

July/August 2022



Connecticut FREEMASONS



*Grand Masters
Day -
June 11, 2022*



Inside This Issue

**Invitation to the Masonic Family
for a Picnic on August 13**

Grand Master's Day Photos

**Form For Lodges to Advertise
Statewide Pasta Dinner**



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A. F. & A. M. 2022- 2023**



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*Congratulations to
DISTRICT 1,
the July/August 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.

Not just a man. A Mason.



Grand Masters Day - A Grand Day in June

by Francis G. Way

Volume 18 - Number 1

Publisher

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

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*Grand
Masters
Day
June 11, 2022*

On a warm June morning, Saturday, June 11, Grand Masters Day returned to its regular second Saturday in June date. Many brothers, families, and friends turned out to celebrate on a warm summer day, at times sunny, at times partly cloudy, but always smiling.

The festivities kicked off with a parade. MWGM Bruce R. Bellmore and MWGM Arnold L. Holmes led the way, much to the delight of the residents of Masonicare. Following were bands, the Shrine Motor Patrol, and marchers representing all the Masonic bodies and organizations.

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. The many photos appearing throughout this issue will tell the story of that fun day much better than can be described here.

If you have not attended a Grand Masters Day, make plans to do so next year. You will not be disappointed!



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

BRUCE R. BELLMORE
Grand Master 2022
69 Masonic Avenue
Wallingford, CT 06492



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June 8, 2022

My dear brothers,

Our George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA, will be 100 years old next year. This is our Memorial, as every Master Mason in this Grand Lodge is an owner.

The lodges in Connecticut, along with our sister Grand Jurisdictions across America have been challenged to hold a fundraising "COMMUNITY PASTA DINNER" on the same night, Friday, September 23, 2022.

As Grand Master, I am encouraging every lodge in the State of Connecticut that has the capability to coordinate and implement this event to participate in their community this September. If unable to participate as an individual lodge, join forces with another lodge nearby.

This is much more than just another lodge dinner. It is an opportunity to participate in a great cause with your brothers from across the country and raise community awareness of who we are as Freemasons. To show our friends and neighbors that we, as Freemasons, cherish our heritage, our founding fathers, and the principles that have made this country a beacon of freedom to the world. This is also an opportunity for your lodge to meet gentlemen of like mind that may show an interest in becoming a member.

The Grand Secretary has sent every Master and Secretary a set of Word documents that you can tailor to your lodge's need to assist in the planning and implementation of this event. But as of this writing, only three lodges have responded.

We need lodges to email State Chairman, WB Larry S. Baker at lsb127@comcast.net, their letter of intent to participate no later than June 30 so that we can include the lodge location in the state-wide publicity campaign.

The George Washington Memorial Association has planned a "100th Anniversary Rededication of Cornerstone Laying" for Monday, February 20, 2023, in Alexandria, VA, and invites all to view the splendor of over 11 million dollars invested in renovations/maintenance and repair projects since 2000. The Grand Masters of North America will be participating in these ceremonies with thousands of Freemasons from across the country. We hope that each of you will consider joining us.

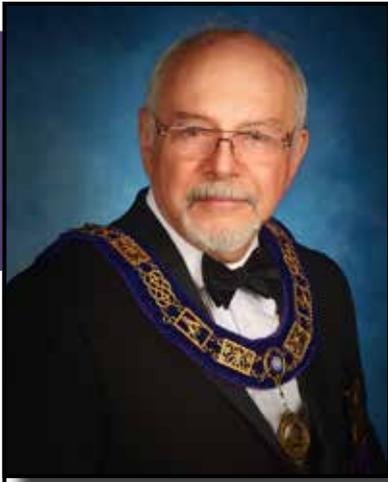
This magnificent 333ft tall edifice, a beacon of Freemasonry shining every night across to our nation's capital, requires our continued support to enable it to shine for generations to come.

My brothers, I thank you in advance for all your efforts and dedication to make this nationwide event a success.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruce R. Bellmore".

Rev. and Bro. Bruce R. Bellmore
Grand Master



Grand Master's Message

by Rev. and MWB Bruce R. Bellmore



My dear Brothers,

I had the pleasure of attending the Annual Meeting of the Masonic Communities and Services Association, or MCSA, which was hosted by Masonicare at the Mystic Hilton. It was a wonderful event where Masonic organizations across the country met to exchange ideas on how we can best serve our brothers and their families as they age or face healthcare challenges. The theme was “Navigating Change” and the senior management of Masonicare was leading the discussions. Connecticut Masons can be proud that Masonicare is recognized throughout the senior care industry as a leader and our management team’s efforts during the pandemic and changing economic times are setting a standard for the future of the industry.

While lodges traditionally go “dark” during the summer months, the Grand Lodge has several opportunities for fellowship and family fun this year. Our Masonic Family Picnic on August 13, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Ashlar Village will be a wonderful event for the whole family. We will have food, games, a DJ, and just a great time to enjoy each other’s company.

On August 27, we are sponsoring a trip to Tanglewood in conjunction with the Scottish Rite Valley of Bridgeport. There will be two buses, one from the Stratford area and one from the Newington Area. We will stop at the Norman Rockwell Museum, then enjoy a picnic dinner on the “lawn” followed by a concert featuring the Boston Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Michael Tilson Thomas.

I would also direct your attention to my letter in this issue concerning our Statewide Spaghetti Supper to support our George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA. This is in anticipation of the anniversary and reenactment of the laying of the cornerstone on February 20, 2023. The Memorial has gone through extensive renovation caused by age and the earthquake that struck the greater Washington D.C. area several years ago. These needed repairs and the loss of revenue caused by mandated closures due to the pandemic have put severe financial strain on the Memorial and this program is a great way to help, as well as a good opportunity to invite the public into our buildings.

Another great event this fall will be on Saturday, October 29. The Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut, and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge F & AM of Connecticut, will hold a “Lewis Myrick Unity Gala” at Ashlar Village. The program will include appetizers, dinner, and dancing to the music of Eight to the Bar. Look for the announcement in the this issue of the Connecticut Freemasons.

Finally, my brothers, keep the light of Freemasonry shining. Our world needs the light of friendship, morality, and brotherly love as portrayed in our rituals. Let your light shine!

Stay safe and be well.

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

Leslie L. Baston
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Charles Smith Beebe
Wyllys St. John's Lodge No. 4

Lloyd C. Cook, Jr.
Harmony Lodge No. 67

Arnold L. Lazaroff
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Richard Edwin Montelius
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Alexander R. Nosevich
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Meridian Lodge No. 77

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Uriel Lodge No. 24

Louis E. St. George, Jr.
Corinthian Lodge No. 63

Frederick Brooks Storms
St. Peters Lodge No. 21

Derwin Schroeder Vaill
Seneca Lodge No. 55

George A. Washburn
Valley Lodge No. 36

Service and Sacrifice by John White

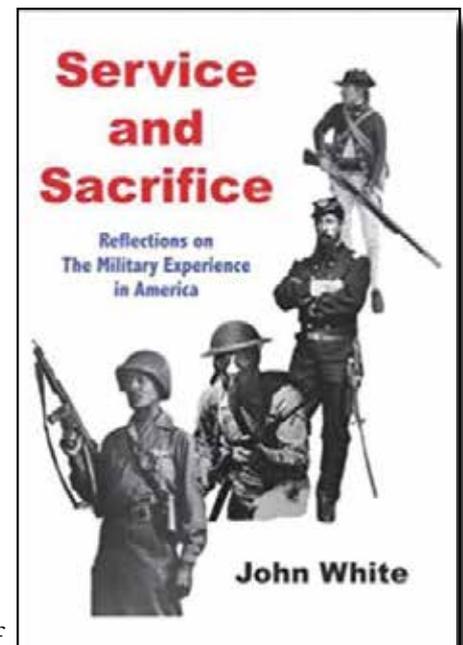
Reviewed by John A. Amarillos, ASIN: B09NRG8G13

The latest offering from Brother John White is an amazing compendium of information of reflections on the military experience in America. The book presents a uniquely Connecticut perspective on the topic (but it is far from being Connecticut-centric). This is a book that belongs in everyone's history collection as it presents a unique compendium of information rarely found in one concise 129-page tome. Brothers who are also Princes of the Royal Secret should be able to strongly associate with the practical expressions illustrated herein. Anyone seeking a relevant and modern expression of what sacrifice and brotherly love entail will find it richly described in this book.

The book is broken into four discrete sections. The first deals with local hometown heroes with a special look at veterans and special veteran's events in Cheshire. The second deals with the author's interactions with notable and unforgettable local veterans. The third part is a survey of American military history and American heroes from the American Revolution through Vietnam. The last section explains and illustrates the various medals, military accouterments, and traditions that honor and commemorate military service in the U.S. Lastly, there are two very useful appendices, the first of which contains the lyrics of the official songs of the various military services. The second examines the topic of the freedoms we enjoy – namely physical, mental, social, and spiritual, and how these were gifted to us by those who sacrificed to ensure we received these gifts.

There is a significant albeit concise section dealing with the spiritual underpinnings of the nation and explaining how these were part and parcel of the founding of our system of government. Deity and its will for the uplifting of humanity plays a significant part in rounding out this glorious book which is a tribute to those who have sacrificed their all in order to give us an opportunity to experience a life that is filled with liberty and the possibility of the full expression of our mortal wants and desires.

The book is an easy read that moves quickly and is packed with so many hard-to-find facts about American patriotism and military tradition that I am sure that it will be a go-to reference long after one has read it through!



From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

I want to kick off this last column before *Connecticut Freemasons* summer hiatus with a huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us last month at our Grand Masters Day Family Festival in Wallingford. As you can see from the photos in this issue, we enjoyed great company and great weather in celebration of our residents and Masonicare's special relationship with the Masonic family.

In addition to Grand Masters Day and Employee Appreciation events at every Masonicare location, June was also awards season for some of our industry partners. LeadingAge Connecticut hosted its Caring Hands Award Ceremony and Luncheon to honor special nursing aides at member nursing homes, home health care agencies, and assisted living communities. Masonicare's honorees included Hannah Bielecki, a Resident Care Assistant at the Smithfield Gardens assisted living community, Home Health Aide Laura Deschenes from Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, and Masonicare Health Center Certified Nursing Assistants Kimberly Garipey (Behavioral Health) and Kathryn Powell (Skilled Nursing).

At the Connecticut Assisted Living Association's (CALA) Annual Outstanding Resident Service Awards, Honorable Mentions were

given to Rebecca Rioux, ALSA Director at Fort Hill, and Eileen Young, Concierge/Receptionist at Masonicare at Mystic.

Congratulations to all of these fantastic Masonicare team members who deliver on our promise to treat every resident and patient with dignity and respect.

Have a great summer. Stay safe!



