the Craft and creating uniform practice; or by those with the most fierce and zealous defense of ancient customs and rights inherited by great Men of consequence – passions were not so easily subdued. Even sometimes Masons of all places, ranks, and stations forget one of the most important Masonic maxims of all: Who best can work, and best agree.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 75-YEAR BROTHERS!



Marshall William Elman

Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140

Thomas F. Weber

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHER!

George S. Reid

Corinthian Lodge No. 63

District 1

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



Second Annual Swim Across the Sound: A Fundraising Event *by Fritzner Erauda*

Well-known Roman emperor and stoic philosopher Marcus Aurelius once said, “Joy for human beings lies in proper human work. And proper human work consists in: acts of kindness to other human beings.”

“Kindness.” A simple word, yet with a powerful objective, is a focus this year for the brothers of Fidelity-St. John’s Lodge No. 3: to preserve the lodge’s centuries old tradition of “Serving our Community” that began in 1762. It is their goal to display kindness and compassion towards those in need, in hopes it would ignite the hearts of other people to perform and emanate the same.

Last year, a fundraising endeavor for St. Vincent’s, Swim Across the Sound, was brought to the attention of the lodge by Bro. Craig Grannan. Swim Across the Sound, organized by St. Vincent’s Medical Center Foundation, began in 1987. It has provided cancer education, screening, and prevention programs at low or no cost for the underinsured and uninsured. They also help individual cancer patients on a case-by-case basis with specific needs, such as funding of wigs and prostheses, medical assistance, free transportation to treatments and appointments, day-care scholarships, and support groups.

Approximately 160 swimmers with fundraising goals participate each year in the solo, two-person, corporate challenge, and team relays categories. Thanks to the swimmers, donors, and event sponsors, the Swim Across the Sound helps more than 30,000 people annually.

However, due to last year’s COVID-19 restrictions, Swim Across the Sound’s largest fundraising event was cancelled, resulting in an urgent need of donations to meet their annual goal. Through the efforts and leadership of Bro. Grannan, the lodge began collecting financial contributions from the craft that resulted in a \$1,200 donation to the cause.



(l-r) Bro. Craig Grannan, Bro. Fritzner Erauda, WB Andrew Flasko, and Anthony Cernera, Director of Philanthropy at St. Vincent’s Medical Center

Refueling the momentum that began last year, the brothers of Fidelity-St. John’s Lodge collectively decided to make this cause an annual charitable effort. Spearheaded once again by Bro. Grannan, the brothers of the lodge were able to donate a total of \$2,250, nearly doubling last year’s contributions.

As a result of the lodge’s contribution, St. Vincent’s Medical Center Foundation will display four banners containing the lodge’s name as a proud supporter. Two of the banners will be displayed by the flagpole at St. Mary’s by the Sea, one at Captain’s Cove Seaport, and the last at McCleavy Green.

Thousands of individuals and small businesses support the Swim Across the Sound through donations of all denominations. To make a donation, visit give.stvincents.org/DonateNow.

A Wonderful Welcome to the Fraternity *by Michael D. Sabia Jr.*

On the Saturday morning, July 31, Acacia Lodge No. 85 opened a Special Communication on the Entered Apprentice Degree to initiate a new brother into the Craft. Although one of the smaller lodge rooms in the state, the sidelines were packed to welcome new brother Frank Ryan as he was made a Mason.

As this was also the lodge’s Annual Evaluation, the reception of RWB Mark Agnew, District Deputy of Masonic District 1A and his AGM, WB Rich Gross, preceded the ceremonies. Following the degree, the brothers enjoyed a catered lunch of Chicken Francese and Baked Ziti.

Visitors from Hiram Lodge No. 1, Fidelity-St. Johns Lodge No. 3 and Wyoming Lodge No. 342 from the “Beautiful Bronx District” in New York came out to watch a wonderful degree.

6th Annual Habitat for Humanity Work Party *by Fritzner Erauda*



Habitat for Humanity Work Party at Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County

Masonry's symbolic tools to work, not only to make better men, but to provide assistance to the community. The event also provided an intimate connection with ancient brethren who labored as operative masons, and taught the valuable lessons of teamwork.

Among the volunteers was Bro. Lawrence Zollo, recently raised as a Master Mason, who experienced first hand the important lessons he learned during his journey through the degrees of Masonry and made a good use of all the implements in their noble and glorious purposes. Said Bro. Zollo, "Habitat for Humanity was an excellent way for our lodge to serve our community while at the same time, promoting fellowship between brothers. I was proud to be a part of the representation of Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3, which worked hard for the betterment of others' lives."

The brothers attended second event later that afternoon, the 34th Swim Across the Sound, a fundraising endeavor to help the people affected by cancer in the community. The brothers helped cheer and welcome the 75 swimmers who swam 15.5 miles from Port Jefferson, NY, to Captain's Cove in Bridgeport, CT.

Worshipful Master Andrew Flasko — who first and foremost provided encouragement, support, and leadership, to the brothers of the lodge during these two back-to-back events expressed the following sentiments:

"We have supported Habitat for Humanity for many years, and it gives me a great deal of joy knowing that our physical labors as Masons helps those in need to obtain, for most, their first home. The work may be challenging at times, but the result was ever more rewarding. Swim Across the Sound helps so many cancer patients as well as their families. It was a wonderful opportunity to be involved with the brothers of the lodge and members of the community to help provide some relief to those in awful distress."

On Saturday morning, August 7, the Grand Architect of the Universe greeted the brothers of Fidelity-St. John's No. 3 with beautiful weather to put the working tools of masonry to work once again for the benefit of Habitat for Humanity. The brothers, some with the assistance of their wives, installed siding and landscaping at the Granfield Avenue site in Bridgeport.

An endeavor that began in May 2015 by Worshipful Brother James Wade D'Acosta, assisting Habitat for Humanity, provided the brothers an avenue to put



The brothers stand proudly next to one of the four banners displayed for the entire year at Captain's Cove to support SWIM Across the Sound.

1st District BLC Enjoys Summer BBQ *by Michael D. Sabia, Jr.*

On Monday June 28, brothers from throughout District 1 came to enjoy fellowship and good food for their Blue Lodge Council Meeting at the Norwalk Masonic Temple. Twenty-seven brothers and two candidates attended.

The gathering began around 6:30 p.m., followed by a brief meeting at 7:30 p.m. Afterward, the fellowship continued as the attendees kicked off the summer of renewing Masonry post COVID-19.

The 1st District Blue Lodge Council meets on the 4th Mondays of the month excluding May, July, August and December. All Masons are invited to attend.



Criminal Background Check Screenings to be Proposed in October *by Les King*

During our last Annual Communication, there was expectation for a vote on background checks for individuals desirous of petitioning. At that time, concern was expressed that the legislation as drafted would be viewed as too invasive, resulting in it being rejected due to some of its components.

With long-term objectives in mind, and with measured concern to succeed at addressing our jurisdiction's need and ability to better guard the West Gate, the matter was tabled by MWB Stephen Petri pending further review.

After actively engaging in discussion with numerous parties, MWGM William Bohman has completed his review on this important topic and the revised proposed legislation for background checks will be presented in October. As part of his review, on July 23-24, MWB Bohman and his elected officers — RWB Bruce Bellmore (DGM), RWB Joseph Porco (GSW) and RWB Edward Page (GJW) — attended the Northeast Conference of Grand Masters in Concord, New Hampshire. The Northeast Conference attendance included representation from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Background checks for new petitioners was slated as a key topic for discussion. In-depth reviews had been conducted by all of the jurisdictions present and the consensus is that criminal background check screenings are essential and should be utilized.

