

December 2021



Connecticut FREEMASONS



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A. F. & A. M. 2021- 2022**



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*Congratulations to
District 1 and
District 6,
the December 2021
recipients of the
Editor's Award!*



Table of Contents

In the Bleak Mid-Winter 3

Grand Master's Message ~ William E. Bohman..... 4

Congratulations to Our 50-year Brothers 4

Grand Chaplain's Message..... 5

Welcome to Our New Brothers! 6

Connecticut Freemasons Announces "The Editor's Award" ... 6

From the Desk of Jon-Paul Venoit 7

Growing League Of Women / GLOW 8

The Body, Mind, and Spirit in Freemasonry 9

Called By the Grand Architect..... 10

Technology Changes at Grand Lodge 10

Clowning Around at 'Trick or Treat' Day 11

The Values of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Freemasonry 11

Freemasonry and the Enlightenment?..... 13

Valley of Hartford, AASR 14

Lafayette Consistory 15

Donate Life..... 16

Liver Transplant Needed - Live Donation Request 16

Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 17-28

Lodge Still in Need of Assistance 21

RWB Ernest A. Phillips Awarded Pierpont Edwards Medal .. 29

RWB Martin J. Macary Awarded Pierpont Edwards Medal.. 29

Own a Piece of American Histroy 30

Walter Grube Awarded Pierpont Edwards Medal..... 32

Widows Sons Trick or Treat 33

Booster Lists 34-35

Craft at Labor, Craft at Refreshment 36

Robert G. Fitzgerald Receives General Grand Chapter
Distinguished Service Medal in Bronx 37

Wooster Medal Presented to the
International Order of the Rainbow for Girls 39

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

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

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In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Francis G. Way

The Earth has once again danced around the sun to that specific spot where, by our reckoning, the year ends in the cold and dark and finality of time gone like snowflakes on a winter wind. How wonderful then that our most joyous holidays, full of hope and promise, occur when all seems bleakest.

In our lodges, Worshipful Masters' attention turn to annual meetings and elections, and preparing to step down from the East. What may have begun with much trepidation 11 months before now seems to have flown by in the blink of an eye, and the end, ever so near, seems bittersweet for all that. In mere weeks the Worshipful Master will join the ranks of those who bear the title Past Master. His photo may newly grace the array on the wall of those who have served the lodge in the Oriental chair, but all too soon that photo will seem as ancient as those sepia-toned pictures of Past Masters of the last centuries.

While December is time for the lodge year to wind down, and to gather itself for a new beginning, under a new Master who is already feeling that trepidation that the onus of the Oriental chair presses on its occupant, it is also a time for family, friends, and holidays.

Christmas and Hanukkah are fast approaching and those celebrations, hopefully with the warmth and fellowship that these times once again offer, provide hope in the bleak mid-winter. Candles will be lit, carols will be sung, the dreidel will spin, and Christmas trees will be adorned with lights and ornaments. Children will anxiously await the arrival of Santa Claus, and adults may look forward to some Christmas cheer while sitting by a warm fire.

The miracles of the season, dearly held by those of faith, coupled with special time spent with family and friends, provide a respite from the howling winds of December, and fortify us in our journey towards the sun and the warmth of spring...our eternal traveling toward the Light.

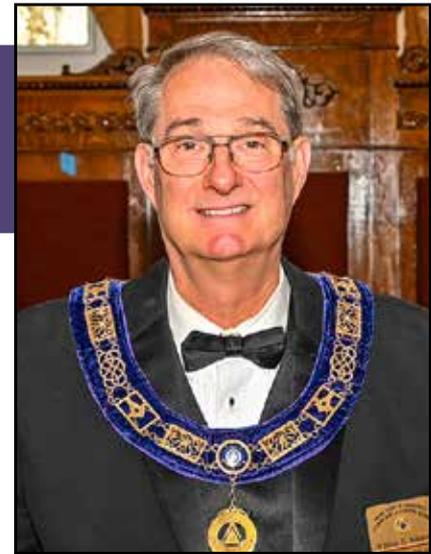
These past two years have been challenging for Masons and the profane alike. But hope has never waned, fellowship has never waned, brother caring for brother has never waned.

As we look forward to 2022, the staff of Grand Lodge Publications would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, a Joyous Kwanzaa, and healthy, prosperous New Year.



Grand Master's Message

by William E. Bohman



My brothers December is upon us. December is about closing out one Masonic year and beginning another. A time for preparing all the reports necessary for a successful Annual Meeting and...

Worshipful Masters:

Now is the time to gather together documentation of everything you have accomplished this year—all the trestleboards, programs, leadership training sessions, degrees and anything else—for submission to receive the Master's Achievement Award.

Now is the time to encourage all the new Masons in your lodge to participate in the Perfect Ashlar Program. Masonic labor in a Mason's home lodge is rewarding but, the knowledge and experience gained from participation in the Perfect Ashlar will set him on the path of lifelong membership.

Senior and Junior Wardens:

Now is the time to finalize (Senior Warden) or begin to write down on paper (Junior Warden) your plans for your year as Worshipful Master. There are many, many suggestions in the Master's Achievement Award for programs and activities you can choose for your lodge. Will you choose to use the Six Steps to a Petition Program to vet the men inquiring about membership your lodge? If not, how will you guard the West Gate before giving them a petition and inviting them into our Masonic family? Are there brothers in your lodge who would benefit from participation in the Perfect Ashlar Program? The Perfect Ashlar will help them find that piece of Masonry that particularly appeals to them. Do you know if there is a brother or a widow of your lodge who is in need of Masonic help? There is really only one way to find out, talk to them. The Almoner program will help you get started and help find services for those you find who need help.

But most of all, December is also about holidays and enjoying family, food, and festivities. It's also that time of year when holidays can overwhelm us and take on lives of their own.

I wish you and your families the very best, most joyous holiday possible. Try, if you can, to slow down and take time to be with your family. Try to keep "holiday events" from taking over and becoming The Holiday. The Holiday is not all the presents, the food or the social gatherings. The Holiday is a celebration of the faith in which we have founded our families. That faith in a Supreme Being that is shared by all Masons. May the peace and comfort founded in that faith be with you and your families and may you all have a Happy New Year too.

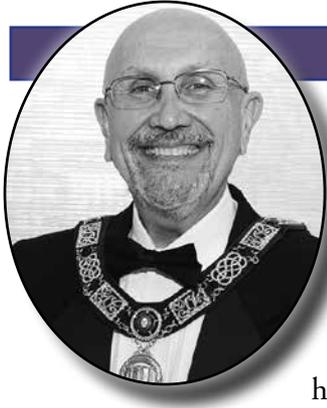
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

Gary Evan Cohen
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Lee R. Hitchins
Montgomery Lodge No. 13



Glenn R. Lindholm
Somerset - St. James Lodge No. 34



Grand Chaplain's Message

by Reverend Harry "Chip" Elliott, III

We are anticipating many religious holidays at this time of the year.

Hanukkah, Dewali, Passover, and for Christians, it is celebrating the birth of a child. This time of year can be most beautiful. And yes, with Christmas comes a time for gifts. Yet there are gifts, and then there are gifts. In all actuality Christmas is not about "Tickle Me Elmos" or "Beanie Babies," "Sing & Snore Ernies" or diamond bracelets, "Chia Pets" or electric shavers, or, hey, these are some really beautiful socks!! Don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with giving gifts to others. But we mustn't lose sight of what Christmas is really all about. Ralph Waldo Emerson said it well: "Rings and jewels are not gifts, but apologies for gifts. The only gift is a portion of thyself." These gifts are all around us and sometimes we miss them. Christmas, for instance, is about the gift of God's son.

But there are other gifts as well such as love, patience and hope. These gifts are given to us by God in grace. I got a gift from my dad many, many years ago. Not sure how old I was, three or four, perhaps. We had our fishing poles, mine was bright yellow and I still have it to this day. Dad would bring his steel rod and an old steel bait bucket. He would place me in the front of the boat and tell me to look for the fish while he baited my hook. Then, as he placed my line in the water at the rear of the boat, he would say: "Be real still and when you feel a tug on the line, you've got a fish!" Sure enough, almost immediately, I would feel a tug on the line. I would shout with glee as I pulled the small fish into the boat. I got the first fish. I always got the first fish. Every time! Amazing!

Many years later, my dad, now known as "Papa," my three-year-old son, and I went fishing together. Dad told my son to sit in the bow of the boat and to look for the fish while he baited his hook. I watched in amazement as Dad reached into his tiny silver bait bucket and pulled out a small fish and placed it on the hook and stealthily and gently placed the small fish into the water. He told my son to be real still and that when he felt a tug on the line, he would have a fish! Almost immediately, there was a shout of glee from the front of the boat. Look! I have a fish! And as Dad turned and looked at me, his face broke into a broad smile, and he winked! All those years. Where did Dad learn to bring such joy and marvel into the life of a child? Who taught him how to do that?

I wonder.

As I reflect on my memories of my dad, both good and bad, I know in my heart he was an honorable man. I remember his gentleness but also his anger and temper. As time goes by, I remember more and more of the good and the bad seems to fade away. My dad was not always pleasant, but I knew he always loved his children, and that included me. Perhaps this is why, when I read the scriptures, I can't help but remember my dad. As we read in Philippians 4:4-9) (NRSV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

And there is the greatest gift of all. The gift that we are not turned away but brought home by God's power and God's love. A gift, that we can experience God through others. True gifts: truth, honor, commendable, excellence, praising others. Now those are real gifts.

When I die and go to heaven. I know that I will see my lake. On it, an old Peterborough cedar strip boat with that old, green Johnson 5-horsepower motor. A child will be sitting in the front of the boat. And I will see Dad sitting in the back of the boat. He will be reaching into his tiny silver bait bucket while telling the child to look for the fish. And not far from the boat, standing on the shoreline at the water's edge, I will see a man dressed in a white flowing robe and he will turn and look at me. And as I gaze into the eyes of the Lord, his face will break into a broad smile, and he will wink! Now I know, and so do you.

You see my friends, there are gifts and then there are gifts. "Pure and perfect are all His gifts coming down from above. Chosen with care, bought with a price, and wrapped in a father's love."

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

Hiram Lodge No. 1

Jeremias Irizarry, Jr.
Rommell Victor Bautista Noche
Benjamin James Preston
Deshawn Matthew Richardson
Keith Patrick Trotochaud

St. Peter's Lodge No. 21

Craig Priest
Matthew R. Russell
Joseph Schiavo

Somerset - St. James Lodge No. 34

Glen Joseph Hansen

Ark Lodge No. 39

Robert Scott Bruce
Aaron Coopersmith
Joseph R. Shepard

Union Lodge No. 40

Gilberto Ramos, Jr.

Coastal Lodge No. 57

Rehan Altaf
Travis Michael Carter
Christopher Allen Mills

Widow's Son Lodge No. 66

Raymond Joseph Lafarier
Edward Papero
Alexander Rode

Anchor Lodge No. 112

Peter Nickolos Daniolos
Ryan Montgomery Proto
Charles Barry Weinstein

Annawon Lodge No. 115

Naquan Boyd
Gerardo Nero

Purity Lodge No. 150

Chad David Vandale



Connecticut Freemasons Announces “The Editor’s Award”

Inspired by the Grand Masters Award that is given to the district with the largest attendance of brothers on Grand Masters Day, the Connecticut Freemasons is pleased to announce, “The Editor’s Award.”

The Editor’s Award will be awarded in each issue to the district that submits the most articles for that issue. The award will be indicated with a graphic of a gold cup appearing in (or near) the district banner.

As not all articles about lodges appear in the section for their district, the determination will rest solely with the Editor. For example, if a lodge from District 1 works a Master Mason degree with a lodge from District 4, the article may appear in the paper at large, and would not count. But if the article is about a food drive that a single lodge from District 2 sponsored, it would go into the district news under District 2.

This is just a way to keep the wonderful momentum going that we have had since April, when lodges began submitting news stories at a record

pace. In fact, the September and October issues were both 40 pages (normally we publish 36), something that had never happened before.

So, feel free to sharpen your pencils (um, er, keyboards?) and write up stories about what’s going on in YOUR lodge. Right Worshipful District Deputies, encourage the lodges in your district to send in stories. When lodges publish stories about their events, it inspires everyone, and may give another lodge an idea for trying something new.

The Editor’s Award has been awarded in this issue. Deadline for the next submission is the 10th of December. Send submissions to submissions@ctfreemasons.net. Let’s see whose banner will carry the cup next month!



