

March 2023



Connecticut FREEMASONS

AND HIS THRONE FOR EVER I WILL BE HIS

AND HIS THRONE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOR EVERMORE



IN THIS ISSUE

Call to the 234th Annual
Communication

300th Anniversary of the
Constitutions of 1723 at the
United Grand Lodge of England

Masonicare Annual Report 2022

Cover Background: UGLE
Grand Temple Freemasons Hall, London
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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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RW Deputy Grand Master

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Associate Grand Tiler

Bro. Brian E. Beals
Deputy Grand Treasurer

Bro. Gregory K. Whitehouse
Deputy Grand Secretary

Bro. David E. Berger
Assistant to the Grand Master



**Connecticut
FREEMASONS**

Volume 18 - Number 8

Publisher

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

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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.

International Celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the Constitutions of 1723 *by Bruce R. Bellmore*

The United Grand Lodge of England invited Masonic Jurisdictions from around the world to join in the celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the Constitutions of 1723, which are the basis for the landmarks of Freemasonry. This document, also known as Anderson's Constitution, established the universal Masonic ideals of brotherly love, relief, and truth, as the foundation for Grand Lodges.

Grand Masters and representatives from 58 jurisdictions, including our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Bruce R. Bellmore, and R.W Brother Christopher J. Earle, representing Connecticut, were greeted by 1,600 brothers seated in the Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall in London. The Pro Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, Most Worshipful Brother Jonathon Spence, welcomed all in attendance and introduced the Grand Historian, who gave a brief history of the Constitutions. This was followed by a video presentation on the creation of Constitutions narrated by Sir Derek Jacobi.

Most Worshipful Brother Akram Elias, Past Grand Master of the District of Columbia and noted Masonic author and speaker, gave an inspiring and riveting address on how the Constitutions influenced not only the Masonic

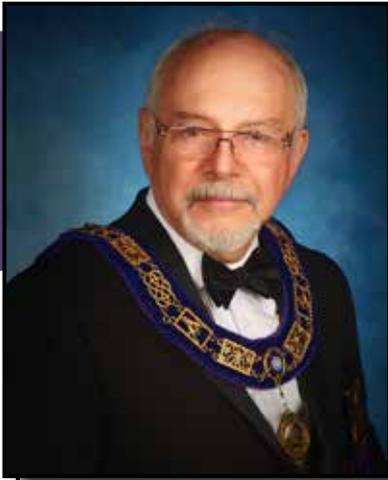
world but also became the foundation for the constitutions of many nations, including our own. The Grand Master has invited Brother Elias to be our keynote speaker at the Connecticut Grand Lodge Banquet on March 31st. The formal program was followed by a reception for all the foreign visitors and a banquet with 1,400 in attendance.

Freemasons' Hall is a magnificent facility that occupies an entire city block in London. The Museum of Freemasonry has an incredible collection of artifacts and is currently running a special exhibit on the Constitutions, including original and editor's copies of the documents and how they shaped Freemasonry throughout the world.

The genuine warmth and hospitality of the brothers of the United Grand Lodge of England was truly representative of the spirit of the Constitutions as they went above and beyond to make all in attendance feel welcomed and exemplified brotherly love at its best. It was truly a marvelous event that expressed the Universality of Masonry!

More photos on page 22.





Grand Master's Message

by Rev. and MWB Bruce R. Bellmore



My dear brothers,

I have just returned from joining brothers from around the world to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Constitutions of 1723, which are the basis of the landmarks of our jurisdiction and jurisdictions around the world. To say that this event was amazing and inspiring would be a serious understatement. My heart is full of the love of our brothers from around the world and the friendships I have made.

During this event, the spirit of brotherly love and mutuality of interest led our conversations. We learned so many interesting facts about each other's jurisdictions, the differences, and the similarities, that make us each unique and yet the same. I sincerely thank Most Worshipful Jonathan Spence, Pro Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, for his hospitality during our visit. The UGLE could not have done more to make our visit more enjoyable or express their warmth and hospitality to all their guests. I also wish to express my sincere thanks to RWB Christopher J. Earle, my friend since we were in DeMolay, who accompanied me to London, arranged our accommodations, made sure I didn't get lost, whose knowledge of London and its history is incredible, and whose companionship made the trip so much more enjoyable.