Criminal background checks can help avoid (or at least minimize) unfavorable petitioners from slipping through the cracks and thereby compromising the safety, security, and standing of our fraternity. There was broad agreement that timely criminal record searches should be used to additionally ensure that petitioners are verified by historical record and appear to meet the basic requirement of being "good men," prior to their petition being voted on. A disingenuous man, most likely, will not volunteer accurate information on his petition or during an investigation. It was noted that instant search

records of criminal history might not provide information you would otherwise receive via a thorough records search and that some searches limit the search to records only available at the local level and state level. The consensus from the conference attendees is that the primary concern is to identify individuals with a history of behaving in a threatening or violent manner, inclusive of known sex offenders and those that have convictions for financial malfeasance such as fraud, theft, and embezzlement. In short, identifying those with a history of criminal behavior is the focus and concern.

Matters pertaining to personal financial difficulties such as liens, bankruptcies, or other invasive searches are not part of the focus or scope of search criteria and such data only comes into view (by a third-party agency) if such facts are recorded as part of a criminal case history. The consensus of conference attendees is that inclusion of personal financial matters is too far reaching.

The process that will be proposed does not reveal specifics to the Grand Lodge Office or lodges, rather a pass or fail report (based on criminal records) is provided. Those wishing to petition a lodge are made aware of their need to first engage and pay for the background check (approximately \$20). They are given instructions as to how they engage the service. Upon being cleared, the petition can be finalized and voted upon. Hence, the social security number of the individual is not recorded by the Grand Lodge staff or by lodge members, rather such questions and answers remain private between the submitter and the agency.

Therefore, upon further review by MWB William Bohman, revised proposed legislation will be brought forward and will be limited to criminal background check screenings. The motion will be brought forward on at the October Semi-Annual Communication.

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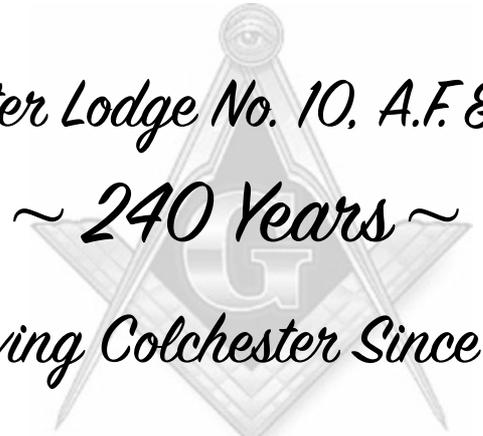
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iPads at Masonicare Health Center: Helping Families Face the Pandemic Together

by Joanne Kimball

The year 2020 was certainly challenging for all of us. For families that couldn't visit loved ones who reside at Masonicare Health Center because of important health and safety protocols, it was especially difficult. But as the saying goes, "Where's there's a will, there's a way!" Thanks to the many generous Annual Appeal donors, The Masonic Charity Foundation (MCF), Masonicare's philanthropic affiliate, funded an innovative way to connect family members — with a little boost from technology.

Bethany Camputaro, associate executive director of residential services at Masonicare Health Center (MHC), requested from The Foundation eight new Apple iPads for residents to share. "We knew that Zoom and other online platforms were great at helping bring people together during the pandemic. We were relying on phone calls between residents and family members to connect them, but there's nothing like seeing someone's face to help bridge the gap. Many residents don't have a smartphone or a laptop to use apps like FaceTime, so we looked to MCF to help us make this amazing technology available to anyone who wanted to use it. We submitted a proposal to MCF, and within days we had our iPads!"

Director of Recreation and Volunteer Services at MHC, Amanda Rodriguez, comments, "We shared the iPads among our residents, many of whom hadn't seen their relatives' faces in weeks or months. Masonicare's IT department did a great job loading up the iPads with the apps we needed. It was wonderful to see residents' reactions when we showed them how FaceTime works! Their faces lit up when they saw a son or daughter, or grandchild's face fill the screen. Some laughed, some cried, but everyone felt that the iPad technology was a godsend."

So did family members. Bill Nelson, whose mother Mary Nelson resides at MHC, and his wife Cathy thought the iPad connection made a world of difference in how they all communicated. "My mother has dementia, so it was hard at times to connect with her because she could only hear our voices on the phone," recalls Bill. "But once Emily, the recreation therapist, facilitated her use of FaceTime on the iPad and she could see us, she perked up and we started seeing smiles again."

Cathy Nelson agrees. "Mary had moved from the Memory Care neighborhood to Ramage 3 during the pandemic, so we hadn't even seen her new room. FaceTime changed that. We saw where her pictures were and what her room looked like. It gave us such peace of mind to see with our own eyes where Mary was, the staff interacting with her, and how she was doing. We took screen shots of her and sent them to the whole family, including three granddaughters and eight great-grandchildren! Everyone loved the photos. The technology is truly amazing and a real gift to our entire family."

Bill says he appreciates that MCF finds a way to fill the financial gap, resulting in a better quality of life for residents. "Seeing a parent smile or being able to look each other in the eyes is everything. Soon, when we were ending a FaceTime call, my mom would say her trademark, 'See you later alligator!' This meant she had started feeling more like her old self. When we couldn't physically be with my mother, it was the next best thing. We are ever grateful that the enterprising staff at MHC thought of this and that donations to the Masonicare Annual Appeal made it happen!"

Learn more about The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut and support the Masonicare Annual Appeal at www.masonicare.org/mcf.



Bill Nelson video chats with his mother Mary, a resident at Masonicare Health Center, on a new iPad funded with donations to the Masonicare Annual Appeal. This special moment was captured by Emily Eylward, who, along with the other Recreation Therapists, facilitated these important calls.

District 2

Lodges 13, 18, 21, 39, 40, 48, 49



Montgomery Lodge No. 13 Holds Strawberry Festival

by Daniel Nichols

Ahh...the strawberry festival. A Masonic custom that goes as far back as Lodges meeting by the moon cycle. A time to remember the summer season coming up and the labors completed in the early spring. For Masons, the strawberry festival has a rich history. It can be traced back to the early 1920s when farmers would promote their fruit crops. The strawberry being an early season crop grew in popularity. Therefore, the strawberry festival became its own Masonic event.

Keeping with the traditions of old, Montgomery Lodge No. 13 held their annual strawberry festival on June 16. Many brothers, and more importantly their wives, came to the lodge with prepared strawberry shortcakes, strawberry puree, and whipped cream. Large smiles could be seen from across the room as the containers were opened. Laughing and joking could be heard as a true sign of a successful Masonic event. After all were full, the brothers had a quick meeting to set up plans for the summer and fall events. Let's remember our old traditions like the strawberry festival, events that bring family back to the Masonic hall.



Montgomery Lodge No.13 Sells 650 Lobsters To Support Community

by Pete Dolce

On June 19, brothers from Montgomery Lodge No. 13 worked their 60-year-old traditional event of preparing fresh lobsters for sale to the community. Scheduled every third Saturday during the warm months, the funds raised are distributed to many local charitable organizations and the local community shows their support by consistently selling out. During the event on June 19, 650 lobsters were prepared and sold.



(l-r rear) RWB Bobby Thomson, RWB Scott Erwin, Bro. Peter Kukresh, RWB Gary Ross, Bro. Kevin Mackey, Bro. Tom McGloan, WB Mel Stimmel, (l-r front) Bro. Fred Bushnell, Bro. Chuck Bean.

Union Lodge No. 40 Celebrates 241 Years

by Dr. Robert MacDonald

In the midst of the revolutionary war, on March 23, 1780, Union Lodge No. 40 in Danbury was chartered. The first installation of officers took place on April 19, 1780, on the anniversary of the battle of Lexington and Concord. It was conducted with the help of brothers from the lodges at Fairfield and Woodbury. The future Grand Master of Massachusetts, Dr. Josiah Bartlett, was the very first initiate and Dr. Sallu Pell was the first Worshipful Master of Union Lodge No. 40. Dr. Pell served the lodge for a total of nine years as Master during two separate periods.

