

December 2022

Connecticut FREE MASONS



Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM
69 Masonic Avenue
Wallingford, CT 06492

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



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



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.



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

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Believe . . . by Francis G. Way

The Christmas before my mother passed away, she gave my girls a DVD of *The Polar Express*. After she passed, it became a tradition that the girls and I would take an evening before each Christmas and watch the DVD together. It was a way to spend some quality time with my girls and for each of us to remember my mother. The girls are grown now; one lives in Las Vegas. We are not always able to carry on our tradition, but if we can, whether it is here or in Nevada, we try to sit down on an evening we're together at Christmastime and find a stream of the movie to watch.

The Polar Express is a CGI animated movie, directed by Robert Zemeckis and voiced predominantly by Tom Hanks in many of the roles. It tells the story of a young boy on a magical journey to the North Pole on a train named the Polar Express. One of the strongest themes in the movie deals with belief. The young boy finds a sleigh bell that fell off the harness from Santa's sleigh. He later learns that those who do not believe in Santa Claus cannot hear the sleigh bell when he shakes it.

As we become adults it is assumed that we become more logical creatures, and part of that is realizing that one man, even one dressed in a red suit with a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer, cannot possibly visit every house in the world bringing toys to the good girls and boys. We may term it a loss of innocence, or growing up, but still, the fact remains that most adults do not believe in Santa Claus. However, Santa Claus represents more than a story that helps kids to go to bed and stay in bed on Christmas eve with visions of sugar plums dancing in their heads. Santa Claus represents the spirit of Christmas.

As Masons, we understand the strength and power of belief. We profess our belief in a Supreme Being and thus bind ourselves tightly to our obligations. Those of us who are Christians believe in the miracle of Christmas, God becomes Man, born to a Virgin, Salvation Incarnate. In the world of sports, sayings like "On any given Sunday" testify to the power of belief. How often has a team that has been given no chance by anyone of winning prevailed because they buy into their system, buy into their team, and believe in themselves when no one else will?

And so, every year after the leaves have fallen from the trees, and cold has descended on our lands, and we spend more hours of each day in the dark than in the light, we have an opportunity to make a choice.

We can continue along, chained to the logic and cold calculations of everyday life, becoming more and more like that icon of disbelief, Ebenezer Scrooge, or we can reset our outlook, renew our belief, and perhaps hear again the ringing of that magical sleigh bell.



Santa Claus may not be flying in his sleigh on Christmas eve bringing toys to all the children, but if we embrace that belief, if we hear that magic sleigh bell, if we once again take on that spirit of Christmas, we, each of us, can make a difference in the lives of our fellow creatures... and isn't that almost the same thing?



CONNECTICUT FREEMASONS FOUNDATION, INC.

A 501(c) (3) Tax Exempt Organization

of the GRAND LODGE of ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS of the STATE of CONNECTICUT



Bruce R. Bellmore
Grand Master



PO Box 69
Wallingford, CT 06492

June 1, 2022

Dear friends and brothers,

The past year has seen many instances of human suffering:

- Hurricane Ida destroyed hundreds of homes and Masonic buildings in Louisiana.
- Tornadoes in Kentucky left a 220-mile-long path of devastation in their wake.
- Fire swept through the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Rhode Island in Providence, one of the oldest Masonic structures in the United States.
- The Coronavirus Pandemic left brothers in dire financial situations.

In all these terrible situations, the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation has been there to help. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization, coordinating with other non-profits to ensure that these funds go directly to those who need help.

Your generous tax-deductible donations to the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation make it possible for us to reach out and assist our brothers and their families throughout Connecticut and around the world. It also enables us to support worthy endeavors in our local communities on a case-by-case basis. Our support of the Grand Almoner and the Child Identification Program make a positive difference in the lives of those we service.

Please join with me and make your donation today. In this way, we can truly fulfill our Masonic obligation to "...help, aid, and assist our brothers." *Thank you for your support as we continue the good work of Freemasonry.*

Fraternally,

Rev. and Brother Bruce R. Bellmore
M.W. Grand Master 2022

The CT Freemasons Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation organized to accept tax deductible contributions. Your gift may be restricted by designating your specific charitable choice from the above list in the memo section of your check.

Your support for 2021 totaling \$128,800 includes donations to:

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

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

XXX-----

XXX-----

Make check payable to: CT Freemasons Foundation – mail to PO Box 69, Wallingford, CT 06492-0069

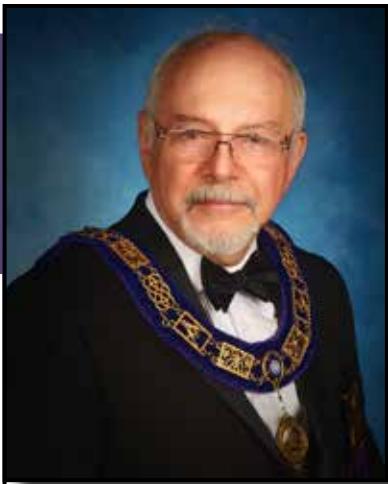
To assist the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation in their ongoing work, I / we donate to the Grand Master's Appeal as follows:

\$1,000 _____ Grand Master donor
\$250 _____ Fellowcraft donor
\$500 _____ Master Mason donor
\$100 _____ Entered Apprentice donor
Other Amount \$ _____

If your donation is **"in honor of,"** or **"in memory of,"** (circle one) a loved one, please include their name below:

Please send notice of my gift to: _____

Please have someone contact me about how to include the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation as a beneficiary in my will. _____



Grand Master's Message

by Rev. and MWB Bruce R. Bellmore



My dear brothers,

It is the nature of our great fraternity to perform acts of charity and to be concerned in the welfare of our fellow man. During the Thanksgiving holiday season this year, I have witnessed that principle of Freemasonry exemplified by the works of our various lodges and brethren.

Among these events, the 16th Annual Fall Harvest Dinner stands out. Worshipful Brother Steven Canada and his wife Sharon invite the Masonic family and the community at large to a Thanksgiving dinner. They provide turkey, soft drinks, and pies and ask that all who attend bring a side dish. This year the side dishes reflected the diversity of the attendees as there were Caribbean, Italian, and South American dishes, as well as the traditional fixings. The price of admission is non-perishable food items to be donated to the local food bank. This year more than 1,000 pounds of food was donated. It was a perfect balance of brotherly love, fellowship, and charity.

Hiram Lodge No. 1 in New Haven prepares and delivers Thanksgiving dinners to those served by Meals on Wheels throughout New Haven County. Meals on Wheels does not deliver on Thanksgiving or Christmas. Worshipful Brother Keith MacDowell saw this need and organized the prep and delivery filling the gap and providing food and joy to those who are shut-in and isolated during the holidays.

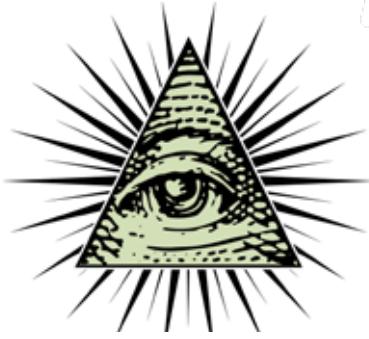
Throughout the year, lodges around the state provide help and assistance to their communities by working in soup kitchens, preparing holiday food baskets, participating in road races and other events providing support and assistance to those less fortunate. Freemasonry in Connecticut provides light and hope to so many who are in need. I am proud to serve as Grand Master of such a loving and caring fraternity.

As the year comes to a close, let us be thankful for all the gifts and opportunities for service given to us by our Great Creator. May He bless you and your families during the holiday season, and may you be blessed with health, happiness, and prosperity in the coming year.

Fraternally,

Rev. and Brother Bruce R. Bellmore
Most Worshipful Grand Master





Spiritual Corner *by Rev. & RWB Carl Anderson*

As the holidays approach, there is always so much to accomplish. Whether it is shopping, baking, wrapping, sending cards, or putting up holiday decorations, there are many things on the “to-do” list that need to be accomplished. Sometimes in the fury of all this activity, I wonder what it means to truly have the “holiday spirit.” Is it a state of mind, or a feeling that comes from traditions, religious observances, or the special celebrations of the season? Or is it something more?

As I consider what the essence of the “holiday spirit” truly is, I am drawn to the many places that it is evident by the actions of caring people. This includes the work and spirit of our Masonic family who serve as a wonderful example of helping others. Whether it be a food drive, helping at a community meal program, a breakfast with Santa event, or reaching out to someone who is lonely and alone during the holidays. This is where our Masonic family shines as they help, aid, and assist many people each and every day.

This help, aid, and assistance also includes our Masonicare residents. The Masonic family brings the light of the holidays to our facilities in so many ways. Whether it be a car parade, special programs, gifts of cards and flowers, or visits, the Masonic family helps to bring the spirit of the Holidays to so many of our residents each year. These gifts of caring truly speak to a core teaching of Masonry of the need to serve others who are in need.

