

January 2023



Connecticut FREEMASONS

Happy New Year!

IN THIS ISSUE

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Quest For the Cache

Save the Date for DeMolay 100th

March in St. Patrick's Day Parade

Nutmegger Reunion Invitation

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

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



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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.



**Connecticut
FREEMASONS**

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Do-Over! *by Francis G. Way*

“You remember when we were kids, and we were playing ball, and we hit the ball over the fence out of bounds, and we yelled, DO OVER? ... Your life is a do-over. You’ve got a clean slate.” - City Slickers, 1991

Happy New Year! 2023 is now officially on the clock, and 2022 is retired and headed someplace warm. Our lodges are starting out a new year with new officers and, most especially, a new Worshipful Master. Ideally, the new Worshipful Master is not (to paraphrase The Who) the old Worshipful Master. But maybe not. Not all lodges have that luxury.

In either case, the Worshipful Master will, at some point this month, stand in front of the awesome responsibility that is the Oriental Chair, take a deep breath, put his thoughts in order, rap his gavel, and congregate his lodge. No matter what happened the year before, the lodge has a “do-over” and starts again with a clean slate. To be sure, there may be leftover issues to deal with from last year, or the year before that, or even the year before that. There may be new issues looming on the horizon, like thunderclouds on a summer afternoon. But, for better or worse, January, at the very least, gives us the illusion of a clean slate.

Sometimes that little do-over, like flipping to a clean page in a notebook, is all it takes. The problems that confront a lodge, problems that may have seemed insurmountable last year, may just become manageable when everyone, from Worshipful Master to the youngest Entered Apprentice in the northeast corner, takes a breath, leans into the labor, affirms that we begin again, and looks at old problems in a new light. The challenges that caused consternation and doubt can be conquered when there is nothing on that notebook’s page that can distract from finding a new solution.

Our “years” are, no doubt, a construct to help us wrap our minds around the passage of time. That we mark those years as a new beginning is viewed by some as a bad part of life: “Oh, another year has passed, and I’m just as fat as I was last year, but I’m another year older.” But others will view it as that do-over – a fresh chance to begin, to try a different approach, or perhaps redouble the previous year’s efforts with renewed vigor.

When all is said and done, it really is a matter of attitude ... and taking a depth breath and then yelling to your lodge, “DO-OVER!”

1 YEAR
365 OPPORTUNITIES



Spiritual Corner

by Rev. & RWB Carl Anderson

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. For many, 2022 seemed to go faster than ever, with 365 days moving at a more rapid pace than last year. As we start this journey into the new year with COVID-19 in our rearview mirror, it is beneficial to take time to reflect upon the past while making plans for the future. Not only do we learn from the past, but we also grow as we reflect upon the many lessons we learn along the way. While no one knows what this year will bring, with all the accomplishments and challenges ahead, there is always optimism and hope.

We are blessed with the assurance of God's presence. This presence serves as a compass that gives direction for life and, at the same time, is a spiritual anchor in times of trial. As we move through 2023, let us take a few moments each day to reflect upon the many mercies and graces that we receive from God. Let us spend a moment or two in prayer. Let us take a moment to consider the beauty of each day that God has given us to enjoy. While the road ahead is uncertain, God is our fail-proof GPS providing us with direction along the way. So as men of faith, let us do as our Masonic ritual urges and spend some time for prayer. Let us rely on our faith, trusting that God will be there to guide and direct our path forward through 2023.

May God richly bless you and your family in the new year that is dawning.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

Carl S. Von Dassel
Estuary Lodge No. 41

William J. Winakor
Granite Lodge No. 119



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Grand Master's Message

by Rev. and MWB Bruce R. Bellmore



My dear brothers,

Each new year presents us with a time for reflection on the successes and challenges of the past year and opportunities to grow, expand, and reach out in new directions. I look forward to beginning this new year with a great sense of anticipation.

Freemasonry, like all other organizations, must constantly examine itself and look for ways to improve and attract new members. The world today is much different from the world of our Masonic forefathers. Today, for potential members, Freemasonry competes with numerous sports, leisure activities, children's events, and even social media. We need to ensure that we are doing all that we can to enhance the Masonic experience so that each of our members can enjoy, as Past Grand Master Mel Johnson always said, "The best, most fulfilling Masonic experience that they desire." This has been our focus during the past year, and we will continue to encourage lodges to the performance of this good work. But we must do more.

Our Deputy Grand Master, with my blessing and endorsement, has put together a Task Force for Membership Development and Retention to prepare the groundwork for an innovative and comprehensive membership program. It is our belief that by preparing this program now, Right Worshipful Brother Porco can hit the ground running when he takes office in April. I am excited by this program and know that it will benefit our lodges and provide new Masons to fill our ranks. Our Deputy Grand Master has spent a considerable amount of time and effort developing this program and deserves our wholehearted support.

As we begin 2023, I see a bright future for our fraternity. I believe the membership pendulum will begin to swing back up, and we will see growth and expansion in the coming years. It will require our full engagement, dedication, and devotion to making this happen, and I know that with friendship, morality, and brotherly love as our guides, we can accomplish this goal.

May each of you and your families have a blessed, healthy, and prosperous New Year, and may God bless our great fraternity.

Yours in Freemasonry,

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



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

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Robert L. Collingwood
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From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

I was away from my office shortly before Thanksgiving when I received a call that a retired Masonicare employee was on hospice care at Masonicare Health Center and probably would not be with us for much longer.

Fortunately, I was able to get back in time to visit with this patient before she passed. She told me how much she loved Masonicare and how touched she was that some of our current employees remembered her. She said that she felt like she was home again and was ready to be reunited with her late husband in Heaven. It was amazing to have an exchange like that with someone who had once been a caregiver here and was now receiving care.

Our employees made that experience and countless others possible in 2022 with the support of our dedicated volunteers, generous donors, corporate partners, and YOU, the Masonic Family.

What's in store for Masonicare in 2023? Hopefully, a lot! Here are some of the initiatives we're working on:

- **Population Health Efforts:** From our residents and patients to our staff, we want to think and act more proactively to focus not just on curing people who are sick but promote wellness as a means to prevent illness. This is not only a more cost-effective approach – but it's also the right thing to do.
 - **Navigator Program:** For many people, navigating the senior care industry can be confusing and stressful. That's why, between our Healthcare, Residential Living, and Home and Community Based service lines, we need to make sure we're providing a completely seamless experience for consumers. The Navigator Program will provide specialized training for select staff to ensure they know our continuum inside and out and can connect anyone with the services they need.
 - **Masonicare Mobile App:** We're working on an app that will give residents in our residential communities the ability to view the dining room menu, reserve space for private functions, request housekeeping services, and much more, all from their mobile devices. Our long-term goal is to have versions of the app for families and employees as well.
 - **Outpatient Rehab Expansion:** We're looking to expand these services on our Wallingford campus to meet growing demand.
 - **Space/Lease Opportunities:** You may recall that we lease a portion of our Medical Office Building in Wallingford to the Yale New Haven Health orthopedic practice. We'll look at other opportunities to lease space to a community provider, especially if it creates value for our residents and patients.
 - **GenM:** Masonicare will continue to offer other providers the benefit of our experience and expertise via GenM, our consulting group. As always, we will also look at partnership opportunities with other best-in-class providers to deliver quality care to those we serve.
- On behalf of everyone at Masonicare, I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!



Sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon-Paul Venoit". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Masonicare 
An Ageless Commitment to Caring



Masonicare Community Services Can Help You Plan for the Future

It starts with asking the right questions and taking the time to listen

Just as the holidays are a time for families to reconnect, often after months or more apart, it's also a time when adult children may notice concerning changes in their parents' physical, emotional, or cognitive well-being.

