

May 2022

Connecticut FREEMASONS

*Bruce R. Bellmore Installed as the
176th Most Worshipful Grand Master
of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M.
of Connecticut*



**Officers of the
Grand Lodge of Connecticut
A. F. & A. M. 2022- 2023**



Bro. Bruce R. Bellmore
Most Worshipful Grand Master

Bro. Joseph J. Porco
RW Deputy Grand Master

Bro. Edward C. Page
RW Grand Senior Warden

Bro. Les B. King
RW Grand Junior Warden

Bro. Thomas Gondek
RW Grand Treasurer

Bro. James M. Anderson
RW Grand Secretary

Bro. Rinaldo F. Magliano
RW Grand Senior Deacon

Bro. Shane Dufresne
RW Grand Junior Deacon

Bro. F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr.
RW Grand Marshal

Bro. Mark H. Hawkins
RW Grand Senior Steward

Matthew F. Griffin
RW Grand Junior Steward

Bro. Eric A. Silver
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Bro. Tony S. Angelica
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Bro. Robert J. Kovi
Associate Grand Tiler

Bro. Brian E. Beals
Deputy Grand Treasurer

Bro. Gregory K. Whitehouse
Deputy Grand Secretary

Bro. David E. Burger
Assistant to the Grand Master

Not just a man. A Mason.



*Congratulations to
DISTRICT 5,
the May, 2022,
recipient of the
Editor's Award!*



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



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Publisher

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

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Theodore J. Nelson, Chairman

Francis G. Way, Editor

Jeff S. Bartlett

Bud Buckner

Rev. Carl H. Anderson, Masonicare

Adam Raider, Masonicare

CREATIVE/LAYOUT Pat Kalinauskas

CONTRIBUTORS

John Amarilios

Rodney Anderson

Bruce R. Bellmore

Jeffrey A. Blayman

Lisa D'Addeo Bohman

David R. Blythe, Sr.

Rudolph Cabata

Donald M. Casey, Jr.

David Cole • Richard F. Denno

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Brian Sprouse

Vasilios "Bill" G. Tiniakos

Jon-Paul Venoit

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

69 Masonic Avenue • Wallingford, CT 06492

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

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

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

Fax: 203-679-5996

email: grandlodge@ctfreemasons.net

web: www.ctfreemasons.net

Grand Lodge of Connecticut Holds 233rd Annual Session *by Frank G. Way*

On Saturday, March 26, a new venue, the Courtyard Marriott in Windsor, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge AF&AM of Connecticut, met for its 233rd Annual Session, Brother William E. Bohman, Most Worshipful Grand Master, presiding. After a year that saw Freemasonry reopen and thrive in the state, the brethren gathered without restriction to do business and celebrate.

The session opened promptly at 9:30 a.m by Grand Master Bohman and his Grand Lodge officers. The full auditorium, every lodge was represented, brought a renewed sense of normalcy to the proceedings. Visiting dignitaries were welcomed, Past Grand Masters were introduced and welcomed, all while Grand Master Bohman was on time, or even a bit early with his agenda.

The Colors were presented by the young men of Connecticut DeMolay, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "O Canada."

The Grand Lodge was taken to refreshment and dignitaries from the appendant bodies

were warmly received. Speeches were given the leaders of Rainbow Girls, DeMolay, Eastern Star, Order of Amaranth, and Daughters of the Nile. Masonicare, represented by Bros. Robert Polito and J.P. Venoit, also communicated their vision and accomplishments.

Ahead of schedule on his agenda, MWGM Bohman took the Grand Lodge from labor to refreshment for the purposes of eating lunch a half hour early. Brethren dispersed, with instructions to return by 1 p.m.

The afternoon portion of the session was also quick and efficient, culminating with MWB Bohman taking the Grand Lodge to refreshment for the purposes of installation.

At 4 p.m., the installation of officers commenced. Brother Bruce R. Bellmore was installed as the 176th Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Freemasons of the State of Connecticut. In short order the rest of his line was installed. Following the investiture of the District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals with their collars and jewels, the afternoon came to a close.

Grand Lodge Friday Evening Banquet, March 25, 2022



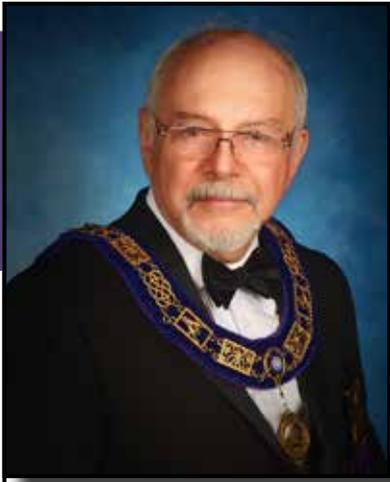
More Grand Lodge photos on pages 2, 4, 8, 18, 19, 31, 35



Grand Lodge Session – March 26, 2022

Photos: Frederick A. (Fred) Marotti





Grand Master's Message

by Rev. and Bro. Bruce R. Bellmore



My dear brothers,

What a great start to the new Masonic year!

Several districts have already held their Town Hall Meetings with the Grand Lodge officers and the discussions and interaction have been wonderful. It is obvious from these meetings that we all have the same goals and aspirations. We all want to see our fraternity grow and prosper while making a difference in the lives of our brothers, their families, and our communities. Come out to the Town Hall when it is held in your district and let us know what's on your mind. Working together, we can make things happen!

As I am writing this, I am preparing to attend the annual Passover Seder Ladies at Table, hosted by Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125. This wonderful event allows brothers and their families to gain a glimpse into the faith, heritage, and traditions of our Jewish brothers. The universality of Freemasonry is evident as Jewish, Muslim, and Christian brothers break bread together and celebrate each other's faith as a "Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God."

One of the best "perks" of being Grand Master is serving on the Board of Trustees of Masonicare. We all know the great work of Masonicare, but having an opportunity to sit on the board and see what happens behind the scenes is truly impressive. The staff and leadership are second to none and they continue to find new ways to serve our residents and the craft. It would be impossible to adequately express my gratitude and esteem to all the Masonicare team. JP Venoit and the senior leadership have done an incredible job of navigating through the COVID pandemic, while continuing to improve financial stability and monitoring the rapid changes in the healthcare, hospice, assisted living, and senior housing industries.

This year, we are returning to our regular program for Grand Masters' Day at Masonicare. On Saturday June 11, we will have our parade, programs for families, good food, and entertainment. My dear friend, Brother Arnold Holmes, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge Jurisdiction of Connecticut, Inc., and I look forward to welcoming all our brothers on this wonderful occasion. The residents and staff truly look forward to this day and we don't want to disappoint them!

To help, aid, and assist our brothers and their families has long been the heritage of Connecticut Freemasonry. We continue to support not only the good work of Masonicare, but also our distressed Masonic family across the country and around the world. The CT Freemason Foundation will soon be sending out our Annual Appeal. Please consider making a generous donation that we may continue to bring light and hope to our deserving brothers and families.

May God bless each of you, and may He bless our great Fraternity!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

Federal Lodge No. 17

Daniel R. Delgado
Nicola Salomone



Seneca Lodge No. 55

Jaedon H. Jones

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

As I mentioned in the last issue of *Connecticut Freemasons*, Masonicare is ramping up its engagement efforts with the entire Masonic family. Although we are Connecticut's largest not-for-profit provider of healthcare and retirement living options for seniors, we must never assume that *every* Freemason knows who we are and what we do ... or the central role that the fraternity played in Masonicare's founding over 125 years ago.

In acknowledgement of that relationship, Masonicare has what we call our "Concentric Circle Policy" that affords special benefits to Masons, Masonic widows, and the rest of the Masonic family, including priority admission/access to Masonicare services. But beginning this month, we're expanding these benefits to include discounted base monthly fees for six months at our Independent Living and Assisted Living communities across the state. (See our ad on page 43.)

And there's more to come. Because we want you to remember that we are *your* Masonicare.

I often tell our employees that whether you're a nurse, a driver, or an HVAC technician, when you work in senior care, everyone should consider themselves essential because anyone can find themselves in an emergency involving a resident or patient.

Such was the case when Jason Moran, a maintenance mechanic at Masonicare at Mystic, was in a seldom-used stairwell when he encountered a resident in distress. The resident began to lose consciousness and would have fallen backwards down the stairs had Jason not been there to catch him. He gently lowered the resident

to the floor, sat the resident up to make sure he could breathe, and then radioed for help.

Jason stayed with the resident and was able to give pertinent information to the nursing staff and paramedics when they arrived, allowing the resident to get the care he needed.

When I went to Mystic to thank Jason personally for how he handled himself in this situation, he confessed that he'd been scared the entire time. But that's real courage, isn't it? It's not the absence of fear but doing what needs to be done *despite* feeling fear.

Sincerely and fraternally,



President and CEO, Masonicare



Masonicare



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“Whatever my mother needed was there for her.”



Bro. Arnold L. Holmes (right), Most Worshipful Grand Master, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Connecticut, F. & A.M., recalled that when it was time for his mother, the late Dorothy Edwards, to transition from her home in Stratford to long-term care, he knew she would be in good hands at Masonicare Health Center.

“My mother was very happy at Masonicare,” Bro. Arnold said, “and everyone there just loved her immensely. She was treated extremely well.”

Masonicare provided Dorothy with a personalized care plan to meet her medical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

“This was at a time when nursing homes and other senior care facilities were getting hit hard by COVID-19,” Bro. Arnold remembered. “But I have to take my hat off to the staff at Masonicare Health Center. The precautions I saw them take to maintain such a high level of care were fantastic.”

When Dorothy’s condition declined in late 2020, Masonicare Hospice was able to administer compassionate end-of-life care onsite in the comfort of her room. “She didn’t need to move to a different unit or building,” Bro. Arnold said. “Whatever my mother needed was there for her.”

Masonicare can be there for you or your loved one, too. Founded by Masons, we’ve been caring for older adults for over 125 years. In addition to long-term skilled nursing, memory care services, behavioral health, and short-term rehabilitation, we also offer a variety of wellness programs, residential living options, home health, hospice, and palliative care, and non-medical homemaking and companion services.

We are *your* Masonicare.