Sincerely and fraternally,



President and CEO, Masonicare



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CT HIC.0634349; CT NHC.0015842



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

Ralph R. Brooder
Meridian Lodge No. 77

Paul William Orstad
Brainard Lodge No. 102



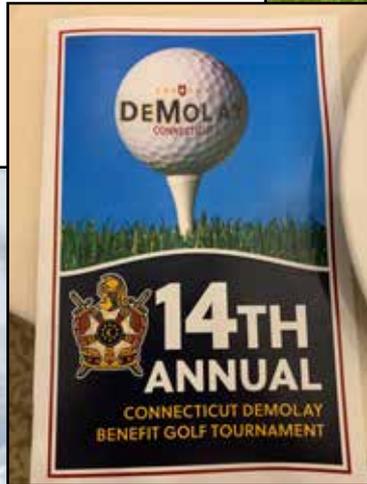
14th Annual DeMolay Benefit Golf Tournament

by Jeffrey A. Blayman

It was not long ago that this event was called due to thunderstorms in the area after merely a few holes. But with the weather on their side this time, on Saturday, June 4, Connecticut DeMolay held their benefit golf tournament. Brothers attended from all over the state and from every appendant body to help raise funds for these stellar young men.

The Farms Country Club, conveniently right around the corner from Ashlar Village in Wallingford, again played host to the players and supporters. Everyone enjoyed the course and time with their brothers and companions. The weather was as perfect as the well-groomed fairways and hard fast greens.

After the round, the brothers headed indoors for a buffet dinner and bidding on the slew of generously donated silent auction items and raffle prizes. As the evening ended, brothers cheerfully departed having enjoyed some fun in the sun and raising funds for the young gentlemen of Connecticut's DeMolay.



Ed. Note: This quest is starting in Masonic District 1A is open to any brother who may have an interest in trying to solve the puzzle, whether by visiting those lodges or following along in various articles that may appear on our Masonic social media or this publication. Questions should be directed to Brother Richard Gross (richardgross@optonline.net).

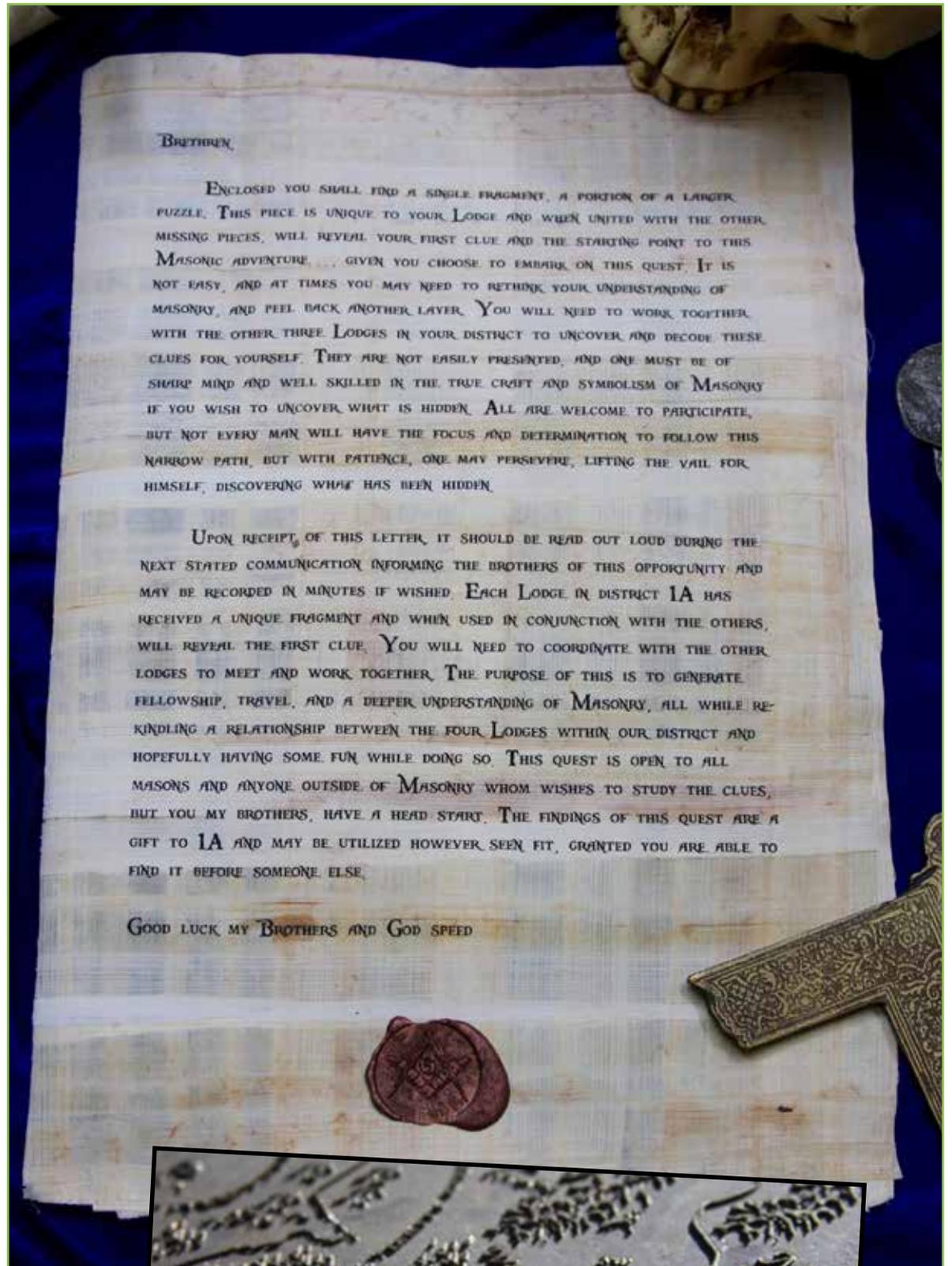
Looking For Something Fun to Do This Summer? How About a Real Quest for Masonic Treasure?

In doing so, you may experience spiritual growth, a different perspective on Masonry, and fellowship with other brothers around the district and the jurisdiction. This has been many years in the making, and a passion of mine, but due to the pandemic, and Union Lodge No. 5's uncertain future regarding its current location in Stamford, some adjustments had to be made.

Rather than all stationary clues hidden in plain sight as originally intended, the clues will be presented in person as brothers consciously uncover them and notify me. Those findings will then be submitted here to the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper each time another clue is discovered. That way you can keep up with this treasure hunt or get involved. It's up to you! Nonetheless, there is truly something to be discovered!

Accompanying this article are two images. The one below is one of the five pieces of a Masonic puzzle. The four other pieces were sent out to four other lodges along with the papyrus transcript pictured to the right. Only after all five pieces of the puzzle are united can the first clue to this quest be decoded.

Good luck brothers! Have fun and enjoy!



VALLEY OF HARTFORD, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr.

Whether you are a member of the Valley of Hartford, a member of the Craft, or someone who enjoys just reading this newspaper, I hope my articles give you some insight into what happens at our beloved Scottish Rite organization here in Newington. If you're an outsider reading this article, here is something you may not know.

To be a Scottish Rite Mason, you first must become a Mason in good standing at a Blue Lodge anywhere in the world. This requirement also applies to members of the Shrine, Grotto, York Rite, or another appendant or concordant organization of our Craft. All these Masonic organizations are for men only. However, there are organizations for women, the Order of Eastern Star, Daughters of the Nile, and Amaranth, just to name a few. Then there are the youth organizations - DeMolay and Rainbow. These are sponsored by our Masonic organizations for boys and girls whether their family is affiliated with Masonry or not. I hope this gives some insight into our organization.

June 2022

Grand Masters Day usually occurs on the second Saturday in June. This year it was on June 11, and there was great weather and a larger parade than last year. It is my wish that someday Scottish Rite marches under a banner like the members of York Rite do.

On June 17, the members of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Hartford, Inc., attended their Annual Meeting and luncheon at the Casa Mia at the Hawthorne. Valley of Hartford members can become members of the Foundation for a one-time lifetime membership fee. The Foundation overseeing the Valley building, meets annually for a meeting and luncheon that is free to its members. Contact the Valley Office for more information.

July 2022

In July, the officers of the Cyrus Goodell Chapter of Rose Croix are planning a special event on Thursday, July 14. It should be enjoyable to be sure to watch your email for an

email spelling out what is planned for that evening.

The other July event is the Annual 5K Run/Walk to support the Children's Dyslexia Center on Saturday, July 23. Volunteers are needed so if any of you, your family, or your friends can give a couple of hours on the morning of the event, that would be helpful. Help is needed with manning water stations, helping on the racecourse, manning the start and finish line stations, or working at the food booth. Please contact the Valley Office if you can help.

The names of the recipients of the Scottish Rite Abbott Scholarships and the Valley of Hartford Sterling N. Viets Scholarships are not yet known. They will be published in the next article, and if they are able to attend the Annual Family Picnic, they will be congratulated and recognized in person.

August 2022

The Annual Workers Night and Installation of Officer will be held on Thursday, August 18, at the Casa Mia at the Hawthorne, and the Annual Family Picnic will be held on Saturday, September 3. Both dates are later than in previous years.

Finally, it's not too late to think about how you can assist the Valley during the 2022-2023 season. We are not only looking for candidates but members who are willing to help on degree night in a variety of jobs. Opportunities include both speaking and non-speaking parts in degrees, stagehands, make-up, costumes, helping check-in brothers, and helping with hospitality.

Until September, stay safe and have a great summer. Enjoy that precious time with family and friends!





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

A recent survey by the Supreme Council, NMJ, showed four top reasons why Master Masons joined the Scottish Rite:

- 1) Continuing the Masonic Journey
- 2) Continuing my personal journey
- 3) Expanding my Fraternal circle
- 4) Educational opportunities

~

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: scottishritenmj.org

~

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

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!**

**The Memorial is a National Historic
Landmark that stands as American
Freemasonry's tribute to George
Washington and the values of Freedom.**

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

Sphinx Shrine News

by Eric Pogg



The Sphinx False Alarmers, also known as the little fire trucks, began when Harry Olsen, Sphinx Shriners 2001 Potentate, would bring a little fire truck to parades with the assistance of the Motor Patrol. Harry served in the CT Air National Guard as a crew chief, retired as a Lieutenant

at the Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Company Fire Department, and started, owned, and operated the Manchester Fire Extinguisher Company for over 25 years. He and other Sphinx Shriners members, who were also members of regular and volunteer fire departments, formed the False Alarmers Club in 2001. They soon acquired other little antique fire trucks from other Shrines and private owners. Any member can join the False Alarmers, whether they are firefighters or not.

Noble Bill Mellow is presently the captain of the "False Alarmers Club," one of several clubs/units in Sphinx Shrine. Their contribution to "visibility" is driving the small firetrucks in parades. The False Alarmers average is about 12 parades per year, starting in March and ending in October. They meet once a month for a business meeting. They don't hold practice sessions. The goal is to staff four "trucks" and the van for each parade. There are several more vehicles that need some tender loving care that a good mechanic and or an electrician could work on.