From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

What a difference a year makes.

Last year at this time, I recall sharing with you how we at Masonicare were counting the days until a COVID-19 vaccine would be available to our residents and employees. I noted how a few promising vaccine candidates were nearing the end of clinical trials and promised that when a vaccine is approved, manufactured, and distributed, we would be ready. I'm proud to say we were. Working with our pharmacy partners, we were able to hold free vaccine clinics for residents and staff. Thousands of doses were administered. When studies showed that a booster dose was necessary to extend protection from the virus, we scheduled booster clinics, too.

With the darkest days of the pandemic behind us, Masonicare has been able to pivot from crisis management to focus on initiatives delayed by COVID, like the long-awaited opening of the Yale New Haven Health orthopedic practice on our Wallingford campus. YNHH is leasing space in our Medical Office Building to provide surgical and non-surgical interventions, sports medicine, and treating conditions affecting the hand, shoulder, hip, foot, spine, etc. YNHH's strategy to offer healthcare services outside of New Haven dovetails perfectly with Masonicare's strategy of pursuing partnerships with like-minded, best-in-class providers. As I mentioned at the ribbon-cutting ceremony in early November, I am thrilled that our residents and patients and the surrounding community will have access to outstanding orthopedic services through Yale New Haven Health.

In concert with the opening of the orthopedic practice, we expanded our own post-acute, post-surgical service line with a new outpatient rehab facility and a 19-bed, short-term rehab unit at Masonicare Health Center, the latter featuring all private rooms.

We also received approval from the State of Connecticut to reduce our skilled nursing bed count at the Health Center from 333 to

260 – a number much closer to our average daily census. One of the benefits of this change is that it allows us to offer more private rooms, improving resident privacy, infection control practices, and efficiencies in the delivery of care.

While there's been much to celebrate on the "bricks and mortar" front, it always comes back to people. Serving others and being part of a great team is what our business is all about. Throughout November, I traveled around the state to honor and congratulate employees celebrating milestone anniversaries with Masonicare this year. In all, over 160 employees received Service Awards, ranging from five years all the way up to 35 years. Having spent more than half my life with this organization, it was great fun to reconnect and personally thank those who have dedicated so many years to our shared mission.

As I always do, I want to close by thanking you for your ongoing support of Masonicare. May these final weeks of 2021 be filled with health and happiness for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Ribbon-cutting of the new Yale New Haven Health orthopedic practice at Masonicare's Medical Office Building, November 4.

Growing League Of Women | GLOW

by Lisa D'Addeo Bohman

As we welcome the new year 2022, why not make a resolution to give the concept of GLOW a try? As a refresher, GLOW is a voluntary movement, an opportunity really, to expand the social, educational, cultural, professional, and charitable experiences, cross-generationally, of the women that often accompany Masons to lodge activities, and whom few of us ever really get to know.

GLOW can help you establish new or deepen existing friendships, and ultimately increase your bonds to other women and provide the insight and support that we oftentimes seek.

January is a great month for exploring ways to Grow the GLOW. So let's get started.

National Get Organized Month

Raise your hand if you love looking through piles of paper to find that one important item you need, or misplacing your keys because they don't have a permanent home, or trying to find the matching scarf you swear you saw just the other day—Not. The start of a new year is a great time to organize your space. And there are some amazing benefits to be gained: a less cluttered environment is easier to clean, you can save money by not buying items you already have, and, save precious time by not spending it looking for things.

There are all sorts of ways that women can help each other with the oftentimes onerous task of de-cluttering, and maybe just gain a little something extra for the effort. You can seek out a de-cluttering buddy; someone who will keep you accountable for progress and also motivate and inspire you to keep going. Or you can form an online group where you share your accomplishments and your challenges with other women on the same journey in a fun and informative way.

And what about when you have cleaned out all that clutter? You can host a group garage sale and make a little money from the items you no longer need. How about create a swap night of baby clothes, kids' sports equipment, clothing, décor, whatever? It's a great way to find something that you need, not pay "store" prices, and best of all, having organized your space, you will know exactly what you need and where you will put it.

National Mentoring Month

Everyone needs to feel like there is someone in their corner. From young girls just starting out, to young professional women looking for guidance to growing their careers, to those trying to learn a new skill or transition to a new stage of life, we all can benefit from a woman who has "been there" before, helping to inspire us and to lead the way.

To mentor a young girl means you are giving them a positive role model, a sounding board, and someone they can look up to and possibly emulate. For the young professional woman, you are

helping them gain confidence in their skills and abilities, learn how to deal with obstacles, such as work-life balance issues or office politics, overcome challenges to their career ambitions, and build a strong network. And the advantage to having a mentor when you are transitioning to a new stage of life is that you find someone who may help you make better decisions, gain a new perspective, and improve your ability to navigate challenges.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor you can look to organizations such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Women's Mentoring Network and SCORE, along with own place of employment, your local senior center or church.

National Bird Day

When the winter winds begin to blow and snow covers the ground, many people become "backyard birders" setting up bird feeders to help our feathered friends weather this harsh season. But there are other ways you can bond with women and learn a little something along the way about these fascinating creatures.

You can organize a program with a local ornithologist or wildlife biologist to talk about birds typically seen in Connecticut during winter or discuss a specific species of bird. You can contact one of the state's wildlife centers, bundle up, grab a group of gal pals, strap on your binoculars, and take part in a bird walk. Or you can participate in the "Project Feeder Watch," which takes place from November through March each year, where you enjoy counting birds right in your own backyard for however long you would like. Or set up a feeding station; purchase some seed and suet, maintain it throughout the winter, and watch the birds enjoy the feast.

Some organizations you might want to check out include:

Connecticut Audubon Society/Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center <https://www.ctaudubon.org/rtp-programs-events/>

Connecticut Ornithological Association <https://www.ctbirding.org/birds-birding/connecticut-bird-atlas/>

White Memorial Conservation Center <https://whitememorialcc.org/>

Do you have a GLOW story you would like to share? Write to this newspaper at submissions@ctfreemasons.net and let us know.

I look forward to seeing/meeting you as Bill and I continue to travel around the state, and to sharing more ideas to help you find your GLOW next month.

The Body, Mind, and Spirit in Freemasonry

by Jaime Paul Lamb

What do operative stonemasons and speculative Freemasons have in common? Well, we can say that both use the vernacular, working tools, and hierarchical structure of the Craft in the process of erecting edifices. Legendarily, the temple would qualify as the representative edifice, as evidenced by those in Mesopotamia and Egypt, King Solomon's Temple and others in the Greco-Roman world. Now, if we can agree that the central project of Masonry—both operative and speculative—is temple building, then we can say that the individual Mason—again, both operative and speculative – is principally a temple builder.

How, then, are the operative and speculative temple builder differentiated? A pretty good answer is that the operative Mason erects a physical temple, and the speculative Mason erects a metaphysical temple. In other words, the operative Mason quarries, raises, dresses and sets worked stone in accordance with the architect's designs, while the speculative Mason quarries, raises, dresses and sets stones representing aspects of his body, mind and spirit worked in accordance with the designs of the G. A. O. T. U. These intellectual, emotional, physical, and spiritual components (stones, if you will) are fitted for use in a temple representing the masterpiece of the Freemason, in the most literal sense – the piece produced by an apprentice or journeyman in order to attain the station of master craftsman, his *Magnum Opus*.

So, perhaps we can agree that the speculative Freemason is a temple builder whose work is in the domains of the body, mind and spirit. Classical philosophers also differentiated these domains; the Greeks called them the *soma*, *psyche*, and *pneuma*; the Romans called them the *corpus*, *anima* and *spiritus*. A millennium or so later, Paracelsus called these three components salt, sulfur and mercury – the three philosophical principles, or *tria prima*, of spagyric alchemy. These three principals were separated, refined and recombined (*solve et coagula*) in an operation which was said to result in the Stone of the Philosophers, the *Summum Bonum*.

How, then, can we, as speculative Freemasons, best utilize this established system of metaphysical temple building in the accomplishment of our own *Magnum Opus*, the masterpiece of our lives? It would seem that our central project is to develop ourselves in these areas. Taking each of these in their turn, we might consider ways to develop the body physically through diet and exercise; we might try to develop our minds through reading and study; and we would probably do well to mind our spiritual lives through our chosen paths of contemplative practices and prayer.

How can the Craft of speculative Freemasonry aid us in this endeavor? Luckily, our Craft provides us with a program for just this sort of development. Regarding the body, we are admonished

not to convert the purposes of refreshment into intemperance and excess, in addition to circumscribing our desires. This isn't always easy, because drinking lots of alcohol, smoking good cigars and eating massive quantities of pizza, for example, is kind of pleasurable. Regarding the mind, we are advised to study the seven liberal arts and sciences, as they are prescribed in the lecture accompanying the Fellowcraft degree. I can't think of a better curriculum – it is the foundation of a classical education. Lastly, regarding the spirit, we are taught to invoke the blessings of Deity before any great and important undertaking. By experiencing the second half of the Master Mason degree, for example, we are taught a numinous truth regarding the immortality of the human soul. The hidden mysteries of Freemasonry are communicated to us in a suite of initiatory ceremonies of such beauty, solemnity and antiquity (in their essence), how could the spirit not be moved by such a transformational system.

Over time, these components may be aligned in such a manner as to open before us the mysteries of the cosmos, underlying all religions, in a true testament to the universality of the Craft. We begin as good men—on the level—and through our fraternal bonds and our honest efforts at self-mastery, we transmit the true value of Freemasonry to those Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts and Master Masons that will come after us.



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

Alfred E. Benjamin
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Charles C. Bradley
Uriel Lodge No. 24

James Anthony Brody
Federal Lodge No. 17

Charles B. Chaet
Union Lodge No. 31

Ronald DiRenzo
Washington Lodge No. 70

Arthur H. Dunham
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America-St. John's Lodge No. 8

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Shepherd - Salem Lodge No. 78

Frederick Harrison Platt
Valley Lodge No. 36

John Thaddeus Reaves. Jr.
Evening Star Lodge No. 101

Burton Frederick Turner
Columbia Lodge No. 25



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:

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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



Clowning Around at Trick or Treat Day

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Pyramid Shrine Clowns were invited to participate at the STAR 99.9 Radio Station annual Trick or Treat Day, in Bridgeport. This Halloween walk-through event consisted of patron's trick or treating for candy, character meet and greets, as well as various performances. Pyramid Shrine Clowns twisted balloon hats and animals for patrons in attendance.



The Values of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Freemasonry

by Nicholas H. Ives

Being a Mason for over a decade now, I have gotten used to the customs of the craft. When attending a Masonic event, I rarely feel uncomfortable, as I know what to expect upon my arrival. However, there was a time when each lodge meeting felt mysterious, since our craft is filled with unique customs and traditions that take time to learn and adjust to.

I experienced that same feeling again recently. I made the decision to begin training in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ) at Jiu-Jitsu Life in Wallingford. Once again, I was confronted by uncertainty of place and custom. I was immediately transported back to my early days as a Freemason. Jiu-Jitsu was recommended to me by a trusted friend, RWB Steve Allinson, who trained in the discipline for a number of years. He told me how much he enjoyed it and that I would quickly see the mental and physical benefits of training in a grappling art. At the time I couldn't see myself engaging in physical combat until one opponent "taps out" -- physically submitting to your opponent by tapping him because he has defeated your defense; it happens often, as

the initial learning curve is steep. This is a humbling moment, but one that can be a catalyst for growth, as an introspective practitioner will be led to think about where he went wrong and how the next contest could be better. I ask myself often, "How is this analogous to Masonic practice?" Both are experiences that force me to confront my own abilities as I seek out personal growth, albeit in different areas of my life. Taking time to consider the question, I had the following conclusions.

Prior to my first training sessions, I joined the gym simply to lift weights and do the cardio workouts, but I was always casting sideways glances at the Jiu-Jitsu classes taking place on the mat. Being older than many of the athletes, I wondered if I had aged beyond a point where I should start doing something that I knew would exact a significant physical toll on my body. Watching the skilled members grapple with one another in practice bouts gave me a distinct impression of what my experience would look like if I did jump on the mat.

What I saw was an environment where each athlete was treated with extreme

respect, despite what looked like a serious fight taking place. It was not the macho blood sport filled with ego that I thought it might be. It took me weeks to gather up the courage to make that first step.