For more information, please call 1-800-982-3919 or visit masonicare.org

Masonicare 
An Ageless Commitment to Caring

Grand Lodge Banquet – March 25, 2022

Photos: William L. (Bill) Greene



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

Kenneth S. Bickford
Coastal Lodge No. 57

Andrew W. Knapp, Jr.
Annawon Lodge No. 115

Frederic C. Carlough
Bay View Lodge No. 120

Richard L. Merritt
Anchor Lodge No. 112

James E. Dobie
Wooster Lodge No. 10

John L. Rice
St. Peters Lodge No. 21

Clyde A. Fox
Wooster Lodge No. 10

John A. Starkes
Wyllys St. Johns Lodge No. 4

John Frangenes
Corinthian Lodge No. 104

Herman J. Tulin
Sequin Level Lodge No. 140

Robert J. Gresham
Washington Lodge No. 70

George J. Walters, Sr.
Harmony Lodge No. 42

Alfred R. Kirschner
Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14

Thomas J. Williams
Temple Lodge No. 16

– Women's Programs –
During Grand Lodge, March 26, 2022

Growing League Of Women | GLOW

by Lisa D'Addeo Bohman

GLOW — Growing League Of Women came to life at the Grand Lodge Annual Session in 2022. So many wonderful and interesting women participated in the programs:

- **'Let's Get Fiscal'** with panelists Marcia Hess, Esq; Paul Holjes, Financial Planner; and Peg Mayer, CPA
- **'Get The Picture'** with Andy Mars, Freelance Photographer; and
- the **Escape Rooms** at Puzzle Theory

These programs were designed not merely to entertain, but to expand one's knowledge, provide inspiration, and enrich the bonds of the women that participated – some of the major tenants of **GLOW**. The networking portion of our day was amazing – from going around the room and finding out just the extent of the depth of these women to seeing how many sought each other out to trade Facebook pages and emails following the programs.

I would like to thank all our presenters, hosts, and participants, look forward to continuing to connect with all the marvelous women that are part of our Masonic family and help you **Grow The GLOW**.



Photos: Ben Jordan Photo Images Co.

VALLEY OF HARTFORD, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr.

If I recall correctly, there is a lyric to a song that went something like this:

"It's May, it's May, the most beautiful month of May

It's May, it's May, the flowering month of May"

It is May and spring has arrived. The flowers, and trees are currently blooming. What a beautiful time of the year to view the wonder of nature. It looks almost like a rainbow after a rainstorm.

In March the Valley of Hartford showed the 17th Degree DVD to the spring class of candidates. On March 26, MWB Bruce R. Bellmore was installed as our new Grand Master. We wish that his year will be memorable and successful for our fraternity. On behalf of the Valley of Hartford, we would like to thank MWPGM William E. Bohman, for his service and guidance during his year as our Grand Master.

On Thursday, April 9, Nathan Hale Consistory held their Consistory Day. The candidates and brethren saw the 20th Degree DVD, plus live portrayals of the 28th and 32nd Degrees. On Thursday, April 28, the Cyrus Goodell Chapter of Rose Croix presented the Feast of the Pascal Lamb. This year, the ceremony honored those departed members of the Valley of Hartford who were called to their eternal rest over the past several years. The evening was open not only to our members and their families, but also to the family members and friends of our departed brethren.

Since the Valley office only has a small amount of current information about our widows the Valley Secretary is currently trying to build a list of their names and current addresses. He is asking for your help to obtain that information. He would also like to obtain the name of your wife or significant other so he can invite them to events like this. Please send any information that you have to him via email if possible.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 5

May events at the Valley include the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. It will be held on Thursday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. We will elect the heads of bodies for each of the four bodies as well of the rest of their elective lines. Appointments will be made at that time as well. The



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

To the Wives and Mothers of
The Valley of Hartford:
HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!

And as we celebrate Memorial Day,
To Those Members of The Valley of Hartford
Who Served or are Currently Serving in the
Armed Services:
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

~

We are now accepting applications for our next class. See what we have to offer by visiting our website: www.valleyofhartford.org
Or, learn more about the Scottish Rite by visiting the Supreme Council NMJ website.

~

For more information about becoming a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, or to receive a copy of a Scottish Rite informational DVD
Contact Tony Angelica, 33°, at the
Valley of Hartford, AASR: (860) 666-0712
Email: office@valleyofhartford.com
www.valleyofhartford.org

installation of the newly elected officers will take place at the Annual Workers Night Banquet scheduled for August 18.

MAY 12

For the current officers, and the officers-elect, a summer planning meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12 at the Casa Mia at the Hawthorne in Berlin. All current and newly elected officers, the MSAs, and 33rds, will be invited to the meeting and are expected to attend. At that meeting, the Valley of Hartford 2022-2023 calendar/schedule will be presented.

JUNE

In June the Annual Meeting of the Scottish Rite Foundation will be held. Members will be notified by email of the date, time and place. If you are not a member of the Scottish Rite Foundation and would like to be, contact the Valley Office for details.

JULY 14 & 23

In July there is a live portrayal of the 18th Degree on July 14, and the 5K Run/Walk to support the Children's Dyslexia Center will be held on the fourth Saturday in July, July 23. As always, member and family are asked to give a helping hand on that date. Contact the Valley Office for more information or to volunteer to help.

AUGUST 18

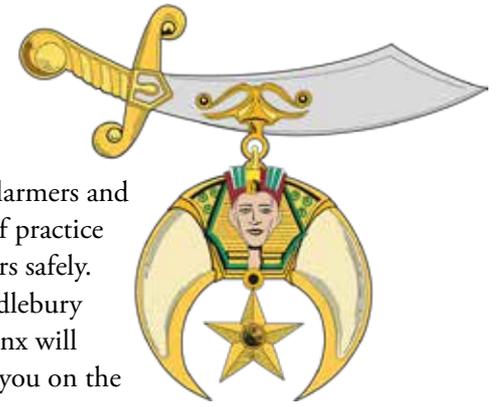
In August, the Annual Workers Night Banquet and Installation of Officers is scheduled on August 18, and the Valley Picnic is scheduled for September 3. More details will be forthcoming as the time draws closer. To receive an invitation, members must be current with the 2022 dues.

In the meantime, as Father John Gatzak says after every Mass, "Have a Rainbow Day." I'd like to take it one step further and say enjoy the flowers, especially the sunflowers, trees and colorful bushes that are in bloom, so that you can have a Rainbow Day and a Rainbow Summer



Sphinx Shrine News

by Eric Pogg



As the winter has come to a close so have the winter meetings and training session. The parade season has started with the Hartford and Mystic St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Sphinx was proudly represented in the first two parades of the season. The winter meetings in Bangor, Maine, for the Northeast Shrine Association and in Washington, D.C. for the Mid Atlantic Shrine Association were well attended. Members of Sphinx also attended the National and Mid Atlantic Shrine Motor Corp. Association meetings in Niagara Falls with several family members. Divan members attending training sessions in Tampa, Florida for various offices. Two attended the Membership and Marketing Conference in Grapevine, Texas.

The Membership and Marketing Conference was attended by many Masons, Shriners, Daughters of the Nile, Eastern Star, Scottish Rite, and many other Masonic related organizations. Topics included social media and how to navigate not only your own personal social media but our brand name as well. Event designing was a popular seminar. Ideas were suggested on how to spice up your event, as it so often happens that organizations start off with the same flyer, the same event, the same structure that they used for years and cannot not figure out why the event has a decreasing attendance.

One highly discussed topic was "Change is Inevitable; Defeat is a Choice: Membership Acquisition and Onboarding." I'm sure everyone has heard the saying, "That's not the way we did it." Hearing new ideas and how to implement those ideas into our lodges and our Shrine centers was refreshing. As the world is changing around us at a rapid pace, our fraternity is changing how it is perceived by the world and by our own members. Crisis management, event evolution (tenure of an event does not equal success), digital marketing, conflict resolution, and fundraising were just a handful of topics that were discussed not only in session but in refreshment afterwards.

The Easter Bunny made its visit to the Shrine Center. A delicious pancake breakfast was followed by an Easter egg hunt and basket raffle. Generations of families enjoyed the day as the bunny hopped around for photos with the children. The children enjoyed running around collecting colorful eggs with tasty treats inside. Thank you to all who made the annual event a success.

With the Memorial Day weekend fast approaching, the parade units will be spending time polishing the vehicles for the true entertainment of the

public. The Cycle Unit, False Alarmers and the Motor Patrol spend hours of practice to perform the parade maneuvers safely. Newington, Portland, and Middlebury are a few of the towns that Sphinx will be parading in. We hope to see you on the sidelines cheering on the Shrine.

The Black Camel visited and took with him three honorable Nobles. Illustrious Past Potentate 2010 David W. McDonough, Past Captain of the Motor Patrol and Omar Shrine Club, Noble Samuel Blonstein, Legion of Honor, False Alarmers and Directors Association Noble Edward Schilke. We will miss the time, dedication, leadership, devotion, and the brotherhood that these Nobles have contributed to Sphinx Shrine.

Did you know that there is a Ladies Club? The ladies meet on the same night as the Nobles, the third Wednesday of every month (except for July and August). Social time starts at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. The Nobles and Ladies then split and conduct business at 7:30 p.m. It's a great way to spend more time with your lady, and more especially nobody needs to cook dinner.

Illustrious Potentate Victor Fettig and Lady Kathy are looking forward to hosting everyone at the 148th Imperial Shrine Session in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from Friday, July 1 to Thursday, July 7. This session will celebrate 150 years

of the Shrine and 100 years of the Shriners Hospitals. The Motor Corp., Highlander, Clown, Dive Derby (for the ladies), Chanters, and several different band competitions will be taking place on Saturday. Brewfest on Sunday; Fourth of July celebrations on Monday; Imperial Parade on Tuesday; Pageant and reception for the incoming Imperial Potentate on Wednesday. Business meetings of Shriners International and for Shriners Hospitals for Children will be taking place. The Shriners Marketplace will be open for several days. The ladies will be enjoying time at the Mall of America. It looks to be a fun filled week of events. The beer at the Imperial Session will be provided by the many tap rooms or brew clubs that have been established across the country over the past five years, offering a wide variety of beers for everyone to enjoy. The Sphinx Motor Patrol won the international competition last year in Houston, Texas, in its class and Illustrious Sir Past Potentate Weston Bedore won in the obstacle course (laying rubber past the rest of us). Hopefully the feat can be repeated.

Sphinx Shriners

3066 Berlin Turnpike 860-666-5449
Newington, CT 06111 www.sphinxshriners.org

The Mission of Sphinx Shriners is to:

- Be the premier fraternal organization for men of good character.
- Provide attractive, quality programs and services for its members, their families, and their friends in a spirit of fun, fellowship, and social camaraderie.
- Foster self-improvement through leadership, education, the perpetuation of moral values, and community involvement.
- Serve mankind through the resources of its philanthropy, Shriners Children's.

If you would like more information or an application to Sphinx Shriners for the Spring Ceremonial, please register online at www.BeAShrinerNow.com or contact Noble Eric Pogg at 860-803-0784 or at ejpogg@gmail.com

Of Charity and Entitlements

by John A. Amarillos, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

The Valley of Bridgeport and the Lafayette Consistory will be presenting the following live degrees for the balance of the degree season. If you are embarking on your Scottish Rite Journey, a video presentation can be arranged prior to the live degree in July.