My dear friends and brothers, throughout my time in the Grand East, I have been overwhelmed by the true spirit of brotherly love and affection experienced in all my travels. The beauty of our great fraternity is the universality of our care for each other, not just as members of an organization but truly as brothers in a family committed to the practice of the tenants of the fraternity. We are; indeed, brothers united in a universal bond.

As I prepare to leave the Grand East, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the members of our Masonic family. While serving as Grand Master has its challenges, your love and support have made my term a time of joy and blessing. The welcome I have received from all our Lodges, York and Scottish Rites, appendant and concordant bodies, and our youth groups – Rainbow and DeMolay, has been humbling and has confirmed to me the goodness of our institution.

Thank you for this time and for allowing me the opportunity to serve this Grand Lodge. May God bless each of you, and may He continue to bless our great fraternity!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Rev. & Brother Bruce R. Bellmore

MW Grand Master - 2022

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

King Hiram Lodge No. 12
Andrew Champagne

Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14
Bilal Chakas
Tony Morrone
Peter Frank Morrone

Village Lodge No. 29
Eric Robert Engel

Friendship Lodge No. 33
Benjamin Morelli Caron
Mackala Fall
Christian Orlando Rivera

St. Alban's Lodge No. 38
Salvatore Joseph Migliaro, III

Annawon Lodge No. 115
Terrence Wallieck Williams

Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125
Asanish Kalyanasundaram

Sequin Level Lodge No. 140
David Maroun Zoghbi

Daytime Lodge No. 144
Billy Ray Brown

Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149
Aggee Alcindor
Gerard Compail
Edzer Vincent Lucien
Leoner Vilma

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

JAMES M. ANDERSON
GRAND SECRETARY
69 Masonic Avenue
Wallingford, CT 06492



BUSINESS PHONE
(203) 679-5903
FAX NUMBER
(203) 679-5996
grandsecretary@ctfreemasons.net

234th ANNUAL COMMUNICATION
OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M.
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

The 234th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A. M. of Connecticut will be held at the **Marriott Hartford/Windsor Airport, 28 Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT 06095** (I91, exit 38), on **Saturday, April 1, 2023**. The formal opening of Grand Lodge will be at 9:30 A.M.

This is the "CALL" to that meeting.

Registration will start at 8:00 a.m. Please note: **All voting delegates must register at the registration table and present their 2023 Dues Card to the Grand Tiler upon entry to the session.** Registration will be by Home/Primary Lodge number as designated by posted signs in the area.

A proxy form will be sent directly to the Lodge Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden should they: 1) not be able to attend this Annual Communication in person [proxy must be executed in advance]; 2) be entitled to vote by virtue of holding one of these offices in more than one lodge; 3) be entitled to vote by virtue of being a Grand Lodge Officer or a permanent member of Grand Lodge. Please inform any brother who is attending as a proxy that he must present his 2023 dues card. All brothers entitled to vote should bring the apron and jewel of their office, whether as permanent member, lodge officer or serving as proxy.

Your attendance at this Annual Communication is important. We will consider available reports of Standing and Special Committees, Grand Lodge Officer reports, and any other business proper to be considered, all subject to the usual rules. **There may be certain changes to the Rules & Regulations which will be considered for adoption.**

Please note the following Sections of our Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations regarding Lodge representation:

Section 2301. Penalty if Lodge Is Not Represented at Regular Grand Lodge Communication: (reads in part) "A Lodge neglecting to be represented at a Regular Grand Lodge Communication shall incur the penalty of two hundred and fifty (\$250) dollars ..."

The Grand Lodge Office cannot make hotel reservations. Lodges and brothers are responsible for making their own reservations with the **Marriott Hartford/Windsor Airport**. We encourage you to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. Room rate is \$111 per night plus tax. Last day to book is **Friday, March 17, 2023**. To reserve your room use this link: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1664554372263&key=GRP&app=resvlink> or call 860-688-7500 (ask for Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut when making reservations by phone)

VOTING: Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, District Deputies, Past District Deputies, current Associate Grand Marshals, and current Grand Lodge Standing Committee members must register in order to vote. Each voting delegate will register **only once, either by virtue of his highest attained Grand Lodge Masonic office or Committee Membership or, if he chooses, as an elector (proxy) on behalf of his lodge.** The use of proxies is encouraged where appropriate to ensure full representation of constituent lodges.