On June 27, at Anthony's Lake Club in Danbury, Union Lodge No. 40 celebrated 241 years of continuous brotherhood and service.



The well attended event included 115 adults and many children, with lodge brothers traveling from as far away as Florida. Brothers from Arc Lodge No. 39, Jerusalem Lodge No. 49, and Hiram Lodge No. 18 also joined the celebration. The event included dinner, cocktails, and dancing, along with a special performance by the Police Pipe and Drum of Waterbury.

With donations from many groups and individuals, a charity raffle raised \$1,000 for the lodge's philanthropic efforts. During the event, Union Lodge No. 40 was awarded both the Grand Lodge Master Craftsman and Master Builder Awards.

The lodge was honored to have the following dignitaries in attendance: MWB William E. Bohman, Grand Master, RWB Bruce R. Bellmore, Deputy Grand Master, RWB Joseph J. Porco, Grand Senior Warden, RWB James A. Saraceni, District Deputy of Masonic District 2B, along with several Past District Deputies and a full complement of Past Masters.



St. Luke's Lodge No. 48 Receives New Applications *by Daniel Nichols*

On June 24, St. Luke's Lodge No. 48 held their last meeting before the summer break. St. Luke's Lodge has a long history in their community and is a lodge that meets according to the moon cycle. So maybe the full moon that night played a part?

For the first time in many moons, four men of lawful age and well recommended asked to join the lodge. St. Luke's Lodge has been a pillar in the Kent community for a long time and with everything happening in the world, four men decided to seek out more. This is an example that being involved in the community brings good men to the door. Word gets around. There are men out there seeking light, let them see Masonry's beacon of hope and fraternity.

Check your EMRs even if it is just to call a man and have coffee with him. Help the fraternity organically grow.

District 2 *continued from page 20*

St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 Holds Summer Picnic

by Daniel Nichols

On July 24, St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 held their summer picnic at Harrybrooke Park in New Milford. Under the pavilion the brothers met for games, food and fraternity. Children and wives attended – it is always nice to see the brother's family and what he holds dear.



Watching brothers have a good time with family and fraternity is what Masons and Masonry are all about. Our families mean more to us than anything so do not exclude them from Masonry. Masonry was not meant to be a society of just men but a brotherhood for mankind.

When your lodge has family events make a point to put them on your calendar. Share Masonry with your family so that there is a better understanding of who we are and what we stand for.

District 3

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



St. Andrews Lodge No. 64 Presents Scholarships to Local Students

by Bill Marchand

St. Andrews Lodge No. 64 in Winsted held their scholarship presentations on Wednesday July 14. Worshipful Master Keith Dearden and Treasurer RWB Mo Gabelmann presented local students \$500 scholarships. They were:

- Marisa Montano, New Hartford
- Connor Marchand, Winsted
- Neicko Clapper, Winsted
- Kyle Valickas, Winsted

Funds are generated from the monthly roast beef dinner the brothers hold at St. Andrew's Lodge, and they wish the recipients the best of success in their educational endeavors.



(l-r) WM Keith Dearden, Marisa Montano, Connor Marchand, Neicko Clapper, Kyle Valickas, RWB Mo Gabelmann

District 6

Lodges 4, 25, 28, 70, 73, 88, 145, 400



“Mason” of the SWPD Makes Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 Proud *by Pat Jones*

Last March, the brothers of Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 voted to give the Town of South Windsor Police Department a police dog. He was named, appropriately, Mason, a 15-month-old German Shepherd. Officer Zachary Cosenza, his handler, and “Mason” completed a 15-week training course at the State of Connecticut Police Academy. “Mason” was trained to track missing persons, crime suspects, and drug abusers. Police dogs have proven to be very valuable assets in crime prevention and detection. The SWPD had been without a dog since 2012.

Mason has already earned his keep. At the end of June, the rookie police dog successfully foiled a burglary at a local automotive business by two men who were trying to steal sheet metal. Mason tracked down one of the burglars who was overcome by drugs and was exhausted from the chase. This entailed chasing the burglars deep into a heavily wooded area. According to South Windsor Police Sergeant Mark Cleverdon, this apprehension would not have been possible without the skills of Mason. Not only did he catch the burglars, but he saved a life as well. “Without Mason’s assistance the man would have more than likely died,” said Sgt. Cleverdon. The man’s accomplice was also caught. They were both arrested on larceny charges.

Worshipful Master Dave Larsen says that the lodge has been a strong supporter of police and their services. “I’m sure that this will continue,” he said. “Mason and his handler, Officer Zachary Cosenza, make us proud.”

The brothers of Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 agree.

District 4

Lodges 1, 9, 16, 22, 30, 38, 63, 66, 77, 79, 87, 89, 97, 115, 125, 332, 401, 500



Annawaon Lodge No. 115 Fellowcraft Club Presents Award of Excellence *by Matt Schwartz*

The Fellowcraft Club of Annawaon Lodge No. 115 in West Haven was pleased to present its annual award of excellence scholarship to this year’s recipient, West Haven High School senior, Mackenzie Gardner. Mackenzie was selected unanimously by the Fellowcraft Club Board from a pool of well-deserving candidates. Fellowcraft Club President, Joseph F. McVety Jr., said, “Mackenzie really impressed me with her diverse list of achievements. Excelling not just academically, but also in her extracurricular activities, including various sports and clubs. Giving back to the community is a fundamental value in Freemasonry. Mackenzie’s commitment to her community stood out to me especially. Mackenzie is the epitome of what a true ‘Westie’ should be.”

The Fellowcraft Club Award of Excellence was founded in 2007 and since then has been given annually to an eligible high school senior who resides in West Haven.



District 4 continued on page 23

Hiram Lodge No. 1 Shows Serious Spirit Amidst the Pandemic *by Maxwell Thomas*

Despite the difficulties that plagued the fraternity in 2020, Hiram Lodge No. 1 bounced back in 2021 stronger than ever. Under the strong leadership of Worshipful Master Keith Macdowall, the lodge once again raised the bar when it comes to standing out in the community. Macdowall, no stranger to working with non-profits, decided early on what direction the lodge would take and that was to help as many individuals as possible through charity and fellowship.

In January, the lodge took part in a team bowling event hosted by DeMolay to raise money for teen suicide prevention. They also responded to the emergency needs of Life Haven Shelter for Women and Children when they required water and supplies during an intense cold front.

In February the lodge assisted Masonicare with their “Fill the Shuttle” food drive and hosted a presentation for their Quality of Life Fund.

As COVID-19 restrictions eased up, the lodge hosted a presentation by Life Haven and donated \$2,500 to them in March. Likewise, the following month, The Tommy Fund, a charity that assists the families of children undergoing cancer treatments made a presentation and was awarded a \$750 donation. That evening it was also announced they would be the chosen beneficiary for the annual Pizza Challenge event. The Pizza Challenge was a great success raising \$7,100 in July.

Additionally, Hiram Lodge took part in Masonicare’s Wine and Beer fundraiser, helped clean up and reorganize Life Haven’s basement, and took part in DeMolay’s gold tournament contributing \$2,500 to the event.

If there is a point to be made here beyond pride for the lodge it’s that that Freemasonry survives, in part, due to lodges helping their respective communities and the less fortunate. It spreads Masonry’s good image further into the public eye and brings more men knocking at the door. Each lodge has their own unique character, and this should be leveraged frequently to create opportunities which engage our membership and help the communities of Connecticut.