32nd Degree – May 2 at 7:30 p.m. with dinner starting at 5 p.m.

7th Degree (and 24th Degree digital) – July 23 at 11 a.m. with luncheon following the degrees.

Advanced reservations are mandatory so that sufficient meals and seating can be arranged.

Family Life events in May include the Greater Youth Orchestras Concert in the afternoon of May 22; the 20th Anniversary Float in the Memorial Day Parade in Stratford at noon on May 30; the spring fishing trip leaving Clinton Harbor at 12:30 p.m. on June 5; and a trip to the Samuel Adams Brewery and Fenway Park on June 18. Reservations for these events are a must as they tend to sell out quite quickly. Please call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064 for further information.

*I died as mineral and became a plant.
I died as plant and rose to animal. I died
as animal and I was Man. Why should I
fear? When was I less by Dying? Yet once
more I shall die as Man, to soar with
angels blest; but even from angelhood I
must pass on....* Jalalu 'D-Din Rumi (1207-1273)

Last month we reviewed the beneficial effect of charity on our physical vehicle (i.e., our bodies). We must be able to discern the unfortunate development of the mindset of entitlements in our society as opposed to charitable undertakings. One strengthens whereas the other weakens. As builders who employ the Great Light to shine our path through this confusion called life, it is clear what path we personally should employ and what path we should strive to have our society employ for its benefit and for the prosperity of all its people.

Everyone needs help occasionally when adverse events such as job loss or an accident leaves us unable to work and earn an income. Aid programs are quite legitimate in these circumstances and when we do receive assistance; we might simply be reaping what we have sowed in the past, when we in turn helped others. On the other hand, there are those who have become so dependent on aid that they begin to expect it – without any merit or work on their part. Initially well-meaning societal policies wrought by politicians unschooled in the matter of the light have truded their followers into a morass of loss and ongoing weakness.

The Great Light is unapologetic and direct on these matters. It is clear that the law we must follow is set forth without reservation. Paul at II Thes. 3:10 states

that “if any would not work, neither should he eat.” The recent pandemic has forced many to join those who are already dependent on the government for financial assistance. Policies forced many people to lose their jobs or were made to quit. Millions lost their ability to earn an income.

This has made even clearer what can go wrong, even with a well-meaning welfare program. First there is the incredible expense of paying people not to work. The money being distributed in this case came from government funds which had to be borrowed and which result in inflation which we will probably be living with going forward. Inflation steals from everyone as the currency becomes debased. But the problem is even deeper than that.

The longer people receive benefits without physically earning them, the more harmful the outcome. This is a case of helping people to their detriment. Unlimited aid can destroy a person's character, especially their willingness to work when appreciation for temporary help morphs into an expectancy. When aid programs become entitlement programs individuals and society suffers.

Masons are builders, and one of the prime works we have is to build that temple without hands that resides within. We only strengthen ourselves when we work and struggle and accomplish to survive and even prosper

because of the innate talents that we have been imbued with by Deity. Any policy that encourages people to set aside their talents leads to the loss and damage which is so clearly set forth in the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:31-40. Each brother is imbued with certain skills, “talents” if you will, at birth. If these skills remain unemployed then they will be taken away and the soul which loses these abilities suffers due to their permanent loss.

Collectively, entitlement eats away at society's foundation as more and more people suffer the loss of their talents. Society suffers from the increasing rarity of these abilities and the additional weight imposed on those who press on with their skills becomes increasingly too difficult to support. Eventually a society wide failure develops. If a society adopts a goal of getting more by doing less, insolvency and failure are the eventual outcome. There is no doubt that work is hard. It is supposed to be since Deity wants us to work and develop our muscles. In turn Deity provides us with satisfaction: “The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul,” Proverbs 13:19.

In the Christian tradition, both Father and the Christ were not above working (John 5:17), even though they were all-powerful beings who did not have to lift a finger and could let others do their work for them. Deity commanded Adam to dress and keep the Garden and told him by the sweat of his face he would survive and take care of himself and his family. (Gen. 2:15).

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention All Master Masons!
SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES
Mon., May 2 - Stratford - 32nd Degree (live).
Dinner begins at 5 pm.
Mon., May 16, Annual Meeting.
Sat., July 23 - Stratford at 11 a.m.
7th Degree (live) and 24th Degree (digital)
with a luncheon following the degrees.
Degrees start at 7:30 p.m. and dinners
are at 6 p.m. unless otherwise stated,
in the Shrine building.
Reservations required. Call the
Consistory Office at 203-375-0064.
Meals and degrees are subject to Health Dept.
edicts in affect at the time of the event.

Contact the Consistory Office to arrange for seating and meals for any of the degree events.

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

Continued on page 13

Meaning and Purpose in Freemasonry *by Jaime Paul Lamb*

Men approach the Craft of Freemasonry for a variety of reasons. Some are interested in our history and/or the effect Freemasonry has had on modern Western Civilization (e.g., the American, French and Bolivian revolutions, etc.), while others are interested in the seven liberal arts. Some appreciate philanthropy, altruism, and our involvement in our communities, while others join for fraternal socialization or for the Fraternity's association with other Western Esoteric Traditions (e.g., Qabalah, alchemy, astrology, etc.). In fact, there may not be any two candidates who have knocked on our doors for the exact same mixture of reasons in the same proportions. Yet, somehow, many men from various walks of life seek, and have found value in Freemasonry.

If Freemasonry is able to fulfill so many seemingly disparate roles in the lives of such a variety of men, what then is the common denominator? What is that numinous element that unites the Fraternity into one common mass despite our myriad reasons for joining? I would offer two concepts that seem to often be found together: meaning and purpose. Meaning is the significance and importance that we ascribe to something. We create meaning. There is an emotional element to meaning which is linked to our sense of motivation. Purpose can be described as the cumulative effect of meaningful goals. Purpose is the organizing principle of our lives, as it reflects the long-term impact we hope to have on the world.

How do we find meaning and purpose in Freemasonry? Meaning is most readily found in meaningful things and Freemasonry is nothing if it is not highly meaningful. The body of ritual, symbolism, and allegory that comprises the priceless heritage of the Craft is almost inexhaustible in its depth and capacity for meaning. Take the Point Within a Circle diagram for instance; I've personally heard no less than five distinct interpretations of this mysterious glyph – each as compelling as the next. Or consider the allegory of the third degree; this is another striking example of an individual's subjective interaction with the mysterious, in the classical sense. We are confronted with deeply meaningful material at every turn in our experiences

with the work of Freemasonry; it is only a matter of how much we are willing to invest ourselves in it. I think we can all agree that what meaning we do derive from the Fraternity's symbolic content is commensurate to our labors. For what is the point of our journey through the degrees (whether as candidate, officer or attentive spectator) if not to invest our lives with deeper meaning? Which leads us to the concept of purpose.

In this context, purpose is the driving factor of our lives. It consists of the culmination of achieved goals. These goals are realized in our Masonic careers through our memorization work; proficiency in the lectures and catechisms accompanying the degrees; in holding a Masonic office and, more broadly, in the sense of accomplishment, growth, and personal development that we feel as we attain to certain milestones in the Craft. All of these factors fall under the greater umbrella of purpose. How does one become a "better man"? Certainly, the rough and perfect ashlar symbolize this ever-occurring process of self-development. I can think of no better curriculum embodying our purposeful quest than that which we encounter when climbing the Winding Staircase. The seven liberal arts and sciences, as they are encountered in the Fellowcraft degree, put us on an intellectual trajectory (if we choose to earnestly undertake said curriculum) leading us inexorably toward a purposeful life. For it is only by engaging with these various subjects that we become equipped to fully realize and actuate that mechanism of purpose in our lives.

In summary, while it may be said that every Mason approaches the work of the Craft from their own unique perspective, with their own lenses of interpretation, what unites us is the sense of meaning and purpose to be gained through applying the teachings of Freemasonry. These teachings are presented to us through allegory, symbol or ritual, in addition to lived experience such as participation in altruism and fraternalization. Yet, it is up to us to imbue these encounters and experiences with the sense of meaning and purpose that transforms them into epiphanies and revelations.

Of Charity and Entitlements

continued from page 12

The spiritual rewards such as the joy and satisfaction which comes from attaining ones' physical survival and the ability to independently obtain food, clothing and shelter, as well as the serving of others leads us to a personal satisfaction that cannot be obtained otherwise.

Accordingly, as we serve and participate actively and productively in our families and societies, we lead a fulfilling and happy existence that puts us that much closer to the Light, which we as Masons are ever seeking. Strength and fulfillment are only obtained through hard work, no matter what form it takes.

Fiat Lux!

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

Save the Date
Monday, February 20, 2023
for the
**Re-enactment of the
Cornerstone Dedication of the
George Washington National Memorial**
**Come and Join your Brothers at the Memorial
for this Historic National Masonic Event!**

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

Freemasonry and Business *by Ted Nelson*

Some have asked “Are Freemasonry and business compatible?”

If one thinks of Freemasonry as a moral institution, and business as not, then by that opinion they are not compatible. However, I beg to differ since I have been a businessman longer than I’ve been a Freemason and, I might add, I’ve been a Christian longer than I’ve been a businessman. Here’s my story...

I’ve been a Mason since 1987 when I was in my mid-20s. I was already in business for five years when I joined. I was introduced to the order by WB Ed Sottolano. As I started through the process of becoming a brother, I was informed not to get involved for business enhancement and that it is frowned upon to solicit fellow Masons. I was good with that, took my degrees, and like many readers of the Connecticut Freemasons, I fell in love with the ritual and history of our order.

After completing my degrees, I developed an even closer relationship with my grandfather, WB Julien Collart, who was a Rhode Island Mason. He came to my 3rd Degree and it is a memory I will cherish for life. The following September I drove to his house in Jamestown, RI, picked him up, and went to his lodge, St. Paul’s Lodge No. 14 F&AM in Middletown, Rhode Island. Due to his advanced age and the loss of many of his peers to death, he hadn’t been to lodge in more than 15 years and really only recognized a few members. He was delighted to introduce me as his grandson and as his brother.

As life went on, I can vividly remember going to lodge during a downturn in economic conditions, asking myself, “Why am I going to lodge when I should be working on my business?” I even thought of making an announcement at many meetings that I had a sale on vinyl replacement windows or a free toilet with a bathroom remodeling job to my brothers. I never did since I remembered what I was told at my original interview with three members of the lodge. Don’t join for business reasons, or any expectation of gaining business through the fraternity. So I went to lodge on faith that God would make a way for me and He has never let me down.

Now I would be fool not to accept the solicitations of my brothers and Masonic

widows for the services that my company offers. My conscience has always been clear because they asked me. Even my first mentor, WB Ed Sottolano, started out as a customer before I was a Mason and he had referred my services to RWB Willis Snow’s church, as well as Brainard Lodge, which needed its walls and ceiling painted in the main lodge room. These offers and projects came to fruition before I was a Mason.