FRIDAY BANQUET: The Grand Master's Banquet for Grand Lodge Officers, Distinguished Guests, members of the Craft and their ladies will be held on **Friday evening, March 31, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. in the Windsor Ballroom.** All brothers and their ladies are invited to attend. Please make every effort to get your reservation in early, as tickets to this banquet are sold on a first come - first serve basis. **Any request which is received in the Grand Lodge Office after March 10, 2023, will result in tickets being held for pickup at the door.**

A banquet reservation form for the Friday night banquet is included in this publication. The entrée will be Prime Rib \$50.00, Grilled Citrus Chicken \$50.00, Filet of Salmon \$50.00, or Vegetarian \$50.00 and all by advance order. All prices are per person and include tax and gratuity. Please make all checks payable to the "Grand Lodge of Connecticut" and mail with the banquet reservation form. Banquet tickets will be mailed to those placing an order prior to March 10, 2023. It would be appreciated if a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) was also included. For orders received after that date, tickets will be held at the door.

SATURDAY LUNCH: On Saturday, April 1, 2023, at 12:00 Noon, the Past District Deputies Association of Connecticut will host a luncheon. Tickets are \$35.00 per person. All brothers are invited to attend. See reservation form included in this publication. Reservations can be mailed to Bro. Brian Beals, 175 Mercier Ave, Bristol, CT 06010 or call 860-620-4102. Reservation deadline is March 10, 2023. Lunch will also be available at other venues in the surrounding areas.

Brother Lodge Secretary, please note that proxy forms will be mailed directly to the top three officers of your Lodge. Please remind them of their responsibilities to be present at Grand Lodge or to sign their proxy and give it to someone else.

With my fraternal best wishes
James M. Anderson
R.W. Grand Secretary
February 1, 2023

Deputy Grand Master's Message

by *Joseph Porco*

Some ask if I am ready for my upcoming year as Grand Master. The answer is yes, with the Grand Architect's help. Full disclosure, I petition the Almighty regularly with prayer. I began planning a year ago. With the help of brothers and knowledge of successful actions deployed by other jurisdictions, my plans for the year ahead are ready to be implemented. A major plus is that MWB Bruce Bellmore permitted me to set the table in advance to hit the ground running. We are positioned to launch initiatives that take aim at deploying tactical actions which can enhance our ability to attract men into our ranks and improve membership retention.

A Task Force is in place. It initially served as a precursor to an Acquisition and Retention Committee (A&R), which is now formed. The Task Force is composed of myself, the Chairmen of the A&R Committee (RWB Robert Polito and RWB Nicholas Ives), and three Past Grand Masters. The Chairmen have built out their team and the program. Training curriculum will be available in April. The program contains components previously deployed by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodges of New York and Ohio and assets from the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite Masons. To all three bodies, we owe considerable gratitude. To quote MWB William Sardone of NY, "We were determined to address the six-decade trend of declining membership, and the results of our efforts have exceeded our own expectation."

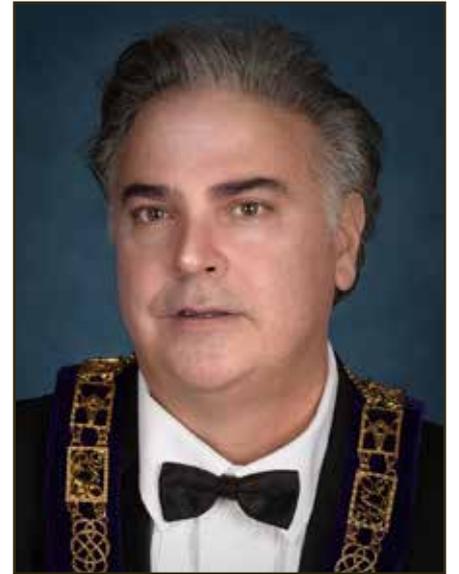
Education and engagement will be rolled out in waves. The first group to receive the presentation will be the Grand Line Officers (in March) and then our 2023-2024 District Deputies at their seminar on April 8. Those with oversight

responsibilities and messaging roles need to be prepared to address questions before full details of the program are shared with the Craft. Clear understanding is essential prior to rollout for proper delivery and cohesive messaging.