2021 isn’t over yet and Hiram Lodge No. 1 issues a challenge to our brothers across the 89 other lodges to get out make a difference!

Day Spring Lodge No. 30 Makes History *by Robert Larsen*

On Saturday, June 26, Day Spring Lodge No. 30, with special dispensation from the Grand Master, made history by holding their first ever outdoor Master Mason degree. The brothers and officers of Day Spring Lodge were joined by members of Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3 of Fairfield to confer the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on five Fellow Crafts that included three from Fidelity-St. John's Lodge and two from Day Spring Lodge.

Worshipful Master Steven Bruner and the officers of Day Spring Lodge portrayed the first half of the degree, and Fidelity-St. John's Lodge’s degree team portrayed the second section. The area was hidden by tarpaulins to ward off the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers and it was illuminated by tiki torches and solar lighting as darkness approached. Everything went well as the degree went into the evening.

Prior to the degree, a cookout with hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, and non-alcoholic beverages were enjoyed by all attending brothers.

Because of the success of their first outdoor degree, undoubtedly Day Spring Lodge will make this an annual event, sending out due and timely notice in an early and orderly manner in the future.

St. Albans Lodge No. 38 to celebrate 250th Anniversary

On July 10, 1771, RWB John Rowe, Esq., Provincial Grand Master at Boston, by authority of MWB Henry Somerset, Grand Master of England, issued a warrant to Timothy Ward, Bilius Ward, David Landon, Timothy Ludington, Eber Waterhouse, Asher Fairchild, Benjamin Stone, Giles Trubee, and William Johnson of Guilford in the Colony of Connecticut, forming them into a regular lodge. At the first meeting of this new lodge, in Guilford on September 19, 1771, these brothers appointed Bilius Ward as the first Worshipful Master of the First Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Guilford.

Thus began the Masonic journey of St. Albans Lodge, chartered five years before the Declaration of Independence, six years before Betsy

Ross sewed the American Flag, and 18 years before organization of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut in 1789.

On September 18, St. Albans Lodge No. 38 will commemorate its 250th anniversary with a gala celebration at the Branford Elks Lodge, 158 South Montowese Street in Branford. “Very few current institutions predate the American Revolution,” said W. John Ardito, the lodge’s current Worshipful Master. “It is an honor to inherit this legacy and we look forward to sharing this important milestone with our brothers, spouses and friends.”

All are welcome and encouraged to attend but space is limited. For more information or to purchase tickets please visit: www.stalbans38.org/250th



District 5 Lodges Raise Six Master Masons

by Francis G. Way

On Saturday, June 26, three lodges in the 5th Masonic District joined to raise six Master Masons. With dispensation from the Grand Master in hand, Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Unity Lodge No. 148, and Hospitality Lodge No. 128, cleared up their backlog of candidates on one sunny summer Saturday.

Hosted at Unity Lodge in New Britain, and with the three Worshipful Masters filling the Master's and Wardens' chairs, the gathering of brothers was satisfying, entertaining, and a welcome return to labor.

While the Grand Master, MWB William E. Bohman had given dispensation to raise more than five brothers, he was unable to attend, his presence being required at two District Deputy presentations that day. It was yet another sign that Masonry in the state is returning to normal. But RWB Harry Needham and WB Keath Romano, DD and AGM of District 5B were there to represent the Grand Master and

to enjoy the work of the day. It's always a fun time when RWB Harry and WB Keath are in attendance!

The tragedy was portrayed in fine form by the Frederick-Franklin brothers performing their Builders Lodge. The newly raised Master Masons were Bros. Joe Distin and Jed Philip (Hospitality Lodge No. 128), Bros. Dave Wallace, Raonak Ahmed and Jeremy Wohlford (Unity Lodge No. 148) and Bro. Konnor Claywell (Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14).

Lunch and dessert were provided by Unity Lodge No. 148 and offered a great deal of fellowship along with good food. It was obvious that the brothers had missed each other, and the chance to work and enjoy lunch was greatly appreciated.

Unity Lodge, Frederick-Franklin Lodge and Hospitality lodge have enjoyed an excellent working relationship and there is a true warm friendship among the brothers. Partnering with other lodges in your area for labor and refreshment is something we highly recommend.





WB George Weted putting the pin on Bro. Frank Zemina

Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 Presents 60-Year Pin *by David Cole*

On Monday, July 5, WB George Weted, almoner of Widow's Son Lodge No. 66, and WB David Cole, visited with Brother Frank Zemina. Bro. Frank is a 60-year brother of the lodge, raised on May 17, 1961.



(l-r) WB David Cole, Bro. Frank Zemina, WB George Weted



Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 Hosts Blood Drive *by David Cole*

On July 14, the Red Cross held a blood drive at Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 in Branford. This is the second blood drive that they held at the lodge in the last four months. Widow's Son was again proud to host them. The brothers not only gave blood but kept a constant presence there in support.

*WB Jeff Knapp, WB David Cole
WB Bill Rose*



WB Jeff Knapp



WB Bill Rose

District 4 continued on page 26

Hiram Lodge No. 1 Raises Funds Competing in the New Haven Pizza Challenge *by Keith Macdowall*

Hiram Lodge No. 1 in New Haven has been extremely active in the community by supporting local worthwhile nonprofit organizations every month of the 2021 calendar.

These include the Life Haven shelter for women and children, Columbus House shelter for the homeless and Masonic based groups including CT DeMolay and the Masonicare Quality of Life Foundation.

The highlight of the year so far, was in July at the now annual New Haven Pizza Challenge held at Moon Cutter Co. in Hamden. The beneficiary was the Tommy Fund, which was founded in Connecticut during the 1980s by five families.

Their goal was to support each other emotionally and financially while their children were going through cancer-related treatments. The fund has grown to now support 150 families a year and every dollar raised goes directly to these families struggling with substantial burden while at the Smilow Children's Cancer Center.

The feel-good story of the day was a personal donation of \$1,000, received from a family previously supported by the Tommy Fund 15 years ago. Their daughter is now in 100% remission. She just graduated college and has accepted a position at Yale New Haven Hospital in Pediatric Oncology.

Inferno Pizza of North Haven donated all of the pies along with the support of more than 20 generous sponsors. Twenty-one teams took part in the challenge, including Temple Lodge No. 16, Trumbull Lodge No. 22, Meridian Lodge No. 77, Annawon Lodge No. 115, Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 and a celebrity team from Grand Lodge with the Grand Master MWB William Bohman as captain. The young men from CT DeMolay took first prize and I'm sure will look to defend their title next year!

This challenge was a picture-perfect example of the power of Masonry, raising \$7,100 in an amazing one-day event. We already have it in the books for next year and have lined up the "Big Green Pizza Truck" to cook on-site.

Please come out and help us again next summer to raise money for this amazing program.





Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*SM



Organ Donation and Grief Journaling

by *Richard F. Denno*

Recently New England Donor Services, which serves as our Donate Life affiliate, emailed out a very beneficial and informative article on ways for all of us to deal with the traumatic experience concerning the loss of our loved ones entitled 5 Benefits of Grief Journaling. The article's content is very relevant to not just organ donor families, but to anyone who has suffered the loss of family or friends. As the expression goes, "Nobody ever got out of here alive." People search for answers and ways of coping with these sad but inevitable events.

Over the years, I have found journaling to be a very effective way of helping me work through my emotions. As motivational speaker Anthony Robbins urges in his books and seminars, "Go out and get your self a journal" and faithfully put your daily life to paper. In my journal, I write what happened in my life that day. It's a way of reflecting

on my activities, such as what positive occurred and areas I need to improve upon. It's also way of observing the good qualities of others and is an excellent learning from those actions.