Since joining, I have known and have done business with many Masons in town. I rented office space from Union Lodge No. 31 for 13 years. I sought out the services of other Masons. Only once, did I see a brother display the Square and Compasses logo on the front door of his business. I did mention to him that he really should not display that logo in his store front. Other than he, the others all knew not to do such a thing. We knew intuitively that, as brothers who had taken the same obligation, that we could trust each other.

Trust is what it really all comes down to. All business relationships are based on trust. We trust companies, small, medium or large, to honor the words of the agreements that we make with them. We trust that not only will they treat us fairly but if an error is made or a product breaks during its warranty period, the company will do all that it can to make the situation right. That’s what reputable firms do. They are the ones that last over the good times and bad times. They are the ones that make the donations to the causes of Freemasonry or other community needs.

That’s what I live for – to be like those guys who honor their warranties, who respect the rights of their workers, and who leave a legacy for their family and community. I’m doing it without placing the Square and Compasses logo on my truck or in the window of my business. I’m doing it by keeping my word and paying my bills. I would have never known not to place the Masonic emblem on my business cards, trucks or place of business had it not been for a caring Mason who first told me that this practice is frowned upon. I have since learned over the years that the logo is a trademark that is, in fact, owned by the

Grand Lodges and as a result can only be used with permission.

So, was all that worth it? You tell me. This is the 40th year that I have been in business. I have started three other businesses as well as two 501 (c) 3 nonprofits. I’ve sat on different Masonic boards. Through it all, God has blessed me with great health, a wife who loves me, and friends for life. “The Lovely Mrs. Nelson,” aka Grace, and I have travelled extensively over the globe and hope to continue as our years together grow.

So I tell this story not to brag but to remind all of the young business owners out there who are Masons that being active in our fraternity has benefits that come without asking for them. And above all, faith in God and an adherence to His Holy Word goes a long way to making us all better men, better family men, and ultimately better businessmen. And that is how Freemasonry and business can be compatible.

Keep the faith my brothers.

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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.



14TH ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

The Geoffrey Cornish-designed The Farms Country Club

180 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

Registration and Raffle Ticket Sales starting at 10:30am. Noon Lunch; Shotgun start at 1:00pm in a 4-player scramble. Dinner, silent auction, and raffle prize awards following tournament. Prizes for 1st and 2nd low gross and low net, longest drive and closest to the pin, men and women.

Sponsorship levels:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
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| \$1,700 - Gold Sponsor (includes 4 golfers) | \$1,000 - Lunch Sponsor |
| \$1,400 - Silver Sponsor (includes 4 golfers) | \$750 - Golf Ball Sponsor |
| \$850 - Bronze Sponsor (includes 2 golfers) | \$250 - Closest to the pin sponsor |
| \$500 - Beverage Sponsor | \$175 - Tee sponsor |
| \$250 - Longest drive sponsor | |
| \$1,000 - Foursome and tee sponsor | \$225 - Individual player |
| \$500 - Twosome and tee sponsor | \$60 - Non-golfing social |

All sponsorships include acknowledgement in the Connecticut DeMolay Journal.

For registration flyer, please contact:

**Chris Earle, The Campaign for
Connecticut DeMolay**

P.O. Box 8832, New Haven, CT 06532
(203) 915-1229 or cearle@comcast.net

or

David O. Stern

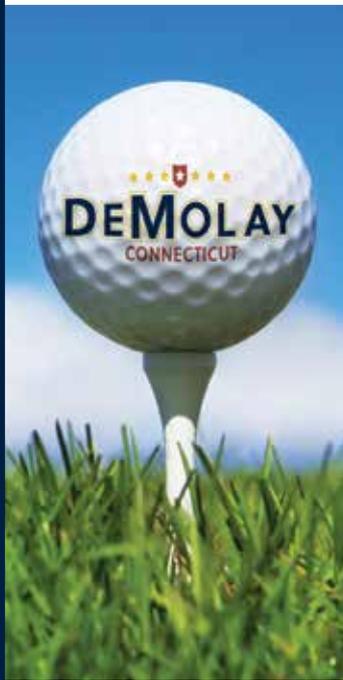
(203) 444-2077 or dsternct@gmail.com

Make checks payable to:

**The Connecticut DeMolay
Foundation, Inc**

a 501(c)3 charitable
organization

REGISTRATION WITH PAYMENT DUE BY MAY 27, 2022



REGISTRATION FORM

14th Annual Connecticut DeMolay Golf Tournament – Tuesday, June 7, 2022

The Farms Country Club, 180 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

To benefit Connecticut DeMolay and The Connecticut DeMolay Foundation, Inc. (a 501(c)3 charitable organization)

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Please check desired level of participation.

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- \$1,400 Silver Sponsor - includes 4 players
- \$850 Bronze Sponsor - includes 2 players
- \$2,000 Cart Sponsor - includes name on carts
- \$1,000 Lunch Sponsor
- \$750 Golf Ball Sponsor
- \$500 Beverage Sponsor

- \$250 Closet to Hole Sponsor
- \$250 Longest Drive Sponsor
- \$175 Tee Sponsor

Players/Guest

- \$1,000 Foursome & Tee Sponsor
- \$500 Twosome & Tee Sponsor
- \$225 Individual player
- \$60 Non-golfing Social

Note: The dress code at The Farms Country Club requires collared shirts and no cut-off shorts.

Player/Guest 1	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	
Player/Guest 2	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	
Player/Guest 3	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	
Player/Guest 4	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
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Please complete and return with payment by May 27, 2022

Make check payable to *“The Connecticut DeMolay Foundation, Inc.”* — P.O. Box 8832, New Haven, CT 06532 • 203-915-1229

For additional information contact: Chris Earle, (203) 915-1229 or cearle@comcast.net • David O. Stern, (203) 444-2077 or dsternct@gmail.com

A Familiar Venue Suffers the Ravages of Time and Abandonment

by Francis G. Way

The Past District Deputies Association Luncheon during the Grand Lodge Annual Communication is a staple of the session. Open to anyone who purchases a ticket, it usually features the presentation of plaques as the association recognizes a Past Grand Master and a Past District Deputy for their service. But, as with any Masonic function involving food, sometimes the most interesting things come up during conversation, and that is the takeaway that is long remembered.

I had the pleasure of having RWB Sal Ferrigno, vice president of the Past District Deputies Association, at my table. During a lively and wide-ranging conversation, the subject of abandoned places came up. RWB Sal mentioned that there are numerous videos of explorers exploring abandoned places on YouTube. He further explained that his son had been watching a video shot in the Red Lion Hotel in Cromwell.

The Red Lion Hotel, previously known variously as the Crown Plaza and the Lord Cromwell in its different incarnations, was shutdown suddenly on January 20, 2020, at around 9:30 a.m. by the CT State Tax Department. Tax agents arrived at the hotel, slapped a cease-and-desist certificate on the front door, ordered the hotel closed, and waited as the hotel staff informed all the guests that they had to leave immediately. The hotel has been vacant ever since.

Longtime brothers will remember that for many years the Grand Lodge Annual Communication was held at that hotel. Indeed, in my earliest days as Mason, I remember visiting the 6th District Hospitality Suite, in a room off the pool area, run by Brothers Larry Elsner and Gene Nead on the night before the session, then attending the session the next day in the hotel's large ballroom.

Returning home after this discussion, I searched YouTube to find the videos. I found two videos, one posted in August 2021, and another posted in September 2021, that was shot in August while Tropical Storm

Henri was raging outside. The damage to the hotel, in just over a year's abandonment, was astounding.

In many regards, the place looks exactly like it must have looked on that January morning when the tax department came calling. The dining area near the little gazebo, that some Valley of Hartford brothers may remember as the cocktail hour area for Workers Night, looked almost as if it could host a meal today. Christmas decorations still adorned some areas, and the hotel kitchen, at first glance, looked like it only needed power and gas turned on.

In other ways though, the hotel looks like it has been abandoned for 10 or more years, with serious water leaks, peeling wallpaper, incredible amounts of mold, and in some areas walls and ceiling ripped apart for copper pipes. The pool is empty, and there is evidence that squatters have used it for shelter.

Perhaps the eeriest part to me was that, in the first video, after leaving the pool area, the explorers re-enter the hotel rooms through the very room that housed the 6th District Hospitality Suite all those years ago.

It must be noted that many times what these explorers are doing could be considered illegal. In the two videos it did not appear that much had been done to secure the building against intrusion. However, on a recent trip by the site, I did notice that doors and window have been heavily boarded over, and many signs warning of video recording were in place.

If you have some time, and remember the Red Lion or Lord Cromwell, and the many Annual Sessions held there, watching the two videos will be a fascinating experience.

As Masons, we are told at one point that, "The lapse of time, the ruthless hand of ignorance, and the devastations of war" can lay waste to the creations of man. In the case of the Red Lion, it seems that a short lapse of time, and the ruthless hand of ignorance – not paying taxes and not securing the building -- has definitely laid waste to a place that is probably still familiar to many in our Masonic family.

YouTube URL, August 2021: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVOCOfMLLJo> SHORT URL: bit.ly/3rlyel6

YouTube URL, September 2021: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2a5PY_qQAY&t=8s SHORT URL: bit.ly/37egQrB

Live Kidney Donor Needed

Dear Brethren,

I am reaching out to you all with the hope that you can help me share this message.

I had chronic kidney disease along with a rare autoimmune disease affecting my kidneys for many years. However, three years ago my kidneys failed, and I had to immediately start dialysis. Living on dialysis is very hard for kidney patients both physically and emotionally. The only way to stop dialysis in my lifetime is by receiving a kidney transplant.

A kidney from a living donor can save or extend my life. If you or someone you know would consider being a live donor, please call me to arrange medical screening to make sure you are not at risk if you donate. Thank you.

Br. Adam Hadir, 203-768-1159

- Grand Lodge Session - March 26, 2022

Photos: William L. (Bill) Greene



- Grand Lodge Session - March 26, 2022

Photos: Frederick A. (Fred) Marotti



District 1

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



Scottish Rite Colonial Degree Team Performs Fellowcraft at Washington Lodge No. 19

by Roy Nealon

A great evening was had when the Scottish Rite Colonial Degree Team performed an amazing Fellowcraft Degree at Washington Lodge No. 19. Dressed in period costumes, the team put on a great degree for the five new Fellowcrafts. Two were from Washington's sister lodge Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 and three were from Washington Lodge.

Having the founding fathers perform awed the new Fellowcrafts as well as the audience. It was a great evening for everyone.