During this special time of the year, I hope you will find time to experience the joy of the season. Whether it is through celebrations with your family and friends, or through helping others, may the light of the holidays strengthen your heart and soul with the true spirit of the season. May all the blessings of the holidays be with you and yours during this festive, sacred and joyous season.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

Victor B. Hallberg
Day Spring Lodge No. 30

William E. Henckel
Hiram Lodge No. 18

Donald Wesley Hick, Jr.
Temple Lodge No. 16

William Cyril Mower
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Albert Robert Thierfelder
St. Peters Lodge No. 21

Alan Mark Turner
Moriah Lodge No. 15

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

King Solomons Lodge No. 7

Matthew James Brouillard
David Edward Friebel
Kristopher Mark Milardo

Coastal Lodge No. 57

Gregory Stanislaw Klama
Zachary Ryan Lewis
Jeffery Michael Tomminello

Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116

Daniel Ernest Frechette
Ronald Lynch
Peter Jacob Stahl
Jeffrey Chase Zoglio

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

Richard F. Bassett
Manchester Lodge No. 73

Walter Franklin Bloes
Acacia Lodge No. 85

Elliot T. Borent
Granite Lodge No. 119

William Lee Breed
Coastal Lodge No. 57

Vincent Arthur Celino
Composite Lodge No. 28

Paul David Curry
Coastal Lodge No. 57

Roger Morgan Daboll, Jr.
Brainard Lodge No. 102

Nicholas Ralph Fusco, Sr.
Sequin Level Lodge No. 140

Howard Francis Holcomb
Seneca Lodge No. 55

Henry Hale Hunt, III
Columbia Lodge No. 25

David W. Knecht
Washington Lodge No. 19

Alan Neal Knofla
Manchester Lodge No. 73

Frederick H. Kraemer
Morning Star Lodge No. 47

Robert B. Mattson
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Stephen Robert Munier
Harmony Lodge No. 67

Fred William Nanamaker, Jr.
Annawon Lodge No. 115

Philip John O'Connor
Unity Lodge No. 148

Angelo Charles Pedrazzini
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Douglas Arthur Reid
Union Lodge No. 5

Allen Jean Strauss
Trumbull Lodge No. 22

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Hiram Lodge No. 18



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LISTING IS FOR 11 ISSUES

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Grand Master's Circle

\$100 or more

LODGES & ORGANIZATIONS

Entered Apprentice

\$75-\$149.99

Fellow Craft

\$150-\$249.99

Master Mason

\$250 or more

At Masonicare, exceeding expectations is all in a day's work

Masonicare residents, patients, and staff members have benefitted from MWPGM Bill Greene's advocacy, generosity, and volunteerism for over 30 years, although they may not have always been aware of it.



That suits the Coventry resident just fine, since he's just as comfortable behind the lens of a camera as he is in front of it. As the official volunteer photographer for The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut and Masonicare, Bill is a regular at special events like the Foundation's annual Benefactor Luncheon and the Masonicare Golf Classic. He has also served on virtually every board of Masonicare and its affiliates, dating back to when he was moving through the line of Grand Lodge Officers.

It wasn't until October of this year, following a total knee replacement, that Bill had an opportunity to experience our continuum from the perspective of a patient.

"I insisted on being discharged to Masonicare Home Health & Hospice for my recovery and rehab," Bill said, "and I am so, so happy I did. It really exceeded my expectations. My nurse, Melissa, and my physical therapist, Brad, were absolutely fantastic. They were cooperative and friendly. Even my cats loved them!"

Bill's care team had the advantage of working with someone eager to get back on his feet and return to an active lifestyle. They made sure the incision was healing properly and taught Bill exercises to restore strength and mobility in his knee to ensure a full recovery.

"We worked at a pace that was right for me," Bill said, "pushing me just enough that it was challenging without being overwhelming. I'm getting around really well now and I think my quick rehabilitation is thanks to the team from Masonicare. I would strongly recommend Masonicare Home Health & Hospice to anyone who needs to recover or rehabilitate at home."

We are *your* Masonicare.

Call us today at 1-800-982-3919 or visit masonicare.org

Masonicare
An Ageless Commitment to Caring

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

This month, I'm looking forward to joining Masonicare at Chester Village Executive Director Annie Hoefferle, her team, residents, board members, and others in celebrating Chester Village's fifth anniversary as part of the Masonicare family.

Masonicare's purchase of the former Chester Village West retirement community back in December 2017 was part of a new strategy to expand our residential service line. It wasn't a step we took lightly.

Great care was taken to invest the necessary time and resources into making our newest acquisition look, feel, and operate like a part of Masonicare. The hard work and attention to detail paid off, and today, Masonicare at Chester Village is a vibrant and thriving community that not only embodies our "ageless commitment to caring," but has developed its own unique character. The resident artwork that lines the walls in common areas isn't just for decoration – it's an expression of pride and a statement that says, "This is our home. Welcome to it!"



Along with right-sizing our skilled nursing facility and expanding behavioral health services, growing our independent and assisted living options has been part of a winning formula for Masonicare. After the success we've enjoyed with Chester Village, if a similar opportunity presents itself, we would certainly explore it.

On the subject of anniversaries, nearly 170 Masonicare employees reached milestone anniversaries in 2022. We celebrated their dedication and resilience throughout November at our annual Service Recognition Awards. We recognized team members celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20 ... all the way up to 35 years for Masonicare Health Center cook Rob Loughlin and LPN Elece Tirone.

What inspires that level of commitment and loyalty, beyond just a steady paycheck? More often than not, the answer from our longtime employees is a combination of getting to work with great people and a belief in the mission of Masonicare. I couldn't agree more!

From all of us at Masonicare, I wish you a holiday season filled with peace, joy, and good health. See you in 2023!

Sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature of Jon-Paul Venoit in black ink, featuring a stylized first name and a more traditional last name.



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"A Man Wrapped Up in Himself Makes a Very Small Bundle" - Bro. Benjamin Franklin

by John A. Amarilios, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

It has been a breath-catching fall season at the Valley of Bridgeport – the pace of degrees and Family Life events has been exhilarating and the ultimate degree of the Rite is coming up on the evening of December 5. Due to its large cast and very well-attended audience, there will be several dinner settings that start at 5 p.m. The degree commences at 7:30 p.m. and unlike other degree nights, there will be no 4th Degree shown prior to the main event. If you are waiting to start your path up to the Scottish Rite, the next time you can view the 4th Degree will be in early February (please see adjoining ad for degree details). If you are coming to the 32nd Degree, please call the office and let them know that you are coming and what seating time you prefer.

Upcoming Family Life events for Scottish Rite Masons and their families are the December 10 trip to Boston's Symphony Hall to see the Boston Pops Holiday Concert, and the December 16 Holiday Party at Woodwinds in Branford. Reservations and prior payment are required for these two events. Call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064 or see the fall issue of the Lafayette Consistory News for more details.

Lastly, please support our attempt to shave off MWGM Bellmore's beard at the Holiday Party on December 16. You will find an opportunity to help him raise \$30 thousand for the CT Dyslexia Centers on page 14 of this issue of the *Connecticut Freemasons*. Should we be able to raise the requisite total, we will be securing the ability of the centers to keep up their good works of providing gratis education to children who need to defeat dyslexia. Please help out!

The fraternity assists those seeking the light by providing a myriad of opportunities to further their consciousness by engaging in activities that uplift the soul and gladden the heart. Charity, one of the cornerstones of our fraternity, is emphasized by not only the Blue Lodge but also all the appendant bodies.

I have previously touched upon the physical and emotional beneficial effects of charity in the past on

these pages. It was Swedenborg who once wrote, "Worship does not consist in prayers and in external devotion, but in a life of charity." Given that we are in the holiday season we should not forget that opportunities to share our good fortune and invite more abound within the Masonic bodies that we are members of. Our Grand Lodge provides us with charitable outlets such as the Connecticut Freemasons

Foundation, which supports the Grand Almoner's Fund, and Masonicare.

The Rite provides us with a number of different charitable outlets which can all be accessed through the Rite's member website at <https://scottishritenmj.org/>. There you can find charitable opportunities such as the Grand Almoners Fund, the White Flower Society, the Children's Dyslexia Centers, Abbot Scholarships, The Masonic Museum and Library, and the Cornerstone Society. If your situation permits, donating is a great way to express your appreciation to the GAOTU for the good fortune you may have experienced this past year.

The Valley of Bridgeport, its officers, and brothers all wish you a very happy holiday season, and may the blessings of the season visit you and yours in the new year!

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention All Master Masons!

SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES

Mon., Feb. 6 - 7:30 p.m.
4th Degree (live), 10th Degree (live)

Mon., Feb. 27 - 7:30 p.m.
23rd Degree (live), 31st Degree (video)

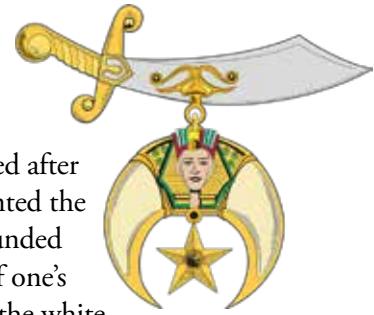
Dinners are at 6 p.m.
in the Shrine building
unless otherwise stated.
Reservations required. Call the
Consistory Office at 203-375-0064.

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.

Sphinx Shrine News *by Eric Pogg*



As the year comes to a close, we reflect on all of those nobles who passed away to the Black Camel. A somber service for the dozens lost. Each and everyone will be missed and the memories of the work they did for the Craft over the years will not be forgotten.

One important date at the end of the year is December 21. The election of officers for the Divan will be held at the Sphinx Shrine Center. We look forward to seeing all nobles there to vote.

The winter months are also a time to winterize, refurbish, and maintain all of our parade vehicles. Oil changes, paint touch-ups, brakes, tires, and batteries, all need to be maintained to ensure a proper start for the parade season in 2023.

By the time this article is printed, the Kids Holiday party and the Sphinx Christmas Party will be over. Traditionally over the years, Santa has not disappointed the youth of the Nobility with his large bag of toys. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to a great 2023.

Changes to a clinic model from a hospital model continues to go smoothly for Shriners Children's New England in Springfield, Massachusetts. Shriners Children's continue to follow the changes in the healthcare system nationally. As you may notice with your own healthcare, you may have less distance to travel for doctor visits as clinics open in the smaller cities and suburbs. As more clinics are opened across the country, more children have been served by Shriners in 2022 than in any other year. This is not the first time in the past 100 years that we have changed our outlook. Our hospital used to be full of patients with polio. Expanded care included burn and orthopedic, cleft lip and palate, spinal surgeries, and even urology and sports medicine.