Preparing for April has been a team effort. Our excitement and confidence level are high. Our Committee Chairmen will emphasize that engagement in the program requires work and that the work ahead requires continued commitment, personal responsibility, accountability, and a sustained collaborative effort.

Those that attend the Annual Session in April can expect a balanced budget to be presented for approval. I removed the proposed 'One Time' jurisdictional fee. All adjustments are within the range of previous budgets.

My foremost goal while serving is to initiate vision, direction and to empower and motivate as many brethren as possible towards a common purpose of raising 'Just and Upright' Masons and improving membership retention. By working together as a team, I believe we can achieve outstanding results.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

Edward Robert Ham
America St. Johns Lodge No. 8

Lee F. Mahannah
Evening Star Lodge No. 101

Peter F. Maltby, Sr.
Compass Lodge No. 9

Michael J. Polansky
Meridian Lodge No. 77

Gary LaRue Rosengrant
Harmony Lodge No. 42

Robert J. Ruskin
America St. Johns Lodge No. 8

Ivan Sadler
Coastal Lodge No. 57

August Vagnini, Jr
Meridian Lodge No. 77

CT Freemasons Foundation, Inc. Call to Meeting

In accordance with its by-laws, the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation will conduct a brief meeting, and election of representation to its Board of Directors at the will and pleasure of the Most Worshipful Grand Master during the Annual Stated Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Connecticut on Saturday, April 1, 2023. All members of the Grand Lodge who are in good standing are invited to attend.

Fraternally,

Bro. Christopher J. Earle, Chairman

Committee on Legal Matters, Grand Lodge of Connecticut

Proposed Legislation Change to Allow for Use of Virtual Dues Cards

Rationale: With the implementation of Grand View throughout the jurisdiction of Connecticut it is now possible to prove that a Mason is in good standing through the use of a virtual dues card in lieu of or addition to the traditional dues card issued by the Grand Secretary. Furthermore, a number of jurisdictions have already allowed their members to utilize virtual membership dues cards. This would align the Grand Lodge of Connecticut with those other jurisdictional practices. *This legislation does not eliminate the traditional dues card*, it only allows a member to use a virtual dues card in order to demonstrate they are in good standing with their lodge.

Section 3012. Official Documents and the Use of Seals. Membership cards will be Virtual Membership Dues Cards as authorized by the Grand Secretary or a Traditional Membership Dues Card printed on paper specified by the Grand Secretary and embossed by the seal of the lodge. —All lodges shall possess a Lodge Seal and Seal Press or Embosser for the purpose of applying the “Seal of the Lodge.” The Lodge Secretary shall issue official documents of the Lodge under the seal of the Lodge. The “Seal of the Lodge” shall be an embossed or impressed seal containing the name of the lodge. If the embossed or impressed seal is not available, the document may be signed by the Secretary inscribing “L.S.” or “Under Seal” following the Secretary’s signature on the document.

Official documents include:

- a. Membership Certificate
- b. **Traditional** Membership Dues Card
- c. **Virtual Membership Dues** Card
- ~~d.~~ Form of the Non-Affiliated Mason (Dimit)
- ~~e.~~ Notice of Election to Membership
- f. Release of Personal Jurisdiction
- g. Certificate of Clearance
- hg. Such other forms required by this Grand Lodge as may from time to time be established.

Section 4005. Certificate of Membership and Membership Dues Card Defined and Uses Thereof. A certificate of membership (FORM GL8) is required to be issued by the Lodge upon the completion of the three degrees of Masonry and upon signing of the membership roll. The certificate of membership must bear the certificate of the Grand Secretary under seal, as evidence of the regularity of the Lodge issuing it; and the seal of the Lodge as evidence that the person named in it was regularly made therein, and was at its date in good standing. The embossing of the Lodge authenticates membership in the Lodge to which he is a member. The marginal signature furnishes evidence of identity and must be signed in the presence of the Secretary or Worshipful Master of the Lodge. The certificate is sufficient to warrant temporary relief, but not admission into a Lodge. The applicant must produce the best evidence, to wit: the possession of the universal language of Masonry.