The reality of BJJ is that it is as ego free as sport can be. I found my initial assumptions to be completely incorrect and I regretted not stepping into the classes sooner. Once I began to be more comfortable with BJJ, I realized that being uncertain about the experience had led to me creating my own excuses as to why I did not participate.

Our potential candidates in Masonry often have the same thought. "What do you actually do in those lodges?" is a common question posed to brother Masons from interested men. I have had professional adults ask me if we do bizarre or obscene ritual practices in lodge. While we have retreated from view a bit due to the difficulties of the pandemic, it is intrinsic to our practice and the vitality of our lodges that we return to the public eye. Whether

Continued on page 12

The Values of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu *continued from page 11*

through your website, social media or community event, Masons should share with the public the strong sense of personal brotherhood and fellowship we all share in common and reduce the uncertainty present in so many great potential candidates. Once Freemasonry is again well known through our personal experiences, it can attract the best men of each area to its local lodges. If we do not give them that glance at our craft by sharing some of the best features of being a Mason, they will never take a closer look and make the leap of faith to visit a lodge at a public event.

It took me a few tries to transition from the fitness training to the Jiu-Jitsu mat. I think that without a gentle push I may have never made the transition. The gym owner and black belt coach Brian “Sarg” Sargent encourage me to join them for jiu-jitsu practice without being pushy. It took him a few tries to convince me, but he was persistent. He answered all of my questions and made himself available to give me direction on practice or technique. I never felt like my questions were “dumb questions” even though in retrospect, many of them were.

On that first step onto the mat Sarg paired me with a skilled member and I was immediately included into the fabric of the class. This mentoring didn’t require a program or outline, it was inherently part of the culture inculcated by our experienced coach. Ultimately, it was the persistence of my coach that brought me to the BJJ mat and my respect for his training and mentoring process that kept me there.

The best candidates for Freemasonry need to hear how membership made a difference in my life if they are ever to seek initiation. Most of the members I have recommended were Masons in their heart long before coming to a lodge, yet they needed encouragement to give it a try, or to keep learning more. Once they do

arrive, they should be treated with respect and instructed by our veteran brothers.

Every training session feels like a sincere learning experience where the best of our training partners teaches me something new and exciting. I feel that if I miss a class, I will miss something great. Our lodge meetings should feel the same way, having our most learned Masons always sharing something of value for our newest members that they just cannot miss. This natural mentoring inherent to BJJ should be pervasive in Masonry as well.

There is a hierarchy and order inherent to BJJ which helps us to organize ourselves and learn quickly from each other. I am a white belt, the lowest rank possible. Some days are more difficult than others, as my lack of knowledge leaves me in precarious situations more often than I care to admit. However, every upper belt (blue, purple, brown or black) is willing to teach me and explain how I can improve. When I have to tap out (and that happens a lot) I ask how I could have improved my defense. Without fail, my training partners will reset to the position where they gained advantage, share with me what they were thinking and how I could have responded better. A powerful blue belt who is faster and stronger than me always takes an inferior position to start in order to give me a fair chance at trying to submit him for victory. I still have not been able to accomplish that, but I learn from his exquisite defense how to escape danger on a more technical level. A purple belt who is extremely skilled finishes each session with a detailed debrief of how I can improve. He gives me a handshake and says, “I appreciate working with you.”

All of us want each other to improve our skills and be the best version of ourselves and it is our training partners that make that happen. The culture of mutual improvement in the gym or the lodge brings us all to a higher level, supporting each other as we

progress toward our common goals. Our lodges must feel like this as well. The Master of each lodge, like a coach, is tasked with creating an environment for the members to labor in. When everyone is honestly pulling for each other in the same direction it is easy to make gains. Recently, Grand Master Johnson had the word “Mudita” on his pin, the Sanskrit word for taking joy in the success of others. Masonry is a profession of personal and spiritual improvement that takes the shared experience of our lodge membership to unite us to support each other’s success. Any fraternal organization can have a dinner club. However, the unique characteristic of the Masonic fraternity is that we pursue each other’s best interest through the values outlined in our excellent and ancient ritual.

There is a great deal of similarity between BJJ and Freemasonry. Both practices work to make you a better man through specific training. A large ego will not survive long in either environment. Masonry is an important part of my life and as such, I tend to filter my perceptions through that lens. While the culture of Masonry is ancient and strong, we can always reflect on how our practices curate a culture where we can all labor to improve each other. My brief foray into BJJ teaches me that the cultural norms I have learned to appreciate in Masonry are universal, applying in other disciplines as well. Perhaps we can all learn from these different expressions of universal truth as we seek to improve the lives of our brothers. Whether you are stepping on the mat for the first time or knocking on the door to Freemasonry, the road to personal development starts from our own personal decision to walk on that path. I find myself fortunate that the values of both BJJ and the craft express themselves in a complimentary fashion to help me as I try my best to navigate middle adulthood and my personal journey of self-improvement.

Freemasonry and the Enlightenment?

by Jamie Paul Lamb

Freemasonry has long been associated with the advancement of Enlightenment-era thought in the 18th century, yet there is much about the fraternity's ritual, symbolism, and overall philosophy that stands in opposition to the Enlightenment's positivistic project.

If the implications of the Enlightenment may be said to include the primacy of reason, positivism, materialism, and secularism, then we can say that a foundational goal of the project was to disenchant the cosmos; to finally exorcise the animistic demons previously believed to lurk behind phenomena. The emphasis has, in all domains, shifted from the qualifiable to the quantifiable; if a thing could not be measured, or otherwise made to conform to reason, then that thing was deemed unworthy of consideration. Renaissance humanism (not a bad thing, in itself) and the Scientific Revolution had paved the way for the Enlightenment to enter the Western World and cast out the bugaboos of myth and magic.

This philosophical overcorrection was what finally divorced astronomy from astrology; chemistry from alchemy; technology from magic. In each case, the latter contains the former, but retains the Hermetic resonance between the microcosm and the macrocosm. Astronomy, for example, merely quantifies, while astrology both quantifies and qualifies; the movement and placement of celestial bodies, their cycles and epicycles, are believed to have a sympathetic effect on the terrestrial sphere. Is this not the very dynamic we invoke when we, as Freemasons, refer to the operative and speculative denominations of the Craft? Both denominations utilize the tools, vernacular and hierarchical structure of operative stonemasonry, but speculative Freemasonry retains that numinous component by which the Mason is transformed – a good man, made better, fitted as a living stone for that House not made with hands, etc.

Sadly, academia has played a major role in perpetuating the disenchantment of the cosmos – largely, by denigrating those numinous and the mysterious elements of nature; by only focusing on that which is measurable and quantifiable. Certainly, this is an important component, but would it not be preferable to temper that data with the art of interpretation? To notice the ineffable beauty of existence. We are reminded of Nietzsche, who proclaimed, “it is only as an aesthetic phenomenon that existence and the world are eternally justified.”

Freemasonry, however, has retained an appreciation of the beautiful, the glorious, the sacred and the holy. In the Fellowcraft lecture, for example, we are directed to study the seven liberal arts and sciences – but for more noble and glorious purposes than mere knowledge. By geometry, for instance, we learn to “trace nature through her various windings to her most concealed recesses.” The exact sciences aid us in the discovery of meaning

and of truth—truth being ineffable—though these materialistic calculations are not truths in themselves; they are merely factoids.

What of that eminent brother, Pythagoras? He discerned the quality underlying number; he saw the archetypal principle behind them, not merely integers and whole numbers meant solely for the purpose of counting and measuring. He saw them as concealing deep, existential truths, pertinent to the philosophical life of man; a glimpse into a “proto-Platonic” realm of Forms and Ideas. He projected these concepts into the domains of geometry, music and astronomy, rendering them holistic systems.

In contrast to the Enlightenment project, movements such as Florentine and Cambridge (Neo)Platonism, Rosicrucianism, Freemasonry, Occultism, Spiritualism and Theosophy (as well as more recent currents such as New Age thought, Neopaganism and even quantum mechanics) have sought to re-enchant the cosmos; to reintegrate the noumenal and the phenomenal; to retain the numinous, the mythic, the mysterious and the sacred. More and more, mankind seems to be increasingly self-aware of the arrogance – the hubris – it takes to propose that the external world is devoid of its own inherent sense of purpose and meaning, hence the recent surge in popularity in subjects such as those three Hermetic Arts: astrology, alchemy and magic. The cosmos is, once again, becoming animated, or ensouled.

At length, the effect of the Enlightenment project has been detrimental to metaphysical and spiritual development; the soul of man has been exorcised. And it has taken a long time for the Western World to finally begin to awaken from the materialistic and mechanistic slumber stemming from it. Here's to a New World that allows for myth, magic and a new appreciation for life's Hidden Mysteries. May mankind once again reconnect with the spirit of the cosmos – the Anima Mundi – and may the Craft of Freemasonry lead us, as Masons, forward in this endeavor.

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Valley of Hartford, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr

It is hard to believe that this year has gone by so fast. It just seems like it was only a few months ago that the sanctions that we lived with for almost two years, were starting to be lifted. Before time slips by completely, I want to wish one and all brothers and their families a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, or Happy Kwanzaa.

It's been a long time since we were able to get together with family and friends and enjoy any type of gathering, we care to enjoy. As we grow older, times like the upcoming holidays become fewer and fewer. Soon, those memories live on only in the hearts and minds of our relatives. So, make the most of these times because "the happiest times in life usually are those we spend with those we love."

I hope that everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday dinner and were able to spend a great deal of time with family and friends.

Although the Valley did not hold any degrees in November, they did hold an affair honoring those members of the Valley who are first responders, whether police officers, full-time or part-time fire fighters, paramedics, doctors, or anyone in the medical field. Following a buffet dinner on November 11, keynote speaker Bro. Shane Dufresne, who spoke to those in attendance and assisted in the awards presentation. On behalf of the Valley and its



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**WISHING ONE AND ALL
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are now being accepted.**

~

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Valley of Hartford, AASR: (860) 666-0712**
Email: office@valleyofhartford.com
www.valleyofhartford.org

brethren, thanks you for your service during these troubling times.

As we enter the month of December, the Valley is continuing to remain active:

- Thursday, December 2: The presentation of the 22nd Degree on DVD, followed by the live portrayal of the 30th Degree, at 7:30 p.m. A pre-degree dinner will proceed the degrees at 6:15 p.m. so come and enjoy the sociability and get to know and welcome our current class of candidates. And, as is our custom, also enjoy the social hour that follows the degrees.

- The next Valley of Hartford Family Life program takes place on Thursday, December 9. This year's bus trip will take us to New York City to see the Rockettes Christmas Show. Included is a private two-hour luncheon in the Roxie Room of Radio City Music Hall, where it is expected that the Rockettes could be making a personal visit. Following the luncheon, you will be escorted to orchestra seats to see the show: Rockettes Christmas Extravaganza 2021. If interested, please contact the Valley office as soon as possible. Valley Secretary Tony will be departing for his daughter's wedding in Florida on December 11.

- The Valley will be holding a cookie recipe exchange (via the internet) and an Ugly Sweater Party. The dates will be announced soon.

In closing I hope that you, and your family have a safe and happy holiday season, and as we look forward to 2022, that all things will be better than the past few years have been.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa.



(l-r) Lisa Keenan; Brother Mark T Keenan, 32°; Brother Jonathan Hibbard, 32°; Police Chief Stephen Clark; Brother Kevin C Zorda, 32°; Gordon C. Hurlbert, III (representing Lindsay Hurlbert and Zach Ouellette); Brother Jeffrey L Davis, 32°; Brother Shane Dufresne, 32°; EMS Chief Scott Mangan; Fire Chief Jeffrey Trommer; Ill Brother Richard R. Jones, Jr., 33°; and Ill. Brother Kevin J. Hecht, 33°, Deputy for CT.

The Bright Promise of the Bleakest Time of the Year

by John A. Amarillos, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

December is here again, and we are once again experiencing that bleak time when the light is at its minimum. We conclude the year with the presentation of the 32nd Degree on Monday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Scottish Rite theatre in Stratford. Dinner seating starts at 5 p.m., so seating reservations must be made by calling the office at (203) 375-0064 in advance. Also, a reminder to all candidates that they must be present at a live presentation of the 32nd Degree to receive their diplomas.

The Consistory will also be celebrating the holidays with a holiday party at Woodwinds in Branford on Friday evening December 17. It will be great fun night with a formal or 1920s dress theme, a four-hour open bar, a holiday buffet dinner, dancing, silent auction to benefit the Children's Dyslexia Centers, and cigar roller. It's a great evening out at a mere \$40 per person. Final reservations must be made no later than December 10. Lodges might want to sponsor tables of 10 for their members to attend. It promises to be a memorable night out and a high moment for the Masonic holiday season! Again, the number to call is (203) 375-0064.