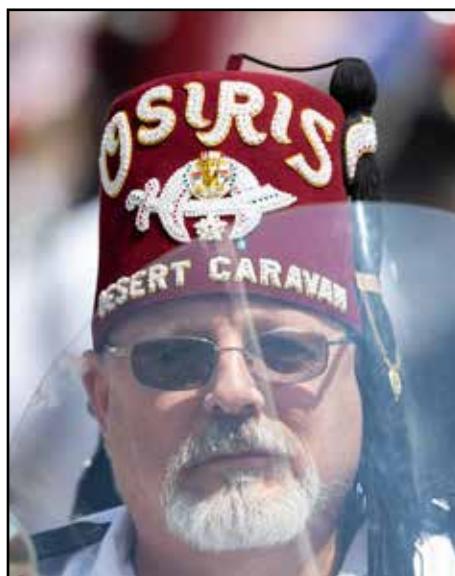
On February 10-12, 2023, Shriners International Education Foundation will be hosting a Membership and Marketing Conference in Grapevine, Texas. This conference is open not only to Shriners but to members of all Masonic bodies across the country and the world. Featured speakers include Allan Casalou, Grand Secretary at the Grand Lodge of California

Teko Foley, General Grand King at General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons International; Trevor Mitchell, FASAE, CAE, Executive Director / CEO at American Mensa; Leslie Murphy, FASAE, CAE, President, Raybourn Group International; and George Taylor, Sr. Director of Member Services & Programs, Scottish Rite, NMJ.

For more information and registration go to ShrinersInternational.org.

Some of you may wonder why we wear those funny red hats. Here is a little explanation of the history of the fez. The fez is one of the most recognizable symbols of Shriners International and was adopted as the

Shriners' official headdress in 1872. Named after the city of Fez, Morocco, the hat represented the Arabian theme that the fraternity was founded on. It also serves as an outward symbol of one's membership in the fraternity. Much like the white apron worn by Masons as a symbol of their brotherhood, the fez is worn only by Shriners as a symbol of their membership in this unique fraternity. Today the fez is worn at Shriners' functions, in parades, and at outings as a way of gaining exposure for the fraternity. Members customize their fez to show their allegiance to their temple. Look closely at a fez and you will also learn other important information about its wearer, such as membership in Shrine clubs, special roles within the organization, and much more. A fez with multiple rows of jewels denotes the wearer's title or office. Each fez is custom made and a Shriner may own more than one fez depending on his activities and memberships.



If you have an old fez from your father, grandfather, or great-grandfather that was passed down you can use the fez when you feel ready to join the Shrine or you can donate the fez, fez case, or other jewels back to the Shrine so we can help out those that may need them. Presently the best felt that the fezzes are made of comes from Ukraine. Each fez is handmade by skilled craftsmen and can take weeks to make a more elaborate jeweled fez.

We look forward to seeing you in 2023. The Installation of Officers is scheduled on January 14 at 11 a.m. at the Shrine Center in Newington. The Annual meeting is scheduled for January 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Sphinx Shriners

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

The Mission of Sphinx Shriners is to:

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

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

VALLEY OF HARTFORD, AASR

by David R. Blythe, Sr.

Thanksgiving is over. I hope your day was enjoyable. In November, the current class saw the popular 18th Degree portrayed live, as it is always performed live in the Valley of Hartford. The Family Life trip, a Christmas tour of the Newport mansions, was well attended also. Please join us on our upcoming trips and outings.

Thanks for Your Help!

For those who do not know, Valley Secretary, Ill. Bro. Tony Angelica has been out of the office for some time, having undergone several operations, and was in a rehab center. He is currently recovering at home so communications about future activities will be more numerous. While Tony has been out of commission, several brothers have covered his duties at the office and on degree nights. The Valley would like to thank Bro. Andrew Work, Bro. Walter Grube M.S.A., and the others who stepped up and filled in.

December

December begins with the 25th and 27th Degrees on December 1 at 7:30 p.m. As always there is a pre-degree dinner at 6:30 p.m. and reservations are required. There is also a Family Life event in December, a bus trip to see the Radio City Rockettes Christmas Show, with a luncheon, on Thursday, December 8.

December also kicks off the holiday season. Hannukah runs from December 18 through December 26, Christmas is on December 25, and Kwanzaa starts on December 26. For those brothers who may be celebrating this season without a wife or family member who has passed away, our prayers go out to you. Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, Happy Kwanza.



January

In January 2023, the Family Life event will be a trip to the New England Air Museum with a luncheon included. The date will be announced shortly. On January 28, 2023, the spring degree season will kick off with live portrayals of the 10th and 13th Degrees. The snow date is February 3, 2023.

Ongoing Valley Projects

Through December:

Toys for Tots collection

Through January 2023:

Winter garment collection for the homeless

Through January 2023:

Food drive.

Through July 2023:

Children's Dyslexia Center
(Ties, Leaves, & Tabs)

Some of these projects will be ending shortly, so if you are able and willing to help, please bring donations on a degree night or contact the Valley office to arrange a pick-up.

Applications Currently Being Accepted

If you know of a Master Mason who is looking to obtain more light in Masonry it is not too late to join the 2022-2023 class. Applications are currently being accepted. They can be completed online at <https://valleyofhartford.org/join> or <https://scottishritenmj.org/join>. Call the Valley office at (203) 666-0712, or email office@valleyofhartford.org for more information.



A recent survey by the Supreme Council, NMJ, shows there are four reasons why Master Masons joined the Scottish Rite:

Continuing the Masonic journey

Continuing one's personal journey

Expanding one's fraternal circle

Educational opportunities

~

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





Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

The Valley of New Haven
Masonic Temple, 285 Whitney Avenue, New Haven



For Upcoming Degrees at the Valley of New Haven
please contact the Valley of New Haven office.

c: 203-580-4208

e: office@valleyofnh.com

4th Degree DVD offered prior to degrees so one can start their Scottish Rite Journey on any date except on 32nd Degree reunions. Dinner before each reunion. Call the Valley Secretary at 203-580-4208 or email the office at office@valleyofnh.com for information on degrees or reservations.

Scottish Rite Valley of New Haven

celebrates the beginning of

2023

New Year's Eve Extravaganza Formal Masquerade Ball

\$35 per person includes

Buffet Dinner • Cash Bar • DJ Music
Dinner, Dancing, Champagne toast at midnight.
Doors open at 6:30 p.m., December 31, 2022.
for more information contact: Office@ValleyofNH.com

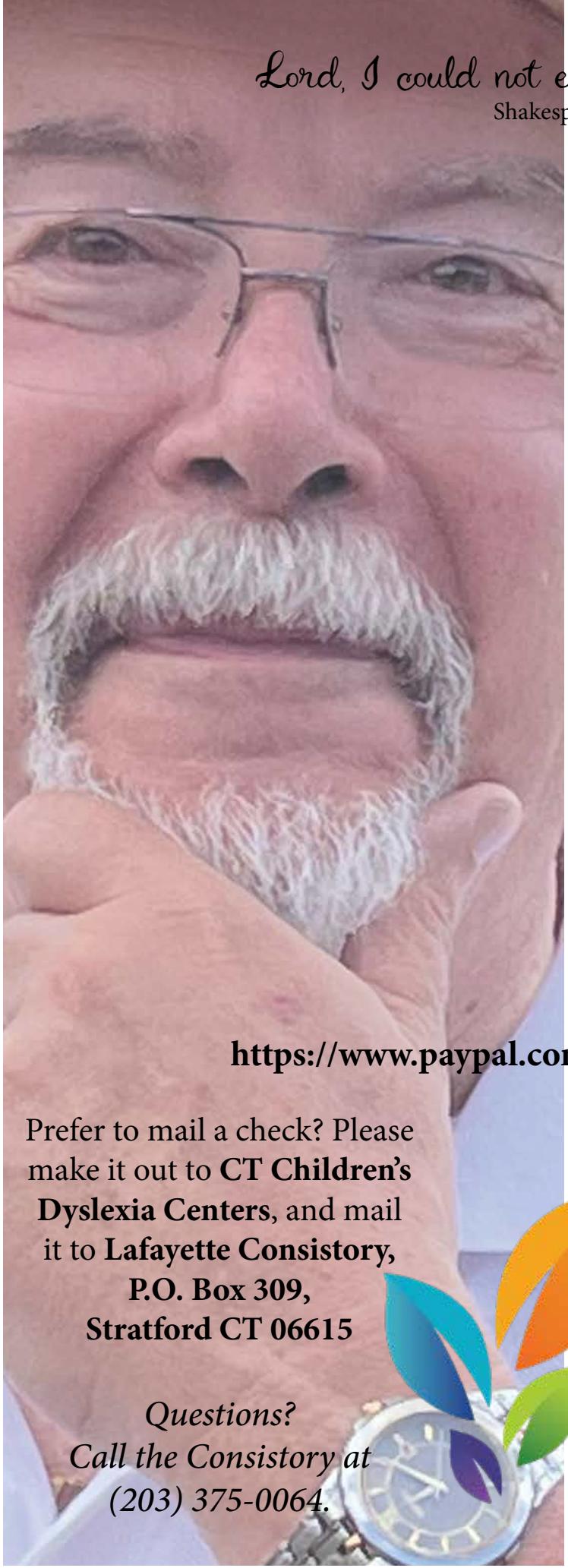
Buy tickets \$35
Scan Here!

Reserve a room \$99
Scan Here!



**Best Western Plus Hotel
North Haven, CT**





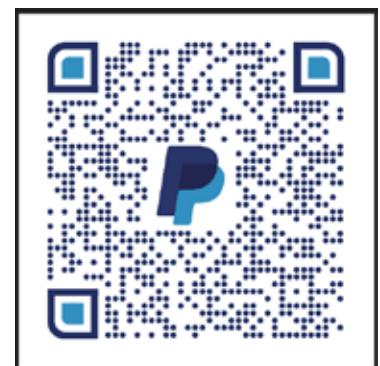
Lord, I could not endure a husband with a beard on his face!