Photos by Martin Cernuch and JD DeBaun



Washington Lodge No. 19 Celebrates St. Patrick's Day with Service Awards

by Roy Nealon

A great St. Patrick's Day dinner and pin presentation was celebrated at Washington Lodge No. 19. It was wonderful to have everyone come out to honor the recipients. Special honors went to Brother Marty Sippin for his 50 years of Masonic service. Dinner followed the ceremony and WB Anthony Agosto cooked a great meal. Thanks to all who came. *Photos by Martin Cernuch*



District 2

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



St. Peter's Lodge No. 21: Junior Warden Presides Over EA Degree by Daniel W. Nichols

On March 15, St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 held an Entered Apprentice Degree. Junior Warden Daniel Keeler, presiding in the East, made his first Mason. This is a rite of passage for brothers progressing to the East in their lodges. It was a show of proficiency to the Craft that Bro. Keeler was testing his steel and showing what he is made of.

This is something that is always an honor to see -- to watch a Mason be made, progress in their lodge, and then make Masons is something that needs to be fostered. This is Masonry's future. Masons just entering their lodge's line, who are making new Masons while mentoring are what will make the fraternity stronger in the future.

A structure is only as strong as its foundation. Make the strongest Blue Lodge foundation possible, because only through a strong foundation can we build our Masonic Temple worthy of the reputation of who we are.



Hiram Lodge No. 18 Initiates New Brother *by Daniel W. Nichols*

On a wet Wednesday night, Hiram Lodge No. 18 initiated a new brother into their Craft. As always in Masonry, it was a special event. Unfortunately, Worshipful Master RWB Tony Neri was sick. So, without delay, WB Tony Don stepped up and on short notice sat in the East. This showed once again how Masons without delay go to the aid of another brother.

It was a fun night. Brothers from Hiram Lodge No. 1, Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Washington Lodge No. 19, St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 and Seneca Lodge No. 55 were present and ready to help in any way needed. When the degree was finished, WB Christopher Follen performed a lecture that took the newly admitted brother around the lodge room and explained briefly how Masons operate a meeting and how and when a brother can act. For many, many years it was called the RWB Dick Hubert lecture, because he always did it with style and finesse. But now that RWB Hubert is in Florida it was nice to see the lecture being passed along.



This is a great short lecture to help new brothers feel more comfortable in the lodge room and better able to follow along. Every brother was once an Entered Apprentices once, green and unsure of ourselves. Always remember to help a new brother feel at home in his new lodge.

St. Luke's Lodge No. 48 Historical Presentation and St. Patrick's Day Dinner *by Stan Jennings*

On March 17, St. Luke's Lodge's scheduled regular meeting night, the brothers and guests were treated by a special historical presentation before dinner.

Marge Smith, Kent Historical Society curator, gave a presentation about a diorama of the Civilian Conservation Camp that existed in Kent during the 1930s in the Depression era. The diorama was constructed from memory some years ago by Charlie Bigelow, one of the CCC members, and subsequently donated to KHS where it can be seen by appointment. Marge was given a standing ovation for her skilled presentation and enjoyed dinner with the assembled brothers and guests.

Dinner was corned beef and cabbage, prepared by the brothers with their usual skill prior to the regular meeting on the date of the full worm moon. Lodge was well attended.



Dinner



SW Josh Rimany poses with the diorama.

District 3

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



Harmony Lodge No. 42 Raises Three on St. Patrick's Day *by Joseph M. Pisani*

Harmony Lodge No. 42 in Waterbury celebrated Saint Patrick's Day by raising three brothers in a kilted Master Mason Degree on the eve of Saint Patrick's Day, March 17. The degree was performed with a complete cast led by MWB Marshall Robinson, and including RWB Grant Gould, MWB Tom Maxwell, RWB Marty Macary, and WBs Dan Sharkis, Ken Tarwood, Gary Rosengrant, Hal Elwell, Matt Elwell, Eddie Montambault, and Joe Pisani.

With 48 brothers attending, the evening featured a traditional Irish dinner of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and carrots, and an old-world style Irish lamb stew provided by Top O' the Mornin', a locally owned and operated Irish establishment in Waterbury's South End. Homemade soda bread was provided by the family of Bro. Patrick Donnelly.

The evening concluded with a special thanks from WB Joe Pisani to WB Dan Sharkis and Bro. Larry Brandolini, and to all of the brothers who participated, and culminated with a standing ovation for MWB Marshall Robinson, who has had the distinguished honor of raising generations of Master Masons at Harmony Lodge.



(l-r) WB Sharkis, Bro. Steve Sexton, Bro. Mike Sexton



Caledonians



(l-r) MWB Robinon, WB Pisani, MWB Maxell

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District 4

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



Branford Lodges Join for Cleanup Effort *by David Cole*

On Sunday, April 10, the two lodges that meet at the Masonic lodge in Branford, Widow's Son Lodge No. 66, and St. Albans Lodge No. 38, joined together for a field day cleanup of the grounds. Many hands make for quick work.

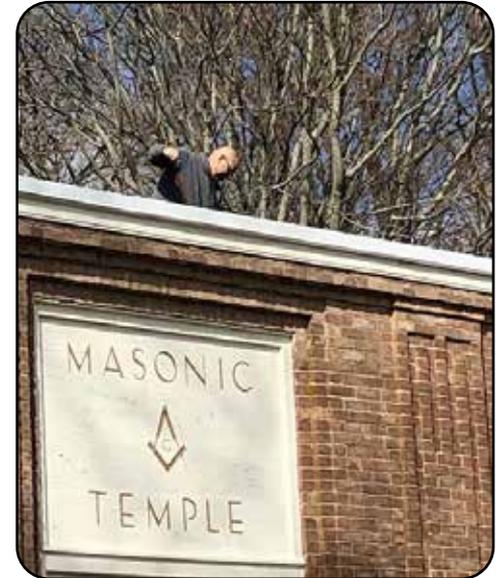
Two lodges share the building and to see the fellowship of the brothers working together to improve the appearance presented to the community was an honor. Plans are already in place for further collaboration between the two lodges. In addition to future painting parties, a joint Fellowcraft Degree will be presented on April 20.



St. Alban's SW Colin Souney, WM John Kelly, JW Ron Ferris.



Side of building.



JW Charles Miller on the roof.



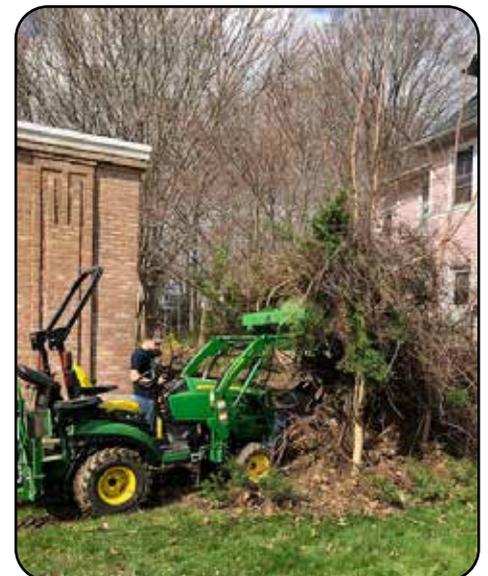
SW Rich Memmott, WM Jonathan Collingwood, WB Jeff Knapp.



WB Jeff Knapp and Melissa.



WM John Kelly and WM Jonathan Collingwood



EA Charles Uschak and his toy.

4th District Delights in St. Patrick's Day Parade

by Jeffrey A. Blayman

In 1842, 90 members of the Hibernian Provident Society took to the streets of New Haven on March 17, marching under a banner of traditional Irish depictions. Today, 180 years later, the tradition lives on as the Greater New Haven St Patrick's Day Parade — by far the largest in the state.

It has also become a tradition of the 4th Masonic District assemble for this festive day of community engagement. The brothers of Hiram Lodge No. 1 joined with other lodges of the 4th District, culminating in what was the largest Masonic attendance to date!

Under the leadership and direction of WB Fred Marotti all aspects of this enormous endeavor began to take shape. With the support of the Valley of New Haven AASR, and Agulera Moving, a 50-foot trailer to accommodate those unable to march was provided. The team worked nonstop building, painting, and decorating it, while the kitchen staff was planned the logistics of the fantastic meal which was to follow the march.

The parade team, consisting of multiple dedicated committees, worked diligently to ensure the parade would go off without a hitch. The 1.8-mile route from Chapel Street to Orange Street was lined by onlookers and revelers as the sound of bagpipes echoed between the buildings of downtown. The multitude of marchers snaked through the city in formation, including the Masons and their guests who numbered over 150 people. The parade culminated in a final stride past the viewing grandstand of officials and the TV camera perched high above as throngs of locals cheered in a sea of green. After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, it was truly magical to see the renewed enthusiasm that had returned to the Elm City.



New Haven's St. Patrick's Day Parade a Success!

by Christian Godbout

In the March edition of the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper, I made a plea to the Masonic community to come out and support not only the Irish community, but also Masonry in Connecticut. The parade committee then spent countless hours preparing the signs and emblems on the float, preparing the food before and after the parade, and getting the word out to Masons around Connecticut. The Connecticut Freemasons did not disappoint!

In 2019, the 4th District had a much-improved showing from previous years, with over 20 brothers attending. This year there were over 170 brothers, their wives, girlfriends, and children, who marched in the parade! It was a truly amazing showing.

The coverage of the parade on TV was far greater than in prior years. WTNH did an excellent job of educating viewers on who the Connecticut Freemasons are, and how they help the community and make good men better! It was clear in the energy and enthusiasm of the Masons in the parade that there is a true love of our community, and that Masons are far more prevalent in the community than many may realize.

The enormous group of Freemasons marching down the street, the length of a city block, followed by a float carrying signs associated with the Craft, and even more Masons who would not otherwise have been able to attend, was a sight to behold. The road was lined with cheering crowds and people of all ages and cultures. They were all so excited that the St. Patrick's Day Parade was back after years of silence due to COVID-19, and they were equally excited to see the Connecticut Freemasons!



Photos continued on page 30





District 5

Lodges 14, 29, 33, 36, 101, 128, 140, 146, 148



Dart Tournament: Friendship Lodge No. 33 Versus Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 by Allyan Lopes

A dart tournament was held at Friendship Lodge No. 33 in Southington on Saturday March 19 at 12 p.m. A good time was had by all. It was a day of fellowship, great food, and fun between these two lodges.

The competition was very tight, only to be decided on the very last game when Bro. Omar Pichette, playing 301, was able to hit a double which was needed to guarantee Friendship Lodge's victory over Sequin-Level Lodge.

Friendship Lodge also won the last tournament in 2021 and will keep the trophy until the next tournament in 2023, which will be held in Newington.



5th District Blue Lodge Council Traveling Gavel Retained by Friendship Lodge No. 33 *by Allyan Lopes*

Friendship Lodge No. 33 kept the 5th District Blue Lodge Council Traveling Gavel, by bringing 18 people to the meeting on March 31st at Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14 in Plainville.