The "5 Benefits of Grief Journaling" are:

1. Writing about your experiences combats avoidance
2. The physical health benefits of journaling
3. Mental health benefits of journaling
4. Better sleep
5. Writing is beneficial for those seeking constructive ways to cope with grief

This article can benefit everyone. To learn more, go to:

<https://whatsyourgrief.com/5-benefits-of-grief-journaling/>

(Or use this short URL, <https://rb.gy/hvdu7h>)

A special thank you to Kelley Green at the After Care Program at the New England Donor Services.

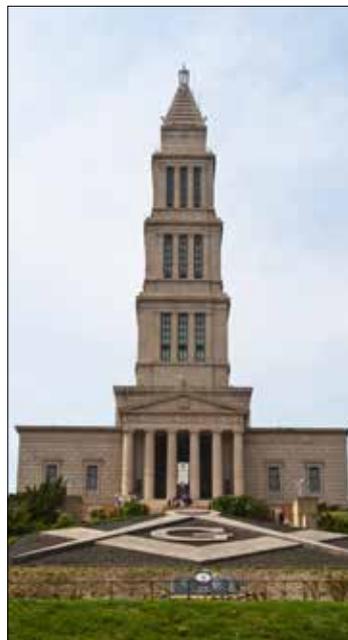
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for the
Re-enactment of the
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Dedication of the
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*Join your Brothers for this
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The Memorial is a National Historic Landmark that stands as American Freemasonry's tribute to George Washington and the values of Freedom.

The forms to become a charter member of the George Washington Memorial Society, other means of support, and to become a member of the Society of Washington Lodges, are on the website gwmemorial.org.



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

Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr.

By the time this edition of Connecticut Freemasons goes to press, the Valley of Hartford will have held the Annual Workers Appreciation Night Banquet for those volunteers who have assisted the Valley in the portrayal of the degrees, at the Casa Mia at the Hawthorne Inn in Berlin. In addition, a fishing trip is scheduled for September 5 as part of the Family Life Programs for 2021-2022.

Barring any last-minute change in the spread of the virus that would result in the Governor or Grand Lodge shutting down activities, we will be back to business as usual. Grand Masters Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 25, and the Connecticut Scottish Rite Valleys have started holding family/social events and live portrayals of the 29th degree. We can look forward to the future as the Valley gets back to doing what we do best.

We will also be resuming pre-degree dinners, social gatherings after degrees, bus trips, evenings of live entertainment at our Scottish Rite building, and the Annual Picnic. Also, the Commander-in-Chief, Ill. Brother Richard R. Jones, Jr, 33rd, has assigned each of the newly installed heads of body to either hold two degree nights on which to portray one or more of their assigned degrees, or substitute a social style event for one of those degree nights.

The new season for degrees begins this month with the 4th Degree and the 7th Degree on Thursday, September 9, preceded by a pre-degree dinner starting at 6:15 p.m. Reservations are required in advance so either contact the Valley office or watch for an email requesting you to make your reservation.

The newly elected officers have been installed in their offices for the upcoming Scottish Rite year of 2021-2022. Installed were Ill. Bro. Jeffery A. Flynn, 33rd as the Thrice Potent Master of the Charter Oak Lodge of Perfection; Bro. Robert V. Dynak as the Sovereign Prince of the Hartford Council Princes of Jerusalem; Bro. Jonathan Hibbard as the Most Wise Master Charter of Rose Croix; and Ill. Richard R. Jones Jr, 33rd as the Commander-in-Chief of Nathan Hale Consistory S.P.R.S. and Chairman of the Executive Council. Also installed were Ill. Bros. Anthony F. Keegan and



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Inspiration - Convenience - Enjoyment

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

Applications for the next 2021-2022 Classes are now being accepted.

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

Tony Angelica to serve the valley as treasurer and secretary respectively.

At the Annual Meeting there were several points of interest of which you should be aware:

1. We raised 12 new brothers via videos and DVDs.
2. Our Necrology reported the loss of 23 of our members who passed to their eternal rest, including 11 members who were 50 year or greater members of the Valley.
3. We received 36 college scholarship applications, the largest number in the past several years, from children and grandchildren of Valley members. The scholarship committee was forced to reject one application for not meeting all the requirements to qualify. Of the other 35 applicants, four received \$1000 Abbott

Scholarships, while the other 31 received a Valley of Hartford Scholarship Award of \$500.

4. Although the 2020 5K Race was not held because of COVID-19 restrictions, we were able to raise \$12,025 via a virtual race and donations from our members to help support our local Children's Dyslexia Center. On behalf of the officers and the members, I would like to thank all who contributed, along with the Co-Chairmen Brothers Jeffery S. Mayer and Tony Angelica, who ran the event. Since this year's 5K Race was also canceled, please consider contributing this year when you pay your 2022 dues.

5. We currently have 43 youngsters enrolled in the program in our three Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut, and over 30 on the waiting list. The Center in Hartford is helping 11 youngsters from the greater Hartford area at this time.

6. The Commander-in-Chief has decided that we will have only hold one Consistory Day this Scottish Rite year, in the spring. All candidates will receive then the 32nd Degree at the same time.

Members are needed who are willing to take part in degree work (speaking or non-speaking parts) or joining with those who work behind the scenes. We need assistant directors; stagehands; lighting and sound assistants in the control room; help in robe room; help in the make-up room; help on the welcoming committee; help on the hospitality crew; and whatever help the Secretary needs. Are you ready to step forward and assist them? The more hands that are available the more things will run smoothly. If you help, whether it be just for one degree, several degrees, or all the degrees in the season, you will enjoy the camaraderie and friendship of your fellow Valley members.

Our Valley Secretary is also looking for several other brothers to plan and run different social events for members only or families, such as bus trips, dinner with a theme, social gatherings, sports outings, or any other type of event that would be enjoyed by members or families.

The Stone that the Builders Rejected

by John A. Amarillos, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

September begins the degree season at the Lafayette Consistory. That month features a live presentation of the 4th Degree, and a video rendition of the 20th Degree on Monday, September 13. A meal will be served next door at the Shrine Building at 6 p.m. with the degree work commencing at 7:30 p.m.. Reservations are necessary, so call the Consistory office to reserve a meal and a seat for the degree. The number is (203) 375-0064.

The Children's Dyslexia Centers is still looking for a part-time business manager who will be working out of the Waterbury Center. A full description of the employment opportunity can be found in the July 2021 Lafayette Consistory News. The gig is a permanent part-time affair for about four days a week, and it is ideal for a semi-retired person who has business and computer savvy.

The Hautes Grades Academy program consists of three levels. There is currently a wait list, so signing up at <https://scottishritenmj.org/hautes-grades-academy> is necessary if you desire to start this work. The academy is structured as follows: Level One – The candidate will delve into the ritual of all 29 Scottish Rite, NMJ degrees; Level Two – The essay portion of the curriculum will allow for self-reflection and review of Scottish Rite degrees selected personally by the candidate, and Level Three – A written research paper on a topic of the candidate's choice, which will be pre-approved and reviewed by the HGA committee. Research topics can vary between history, ritual, and the philosophy of the Scottish Rite. When a brother completes the program, he will earn the honor of becoming a Scottish Rite Hautes Grades Academic, and with it the right to include the letters HGA after his name. He will also receive a certificate and jewel which will be presented to him at a significant Consistory affair.

* * * * *

John Fort Newton's 1914 Masonic classic "The Builders" alludes to the allegorical underlying agenda of the fraternity. As in everything Masonic, the matter is veiled and requires interpretation by one who has the keys in their possession. The method of teaching exhibited in Masonic allegory is akin to that employed by the exposition of laws set down in the parables of the Great Light. Again, a key is required, since the text is intentionally written to have plausible exoteric and esoteric meanings. Cornerstones are an important fixture in Masonic culture. Ceremonies conducted at the inception of the construction of a new edifice are still relatively common and bear esoteric significance.