Shakespeare - 'Much Ado About Nothing' act 2, scene 1.

Fortunately for our Grand Master, his lady does not necessarily share such preferences, (although she is not objecting to this challenge either!) However, he has thrown down the gauntlet and has challenged us to raise \$30,000 for the **Connecticut Children's Dyslexia Centers**. If we manage to do so by the time the Scottish Rite Christmas Holiday Party on December 16 at the Woodwinds in Branford, MWGM Bruce Bellmore has said "All good things must come to an end" and has agreed to submit to the ministrations of a tonsorial artist who will, in person, shave off his signature beard!

Support this Fund Razor!

Please donate today! Help us continue the great work that the Children's Dyslexia Centers are doing for the kids of this state. Use the QR code or the PayPal link to make your donation.



https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=FTWAZ7CKM73US

Prefer to mail a check? Please make it out to **CT Children's Dyslexia Centers**, and mail it to **Lafayette Consistory, P.O. Box 309, Stratford CT 06615**

Questions?
Call the Consistory at
(203) 375-0064.



CONNECTICUT
Children's
Dyslexia
Centers

Masonicare is Here for You!

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



The Concentric Circle is Growing!

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
- **FREE BALANCE ASSESSMENTS** in the Masonicare Health Center Outpatient Rehabilitation Department
- **WAIVED ADVANCE PAYMENTS** on Masonicare at Home (in-home, non-medical homemaker-companion services)



Masonicare.org Masonicare Community Services **800.982.3919**

22 Masonic Avenue . Wallingford, CT 06492



WB Kevin Joseph Hecht Awarded the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze

Brother Kevin Joseph Hecht was born on August 15, 1953, in Southington to Doris C. and James C. Hecht. The family included siblings James, Holly, and Kari.

After graduating from Southington High School,

Kevin attended Tunxis Community College receiving his A.S. in Administrative Science. Two years later, in 1975, Brother Hecht received his B.S. in Administration from Central Connecticut State University and went on to receive his M.B.A. in Business Administration from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, in 1977.

Desiring to turn to a career in law enforcement, Brother Hecht attended Middlesex Community Technical College and received an A.S. in Law Enforcement in 1977, then graduated from the Connecticut State Police Academy in 1977 as a State Trooper. He went on to receive a certificate in Traffic Police Administrative training in 1980, from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. From August 1976 through August 1985, Brother Hecht served as a Connecticut State Trooper and member of the Accident Reconstruction team and as a U.S. Navy Certified Scuba Diver, while attending the University of Connecticut School of Law.

In 1985, Brother Hecht graduated from the UCONN School of Law with a Juris Doctorate. He was admitted to practice in the State of Connecticut Superior, Appellate and Supreme Court Bar in 1985 and the United States District Court, District of Connecticut in 1986. After graduation, he joined the law firm of Hitt, Sachner & Coleman. He was named a partner in and served as Managing Partner of Hitt, Sachner, Coleman & Hecht from 1990-1993. Kevin left this firm to form the Law Offices of Kevin J. Hecht, P.C. in July 1993.

On November 5, 1977, Kevin married the former Kim Bennett, and this marriage was blessed with two sons, Karl W. Hecht, and Kendal J. Hecht.

Brother Hecht was raised a Master Mason in Friendship Lodge No. 33 in Southington on November 16, 1983, and served as its Worshipful Master in 1990. He was Chairman of the Scholarship Committee from 1991-2011.

He has served the Grand Lodge of Connecticut as Judge Advocate from 1992-2005 and from 2017 to the present, and as a member, Vice Chairman, and Chairman of the Trial Commission from 2012-2017. Brother Hecht served the Masonicare Board of Directors in 2001 and is presently serving as Trustee, of Masonicare Corporation.

Brother Hecht joined the Valley of Hartford, AASR in the fall of 1990



and served as Thrice Potent Master of Charter Oak Lodge of Perfection in 1996. He served as Chairman of the Executive Council from 1996-1997 and 1999-2000 and as Commander-in-Chief of Nathan Hale Consistory from 1998-2000. He presently serves the Valley of Hartford as its Hospitaler.

Brother Hecht was Coroneted an Honorary Member, 33° of the Supreme Council Northern Masonic Jurisdiction on September 29, 1998, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and elected an Active Member of this Supreme Council on August 23, 2014. On August 31, 2021, Brother Hecht was elected Deputy for the State of Connecticut, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, succeeding Ill. Brother Bruce T. Work.

Presently, Ill. Brother Kevin is serving as Director of Human Resources and Insurance for the Supreme Council, Lexington, Massachusetts.

Brother Hecht is a member of Keystone Chapter No. 27 RAM, Hamilton Council No. 22 R&SM, and St. Elmo Commandry No. 9, KT. In addition, Brother Hecht is a member of St. Andrews Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine. He served as Puissant Sovereign in 2010 and presently serves as Intendant General for the Division of Connecticut

Brother Hecht is a Noble of Sphinx Temple AAONMS and has served on the Imperial Council Endowments, Wills and Gifts committee 2000-2011, a member of the Board of Governors of Shriners Hospital for Children, Boston 2005-2015, as Vice Chairman Board of Governors Shriners Hospital for Children, Boston 2010-2012, and as Chairman 2013-2015. In addition, Noble Hecht served as Sphinx Temple as Temple Attorney from 2012 to the present. Noble Hecht is also a member of Hartford Court No. 141 Royal Order of Jesters, Hartford.

Brother Hecht served as a member of the Board of Directors of Cheshire Occupational Career Opportunities, Inc. from 1998-2005, and served as its President in 2005. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce from 1995-1998, and as its President in 1998. Further, he served as a member of the Board of Directors of the UCONN Law School Alumni Association from 1992-2004, and as its President in 1997.

In recognition of his service to our fraternity, his lodge, and community, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the state of Connecticut is pleased to present Brother Kevin J. Hecht, the Pierpont Edwards Medal In Bronze For Distinguished Masonic Service.

RWB Salvatore Robert Ferrigno, Jr. Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze



Right Worshipful Brother Salvatore R. Ferrigno, Jr. was born on April 10, 1960, in New Haven, the first of four sons of Susan (Anderson) and Salvatore R. Ferrigno, Sr. RWB Ferrigno received his elementary education in the New Haven parochial and public schools, and after the family moved to

North Haven, he graduated from North Haven High School. Sal continued his education at Gateway Community College and Southern Connecticut State University with studies in graphic design, photography, and communications.

Sal has been married to Lauren Altvater Ferrigno since 1983. They are the parents of Nicholas Ferrigno. Sal has also been instrumental in the care of the older generation of his wife's and his own families.

Brother Sal developed an interest in graphic arts in high school, which led him into that field. He held positions of increasing responsibility with various southern Connecticut printing companies, particularly Gamma One, Inc. where he was a Pre-press Specialist and a Production Artist. As the printing business evolved with the development of computers and digital formats, Sal also evolved to keep current with technological advances. He has been employed by LEGO Systems Inc. as a Production Artist, Designer, and Partner Manager in the LEGO Agency Americas since August 2011.

RWB Sal has been active in the Order of DeMolay since his initiation at age 14 in William P. Leete Chapter in North Haven. He served the chapter as Master Councilor and on the Connecticut State Chapter Suite of Officers in several positions. He was recognized for his active DeMolay involvement with the Past Master Councilor's Meritorious Service Award, the Blue Honor Key, and the Degree of Chevalier. Brother Sal's involvement in the Order became even greater upon reaching his majority. He has served in many capacities as a DeMolay Advisor on the local and State Chapter levels and has been awarded the Cross of Honor, Zerubbabel Key, Advisor's Honor Key, and the Active Legion of Honor for his service to DeMolay. Brother Sal was elected an Honorary Member of the International Supreme Council of the Order



of DeMolay in 2017 and serves CT DeMolay as Deputy Executive Officer and State Chapter Dad.

Sal began his Masonic career as a member of Trumbull Lodge No. 22, in New Haven. He was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on October 1, 1981, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on November 5, 1981, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 19, 1981. He entered the officer line in 1982, and served as Worshipful Master of Trumbull Lodge in 1986, earning the Masters Achievement Award, and served again as Worshipful Master in 1993. He has served Trumbull Lodge in many capacities, including terms as Chaplain, Masonic Temple Association Agent, and on the Finance Committee.

RWB Sal affiliated with Hiram Lodge No. 1 in 2000 and served that Lodge as Worshipful Master in 2006 and has been Treasurer since 2007. He is currently serving as the Treasurer of the New Haven Masonic Temple Association and in that position has been instrumental in the maintenance and renovation of the last city-based Masonic Temple in Connecticut. Additionally, Sal is a member of Lafayette Consistory, Valley of New Haven, AASR, where he has served on the Board of Governors of the

Scottish Rite Children's Dyslexia Center in Waterbury. He is also serving as the Treasurer of the Valley of New Haven. Sal is also a member of Hejaz Grotto.

Right Worshipful Brother Ferrigno served the Grand Lodge of Connecticut as Associate Grand Marshal in 2000 and 2001, as Right Worshipful District Deputy in 2013, and as Right Worshipful Grand Junior Deacon in 2014. He also served on the Grand Lodge Strategic Planning and Masonic Youth Committees. He is a Past President of the 4th District Actual Past Masters Association and is the sitting President of The Past District Deputies Association of Connecticut.

In recognition of his service to our fraternity, his lodge, and community, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the state of Connecticut is pleased to present Brother Salvatore Robert Ferrigno, Jr., the Pierpont Edwards Medal In Bronze For Distinguished Masonic Service.

District 2

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



Jerusalem Lodge No. 49 Initiates a New Brother

by Daniel W. Nichols

On October 17, Jerusalem Lodge No. 49 brought a new member into the fraternity. It was evident how hard the brothers worked, and the degree was stellar.