We once again have come to the end of another unusual year where humanity has found itself treading into the realm of adjustment and modification. It appears that everything is different and the world of two years ago is becoming more of a distant memory. Now more than ever, if we as a body of fraternal brothers are to reflect the infinite Light, we require a firm basis of understanding of our symbols and working tools.

Never before in the past few generations of men has there been a time period where a firm understanding of our philosophy, as conveyed by a proper understanding of Masonic symbology, has been so vital to our collective survival as it is today.

The Scottish Rite simply expands on the principles of the Blue Lodge. It is, in fact, an annotation to the principles that one is

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Attention all Master Masons!

SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES

Mon. Nov. 15 ~ Stratford
8th Degree (live) & 26th Degree (video)

Mon. Dec. 6 - Stratford
32nd Degree (live)

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.

<p>Valley of Bridgeport 2422 Main Street Stratford, CT 06615 Office@LafayetteConsistory.com 203-375-0064</p>	<p>Valley of New Haven 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com 203-269-0336</p>	<p>Valley of Waterbury 529 Highland Avenue Waterbury, CT 06708 cdoneill@snet.net 203-754-8209</p>
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exposed to in our three Blue Lodge degrees. It is done in an easily digested manner, in a series of 29 additional degrees that are simultaneously pomp and circumstance, entertaining, and yet highly instructional. If you apply yourself to the essence of the degrees, you will undertake a course of personal change that promises much.

Scoffers of the promise of what the Light might bring are usually unaware of the alchemical systemic changes that the mortal vehicle might incur when it begins to transmute its primal

animalistic urges. When the brother begins to set aside his tunnel vision of self-interest, and begins to think, feel, and act in a manner wholly consistent with the Light, the faculties, and abilities of the true permanent inner self, that of the soul, will begin to flicker to life.

The reward of a life lead in a manner wholly consistent with the Light, completely excising secret evasions and unspoken self-serving agendas, can be eventually expressed in abilities related to the development of some or all of the intuitive faculties, namely Clairvoyance, Clairsentience, Clairaudience, Clairallience, and Clairhambience. Few members of humanity attain such abilities because so many are preoccupied with accomplishing matters, or doing some form of combat, on the temporary realm of the material.

Our fraternity is a ground floor mystery school to a spiritual temple. Finding your way to the higher floors requires a firm understanding of what is being taught here. Grasping on to the tools and methods will lead you to an ever-expanding path if you remain assiduously devoted to accomplishing the Great Work. When the work has been accomplished the portals will appear effortlessly.

I wish you all peace and good health in the New Year!

Fiat Lux.



Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*SM



Just the Right Gift!

by Richard F. Denno

This is the most important question we ask ourselves at the holidays. Lovingly we search that “special gift,” one which our loved ones will cherish for years to come. Can’t you just imagine the pleasure they will experience when opening your gift? The smiles of delight on their faces you’ll remember for years.

While these gifts are greatly appreciated by our family and friends, their impact is usually short lived. Those computers you received 10-15 years ago now make useful paper weights or door stops. Clothing in fashion a few years ago ends up in tag sales at best. Not to mention that our body shapes have changed, rendering the items too small or big to wear. I once received a light jacket that was out of style in record time, three months. A very expensive winter cape I purchased to impress my beautiful wife, Midge, hung in our front closet for almost 50 years, long after it stopped fitting. I could simply not bring myself to get rid of it.

How exciting and rewarding would it be to give to others the gift of more quality years of life, or precious moments to those desperately in need of a transplant.

What are the statistics on transplantation? In 2020, more than 39,000 transplants brought renewed life to patients and their families and communities. More than 100,000 people are waiting for life saving organ transplants. Another person is added to the nations waiting list EVERY 10 MINUTES.

The most frequently asked question of potential donors is, “Aren’t I too old to become an organ donor?” More than one-third of all deceased donors are age 50 or older. Seven percent are age 65 or older. In May, a 95-year-old man became the oldest recorded organ donor. Earlier in the year, a 92-year-old gentleman donated his kidneys. The success rate for living donations is much higher.

My most memorable Christmas was in December 2008. I was tour directing a group to the NYC Christmas Show at Rockefeller Center. Hartford Hospital called on my cell to say they found a kidney for Midge. She had been on dialysis for over four years. I remember exclaiming to my passengers, “Midge is getting her new kidney today. Can we turn the bus around?” While they were very happy for Midge and I, they kindly said no. During the holidays, I often think affectionately of her donor.

Thanks to that woman’s kindness, we went on to celebrate nine more memorable Christmases, as well as many other precious moments together. Won’t you please go online to www.RegisterMe.org familiarize yourself with the importance donation and make the lifesaving decision to register.

Happy Holidays from your Masonic Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Program.

Remember – Don’t Take Your Organs to Heaven – Heaven Knows We Need Them Here!

Please note: If you’re out shopping at the malls or online for that special gift, my size is Medium, and my favorite color is red!

Liver Transplant Needed – Live Donation Request

Bro. Richard Denno, who writes our monthly Donate Life column, requested we publish this request for donation. As Richard has talked in his column this month of “Special Gifts,” nothing more special could be received by our Sister than a donation. Please pass this along to all you know. – Ed.

Diane Rousseau, Past Matron of Good Intent Chapter No. 17, Order of the Eastern Star, and daughter of Betty and RWB Gerald Thompson, needs a liver transplant. This process requires a living donor with blood type A Positive, who is willing to donate a piece of his/her liver. If you are so interested, please call Yale New Haven Hospital at (866) 925-3897 to learn more on this procedure.



District 1

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



Masons Scare Up Fun at the Halloween on the Green Festival

Masons from various lodges teamed up with Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3 and participated at the Halloween on the Green Festival. This event was held in Fairfield. Brothers twisted balloons and handed out goodies to the patrons. Fidelity-St. John's Lodge was a sponsor of the festival.



Masons Celebrate Halloween with a Drive-Through *by Donald M. Casey, Jr.*

Masons from America-St. John's Lodge No. 8 and Corinthian Lodge No. 104 implemented their 2nd Annual Halloween Drive-Through event. Smiling children wore their costumes and received goodie bags containing treats, coloring books, and stickers. Several brothers celebrated the occasion by dressing up in costume.

Washington Lodge No. 19 Fellowcraft Club Hosts Wine Dinner *by Roy Nealon*

On October 24, Washington Lodge No. 19 Fellowcraft Club held their annual Couples Wine Pairing Dinner to help raise funds for Project Warmth of Monroe. They had a great time enjoying Isack and DaJong's spread with a perfect wine to match.



Chef Isack Waserman



District 1 continued on page 18

Passing Through the Middle Chamber *by Michael D. Sabia, Jr.*

At a Special Communication held at Acacia Lodge No. 85 on Saturday, November 6, two brothers passed their way into the Middle Chamber and came out as Fellowcrafts. Brother Michel Gomez blew everyone away with a passionate Middle Chamber Lecture for our newly passed brothers. It was indeed a great morning for everyone.

(l-r) Brothers Raymond Roche, Fritzner Erauda, Daniel Basar, Steven Gospodinoff, Frank Ryan, Derek D'Ambra, Michael Sabia, and Benjamin Clarke.



District 2

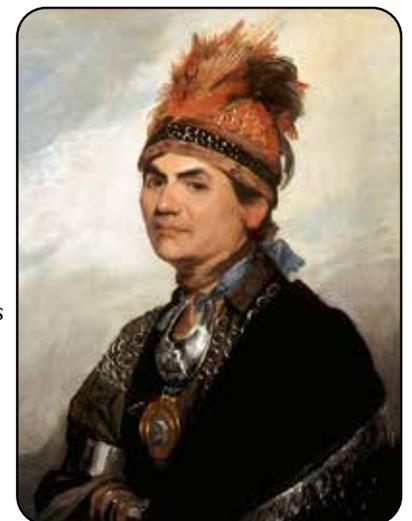
Lodges 13, 18, 21, 39, 40, 48, 49



Montgomery Lodge No.13 Initiates New Brothers *by Daniel W. Nichols*

On October 20, Montgomery Lodge No.13 in Lakeville held an Entered Apprentice Degree to initiate two new brothers. It was a fantastic night. Worshipful Master Bobby Thompson and his officers performed an outstanding degree. The lodge room was filled with brothers from all around the area, even some from New York. brotherhood was at its best!

Then something truly special happened. WM Bobby came down from the East and presented the new brothers with their aprons. Why was this so special? Because WM Bobby has ritual in him that few brothers ever hear anymore. He did not disappoint. WM Bobby delivered the apron presentation that explains the sides, shapes, and meaning of the design of the aprons.



*Mohawk Chief Joseph Brant
(Gilbert Stuart, Public Domain via
Wikimedia Commons)*

Just before closing lodge, WM Bobby held up a small picture. He explained it was a picture of Indian Chief Joseph Brant. He then spent several minutes talking about the Indian Mohawk Chief and his Masonic career. It was a short history lesson and some interesting Masonic knowledge. At that time, a visiting brother stood up in the back of the room. To everyone's amazement the brother stated that he was of Native American decent and that he was told the story of Indian Mohawk Chief Joseph Brant several times when he was younger. Divine providence seemed to be in the lodge room that night!

District 2 continued on page 19

St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 Holds Awards & Lantern Night

by Daniel W. Nichols

On October 19, St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 held their annual awards night. However, to spice things up, Worshipful Master Matt Fitzgibbons decided to try something different. The lodge held their awards night by lantern—a Lantern/Awards night!

Masons are always doing everything the same way, so to have something different for one night was a nice change of pace. To give speeches and hand out awards by lantern made the night feel like something our forefathers would have done.

Everyone brought lanterns that were either LED or battery-operated so as to not make the lodge room smell of fumes. It was a total success. Everyone had a great time and brothers will be talking about this for quite some time.

So remember, while Masons love traditions and ritual, but nothing says a lodge cannot put a new spin on something that will interest the brothers and keep the lodge fresh. Be unique!



District 3

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



King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 American Red Cross Blood Drive

by Steve Lewis

Less than four percent of all Americans donate blood and every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood or platelets. A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 units of blood. More than 1.8 million people are diagnosed with cancer annually, and they will need blood, sometimes daily, during their chemotherapy treatment.

Realizing there is a constant need for blood and that Connecticut is in a state of emergency due to the lack of supply, King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 decided to sponsor a blood drive in Woodbury. An inquiry was sent through the American Red Cross (ARC) website. Within an hour, Claudette Plaszynski the Connecticut Account Manager for ARC responded and explained the process and physical requirements to host a blood drive. As the lodge did not meet the 1200 square foot minimum space needed, Claudette suggested working with the Woodbury Senior Citizen Center, which hosts monthly blood draws, as a co-sponsor. This suited the lodge as a simple way to try this community involvement project.

Claudette arranged with her team to create a flyer for King Solomon's Lodge that could be posted on various community service boards around town. The brothers decided that an advertisement in the local newspaper, *Voices*, would enhance the coverage of the recruiting attempts. The art department at the newspaper created the ad, which included a QR Code, a phone number, and a link to the ARC website facilitating donating.

The response was rapid, exceeded expectations and required larger quarters to conduct the blood drive. Two weeks before the October 30 event, Claudette arranged to move the blood drive from the Senior Center to the Nonnewaug High School gymnasium.



American Red Cross truck at Nonnewaug High School



Wayne Anderson, WM Douglas Barry, Jr., Albin Weber and John Novak

District 3 continued on page 20

District 3 *continued from page 19*

The American Red Cross, being the fabulously professional organization they are, made participation easy. King Solomon's initial role was to recruit volunteers, which was accomplished through the *Voices* advertisement, posts around town, emails and "call-em-alls" to brothers, links on the lodge Facebook page, and brothers enlisting relatives and friends. On the day of the drive, brothers served at the registration table and at the canteen, where donors receive refreshment after donation. All supplies were provided by the American Red Cross.