Let's delve into the root and meaning of the allegorical headstone. First let's take a look at Psalms 118:21-23: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the headstone of the Corner." This is also found verbatim in Matthew 21: 42-44. The theme of this allegory is key to not only the teachings of Masonry, but was also employed by most all of the mystery schools throughout time. The stone that the builders rejected become the head of the corner, and for ages the Great Pyramid in Giza has esoterically represented this rejected stone.

By correspondence, or symbolically, the Master within us "the Soul" – begins its sojourn rejected or neglected, buried deep in the mind's debris, and begins its travel towards becoming the Light of the Temple only when

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention all Master Masons!

SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES

Mon. Sept. 13, 2021 ~ Stratford
4th Degree (live) & 20th Degree (video)

Mon. Oct. 4, 2021 ~ Stratford
25th Degree (live) & 17th Degree (video)

Mon. Oct. 18, 2021 ~ Stratford
29th Degree (live) & 15th Degree (video)

Degrees start at 7:30 p.m.
Dinners at 6 p.m. in the Shrine building.
Reservations required. Call the
Consistory Office at 203-375-0064.
Meals and Degrees are subject to Health Dept.
edicts in affect at the time of the event.

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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awakened and brought into consciousness through the desire and repeated efforts of the individual Mason. Thus, esoterically, it too is the stone that the builders rejected or neglected, or in other words, it is the soul that the mortal self has rejected. This stone which builders of all ages and all the vast numbers of humanity have always rejected must be searched for, found, and given the most prominent place in the Temple. This rejected stone is the regenerated or rejuvenated soul, ie. the soul brought into consciousness by deliberate, repeated, and steady effort.

As a result of this incessant rejection of the corner stone, humanity has rejected consistently the Laws of Diety reaping a sad and painful harvest ("as Ye Sow, so Shall Ye Reap"). However all who harmonize themselves by thinking more of others and less of themselves, and seeking for the awakening of their real self, the soul or master within will come into real being as the proverbial Light will eventually be found.

Life on Earth is for a purpose, and that is to develop ourselves mentally, physically, and spiritually, i.e., to become a true representative of the Light, worthy of mingling with those denizens who reside within the Realm of Light. In order to accomplish this work we must guard our every thought, word, and deed, so that neither our works or desires work towards the injury of another. Anything that works towards the injury of another, in any manner or form, works towards the rejection of the stone by he who acts in such a manner. Within the Rite, the Allegory of Constanz in the 32nd Degree illustrates the pinnacle of the process, the work and sacrifice, required in order to accept and position our cornerstone properly for the benefit of all humanity, permitting us to find and reside within the Light!

Fiat Lux!

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.

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Continued on page 31

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*The form to continue
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WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

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Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3
Ethan Reid Lester

Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3
Lawrence J. Zollo

Compass Lodge No. 9
Michael Julian Cavadini

Frederick-Franklin Lodge No.
14Konner Lincoln Claywell

Moriah Lodge No. 15
Alan Scott Beauchene, Sr.

Moriah Lodge No. 15
Daniel Thomas Martin

Uriel Lodge No. 24
James Andrew Collard

Uriel Lodge No. 24
Zachary Deutscher

Uriel Lodge No. 24
Carl Leon Graveline

Uriel Lodge No. 24
Joshua Allen Todd

Uriel Lodge No. 24
Justin Frank Trzaskos

Composite Lodge No. 28
John Robert Suggs, Jr.

Day Spring Lodge No. 30
Luis Gonzalez

Day Spring Lodge No. 30
John Young

Friendship Lodge No. 33
James Stephen Abraham, Jr.

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Hector Nunez

Valley Lodge No. 36
James Christopher Tsaptsinos

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Peter Michael Cavanaugh, Jr.

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Warren Lodge No. 51
Oles Aleksey Fylypiv

Manchester Lodge No. 73
Richard Antonio Failoo Velasquez

Liberty-Continental Lodge No. 76
Aaron D. Bruce

Liberty-Continental Lodge No. 76
Ralph E. Crouse

Meridian Lodge No. 77
Miguel A. Batista

Meridian Lodge No. 77
Stephen Milano

Wooster Lodge No. 79
Francesco Carbone

Wooster Lodge No. 79
Joseph Quinn Franke

Wooster Lodge No. 79
Douglas Steven Kneissl

Corinthian Lodge No. 104
Milton Johnson

Moosup Lodge No. 113
Raymond M. Norris

Hospitality Lodge No. 128
Joseph Andrew Distin

Hospitality Lodge No. 128
Jed Philip

Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140
Joseph Conway

Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140
Christian Paige Freund

Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140
Phillip Joseph Maniscalco

Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140
Jeffrey James Rigoletti

Daytime Lodge No. 144
Andrew Peter Kolaski

Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145
Angelo Joseph Banning

Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145
Patrick Dayton Ramsey

Unity Lodge No. 148
Raonak Ahmed

Unity Lodge No. 148
David Edward Wallace

Unity Lodge No. 148
Jeremy W. Wohlford

Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149
Renel Bernadel

Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149
Tolentino Boyer

Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149
Yves Romain



343, Twenty Years – A Remembrance

by Francis G. Way

Very few of you reading this would not be hard-pressed to remember where you were, or what you were doing, at 8:46 a.m. on Tuesday, September 11, 2001. The events of that morning are, no doubt, indelibly etched upon your memory, and are, for all the worst reasons, unforgettable.

Twenty years ago, that day was divided into what happened before 8:46 a.m., and everything that happened after. Before 8:46 a.m., while driving to work, I remember how incredibly clear and blue the sky was that morning. I can never quite find the words to describe it, it was almost an unnatural color for the sky to be but it was uniquely beautiful, and as I was walking into the office, it seemed to me that the day just ached with promise. After 8:46 a.m., the day was filled at first with concern and worry and then with increasing tragedy and dread.

I could not wrap my head around the scope of the events unfolding, or the deep gut-wrenching sadness each new development in the story caused. It was just inconceivable. I could not fathom how it would be to go to work in your office job, and then an hour or so later, to be fighting for, and possibly losing your life. But there was one smaller part of the story that was conceivable, that brought it home to me, that made it personal, but that made it even sadder.

Before I became a Mason, even before I joined my college fraternity, I became part of another fraternity. It is a fraternity of which I am immensely proud and consider myself fortunate to belong to. The first fellows I called “Brother” were my brother firefighters.

As a youngster, the Jack Webb TV show “Emergency!” acquainted me with the exploits of Roy DeSoto and Johnny Gage, paramedics on Squad 51, and with the firefighters of Station 51. It was all so inspirational; their stories and their service spoke to me and moved me to join the town fire department. I felt the need to serve and answering the call when the tones went off (even at 4 a.m. in the middle of January) seemed a good fit for me. I passed the physical (these days it would be considered horribly inadequate, consisting of “turn your head and cough” and the admonition from the doctor “now don’t get hurt in any burning buildings”), took the training, and began an endeavor that was deeply satisfying, and that remains so to this day.

Even though I didn’t know them, it was the firefighters I could relate to on that sad September morning, FDNY, New York’s bravest. And brave they were. Dedicated too. Because the first plane had struck the tower just around shift change, a lot of rigs rolled with day shift (who

would have been just coming on duty) and night shift (who would have been just going off duty) on board. When they arrived at the scene, they did what firefighters do – grabbed hoses and equipment and began going up the stairs, assisting people, rescuing others...heading up.