Before the lodge opened, RWB Steve Hudson led a meditation to help everyone center themselves and to remind them that the reason for the night was the candidate and his journey. Then the degree began, and everyone did their part, and the new brother witnessed something he will surely never forget.



The Steward's Lecture was especially impressive as Brother Robert Tunney, who was initiated on February 21, performed the lecture. Not only did Bro. Tunney prove his proficiency but he did it with distinction.

Masonry is a lifelong journey. Brothers to go "full in" without guidance and support. If you see a new brother just sitting around become his mentor!

District 3

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



Harmony Lodge No. 42 Temple Rededication

Brother Matthew J. Cucolo, Rev. and MWB Bruce R. Bellmore, and Brother Augustus "Augie" Jayaraj at the Harmony Lodge No. 42 Awards and Necrology night on November 5. Grand Lodge performed an official re-dedication of Harmony Lodge No. 42, as well.



King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 Welcomes New Master Masons *by Steve Lewis*

On September 21, Bros. Matthew Brouillard, David Friebel, and Kristopher Milardo were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 was fortunate to have MWPGM Marshall Robinson sitting in the West as the Senior Warden. RWB Donald A. Demaine served as the Senior Deacon.

RWB Peter Keefe, District Deputy of Masonic District 3A, presented lectures on Hiram Abiff, the long version of the Working Tools, and a beautiful poem with the message to plant the trees of wisdom that will survive long after our passing.

Bro. Brouillard became interested in the Masonry after seeing the volunteer work and their real sense of community. While pursuing a career path in Human Resources, he looks to start a health and wellness business.

Bro. Friebel grew up near Albany, NY, and married his high school sweetheart. He graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He then moved to Connecticut in his mid-30s to join an engineering consulting firm. He became interested in Masonry when he felt that he could dedicate time to this community-driven fraternal organization.

Bro. Milardo graduated from Southern Connecticut State University with a Bachelor's in English. Interested in Egyptian and Greek mythology, he saw some of these symbols in lodge and his interest was piqued again. Bro. Kris is an advocate for the esoteric side of Freemasonry.

RWB Keefe offered the last word along with the warm fraternal greetings of Reverend and MWB Bruce Bellmore.



WM Douglas Barry, Jr. (front l-r) Bros. David Friebel, Kristopher Milardo, and Matthew Brouillard.

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

For the second year in a row, the brothers of King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 in Woodbury helped illuminate the town with pumpkins carved in their full glory. Brothers, friends, and children helped carve 33 pumpkins to place in the front of the lodge, which prominently overlooks Main Street.





District 5

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



Brothers of Friendship Lodge No. 33 Repair Vandalism *by Michael Leser*

Earlier this year, the Art for a Cause Pollinator Garden on the Southington Linear Trail was severely vandalized. Having supported the garden in 2021, Senior Warden Mike Leser and the brothers of Friendship Lodge No. 33 felt the pain of the community from this loss and stepped in to help.

WB Don “the tool man” Hastie helped Bro. Leser with the repairs and worked directly with the garden keepers on the art project repairs. The main structure was a spiral wooden structure that supported the garden’s “Mason bee hotel,” which was almost completely destroyed. A “peace pole” and an information storage mailbox were also damaged.

With the support of other community members, the brothers completed all the repairs to the garden and the art project before the fall season. Worshipful Master Allyan Lopes and WB Dave Edmunds also re-mulched the entire garden.



Valley of Bridgeport, AASR Fellowcraft Degree Team Visits Friendship Lodge No. 33 *by Jake Manke*

On an October Saturday, two Entered Apprentices, Bro. Christain Rivera and Bro. Benjamin Caron received their Fellowcraft Degree from the likes of President George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Paul Revere as Friendship Lodge No. 33 welcomed the Valley of Bridgeport Colonial Degree Team.

The Valley’s degree team portrayed the degree in full colonial regalia and reciting period lectures, not often heard in lodge. Brother Guy Wetchel recited the Middle Chamber lecture in his signature manner, which inspired the candidates and brothers. WM Allyan Lopes thanked the team, which included MWB and Reverend Bruce Belmore. All in attendance celebrated the degree with a luncheon prepared by Junior Warden and Associate Grand Almoner, WB Rudy Cabatta.



Friendship Lodge No. 33 Participates in Apple Harvest Festival

by Jake Manke

Friendship Lodge No. 33 of Southington participated in the annual Southington Apple Harvest Festival, an extremely well-attended, long-running fall festival, hosted on the Southington Green. The brothers sell homemade pulled pork and apple empanadas raising money for various charities and scholarships.

This year's empanada-making efforts were led by WB Rudy Cabata, and included WM Allyan Lopes, MWB Gary Arsenault, WB Kenneth Kruker, WB Kenneth Sherman, WB Ron Mattson, and several other brothers. Friendship Lodge completely sold out the first weekend requiring two emergency empanada-making sessions.

The brothers of Friendship Lodge were joined on Sunday, October 3 by Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 and Unity Lodge No. 148 to march in the Apple Harvest Parade.



WB Keath Romano, WM Allyan Lopes, and WB Carl Larson.

Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14 Haunted House is Major Hit at Plainville Pumpkin Festival

by Patrick M. Kilby

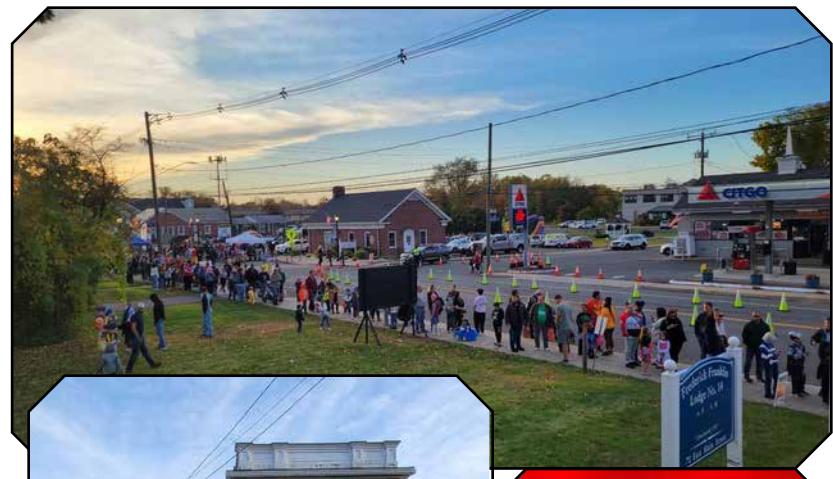
Plainville's annual Pumpkin Festival transforms the center of town into a fall-time Halloween community event. Carved pumpkins adorn the streets and the largest pumpkin grown in the community is on display in the front yard of Town Hall. The streets are lined with food vendors serving warm fall food, there are craft activities for families, and the community hosts live music. There is a kid's costume contest parade and a best-carved pumpkin contest. The festival is non-profit, and funds raised are donated to the Plainville Community Fund, which is in turn awarded to non-profit organizations and people in need.

The brothers of Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14 joined the festivities by making homemade hot apple fritters for sale. The recipe is highly guarded and known by only a select few. Senior brothers of the lodge make fritter dough at lodge the night before the festival, and the apple fritters are in high demand and sold to assist the lodge with community donations throughout the year.

Brothers, family, and friends under the direction of WB Silvestro "Sly" Manente, Jr. transform the lodge into a spooky haunted house and then dress up and take their places in the haunted house. The line of attendees stretches hundreds of yards down the road in front of the lodge. People of all ages love the tradition and hold the lodge's haunted house as the main event of the festival.

Senior Deacon Mike Kelley entertains those waiting in line with his amazing magic card tricks. Those brave enough to make it through the haunted house are thanked by brothers of the lodge and given Halloween candy as they exit.

If you haven't attended the pumpkin festival, you should put it on your calendar for next year! Special thanks go out to WB Manente and RWB Chet Russell, lodge secretary, for all their hard work.



Unity Lodge No. 148 Honors Three on Annual Awards Night

by Roger Thorin

On Tuesday, October 18, Unity Lodge No. 148 held its Annual Awards Night, preceded by a delicious dinner that was enjoyed by all. Then it was upstairs for the ceremony.

Past Secretary RWB Timothy Cavanaugh who passed away last year, was named Secretary Emeritus. RWB Harry Needham III introduced Tim's wife Deana and two sons, James and David. RWB Needham gave a brief talk about RWB Cavanaugh, how he became part of the Unity Lodge family, and his impact on the lodge. The family then unveiled a portrait mounted by the lodge room entrance.

Following the unveiling, everyone went into the lodge room for the presentations of service pins, awarded for service from 5 to 55 years.

WM Hiram Morales II recognized Bro. David Wallace as Ritualist of the Year and WB Keath Romano as Mason of the Year. Each was presented with a plaque in recognition.

RWB Shane Dufresne, Grand Junior Deacon, presented Bro. Jeffrey Davis with the Grand Lodge First Responder Award and a \$100 check from the CT Freemasons Foundation in his honor for the New Britain Fire Department.

RWB Harry Needham III, District Deputy of Masonic District 5B gave closing remarks and congratulated the brothers on their service pins and other honors.

WM Hiram Morales II thanked everyone for coming out and celebrating with the lodge, after which refreshments were served.



In Celebration of
Timothy Cavanaugh



SECRETARY EMERITUS
UNITY LODGE 148



District 6

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



Halloween At Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 *by Pat Jones*

The spirit of Halloween was strong at Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 on Halloween night. Ghosts, skeletons, and Spider-Man were just some of the guests who attended the annual open house.

A wagon decorated with lights, and hay bales for seating, pulled by Brother Bart Blonstein's truck, was more than enough to bring delight to more than 20 children and adults who set out on the road from Hartford Evergreen Lodge in South Windsor to trick or treat. While the wagon went on its journey, numerous brothers manned the lodge to give out candy to over 200 trick-or-treaters who traveled through the neighborhood on foot or in the many wagons that crowded Main Street in South Windsor.