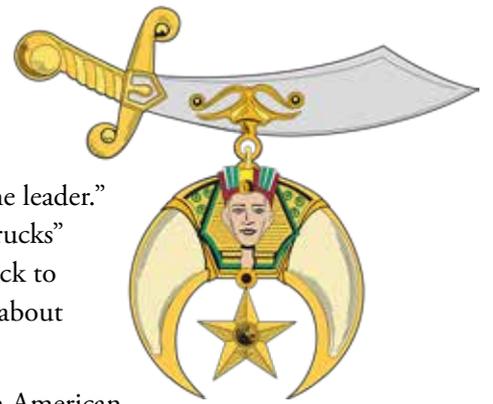
Volunteer members are asked to at least drive in one parade per year. You can learn to drive in about 5 minutes. If the "trucks" are not to your liking, you can follow behind on the parade route and wave to everyone in the van. You can also help on non-parade days with maintenance.

On the day of a parade, the False Alarmers meet in the parking lot of the Shrine and board the luxurious air-conditioned van for transport to the parade. Upon arrival, they offload the "trucks" from the trailer and do maintenance checks which consist of fueling, checking the oil, kicking the tires, and inspecting all the lights and sirens. When the parade starts, they

mount up and all play "follow the leader." In the end, they reload all the "trucks" back into the trailer and head back to Newington. The average time is about four hours.

The vehicles are decorated with American flags, the Shrine flag, a Masonic flag, bells, whistles, sirens, lights, and most importantly, a couple of large stuffed dalmatians. A water hose is working to keep everyone cool during a hot parade. The crowds at each of the parades are always entertained, especially at fireman parades as the False Alarmers are often dwarfed by the full-size engines, pumpers, and ladder trucks that surround them. If the False Alarmers seem like a fit for you, contact the Sphinx Shrine office for more information.

Upcoming summer events of the Sphinx Shrine Motor Patrol include an all-you-can-eat steak dinner with garden salad, baked & mashed potatoes, macaroni & cheese, baked beans, brownie sundae, and beverage on July



30. The \$35 tickets (kids 5-12 are \$15) can be purchased online at <http://steakspectacular.com> or at the Shrine office. Raffle prizes will be in the dozens. Doors open at 5 p.m. for the bar and raffle viewing. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. Bring your own steak knife and a hefty appetite.

The All You Can Eat Wing & Fry Night will be held on Saturday, August 13 from 6-9 p.m. The Red Sox vs. Yankees game will be broadcast on the big projector screen at 7:15 p.m. Bone-in jumbo chicken wings with a variety of flavors, carrots and celery, ranch and blue cheese dressings, and French fries. The \$20 tickets (kids 5-12 are

\$12) tickets can be purchased at <http://wingandfrynight.eventbrite.com> or at the Shrine office. Don't forget to wear your team jerseys!

The first week of July Sphinx will be heading to Minneapolis, MN for the Imperial Session. Competitions, the parade, fireworks, a brew fest, baseball, pageant, and many other events will keep everyone occupied after the necessary business sessions. On July 29th – 30th Sphinx will be hosting the Mid-Atlantic Association Shrine Motor Corps. Golf, hospitality, a steak dinner, meetings, and plenty of Brotherhood are to be expected. Sphinx Shrine wishes everyone to have a safe, happy, and healthy summer.

Sphinx Shriners

3066 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06111

860-666-5449
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

The “Eyes” Have it!

by John A. Amarillos, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

The Valley of Bridgeport heads into the summer season with a balanced mix of labor and refreshment. The spring-summer degree season concludes at the Stratford Theatre on Saturday, July 23, at 11 a.m. with a live presentation of the 7th Degree and a video rendition of the 24th Degree. This will be followed by a luncheon at the Pyramid Shrine next door to the Theatre.

The summer family life activities start on July 10, with a ferry ride and a visit to Port Jefferson at 8 a.m. On July 16, we have a field trip to the Rhinebeck, NY, Aerodrome Airshow, and dinner at the historic Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck. On August 6, the Annual Clambake happens at Booth Park in Stratford. On August 12, there is the summer Scotch and Cigar Night in Stamford and on August 27, the annual pilgrimage to Tanglewood in Lenox, MA, with a side visit to the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, MA.

Reservations and membership in the Rite are mandatory. Please call the Consistory office for further details and for payment and reservation details at (203) 375-0064.



Learning to subdue our passions is a cornerstone of the Masonic science of gathering Light and the pursuit of self-improvement and regeneration. According to the Discovery Eye Foundation, “80% of our memories are determined by what we see.” Indeed, the eyes are the gatekeepers to our thoughts and as such, are the most significant influence on our thoughts and resulting desires and passions. The Great Light references the eyes some 500 times as they play a significant role in our moral and character development.

Perhaps the greatest example of a righteous man was Job. Despite being enormously wealthy and having access to anything he may have wanted (Job 1:3), he was considered one of the greatest men of Egypt as he realized the importance of the proper use of sight. He made a covenant with his eyes (Job 31:1) to control and limit what he looked at. The text up to Verse 12 deals with the issue of avoidance of adultery, and yet that is but one type of passion that can be engendered through sight.

The proper employment of the eyes plays a critical role in learning to control one’s passion. We are warned in 1 John 2:16 that “... the lust of the eyes...is not of the Father but is of the world.” The Greek word for lust means “desire, longing, desire for that which is forbidden.” The proper use of the eyes also entails the ability to discern and avoid using sight when it will proximately cause us to react in a way that is incompatible with our striving for Light.

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Attention All Master Masons!

SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES

Sat., July 23 - 11 a.m.
7th Degree (live) with 24th Degree (digital)
with a luncheon following the degrees.

Mon., Sept. 12 - 7:30 p.m.
4th Degree (live) with 13th Degree (digital)

Mon., Oct 3 - 7:30 p.m.
28th Degree (live) with 6th Degree (digital)

**Dinners are at 6 p.m. in the Shrine building
unless otherwise stated**

**Reservations required. Call the
Consistory Office at 203-375-0064.**

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

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

In the internet era, we are subjected to various gradations of porn, and lasciviousness effortlessly in almost every venue of entertainment, “news” and, of course, advertising. It comes streaming into our homes, and offices and is ever-present about us. The merchants of materialism also create lust for possessions engendering greed, feelings of inadequacy, and jealousy. Again, the Great Light comes to the rescue and guides us on what to do when confronted with this type of “poor sight:” We are simply instructed to “FLEE” (1 Corinthians 6:18).

If you have embarked on the Great Work, you realize that you have embarked on a difficult and rigorous regimen that cannot be understood by the masses of mesmerized humanity who neither care nor understand your search for More Light. Remember that many are called, but few are chosen.

The search for Light is not for the weak:

... There's only one song worth singin',
They may try and sell ya,
'Cause it hangs them up to see someone like you.
But you've gotta make your own music
Sing your own special song,
Make your own kind of music even if nobody else sings along.
You're gonna be knowing
The loneliest kind of lonely,
It may be rough goin',
Just to do your thing's the hardest thing to do.
But you've gotta make your own music
Sing your own special song...

Make Your Own Kind of Music
-- The Mamas and the Papas

Have a safe and wonderfully productive summer. 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.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO DIVE IS NOW!

The Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program and COCA

"The Sky is the Limit" Skydiving Fundraiser

To support New England Donor Services (NEDS).



Saturday, July 16, 2022
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

RAISE \$500 or MORE and DIVE FOR FREE!

(The cost to skydive is only \$250 p/p)

To register online to skydive, go to www.skydivect.com and click "First Jumpers." Then click "Tandem Video Waiver" to complete and submit the form. Skydiving payment **MUST** be made at the time of registration.

All monies collected (for the dive, donations, or both) are made either:

- Online by credit card by visiting our www.ctfreemasons.net website. Click "**About Us**," then click "**Connecticut Freemasons Foundation**" and "**Donate**" where you can pay by **Credit or Debit Card**. Use the Grand Almoner's fund selection as to where the funds should be directed. **Under "Write a Note" indicate "Skydiving for Masonic Donor Program."**
- Checks should be made out to "The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation" and mailed to PO Box 69, Wallingford, CT 06492. Your registration is not complete until payment is received. **In memo please note "Skydiving for Masonic Donor Program."**

Can't dive? Come join us for a festive time as we cheer on the divers as they land. There will be prizes, foof, and of course 'Fred the Wonder Lobster.' If a brother from your lodge is jumping earlier, feel free to come early!

The location is Ellington Airport, 360 Somers Road, Ellington, CT. **Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your jump and check in.** If weather is questionable, call ahead to the Ellington Airport - 860.871.0021. **Rain date: July 17.** For questions email or call: WB Richard Denno, Donate Life Program Coordinator, toursone@comcast.net - 860.508.3787.

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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.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

Everette Isaiah Hill
Enivaldo Gustavo Jimenez
Union Lodge No. 5

Raymond Benson, II
Joseph Ireland Dwyer
Christian Lutin
Matt Sajaw
America St. John's Lodge No. 8



New Britain Assembly International Order of Rainbow for Girls Cleans Up

by Harry Needham

On April 23, members of the New Britain Assembly, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG) participated in a spring cleanup day at Martha Hart Park. New Britain Assembly participates in many services, fundraising, and community projects throughout the year. On this day, they cleaned up at the park as part of an Earth Day service project and discarded materials picked up back at the lodge. With work completed, the members relaxed and recharged with a delicious pizza lunch. Unity Lodge No. 148 is proud to sponsor this Assembly and to be associated with such a great group of young ladies. Congratulations and thank you.



*Grand Masters Day -
June 11, 2022*

Continuing Education

by Jeffrey A. Blayman

Throughout the course of many brothers' lives, they see and hear many lectures in the lodge room. However, understanding the lexicon of Masonic lore or committing them to memory is another story. In an effort to entice brothers back to lodge and entertain them with information they may have forgotten, Warren Lodge No. 51 employed a schedule of guest speakers. Over the course of the year, monthly reminders in the form of actual postcards, text messages, and the occasional phone call went out to keep the seats full and reengage with brothers lost due to the ebb and flow of time.

Guest orators, among others, were famed Historian Bro. Damien Cregeau who spoke on Revolutionary War General Ebenezer Huntington, RWB Richard Washburn who spoke on the Circumambulation meditations, WB Andrew Pedro who spoke on recruitment, and WB Nick Valinsky spoke on the usage of the Masonic Trial.

One of the lectures that was especially interesting was by guest speaker MWPGM Theodore J. Nelson. After a wonderful festive board filled with fellowship and good food, MWB Ted elucidated on the Beehive Lecture as he discussed Brainard Lodge's traditions with plenty of group participation. WB Jack Sterry, Sr. even mentioned having a fabled songbook from years past.

MWB Ted gave a colorful presentation highlighting the eight monitorial

Masonic emblems which are the Pot of Incense, the Beehive, the Book of Constitutions Guarded by the Tyler's Sword, the Sword Pointing to a Naked Heart, the Anchor and Ark, the 47th Problem of Euclid, The Hourglass, and the Scythe. Many readers are potentially unfamiliar with the meaning of all eight emblems. This illustrates the value of continuing Masonic education both in lodge and out. Please feel free to reach out and join us brothers. We'd love to see you on any 1st or 3rd Thursday.



Bro. Damien Cregeau discusses Revolutionary War Patriots



MWB Ted Nelson discussion of the Beehive lecture.