Present were WB Vasilius Tiniakos, WB Carl Larson, Brother Charles Wilson, Brother Ron Case, VWB Tom Accousti, Brother Shawn Irwin, WB Allyan Lopes, Brother Jake Manke, WB Ron Mattson, WB Rob Buntin, Brother Omar Pichette, Brother Eddie Santos, Brother Mike Leser, MWB Gary Arseneau, WB Don Hastie, WB Ken Crooker and RWB Peter Boychuck.



Friendship Lodge No. 33 and DeMolay Host Fundraising St. Patrick's Day Dinner *by Rudolph Cabata*

On Friday, March 18, the brothers of Friendship Lodge No. 33 in Southington, and the young men of DeMolay, celebrated the memory of St. Patrick with a traditional Irish corned beef dinner. Over \$1,000 was raised for the American Cancer Society. The dinner included corned beef, colcannon, candied carrots, Irish soda bread, dessert, and coffee.

Tours were given of the lodge, which is also the home of former Governor of Connecticut Marcus Holcomb. Over 70 persons attended, and Masonic friendship and charity were shared by all.



Valley Lodge No. 36: Senior Warden Presides Over FC *by Nate Jillette*

On Monday, March 21, Bro. Nicholas Dethlefson was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft with the assistance of the brothers at Valley Lodge No. 36 in Simsbury. Senior Warden Nathaniel Jillette presided in the East for the degree.





Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 Provides Easter Baskets for Needy Families

by Brian Sprouse

The Town of Newington needed Easter Baskets for families that would be unable to provide baskets for their families on their own. Sequin- Level Lodge No. 140 answered that call.

On March 17, after the Stated Communication, the brothers lodge assembled downstairs and put together the baskets. On April 7, WB Jim Bailey and his wife Sue, delivered the baskets to the Human Services Department at the Town Hall. Pamela Wassik who is the Financial Casework Coordinator for Human Services was really excited to receive the baskets.

*WB Jim Bailey and wife
Sue drop off the baskets*

Newington Masons Honor The ARRL by Jon Faasen

On April 7, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 in Newington, honored the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). The festivities began with a delicious supper prepared by the fine Connecticut certified chefs, Bros. Jim Bailey, Robert Bailey, Tom Lindsay, and Phillip Maniscalco. After the meal, WM Jon D. Faasen presented a special plaque for over 100 years of service to the international and Newington communities. The Mayor of Newington, Beth DelBuono, declared a formal proclamation from the Town of Newington validating the services that the ARRL has and continues to provide. ARRL is the national association for Amateur Radio in the US. Founded in 1914 by Hiram Percy Maxim as The American Radio Relay League, ARRL is a noncommercial organization of radio amateurs, also known as “ham radio operators.” ARRL and its members advance the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio.



The ARRL:

- Supports the awareness and growth of Amateur Radio worldwide,
- Advocates for meaningful access to radio spectrum,
- Strives for every member to get involved, get active, and get on the air,
- Encourages radio experimentation and, through its members, advances radio technology and education; and
- Organizes and trains volunteers to serve their communities by providing public service and emergency communications.

In attendance from the ARRL were Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, Director of Public Relations and Innovation; Bob Naumann, W5OV, Director of Operations; Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY, Manager, Publications and Editorial Department; Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, Director of Emergency Management; Yvette Vinci, KC1AIM, Member Services Manager; and Kim McNeill, KM1IPA, Assistant Member Services Manager.

Manchester Brotherhood in Action Helps Defray Medical Costs

by Rodney Anderson

The Manchester Brotherhood in Action (BIA) is an informal charity group made up of four different fraternal lodges: Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 AF&AM, Manchester Lodge No. 73 AF&AM, Knights of Columbus Council No. 573, Knights of Columbus Council No. 1155, and Manchester Beth Sholom B'nai Israel, and Manchester UNICO. BIA has been in existence since 1987 and has raised over \$132,000, giving each year's proceeds to local families with children having life threatening illnesses.

Normally an annual breakfast has been served to over 300 people to raise the money. However, after missing a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year it was decided to solicit contributions directly from the memberships rather than contend with the unknown progression of the pandemic.

A total of \$6600 was raised and presented to the family of Victoriana Diaz on Sunday,



BIA presentation to Diaz family, (l-r): Steven Cohen (BSBI), Calvin Vinick (BSBI), John Connolly (KC), Peter Miller (UNICO), Diaz Family, Spin Zucker (BSBI), Rodney Andersen (AF&AM)

April 10, at a brief reception at the Manchester Masonic Temple. The proceeds will help the family defray continuing medical expenses.

Five-year old Victoriana suffers from a brain cancer called Medulloblastoma. It is an invasive, rapidly growing tumor that spreads through the cerebrospinal fluid. She has had surgeries to remove the tumors and has also undergone numerous chemotherapy and radiation

treatments at Boston Children's Hospital and Connecticut Children's Medical Center. With these treatments, Victoriana has endured many side effects, including partial hearing loss in one ear, as well as speech challenges. Currently undergoing physical and occupational therapy, Victoriana hopes to return to a normal, healthy life in the very near future.



Pyramid Shriners March for Needy Children

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Nobles from Pyramid Shrine Temple in Stratford, celebrated St. Patrick's Day by marching in the 46th Annual Greenwich Parade. Shriners from the Divan leadership team, Motor Patrol and Clown Units participated at the parade. Pyramid Shriners were able to share their mission of providing assistance to needy children receiving excellent medical care at Shriners Hospital.





Pythagoras and His Relation to the Middle Chamber

by Vasilios "Bill" G. Tiniakos

Wandering through the realms of Masonry we observe many ideas inculcated by ceremonies and lectures, beautifully prepared and presented, such as the Middle Chamber lecture, one of the most important lectures in my opinion. Often it can be misinterpreted if one doesn't pay close attention. Therefore, let's look a little closer.

We have all heard of Pythagoras of Samos (570 BC – 495 BC), the son of an aristocratic and rich man of commercial exchanges, Aristarhos, and his wife Pytheo. Pythagoras is one of the most celebrated men of antiquity. He was taught philosophy and ethics by Ferekides of Syros and by Themistoclea, one of the female teachers of Greek antiquity, before he started traveling the world in search of knowledge. Masons revere this man who was known as a philosopher, mathematician, geometer, astronomer, theologian, and scholar of theoretical music. According to legend, he was gifted by the god Apollo with some special abilities.

Pythagoras had a lot to do with the number system as we know it. At first, he studied the animated creation (the universe) and that, as being "one," constitutes "the unit." Because

of that theory he became known as a unitist, theorizing that everything constitutes the entire universe and that is just one. As a result of that, we all are fragments of the one (unit) and within it, we exist.

Pythagoras' motto was "in the beginning was the word, and the word is harmony and harmony is the word," combining harmony with divinity. In Masonic ritual it is said that "harmony is the strength [Boaz] of all societies, more especially that of ours." St. John the Evangelist, in his Gospel begins his book of Genesis, "In the beginning is the Word and the Word is God and God is the Word." Here, harmony, God and divinity are synonymous.

According to Pythagoras, however, before the creation takes place, there was the requirement of the divinity of the Supreme Being which must pre-exist in order to create the Universe, and today we call that being the Grand Architect of the Universe. Further, he theorized that everything in the Universe can be represented by a certain integer. So, the number one must have pre-existed and is related to divinity for creating the rest of the numbers, therefore it is the divine number and represents God. Pythagoras never

talked about gods but about GOD.

The disciples of Pythagoras called the operation of addition the marriage of numbers. The number one appears here for a second time – think of the Fibonacci sequence – and by adding one to itself we create the number two.

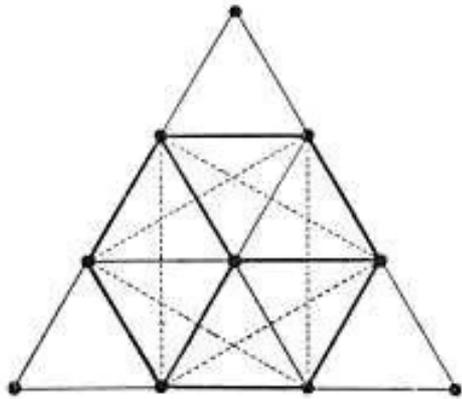
The number two is a divine number also: since the number two can only be created in one way, from the number one, then the inheritance of divinity is evidenced for number two. The same holds true for number three, the highest of the three divine numbers, according to Pythagoras. The theological significance of number three survives today in the form of Holy Trinity where number one represents The Father (God), number two represents the Son, with two identities, God and human, and number three (the Spirit) which represents and unites the two others. The number three is also related to the tetractys, and to divine geometry through the triangular shape it forms.

The numbers four and higher are created in more than one way and thus they are not divine, but earthly numbers. According to Pythagoras, such numbers cannot be considered divine.

Pythagoras continued from page 17

Even though it is an earthly number, number four is the basis of something very important in the Pythagorean Philosophy, the ancient symbol known as the tetractys, which, for the Pythagoreans pointed out the road to wisdom. On it they took their oaths, on it, they obligated new students.

What is the tetractys? It comes from the Greek



number tetra, meaning fourth. It is based on the isosceles triangle – the most structurally stable figure known – where among other uses it is possible to fit, along its side, four circles or spheres, and the diameter of these four add to a sum that is equal to the length of the side of the triangle above. As an example, one of many teachings from the above configuration, is the fact that it can only fit 10 circles in it. That number represents the Universe. Ten is composed of one and zero, representing the number one (God) and zero (nothing), thus God made the Universe from nothing.

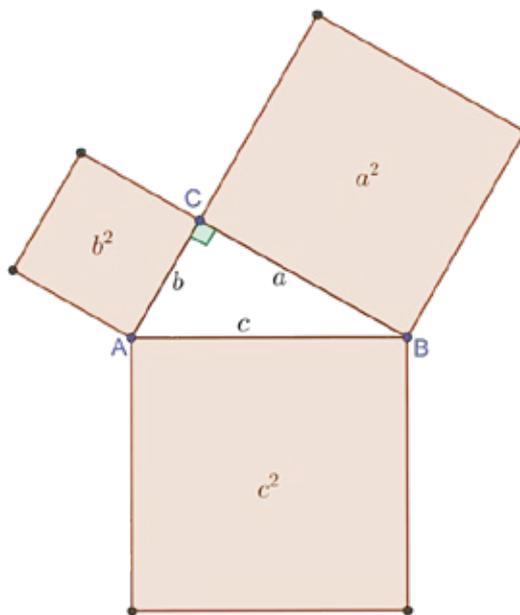
A similar story is behind the significance of the number three and its importance, both in Masonry and science. In Masonry, there are the three degrees, the three principal officers, the three great lights, the three knocks on the door, the three jewels of a Fellowcraft, and others. The number three was important in the Pythagorean school of pantognosia (knowledge of all things, as mentioned in the Middle Chamber section on logic).