This, said Masonicare Community Services Director Audrey Grove, is why she often experiences a sharp increase in calls in the days and weeks following the holiday season. Masonicare Community

Services is a free, statewide outreach program available to any Connecticut resident, not just members of the Masonic Family.

Audrey works closely with Rev. and Brother Carl Anderson, Right Worshipful Grand Almoner and Vice President for Fraternal Relations at Masonicare. When meeting with residents, they can offer guidance and assistance with a wide range of services including Medicare, Medicare Part D,

Medicaid (Title 19), skilled nursing, assisted living, memory care, and home care.

“In the conversations we have with the adult child, spouse, or other caregiver,” Bro. Carl explains, “we try to help them figure out the best way forward for their loved one. Is it to bring services into the home? Do we explore moving to an independent or assisted living community? Or does the person

“We encourage forward-thinking: making a plan before circumstances force you to make a last-minute decision.”

need around-the-clock care in a skilled nursing environment? It’s an opportunity to consider all possibilities. And we encourage forward-thinking: making a plan before circumstances force you to make a last-minute decision.”

“Along with asking the right questions,” Audrey adds, “we find it really important to listen. That’s the best way to meet someone where they are and try to meet their needs and expectations. We speak to people who say they promised their parent or

spouse they would keep them at home, no matter what. So we don’t try to talk anyone into using a particular service of Masonicare. We want to help families find a solution that will make their loved one comfortable and happy, but also a solution that is sustainable.”

Both Carl and Audrey say that one of the biggest misconceptions the public has about Masonicare is that it’s beyond the financial reach of most families. In fact, Masonicare offers a wide range of residential living options at different price points. Changes in the economy over the last year have led to increased interest in the Apartments on Masonic Avenue in Wallingford. Combining comfort with affordability, the Johnson, Hawkins, and Wells Apartments offer a host of amenities and easy access to Masonicare Health Center, all within a monthly rental model. A fourth community, the Wright Residence, is a licensed Residential Care Home that offers apartment living to qualified seniors with limited income.

When it’s time to make a plan for the future, call Masonicare Community Services at the number below. And remember: **Masonicare’s Concentric Circle Policy offers special benefits to Masons, Masonic widows, and the rest of the Masonic Family!**

We are *your* Masonicare.

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



Sphinx Shrine News *by Eric Pogg*



Sphinx Shrine hopes everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Sphinx Shriners finished off the year with the Kids Christmas Party with Santa, Adult Holiday Party, and election of officers for 2023. The Installation of Officers is scheduled to be held on Saturday, January 14, at 11 a.m. at the Sphinx Shrine Center in Newington. All are welcome for the public installation. Please call the Shrine office for reservations. Sphinx Shrine would also like to thank Illustrious Potentate Victor “Just Vic” Fettig for an excellent year in 2022.

Sphinx will be having several great events in 2023, including traveling ceremonials, ladies' night, comedy night, Oktoberfest, an Easter Egg Hunt, and more activities for the Nobles, Ladies, and families. Details of the events will be posted on the Sphinx Shriners web and Facebook pages.

Ten years ago, three of our Motor Patrol vehicles were stolen from our garage facility. Two of the mini jeeps were recovered in Hartford within the following months. The third vehicle remained elusive for the past decade. Recently, a brother just happened to be on the Facebook marketplace looking at vehicles when an advertisement came across the screen for “Shrine Parade Car \$700” — these vehicles don't come around very often — with a location in South Windham. The brother did not know that a vehicle had been missing for 10 years and did not think that we would sell a vehicle made in 1955 to the general public. The link was sent to a member of the Motor Patrol, and with one look, he realized that it was indeed our stolen vehicle. The license plate was still attached to the vehicle!

Members of the Motor Patrol went into action, contacting the local and state police. Less than 19 hours later, with the assistance of the Connecticut State Police, the vehicle was once again in possession of the Sphinx Motor Patrol. The vehicle had several scratches, chips, and dings. It is in the process of being refurbished for parades later this year. Thank you to all who had put the time and effort into the recovery of the jeep.

The first Traveling Ceremonial in 2023 will be held at the Niantic Masonic Temple on Saturday, May 6, with the assistance of the Bedouin Shrine Club located in Groton.

Excitement about being able to join Sphinx Shrine in that area of the state is spreading. Membership applications can be filled out online at

<https://www.BeAShrinerNow.com>. Details of the time and meal will be forthcoming. Two other traveling Ceremonials are in the works for the Waterbury and northern Connecticut areas.

Our parade units and clubs are looking for drivers for the 2023 parade season. Mini jeeps, motorcycles, and mini firetrucks will be ready to hit the road once the snow is cleared from the streets. The Highlanders have been practicing on a regular basis and have new members to play the bagpipes. If you play the drums or have always wanted

to learn to play the pipes, please call the office.

A new Brew Club will be forming. Shrine Brew Clubs have been popping up all over the country as fast as new breweries. Whether you like to brew or just sample adult beverages, the club may be for you. Visitations with Nobles and brothers will be held at several locations across Connecticut.

If your Blue Lodge Council is looking for a program, please feel free to contact Sphinx Shriners. We would be more than happy to educate Brothers about the Shrine and the good works of Shriners Children's.

We look forward to seeing Nobles, Ladies, family members, and especially you at our events in 2023. Another exciting new year is upon us. The Potentate and the Divan look forward to working with you in a prosperous new year.

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.

Welcome to 2023. It is hard to believe that we are more than halfway through the Scottish Rite year, which begins in mid-June each year.

Members of Scottish Rite learn the core values of life via DVD presentations and live stage presentations of the Scottish Rite degrees. The core values are Justice, Integrity, Tolerance, Service, Reverence to God, and Devotion to Country.

As we enter the new year, the 2022-2023 class has already received several degrees, including the 4th Degree, which is a required degree. However, there is no reason for a Master Mason who seeks more knowledge in Masonry not to apply to the 2022-2023 class. The Valley of Hartford will be showing the 4th Degree on Thursday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m. with a live presentation of the 14th Degree by the officers of the Charter Oak Lodge of Perfection. The core value of the 4th Degree is Reverence to God, Integrity, and Service to Humanity, while the core values of the 14th Degree are Reverence to God and Justice.

The degrees that night will follow a pre-degree buffet dinner starting at 6:15 p.m. All Thursday night degrees have a pre-degree dinner. A social hour will also follow the degrees. The Valley office is now accepting reservations for that night and all future diners.

On Consistory Day, Saturday, April 15, the scheduled degrees start at 9 a.m., followed by a luncheon after the degrees. Reservations are also being accepted now, so why not pay in advance and save yourself money?

The officers of the Charter Oak Lodge of Perfection, the Hartford Council Princes of Jerusalem, the Cyrus Goodell Chapter of Rose Croix, and the Nathan Hale Consistory, along with all members of the Valley of Hartford, welcome the brother who has joined the 2022-2023 class already: Bros. James M. Anderson, Michael M. McClellan, Raonak Ahmed, and Charles S. Wilson.

The remaining schedule is:

Thursday, February 16, 16th Degree live at the Sphinx Shrine building in banquet style.

Thursday, March 25, a live portrayal of the 18th Degree.

Saturday, April 15, Consistory Day, live portrayals of the 24th, 26th, and 32nd Degrees.

Any member wishing to help with any degree, either in a speaking or non-speaking part or backstage, should contact the Valley office. The directors of the degrees would very much appreciate it.

Also, note that a summer degree is planned! The 17th Degree, rarely seen, is scheduled for July 8.

The December Family Life program trip to Radio City Music Hall for the Rockettes Christmas show was very much enjoyed.