There are names from that day that I will never forget: Father Mychal Judge, FDNY Chaplain and Franciscan priest. (Rudy Giuliani called out “Pray for us Father Mike.” Father Judge responded, “I always do.”). Captain Patrick Brown, of Ladder 3, a legend in FDNY even before that day and a Marine Corps Vietnam vet, whose last radio transmission, from the 35th floor of the North Tower, was, “This is 3 Truck and we’re still heading up, ok? Thank you.” Battalion Chief Orio Palmer, of Battalion 7, a marathon runner in his spare time, who reached the 78th floor...78 flights of stairs...heading up to help people that needed help. The men of Ladder 15, the only company to make it to a fire floor and knock down some fire.

When the two towers collapsed at 9:56 and 10:28 a.m., 343 of New York’s Bravest perished – men who had just an hour or two before been sitting around the kitchen tables in their firehouses, having coffee, busting on each other as firefighters (and even Masonic brothers) do, some starting their day, others finishing their night... It was, obviously, the largest number of line of duty deaths in a single incident in department history, an unheard of number of lives lost.

It has been 20 years since that horribly tragic and sad September day. There is now a quiet stillness in that place where the towers came down, and beneath the new Freedom Tower, near the Memorial Pools, there will be a ceremony. Around the firehouses, though, firefighters who are now considered the old hands, who were on the job that day and went home that night, will remember in a different way. They will tell stories of those who were lost and remember the little things that made them brothers. Perhaps they might laugh, for it’s always easier to remember something funny a departed brother did than the fact they are no longer here, but they will always pause, even just for a second, and... remember.

Brotherhood runs deep, be it in the Masons or the Fire Department. On September 11, I will, as I always do, say a prayer for everyone who was lost, and I will, as I always do, reflect on those lost brothers I never met or knew. I didn’t know them personally, but they were brothers, and I think I know, at least in some small way, what they must have felt as they headed up.... headed up to help.

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

Donald F. Allen
Corinthian Lodge No. 63

Charles Haigh
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Raymond R. Pantalena
Corinthian Lodge No. 63

Gerald Allen
Fayette Lodge No. 69

Kenneth R. Hill
Corinthian Lodge No. 63

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Harmon Lester Andrews
King Solomons Lodge No. 7

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Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

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Somerset - St. James Lodge No. 34

Armando C. Arguello
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Edward Joy Holliday
Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107

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Randall J. Stack
Meridian Lodge No. 77

Gordon Bertrand Boucher
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St. Alban's Lodge No. 38

Robert R. Brinley
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William T. Koen
Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116

Ralph H. Tallmadge
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Elias A. Briones
Union Lodge No. 31

John Wensel Krisak, Sr.
Center Lodge No. 97

Brice Elwood Vickery
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Donald Charles Butterworth
Washington Lodge No. 19

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John R. Manion
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Bruce Rutledge Chamberlin
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Temple Lodge No. 16

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District 9

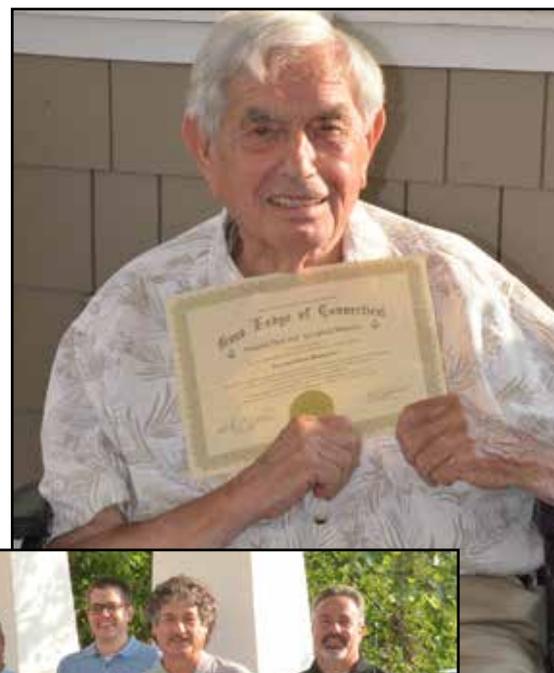
Lodges 15, 24, 46, 60, 69, 110, 113, 122,



Brother Sam Blonstein Receives 70-Year Pin *by Weston Bedore*

On Thursday July 15, members of Fayette Lodge No. 69 presented Sam Blonstein a pin to celebrate his 70 years of Masonic service. Sam was raised on March 13, 1951. The presentation also included a signed letter from MWGM William E. Bohman that was read by WM Michael Derrig, a certificate from Fayette Lodge presented by RWB Dale Cunningham, and the 70-year pin presented to him by his grandson Weston Bedore, a member of Fayette Lodge and Potentate of Sphinx Shriners.

Other Fayette Lodge brothers, Sphinx Shriners, and friends and family of Sam also attended the ceremony.



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Sphinx Shriners Takes Houston by Storm

by Weston Bedore



The Imperial Session of Shriners was held in Houston in July. The Sphinx Shriners Motor Patrol paraded and participated in the International Association of Shriners Motor Corps competition during the session. The competition included motorized units from all over the world.

When the results of the competition were tallied, the Motor Patrol took home top honors by winning the high point trophy for all 3-wheel and 4-wheel vehicles in competition. It is an award the group had not won since 2000. The unit also won first place in both drill and obstacle course for their class, and Weston Bedore won the fastest obstacle course time for their class.

Congratulations to the Sphinx Shriners Motor Patrol for a job well done!



Pyramid Shriners Shine at the Monroe Family Festival

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.



Nobles from Pyramid Shrine Temple in Stratford, participated during the Night at the Park Family Festival in Monroe. Pyramid Shriners dazzled patrons with balloon twisting hats and animals. In addition, visitors attending the festival enjoyed sitting in the Motor Patrol parade cars. Most importantly, Pyramid Shriners were able to share their mission of providing assistance to needy children receiving excellent medical care at Shriners' Hospital.



(l-r) Donald Casey Jr, Larry Plotnick, Pedro Garcia and James Goldstein.

Masonicare at Ashlar Village Residents' Scholarship Fund Helps 15 Young People Further Their Educations

by Sandy Potter

Fifteen young men and women, who are either employees of Masonicare at Ashlar Village or the children of employees, were recently named recipients of the Masonicare at Ashlar Village Residents' Scholarship Fund.

This is the seventeenth year the residents at Masonicare at Ashlar Village have provided educational scholarships through their fund. A total amount of \$20,700 was raised this year and distributed amongst the recipients.

The young men and women receiving scholarships this year are Kayla Barkasy, Tamara Barkasy, Faith Danner, Stephen Fengler, Ethan Fiske, Paige Federick, Maddyson Horobin, Zachary Horobin, Meghan Landon, Mary Naccarato, Emma Oliano, Faerin Parker, Madison Rios, Allison Villano, and John Womelsdorf.

Masonicare at Ashlar Village residents established the Scholarship Fund in 2004 to provide educational scholarships for young people who either work at Ashlar Village or are children of employees. The funds are raised in a variety of ways, but mainly through the sale of unique, handmade crafts and clothing items in the Ashlar Village Specialty shop. The items are made by residents of Ashlar Village, and the Specialty Shop is manned and stocked solely by resident volunteers.



WANTED: Strap-sided flasks from Connecticut or small towns in Massachusetts or Rhode Island.

Contact:
mkrobinson318@att.net

Working Tools of the Modern Freemason

by Russell L. Scull

On July 20, I attended North Carolina's 1st District Official Grand Master's Visit. That evening was a combined district meeting and the official visit of the sitting Grand Master of the State of North Carolina. There are eight lodges in the 1st District and approximately 60 brothers traveled as far as 45 miles to attend.