This philosophical school was established by Pythagoras at Croton, Sicily, where society was dominated by intellectuals and students were thirsty for knowledge. He taught there until the building was destroyed by fire, ignited during an uprising around 510 B.C. The uprising was led by a rich man named Kylon who wanted to be thought of as an intellectual but who had failed

to gain entrance to the Pythagorean school. He reacted to this by starting the uprising. Pythagoras survived the fire and escaped to the nearby city of Metapontion, where he died in 496 BC.

In the school at Croton, just as Masons have three degrees, the Pythagoreans had three classes of students (4-5 years of learning in each class). This can be related to the idea of Masonic proficiency. Pythagoras demanded that the first-grade students commit to secrecy by the practice of silence. He said «Μήδεις πάντα τοῖς πάσι ρητά» “methi panta tes pasi reta” meaning “not everything can be said to everyone” because the majority of people are not ready to conceive it. The second class of student were permitted to ask questions only, and the third class was allowed to analyze issues. This is very much like Masonry with three degrees.

Among the symbols of the fraternity (symbol always served as the alphabet of the illiterate) there is a right triangle, which represents the Pythagorean Theorem. It is drawn as a right triangle with three squares attached to its sides and known mathematically as $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$. Reduced to its simplest form, in its smallest integers, 3, 4, 5, it is known to all builders for setting right angles.



The Middle Chamber lecture describes a set of winding stairs, of three, five and seven steps, into a place representing the middle chamber of King Solomon's temple. Does the Pythagorean theorem in its simplest form of 3, 4, 5 have any relation to the Middle Chamber and its stairs?

Approaching the stairs, the first set of steps is the number three. As previously mentioned, it is a divine number, and therefore it is only natural that it represents something important – the first three degrees of Masonry, and the three principal officers of the lodge.

After ascending those three steps, we encounter the five steps. The number five represents the hypotenuse of the triangle, and, is emblematic of human nature, the body, and spirit. It is divided into two parts – the first part represents the material achievements of man, and the second represents man's ability to conceive his surroundings (the universe) by using his senses.

“The wise and beneficent author of nature intended, by the formation of this sense [hearing] that we should be social creatures and receive the greatest and most important part of our knowledge by the information of others.” This perfectly complies with Pythagoras' entry level students, practicing secrecy by remaining silent and listening.

After ascending the section of five steps, with its long speeches, we encounter the seven steps. It is immediately apparent that there is no number seven in Pythagoras' triangle (3, 4, 5). So where does the number seven come from?

Looking more closely, the secret is hidden in the fact that the sum of the two sides forming the right angle is seven: $3 + 4 = 7$. Recall forming the right angle of an oblong square. It is now evident where that comes from, the Pythagorean Theorem. With this in mind, it becomes apparent that the number seven represents the spiritual achievements of man after they have studied and conceived the universe.

Those numbers of the two end sections of the stairs, three and seven, add up to 10, the number of the universe, with the number five placed in the middle, balancing them out, thus proving that in the creation of Man, the Grand Architect of the Universe first used matter (clay) to give him form and then enriched him with the spirit, that man uses to study the Universe in order to imitate the divine plan, as stated in the lecture on Geometry.

The Fellowcraft is now ready to receive his wages, but that will be left for another time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

William G. Demetriades
Corinthian Lodge No. 63

John William Ford
Shepherd Salem Lodge No. 78

Norman L. Getchell
Union Lodge No. 40

Chester C. Hatch
Old Well St. Johns Lodge No. 6

Warren H. Hyatt
St. Lukes Lodge No. 48



Elmer B. Latham
Manchester Lodge No. 73

Laurence Harvey Loeb
Compass Lodge No. 9

Frederick W. Rosenbaum
Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14

William Edward Weisert, II
Brainard Lodge No. 102

John R. Whitbeck, Jr.
St. Pauls Lodge No. 11

Hamilton and Trinity Commandery Joint Order of Malta *by Fritzner Erauda*

On Saturday, April 2, Sir Knights from Hamilton Commandery No. 5 and Trinity Commandery No. 3 joined forces at a Special Conclave to portray the Order of Malta on 15 candidates.

The evening began with dinner with the ladies who then enjoyed a program of their own. Before the ceremonies of the evening began, Sir

Knights clad in black mantle embroidered with the Maltese Cross entered the dining hall. Upon seeing the Sir Knights lined up, the hall became silent, broken only by the commanding voice of the Eminent Prior, who began the portrayal of the Order with a preamble that talked about the history of the Knights Hospitaller; the founding of the Order of St. John; the long battle for the protection of the sick, the pilgrims, and the Christian territory; and how the Order of Malta became a Masonic Order.

Following the preamble, the Sir Knights retired to the lodge room, followed by the main ceremony of the evening.

When the portrayal of the Order was concluded, the 15 new Knights of Malta along with the rest of the Sir Knights from both Commanderies rejoined the ladies in the dining hall for fellowship.



The cast of the Order of Malta from Hamilton Commandery & Trinity Commandery with the fifteen newest Knights of Malta

A Celebration of 65 Years in Freemasonry

by Jeffrey A. Blayman

Worshipful Brother John B. Sterry, Sr., or WB Jack as he's known to many, was born January 14, 1934. He was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason at 21 years old. Over his 65 years of dedicated service to the Craft he has assumed many positions: Worshipful Master of Warren Lodge No. 51 in 1979, Associate Grand Marshal of Masonic District 7A from 1990-1992, and serving on the Grand Lodge Committee for Masonic Education in 2006.

His 65 years of service to the fraternity are not to be taken lightly, for men like him, the bridge builders of yesterday, have created the legacy Masons share. Thus, there is pride in honoring men like WB Jack for their tireless dedication and service to this gentle Craft.

Outside of Blue Lodge, WB Jack is a lifelong member of the Shrine where he's held many positions, including Past Captain of the Motor Patrol, and he is still busy as an active member of the American Legion.

But all the credit for these great accomplishments cannot solely be given to Jack. As with that adage that "behind every great man is an even greater woman" the fraternity must also give thanks to his wife Janey for her support and commitment to Masonry as well.



Fellow Shriners came out to show their support including Potentate Vic Fettis.



Surrounded by more than 30 brothers and family members, WB John B. Sterry, Sr. accepted his 65-year pin as a token of esteem from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. The jubilation that continued into the evening left an impression on all who attended. It was indeed a wonderful night to share with fellow Freemasons and to witness brotherly love prevail.



WM Jeffrey Blayman recounts WB Jack's legacy.



Wife Janey pins Bro Jack.



WB John B. Sterry, Sr. and his wife.

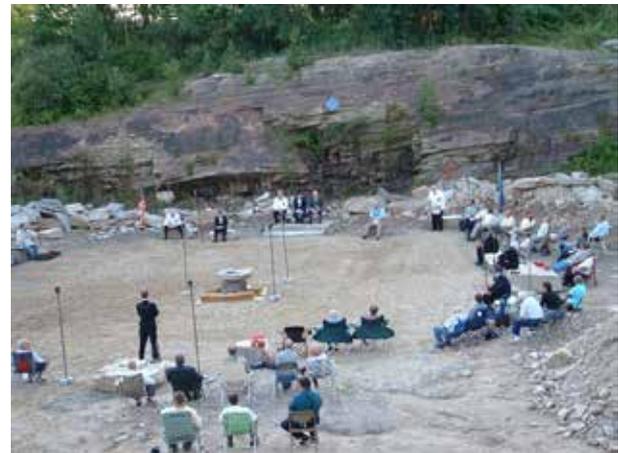
- Grand Lodge Installation -
March 26, 2022



Moosup Lodge No. 113, A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut presents:

The Quarry Rite

A full-form Master Mason degree performed by Past Masters of Moosup Lodge and District 9 in an operative stone quarry under torchlight.



Join us on Saturday, June 4, 2022 to Celebrate Moosup Lodge's 150th Anniversary at The Quarry Rite.

This unique event was last performed in 2017, and was attended by nearly 200 brothers.

On Saturday, June 4, Moosup Lodge celebrates the 150th anniversary of its charter with this distinctive experience.

It will begin at 4 p.m. with a cookout at the quarry, located at 109 Industrial Park Road, Sterling, CT.

Labor on the degree will begin at 6 p.m. and is expected to conclude approximately 10:30. **THIS IS AN OPERATIVE STONE QUARRY—DRESS ACCORDINGLY.** Boots and jeans or shorts are suggested. You may pull up on the nearest rock, but we suggest you bring a lawn chair.

Reservations are required for the cookout. For reservations or more information, contact WB Brian Keith at moosup113@yahoo.com or 860-576-4726.

NOTE: THERE IS NO RAIN DATE.
In case of inclement weather, check the Moosup Lodge Facebook page for event status.

Event proceeds to benefit the Sterling, CT "Family Day" Fund.

BOOSTERS

Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: Update: April 15, 2022.

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Michael G. Fitting	Richard R. Washburn
William H. Flagg	Charles & Barbara Yohe
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Jim & Helen Gillan	In Memory of A. Norman Johnson*
Andy Goodhall	
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Now you can support **Connecticut Freemasons** newspaper online! You spoke and we listened. There is now a PayPal dropdown *Connecticut Freemasons* Booster form on the Grand Lodge home page (ctfreemasons.net) just below the PDF version of the paper. Use the dropdown to select your level, click the "Pay Now" button and then follow the directions. You can pay with credit or debit cards or a PayPal account. The funds are used to help cover the printing and mailing expenses of the paper.



Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*SM



It's Here – MOTDAP.ORG! (Active on May 15)

by Richard F. Denno

That's right, after 12 years, your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program has its own website: www.motdap.org, to become active on May 15. You can guess what the letters stand for. Our site will be loaded with so many inspirational stories of organ donation as well as interesting informational articles on organ/tissue/eye donation. For example, recently doctors performed a transplant of a complete face.

Many people think that you must die to become an organ donor. Did you know that you could save or vastly improve the life of someone with your gift of a lobe of your liver (you have two) or one of your two kidneys? Glastonbury's Harry Kiernan donated these organs, as a living donor, altruistically donated two organs to two total strangers. His thoughtful generosity was accomplished – and he is still alive to enjoy the rest of his life. In a future edition, you'll get to meet Harry and learn his unusual story.

Did you know doctors are now performing full face transplants? I met a face transplant recipient, and you could not tell the difference.