Future Family Life events are planned, with a tentative trip to the New England Air Museum and a Hartford Wolfpack hockey game. Sign up for email notifications to be kept up to date on these events.

To all members and candidates, the Valley wishes you all a happy and healthy 2023.



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Valley of Hartford
207 Deming Street
Newington, CT 06111

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- * Justice * Integrity * Tolerance * Service
- * Reverence to God * Devotion to Country

The Scottish Rite is a Masonic organization where you will find Inspiration – Convenience – and Enjoyment with fellow brethren.

We are now accepting applications for our next class.

~

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



"There is No Greater Torment"

by John A. Amarilios, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

We begin a new year at the Lafayette Consistory with an emphasis on Family Life events which are open to Rite and prospective members. January sees us with the winter version of the Scotch and Cigar Night on Friday, January 13, from 7-10 p.m. at the Stamford Cigar Bar, 75 Research Drive. This is followed by the annual mid-winter pilgrimage to Stratford's Two Road Breweries for beer, pizza, and perhaps some impromptu entertainment or Masonic education on the afternoon of February 5.

What is truly special this winter is a worldwide telecast from Lexington, of the Valley of Bridgeport's portrayal of the 22nd Degree, "Knight of the Sun," that was videotaped at the theater last November. While details are being arranged as this is written, there will be an in-person presentation of the telecast at the theater in Stratford for Rite members. If you cannot make it to the theater, the broadcast will be transmitted via the internet on Thursday Nite at the Rite programming, accessible thru the Member Portal, so you can watch at home at 7:30 p.m. that evening.

Looking further ahead into the winter season, degree work commences in February at the theater in Stratford. On February 6, the Valley of Bridgeport will present the 4th and 10th Degrees live. On February 27, the 23rd Degree will be presented live, followed by the 31st Degree on video.

For those in the southwest corner of the state, the Valley of Bridgeport will do a "RITE on the Road" on the evening of Wednesday, March 8, at Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107, located at 354 Post Road in Darien. A presentation of the 4th Degree will be made in a tiled environment following the regular Stated Communication that evening. If you are interested in starting your Scottish Rite curriculum, this will be an excellent opportunity to do so without braving the I-95 traffic to Bridgeport. All Rite members are invited to attend. Arrangements for new candidates must be made at least a week in advance, so please call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064 for instructions. Rite members need only show their 2023 membership card. Typically, the hosting lodge has a collation

at 7 p.m., and the Stated Communication begins at 8 p.m. I would recommend that you contact the Worshipful Master, Steven Shapiro, via email sbs@compuserve.com, in advance so that they have adequate food on hand.

There are many impediments to attaining the light, but perhaps one of the greatest is the caustic passion of envy. Envy is a vice that is wholly opposite to the virtue of love. There are two types of envy, and I am sure you have witnessed either during the course of your lifetime. The first is the sadness that arises

when others experience good fortune, and the second is the spontaneous exultation at the misfortunes of others. Before we can garner an understanding of this vice, we need to understand what a virtue is.

Aristotle once said that virtue is a good quality of one's mind whereby one lives righteously and avoids evil. Virtue is expressed by a well-ordered, well-built mind. Furthermore, virtue is a quality that

resides in the soul, in piety and well-worn custom, in love of God and honor. Virtue is not a quality that is borne of natural or artificial physical beauty.

The accomplished French moralist La Rochefoucauld once was quoted, "The most certain sign of being born with great qualities is to be born without envy." The admonitions against envy span many great schools of thought and cultures. The stoic Seneca proclaimed that envy draws evil from good and good from evil. He further said that it is easier to avoid distress at poverty than envy of riches. Solomon once said, "When your enemy falls and is ruined, do not rejoice at his ruin, for it does not please God." Also, "He who rejoices at other people's misfortunes will not go unpunished." Saint Gregory said, "there is no greater torment in the world than envy and that where there is envy, there cannot be love." Seneca also went on to say,

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.

Continued on page 13

Quest For the Cache

by Richard Gross

A full-resolution image of the original map was posted on Reddit and after being cross-posted a few times by other users, it wound up on Reddit's "codes" page, where it was finally cracked.

A user named "therealbradholley" cracked the difficult first half of the cipher, which may have been easier for a Mason being that one had to start off facing East to read it. He then became stumped on the second half, which turned into a double cipher that read as gibberish unless the necessary steps were known to unlock it. Only a Fellowcraft would know those, given the education he receives in the second degree.

The first half read as follows:

"Brothers behold, how good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity. Only a craftsman of his degree will know the steps needed to unlocking the key."

"Therealbradholley" then shared it on Reddit's codes page, and the second part was decrypted by the user named "CodeWarrior0." He laid out the text and lined up the repeating letters vertically in columns. This was not the way the code was intended to be decrypted, but he arrived at the answer, nonetheless. In stacking the

text, he revealed that every 3rd, 5th, and 7th letter was distinct from the repeating double As, Bs and Cs. Fellowcraft learn the importance of these numbers and the context clues on the plate indicate that a Fellowcraft's knowledge is needed to unlock that portion of the cipher. These distinctive letters, when pieced together separately, revealed the second part of the passage, which read as follows:

"West to East beneath 3 sacred cubits reach, is a key of 2 paths, but only 1 is of 3."

Though the spiraling message and double cipher were decrypted and considered solved on Reddit's codes page, the clue hinted at a specific location and had yet remained undiscovered...

Until an individual who had previously attended Union Lodge reached out. Taking the clue and noting that the spiral ended at Union Lodge on the map, this brother was able to deduce from memory that if one were inside Union Lodge and stood in the west in front of the Senior Warden, and measured three sacred cubits toward the east, one would arrive at Union Lodge's altar.

It is written in the Great Light that a sacred cubit is 36 inches, and the profane cubit is 18 inches. Many answers in this quest can be found within the Great Light, and frequenting those pages is encouraged. Below Union Lodge's altar was hidden, the second clue in this quest.

Continued on page 15

No Greater Torment continued from page 12

"Do not offend anyone and do not acquire enemies. But envy does both to a high degree." Saint Augustine said, "He who is envious can love no one, and so there can be no worse vice than envy." I call your attention to the Old Testament as well, wherein Cain saw his brother Able prospering and that his property was ever-increasing. Out of envy, Cain slew Able, and thus the first two brothers to live on earth also ended up shedding the first blood ever on Earth.

The Roman historian Livy was quoted, "Envy is blind, and she has no other quality than that of detracting from virtue." Anything that detracts from our virtue is a step backward from our search for light. The subduing of the passions is a difficult task. Envy is one of the most virulent and destructive of all the passions. Recognizing this and subduing the urge to envy is one of the tasks that we as Masons and seekers of light, must confront and subdue if we are to make progress up Jacob's ladder.

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.

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!

Boy Scouts Collect Tabs for Needy Children

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Boy Scouts of America Troop 721 from Milford, Troop 41 residing in Woodbridge, and Scouts throughout Connecticut, collected can tabs for the Pyramid Shrine Temple. Funds from the tabs will be used to assist needy children requiring transportation to Shriner's Hospital in Springfield, Massachusetts.



Quest continued from on page 14

Since Union Lodge had recently relocated, the clue had been removed and was recently presented to the brother, as he was the first one who had totally figured it out and contacted me. This brother is now working towards the third clue. The second clue is now also being shared in the Connecticut Freemasons for all other brothers who may be interested.

The second clue was a puzzle box. At first glance, it is an overhead view of Union Lodge's old temple room. On the west side of the altar is a passage on a scroll that reads... "Straight and narrow be thy path, rough ashlar be his first stone. Hew then mark but where to place. His moral compass helps it be known."