10/11

A membership Dues Card **shall consist of a virtual membership dues card authorized by the Grand Secretary or a Traditional Membership Dues Card** duly embossed with the Lodge Seal ~~shall be issued to a member of a Lodge~~. A **Traditional** Dues Card, which shall be issued by Grand Lodge, shall bear the seal of this Grand Lodge, signature of the Grand Secretary and shall be signed by the Lodge Secretary. A duly issued Dues Card serves as evidence only of his current good standing as a Lodge member. 10/11

A Lifetime Membership Dues Card, duly embossed with the seal of this Grand Lodge and bearing the signature of the Grand Secretary ~~may shall~~ be issued evidencing his participation in the Grand Lodge Lifetime Membership Plan. The Lifetime Membership Dues Card ~~may shall~~ be issued on card stock and laminated **or be represented by a Virtual Membership Dues Card**. A Lifetime Membership Card shall not replace the annual membership Dues Card evidencing the Master Mason is a member in good standing of a Lodge. 4/18

FORM GL-8 : Section 4005. Certificate of Membership and Traditional Membership Dues Card Defined and Uses Thereof.



Past District Deputies Association

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

In conjunction with the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, we will hold our

Annual Reunion Luncheon
beginning at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, 2023

at the

Marriott Hartford/Windsor Airport
28 Day Hill Road
Windsor, CT 06095

The luncheon menu will include Caesar Salad, Grilled Chicken Breast, Rice Pilaf, Roasted Vegetables, Dessert, Water/Lemonade, and Coffee/Tea service.

Tickets are \$35 per person.

Please make checks payable to: **Past District Deputies Association** and mail **by March 10, 2023**, to:

Brian E. Beals, Treasurer
175 Mercier Ave, Bristol, CT 06010

If you have any questions, contact RW Brian Beals at 860-620-4102 or email at brian.e.beals@gmail.com.

Please: Enclose a stamped, self-addressed, stamped envelope with your reservation.
Thank you!



Past District Deputies Association – Annual Reunion Luncheon April 1, 2023 - \$35 pp

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for the cost of _____ reservations.

Name: _____ Cell: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____

Annual Grand Lodge of Connecticut Dinner Reservation

Marriott Hartford/Windsor Airport, Windsor

Friday, March 31, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets must be presented at dinner for collection by the wait staff

Entrée:

Please send _____ ticket(s) at \$50.00 each for **Prime Rib**

Please send _____ ticket(s) at \$50.00 each for **Grilled Citrus Chicken**

Please send _____ ticket(s) at \$50.00 each for **Filet of Salmon**

Please send _____ ticket(s) at \$50.00 each for **Vegetarian Meal**

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Mail tickets to: _____ Address _____

City, ST, Zip: _____ Signed: _____

Make checks payable to "Grand Lodge of CT." Please enclose a SASE and mail to: 69 Masonic Avenue, Wallingford, CT 06492

Return before: March 10, 2023



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD SERVICE

March 1, 2023

To Prospective Board and Committee Members:

By this notice, the Board of Trustees of Masonicare hereby issues a Call for Nominations of candidates for election to the Board of Trustees of Masonicare and The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. To be considered for service, nominees need not specify in which board they are interested in serving. Interested individuals should request a Nomination Application by completing and returning the questionnaire below.

Applications should be submitted to me and postmarked no later than April 14, 2023. Applicants will be contacted to schedule interviews.

Nominees should have qualifications in business, corporate leadership, finance, law or healthcare, which qualify them for board service. Candidates should be aware that board members assume fiduciary duties with respect to their service and that violation of these duties can entail personal liability. Service on our boards requires a considerable time commitment, varying with the needs of each corporation. While Masonicare's board is comprised of those who are specifically members of the Masonic fraternity or related appendant bodies, affiliate board membership may also contain qualified members of the local community.

MASONICARE is the Parent Corporation of our system, and all nominees must be members in good standing of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, with the exception of three who shall be members in good standing, and appointed one each from The Grand Chapter of Connecticut, Order of the Eastern Star; the Order of the Amaranth

State of Connecticut; and Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of Connecticut. The Board of Trustees is composed of no less than twelve but no more than fifteen members. Three seats must be filled annually by members in good standing of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, through the nomination and election process. The term of service on this board is three years, commencing in November 2023.

The term of service for The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut Board of Directors is one year commencing in November 2023.