One of the first events on our website is our "The Sky is the Limit" skydiving fundraiser to benefit New England Donor Services and Donate Life CT. The skydive will be held at Ellington Airport on Saturday, July 16 (with a rain date of July 17). Some groups will be diving in honor or memory of a loved one or their lodge. Team Midge Denno will be one of those teams diving. Last year, East Hampton's Anchor Lodge No. 112 donated to the cause and their logo was on the back of our T-shirts. You

can even dive for free. Visit the new website and learn how. Others, non-divers, and lodges can support the dive online with donations as well. You can even register to dive online.

There will be a picnic at the airport that day. Be sure to bring lawn chairs and picnic baskets and watch your friends, loved ones and other divers land before your eyes. Our barbecue chef, MWPGM George Greytak, will fire up his grill and offer hamburgers and hot dogs for your purchasing pleasure. RWB Rinaldo 'Ron' Magliano, Grand Senior Deacon, whose skydive last September was on the cover of the October edition of the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper, will be repeating the feat for your viewing pleasure.

On your website will be columns and articles, by Donate Life CT, UNOS (United Network of Organ Sharing), TRIO, the Transplant Recipients International Organization as well as other donation sources on the latest advances in organ transplantation. Volunteer opportunities will be available to those caring individuals interested in joining us in our life affirming efforts. To become involved with of your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program or Donate Life CT, check put the volunteer section of the website.

So, be sure to check us out at www.motdap.org at the end of the month. Don't forget to visit our skydiving page and be a party of the most exciting program in the history of Connecticut Freemasonry.

As always, remember; **Don't Take Your Organs to Heaven – Heaven Knows We Need Them Here.**



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____ Master Mason

\$250 or more

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 Technology Chairman Mike Abrahamons at michael.abrahamson@ctfreemasons.net.

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

Thu., May 12, 6:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Dinner

Mon., Jun. 6, 7 p.m., Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford

Fellowcraft Degrees

Thu., May 19, 6:30 p.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, Dinner

Wed., May 18, 7:30 p.m., King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury

Tue., Jun. 7, 6:30 p.m., America-St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, Dinner

Thu Jun. 9, 6:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New., Haven, Dinner

Master Mason Degrees

Tue., May 3, 6:30 p.m., America-St. John's Lodge No. 8
Stratford, Dinner

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.

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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.

First Thursday of the Month, 8th Masonic District,
Groton, 9 a.m., Groton Townhouse Restaurant

Third Saturday of the Month, Frederick Franklin Lodge
No. 14, Plainville, 8 a.m., Uncle Bob's Ham & Eggers,
2 Linden Street, Plainville

Events

Sun., May 1, 4 p.m., MWB Bruce Bellmore Gala,
The Woodwinds, 29 School Ground Rd, Branford, CT
This is a celebration for Bro. Bruce R. Bellmore's start as our MWGrand
Master.

Sat., May 7, 6:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven,
District Deputy Presentation for Bro. Glenn Jaques and his AGM.
Bro. Nick Barnes. Ceremony and dinner.

Sun., May 15, 10 a.m., Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, J M Wright
Technical School, 120 Bridge St, Stamford, CT 06905. The JMWT Annual
Car Show. Brothers, family, and friends are encouraged to attend this car and
motorcycle show where Brother Evan will be showing his Model A. [https://
jmwrightpfo.org/car-show](https://jmwrightpfo.org/car-show).

Mon., May 30, 8:30 a.m., Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford,
Memorial Day Parade, Meet at the lodge at 8:30 a.m. and walk to Dutton
park for 9 a.m. starting point. Begin marching around 9:30 a.m. Dress code is
dark suit and tie. All brothers are welcome

Mon., May 30, 9 a.m., Columbia Lodge No. 25, Glastonbury,
Memorial Day Parade, Welles Street & Main Street

SOME MAY OBSERVANCES

•Thur., May 5 ~ Cinco de Mayo •Sun., May 8 ~ Mother's Day • Mon., May 30 ~ Memorial Day

District 6

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



A Return to the Table for Washington Lodge No. 70 by Kevin Dugdale

Washington Lodge No. 70 recently returned a long standing and highly anticipated tradition to the lodge. Monday, March 28, saw the return of "Table Lodge" to the brethren and their guests.

This table lodge has been a longstanding tradition at Washington Lodge for several decades, spanning countless officers, Masters, and brethren alike. The usual crew in the kitchen did not miss a beat, despite not having done it since 2017, and put on a flawless feast for the brothers. The camaraderie, laughter, and good vibes could be felt throughout the room all evening. Lodge was attended by many guests including multiple PGMs, DDs, Past DDs, and Grand Line officers alike.

Thanks to those who attended; it was an honor to have you there. Also, a big thank you to the officers and brothers who pitched in to make this happen. Washington Lodge hopes to keep this tradition in the future!



Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 Helped A Brother in Need by Pat Jones

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 received a call for help last fall from one of its members. Brother William Hitchcock Jr. was raised in Hartford Lodge No. 88 in 1957. In his mid-80s and experiencing medical issues, Bro. Hitchcock was confined to a wheelchair. He needed a ramp so he could get in and out of his house, as he was in danger of losing his independence.

WB Dave Larsen, who was Worshipful Master when the call came in, was committed to making the ramp come to fruition. He rallied brothers to get behind the effort and in a matter of a couple of weeks, the ramp was installed, and Bro. Hitchcock would move freely in and out of his home.

Bro. Hitchcock had a distinguished military career of 24 years, serving in the United States Coast Guard, the United States Air Force, and the United States Army. After serving, he was a Hartford Police Officer for 21 years. He and his wife Ruth raised three daughters and enjoyed their grandson. Prior to his illness he'd enjoyed riding his motorcycle, fishing, and playing the piano. Sadly, Bro. Hitchcock laid down the working tools of life on January 24.

Hartford Evergreen Lodge's current Worshipful Master, WB Dave Prior, keeps a watchful eye on Ruth's situation, and has made a concerted effort to invite the widows and loved ones of the lodge's departed brothers to events and activities. He continues the long tradition of the lodge helping others. Isn't that what being a Mason is all about?



(l-r) WB Dave Larsen, Bro. Bill Hitchcock, daughter Ashlyn and Ruth Hitchcock on the ramp.



Gettin' Hot at Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4

by Melvin E. Johnson

On March 31, Wyllys-St. John's No. 4 hosted the "Warm up at Wyllys" hot sauce tasting event. It featured 12 hot sauces ranging from 1,000 Scoville units to over one million units. A hot time was had by all, including several family members. Many thanks to WB Greg Matthaey who organized it and all who participated.

"Chef" WB Jason Holloway preparing the hot sauce tasting samples

Hamilton Council No. 9 Hosts 11th Annual Robert J. DiPasquale Memorial Dinner

by Mark Orsini

The 11th Annual Robert J. DiPasquale Memorial Surf and Turf Dinner was held on Saturday March 12, at the Meriden Masonic Temple. Hosted by Hamilton Council No. 9, friends and family gathered for a wonderful evening of fellowship and a delicious meal of New York sirloin strip, baked stuffed shrimp, green beans almondine, and baked potato beautifully prepared by Hamilton Council's Thrice Illustrious Master Steven J. Chiappalone and St. Elmo Commandery No. 9's Eminent Commander Christian Schunmann.

The annual fundraiser was held in honor of Robert J. DiPasquale, a Past Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut, who was a mentor to many and a great influence in the Meriden Masonic community. The proceeds from the event will benefit the Cryptic Mason Medical Research Foundation in support of preventing and/or alleviating medical conditions stemming from vascular diseases.

Thank you to all who came out to support the cause.



District 8

Lodges 10, 31, 34, 57, 102, 116, 120, 150



Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34 Celebrates St. Patrick's Day

by Jeffrey A. Blayman

On Saturday, March 6, in Norwich, in what has become a tradition over the last four years, the brothers of Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34, marched with a dispensation from the Grand Master. A cold rain started to fall in the early hours of the morning but miraculously let up 15 minutes before stepping off. The weather was not enough to keep folks away and so this parade had all the enthusiasm one would expect.

The small but dedicated group of brothers engaged the public and enjoyed the cheers as they marched through the streets along the half mile long parade route. When it was over everyone headed indoors to enjoy the Guinness and listen as the many Pipe and Drums groups made their way from building to building entertaining the parade goers. Even as the day drew to a close one could tell everyone felt lucky to be out on the town and enjoying the jubilation. Slainté.



The brothers of Somerset-St. James No. 34



2022 Parade Grand Marshall Angela Adams



Bros. Frank Saviano and Jeffery Blayman



The Concentric Circle is Growing

We are giving Masons and fraternal family members even more reason to choose Masonicare. With benefits developed exclusively for Masons, you can be sure you are receiving the best-in-class care and service you deserve from the provider you trust.



More benefits for you in 2022!

NEW! Effective May 1 for new move-ins: Masonicare is offering Masons, Masonic widows, and the rest of the Masonic Family a six-month, 5% discount on base monthly fees (excluding healthcare charges) in our Independent Living and Assisted Living communities! These include Masonicare at Ashlar Village, Pond Ridge Assisted Living, Masonicare at Chester Village, Masonicare at Mystic, and the Apartments on Masonic Avenue in Wallingford – A. Norman Johnson Apartments, Hawkins Apartments, and Wells Apartments – all of which offer convenient access to Masonicare Health Center.

Additional Concentric Circle Benefits include:

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- **REDUCED PRICING** on applications for our residential communities
- **FREE HEARING SCREENINGS** in the Masonicare Hearing Center
- **FREE BALANCE ASSESSMENTS** in the Masonicare Health Center Outpatient Rehabilitation Department
- **WAIVED ADVANCE PAYMENTS** on Masonicare at Home (in-home, non-medical homemaker-companion services)



[Masonicare.org](https://www.masonicare.org)



Masonicare Community Services **800.982.3919**

22 Masonic Avenue . Wallingford, CT 06492

Join Us!

★ **Grand Masters Day Family Festival** ★
★ **Saturday, June 11, 2022** ★

A day to honor individuals, past and present.
Masonicare Health Center, 22 Masonic Ave., Wallingford
10:00AM - 3:00PM

- **The Grand Masters**, Bruce R. Bellmore and Arnold Holmes
- **10:30am: Parade** featuring bands, motorcycles, antique cars, marching units and a competition for Masonic districts for the Grand Master's Cup, for the greatest attendance of a Masonic district at the parade
- **Festive food** by Masonicare
- **Music** under the big tent
- **Community Health Fair**
- **Enhanced Free Youth Activities**
- **Carnival Games**
- **Petting Zoo**
- **Pedal Car Races & Model Railroad**
- **Dance Party** - With DJ under the main tent 1:00pm

Activities & FUN
for all ages! **FREE!**
Admission!



Bruce Bellmore
Most Worshipful Grand Master,
Grand Lodge of CT, A.F. & A.M.



Arnold Holmes
Most Worshipful Grand Master,
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of CT.



Questions? Call 800.982.3919

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