The rough ashlar is symbolic of an Entered Apprentice. Rough on the edges, crude and undressed in comparison to the perfect ashlar, which is polished, hewn, and fit for the builders' use. In operative Masonry, the first stone, sometimes referred to as the "cornerstone," is usually laid in the northeast corner of a building. In Union Lodge, an Entered Apprentice is placed at a specific point within the lodge room. Knowing this position and utilizing the compass, one may be able to locate the position and the correct key slot to unlock this puzzle box, but choosing the wrong one could potentially damage the contents, and nor will just any key work. Only the compass needle affixed to the map on the first clue will unlock it. As the clue read, "His moral compass helps it be known."

Currently, that key and other portions of the map are in the possession of Union Lodge, as one of their Past Masters has expressed the most interest and had taken the initiative, traveling to other lodges to piece together the original five pieces of the District 1A map.

Once unlocked, the contents of the box were revealed to contain a large decorative Masonic level embellished with filigree and, as its plummet, a cut and polished 65-carat sapphire stone. This decorative Mason's tool is more than meets the eye and will lead to the next clue.

Again, this is for fun, and all are welcome to participate.





Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

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



What's Happening at the Valley of New Haven?

2023 Degree and Meeting Schedule

- Jan. 9** Stated Meeting, 4th Degree Live & 6th Degree Digital
- Feb. 13** 11th Degree Live 4 & 17th Degree Digital
- Mar. 20** In New Haven - 4th Degree Live (by the Valley of New Haven) & 20th Degree Live (by the Valley in Bridgeport)
- Apr. 24** 18th Degree Live, 4th Degree Digital
- Oct. 30** 6th Degree Live & 15th Degree Digital
- Nov. 13** Stated Meeting - 8th Degree Live, 17th Degree & 4th Degree Digital



All degrees and meetings start at 7:30 p.m. with pre-degree dinners beforehand at 6:15 p.m. The 4th Degree DVD is offered prior to degrees so one can start their Scottish Rite Journey on any date except on 32nd Degree reunions. For more information or to sign up for degrees or reservations, please email the Valley Secretary at office@valleyofnh.com or call direct at 203-580-4386.



2023 Family Life Events

- Feb. 25** Valley of New Haven Winterfest
- Mar. 12** St. Patrick's Day Parade
- July 15** Valley of New Haven Family Picnic
- Aug. 2** Organizational Installation Meeting, La Luna, Branford
- Sept. 10** Valley of New Haven Oktoberfest Celebration
- Dec. 31** Annual New Year's Eve Party, Best Western Plus Hotel, North Haven



District 1

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



Washington Lodge No. 19 Annual Venison Table Lodge *by Roy Nealon*

Washington Lodge No. 19 hosted an awesome venison Table Lodge. Special thanks to Isack and Anthony for a great meal and to Paul for all the great pies. The lodge would like to thank all their guests and the Grand Master for attending.



Corinthian Lodge No. 104 Celebrates the Holidays *by Donald M. Casey, Jr.*

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Masons from Corinthian Lodge Number No. 104 in Stratford celebrated the holidays with their annual holiday party. Brothers provided a delicious three-course meal, including hors d'oeuvres, pasta, and cake. Children received presents, and patrons enjoyed dancing to music played by a disc jockey.



Corinthian Lodge No. 104 Ladies at the Table *by Pedro Garcia*

For the first time in the history of Corinthian Lodge No. 104, a Ladies Table Lodge was hosted in honor and celebration of all of the wonderful women not only in the brothers' lives but throughout history.

It was a great time with many attendees, good food, history, and flowers. The lodge thanks everyone for coming.



Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149 Activities

Universal Lodge No. 149 donated 12 turkeys and many boxes of food to the needy for Thanksgiving meals, on Saturday, November 19, 2022, in Bridgeport.



Fellowcraft degree with SD Mario Dorelien in the East on step-up night, with 43 brothers in attendance.



District 2

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



St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 Holds Actual Past Master Degree

by *Daniel W. Nichols*

On December 6, 2022, St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 held their Actual Past Master Degree. Every Lodge has different traditions, and in St. Peter's Lodge, one tradition is to have the annual meeting on the first Tuesday in December.

Directly after that meeting, the Past Masters gather to perform the Actual Past Master Degree. Once a year, it is nice to see Past Masters gather and joke about the way they did things. More important is to see a new Master learn his degree. Seeing a brother rise through the ranks from Steward to Deacon, Warden to Master, a sense of pride comes out. Brothers who had a small hand in another brother's journey take pride in seeing him ascend.

Being a mentor is so important in society to make future leaders. Helping each other reach goals should be every Mason's purpose. Imagine how it will feel helping to teach a new EA who one day becomes Master of the lodge! The circle is never-ending.



St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 Pays Tribute to Past Master

by *Daniel W. Nichols*

On December 6, 2022, St. Peter's Lodge No. 21, at their Annual Meeting, WM Joe Jaskolka called up Past Master Matt Fitzgibbons to present him with his Past Master's Jewel.

Sometimes brothers forget how important it is to recognize hard work. At lodge, brothers expect everything to be done right—the lodge room is properly laid out, and the officers knew their duties. That is not just a coincidence—that is done by the careful eye of the Master. It is the Master's duty to make sure every meeting goes well and things are done in order. Many brothers don't realize how much planning and preparation go into one single meeting. It is almost like a second job every week, thinking of what needs to be done this month in the Lodge.

It is a privilege to serve, but that service comes with a cost. Sometimes that price is just time, but at other times it is necessary to rearrange one's schedule to accomplish a lodge goal. Brethren should always be thankful to the brothers that serve the lodges without question. The lodge is only successful through the many that work together as one.



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 Celebrates Awards Night

by David Cole

On Wednesday evening, November 17, 2022, Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 held their annual awards night. While no brother received a 50-year pin, two brothers had more than 50 years of service. RWB Len Bucher received his 60-year pin, and Brother Andrew Weaver received his 65-year pin. Len's wife Barbara pinned on his pin, while Andrew's daughter had the privilege of pinning her dad. In addition, brothers with service from 5 to 45 years received pins.

WM Jonathan Collingwood had special Bee pins (worker bees) that he presented to those who went above and beyond in making his year successful.

Al Johnson and Cindy Sorrentino: Without their help in the kitchen, our

Robert Burns Night would never have happened, and stepping in on Awards night when the regular chef came down with COVID.

Colin Souney and Ron Ferris for all the painting and work done on the building.

Ray Lafarier who keeps the landscaping of the building in good clean order.

David Cole for holding multiple offices and assisting with the painting over the summer.

Lorraine Cole for the cakes she prepared for events whenever requested.

Charlie Miller, the Master Chef of the lodge, and for all the work he has done on the building, from plumbing to window repair.



Bruce Blake



Dan Langlois



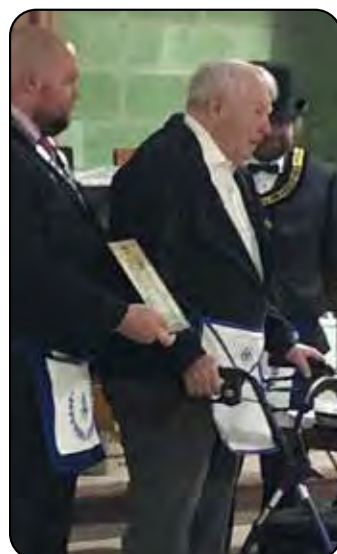
Len Bucher



Ed Anyafulu



Adrian Diaz



Andrew Weaver



Fred Chidestar



David Cole

Annawon Lodge No. 115 Annual Beef and Beer

by Kyle Podpolucha

On Friday, November 11, 2022, the Fellowcraft Club of Annawon Lodge No. 115 hosted its Annual Beef and Beer event. The night was a hit and attended by brothers, friends, and family from the newest Entered Apprentices to Past Grand Masters and many Grand Lodge officers. They all enjoyed roast beef and various libations. Tickets for the event were in high demand, and the event was sold out. The night of fun and success showed that the bond between brothers of Connecticut Freemasonry remains strong.