Pre-education festive board at the Portland Ale House



Discussion of the last apron of the Knights Templar



Grand Masters Day -
June 11, 2022



Sphinx Shrine Motor Patrol Rides in Seven Parades

by Eric Pogg

The Sphinx Shrine Motor Patrol spent the Memorial Day Weekend honoring veterans by participating in seven parades. Saturday started with Newington, Sunday in Portland then off to Middlebury. On Monday, the Motor Patrol split, with the first group starting off in Vernon and then to Mystic while the second group started in East Hartford and finished in New Britain. Even Miss Connecticut likes the “little cars.”



The Three Identities of the Soul (The Three Fates)

by Vasilios Tiniakos

Plato's Republic provides many educational parables in the form of dialogues, one of which is dedicated to the study of "what is justice?"

Cephalus says to Socrates: "...Hope cherishes the soul of him who lives in justice and holiness and is the nurse of his age and the companion of his journey, hope which is mightiest to sway the restless son of man."

Later in the dialogue, they describe justice as constituting a good man: "...and a great blessing of riches, I do not say to every man, but to a good man..."

In this, it is important to remember the words of the 3rd section lecture of the Entered Apprentice Degree: "...and as justice, in a great measure, constitutes the really good man, so should it be the invariable practice of every Mason never to deviate from the minutest principles thereof..."

According to Plato, justice must be in the soul of a good man for it to be exercised and applied. All the philosopher's belief about the soul is based on two things: first mythology, and second, metaphysical philosophy.

Both Pythagoras and Plato have cherished the value of the purified soul, and they have developed great ideas about it. Consider how mythology has influenced their understanding of the nature of the soul, keeping in mind what mythology really is: the attempt of humans to tell a true story in the form of a legend, that, with the passing of the ages, becomes a myth.

One such myth is the legendary war of two gods: Zeus against his father, Cronos. Zeus, the younger and the strongest, of the two, was victorious and not wanting to kill his father, imprisoned Cronos in a metaphysical ("unexplained in physical terms") parallel universe, one meant to be reserved for perfected spirits only. So, Cronos will remain there for eternity. That parallel universe was meant for purified identities that had no more room for perfection in their purified souls.

What did the fighting of the gods mean to these philosophers and how did they know about it?

That is a mystery. Only speculation can be made. Regarding the first question, in their minds it may have been a physical reaction of universal proportions taking place after the Big Bang, setting up the requirements for the present form and shape of the universe. Such a reaction must have been very impressive, and which to the philosophers' minds, seemed like a clash of gods. One can assume that the philosophers knew the actual nature of the event, or that they were able to figure it out.

But Pythagoras has said, "not everything can be said to everyone..." So, it was presented in the form of mythology. Some may say, however, that those assumptions may take away from the truth. The question then arises as to the meaning of the sentence "I will substitute a word until future ages shall find out the right."

The philosophers probably knew the truth or suspected it, but for most people it was inconceivable. The scholars had to give a more simplistic explanation to the people. And since it could not be conceived due to the average mind's lack of information and knowledge, the metaphysical factor took over, and mythology filled the gap of what cannot be understood by the common minds of the average people.

At some point in time the philosophers then managed to take it one step further and conceive of the ideas of life, and death. How they conceived those ideas is another mystery that led them to the philosophers of the past, such as Orfeus, the first known ierofántes, or priest-philosopher of the pre-Hellenistic era, and to the theories of existence such as human creation, divinity, world creation, good, evil, justice, and soul.

Many ideas emerged that turned into theories, and as years passed, a few more convincing theories started to prevail. These have survived our days in the form of written words. Before considering Plato's presentation of the soul, let's look at some assumptions about the soul's purification process.

Metempsychosis, also known as reincarnation, is defined as the transmigration of the soul. Transmigration, or metastasis, is the transfer of something from one place to another. But the actual philosophical meaning that the philosophers gave to the word is the after-death metastasis of the soul to that parallel, monopolistic universe, where earlier the father of gods and men, Zeus, had imprisoned his own father.

That universe, as noted earlier, only allows genuinely purified souls to enter and be sheltered

there for eternity. The souls that are not pure must be returned to the material universe – the bipolar one. For a soul to experience death, it must be living in a body, and bodies exist in the bipolar material universe. In the bipolar universe, everything has its opposite, since everything constantly changes... "ta tiavita pei'...meaning "everything is constantly flowing." When the souls return to the material universe, in order for them to live another life in a new body, there is a merging of the spiritual substance of the soul and the body.

At this merging, as was the custom in antiquity, the soul was represented by three women, two of them younger and energetic, and one an older and matured woman – Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos.

Clotho, being the youngest of the three sisters, and having more energy than the other two, is the one who provides wealth (matter in the form of accumulated plurality of material goods), symbolized by woolen thread. As soon the soul merges into this material universe, it becomes vulnerable and weakened by wanting wealth. Clotho reveals her identity as a spinster who spins the thread of life which means that she is the giver of the life and makes the decision about when one man may be born, as the wool thread represents life and its duration. But this production of wealth defeats the purpose of being reincarnated. As Plato said "...the philosopher's life, and everybody's life, should be spent for preparation of the moment when the separation of the body and soul takes place."

Lachesis, the middle sister, is collecting the thread provided by Clotho, collecting it into a ball that represents the need of men to collect material wealth.

Atropos is working surprises, and without warning, she will cut the thread provided by Clotho causing an end to life of that spirit, causing the separation of the body and soul (death). The two younger sisters, respect and obey Atropos, whose opinion prevails over that of the two others.

The three sisters are the offspring of Zeus, and the Themis, the goddess of justice. They had inherent godly powers and reported only to their father Zeus, who had the authority to intervene and alter his daughter's decisions.

According to Pythagoras, a soul may return to the material universe as many as 10 times, a very long time in terms of a life span, to have the different experiences necessary to be purified. The important thing here is that the philosophers cherished a purified soul as it exists inside a good man.

Continued on page 18

I Need a Kidney!

I'm Richard R. Brancifort a 42-year Mason with Sequin-Level Lodge 140 in Newington, CT and owner of House of Flora. I am currently on dialysis and need your ASSISTANCE!

I need a kidney. I have been on a waiting list for a donor for over 3 months. If you or anyone you know would be interested in potentially becoming a donor, please contact Hartford Hospital (860) 696-2021 (see card) I thank you in advance my brothers and God bless.

 <p>Hartford HealthCare Hartford Hospital</p>	<p>Richard R. Brancifort</p>
<p>The Center for Living Organ Donation</p> <p><i>I am looking for a living donor for a life-saving kidney transplant. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in learning more about living donation please call.</i></p>	<p>85 Seymour Street Suite 320 Hartford, CT 06106</p> <p>tel 860-696-2021</p> <p><i>Thank you for considering giving the gift of life!</i></p>

The Three Identities of the Soul

continued from page 17

In Plato's myth of the hero Er, the hero has died in battle but comes back to life in the flames of his burial fire. While he was dead, he passed the gates from life to heaven and saw the goddess Anangi, meaning necessity, holding a spindle that had eight circles. On each circle was standing a Siren, each one singing a different note producing a delightful harmony. Meanwhile, Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos were accompanying the Sirens in their song, offering a return to life, a choice of the kind of body to live in. That symphony is emblematic of universal harmony.

That is the Platonic view of the identities of the souls – that purified souls exist in harmony with both universes.

It triggers the interest of the restless mind, how the philosophers worked their ways around the common man's mind to impregnate in it so serious and important ideas for the people's benefit.



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Special Days This Summer

July 4 - Independence Day

August 13 - Invitation to Old-Fashioned Masonic Family Picnic
(see page 47 in this issue)

Have a safe, healthy, and great summer!



Pyramid Shriners

At the Barnum Festival Car Show

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Nobles from Pyramid Shrine Temple in Stratford participated at the Barnum Festival Car Show. Shriners from the Clown unit and the Pipes and Drums units attended this event. Pyramid Shriners were able to share their mission of providing assistance to needy children receiving excellent medical care at Shriners' Hospital.



Marching for Needy Children

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Nobles from the Pyramid Shrine Temple in Stratford celebrated Memorial Day by marching in the 76th Annual North Haven Parade. Shriners from the Divan leadership team, Pipes and Drums, Motor Patrol, and Clown Units participated. Pyramid Shriners were able to share their mission of providing assistance to needy children receiving excellent medical care at Shriners Hospital.





District 1

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



Washington Lodge No. 19 Supports Playground Construction

On Sunday, May 15, the brothers of Washington Lodge No. 19 served breakfast and lunch for all the volunteers working on the new Monroe Wolfe Den Playground. It was great to see so many Monroe volunteers working so hard to make this happen for the town. Washington Lodge was proud to do its part.



Washington Lodge No. 19 Marches in Monroe Memorial Day Parade *by Roy Nealon*

It was a beautiful day and excitement was in the air, a great day for a parade. The brothers of Washington Lodge No. 19 really enjoyed marching in the Monroe Memorial Day Parade. Thanks also to the Shriners and Bro. Steve Bowen.



Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3 March in Memorial Day Parade *by Fritzner Erauda*

Like many other lodges in their respective towns, the brothers of Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3 marched in the Town of Fairfield's Memorial Day Parade. As in previous years, many of the brothers showed their support and celebrated the beautiful occasion with their community. The brothers marched in tuxedos displaying their Masonic regalia. They were greeted by kids stretching out their hands for a high-five.

Fidelity-St. John's Lodge was joined by the Shriner's Motor Patrol. They were also joined by several Sir Knights of Hamilton Commandery No. 5.

The brothers made a great impact on their community and it shows that the Masonic organization is not only alive and well but also welcomed by the Town of Fairfield.



Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3 Supports SWIM Across the Sound for 3rd Year in a Row

by Fritzner Erauda

As an ongoing effort to increase their visibility and activity within the community, the brothers of Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3 raised funds for the third year in a row for the SWIM Across the Sound campaign. This year the brothers donated \$2,700 which exceeded last year's contribution. Brothers from Corinthians Lodge No. 104 and Temple Lodge No. 65 also made contributions of their own, bringing the total to \$4,200.

Swim Across the Sound is a charitable event organized by St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation. The campaign provides cancer education, screening, and prevention programs at low or no cost for the underinsured and uninsured. The organization also helps individual cancer patients on a case-by-case basis with specific needs, such as the funding of wigs and prostheses, medical assistance, free transportation to treatments and appointments, day-care scholarships, and support groups.

As a result of the contributions from all three lodges, eight banners with the lodge's names will be spread out and displayed around St. Mary's by the Sea and Captain's Cove Seaport as proud sponsors and supporters of the cause.



(l-r) WM Travis Gerald of Corinthian Lodge; Anthony Cernera, Director of Philanthropy at St. Vincent's Medical Center; Bro. Craig Grannan, Fidelity-St. John's Lodge, who organized the fundraising efforts, WM Fritz Erauda of Fidelity-St. John's Lodge, and WM Scott Adelman of Temple Lodge.

Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No.3 Donates to Bridgeport Rescue Mission

by Fritzner Erauda

To continue Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3's centuries-old tradition of "Serving Our Community," the brothers collected and donated a truck and a half full of clothing donations for Bridgeport Rescue Mission, whose mission is to fight poverty from the inside out by embracing the people in need with compassion and offering hope and healing to change their lives for the better.