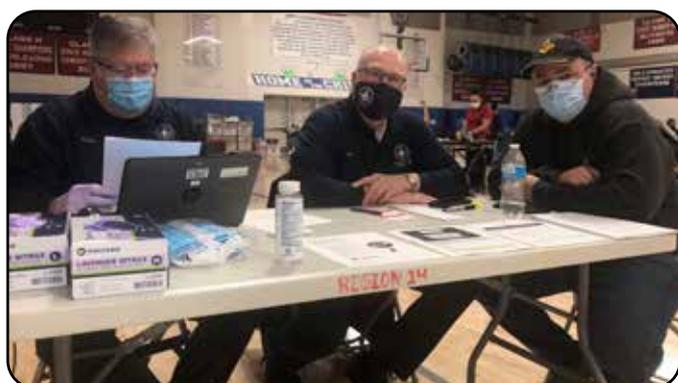
ARC set a goal of 42 donors for the blood drive. King Solomon's Lodge provided 47 volunteer donors. Once the red cells, platelets and plasma are separated, the donations will impact 141 patients.

Blood is the life force of all of us. Without it, we cannot enjoy the life we have been given. As is stated in John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man

than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Masons do not have to give up their lives to prove their love. They simply have to give a small part of their life force, their blood and a small bit of their time.

The brothers of King Solomon's Lodge wholeheartedly recommend that brothers all over the state conduct at least one blood drive in the next year. It is a simple way to provide a necessary, life-altering service and integrate into the local community.

To get started, initiate an inquire through the ARC website: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/hosting-a-blood-drive/learn-about-hosting/how-hosting-a-blood-drive-works/apply-to-host-a-blood-drive.html> (short URL: <https://rb.gy/m0kyvv>) or contact Claudette Plasczynski directly at (860)v609-2251 or Claudette.plasczynski@redcross.org.



Albin Weber, Mark Cohen, Richard Silverman



John Novak, Steve Lewis



Wayne Anderson

Seneca Lodge No. 55 Confers Degrees on Departing Serviceman *by Dan Reeve*

On Saturday, August 14, Seneca Lodge No. 55 opened a Special Communication to convey both the Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees to Brother and Staff Sargent Kyle Gonyner, under special dispensation from Most Worshipful Brother William E. Bohman.

Bro. Gonyner is the son-in-law of Bro. Jim Cosgrove from Seneca Lodge. He received his EA degree in Gulf Breeze Lodge No. 347, Florida, and expressed interest in early July in receiving his Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees before shipping out to the Middle East at the end of August. By the time all the necessary permissions from the Grand Lodge of Florida were issued, there was very little time to schedule the degrees. A call was made to Seneca Lodge's Grand Lodge officer, RWB Shane Dufresne, who issued an appeal for help through Grand Lodge. Brothers from nine different lodges came out to help put on the degrees!

The lodge was opened at 8 a.m. on the Fellowcraft Degree, and closed at 10:30 a.m. Following an early lunch, it then opened the Master Mason degree at 11:30 a.m. A beautiful tragedy was presented. RWB Joseph Porco, Grand Senior Warden, gave the final words, and the lodge was closed at 2:30 p.m. We wish the best of luck and Godspeed to Brother Kyle and pray for his safe return.



District 3 continued on page 21

Lodge Still in Need of Assistance!

Brethren! Corinthian Lodge No. 63 in North Haven is in dire need of a Masonic altar. They have just finished remodeling their lodge, and their old hand made altar is over 40-years old, is failing, and they need an upgrade.

Ideally, they are seeking an altar with a hinged top, or some type of inside storage for Bible, charter, etc. They are also in need of kneelers and the three lesser lights, but their primary and most immediate need is for an altar.

The lodge would be more than happy to make a donation to any Masonic cause in return.

If any brother or lodge reading this can help, please contact RWB William G. Demetriades by phone at (203) 691-0426 or by email at billthegreek@att.net.

DISTRICT 3 *continued from page 20*

Halloween and King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 *by Steve Lewis*

On October 31, the Woodbury Park and Recreation Department sponsored a Halloween "Trunk or Treat" event at Hollow Park as a means to give the area's children a safe space and a fun place to participate in Halloween.

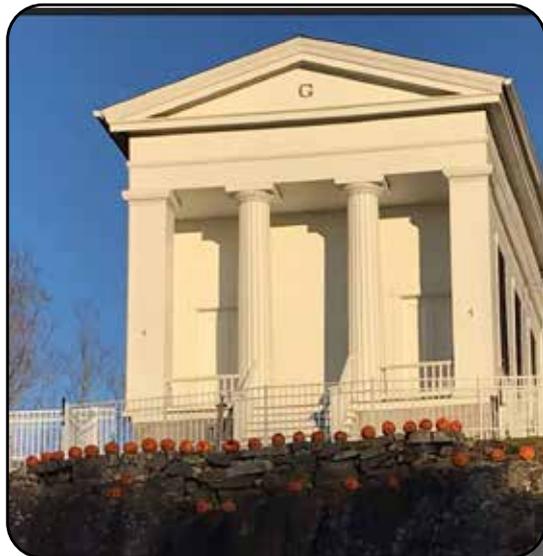
Three brothers and one candidate spent several hours preparing goodie bags and the lodge's distribution vehicle. Among the 42 cars participating, the novelty of Brother Mark Cohen's ancient 1978 Cadillac attracted the attention of children and parents alike. The other brothers, John Stack and Wayne

Anderson invited one of the lodge's candidates to participate in the event as well. This non-interview situation allowed both the candidate and the brothers to get to know each other in a relaxed, enjoyable, non-pressured venue.

The brothers of King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 consistently make concerted efforts to participate in the local community's activities. Being visible in the community, through food drives, blood drives, Masonic funerals, open houses, and other local, non-Masonic sponsored events make the Masons less of a quiet, mysterious organization and more of locally known entity and respected neighbors. The brethren are about town every day, but few know them as Masons. By participating in local activities, the brethren become known not only as parents, citizens, religious attendees, politicians, businessmen, educators... but also Masons.



Members of King Solomon's Lodge waiting to give out treats.



King Solomon's Lodge in the center of Woodbury decorated with 33 jack o' lanterns. Daytime.



King Solomon's Lodge in the center of Woodbury decorated with 33 jack o' lanterns. at night.



1978 Cadillac.

District 4

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



Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 Scarecrow Raises Funds For Garden Club *by David Cole*

Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 in Branford, in the spirit of Halloween and in support of the Branford Garden Club, placed Brother "Frank Scarecrow" on the Green. Being a slacker, Bro. Frank vowed not to move from his spot until November 2.

Along with his prominent place on the Green, a donation was made to the Branford Garden Club who holds this yearly fundraiser. All proceeds are used for Beautifying Branford Baskets on the Green, Daffodil Project, Wreaths and Décor at Libraries, and Civic Development Projects, etc.



SW Jonathan Collingwood, RWD Rich Memmott, SD Charlie Miller and James Memmott.



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Hospitality Lodge No. 128 Donates Food to Wethersfield Food Bank *by Francis G. Way*

Since March 14, 2012, the day that Hospitality Lodge No. 128 (in its current incarnation) was chartered, support of Wethersfield Social and Youth Services and especially the Food Bank, has been a primary focus. Over the years the brethren have helped, especially at holiday time.

Working from the list of needs that Wethersfield Social Services posts online, the lodge assembled a large donation that was presented outside of Town Hall on Friday, November 12.

The brethren of Hospitality Lodge urge all lodges and brothers to support their local food bank, especially during this holiday season.



Donations packed and ready to be donated.

(Photos by Bro. Joseph Distin)



Presenting the donations outside of Town Hall.

Hospitality Lodge No. 128 Recognizes Service and Their Ladies

On Wednesday evening, October 27, the brethren of Hospitality Lodge No. 128 and the ladies, gathered at the Solomon Welles House in old Wethersfield for their Awards Night and Ladies Night. Worshipful Master Alberto Dieguez welcomed everyone and the brethren and their ladies enjoyed a chicken marsala dinner catered by Village Pizza of Old Wethersfield.

After the wonderful meal, WM Alberto presented a 20-year service pin to RWB James S. McNeely IV. He then presented 25-year service

pins to RWB Richard R. Jones, Jr. and RWB Francis G. Way. All of the recipients had an opportunity to offer a few remarks.

Following the presentation of the service pins, WM Alberto had all brothers who had been accompanied by their ladies assemble in the East. Given roses, they were then instructed to present them to their ladies, as WM Alberto thanked the ladies for all their support during the preceding year.

The last order of business was the presentation of the RWB Eric W. Manner Mason of the Year Award. WM Alberto had solicited nominations the month before, and secret voting was conducted at the preceding Stated Communication. The Mason of the Year for 2021 was awarded to RWB Francis G. Way.

The evening continued with conversation, fellowship, and some photos.



WB Alberto Dieguez and RWB Francis Way with the Mason of the Year plaque and certificate.



RWB James McNeely, RWB Richard Jones, and RWB Francis Way with their certificates.



District 6

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



John C. Carmon Receives 50-Year Pin and Oliver Wolcott Certificate Award by Arnold Grot

On Monday, October 25, John C. Carmon, of Washington Lodge No. 70, received his 50-year pin. He was raised on January 25, 1972, by his father Frank W. Carmon, Jr., who was Worshipful Master in 1952. His grandfather, Frank W. Carmon, was Worshipful Master there in 1929. Right Worshipful Brother Matt Heinrich, Grand Senior Steward, presided over the ceremony and was assisted by Right Worshipful Brother Dave LaFargue, District Deputy Masonic District 6A and WB Chris Ramsey, his Associate Grand Marshal. Most Worshipful Brother Bill Bohman presented John with his pin.

After the pin presentation, MWB Bohman stepped down to the level and said "This is what I came here for tonight," holding up an Oliver Wolcott Certificate Award to present to John.

The Oliver Wolcott Certificate Award is given to Masons or non-Masons in recognition of outstanding service to the community which exemplifies the ancient Masonic teachings of concern for the well-being of mankind and of belief in the worldwide Brotherhood of Man.

Said the Grand Master, "In my opinion John Carmon is the Mason in Connecticut who most exemplifies the virtues of Masonry. Congratulations John."

John C. Carmon is Funeral Director and President of Carmon Community Funeral Homes, which was founded in 1946 by his father, the late WB Frank W. Carmon, Jr. John is a graduate of the Loomis School in Windsor and the American Academy, McAllister Institute of Funeral Service, New York City.

John has served on numerous community boards and commissions over the past 40 years including Connecticut Council for Hospice & Palliative Care and as a Trustee of Mount Ida College, Newton, MA. He is past President of the Windsor Kiwanis Club and Past Exalted Ruler of Windsor Lodge No. 2060 Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks. He is Past Chair and Co-Founder of Mary's Place, A Center for Grieving Children & Families, chairman of the Windsor Veterans Memorial Cemetery, President of Avon Dollars for Scholars, and board member of both the Avon Chamber of Commerce and the Salvation Army.

John is a Past President of the National Funeral Directors Association and Connecticut Funeral Directors Association.



He is a member of Valley Community Baptist Church in Avon and is a member of the scholarship committee of Prince Thomas Savoy Italian Society, Avon.

Currently residing in Avon, he is married to Linda (Smith) Carmon, and is the father of four sons: Jay and his wife Christina; Scott and his wife Hilary; Matthew; and Adam and his wife Nicole; and grandfather of Hannah, Avery, Juliana, Catherine, Elizabeth, and Charlotte.

Over the past 10 years, John has had the privilege of making trips to Sri Lanka, Africa, Kazakhstan, Jordan, and Haiti. This personal journey and experience of working with different people around the world has renewed within him a greater understanding of the responsibility we have to share our abundant blessings with others. Well done, Brother John.



Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut Oliver Wolcott Award

The Oliver Wolcott Certificate Award is given to Masons or non-Masons in recognition of outstanding service to the community which exemplifies the ancient Masonic teachings of concern for the well-being of mankind and of belief in the worldwide Brotherhood of Man.

Oliver Wolcott, Jr., was a distinguished community leader, United States District Judge, Founder of the Bank of America, Secretary of the Treasury, Governor of Connecticut 1817-1827, and Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut 1818-1820.

The award shall be requested for and presented by a chartered subordinate lodge of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, and signed by the Master and Secretary of the requesting lodge, and the Grand Master.

The lodge shall request the award through the Grand Secretary at any time during the year and the award is approved by the Grand Master.

Continued on page 25

Columbia Lodge No. 25 2020 - 21 Awards Night Comes With Surprises *by Arnold Grot*

Restrictions on gatherings during the pandemic canceled the May 2020 and postponed the May 2021 Columbia Lodge No. 25 Awards Nights. Finally held on October 20, Columbia Lodge honored incremental service pin and Community Service Awards recipients, and the recipients of the Lodge's Emerson C. Reed Award for Excellence and the Lodge's Daskam-Nott Award...and one more surprise.