In a pouring rain, brothers and friends arrived. Two brothers parked their cars and greeted the guests, then guided them into the building under an umbrella.

Along with the wonderfully prepared meal, the attendees were happy to discover that their entry ticket was also a chance to win a door prize. Many other raffle prizes were available to be won, including a 50/50 raffle. All prizes were donated by various brothers and friends, and many people left with more than they came with. All proceeds fund the Annawon Lodge Fellowcraft Club, which makes multiple charitable contributions to the community, including scholarships, the soup kitchen, and the West Haven Animal Shelter. In addition to the raffle, the guests enjoyed a night of music and trivia.

Eventually, the bright and full hall of Annawon Lodge cleared out and fell silent. All that remained was a group of dedicated brothers to clean the building, an air of brotherhood and fellowship left to linger.



Temple Lodge No. 16 Celebrates the Holidays with Pancake Breakfast

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Masons from Temple Lodge No. 16 in Cheshire celebrated the holidays with their annual Family Pancake Breakfast. Brothers cooked up scrumptious flapjacks with bacon, sausage, and scrambled eggs. Children enjoyed playing games and received goodie bags containing a coloring book, crayons, and stickers. Everyone enjoyed having their picture taken with Santa Claus.



Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 Hosts Scout Night Program

by *William Roots*

Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 in Milford featured a program that highlighted the parallels of Freemasonry and Boy Scouting. Led by Eagle Scout WB Rob Thomas, the presentation included Eagle Scout Freemasons Greg D’Andrea and Gabriel Zayas.

(l-r) Bro. Greg D’Andrea, WM Kevin Weirsman, Milford Troop 1 Boy Scoutmaster Mark Krom, WB Rob Thomas, and Bro. Gabriel Zayas.



Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 Raises New Master Masons

by *William Roots*

Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 welcomed two new Master Masons. Brothers Alex Campagne and Sebastian Pesquera were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in November 2022.

(l-r) WM Kevin Weirsman, Bro. Alex Campagne, Bro. Sebastian Pesquera, and MWGM Bruce R. Bellmore.

Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 Holds Veterans Day Table Lodge

by *William Roots*

Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 celebrated Veterans Day with a Table Lodge. The program described Veterans Day and was presented by veteran brothers.

(l-r) WB Ernie Dubois (Army), MWB James T. McWain (Army), WB Bob Sherrick (Marines) seated, Bro. Bill Roots (Army), and Bro. Ray Cruciani (Marines).



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



Masonicare Community Services **800.982.3919**

22 Masonic Avenue . Wallingford, CT 06492

District 6

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



Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 Holds Master Mason Degree At 4-H Camp in Marlborough *by Pat Jones*

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 spent an October weekend at the 4-H Camp in Marlborough, holding a Master Mason Degree on Saturday, October 1, 2022. Some of the brothers and their families slept overnight in the cabins and enjoyed fellowship and various fun activities such as hiking, outdoor sports, and campfires.

Friday night was spent enjoying a bonfire set up by WM Dave Prior, Bro. Brian Warren, and Bro. Lou Lamphear, who traveled from North Carolina. Bro. Warren got up quite early on Saturday morning to set up the lodge for the degree, much to the satisfaction of WM Prior and Bro. Lamphear. RWB Matt Heinrich, Grand Marshal, and RWB Arnold Grot, District Deputy of Masonic District 6B, also seemed pleased with the results.

More than a few hungry brothers enjoyed a breakfast of coffee and sausage and egg sandwiches. As if breakfast wasn't good enough, a delicious dinner was prepared for lunch, with ham provided by Ionic Lodge No. 110. Brothers from both lodges helping to prepare and serve a tasty meal.

The degree would see five brothers raised from Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 and Ionic Lodge No. 110: Bros. DeShawn Morris, and Aaron Alder of Hartford Evergreen Lodge, and Bros. Samuel Highsmith, Kenneth Charest, and Ethan Stone of Ionic Lodge.

WM Dave Prior began the degree at 10 a.m. with brothers from Hartford Evergreen Lodge, Ionic Lodge, Federal Lodge No. 17, Somerset St. James No. 34, and Moriah Lodge No. 15 attending. Participants included WB Jeff Potter; WB Art Stone, of Ionic Lodge, whose son Ethan was raised; and WB Brian Adams of Federal Lodge.

Bro. Mike McClellan of Hartford Evergreen Lodge served as Chaplain, setting the appropriate tone for the day's work by opening with a respectful and inspirational prayer.

WM Prior delivered the obligation, Bro. Khamp Phimvongsa recited the 1st Section Lecture and Bro. Christopher Packer-McCarthy gave the charge while serving as Junior Warden Pro Tem. The craftsmen were WB Jason Elkhay, RWB Mike Seamon, and Bro. Rafael Miranda. Brother Mike

Kehayias was the sea captain, and RWB Greg Stump, District Deputy of Masonic District 6A, was Hiram.

This degree was a perfect example of Masons working together for a good purpose. With such successful results on this day, it looks like the 4-H Camp will be an attractive option for a Master Mason Degree next fall.



Bros. Eliad Johnson and Duane Mason in the kitchen.



Bro. Brian Warren and his daughter.

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The Pythagorean Tetrakty, Part One: The Point

by Jaime Paul Lamb

This is the first installment of a four-part series of articles on the Pythagorean *Tetraktys*. I'm writing this in four parts because this fascinating geometrical figure cosmogonically unfolds in four distinct stages, each having both a geometrical and metaphysical significance. This dynamic, I found to be in keeping with the operative and speculative denominations of the Craft, as well as Freemasonry's veneration for geometry: "the first and noblest of sciences, [and] the basis upon which the superstructure of Masonry is erected." In its Masonic context, the tetraktys may be encountered everywhere, from the old Prestonian lectures to its appearance on the jewels and in the attendant symbolism of certain (primarily Continental) jurisdictions.

What is the Tetraktys?

The tetraktys (Greek: τετρακτύς) is a mystical figure first utilized in the teachings of the Craft's "ancient friend and Brother" Pythagoras of Samos. The philosopher and his followers held the symbol in such high regard that they deemed it "holy" and were said to have taken their oaths upon it. [Mackey, *An Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and its Kindred Sciences*, Everts & Co., 1884; Entry: "Tetraktys"]

Bless us, divine number, thou who generated gods and men! O holy, holy Tetraktys, thou that containest the root and source of the eternally

flowing creation! For the divine number begins with the profound, pure unity until it comes to the holy four; then it begets the mother of all, the all-comprising, all-bounding, the first-born, the never-swerving, the never-tiring holy ten, the keyholder of all.