In coastal Connecticut, there are over 1,000 people who are homeless, and many are trying to rebuild their lives. Bridgeport Rescue Mission provides assistance to the homeless and the families that live below the poverty line.

The clean clothes that were donated will help restore dignity to the people in need of help to restart their lives for the better. The brothers of Fidelity-St. John's No. 3 were humbled and honored to be able to contribute to such a great cause.



Continued on page 27

Officers of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF&AM ~2022-2023



Top Row L-R:

Gregory K. Whitehouse, R.W. Deputy Grand Secretary; Bro. David E. Burger, Assistant to the Grand Master; Brian E. Beals, R.W. Deputy Grand Treasurer; Gary Graham, R.W. Grand Organist.

Middle Row L-R:

Tony S. Angelica, Associate Grand Tiler; Matthew F. Griffin, R.W. Grand Junior Steward; Mark H. Hawkins, R.W. Grand Senior Steward; F. Matthew Heinrich Jr, R.W. Grand Marshal; Shane Dufresne, R.W. Grand Junior Deacon; Rev. Carl H. Anderson, R.W. Grand Almoner.

Front Row: L-R:

James M. Anderson, R.W. Grand Secretary; Les B. King, R.W. Grand Jr. Warden; Joseph J. Porco, R.W. Deputy Grand Master; Rev. Bruce R. Bellmore, Most Worshipful Grand Master; Edward C. Page, R.W. Grand Senior Warden; Thomas J. Gondek R.W. Grand Treasurer; Rinaldo F. Magliano Jr, R.W. Senior Deacon.

Below: Grand Lodge Officers not in group photo above.



Rabbi Eric A. Silver,
R.W. Grand Chaplain



Andrew R. Melillo,
R.W. Grand Historian



Richard C. Memmott, Jr.,
R.W. Grand Tiler



Michael S. Abrahamson
Associate Grand Tiler



Robert J. Kovi,
Associate Grand Tiler

District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals 2022-2023

**1
A**



District Deputy
R.W. Barry F. Belardinelli, Jr.
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. James C. Peters

**1
B**



District Deputy
R.W. Barry E. Buzzell
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Timothy R. Quinn

**1
C**



District Deputy
R.W. Jack J. S. Farkas
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. David B. Urban

**2
A**



District Deputy
R.W. Peter W. Dolce
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Nathan D. Schoonover

**2
B**



District Deputy
R.W. Daniel W. Nichols
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. David A. McClain

**3
A**



District Deputy
R.W. Peter B. Keefe
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Daniel J. Reeve

**3
B**



District Deputy
R.W. Mark W. Dzurnak
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Joseph A. Zannino, Jr.

**4
A**



District Deputy
R.W. Glenn A. Jacques
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Francis P. Barnes

**4
B**



District Deputy
R.W. Robert F. Polito, Jr.
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Mark E. Hubina

**4
C**



District Deputy
R.W. Daniel M. Luft
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Robert J. Kovi

**5
A**



District Deputy
R.W. Thomas A. Transue
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Douglas A. Ross

**5
B**



District Deputy
R.W. Harry E. Needham, III
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Keith A. Romano

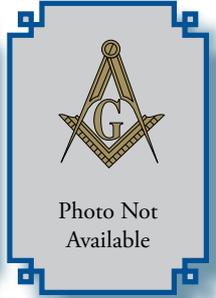
District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals 2022-2023



District Deputy
R.W. Gregory Jay Stump
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. David G. Larsen



District Deputy
R.W. Arnold S. Grot
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Brian J. Berk



District Deputy
R.W. Steven F. Saehrig
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Kurt T. O'Neil



District Deputy
R.W. David S. Smith
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Gordon C. Hurlbert, III



District Deputy
R.W. Robert G. Krawic
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. John E. Stogden



District Deputy
R.W. Phillip E. Rathbun
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Eric C. Donch



District Deputy
R.W. Richard S. Bruyere
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Eric S. Bruyere



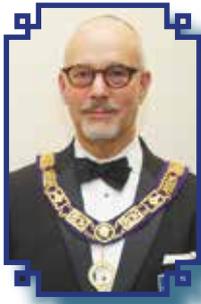
District Deputy
R.W. Kenneth A. Luutsema
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Robert P. Malt



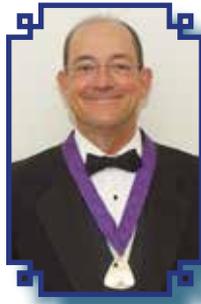
*Grand
Masters Day -
June 11, 2022*



Associate Grand Almoners 2022-2023



Associate Grand Almoner
W.B. Adam J. Plotnick



Associate Grand Almoner
Bro. Paul J. Garavel



Associate Grand Almoner
W.B. Kenneth R. Tarwood, Jr.



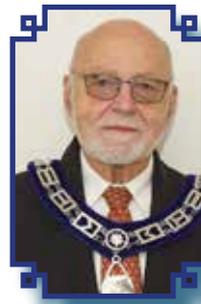
Associate Grand Almoner
R.W. Gary E. Cohen



Associate Grand Almoner
W.B. Rudolph L. Cabata



Associate Grand Almoner
W.B. Mark Fernandes



Associate Grand Almoner
R.W. Raymond E. Moore



Associate Grand Almoner
R.W. C. A. Duke



Associate Grand Almoner
R.W. Fred L. Watts, III

The Good News About Masonic Passports *by Jamie Pearson*

A recent conversation with the Grand Secretary, RWB Jim Anderson inspired me with knowledge of the Traveling Man Masonic Passport Program.

The Passport Program is still active, so keep traveling and getting those passports stamped. Unfortunately, the URL on the back of the passport does not work. Grand Lodge is aware and working on that but you can encourage Masonic travel by sharing your journeys through social media platforms.

The cost is \$20. A portion of the proceeds go to the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory and fund their search for a cure for heart disease. Any brother (EA, FC, or MM) can participate.

When you travel, get your passport stamped and signed by the Secretary and Master (or brother acting in his place) of that lodge. Multiple visits to the same lodge do not count.

After three visits, inform your District Deputy, who will present you with a certificate for your accomplishment. Certificates are also awarded for the 5th and 7th visits.

After the 9th visit again, notify the District Deputy who will then submit your information to Grand Lodge, and you will be presented with a Traveling Man lapel pin.

After completing the passport, ask for the Gold Passport and start again. Remember that traveling as a Mason is a privilege and a true pleasure for you as well as the lodges you visit. Visiting other lodges will enhance your Masonic experience as well as introduce you to new ideas and many of your brothers.





Washington Lodge No. 19 Presents Scholarship at Masuk High School

by Roy Nealon

Washington Lodge No. 19 has, for many years, partnered with Masuk High School to choose a student to receive this award. The candidate must show good moral character, good standing in the community, and good family values. The recipient must be planning to attend college or university in the ensuing year.



It is with great pleasure that Washington Lodge presents this award to Sonia Garcia. She is continuing her education at Southern Connecticut State University to become an Elementary School teacher.

District 2

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



Ark Lodge No. 39 and Union Lodge No. 40 Honor Veterans

by Daniel W. Nichols

On May 30, Ark Lodge No. 39 and Union Lodge No. 40 joined to honor their local veterans by marching in the annual Danbury Memorial Day Parade. It was a beautiful sunny day with temperatures in the high 70s.

The parade route was filled with onlookers and wavers. As the brothers marched, they could hear people saying, "thank you" to all who came out to honor the sacrifice so many have given for our freedoms. Many organizations from police, fire, EMTs, local fraternal organizations, and charities also marched. Many smiling faces of children could be seen lining Main Street in Danbury.

If your lodge has never marched in a parade, please consider doing one next year. These are events that show the community who the Freemasons are and what they stand for.



Union Lodge No. 40 Hosts 2nd Annual March Madness Charity Shuffleboard Tournament and Chili Cookoff

by *Chris Gould*

Operating under the vision and leadership of WM John Arizzi, Jr., the brothers of Union Lodge No. 40 hosted their second annual Charity Shuffleboard Tournament and Chili Cookoff on Saturday, April 2. The lodge has a vintage 28-foot shuffleboard table, transmitted unimpaired from past worthy brothers.

This year, the bracket-style tournament consisted of eight four-person teams competing in games to a score of 21. The winning team then can direct the charitable proceeds to the charity of their choosing. The competition, excitement, and camaraderie on display that day with the

teams battling for tournament survival was an absolute joy to watch. The games began at high 12 and continued until the last team stood. Every game was closely contested and at the end of the day, there were really no losers.

The winning team, led by RWB Andy Goddard, selected the Daily Bread Food Pantry in Danbury as the recipient of \$1,175 that was raised. RWB Joe Porco was quick to remind the winners that matching funds would be available from the Grand Lodge through the COCA program.

The Chili Contest came down to two very excellent entries, which were enjoyed all afternoon, along with an endless supply of burgers and dogs, excellently prepared by Brother Joshua Rodriguez. The chili recipe submitted by WM John and his son Joey Arizzi was the early leader but was edged out by a nose by late arrival Bob Bell with his rendition of Mongolian chili. Union Lodge thanks Hiram Lodge No. 18, St. Peters Lodge No. 21, Jerusalem Lodge No. 49, and Ark Lodge No. 39 for all of their support. It takes many hardworking brothers, operating under vision and leadership, to make any lodge, or any event, a success.

Rev. Bruce R. Bellmore, Most Worshipful Grand Master Visits District 2

by *Daniel W. Nichols*

On May 19, St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 hosted a District 2 event which was attended by MWGM Bruce R. Bellmore. Every lodge in the district sent

representatives to hear the Grand Master's message. MWB Bruce wanted to visit the district to have a town hall-style meeting event for brothers to hear his vision for Connecticut Masonry this year.

Light hors d'oeuvres were served and a full house heard what MWB Bruce has in store for the fraternity. It was an honor to have the Grand Master visit the district and talk about all that is new and exciting in Masonry. Small tokens were given to the Grand Master as a thank you for his visit and time.

District 7

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



Washington Lodge No. 81 Presents Scholarships at Cromwell High School

by *Peter Gaulton*

On May 19, as has been the custom for the past 35 years, the brothers of Washington Lodge No. 81 presented scholarships to two Cromwell High School graduating seniors. At the annual awards assembly, RWB Ken Smith and Brother Stan Mackiewicz were pleased and proud to present the scholarships to Jessica Camilleri and Anna Gradzki.

Jessica plans to attend the University of Hartford, while Anna has selected Boston College.

The scholarships are given in memory of Gregory G. Gaulton, a special needs young man who, briefly, but proudly, attended CHS in the fall of 1985.



Funds for the scholarships are raised by the lodge which sponsors pancake breakfasts throughout the year.

The Gaulton Family is very grateful to the lodge for their gifts to the two deserving recipients.

District 5

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



Hospitality Lodge No. 128 Presents Eric W. Manner Memorial Scholarship

by Francis G. Way

Each year, Hospitality Lodge No. 128 of Wethersfield presents two Eric W. Manner Memorial Scholarships, one to a Wethersfield High School senior, and one to a Rocky Hill High School senior. This year, Wethersfield High

School was still not holding in-person presentations, but Rocky Hill High School returned to normal with a presentation in the school auditorium.