Everyone was invited inside for wings, hot dogs, chicken, meatballs, or salad, and candy for their trick-or-treat bags. SW Brian Warren planned the event, with help from WM Dave Prior and Brothers Jake Gonska, Bart Blonstein, Mike McClellan, Curt and Bob Dynak, Eliad Johnson, DeShawn Morris, Bruce Putinas, and Chris Packer-McCarthy. Members of Temple Chapter No. 53, Order of the Eastern Star, were also there to help with the event. It was a great opportunity to meet the neighbors and the many people who came from other parts of town.

The lodge has done this for several years, and it continues to grow in popularity. The event ran from 5-9 p.m. with a light supper at 5. This appealed to many, as they didn't have to cook supper that night. Some of the parents or chaperones remained at the lodge to enjoy coffee, food, conversation, and free time, while their children went on the wagon.

It was a great way for people to see one of the fun sides of Masonry. Many people had never been in the lodge, and the brothers were happy to show them around and answer their questions. As the night ended and the last of the costumed crusaders went on their way, talks were underway about how to make this event even better next year.



Masons Working Together To Initiate New Brothers *by Arnie Grot*

A candidate from Columbia Lodge No. 25 and one from Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 were initiated on Wednesday, October 19 in Columbia Lodge in South Glastonbury. The evening began with a delicious lasagna dinner with a Klondike bar for dessert.

WM Jeff Flynn called SD Deepak Saluru to step up to sit in the East. After opening, RWB Arnold S. Grot, District Deputy of Masonic District 6B was received along with Associate Grand Marshall WB Brian J. Berk and RWB Gregory J. Stump, Masonic District 6B.

Saint Patrick of Columbia Lodge and Raheem J. Vann-Davidson of Hartford Evergreen then received the Entered Apprentice degree. RWB Earl Evans delivered the Coming to Light Lecture, Bro. Dave Lockard presented the Apron, WB Brian Berk delivered the Penniless Lecture, WB Jack Ranney presented the Working Tools, Bros. Chris Gness and Jeff Spooner gave the First Section Lecture, and RWB Walter Grube delivered the Charge. The new brothers were given their lecture books, and WM Jeff Flynn welcomed them to the lodge.

SD Saluru closed the lodge in due form, after giving dignitaries a chance to say a few words. RWB Grot spoke last, telling the brothers that the Grand Master often says the Grand Lodge is made up of all brothers, and leadership can come from anyone who learns and applies Masonic knowledge. Brother Saluru demonstrated his ability to open and close and receive dignitaries.

The degree was a great example of Masons working together.



(l-r) RWB Arnold Grot, WM Dave Prior, Bro.. Raheem Van-Davidson, Bro. Deepak Saluru, Bro. Saint Patrick, and WB Brian Berk.

Columbia Lodge No. 25 Joins The Society of Washington Lodges

by Arnie Grot

Columbia Lodge No. 25 learned of the Society of Washington Lodges when ambassadors Chip Stamm and Larry Baker spoke about the spaghetti dinner fundraisers to support the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The Memorial is in the midst of a \$10 million dollar renovation. At the September 7, stated communication a motion was passed to have the lodge join the Society of Washington Lodges.

There is a one-time charge of \$2,500 for a lodge to join the society. Member lodges receive a portrait of Washington with a plaque attesting their membership, and specially commissioned Society of Washington

Lodges Medals for the Master, Senior, and Junior Wardens. Member lodges of the Society are listed on the Memorial's website and on a plaque outside the Replica Lodge Room at the Memorial. On October 10, Columbia Lodge joined Washington Lodge No. 70, Sequin Level Lodge No. 140, and Corinthian Lodge No. 63 as member lodges.

The application to join can be found at https://cdn.shopify.com/files/1/1268/2219/files/swl_fill.pdf?v=1594382169. (Short URL <http://bit.ly/3Gk7wRY>).



L-r) RWB Arnie Grot, WB Larry Baker, SD Jeff Spooner, Bro. Marshal Rodney Spooner, JD Chris Gness, WM Jeff Flynn, Secretary Walt Grube, JW Juan Diaz, SW Dave LaFargue, Treasurer Rich Beebe, and SD Deepak Saluru.



Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 Entered Apprentice Degree - A Remarkable Night *by Arnold S. Grot*

Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 executed a beautiful Entered Apprentice degree on Thursday October 20. The lodge has a tradition of having the Junior Warden preside over the Entered Apprentice degree so JW Joseph P. Grieco was in the East.

Brother Bismark Ottovon Amedzro was initiated that evening.

One of the 24 brothers in attendance was Bro. Raheem Vann-Davidson from Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88, who was initiated the night before at Columbia Lodge No. 25, as a help toward achieving suitable proficiency.



Raheem Vann-Davidson with RWB F. Mathew Heinrich, Jr.



(l-r) RWB F. Mathew Heinrich, Jr., Grand Marshall; JW Joseph Grieco, Bro. Bismark Amedzro; WM Brad Young; RWB Arnold Grot.

What Will Be Your Past Master's Project?

by James W. D'Acosta

The 400th anniversary of Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3 arrives in 2162, and plans are already underway! As this momentous occasion approaches, a Past Master's project promises to enrich the 350th anniversary in 2112 and the upcoming 300th anniversary in 2062.

The magical nature of literacy promises to unite brothers long dead with those in attendance for those festivities. "Time is a river and books are boats." – this insight by Joseph Fort Newton into the power of writing to propel a person's thoughts and personality through time and across space in *The Men's House* is this project's essential element.

Emerging from the East six years ago with equal measures of humility, pride, and exhaustion, I exalted in being free of the pressures of office and ambition. Release from the progressive line challenges all Past Masters to direct their energies anew. Inspiration revealed this audacious project. *Travels with George: In Search of Washington and His Legacy*, Nathaniel Philbrick's account of his pre-COVID road trip retracing Washington's travels as President, captivated my attention. Not a Freemason himself, Philbrick makes mistakes about our eminent brother's Masonic life. Nonetheless, his travelogue is entertaining and filled with humanizing details so often missing from portrayals.

With meticulous planning and deliberate action which were hallmarks of his nature, Bro. Washington traveled throughout the states putting on displays of appealing leadership for an adoring public suspicious of central authority, divided by fiercely independent religious affiliations, and little used to contact with people from much beyond 50 miles from home.

Applying Newton's insight to Philbrick's book, 12 copies of *Travels with George* have been rebounded to include Masonic information and space for brothers to contribute their thoughts. "Write in this book!" is an imperative direction. Each brother's comments enrich the experience of subsequent readers.

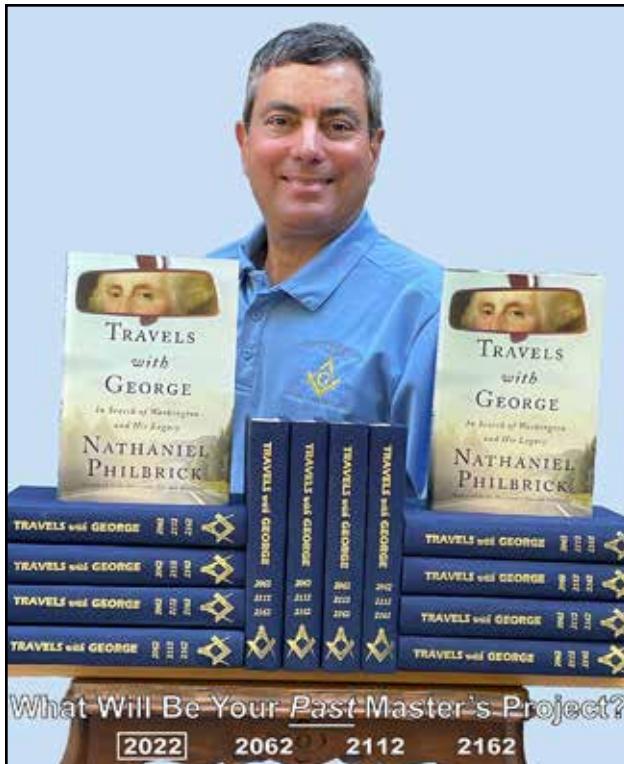
Copies are currently passing among members of Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3 and the Scottish Rite's Valley of Bridgeport. Another is in Washington for circulation on the west coast and two are headed overseas, Philbrick's narrative providing all with descriptions of the landscape and society that formed the setting of Bro. Washington's life.

Advancing from brother to brother with each identifying his Masonic affiliations and adding comments, the reading experience brings familiarity with Bro. Washington's decisions are rooted in his character and supported by Masonic ideals. His life shines as a model.

With a respite from travel during 2062 and 2112, each book's lengthening journey will reveal ever more clearly the richness of our diversity. Upon final homecoming in 2162 for Fidelity-St. John's Lodge's 400th anniversary, the collection's cumulative notes will demonstrate the accomplishment of Bro. Newton's challenge in *The Builders: A Story and Study of Freemasonry*, "What other order has ever brought together men of such diverse types, tempers, training, interests, religions, and achievements, uniting them at an altar of prayer in the worship of God and the service of man?"

Imagination suggests a vivid scene of brothers uniting in fervent cheers of "Vivat, Vivat, Vivat!" at each anniversary's celebratory table lodge, many returning for a fleeting moment from "that undiscovered country," to revel in fellowship under the merciful guidance of the Grand Architect.

What will be your Past Master's project?



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Masonic Renewal Committee

2022 Masonic Communication Awards Competition

On behalf of the Masonic Renewal Committee, we are pleased to announce the 2022 Masonic Communication Awards competition. This awards program has been instituted to enhance the channel of communication and recognize excellence in Masonic communications. The Masonic Renewal Committee was challenged by the Conference of Grand Masters to establish a website to enhance communications and provide Masonic publications as tools to provide for Masonic training, membership, education, communication, and leadership to the Craft. We have achieved this initiative and want to offer our expertise in initiating and reviewing communication pieces with a Masonic Communication Awards competition.