[Dantzig, Number: The Language of Science, Macmillan, 1930, p. 42]

The tetraktys consists of ten regularly spaced points arranged in an upward-pointing equilateral triangle, having one point on the top tier, two on the second, three on the third, and four at the bottom (see accompanying

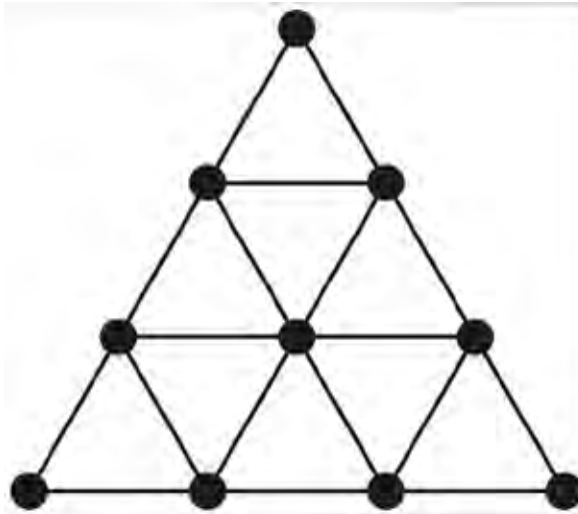


illustration). It is a model illustrating the organization of space through the emanations of the Grand Geometer: from a point to a line, to a superficies, and, finally, to a solid. For the first installment of this four-part series, we will turn our attention to the first cosmogonical stage of this enigmatic figure: *the point*.

The Point

From the geometrical (operative) perspective, the point is the beginning, or origin, of all constructions. It describes a position without

dimension, a location in space without magnitude. A point is located in space by reference to the three cartesian coordinates x, y, and z, of which it is the theoretical vertex. The abscissa (x-axis) runs side-to-side; the ordinate (y-axis) runs front-to-back, and the applicate (z-axis) runs up and down. Taken together, the three Working Tools of the Fellowcraft – *the plumb, the level, and the square* – may be seen to 'try' each of these dimensional coordinates. The plumb proves the applicate in that it tries a vertical line; the level proves the abscissa in that it tries the horizontal; and the square proves the ordinate in that it bisects the x-axis at the origin, thereby forming a 90° angle, which is, of course, a square.

Metaphysically (speculatively), or rather 'meta-geometrically,' the point is the singularity from whence spatial dimension comes into being – this being the essence of cosmogony, the origin of the very cosmos. In the Pythagorean tradition, the point, or *monad*, symbolizes God, as it was called the "First," the "Seed," and the "Builder." We are also reminded of the famous quote from the 12th-century theologian Alain de Lille (though Rabelais attributed it to Hermes Trismegistus), who said, "God is an intelligible sphere, whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere." In Freemasonry, we encounter this concept in reference to the Point within a Circle diagram, wherein the point represents the individual Mason, about which too much ink has already been spilt.

In the next article of this series, we will move on to the line (the second tier of the tetraktys, consisting of two points) and examine its operative and speculative implications...

New Eagle Scout Receives CMSA Commendation

by Jonathan Glassman

Congratulations to new Eagle Scout Dean Carollo of Scouts BSA Troop 370 in Newtown, pictured here at his Court of Honor receiving the Connecticut Masonic Eagle Scout Commendation from the Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association and Grand Lodge of Connecticut.



The Coca Corner

What Is COCA?

by David McClain

When you first join an organization, you often find members have their own nicknames and acronyms they use, and Connecticut Freemasonry is no different. The Committee on Community Action (COCA) is a standing committee that serves at the will and pleasure of the Most Worshipful Grand Master. COCA is charged with coordinating and promoting involvement in community activities and promoting awareness of the fraternity to the general public. Ubiquitous in nature, you will find COCA in every issue of the *Connecticut Freemasons*. Whether supporting our veterans, helping lodges run a successful open house, or jumping out of perfectly good airplanes to raise money for Donate Life, COCA is vigilantly spreading the Light of Masonry.

“That sounds great and all, but I just got elected Master, and I’m super busy (and probably a little nervous!). What can COCA do for me?” No matter if you are a lodge looking to engage and strengthen ties to the community or a Master looking to fill your Trestleboard with something besides another business meeting, here are three ways COCA can help YOU.

First, The Grand Lodge Hometown Hero Award. RWB Shane Dufresne has done a great job making this a turnkey program that recognizes a local first responder, veteran, or someone in your community that you feel deserves recognition. The Grand Lodge provides a plaque that is given to the recipient and a \$100 donation to the charity of their choice. It costs the lodge nothing and is a great way to connect with your local community and get some free publicity. More information can be found on Grandview, or reach out to RWB Shane Dufresne, Grand Junior Deacon, at shanedufresne@ctfreemasons.net

Second, The Child Identification Program (CIP), formerly CT-CHIP, is another turnkey resource that you can use at any event where local businesses have tables or booths set up or as its own stand-alone lodge event. WB Kyle Podpolucha has done a great job of recruiting and training Brothers from around the state that can help with setup, share best practices, and spearhead your efforts to make for a successful event. WB Kyle can be reached at gratefullykyle@gmail.com. This is another great way to connect with the community and get your lodge some visibility.

Finally, perhaps your lodge already has a fundraising event in the works to benefit a local charity or cause. COCA can amplify those efforts with the Matching Funds Program. Holding a pancake breakfast to raise money for the volunteer fire department? COCA can help. A chili cookoff to support a food pantry? COCA can help. And it doesn’t have to involve food. The Matching Funds program will match your lodges’ fundraising efforts within the guidelines of the program, which can be found on Grandview. Or you can reach out to me at davidmclain@ctfreemasons.net for more information.

Happy New Year, brothers; I hope it is a successful one for your lodge, and remember that COCA is here to help!



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Connecticut Freemasons

2023 SUBMISSION RULES:

1. Deadline for Inserts: 5th of the month prior. Example Dec. 5 for January insert.

2. Deadline for Paper: 10th of the month prior. Example Dec. 10 for January issue.

3. Submissions in txt, docx, or doc format, attached to the email. NO CONTENT in the email body will be accepted. Write your content in a file and attach it! Do not embed photos in the doc.

4. Attach photos to emails. Avoid pulling photos from Facebook; they get downsized and are useless. Jpg, png. Originals only – copyright matters!

5. Tip: Remember the 5 W’s: Who, What, When, Where, Why. Get at least a few of those in!

6. Tip: 3rd person. If you see “I” or “You” in there, you’re doin’ it wrong (but see rule 7).

7. Unless it’s an opinion piece, but news is news, or opinion is opinion, don’t mix the two.

8. Questions? Just ask – it will save having to redo it.

A Pandemic Delayed Retirement Finally Celebrated

by William L. Miller, II and Arnie Grot

On November 16, 2022, Secretary Bill Miller, King Arnie Grot, and Excellent High Priest Jeff Flynn of Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, R.A.M., visited Past High Priest Carl Palmberg at his new address at the Fox Hill Center in Vernon to officially present a special apron commemorating his 25 years of service as Principal Sojourner of Delta and then Pythagoras Chapters, retiring in 2020. This honor was long overdue, interrupted by COVID-19. Carl joins a very small group of Connecticut Companions.

The presentation included a certificate and was attended by his Lady Barbara and daughter Theresa. Carl can receive visitors most any time but call ahead to make sure of his schedule.



(front) Carl Palmberg. (rear l-r) Bill Miller, Arnie Grot, Jeff Flynn.



Carl Palmberg

Pancakes at the Pyramid Shrine Temple

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

On Sunday, December 11, 2022, Pyramid Shriners had a family pancake breakfast. Shriners from various units and clubs assisted at this monthly event. Attendees enjoyed delicious pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, and home fries.





Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*SM



A ‘Lofty’ Look Back at 2022 *by Richard F. Denno*

This past year has been an active one for our committee. Our primary purpose is to encourage people to learn about organ donation/transplantation, increase donor awareness, and encourage them to register as potential donors online at www.registerme.org. Although organ donation is an anonymous freewill act, donor families have told us of their donations. We know of nine corneas that have been recovered and transplanted. Two of those corneas were from my beautiful late wife, Midge. Her cornea donations restored or improved the eyesight of two patients. I am sure that thanks to our efforts, more donations occurred that we don't know about.