On Tuesday evening, May 31, RWB Francis Way had the opportunity to present the scholarship to Ms. Kristina Caron, a senior at Rocky Hill High School. The scholarship is presented in memory of RWB Ric Manner, a member of Hospitality Lodge who laid down his working tools in 2018.

Both recipients have been invited to the lodge's summer picnic to meet the members of the lodge and enjoy the lodge's hospitality.

Ionic Lodge No. 7 F&AM PHA Bids Farewell to WB Steve Godfrey

by Hiram Morales

Monday, June 13, was Worshipful Master Steve Godfrey's farewell. He has presided as the Worshipful Master of Ionic Lodge #7 F&AM PHA for the past four years. During his tenure, he has helped keep his lodge going strong and is still committed to seeing this through. Although he is retiring and moving down south, he still plans on coming up every few months to attend lodge.

Many brothers were in attendance including Most Worshipful Grand Master Arnold L. Holmes. Several speeches were given, and there were a few presentations. One presentation was to Unity Lodge No. 148 by both MWGM Holmes and WM Godfrey. It was a certificate of appreciation for the help and assistance that Unity Lodge has provided to Ionic Lodge over the years. It was a very humble surprise and honor to be acknowledged at this event.



WB Hiram Morales and MWGM Arnold L. Holmes.



MWGM Arnold L. Holmes, WB Hiram Morales, and WB Steve Godfrey.



Unity Lodge No. 148 Holds Annual Youth Day

by Harry Needham

On Saturday, April 30, Unity Lodge No. 148 held its annual Youth Day for Rainbow and DeMolay. This year's event was held at Berlin Battering Cages and Mini Golf in Berlin. Members of New Britain Assembly, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (www.ctiorg.org) and Nathan Hale Chapter, Order of DeMolay (www.ctdemolay.net), as well as other members from around the state, joined in mini-golf, bumper boats, batting cages, and go-karts for three hours.

New friends and acquaintances enjoyed the afternoon, which culminated with a pizza party in the middle of the parking lot. Unity Lodge is pleased to sponsor these two youth groups and present them with activities and experiences designed to have fun, promote fellowship, and instill lasting friendships to further their life experiences.

Unity Lodge has been hosting this event since 2008 and looks forward to many years of contributing to the Masonic and New Britain communities.



Memorial Day Parade – New Britain Brothers United

by Hiram Morales

It was a glorious opportunity to show the unity of Masonry in New Britain. Several of the Masonic bodies in New Britain, including the youth groups, marched in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30. The group also included Ionic Lodge of Prince Hall Masons, which share the building of Unity Lodge No. 148.

WM Steve Godfrey of Ionic Lodge and WM Hiram Morales of Unity Lodge discussed the order in which the two groups would march. Although the lodges carried different banners, they were all still brothers on the level, therefore they marched side by side, elbow to elbow, with banners held high and heads even higher. The brothers were proud and honored to march in unity through the streets of their city. Even WM Allyn Lopes of Friendship Lodge No. 33 of Southington, marched with the New Britain lodges along with several members of his lodge.

May Masons ever meet, act, and part.



Hospitality Lodge No. 128 Third Annual Wethersfield Cove Cleanup

by Francis G. Way

On Saturday, May 21, brothers, and family members from Hospitality Lodge No. 128 held their 3rd Annual Wethersfield Cove Cleanup. Scheduled one week before the Memorial Day weekend, the lodge wanted to help clean up the litter that builds up in this heavily used area before the holiday.

This event tends to be dependent on the level of the Connecticut River, and last year, with the water extremely high, the brothers were limited in their efforts. Poison ivy was also a concern in the areas where they could pick up trash and litter. This year, armed with “grabbers” and “pickers”,



and a more normal water level, the crew picked up ten bags of trash over the course of a couple of hours in the morning. Poison ivy was less of a concern because the grabbers and pickers eliminated having to reach into possible poison ivy beds.

Continued on page 32

Hospitality Lodge No. 128 continued from page 31

the course of a couple of hours in the morning. Poison ivy was less of a concern because the grabbers and pickers eliminated having to reach into possibly poison ivy beds.

Morale was high, and the brothers joked that all that was missing was orange jumpsuits with DOC stenciled on the back, as they picked up what others, too lazy to use trash receptacles, left behind. It is said that a society can be known by its trash, and it would seem that society drinks a lot of bottled water and eats a lot of fast food, is incapable of putting used diapers in trash bins, and, sadly, has an affinity for crystal meth.

Still, the brothers felt good about cleaning the area and were thanked by several people during the course of their labors. And they were also lucky. A week later, on Saturday, May 28, the body of a Manchester woman, missing since December, was found in the Connecticut River near the mouth of the cove.

Serving the community, even when it means picking up their flotsam and jetsam, is something the brothers of Hospitality Lodge are proud to do. Next May they will be back at it, perhaps this time in orange jumpsuits, just to see what kind of a reaction they might get.



District 4

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

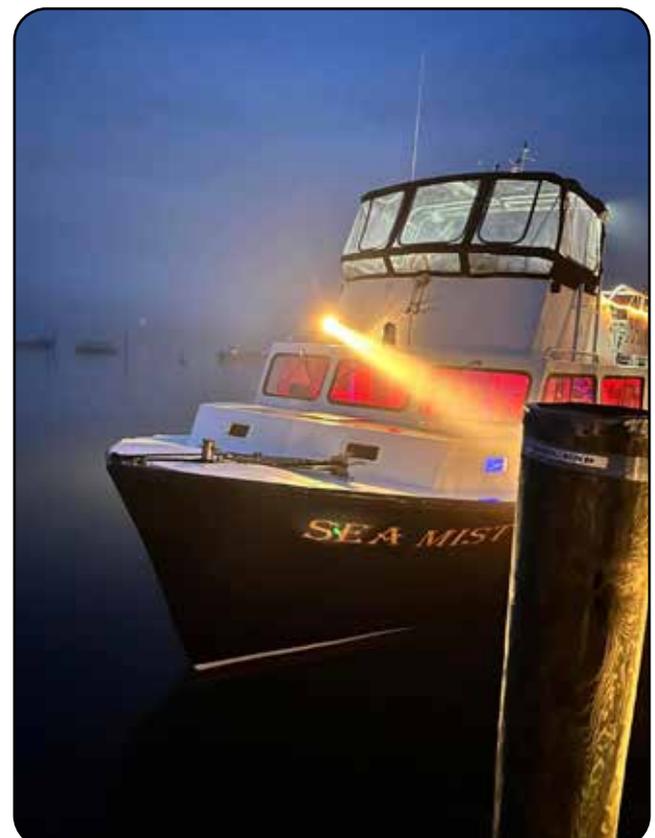


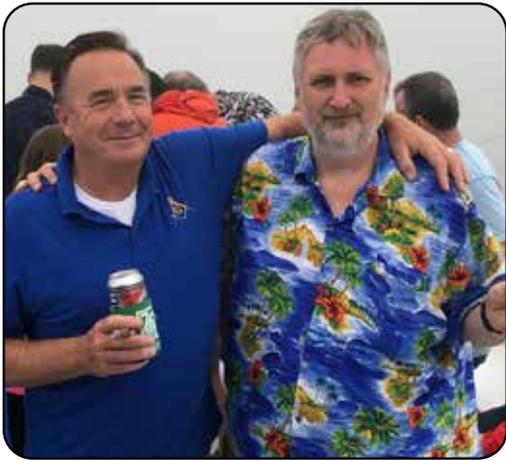
Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 Hosts 4th Annual Cruise *by David Cole*

Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 hosted their 4th Annual Thimble Island cruise. Aboard the Sea Mist, with a capacity of 40, there were 37 brothers and family in attendance. On this evening the "Sea Mist" truly earned its name, as the fog rolled across the waters. Visibility outside was hindered but inside fellowship prevailed.

In addition to Widow's Son Lodge, Annawon Lodge No. 115, St Albans Lodge No. 38, Hezaz Grotto, and Scottish Rite all joined in. Even a brother from the 8th Masonic District was present. When Widow's Son Lodge started this event, it was to strengthen the fellowship within the lodge. Who knew that it would be strengthening the fellowship within the 4th Masonic district?

Continued on page 33





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District 6

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



Composite Lodge No. 28 Hosts Annual Chicken BBQ *by Andy Work*

On Sunday, June 5, Composite Lodge No. 28 of Suffield, hosted its annual chicken BBQ. This is the second time holding the event since COVID restrictions have eased.

The purpose of the BBQ is to benefit the lodge philanthropic fund; during the holidays that fund is used to help Suffield Community Aid purchase turkeys and hams for families in need in town.

Sixteen brothers volunteered in a variety of roles from cooking chicken, serving the public, and running orders out to eager patrons waiting to pick up. The help and support from the brothers are invaluable, and they understand that many hands make light work.

The event had gorgeous weather, and this helped sell 160 chicken dinners to the brothers, their families, and to the public. This helped raise about \$1,500 for the yearly philanthropic efforts. A big thank you to all the brothers of Composite Lodge who helped make this event a success! Thank you also to the brothers of other lodges who came out to support this event and purchase chicken dinners too.



Bro. George R. Zack Receives 2022 Emerson C. Reed Award for Excellence *by Arnold Grot*

The Emerson C. Reed Award for Excellence is presented to a brother who has demonstrated excellence in some significant field of endeavor for the benefit of Columbia Lodge No. 25. It is named after the late WB Emerson C. Reed who set an example of excellence in all that he undertook in Masonry. On May 18, at their awards night, Columbia Lodge No. 25, presented the award to Bro. George R. Zack.

George was born in Pottsville, Pennsylvania. He joined the United States Army in 1960 and completed Basic Training at Fort Dix. As a Private First Class, he served overseas as an Armored Tank Crew Man on M-48A1 Patton Tanks. George was deployed to Vietnam as part of the Armed Forces Expeditionary in 1963-1964. Returning to Fort Dix towards the end of his enlistment, he served as a drill instructor and also worked in the fire department on base.

George married Liboria (Libby) Zack in 1963. George and Libby had two sons, George, Jr., and John. George, Jr. and his wife Tracy provided two grandchildren, Kali and John.

After working in the New York Fire Patrol, George took a position with the Hartford Fire Department in 1968. George served as a firefighter in Engine Company 8 through 1978. In 1974, George became one of the first half dozen Emergency Medical Technicians



Walt Grube presented George R. Zack with a plaque honoring George as the 2022 recipient of the Emmerson C. Reed Award for Excellence.

Continued on page 35

Bro. George R Zack continued from page 34

(EMT) in the state of Connecticut who was also a firefighter. An unexpected work injury led to early retirement.

George was a Connecticut Transit bus driver from 1979 to 2003. He has resided in East Hartford since 1990. George's wife of 43 years, Libby, passed away in 2006.

George was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on October 9, 2000, in Silas Deane Lodge No. 147. He became a member of Columbia No. 25 in 2010 when Silas Deane Lodge went dark. George served in the offices of Marshall, Junior Deacon, and Senior Deacon at Silas Deane, and served for many years as Tiler at Columbia No. 25.