The competition will be based upon three (3) categories: newspapers/newsletters, email communications, and websites.

A panel of impartial judges from the Masonic Renewal Committee will review all valid entries and will choose a winner in each category. All participating Grand Lodges and Lodges within North America are encouraged to participate so the brethren can learn from each other the importance and value of communications. All participants will receive the judges' comments about their submissions, including positive feedback and constructive criticism. All participants can utilize this helpful information to continue to refine and improve their current communication pieces and practices.

The winning submissions in each category will be recognized at the Conference of Grand Masters in February 2023. The winners will also receive an appropriate recognition award and will be acknowledged in fraternal publications/social media with the Masonic Renewal Committee.

Detailed information on the Masonic Communication Awards, including rules, guidelines, criteria, and entry form is enclosed. These documents are also available for download at www.masonicrenewal.org. Please note that all entries must be emailed by December 15, 2022, to mrcreply@yahoo.com in order to be considered.

We look forward to your creativity, interest, and participation and wish you much success in the competition to enhance Masonic Communications.

2022 Masonic Communications Awards

Excellence in Masonic Communications

Official Rules and Regulations

Three Categories: Newspapers/Newsletters, Email Communications, and Websites.

Newspapers/Newsletters

This category is limited to official Grand Lodge or Masonic lodge print newspapers/newsletters that are distributed on a regular basis to the entire membership. Only digital copies (pdf or Word doc) of newspapers/newsletters will be accepted.

Newspapers/newsletters are defined as publications with any number of pages and printed on newsprint or copy paper. All newspaper/newsletter entries must be dated between the dates of January 1, 2022 – November 30, 2022.

Websites

This category is limited to official Grand Lodge or Masonic lodge websites. All website submissions must be accompanied by an entry form and url of the website.

Email Communications

This category is limited to official Grand Lodge or Masonic lodge email communications. They must be distributed to the entire membership on a regular basis. This does not include PDFs of or links to magazines that are emailed out to members.

When you send or forward your email communication, please send it (pdf or word doc) with your entry form for this category. Make it very clear that the email you are sending is your entry. Do not print and physically mail your entry for this category. All email communication entries must be dated between the dates of January 1, 2022 – November 30, 2022.

Official Rules

1. The Masonic Renewal Committee in conjunction with the Conference of Grand Masters of North America will choose a winner in each category as the Masonic Communication Award Champion.
2. Grand Lodges and Masonic lodges of North America can submit one entry in as many of the three categories as they choose. For example, two newsletters cannot be submitted but a website and e-mail communication can be submitted.

3. Each submission must have the corresponding entry form section completed or it will be disqualified.

4. All categories are limited to official Grand Lodge and Masonic lodge publications that are distributed on a regular basis to the entire membership.

5. The newspaper/newsletter category must be submitted via digital format. No hard copies will be accepted.

6. The email communications category is for communications sent out via email only, not PDFs of or links to print publications.

How to enter the Masonic Communication Awards:

1. Complete the entry form included in this program. There is also a link to a printable form located on our website at www.masonicrenewal.org.
2. Complete the sections that pertain to your entries. Each entry has to have its own section filled out.
3. If you enter the newspapers/newsletters categories, you must send in digital copies.
4. Do not submit two entries within the same category.
5. Answer all the questions on the entry form, specific to your entries. Do not leave any blank.
6. Electronic entries including websites, newsletters, and email communications can be submitted to mrcreply@yahoo.com. Be sure to include an entry form within the same email.
7. Your electronic submissions must be emailed by December 15, 2022.
8. Late entries will not be accepted.

Ed. Note:

Please refer to www.masonicrenewal.org for the full document with the Criteria, Guidelines, and the Entry Form for the Masonic Communication Awards.

Save the Dates!

Save the date for one or all of our
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Plato's Cave and Masonry

by Vasilios Tiniakos

Book Seven of Plato's Republic, the *Myth of the Cave*, is widely known as "Plato's Cave."

In that myth, Plato assumes there are a group of prisoners living inside a cave under the earth that has an opening to the light. Behind and above the prisoners there is a fire blazing and people move behind the prisoners and the fire, holding up figures of animals and other objects. The prisoners are not allowed to turn their heads to see behind them, nor to talk to each other, but they can see the shadows projected against the wall in front of them that acts as a projecting screen.

In the dialogue, Socrates decided, after a series of arguments, that the prisoners would have given names to the figures, and if the people that were moving behind them were talking, then the prisoners would have thought that the talking would have come from the projected shadows.

In that myth, Plato is telling us that we see events as they are reflected to us. That may explain the reason why Masonry is interpreted by many as nothing more than a place of ritualized degrees committed to memory. Plato's point is that phenomena are not always what they seem and to prove his point, he gave a simple example.

He made the argument that the shadow of one finger is, in fact, a projection of the finger. It proves that the object is a finger but certainly doesn't prove which one of the five fingers is it, or any of the characteristics such as whether it belongs to the left or right hand. But if more projections, such as the rest of the fingers, were given, then it would be possible to compare them and find more information about the projected finger by the use of logic. Plato concludes that things are not always as they seem because we cannot see the actual events that caused them.

At some point, one of the prisoners decided to escape the cave, going out to the light. Of course, the light represents knowledge in philosophy as well as Masonry.

At the first contact with the bright light, the eyes will go temporarily blind. Plato is saying that too much information, given in a short period of time, will bring mental blindness (i.e., confusion). It becomes impossible to see anything. But as time goes by the prisoner will start seeing more clearly and the blindness will go away. This conclusion explains how the brother cannot know something yet because he has not taken the appropriate degree. Now the prisoner returns to the cave in order to bring more of the prisoners to light.

At this point, he may face opposition, the most common reason is that some will refuse to see light. It might appear too complicated for them to analyze it any further. For Masons, however, the goal is to search and discover. A Mason cannot remain idle, resting only on what has been committed to memory. Masonry is, of course, a progressive science. Another common reason for opposition is jealousy over not being the first to see the light. This might even result in making some enemies, says the philosopher.

How does this apply to the lodge? One door in the west leads to the anteroom, while the other leads to the preparation room. In the degrees, as soon as the preparation of the candidate is complete, the preparation room light is turned off and the blindfolded candidate is left alone

to concentrate on the uncertainty of what lies ahead. That brings the candidate, mentally, inside Plato's cave, and he represents the prisoner who has devoted himself to escape from the cave. He is introduced to the principal officers of the lodge as a poor blind (i.e., ignorant) candidate desirous of being brought from darkness to light, just as the prisoner who escaped from Plato's cave.

After all this, it is difficult to resist comparing Masonry and philosophy. Light means knowledge, and darkness, therefore, denotes ignorance. That applies in Masonry as well as philosophy.

The newest Entered Apprentice is placed in the northeast corner of the lodge. Since the north in the lodge is a place of darkness, and the east a place of light, the new brother is placed there to denote his passing from darkness to light.

The candidate is received in the northwest corner by the preparation room (i.e., the Cave), the darkest corner of the lodge, and this indicates his blindfolded ignorance of Masonic knowledge.

It is also customary in lodge to reserve the seating in the southeast corner for dignitaries of other lodges or Grand Lodge. Because the sun in the south at its meridian height is the glory and beauty of the day, that makes the south a bright place, and being near the east, the southeast corner is the brightest corner of the lodge (in terms of wisdom). It is, therefore, the most appropriate place to seat the dignitaries.

By closely examining the lodge, we can discover the minutest allegories in it. The lodge looks empty, but it is so full of symbolism. It is noble in its simplicity.

For a fuller philosophical disquisition, it is necessary to consider the seventh book of the Republic in its entirety. We have concluded that we may find resistance from some who refuse to see the light, and may, perhaps, make enemies while doing so, in spite of our good intentions. But no matter these dangers, we should always attempt to illuminate the minds of the Republic (i.e. society, city, city-state), ever maintaining a sense of responsibility and correcting information



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The Perfect Holiday Gift! *by Richard F. Denno*

Happy Holidays my brothers, to you and your families from your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program. We sincerely wish you a wonderful holiday season filled with fun, food, and those perfect gifts, ones that will honor all that is so special about this time of year.

Christmas is one of the most well-known and widely celebrated holidays, and different countries celebrate it differently.

In Brazil, nativity scenes are known as nacimientos or pesebres and are generally a big part of the Christmas season. They are often hand-crafted in the local or regional style. The scenes often stay up for weeks from the days of Advent through Epiphany (January 6). The baby Jesus is typically put in his place at midnight on Christmas Eve since most churchgoers in South American countries, attend a late supper and Mass that day.

La Alborada is a relatively new festival in Medellín, Colombia, that started in 2003. It occurs on the night of November 30, welcoming the month of December with fireworks. Medellín also puts on a fantastic, internationally recognized display of Christmas lights throughout December.

In Chile, as in some other Caribbean countries, and in the Philippines, people often refer to the Christmas season as Pascua, which in other Spanish-speaking countries usually means Easter. However, Pascua can also mean any solemn holy day on the Christian calendar.

A typical Christmas feast in Chile occurs later on Christmas Eve and includes roasted turkey with chestnuts, potato salad, cola de mono pun, and pan de Pascua for dessert.

Argentina, home to a Jewish community of around 250,000, celebrates Hanukkah, this year

between December 18 and December 26. It celebrates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem during the second century BC.

Each night another candle is lit on the menorah, special sections of the Torah are read, the importance of oil is recognized in the Jewish tradition by eating fried foods, and money is given to children to encourage good behavior and works of charity.

This is just a sampling of the many traditions of South America, celebrated during the holiday season. The diversity of these countries have one thing in common, the need their people have for organ/tissue donation. That gift we spoke of in the beginning is simple. Please go online to www.registerme.org, learn about donation and transplantation, and register as an organ donor.

To you and yours a very happy holiday season!