Thanks to our Connecticut Freemasons and your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program, 2022 will be remembered as the most exhilarating and exciting year in recent memory. On July 16, brothers and friends jumped out of perfectly good planes to benefit the New England Donor Services at our ‘The Sky Is the Limit’ skydiving fundraiser. The event was held at Ellington Airport with the assistance of CT Parachutists and their instructors.

Participation by our brothers, family, and friends is vital to the success of an event like our skydive. Based on that score, the day was a HUGE SUCCESS! The Rainbow Girls sold food and raffle tickets. George Greytak's efforts in arranging the food and assisting in cooking and serving hungry guests were greatly appreciated. Others assisted in registering skydivers and helping the divers complete the voluminous waivers and forms necessary to jump.

Grand Lodge officers attended, including RWB Ron Magliano, who dived with his wife, Mary. A very special thank you goes to Debbie Fowler from Grand Lodge, who handled donations and disbursements with Paul Watson.

The event both increased awareness and raised \$5,000, which was presented to MWGM Bruce Bellmore by Caitlyn Bernabucci from New England Donor Services this month. The funds will be used to promote the organ/tissue/eye donation cause within communities statewide and our Masonic brothers.

Caitlyn noted, “It was awesome to hear about the great success of this event!! Skydiving must be a very memorable experience—and a bucket list item for some, I'm sure. It's pretty special that you chose to fundraise for New England Donor Services. We appreciate the strong commitment of the Connecticut Freemasons to this cause and all that you do to honor the gift of life.”



(l-r) Caitlyn Bernabucci, MWB Bruce R. Bellmore, WB David McClain, and Bro. Bruce Faga.

Let's do this again in 2023, only BIGGER and better! After all, The Sky Is The Limit with organ and tissue donation. If you haven't already, register online at registerme.org.

Happy holidays! Thanks to all – and to all, a good night...

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



Pyramid Shriners Shine at the Tree Lighting

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Pyramid Shriners from Stratford participated in the annual tree lighting on Stepney Green in Monroe. Patrons enjoyed having their picture taken in a Motor Patrol car. Pyramid Shriners twisted balloon animals and hats for the guests in attendance.



Master Mason Lights Up for Shriners Hospital Children

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Brother Eugene Halliwell, a Master Mason from Corinthian Lodge No. 104, has celebrated the holidays for the past 23 years with his "Wonderland at Roseville" light display in Fairfield.

Bro. Eugene and his family have created a magnificent display consisting of 500,000 lights, synchronized music, and 2,000 figures. While the display is free of charge to the public, the Halliwell family created a personal fundraising project. All donations received from patrons are given to the Shriners Hospital to help needy children receive excellent medical care.



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Ed Note: We received the following letter from WB Lee Martin outlining his experiences and are printing it with his permission.

The Tenet of Brotherly Love *by Lee Martin*

When we speak about membership, we often focus on new brothers. An important part of membership, however, is the retention of those we already have.

One of the tenets of our fraternity is brotherly love. Lately, this has been on my mind as this tenet has directly increased my love for the fraternity.

I have had major depressive disorder since age 16. There have been long periods of remission, such as when I was in the officer line and then Master of my lodge in 2018. But even then, I had to fight to stay going. Each year I felt I was not good enough to move on. Most brothers never even knew this problem existed.

Then, around the middle of my year as Master, I started to notice neurological issues which, after many medical tests, were found to be attributed to the depression. Essentially my brain was short-circuiting. Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and, like many, my condition became even more severe.

Throughout that time and to the present, my brothers have consistently checked on me as they had noticed I went from being at every event to seldom leaving my house. Some, such as WB Chuck Landeau, call frequently. Others, such as Junior Warden Brian Sprouse, stop by to see how things are. A few weeks ago, Senior Warden Chris Woodward knocked on my door one day randomly with his spouse. They had “made too much corn chowder” (ironically, my favorite soup) and just happened to have an extra bread bowl. We both knew it was their way to get in to check on me. All this, and I have only been around minimally, at best, for about four years.

A bowl of soup, a quick visit, a phone call, or a text to ask how you are doing goes a long way to helping a brother feel that brotherly love. Check on your brothers. It will go a long way to retention of the brothers we have.

To those of you who read this and can relate to my experience, know that you are not alone. Your brothers are here for you.!

Finally, there is a Masonic play, *Martin and Max*, that many brothers have seen that addresses checking in on a brother. To those Master Masons who have not seen it, I strongly suggest visiting a lodge where it is being presented when you have the chance.

Thank you to all who spread kindness daily. God bless.

Turkey Trotting for Children with Dyslexia *by Donald M. Casey, Jr.*

Lafayette Consistory of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Masons hosted the 20th Annual Turkey Day Trot in Stratford. This race was started by Illustrious Brother Dave Urban, 33rd, who wanted to promote a healthy lifestyle through running.

Over 750 runners competed, and nearly 1,500 spectators filled the center streets of Stratford early on Thanksgiving morning. Reverend and MWB Bruce Bellmore gave the command to begin the race. “Ready, set, go”! Brothers from Daytime Lodge No. 144 and Scottish Rite Masons of Lafayette Consistory were there to help out. DeMolay and Connecticut Rainbow also assisted. To add to the fun, Scottish Rite Masons conducted a best turkey costume contest.

A portion of the Turkey Trot proceeds will be donated to the Children’s Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut.



BOOSTERS

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GRAND MASTER'S CIRCLE \$100 or more.

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David E. & Andrea I. Berger	Kurt A. Maehlenbrock
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Lawrence L. Brandolini	Paul S. Patterson
Newton & Bobbi Buckner	J. David Paulsen
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Carlton R. & Susan A. Csiki	Michael S. Shear
Lester A. Culver, Jr.	Gail N. Smith
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Scott A. Mantz	George R. Zack
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Ashlar Lodge No. 332
Garibaldi Masonic Club

Entered Apprentice Level \$75 - \$149

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District 7

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

From Whence Come You: Warren Lodge No. 51 and St. John's Lodge No. 2 Initiate New Brothers

by Jeffrey A. Blayman

On December 1, Warren Lodge No. 51 and St. John's Lodge No. 2 united once again to exemplify the long-standing bond they share. WM Brett Braccidiferro of St. John's Lodge had two candidates for the Entered Apprentice degree, and WM Jeffrey Blayman and the brothers of Warren Lodge were happy to assist at their annual inspection. The degree was a success thanks to the degree team that included brothers of Annawon Lodge No. 115 and St. John's Lodge: Bro. Jerry Nero and Bro. Joey McVety.

The meal, degree, and fellowship of the evening were a tribute to the long-standing alliance of these two local lodges. RWB Steven Saehrig, District Deputy of Masonic District 7A, conducted the inspection, representing the Grand Master, and was received as such with grand honors.

As a testament to the 211-year relationship between the two lodges, an 86-year-old set of working tools was employed. This thoughtful gift was given to Warren Lodge from St. John's Lodge in 1936 on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of Warren Lodge and was used to educate the new brothers on the 24-inch gauge and common gavel.

It is with great pleasure that the lodges welcome Brothers Timothy Butreau and Andy Garcia to the Craft.



A recent gift depicting patriot Dr. Joseph Warren from WB Brett O. Braccidiferro and the brothers of St. John's Lodge to Warren Lodge.



Bro. Jerry Nero welcomes Bros. Timothy Butreau and Andy Garcia.