After receiving Most Worshipful Brother William E. Bohman, Worshipful Master Juan Diaz called upon WB Erik Roberts, Awards Night Chairman, to present the various awards. First in the program were the Community Service Awards. There are many community needs that are not met within the budget of the town government. Volunteers sometimes fill these needs. There are a few men and women who devote an extraordinary amount of their time, talents, and other resources in this effort. The Columbia Lodge Community Service Award for 2020 was given to Mrs. Lynn Damon and for 2021 the Award was given to the Glastonbury Police, Fire, and EMS Departments on behalf of the community of Glastonbury.

Lynn Damon is a nationally renowned professional photographer, teacher, and mentor. Lynn has been creating fine art portraiture for 37 years in Connecticut and New England. Since moving to Glastonbury in 2008, Lynn has taken an active, philanthropic role in the community, dedicating her time, photographic talent and knowledge to local causes and charities of interest. Among the causes are raising funds for childhood cancer research, Protectors of Animals, and Marc Inc., the Manchester-based regional nonprofit agency that supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. During the pandemic, Lynn taught a virtual photography class to Marc clients, and their photographs were on display at Goodwin College for the month of October.

The personnel of the Glastonbury Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services Departments had a heck of a time for the past two years, with so many issues and the pandemic. The brothers of Columbia Lodge wished to recognize them, to thank them, and to show appreciation for the difficult work they do, by creating a companion to the Community Service Award, called the Emergency Service Award. The first Emergency Service Award was awarded collectively to the Glastonbury Police, Fire, and EMS Departments.

Columbia Lodge's two individual recognition awards were presented next. The recipients are unaware that they are receiving these awards.



WB Erik Roberts presents the Community Service Award for 2020 to Mrs. Lynn Damon.



Bro. Vincent J. La Bella, Sr. (50-year Service Pin recipient) and his wife Carol with MWGM William E. Bohman.



Community Service Award for 2021 was presented to the Glastonbury Police Department, the Glastonbury Emergency Services and The Glastonbury Fire Department for frontline services to our community during the pandemic.



WM Juan C. Diaz is joined by his wife Ether after he received the 2021 Emerson C. Reed Award.



WB John R. Ranney received the 2021 Daskam-Nott Award from RWB Richard L. Beebe.



WB Mario L. Accornero received his 70-Year Service Pin from WB Erik Roberts.



Bro. Gilbert D. Spencer received his 60-Year Service Pin from WB Erik Roberts.



Bro. Roger D. Knickerbocker received his 60-Year Service Pin from WB Erik Roberts.

Continued on page 26

DISTRICT 6 *continued from page 25*

The Emerson C. Reed Award for Excellence is presented to a brother who has demonstrated excellence in some significant field of endeavor for the benefit of Columbia Lodge No. 25. It is named after the late Worshipful Brother Emerson C. Reed who set an example of excellence in all that he undertook in the field of Masonry. This year the award was presented to Brother Juan C. Diaz. Juan was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on December 21, 2011. He received the Perfect Ashlar Award a year later. Juan was appointed Senior Steward in 2013. He progressed through the chairs, demonstrating excellence at every office, and was elected Worshipful Master of Columbia Lodge on January 9. WM Juan has shown excellent skill and

dedication in conducting meetings and degree work. One of Juan's major goals for his year as Master was to raise funds for the Scottish Rite Children's Dyslexia Centers in Connecticut. Events normally run by the Scottish Rite to support the dyslexia centers were curtailed in 2020 due to the pandemic so Juan organized a fund-raising campaign throughout the Sixth District and raised \$3,460 for the dyslexia centers! Juan is also a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Hartford and has participated as a cast member in both the 15th and 16th Degrees. Juan and his wife Ether are members of Good Intent Chapter No. 17, Order of the Eastern Star. Juan Diaz has a deep commitment to whatever he undertakes. His commitment to Masonry is apparent with all he has accomplished in a short time.

The Columbia Lodge Daskam-Nott Award is presented to a brother who has demonstrated outstanding and unselfish service to Columbia Lodge, Masonry or the community in general for an extended period of years. It is named in honor of Brother George F. Daskam who was Grand Master when Daskam Lodge No. 86 was chartered in 1858, and Brother John Nott who was the first Worshipful Master of Columbia Lodge No. 25 when it was chartered in 1793. This award for 2021 was conferred upon WB John R. Ranney. Jack was raised a Master Mason in Orient Lodge No.62 during a Past Master's Day Celebration on George Washington's Birthday in 1972 by his father and grandfather. In 1980, he became Worshipful Master of Orient Lodge No. 62. Jack is also a member of the Scottish Rite, the York Rite, the Shriners, and the Tall Cedars of Lebanon. In 1999 and 2000, Rich Beebe called upon Jack to serve as his Associate Grand Marshal for Masonic District



WB Paul F. Blake received his 55-Year Service Pin from WB Erik Roberts.



Bro. Keith R. Carlough received his 45-Year Service Pin from WB Erik Roberts.



Bro. Bruce M. Hanson received his 45-Year Service Pin from WB Erik Roberts.



WB James W. Pike received his 45-Year Service Pin from WB Erik Roberts.



WB Herbert E. Grommeck received his 30-Year Service Pin from WB Erik Roberts.

6C. Jack became a member of Columbia Lodge No. 25 when the lodges merged in 2006. Jack has a deep commitment to whatever he undertakes. He is always ready to step in and offer his services when a need arises. He has been a member of the Boy Scouts of America for more than 50 years. Jack served Boy Scout Troop No. 1 in East Hartford as an adult leader and served as a District Camporee Judge for many years. Jack is a lifelong faithful member of First Congregational church in East Hartford. He has chaired the boards of Trustees, Deacons, Missions, and the Scholarship Committee for college students, and he was a member of the Boards of Stewardship,

the Finance Committee, Human Resources Committee, continues to serve as an usher. Jack also chaired the church fair, its primary fund raiser. Jack worked with a small team to rebuild the interior of the Woodward House, an historic building in East Hartford built in 1860. Jack joined the East Hartford Community Emergency Response Team associated with the Fire Department. After the Emergency Response Director in Portland CT was involved in an accident, Jack worked with the Portland Fire Department and Select Women to help with the Community Emergency Response

Team during the Director's recovery. For years Jack has worked the polls and supported the election process in East Hartford. With the concerns following 9/11, he went back to work as a manager for a developing maritime security company in New Haven. Working with the USCG and major oil companies, security operations were developed for Houston, TX; Jacksonville, FL; Carteret, NJ; Staten Island, NY, and Bridgeport, New Haven, and New London, CT.

Brothers of Columbia Lodge, with service from 30 to 70 years were presented their pins next. Brothers with 50 years of service are given their pins by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Grand Senior Steward presided over the pin presentations and was assisted by RWB Arnold Grot, District Deputy of Masonic District 6B and WB Brian Berk, his Associate Grand Marshall.

Upon conclusion of the lodge awards, MWB Bohman stepped down to the level, placed his hands to the lectern as if to move

Continued on page 27

DISTRICT 6 *continued from page 26*

it, and called to the lodge Secretary Walt Grube, asking “Brother Walt can you help me with this?” As Walt rose, 12 members of his family entered the room. This was a curious circumstance, a surprise: the presentation of a Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze to WB Walt. I have known Walt through work and our daughters’ participation in the

YMCA Indian Princesses program since before he was raised a Master Mason in 1989. He was my recommender and raised me in 1993, his first as Worshipful Master. Both our friendship and mutual involvement in Masonry over the years are dear to me. Well done, my brother.



September Was a Special Month at Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

by Pat Jones

September was a special month at Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88, highlighted by a visit from the Most Worshipful Grand Master William E. Bohman. As if that wasn't enough, the lodge marked the 20th anniversary of 9/11 with a barbecue and a demonstration by Mason, the South Windsor Police Department's canine.

MWB Bohman attended lodge on September 20 for the lodge's Annual Awards Night. His suite included RWB Matt Heinrich; Grand Senior Steward; RWB Arnie Grot, District Deputy of Masonic District 6B; WB Brian Berk, his Associate Grand Marshal; and RWB Donald Skinner, Assistant to the Grand Master.

Worshipful Master Dave Larsen and the brothers took great care in preparing for the visit. It isn't every day that the MWGM is able to visit. This was a special night for additional reasons. Brother Donald Robertson received his 50-Year Masonic Service Pin. RWB Matt Heinrich, officiated during this part of the ceremony.

Also, 17 brothers received Masonic Service pins ranging from 5 to 75 years of service. Five brothers, all raised on March 6, were presented with their aprons: Brothers Mike Kehayias, Eliad Johnson, Gregory Araujo, Michael McClellan, and Peter Cerone.

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 scholarships were announced for 10 college students. Finally, Broken Column Pins were presented to Mrs. Jane Kinsley, Mrs. Marge Minor, and Mrs. Janet Prior.



(l-r): MWB William Bohman, Brother Khamp Phimvongsa, President of the Oriental Evergreen Masonic Building Corporation, and Worshipful Master Dave Larsen.

Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 Initiates Two *by Arnold Grot*

Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, initiated Entered Apprentices on Thursday October 21. Shown in the photo from left are Richard Berson (Past Master) who presided in the East, Arnie Grot (District Deputy 6B), Juan Villalobos-Ulloa (EA), Jared Garthe (EA), Marcos Garcia (Worshipful Master), and Brian Berk (Associate Grand Marshall 6B).



District 7

Lodges 2, 43, 51, 81, 95, 112, 119, 131, 151



Jeptha Lodge No. 95 Showcased in Clinton Town Museum *by John Main*

The Museum Room in the Clinton Town Hall now has an ongoing exhibit showcasing the Masonic order in Clinton and Jeptha Lodge No. 95. The exhibit opened on Oct. 21 and can be viewed on Thursday evenings, whenever the Museum Room is open, or by appointment.

Through the combined efforts of curator Anne Baker and the brethren of Jeptha Lodge, the long-awaited display, representing the lodge's long history within the community, came to fruition.

The idea of having the lodge represented in the public historical record began in 2019 with meetings with the Clinton Historical Society board members, who showed a great interest in the articles and objects available for display. The museum changes the central display annually.

Due to delays because of COVID-19 restrictions, the brothers began in July providing the display items and to answer questions, while Jane Baker, curator, researched Masonic information in order to design placards for the display. Brothers David Smith and Bob Bruch helped with the finer details of the history of the lodge and visited the museum room during the process.

One focus Jeptha Lodge wanted to showcase, was MWPGM George Hull (1953) whose family had graciously donated his scrap book and other memorabilia to the brothers. The display also provides some information about the appendant bodies of Freemasonry.

On opening night, the brothers of Jeptha Lodge made a contribution to the Historical Society to show thanks and gratitude for their work. The exhibit will be on display for at least one year or until another display is prepared. In addition, Jeptha Lodge will have a permanent display case within the museum, where the lodge will be showcased as part of the history of the town on a permanent basis.



RWB John Main and RWB Richard Boardman present a check to Clinton Historical Society members Anne Baker, Museum Room Curator and Christy Pontillo, President Clinton Historical Society.



Front view of floor display area.



Display case with MWB George Hull, PGM 1953 jewel.



Rear view of information walls.



RWB Ernest A. Phillips Awarded the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze

Brother Ernest A. “Ernie” Phillips entered this world on April 4, 1937, the son of Ernest H. Phillips and Lucy L. Phillips and was raised with his younger sister Mildred in Bristol.

Ernie attended Bristol High School, graduating in 1955, and attended New England College where he majored in engineering. After graduation, Ernie was employed by Washburn and Sanderson Civil Engineering and Land Surveyors in Taftville.

In March 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the United States Peace Corps for providing international social and economic development assistance. Ernie eagerly answered the call to service and volunteered for the U.S. Peace Corps and was assigned to Malaysia from 1962 until 1963. Ernie made

many friends in the Peace Corps with whom he still keeps in touch.

Upon the end of his volunteer service, Ernie returned to Connecticut, taking employment with the City of West Hartford in the Public Works Department. Ernie later took a position with the Town of Windsor as City Engineer and later Director of Public Works. Ernie then moved to Waterbury, taking a position as City Engineer, where he met his good friend and brother, John Lawlor, Jr. Ernie also earned a master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of Hartford.