The highlight of the meeting was the Grand Master's address. The key takeaway was marketing. This is not to be confused with recruitment, which we all know is not tolerated. Marketing is activities that promote the buying or selling of a product or service and includes advertising, selling, and delivering products to consumers or other businesses. Activities in this case are our actions. Our actions as Masons are observed by people on the street when they see the '2 Be 1 Ask 1' bumper sticker. Do they see one who runs a stop light or who comes to a safe stop?

Our actions toward our fellow brothers are also part of marketing. There are internal brothers and external brothers. Internal brothers are the members of your lodge. The external brothers are brothers of the entire fraternity. How do our brothers view the lodge, district and Grand Lodge? How are our lodges, districts, and Grand Lodge marketing themselves to their internal and external brothers? Are we using ALL the modern working tools available to us?

I have had the opportunity to attend several York Rite leadership courses and my takeaway has been to be prepared for the change in paradigm. The advances in technology have been laid in front of us and we need to utilize them.

As we were taught that the designs on the trestleboard guided and instructed the workers in the quarry, the modern electronic calendar can guide and instruct us today. Simple calendars have popped up on all our web pages from lodges to Grand Lodges. This marketing tool needs to be used more than we are utilizing it today.

The simple way to market your lodge use the 'Our Lodge Page' or its equivalent as they are in North Carolina



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 or 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.

GRAND MASTERS DAY

Saturday, September 25, 9 a.m., Masonicare, Wallingford

GRAND LODGE SEMI-ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

Saturday, October 16, 9 a.m., Ashlar Village, Wallingford

Entered Apprentice Degrees

Wed., September 1, 7:30 p.m., St. Paul's Lodge No.11,
Litchfield, *Inspection*

Craft At Refreshment

For more details about any of these events, please contact the Lodge directly. In many cases reservations are required, and they may or may not be open to the public.

All times are supplied by the lodges. The Connecticut Freemasons newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events. For recurring events and breakfasts, they may not take place during the summer months – call to check

Recurring Events

Every Thursday, Putnam Lodge No. 46,
Putnam, 7 p.m., Thursday Night Meeting
Socializing, Rehearsing, Prepping.

Second, Fourth Wednesday of the Month,
Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, 7 p.m.,
Fellowship Night at the Lodge. *Open to all brothers,
friends. Refreshments and discussion. Please call to verify.*

Recurring Breakfasts

First Sunday of the Month, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140,
Newington, 7 a.m., *SBA Breakfast Fundraiser*

Second Sunday of the Month, Compass Lodge No. 9,
Wallingford, 8 a.m., *Fellowship Breakfast (8 a.m. to 10 a.m.)*

Third Sunday of the Month, Washington Lodge No. 19,
Monroe, 8 a.m., Country breakfast

Thurs, September 2, 6:30 p.m., Sequin-Level No. 140,
Newington, Dinner

Tue, September 28, 7:30 p.m., Fayette Lodge No. 69,
Ellington

Fellowcraft Degrees

Wed, September 15, 7:30 p.m., King Solomon's Lodge No. 7,
Woodbury

Tues, September 21, 6:30 p.m., America-St. John's Lodge No. 8,
Stratford, Dinner

Master Mason Degrees

Tues, September 21, 6:30 p.m., Union Lodge No. 40,
Danbury, Dinner

Thurs, September 23, 7:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1,
New Haven, *RWB Bruce Bellmore presiding, Hiram Past Masters in chairs.*

Events

Sat, September 4, 9 a.m., King Solomon's Lodge No. 7,
Woodbury, Woodbury Food Drive
LaBonne's Market, Woodbury

Sat, September 11, Composite Lodge No. 28,
Suffield, Suffield On The Green,
High Street, Suffield

Tues, September 7, 7 p.m., Union Lodge No. 40,
Danbury, Duckpin Bowling Night
Danbury Duckpin Lanes, 7 E Hayestown Rd, Danbury
Family & Friend welcome, Pizza & Soda provided, contact Bro.
Rodrigo Martins with headcount

Sun, September 26, 12 p.m., America-St. John's Lodge No. 8,
Stratford, Family Picnic,
Boothe Memorial Park, 5800 Main St, Stratford

Sun, October 3, 10 a.m., America-St. John's Lodge No. 8,
Stratford, Lodge Car Show
Short Beach, Stratford

Thurs, October 7, 6 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1,
New Haven, Pizza Night
Inferno Apizza, 411 Universal Dr N, North Haven

Sat, October 8, 6 p.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140,
Newington, Oktoberfest Dinner

Thurs, October 14, 7:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1,
New Haven, St. Patrick's Day Themed Table Lodge
Why? Because we didn't have enough corned beef in March...

Pyramid Shriners Motorize for Needy Children

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.



Nobles from Pyramid Shrine Temple Motor Patrol participated in the 29th annual Puerto Rican Day Parade Bridgeport. Members of the Motor Patrol dazzled 15,000 spectators with figure eight, zig zag, and circular formations. Most importantly, Pyramid Shriners were able to share their mission of providing assistance to needy children receiving excellent medical care at Shriners Hospital.



Luke Lockwood Award Honors LeadingAge Connecticut President

On Wednesday, June 23, the Masonicare Board of Trustees recognized and honored Mag Morelli, president of LeadingAge Connecticut, for her contributions to our industry during what was perhaps one of the industry's darkest periods on record. The Masonicare Board of Directors unanimously agreed to award Mag with this esteemed award, in recognition for all she has done and continues to do for the industry, our employees, and the residents and patients in our care. Mag's unwavering leadership served as a guiding light as we worked to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents in our care and support the courageous providers who faced the day-to-day uncertainty of a global pandemic.

Mag was awarded the Luke Lockwood Award, which is the only award given by Masonicare to members outside of the Masonic fraternity. Luke Lockwood was an attorney and philanthropist, who served as Grand



Master of Connecticut from 1872 to 1873. With a vision of a home for brethren and widows, he leveraged \$332 into what is today the Masonicare continuum. Lockwood served as president of The Masonic Charity Foundation Fund from 1873 to 1905. In 1970, under the leadership of Charles J. Ramage, the Masonicare Board established the award as a means of recognizing outstanding service to Masonicare.

LeadingAge Connecticut is a statewide membership association representing not-for-profit provider organizations serving older adults across the continuum of aging services, including not-for-profit skilled nursing facilities, residential care homes, home health care agencies, hospice agencies, assisted living communities, senior housing, and life plan communities.

Join Us!

★ **Grand Masters Day Family Festival** ★
★ **September 25, 2021** ★

A day to honor individuals, past and present.
Masonicare Health Center, 22 Masonic Ave., Wallingford
9:00AM - 3:00PM

- **Our Residents** – which the day is created to honor
- **The Grand Masters**, MW David Pinkins and MW William E. Bohman
- **9:00am: Memorial service** honoring and celebrating the life of Illustrious Brother A. Norman Johnson on the front lawn of the Masonicare Health Center
- **10:30am: Parade** featuring bands, motorcycles, antique cars, marching units and a competition for Masonic districts for the Grand Master's Cup, for the greatest attendance of a Masonic district at the parade
- **Festive food** that is similar to that served at the original dedication of the Masonic Home on September 25, 1895
- **1:30pm: Re-dedication** of the A. Norman Johnson Apartments
- **Music** under the big tent
- **Special historical display** honoring the people that gave of their time and talent over the decades



William E. Bohman
Most Worshipful Grand Master,
Grand Lodge of CT, A.F. & A.M.



Brother David Pinkins
Most Worshipful Grand Master,
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of CT.

Activities &
FUN
for all ages!

FREE!
Admission!



Questions? Call 888-679-9997

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