*Working tools presented to Warren Lodge
86 years ago by St. John's Lodge.*

District 8

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



8th Masonic District Master Mason Degree Portrayed on Masters Night *by William Bundy*

On November 16, 2022, Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34 hosted the 8th Masonic District's Masters Night. The portrayal of the Master Mason Degree was the highlight of the evening. Bro. Benjamin Laplante of Purity Lodge No. 150 assisted in raising his father, Bro. Marcel A. Laplante to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

Each lodge in the 8th District was represented. Masters Night was truly a sight to behold, with all parts of the degree portrayed by current or past masters, including a current Grand Lodge line officer and a District Deputy. All the lodges of the 8th District welcome their new Master Mason and offer a sincere thank you to all who participated in this grand event.



(l-r) RWB Rob Krawic, WB Jason Fletcher, WB Andrew Pedro, WB Mike Gibeault, RWB Les B. King, RWB Brian Eckenrode, Bro. Marcel Laplante, Bro. Benjamin Laplante, WB John Stogden, RWB C.A. Duke, RWB Richard Miller, RWB James Moran, RWB Rinaldo Magliano Jr., WB Jeffrey Kovach, WB Glenn Studwell, WB Mauricio Cruz, and WB William Bundy.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

Hiram Lodge No. 1

Nicholas Thomas Gachi
Christopher Renaldo Guidone
Tyler Daley Pascarella
Jordan Brett Restifo

Temple Lodge No. 16

Boris Karolicki
Eric Martone
Philip James Sharkey, Jr.

St. Peters Lodge No. 21

Michael Trevor Horton

St. Peters Lodge No. 21

Michael Trevor Horton

Union Lodge No. 40

Ricardo DiPierro
David Koveleski
Ricardo Picozzl

St. Lukes Lodge No. 48

Anthony Rivera

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

Aaron Tod Alder
Deshawn Carl Morris

Brainard Lodge No. 102

John Andrew Ely

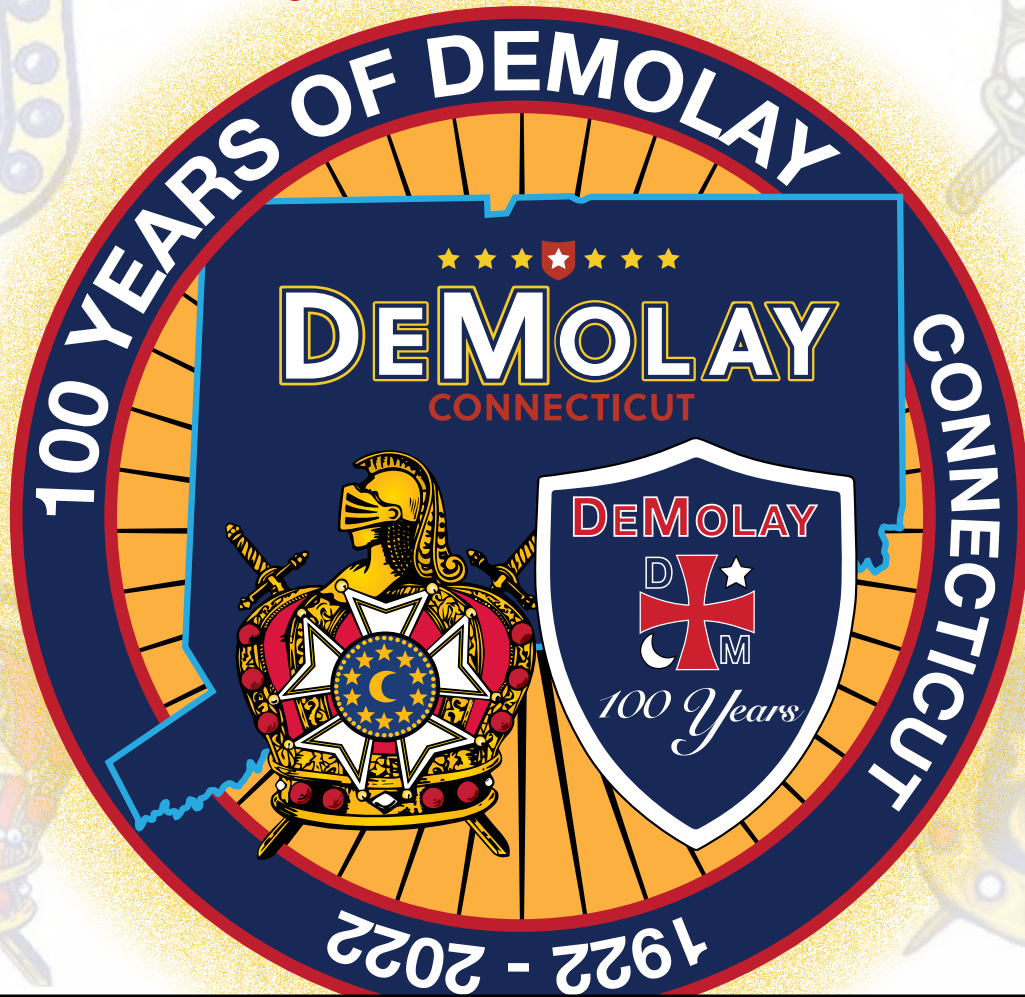
Ionic Lodge No. 110

Kenneth Joseph Charest, Jr.
Samuel Edmund Highsmith, Jr.
Ethan Xavier Stone

Save the date

March 4th, 2023

Come join the celebration!



Pyramid Shriners Fundraise for Children at Rite Aid Pharmacy

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Pyramid Shriners conducted their 5th annual fall fundraising event at Rite Aid Pharmacy in Monroe recently. Shriners distributed informational pamphlets and coloring books about Shiner's Hospital for Children. In addition, donations were collected, and those funds will be used to assist needy children receive excellent medical care through The Red Sneaker Fund. The fund provides financial support for research to find improved treatments and techniques for children with burn injuries at the Shiner's Hospital.



The Grand Lodge, AF&AM of Connecticut,
The Valley of New Haven Scottish Rite,
The 4th Masonic District B.L.C., and
Hiram Lodge No. 1

Invite you to join us for

The New Haven

St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 12, 2023

**Please Come
March With Us!**

Meet at the
New Haven Masonic Lodge
285 Whitney Avenue, New Haven

Continental breakfast served at 10 a.m.
Barbecue picnic to follow parade!

Come and represent Connecticut Masonry and our extended family.

Bus transportation is provided for marchers from the lodge to the staging area beginning at **NOON**. The parade steps off at 1:30 pm. You can walk the parade route or sign up to ride the 45' float.

Lodge officers wear formal attire, tuxes/dark suits, jewels, aprons, and top hat.

Lodge members wear dark suits and aprons. Your family is very welcome to march with us and enjoy the fun. The more, the merrier! After the parade its back to the lodge for a barbecue lunch and fellowship.

We've done this parade for many years. It's really a wonderful walk past areas of Yale and the historic New Haven Green.



Please contact WB Fred Marotti at fred@absct.com or 203-641-3932 for info and to let us know you're coming before March 6, 2023.



NUTMEGGER REUNIONS



**Brother and Reverend Bruce R. Bellmore invites you to the
2023 Nutmegger Reunions**

March 8, 2023

Doubletree by Hilton Deerfield Beach - Boca Raton
100 Fairway Drive, Deerfield Beach, FL

March 9, 2023

Holiday Inn Titusville
4715 Helen Hauser Boulevard, Titusville, FL

March 10, 2023

Timber Greens Country Club
6333 Timber Greens Blvd
New Port Richey, FL

All reunions begin with Registration at 10:30 a.m. and the program at 11 a.m. followed by lunch. All are invited to attend with no charge for lunch.

Please RSVP by February 20, 2023

Use the enclosed registration Card or email
Canderson@masonicare.org or call RWB Carl Anderson
at 203-679-6917

We look forward to seeing you in March 2023.

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