Ernie attended a dance and social sponsored by Franklin Lodge No. 56, in Bristol. There he met May Ozolos. Ernie and May were married on August 15, 1969, and recently celebrated their 52nd year of marriage. They have three children: Ernest H. Phillips, Sally A. Phillips, and Robert Phillips, and four grandchildren Sidney, Grace, Kaitlyn and Robbie. Ernie and



May attend the First Congregational Church in Watertown and Bethlehem.

Continued on page 30



RWB Martin J. Macary Awarded the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze

Right Worshipful Brother Martin J. Macary was born in 1966 in Waterbury to the late John and Henrietta Macary. The youngest of six children, Martin lost his father at an early age and was raised by his mother,

along with his siblings John, Richard, Donald, Maggie, and Douglas Macary.

Martin attended Waterbury schools, Rotella Elementary School, Wallace Middle School and Sacred Heart High School from which he graduated in 1984. He ran cross-country in his junior and senior years. He was a stagehand for several school plays and musicals in his freshman and sophomore years. He was also Editor in Chief of the Sacred Heart High School Yearbook, *The Cordium*, for his senior year. Martin attended The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, located in



Charleston, South Carolina. Martin graduated from The Citadel with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history in 1988.

After graduating from the Citadel, Martin served in the U.S. Air Force, stationed at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. He was assigned

to the 3rd Security Police Group, 3rd Law Enforcement Squadron’s Anti-Crime Strike Force which was responsible for the recovery of stolen government and private property and the apprehension of the perpetrators.

After completing his service to his country and being honorably discharged, Martin joined the Waterbury Police Department in 1994 as a Patrol Officer. He graduated from the Connecticut Police Academy and was assigned to C Platoon or the midnight shift. Martin also attended classes for Traffic Crash Investigation, which taught the essentials of investigating fatal and serious injury traffic crashes. Martin also completed courses in Driving While Intoxicated Enforcement, Crimes against Women, Sexual Harassment in the Workplace and Critical Incidents. He was also one of the first certified Field Officers for the training of new recruits as they graduated from the Police Academy.

Continued on page 31

Ernest A. Phillips Awarded the Pierpont

continued from page 29

As a Boy Scout, Ernie earned the Eagle Scout badge. Ernie and May enjoy traveling and have traveled to Australia, Malaysia, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, France, and England. Ernie has several hobbies which he pursues including gardening, woodworking, bicycling and reading the works of W.E.B. Griffin.

Ernest A. Phillips took his Entered Apprentice Degree at Franklin Lodge No. 56 on May 4, 1959. He was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on May 18, 1959 and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 8, 1959. Brother Ernie entered the line of officers of Franklin Lodge and progressed to the chair of Junior Deacon. After moving to Waterbury because of a change in employment, he affiliated with Harmony Lodge No. 42 on April 20, 1995. Brother Ernie entered the line of officers of Harmony Lodge No. 42 and ascended to the Oriental Chair in 2003. After his time in the East, Ernie took up the mantle of being Harmony Lodge's Secretary, a position of great trust and responsibility that he held for six years until 2010.

In 2012, Worshipful Brother Ernie was selected by the Past District Deputies of the Third Masonic District and appointed by the Grand Master to a two-year term as District Deputy for the Third Masonic District. RWB Ernie selected Worshipful Brother John Lawlor, Jr. as his Associate Grand Marshal, to travel with Ernie and assist in his labors and privileges. During his time as District Deputy, RWB Ernie traveled the Third District making new friends and reconnecting with old ones.

RWB Ernie also joined the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Waterbury and was made a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason on December 13, 1999, enjoying twenty-one years of service with the Valley of Waterbury.

One of the Masonic organizations that bring Ernie an immense amount of joy, fellowship and pride is his membership with the Sphinx Shrine of Newington Connecticut. Noble Ernie was created a Shriner on May 23, 2003. He is currently the head of the Ritual Cast, which presents the Installation Ceremonies for all new Shriners. In 2007, Noble Ernie was the Chief Aide for Potentate Ed Pahl who stated:

"As you know Ernie was my Chief Aide in 2007, BEST CHIEF AIDE EVER. that is saying a lot because Sphinx has had a lot of

outstanding Chief Aides. Ernie was and still is a terrific ambassador of our Masonic & Shrine Fraternities. Ernie is still in touch with 2007 Chief Aide from Tunis Shrine Center who he stayed up all night at the 2007 Imperial session in California discussing the border of Canada & the US. When Ernie was in charge of anything you never had to worry, he always had everything under control. The biggest thing I can say about Ernie is that he is one of the best Masonic brothers I have ever known, he takes his Masonic vows very seriously and he would never knowingly break any of them."

Ernie is also a longtime and active member of Kaabans Shrine Club, formerly of Plymouth, which now meets at the East Street Eatery in Wolcott. Ernie is currently the Secretary for Kaabans Shrine Club. Ernie is also a member of the Royal Order of Jesters.

Right Worshipful Brother Ernie's Masonic obligations became more extended when he was initiated as a Prophet in Zindah Grotto MOVPER on April 17, 2001. Prophet Ernie rose through the chairs of Zindah Grotto to serve as Monarch in 2009 and 2010. After serving as Monarch, Ernie took over the position of Secretary/Treasurer until 2018. Past Monarch Ernie is also a life member of Zindah Grotto.

When he is not involved with the multitude of activities listed above, Ernie can be found spending time with May, joining the Kaabans Shrine club for their Monday night dinners, attending monthly Sunday dinners with the brothers and wives of Zindah Grotto, and attending regular Lodge meetings and degrees where he enjoys portraying one of the ruffians. Ernie will never hesitate to drop what he is doing to assist a brother in need, whether it be splitting and stacking firewood, helping out in the kitchen by washing dishes or visiting an ailing brother to lift his spirits. RWB Ernest Phillips is the true definition of "A brother" in the Masonic community.

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

Own a Piece of American History

WASHINGTON MASONIC TROWEL

In 1793, George Washington laid the cornerstone of the permanent United States Capitol Building. The trowel he used has been preserved and treasured by the brethren of Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, AF&AM. For the first time in many decades, the lodge has authorized a replica trowel reproduction to share the story of George Washington the Freemason. Every Masonic lodge requires a trowel and every Freemason knows the value of this important tool of the Craft. The trowel is finished in a nickel plate to mimic the sterling silver of the original. The back transcription is reproduced exactly. Offered in a handsome presentation box, this will be a cherished gift for all who receive it.



To order the trowel, visit the Alexandria - Washington Lodge No. 22, Gift Shop at AW22.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.

Martin J. Macary Awarded the Pierpont *continued from page 29*

He was promoted to Sergeant in 2004, and in 2007 he was promoted to Lieutenant, where he supervises between 30 and 50 sergeants and officers on a daily basis. He is currently serving in the Patrol Division, primarily on the midnight shift. He was a member of the Executive Board of the Waterbury Police Union, Local 1237. He served as Treasurer from 2004-2008 and as its President from 2008-2010.

Martin met his wife, Terry Gavaletz-Pfeifer at a Barnes and Noble Bookstore, where he was looking for more books to add to his never ending "to be read" pile. They married in 2016 at the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport and his only regret is that the tiger was not allowed to walk her down the aisle. He has a stepdaughter, Meg, who lives in New York City and a stepson, Ric, who lives in Chicago. Martin and Terry have two rescue poodles: Sadie and Leia and a rescue cat, Harley. Terry says the cat is the closest they will get to actually owning a tiger.

When not at work or at lodge, Martin and Terry love to travel the world, and visit fan conventions and Renaissance fairs. He is a fan of science fiction, especially Star Trek and Star Wars, and horror movies of all kinds. He enjoys cooking, whether it's just for a few people or all the brothers at lodge. In what's left of his spare time, he plays the guitar and loves going to concerts. Martin has a love of history and historical places and always enjoys visiting the town and battlefields of Gettysburg with his friend and brother, Right Worshipful Brother Shane Dufresne.

Marty began his Masonic journey when he petitioned Harmony Lodge No. 42 in 2002.

He was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on April 18, 2002, took his Fellowcraft Degree on May 16, 2002, and was raised as a Master Mason June 20, 2002. He began his ascent as a lodge officer when he was appointed as Junior Steward in 2004. He was appointed and elected to each subsequent position and station progressing through the officer's chairs. Martin was elected and served as Worshipful Master of Harmony Lodge for the year 2010.

Marty was asked by his friend, brother and co-worker, RWB Shane Dufresne, to serve as Shane's Associate Grand Marshal during Shane's term as District Deputy from 2010 until 2012 for District 3. He was later appointed as a District Deputy for District 3B in 2018 and District 3A in 2019. After completing his term as Worshipful Master in 2010, Marty took over the duties as Secretary of Harmony Lodge, a position that he still holds.

He also has served on the Grand Lodge Credentials Committee since 2018 and the Membership and Retention Committee for 2012 and 2013. He was awarded the Harmony Lodge Robert S. Walker award as Mason of the Year in 2014 for always going above and beyond. Marty was also awarded the Grand Lodge Mentor Award in 2017 for being a mentor to new brothers.

Marty is also well known for his amazing cooking skills. For several years he cooked meals for all of the lodge's meetings, Table Lodges and the annual George Washington Dinner. It is widely believed that several men joined Harmony Lodge because of the meal that they enjoyed at the Washington dinner. Marty has also won several awards at various

chili cook offs throughout the district. If you walked away from one of Marty's meal unsatisfied and unfilled, you weren't trying.

Marty continued to seek further Masonic Education by joining several appendant bodies of Freemasonry. He is a member of the Valley of Waterbury and the Lafayette Consistory. He received his 32nd Degree on May 4, 2009. He was Thrice Potent Master of The Doric Lodge of Perfection in 2018-2020 and is a member of Ionic Council of Princes of Jerusalem, Corinthian Chapter of Rose Croix, of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Waterbury. He is very active in the degree work and serves as the Assistant Secretary for the Valley of Waterbury. He was coronated a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, 33rd Degree in August 2021 for his work and dedication in the Scottish Rite. He is also a member of several York Rite bodies, Keystone Chapter No. 27 Royal Arch Masons, Hamilton Council No. 22, Royal and Select Masters and St. Elmo's Commandry No. 9, Knights Templar. Marty is also a member of the Sphinx Shrine, Kaabans Shrine Club and the Zindah Grotto MOVPER, where he serves as Treasurer.

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

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WB Walter Grube Awarded the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze



Walter Grube was born in Glen Head, NY, on October 13, 1944, the son of William and Maria Grube. He attended local schools, graduating from North Shore High School in 1962. Continuing his education,

he entered Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, graduating in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Several years later, Walt continued his education with RPI, this time on the Hartford campus, and in 1972 was awarded a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

While an undergraduate student at Rensselaer, Walt met Barbara Lynnell Cochran on a blind date, and the couple met often during the latter three years of his education there. Barbara and Walt were married on August 6, 1966, shortly after his college graduation. Wasting no time, the couple moved to Connecticut where Walt started work on August 17 with Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford. He worked a full career with Pratt, and thereafter continued as a consultant employee for several more years.

Walt and Barbara's union was blessed by the birth of three children: Glenn, born February 13, 1970; Lynnell born September 7, 1973; and Heidi, born February 28, 1977. All three married and each has two children. Walt is blessed to have six grandchildren living near-by. We regret to note that Barbara died in 1993 following an extended illness. Thereafter Karyn Meneses entered his life, and they have been together ever since.

Walt and his children joined the YMCA Indian Guides and Indian Princesses as Glenn, Lynnell and Heidi became of age to enjoy the benefits of a great father-child relationship. Walt took an active part in the work of the YMCA program from 1977 to 1992, being designated as Chief of the Glastonbury Longhouse for 12 of those years. To this day, Glenn, Lynnell and Heidi fondly remember the great times they shared as Indian Guides and Indian Princesses.

Walt's father had been a Mason for over 50 years when Brother Warren Bristol, a member



of Daskam Lodge No. 86 in Glastonbury, suggested to Walt that he follow in the footsteps of his father and join this ancient fraternity. Needless to say, he petitioned Daskam Lodge. Since then, Daskam Lodge merged with Columbia Lodge No. 25 and Orient Lodge No. 62 to form the current Columbia Lodge No. 25.

Walt took his Entered Apprentice degree on January 25, 1989, Fellowcraft degree on February 22, 1989, and was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason March 22, 1989. He immediately began to take part in the work of the lodge and was appointed Senior Steward for 1990. Having early demonstrated his skill as an officer, and responding to the events of the time, he was elected Junior Warden for 1991. Daskam Lodge recognized the high level of his work by awarding him the Emerson C. Reed Award for Excellence at the annual lodge Awards Night in May 1991. Then in 1998 Walt was awarded the Columbia Lodge Daskam-Nott Award which recognizes outstanding and unselfish service to Columbia Lodge or Masonry in general for an extended period of years.