George is a 32nd Degree Mason at the Scottish Rite Valley of Hartford, and a member of the York Rite Bodies of East Hartford – Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, Royal Arch Masons, Wolcott Council No. 1, Royal & Select Masters, and Washington Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar. He served in the office of Sentinel for many years in both the Chapter and the Commandery.

George has a deep commitment to whatever he undertakes. His commitment to Masonry is apparent in all he has accomplished. George is always ready to help others and has a warm and outgoing personality.

Three Lodges Raise Four Master Masons *by Arnold Grot*

Four Fellowcrafts were raised to the degree of Master Mason on May 21, at Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 in Manchester. The Worshipful Masters and brothers from Composite Lodge No. 28 and from Wyllis St. John Lodge No. 4 each brought one, while Friendship Tuscan Lodge had two. All enjoyed fellowship during the pre-degree continental breakfast and the lunch that was served after the first section of the degree.

WM Brad Young of Friendship Tuscan Lodge was in the East for the degree and opened a Lodge of Master Masons at 11 a.m. As this was

the official inspection of the lodge, WM Young received District Deputy Grot. The first section of the Master Mason ritual included script not usually recited, that reinforced the lessons of the standard ritual. The lodge went to refreshment at 12:15 p.m. for lunch.

Lodge reconvened at 1:15 p.m. for the Tragedy. The first act was a Builders Lodge that was masterfully done. The three Grand Masters discussed when and how master's wages would be paid to the faithful Fellowcraft. The second act in the Tragedy, had Senior Warden John DiCioccio, Jr. playing Most Excellent King Solomon and WM Young in the West. All the roles were filled by brothers who projected their roles with fervency and zeal. As all good character actors, they imparted 80% of the character's emotion, letting the audience fill in the remaining 20%, thereby

uniquely bringing their part to life. The soon-to-be Master Masons filled their roles, very convincingly, with stoic apprehension.

The Tragedy concluded that WM Young returned to the East and WB DiCioccio, Jr. returned to the West. The Master Mason first section lecture was recited, the Charge given, and the four new Master Masons given their aprons and study booklets. The Worshipful Master called up the Lodge so that each brother could individually congratulate the new Master Masons. Lodge closed at 4:30 p.m.

At the end of the day, WM Young wrote to his brothers, *"Today was a great day. I want to thank all the brothers who helped make this one of the best, if not the best, Master Mason Degrees I have ever witnessed. We raised four brothers today I could not be prouder of the work everyone did."*



(l-r) Jesse A. Mejia (4), WM Danis Mensa (4), WM Charles Jewart (28), Otto Frizziel (28), WM Brad Young (145), Juan Manuel Villalobos-Ulloa (145), Jared Christopher Garthe (145), District Deputy 6B Arnold Grot.

District Deputy Reception at Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

by Pat Jones

Brother Gregory J. Stump of Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 in South Windsor has been appointed District Deputy of Masonic District 6A. He was appointed to this high Masonic office by Most MWGM Bruce R. Bellmore, who appointed and clothed him at the 233rd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in Windsor on March 26.

RWB Stump will represent the Grand Master in matters relating to the fraternity, replacing RWB David S. LaFargue, who was honored by being created a Past District Deputy. In his new post, he will supervise the operations of the four Masonic Lodges in District 6A, which include: Wyllys-St. Johns Lodge No. 4, Composite Lodge No. 28, Washington Lodge No. 70, and Philosophic Lodge of Research No. 400.

RWB Stump is a Past Master of Hartford Evergreen Lodge. He has held numerous important and high-level positions during his Masonic career, including Worshipful Master, Secretary, Treasurer, Associate Grand Marshal, and President of the Tobacco Valley Blue Lodge Council. He completed the first level of the Eric W. Manner Master Ritualist Award this year.

Worshipful Brother David Larsen, newly appointed Associate Grand Marshal, was in attendance as well. Dave has served as Worshipful Master in two lodges, Hartford



Evergreen Lodge, and Fayette Lodge No. 69 in Ellington. He has also served as Chaplain in both lodges.

A reception honoring RWB Stump was held on April 16, at Hartford Evergreen Lodge. Many prominent state and district leaders attended, of note MWPGMs Melvin E. Johnson and William E. Bohman.

RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Right Worshipful Grand Marshal, served as Presiding Officer of this important event.

Refreshments followed the ceremonies in the lodge meeting room. Hartford Evergreen Lodge is proud of its newly appointed brothers.

Awards Night at Columbia Lodge No. 25

by Arnold Grot

Columbia Lodge No. 25 Awards Nights was held on May 18. Honored were incremental Service Pin recipients, the 2022 Community Service Award recipient as well as the recipients of Lodge Awards.

After the presentation of the U.S. Flag by Washington Commandery, No. 1, KT, WM Jeff Flynn called up Junior Warden WB Juan C. Diaz and presented him with a Past Master Jewel for his service as Worshipful Master in 2021.

WM Flynn then called upon WB Erik Roberts to proceed with the award ceremony. The first presentation was the Community Service Award. There are many community needs that are not met within the budget of the town government. Volunteers sometimes fill these needs. There are a few men and women who devote an extraordinary amount of their time, talents, and other resources in this effort. The Columbia Lodge Community Service Award for 2022 was given to Dr. Stewart "Chip" Beckett.

Chip was born in Phoenix where his parents were attending Arizona State. Chip's parents taught their children that time is the most valuable commodity. Chip has always tried to make time to improve the community and the

things he cares about. His father found some land in South Glastonbury to build his dream house. South Glastonbury was a small village where everyone knew everyone else, and it was in many ways idyllic for Chip and his family. Football with neighbors, riding the family horses, and Boy Scout camping trips were his early activities. Chip was focused enough to earn the rank Eagle Scout, along with the God and Country medal, and was admitted to the Order of the Arrow during his early teenage years. In his senior year of high school, Chip was managing editor of the school paper and president of the senior class.

His father had purchased the Old Cider Mill on Main Street. Chip enjoyed helping in the mill and on the adjacent farm. One of Chip's classmates told him he should be a veterinarian. Chip decided to work with the family vet, Dr. Bill Haines, to see what that was about. The more he did it, the more he liked it. He graduated from Purdue University with an Ag degree in 1979 and then the University's Veterinarian School in 1982. After an internship in New Zealand and working in Western New York for different dairy practices as a relief doctor, Chip decided to move back home to South Glastonbury and start his own practice. From a home office, Beckett & Associates Veterinary Services has grown to 4 doctors and 15 staff members at a complex next to the Old Cider Mill on Main Street.

Continued on page 37

Awards Night at Columbia Lodge No. 25 continued from page 36

Chip's past community service efforts include:

- Glastonbury Water Pollution Control Authority 1989-1994
- Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
- CT Horse Council President 1994-2005
- CT Veterinary Medical Association President 2003
- American Association of Veterinary Acupuncturists Board 2004-2009
- American Veterinary Medical Association House of Delegates 2007-2012
- American Veterinary Medical Association Governance task force and engagement 2012-2014
- Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce Presidents award 2007
- Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce Businessperson of the Year 2008
- Glastonbury Town Council 2005-2021; Chairman 2011-2017
- Capital Region Council of Governments 2009-2021; Chairman 2015-2017

Incremental Service Pins are given to brothers of the Lodge upon reaching 25 years of membership and every five years thereafter. Brothers reaching these milestones in 2022 with service ranging from 25 to 70 years were: Bro. David E. Soderberg, 25-year pin; WB Rodney A. Spooner, 35-year pin; Br. James W. Shelmerdine, Jr., his 65-year pin.

Br. Shelmerdine, Jr. was a Senior DeMolay and wanted to become a Mason prior to being shipped to Korea in 1952, but he was only 20. In Korea, a Chaplain noticed his DeMolay ring and ask if he wanted to become a Mason. He was offered a two-week leave in Tokyo for this purpose. Jim wrote to his father, who suggested he wait until he returned home. On April 24, 1957, he was raised by his father and grandfather in Orient Lodge No. 62. Jim was present when his father received a 75-year pin at age 101!

Individuals reaching 50 years of service were presented their pins by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Grand Marshal, presided and was assisted by RWB Arnold Grot, District Deputy Masonic District 6B, and WB Brian Berk, his Associate Grand Marshall. Receiving 50-year pins were John R. Ranney and Ralph W. Fish Jr. Jack and Ralph first meet as Cub Scouts when they were 8 years old. They have been doing things together ever since. Ralph served as WM of Orient Lodge No. 62 in 1979 and Jack in 1980.



Chip Beckett receiving his Community Service Award from Awards Night Chairman Erik E. Roberts.



RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., John R. Ranney, Shelly Ranney, Ralph W. Fish Jr., and Toni Fish.



James W. Shelmerdine, Jr. receiving his 65-year pin.



Rodney A. Spooner receiving his 35-year pin.



David E. Soderberg receiving his 25-year pin.

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Freemasons Awarded Thomas White Slater Award at St. Patrick's Day Parade

by Christian Godbout

The Connecticut Freemasons captured the public's attention with an outstanding showing at the 2022 St. Patrick's Day Parade in New Haven. Expectations were exceeded with over 170 Masons, wives, girlfriends, children, and other family members marching down Chapel St. It was clear to all as they passed the reviewing stand that the Freemasons truly have a significant presence in the community. The

judges awarded the group the Thomas Slater Spirit of the Parade Award.

At the award ceremony WB Christian Godbout, WB Fred Marotti (President of the Blue Lodge Council), WB Jerry Gruenbaum representing the Scottish Rite Valley of New Haven, and WB Scott Atkins, Master of Hiram Lodge No. 1, well dressed and wearing aprons, properly represented the Freemasons of the 4th District and showed appropriate respect to the man for whom the award is named.

The families of the Knights of St. Patrick honor family members who have passed by sponsoring the awards given at the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Mr. Thomas White Slater was born on March 24, 1936, and passed to great beyond on December 3, 2010. Tom led a life well-lived. He served his country in the United States Navy for five years during the 1950s. He was a Yale University employee for 38 years.

Tom was extremely active in the Irish community, culminating as the Grand Marshal of the New Haven Parade in 1990. He was active in the community in many other ways,

including participation on the Hamden's Veterans Commission, the Town of Hamden's Memorial Day Parade Committee, and as an advisor for the Columbus Day Parade Committee. His service to the community and resulting accolades are many. His full obituary can be found at the Sisk Brothers website <https://www.siskbrothers.com>.

While the parade was certainly a wonderful and fun event for all who attended, it's also important to take note that the award we received was in honor of a great man whose presence in the Irish community continues twelve years beyond his passing!

Let's make next year greater than this year and increase the number of attendees to over 200. Strength is in unity! Hope to see you all there!



Craft At Refreshment

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

All times are supplied by the lodges. The Connecticut Freemasons newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events.