Pyramid Shriners Welcome New Nobles

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Pyramid Shriners fezzed 16 new Nobles as members of Shriners International. The ceremony took place in Stratford on November 5. Following the ceremony, everyone in attendance was treated to a delicious lunch. Officers from various units and clubs made presentations, encouraging new nobles to participate in Temple events and activities.



HAPPY HANUKKAH

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Now you can support ***Connecticut Freemasons*** newspaper online! You spoke and we listened. There is now a PayPal dropdown *Connecticut Freemasons* Booster form on the Grand Lodge home page (ctfreemasons.net) just below the PDF version of the paper. Use the dropdown to select your level, click the "Pay Now" button and then follow the directions. You can pay with credit or debit cards or a PayPal account. The funds are used to help cover the printing and mailing expenses of the paper.

Grand Lodge Hometown Hero Award

by *Shane Dufresne*

The Hometown Hero Award is a great way to get your lodge some free recognition and publicity. All a lodge must do is identify a hometown hero in your community. It can be a first responder, military veteran, doctor, nurse, veterinarian, or anyone you feel deserves some recognition for what they do for their community.

The program costs the lodge nothing because the plaque that is given to the recipient is paid for by the Grand Lodge. The \$100 check that will be given to a 501-3c charity of the recipient's choosing is provided by the CT Freemasons Foundation. All a lodge has to do is invite the recipient to a dinner at the lodge. It can be done as a stand-alone event, or it can be a part of your lodge's awards night or similar program.

Fifteen lodges have participated in this program since April, and they brought some positive light to the community. A short story and pictures can be published in the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper, but the same should be done in the town's local paper. It can also be posted on social media platforms.

For more information and details, contact RWB Shane Dufresne, Grand Junior Deacon at shanedufresne@ctfreemasons.net.

District 2 Secretaries Attend Grand Lodge Seminar

by *Daniel W. Nichols*

On November 5, District 2 secretaries attended the Grand Lodge Secretary Seminar at the Hartog Activities Center. The morning started off with coffee and donuts.

The focus of the seminar was the Grandview system, but all questions were answered. RWB Anderson started off the morning by going over the secretary's manual. While it may seem like old information, it never hurts to brush up on procedure and policy.

Then Debbie Fowler took the stage. Debbie is a resource and is just an email away. She is always happy to help and works hard behind the scenes to make the organization run smoothly.

The seminar has another value that most overlook — the value of brotherhood. Brothers laughed and joked, and a couple of times got a little rowdy. Seminars are not just for learning but can also be a lot of fun.



RWB Daniel Nichols; WB Jeff Finch, Ark Lodge No.39; RWB Peter Dolce DD2A; WB Williston Case, St. Luke's Lodge No.48; and Bro. Peter Kukresh, Montgomery Lodge No.13.



Craft At Labor/Craft At Refreshment

by Francis G. Way, Editor

Since I started working on the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper nearly 10 years ago, the “Craft At Labor” and “Craft At Refreshment” sections have regularly appeared near the back of each issue. They are as much a part of the paper as the Grand Master’s Message, Lodge News, or the cover story.

In those early days, the Grand Lodge website was run with Joomla, and the calendar system was a part of that. Each month the webmaster would download all the calendar data and send me a spreadsheet. I’d pull out the relevant items for Labor (degrees, annual or semi-annual communications, etc.) and for Refreshment (intended to be fun things that lodges do) and format them in Word for the sections.

When the website changed around the end of 2016, Google Business Suite was implemented, and lodges were expected to use Google calendar for keeping track of their events. Some lodges did, some lodges didn’t, but I was provided with an Excel script that could pull all the data from all the lodge calendars into a spreadsheet. Then, using a little Python programming that I wrote, that spreadsheet data became a Word document in the format I use for “Craft At,” and I could easily produce the two sections by editing that document.

Around two years ago the website changed yet again, this time to Grand View, and while I’m not aware of any calendar change, the usage of the

Google calendars has dropped way off. For whatever reason, lodges are simply not entering events in their calendars. Thus, each month there are very few items for “Craft At.” Also, recurring events in the calendars are not kept up to date – more than a year ago, one lodge complained to me that a regular event I had been listing each month had been discontinued some months prior. That event, however, still shows up every month on their lodge calendar to this day.

Some might ask why use the calendars, why not just have each lodge send events directly to me in an email? Unfortunately, with nearly 100 lodges, even if only half of them sent events, it would be a huge task to extract them, format them, and get them into each issue. As it is we cannot get article submissions in a consistent format. Using the calendars allowed multiple uses, from showing up on websites, to being included in the paper, for one simple entry. It streamlined the processes.

Space in the paper is at a premium. It makes no sense to run two sections that take up nearly a page in space for a couple of events. So, at this time, we regret to announce that we are discontinuing the “Craft At Labor” and “Craft At Refreshment” sections of the paper.

Pyramid Shriners Carve Up Fun at the Great Pumpkin Festival

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Pyramid Shriners participated in the annual Great Pumpkin Festival. This event was held at Booth Memorial Park in Stratford. The Shriners dazzled 3,500 patrons with balloon-twisting animals and hats. Patrons were able to sit in a Motor Patrol car and have their picture taken. Pipes and Drums Nobles played their bagpipes and entertained everyone with various songs.

In addition, Pyramid Shriners led the costume parade throughout the park. Most importantly, they were able to share their mission of providing support for needy children receiving excellent medical care at Shriners Hospital.

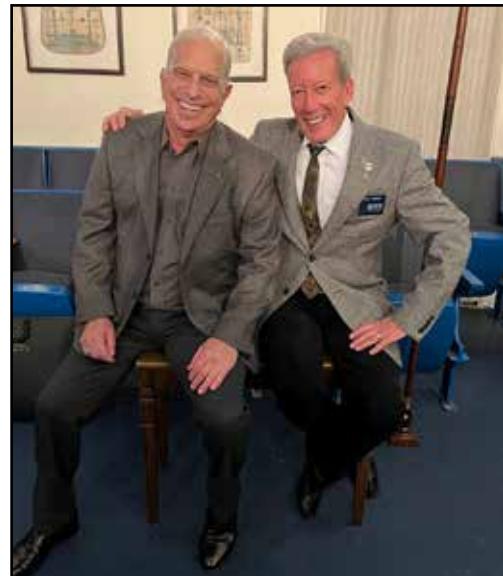


Martin and Max

by Jeffrey A. Blayman

Every stated communication attempts to infuse an educational portion in order to stimulate the minds of the Craft. Sometimes that education comes in the form of self-realization. A two-man play titled Martin & Max offers just that.

The play opens at a bus stop where a man sits waiting and then takes the audience on a journey throughout the life of a Freemason. From his naïveté to his deep appreciation for the Craft, it encompasses many points of connection for the viewers. The play teaches many aspects of Masonic life as strangers become brothers.



WB Larry Baker and WB Bob Buntin.

This adaptation has been performed about 30 times since its organization by PMWGM Gary Arseneau. The key players are WB Larry S. Baker and WB Bob Buntin who magnificently portray the characters Martin Schneider and Max Arnold. Their random meeting and unlikely friendship yield a heartwarming story and reveal the compassion of the Craft.

This play is absolutely worth your consideration. If you can find a place in your trestle board to highlight this as an offering to your loyal attendees, they will be delighted. Please reach out to MWB Gary to schedule and arrange a viewing at (860) 384-9308.



Pyramid Shriners Flip Flapjacks at Family Breakfast

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Pyramid Shriners recently held a family pancake breakfast. Everyone enjoyed delicious pancakes, eggs, sausage, and bacon. In addition, yummy home fries were added to the breakfast menu.



Masons Celebrate Halloween with a Drive-Through Event

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Masons from America-St. John's Lodge No. 8 and Corinthian Lodge No. 104 held their 3rd Annual Halloween Drive-Through Event. Smiling children wore their costumes and received treats, coloring books, and stickers. Several brothers celebrated the event by dressing up in costume.

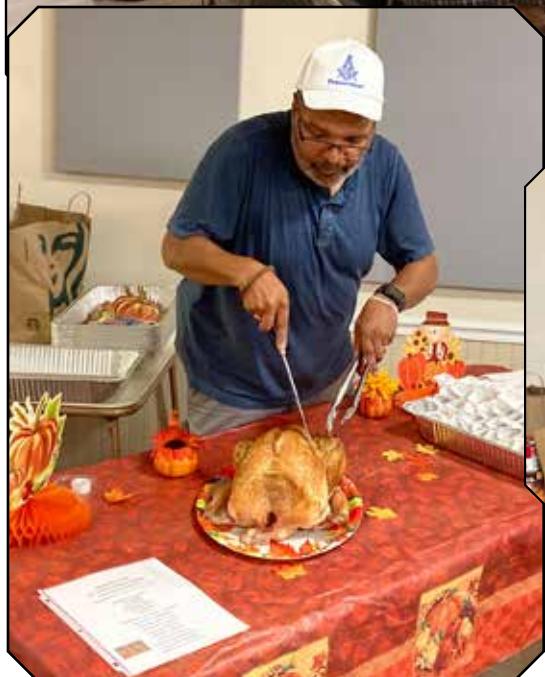


16th Annual Fall Harvest Table

On Saturday, November 12, the 16th Annual Fall Harvest Table was held at the Masonic Temple in Hamden, home of Day Spring Lodge No. 30. WB Steven Canada and his wife Sharon have organized and prepared this wonderful event each year to bring Masonic families and the community together for fellowship and to help the less

fortunate in our communities. Attendees are asked to bring side dishes and non-perishable food items for donation to the local food bank.

This year, over 1,000 pounds of food was donated and those in attendance enjoyed not only traditional holiday fare, but also Caribbean, South American, Italian, and other food specialties reflecting the diversity of those who participated. It was a wonderful evening of brotherly love, fellowship, and charity!





May you find comfort and care
this holiday season.

Happy Holidays from your friends at Masonicare.

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