Walt served the lodge in the station of Senior Warden in 1992, and Worshipful Master in 1993. Due to interruptions in the officer line, Walt served again as Worshipful Master in 1994, 1997, and 2001. He was appointed Senior Deacon for years 2002 through 2005, and still enjoys delivering the Staircase Lecture when needed.

When long-time Columbia Lodge Secretary Robert Flint could no longer serve in that office due to health issues, Walt was appointed Secretary on November 20, 2010. He was then elected Secretary for 2011 and continues in that office to this day. He further extended his secretarial duties when he was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Tobacco Valley Blue Lodge Council in January 2016, which office he holds to this day. He also was an officer in the East Side Lodge of Actual Past Masters and served in the station of Right Worshipful Master. The East Side Lodge has subsequently merged into the Hartford County Lodge of Actual Past Masters.

Walt chaired the Columbia Lodge Program Committee in 1996, guiding the lodge on a family weekend trip to Plymouth, New Hampshire and the White Mountains, the first time the Lodge had undertaken an overnight trip in many years. In 1997, with Walt as Master, the Lodge was scheduled to take a family weekend trip to Washington DC, but it appeared that the event would be cancelled due to lack of participation. Walt took charge of the program and succeeded in reestablishing the trip, which all lodge brothers and their ladies agreed was a great success. The highlight for the lodge brothers was when the lodge passed Entered Apprentice David E. Soderberg to the Degree of Fellowcraft in the George Washington National Masonic Memorial on September 27. It was a beautiful weekend that shall long be remembered.

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut recognized the leadership that Walt brings to his lodge by awarding to him, and through him to the lodge, the Master's Achievement Award for 1993, 1994, and 1997.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused Columbia Lodge, like all lodges in Connecticut, to stop actively meeting. Walt became concerned about the resulting lack of personal contact between members. To address this, he established a "Calling All Brothers" program. He organized 16 brothers to make contact with every lodge brother at least twice a year. The response from those called has been one of appreciation that the lodge is concerned about their well-being.

Continued on page 33

Walter Grube Awarded the Pierpont

continued from page 22

Walt also organized Zoom video conferences to allow lodge meetings to continue in this manner. This also allowed many out-of-state brothers to be included.

Walt has been Installing Master and Director of the Lodge Installation of Officers for many years. He has also served as Master for the Masonic Funeral Service when needed.

Walt sought further light in masonry, and joined the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Hartford. He was proclaimed a Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, 32nd Degree on May 4, 1996. He immediately joined the Princes of Jerusalem officer line, culminating in his election as Sovereign Prince for 2000-2001. He accepted the position of Degree Director for the 15th and 16th Degrees in 2006, which responsibility he continues to this day. He has also taken on-stage parts in some of the Princes of Jerusalem degrees. He served the Nathan Hale Consistory in the station of Orator for many years, and currently is First Lieutenant Commander of the Consistory.

Further expanding his masonic light, Walt began his tenure in the York Rite of Masonry in East Hartford when in December 2016 he joined Pythagoras Chapter No. 17 Royal Arch Masons, becoming a Veil Officer the following year. During this time, he continued his journey by joining Wolcott Council No. 1, Royal and Select Masters in 2017 and became a junior officer in that body. He finally culminated his York Rite journey with Knighthood in Washington Commandery No. 1 Knights Templar later that year. Companion Walter has distinguished himself in Chapter as a Royal Arch Captain, a position he has held for the last three years.

Walter Grube has been consistently active in multiple roles in Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite and York Rite bodies, and in Sixth District matters. He is an exemplary mason, one who has set an example for younger masons to follow in their journey along the masonic trail.

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



Widows Sons Trick or Treat *by Chris Smith*

On October 30, the Connecticut Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association were invited to participate in the Miracle League of Connecticut's Halloween trick or treat event. The Miracle League provides children with physical or cognitive challenges opportunities to participate in recreational or athletic activities.

The original plan was to have the motorcycles on display at the Miracle League's specially adapted baseball field while the children trick or treated. Unfortunately, with rain in the forecast the event was moved inside. It might have been raining outside, but the weather clearly did not dampen the enthusiasm of the children or their families.

At the end of the day, the Widows Sons were able to put smiles on the faces of approximately 250 children. Everyone who attended had a great time and were able to see Masons and motorcyclists in a positive light.

Hopefully, next year the kids will be able to see all the motorcycles!



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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.

Entered Apprentice Degrees

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

Fellowcraft Degrees

Master Mason Degrees

Wed., Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m., FColumbia Lodge No. 25,
South Glastonbury, Dinnr

Past Master Degrees

Fri., Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42,
Waterbury, Dinner. *3rd District Past Master's Degree.*
Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., with degree to follow at 7:30 p.m.
Dress is jacket and tie, tuxedos for officers.
Only Actual Past Masters and Masters-elect may attend.

Thur., Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m., Friendship-Tuscan Lodge No. 145,
Manchester, Dinner.
Hartford County Lodge of Actual Past Masters.
Due to the size of the lodge, attendance limited to 50. Dinner \$15.
Only Actual Past Masters and Masters-elect may attend.

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

Events

Sun. Nov., 28 thru Sun. Dec. 5 - Hanukkah

Sat., Dec., 11 at 10 a.m. Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140
Newington, *Installation of Officers & Family Holiday Party*

Sat., Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

Sun., Dec. 26 thru Jan., 1, 2022 - Kwanzaa

Fri., Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve



Robert G. Fitzgerald Receives the General Grand Chapter Distinguished Service Medal in Bronze *by Arnold Grot*

The General Grand Chapter Distinguished Service Medal in Bronze is presented to a Royal Arch Mason for meritorious service to Royal Arch Masonry other than holding Masonic Office as a Past Grand High Priest or as a Grand Chapter Officer. Only one such medal may be presented each year in each jurisdiction affiliated with the General Grand Chapter. The 2021 recipient is Robert G. Fitzgerald.

Robert George Fitzgerald was born on April 16, 1935, at Cooley Dickenson Hospital in Northampton, Massachusetts. He is the second son of Gertrude L. and John Aloysius. Fitzgerald, who lived in nearby Amherst. Paternal and Masonic Brother John Maurice is 12 years older.

Along with the normal “getting into trouble” activities of any youth, Bob was a Cub Scout and a Boy Scout for long enough to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. He spent a lot of time at summer camp (Boy Scout and Church related) in the summer, as both parents worked. Early on he was a camper, later a counselor.

After completing high school, Bob attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst graduating with a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering. While there he met and married Nancy Jean Campbell. They had 5 children and helped raise one foster son. Nancy retired in 2002 as Executive Director of the East Hartford Branch, YMCA. Unfortunately, Nancy succumbed to cancer in 2011. They had been married 53 years.

Following university graduation, Bob took a position as a field loss prevention engineer with the Factory Insurance Association (now Industrial Risk Insurers). Initially assigned to the Philadelphia area, the Fitzgeralds resided in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and Buffalo, New York. In 1964, Bob was transferred to the home office in Hartford. He retired in 1998 on the completion of 40 years of service, as Assistant Vice President of Underwriting.

Bob served as president of the South Grammar School PTA and as an officer in the Penney High School PTO, in East Hartford.

At South Congregational Church of East Hartford, (UCC), Bob sings in the choir, serves as Choir Treasurer and Assistant Church



William L. Miller, II, R.E. Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of RAM of CT, presents the Distinguished Service Medal in Bronze to Robert G. Fitzgerald on November 9.



Treasurer. Other activities have included multiple terms on the Board of Deacons, chairing it for two years, several stints on the Board of Stewardship & Enlistment, chairing it for several years, chairing one Pastoral Search Committee and serving on another, and election to two separate terms thirteen years apart as Moderator. He serves as a lay reader on a regular basis.

Bob also participates in tournament cribbage play and has achieved the rank of Master in the American Cribbage Congress, an international organization of serious players.

As a member of Orient Lodge No. 62 in East Hartford, he was Secretary of the lodge for all but three of the years since he was raised in 1974. He was elected Jr. and Sr. Warden and then Worshipful Master for 1979. Orient Lodge is now a part of Columbia Lodge No. 25 in South Glastonbury. When Orient Lodge was sponsor of Charter Oak Chapter Order of DeMolay, Bob served as an Advisory Board Member from 1984 to 1989 and as Chairman in 1987-88.

Since 1980, Bob was Secretary/Treasurer of the East Side Past Masters’ Association, comprised of Lodges No. 25, 62, 73 and 114, and served as Right Worshipful Master in 1988. They are now a part of the Hartford County Lodge of Actual Past Masters.

In 1990 and 1991, Bob served the Grand Lodge of Connecticut as Right Worshipful District Deputy and has been a member of several Grand Lodge committees over the years: Library and Museum, Brotherhood in Action, Insurance, and Prince Hall Relations. He is Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Peru near the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. After serving as Deputy Grand Secretary for two years, he was installed on March 31, 2004, as Right Worshipful Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

Bob is also active in the York Rite Masonic Bodies that meet in East Hartford. In Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, Royal Arch Masons, he

continued on page 3

Robert G. Fitzgerald

continued from page 37

served as Most Excellent High Priest in 1989, 1997 and 1998 and is currently a Trustee. In the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, he served as District Custodian for two years and was appointed to the progressive line by then Most Excellent Grand High Priest

Andrew G. Weimann, II. He was elected Most Excellent Grand High Priest on June 5, 2004.

In Wolcott Council No. 1, Royal & Select Masters, Bob served as Thrice Illustrious Master in 1988, and has been Treasurer since 1989.

He received the Orders of Knighthood in Washington Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar, East Hartford. He is a Past Most Excellent President of the Connecticut Convention of Anointed High Priests in Royal Arch Masonry and is a member of the Connecticut Council of Anointed Kings and also Connecticut York Rite College No. 17.

In May 1999, at the one-day ceremonial, Bob became a member of the Valley of Hartford, AASR and Sphinx Temple, AAONMS.

Other Masonic affiliations include membership in the Past District Deputy Association of Connecticut; Masonic Veteran Association of Connecticut; Nutmeg Forest No. 116, Tall Cedars of Lebanon; Oxford Lodge No. 1, Ark Mariners, of Norway, Maine (in darkness); Knights of Birmingham in Thompsonville; Sphinx Omar Shrine Club; and Mohawk Council No. 28, Knight Masons of the U.S.A.



*Life is a culmination
of the past, an
awareness
of the present, an
indicatin of a future
beyond knowledge,
the quality that gives
a touch of divinity
to matter.*

*- Brother Charles
Lindbergh*



Wooster Medal is Presented to the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

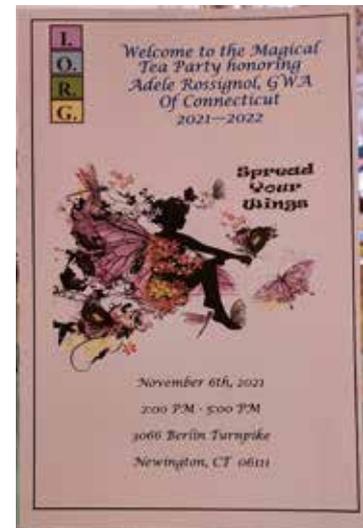
by Bill Greene and Pat Kalinauskas



l-r: Supreme Deputy Anne Needham, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls; Grand Worthy Advisor Adele Rossignol, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls; and the Most Worshipful Grand Master Bro. William E. Bohman.

At the reception for Grand Worthy Advisor Adele Rossignol on November 6, Most Worshipful Grand Master William E. Bohman presented the David Wooster Medal to Grand Worthy Advisor Adele Rossignol on behalf of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls in Connecticut. In the Grand Master's words, it was presented "to recognize the leadership training, personal growth, poise, and confidence that Rainbow gives to the girls, and to recognize the sacrifice made by the adult leadership."

The medal is to be worn by Adele and subsequent Grand Worthy Advisors of Connecticut's Rainbow. The event was held at the Sphinx Shrine in Newington.



l-r: Executive Director of DeMolay in Connecticut Brian Beals, Grand Worthy Advisor Adele Rossignol, State Master Councilor Sebastian Pesquera, and Supreme Deputy of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls Anne Needham.



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