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.)*

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

Thu., Jul. 7, 6:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Planning-prep for Pizza Challenge

Sat., Jul. 9, 12 a.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, Hamden, Pizza Challenge, *Moon Cutter Co, 2969 State St, Hamden, CT, The annual Pizza Challenge for the benefit of the Tommy Fund.*

Sat Jul. 23, Hiram Lodge No. 1, Wallingford, Lodge Picnic, *Ashlar Village Pavilion, 100 Winding Bridge Rd, Wallingford*

Sun Jul. 31, 2 p.m., Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven, Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen 2-4 p.m. Please contact RW Gary E. Cohen at (203) 530-6222 or garyec39@gmail.com

Sun Aug. 28, 2 p.m., Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven, Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, 2-4 p.m. Please contact RW Gary E. Cohen at (203) 530-6222 or garyec39@gmail.com



Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*SM



Wanted – Caring, Compassionate Freemasons!

by Richard F. Denno

It's that time. Actually, it's past that time. Like any committee, as it ages its numbers diminish. The Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program was formed in January 2009. Our committee grew to 300-plus members.

There have been many milestones and memories over these past 13 years, both happy and on occasion less fortunate. Over 10 corneas have been recovered and transplanted into patients, thus improving their quality of life. Two of our members are heart transplant recipients, and others have received kidneys, livers, and other organs. The most unique transplant patient I ever met received a face transplant, and you could not tell.

Transplantation technologies have improved and extended the lives of so many over these 13 years. Procedures that were unheard of then are now commonly being performed. Newer, more effective medications have played a great role in these transplant successes.

While all that is thankfully true, there is still a very large, never-ending need for Masons and others to learn about organ donation and register online at www.registerme.org. Over 100,000 patients are still on the donor waiting list. Sadly, for some of our brothers on the waiting list time simply ran out before an organ could be available. Yes, the registration of potential donors has improved. However, notice I said potential donors. For various reasons, only a small percentage of those registered end up qualifying and

can donate in the future. Our mission has and always will be to assist Donate Life and New England Donor Services in increasing awareness of the need and encouraging people like yourselves to register at www.registerme.org.

Through attrition over the years, many of our members have passed away, moved away, moved on to other committees, or left Freemasonry (although I can't see how that could happen.) We are one of the longest-running committees in Connecticut Freemasonry, a record of which we are very proud. Our active membership is between 8-12 members.

We need you to help carry our program to higher goals. Won't you please step forward and make a difference in the lives of others. You also have the opportunity of volunteering with Donate Life CT. They have many programs that might interest you.

For further information or to become a member of our team, contact me at toursone@comcast.net or on my cell at (860) 508-3787. To look into volunteering with Donate Life and New England Donor Services, contact Jennifer Cray at jennifer-cray@neds.org.

Have a wonderful summer and don't forget about our "The Sky is The Limit" skydiving fundraiser at Ellington Airport on Saturday, July 16. The rain date is the next day.

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

Fellowcraft Degrees

Tue., Jul. 5, 6:30 p.m., America-St. John's Lodge No. 8, Stratford, Dinner

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

Thu., Sep. 8, 6:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Dinner

Master Mason Degrees

A Singular Circumstance Via eBay

by Arnold Grot

At 10:30 a.m. on May 14, in Spring Grove Cemetery in the north end of Hartford, Sir Knight Mark Blackaby, Eminent Commander of Washington Commandery No. 1, began, “We gather this morning at the grave of the Illustrious dead, guided by a singular circumstance. No, not a sprig of acacia, but a pendant left by our Illustrious brother 97 years ago, and bought by another brother, a half-world away, on eBay. As a token of respect on the day he is knighted, for this newfound brother, we lay flowers on Sir Knight Silas Chapman, Jr.’s, 33rd degree, grave.”

On February 15, as Recorder of Washington Commandery No. 1, KT, I received an email from Br. Wibo Schepel, Lodge “Het Schietlood” No 215, The Hague, The Netherlands, which read, “I recently purchased a gold KT Pendant via eBay, and only after receiving it discovered the engraving on the sides: ‘Silas Chapman, Jr., Hartford Conn, Washington Commandery No 1’. Would it be possible for you to give me any additional information? I am currently scheduled to join the KT myself at Olivier de la Marche Commandery Nr. 1 in Leiden (The Netherlands) on the 14th of May.”

Through research, I and Brother Schepel, with help of our brothers, discovered much about Silas Chapman, Jr., and his Masonic journey.

Silas Chapman, Jr. was born on September 2, 1845, in Hartford. On December 10, 1868, he married Julia A. Camp of Windsor. They had no children. Mrs. Chapman died a few months before her husband on September 10, 1925. When he passed, his committal services at Spring Grove Cemetery were under the direction of the Sir Knights of Washington Commandery, No. 1, KT.

Silas Chapman, Jr. graduated from Hartford High School, and in 1863 began his business career as an office boy with the North American Fire Insurance Company. By the time he died, he was known as a dean of insurance agents in Connecticut and had built up a lucrative agency business that bears



Washington Commandery pedant commissioned by Silas with Knights Templar logo on the front and the 33rd Degree double-headed eagle on the reverse.



Silas Chapman, Jr. 33rd.



Wibo Schepel wearing the pendant on a gold chain.

his name and still operates in West Hartford. He was active in religious work, serving as the longtime clerk of the First Baptist Society in Hartford and was its librarian for twenty years, and taught in its Sunday School. He was a longtime member of the board of directors of the local YMCA supporting its welfare with his wisdom and purse.

Being an ardent disciple of old Izaak Walton (author of *The Compleat Angler*, published in 1653), he was a regular visitor in the Rangeley Lake region of Maine for many seasons, where, with a company of chosen friends in this favorite pastime, fishing, and was considered by them one of the most companionable of men. He was an ardent stamp collector and built a collection of over 35,000 stamps, many of which were very rare and valuable.

In business, he was reticent, clear-headed, and penetrating to the last detail, and his selection by President Chase of the Hartford for the most influential agency in the company was an expression of confidence of the highest value. Chapman was a director in the Charter Oak National Bank of Hartford; the Billings & Spencer Co., one of the then-largest manufacturing concerns in Hartford; the Middlesex County Mutual Fire Insurance Co., and several other manufacturing corporations.

Bro. Silas began his Masonic journey in St. John’s Lodge No. 4 in Hartford where he was initiated on April 15, passed on April 22, and raised on May 6, 1885. Also in 1885, he became a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, was exalted a Royal Arch Mason in Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, received, and greeted as a Royal and Select Master in Wolcott Council No. 1, and created a Sir Knight in Washington Commandery No. 1. He served as Sovereign Master of Hartford Council, Princes of Jerusalem from 1888-94 and was coroneted an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, 33rd Degree by the Supreme Council AASR NMJ on September 21, 1897. He served as Treasurer of Washington Commandery No. 1, KT in 1888 and 1889.

Bro. Chapman was a very modest and unassuming man of a retiring disposition. That generous and charitable impulses were in his

Continued on page 43

A Singular Circumstance continued from page 42

nature is attested by that almost his entire estate, amounting to over \$1,000,000, was bequeathed for use of Masonic, charitable, and semi-religious institutions.

On May 14, in Leyden, Netherlands, Brother Wilbo entered the Masonic Building wearing the pedant left in Silas Chapman, Jr.'s estate and that Bro. Wilbo purchased on eBay. At 10:30 a.m. CEST, Olivier-de-la-Marche Preceptory No. 1 began the ceremony in which Bro. Wilbo was installed as a member of the Masonic Order of the Temple. Six hours later at 10:30 a.m. EDT, Eminent Commander Blackaby began the flower-laying ceremony at Silas Chapman, Jr.'s grave with a prayer provided by Washington Commandery's Generalissimo Rev. Chip Elliot. He was assisted by Junior Warden Dean Gousse and I.



Wibo Schepel in Knight Templar Regalia after he was knighted..

Epilogue

On the day he was created a Knight Templar, Silas, as do all Sir Knights, declared: *"I will wield my sword—in defense of innocent maidens, —destitute widows, —helpless orphans, —and the Christian Religion."* Bequeathing his estate, he not only continued this declaration but left a symbolic sprig of acacia, his pedant, and in this singular circumstance reinforced that we are joined as brothers even half a world away and a century apart. I close with the words Rev. Elliot used in his prayer. O God, *"Grant that your servant Silas, being raised with your Son Jesus Christ, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory."* Amen.



Dean Gousse, Mark Blackaby, and Arnold Grot at the grave of Silas Chapman, Jr.



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It Was a Doggone Great Day!

by Pat Kalinauskas

A large group of Eastern Star sisters and brothers, their family members, and even some neighbors gathered in the parking lot at the Masonic Temple in South Windsor on May 18. There was anticipation and excitement as three police cruisers pulled in – all with barking K-9s. The police officers represented three departments with their K-9 partners who were in various stages of training and service.

Officer Mike Pierne of New Haven handled K-9 Koda who was showing great promise with only 13 hours of training. After only three months of training, jet-black K-9 Duke followed all commands given by his handler Officer Zack Horn of Windsor. Officer Todd Mona of East Hartford was the handler of Casus, an award-winning K-9 with nine years of service.

There was a very interesting K-9 Unit demonstration showing how the dogs work in partnership with the officers, finding evidence and helping to catch the bad guys. After the demonstration, the three officers answered questions about how they live with and train their dogs, and about police procedures.

Temple Chapter No. 53, Order of the Eastern Star meets at the Masonic Temple in South Windsor and has a charity called the Bobbie Fund which is designated to support K-9 Units in service to local communities. After the demonstration, a check was presented to the East Hartford K-9 Unit Training and Equipment Fund. Officer Mona noted that the donation will be used for training around the state.



Windsor Officer Zack Horn with K-9 Duke.



New Haven Officer Mike Pierne with K-9 Koda..



Worthy Patron Wayne Rettburg and Worthy Matron Grace Rettburg of Temple Chapter OES with East Hartford Officer Todd Mona, K-9 Casus, Officer Horn, and Officer Pierne.



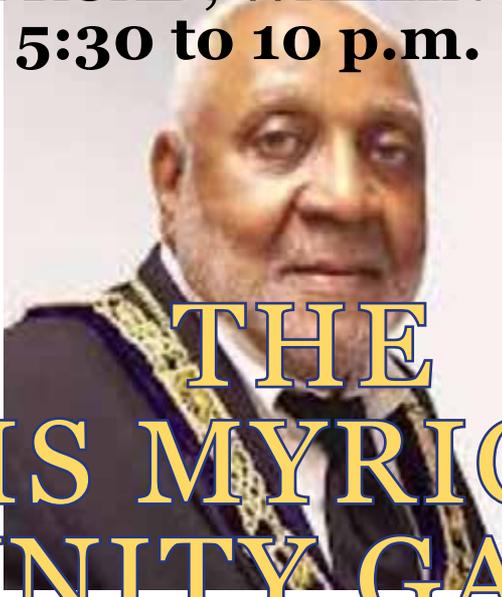
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5:00 TO 8:30 PM

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Address

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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:

- **PRIORITY ADMISSION / ACCESS** to Masonicare following the “Concentric Circle” guidelines for Connecticut Freemasons, relatives, and appendant bodies
- **REDUCED PRICING** on applications for our residential communities
- **FREE HEARING SCREENINGS** in the Masonicare Hearing Center
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