Please feel free to address any questions you may have regarding this process to Jon-Paul Venoit, President and CEO, 203-679-5000 or jvenoit@masonicare.org. Thank you for your assistance and participation.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Robert F. Polito, Chair
Nominating Committee

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION FOR BOARD SERVICE

Requests for a Nomination Application can be completed by returning the attached request. Once completed, the form should be sent to Robert F. Polito, Chair of the Masonicare Nominating Committee, via U.S. Postal Service to the address listed below; by Facsimile to 203-679-5001; or you may send the information electronically to droemmele@masonicare.org. A Nomination Application will be sent to all applicants for completion. The Nomination Application may be returned via U.S. Postal Service, Facsimile, or electronically. Please indicate your preference.

Robert F. Polito, Chair
Masonicare Nominating Committee
Masonicare
22 Masonic Avenue, P.O. Box 70
Wallingford, CT 06492

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Daytime Phone Number () _____ Evening Phone Number () _____

Fax Number _____ Email address: Address: _____

I would prefer the application to be sent to me via (i.e., email, U.S. mail) _____

Don't Wait to Live the Good Life at Ashlar Village

For the first time since welcoming its first residents nearly four decades ago, Masonicare at Ashlar Village is now home to three Past Grand Masters. They are (below, from left) **Bro. Kenneth B. Hawkins, Bro. Gustaf R. (Gus) Bodin,** and **Bro. Charles B. (Chuck) Fowler.**



"I remember the grand opening ceremony in September 1985," recalled Bro. Ken, the trio's newest arrival. "It was the day after Hurricane Gloria and the power was still out."

Today, Ashlar Village is one of the state's premier non-profit Continuing Care Retirement Communities, offering the best in Independent Living, Assisted Living, and Memory Care options. Nestled on 169 picturesque acres in Wallingford, it is just up the hill from Masonicare Health Center - where Bro. Gus worked for ten years in the Admissions Department - and the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, A.F. and A.M.

Along with the pride they have living in a community made possible by the vision and generosity of Connecticut Freemasons, the Past Grand Masters love the convenience that Ashlar Village affords all of its residents.

"I have a toolbox in storage that I go down to once in a while if I need a screwdriver or a hammer," said Bro. Gus, "but generally speaking, everything is done for you ... and in good haste. Our Maintenance Department is really on the ball."

"It's easy living," added Bro. Chuck. "No worries about shoveling snow or cutting the lawn. If you like planting, we have a garden. Everything's right here. And if you need a ride off-campus, we've got a Transportation Department that is without equal."

The trio also counted a welcoming atmosphere and easy access to wellness services, activities, and volunteer opportunities among the things they love most about the Ashlar Village lifestyle.

"I just wish more people would take advantage of it sooner," said Bro. Ken. "My advice would be, 'Don't wait.'"

So what are **you** waiting for? Schedule a tour today by calling **1-800-982-3919**. And remember: Masonicare's Concentric Circle Policy offers move-in specials for members of the Masonic Family!

We are *your* Masonicare.

A legacy of caring that spans more than 125 years. Online at masonicare.org.



From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

This month marks three years since our world was turned upside down by the COVID-19 pandemic. It has also been that long since Masonicare Board of Trustees Chairman RWB Bob Polito and I have been able to visit in person with old friends in Florida at our Nutmegger Reunions. Our long overdue return to the Sunshine State, like the easing of certain COVID restrictions, is finally possible thanks to a drop in cases.

The next phase of renovations at Masonicare Health Center is underway as we begin the process of adding seven more beds to our Behavioral Health Hospital. The hospital provides care for older adults experiencing acute mental health and behavioral issues in a safe, secure environment. That the hospital's existing two units are always at or near capacity reinforces for us that Masonicare is addressing a critical need in aging services. We are fortunate to have the space to be able to expand our behavioral health program.

More good news: Masonicare at Ashlar Village in Wallingford is now home to three Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters! Our newest arrival, Bro. Ken Hawkins, joins Bro. Gus Bodin and Bro. Chuck Fowler. I have tremendous admiration and respect for these men and brother Masons, all great leaders and loyal supporters of Masonicare. I am delighted to have them all "under one roof," so to speak. In this issue, the trio shares their thoughts about life at Ashlar Village ... and why you should check it out!

On the subject of great leaders, I'll close by offering my sincere thanks to Bro. Bruce Bellmore, MWGM, for his friendship and support over the last year. Having the opportunity to work alongside Bro. Bruce has been a true pleasure. But in this season of renewal, I also look forward to the installation next month of Grand Master-elect Bro. Joe Porco, RW Deputy Grand Master. I know he will make it a priority to continue Masonicare's strong partnership with the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, A.F. & A.M.



Sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon-Paul Venoit". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Spiritual Corner

by Rev. & RWB Carl Anderson



The first verses of Psalm 121 are powerful expressions of praise and adoration to God. In them, the psalmist shares his personal belief and gratitude to the God of Creation. The Psalmist, also known as David, writes these short verses, "I lift mine eyes to the hills, from whence does my help come. My help comes from the Lord who made the heavens and the earth." Through these verses, David calls for all to offer their praise and adoration to God. In them, he proclaims the majesty of the Grand Architect of the Universe through the beauty of nature. For the psalmist, the beauty of the hills is a reminder of the love of God given to all humankind.

Recently, the words of Psalm 121 were a great comfort to me as I conducted the Funeral service for my dear friend and brother, Most Worshipful Brother Norman L. Getchell. As the service was a celebration of his life, it included many expressions of Norm's love of family, his life of faith, and his dedication to our fraternity. A common theme within many of the comments made by those gathered was that Norm's life was a blessing. Many noted his unassuming yet loving presence, which will remain a gift that they will always cherish.

I remembered that his example of service and caring for our Masonicare residents encouraged me to become a Mason. Norm not only played Santa and delivered gifts to the residents each year, but he was also a friend to many of them and visited often. At the service, I mentioned how he became my mentor and raised me to the degree of Master Mason. Also, how he came all the way from Florida to install me as Master of Union Lodge No. 40. And that it was Norm, and his wife Barbara, who timed their trip to Maine so that they could surprise me by attending my ordination. He was always a person who supported me and many others in so many ways.

As the beauty of the hills serves as a reminder of God's love for the psalmist, so will the memory of Norm remind me that God creates special people to help us along the road of life. May the memories of your loved ones and mentors, who have passed to that house not made with human hands, enteral in the heavens, help you to offer praise to God for the intersection of your lives



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

- 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

- 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

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

Richard Hoyt Bolles, Sr.
Anchor Lodge No. 112

Steven Michael Gospodinoff
Acacia Lodge No. 85

Fred Martin McCrillis
Putnam Lodge No. 46

Franklin S. Burnham
Valley Lodge No. 36

Philip A. Grasso
Columbia Lodge No. 25

Robert L. Neerman
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

Walter F. Corbiere, III
St. Alban's Lodge No. 38

Richard D. Gyure
Uriel Lodge No. 24

Raymond J. Roy
Harmony Lodge No. 42

Scott A. Doolittle
Shepherd Salem Lodge No. 78

Charles A. Haddad
Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34

Dean Wentworth Spencer
Temple Lodge No. 16

Paul Kenneth Edman
Madison Lodge No. 87

Trygve Hansen
Ark Lodge No. 39

Duncan Stalker
Temple Lodge No. 65

Thomas H. Feero, Jr.
Harmony Lodge No. 42

Edward Krasnow
America St. Johns Lodge No. 8

Alvin R. Thomas
St. Alban's Lodge No. 38

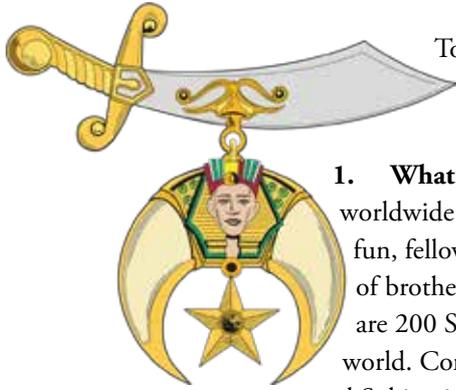
Norman Lee Getchell
Union Lodge No. 40

Paul A. Martin
Ark Lodge No. 39

Ellsworth Elmer Tweedie
America St. Johns Lodge No. 8

Sphinx & Pyramid Shriners

As the winter comes to a close and the bulbs start to poke out from the snow, we look forward to Spring with great anticipation. Sphinx and Pyramid Shrines continue to work hard for the upcoming Ceremonial at Brainard Lodge No. 102, 32 Society Road, Niantic, on Saturday, May 6, at 9 a.m. Registration, initiation ceremony, hospital presentation, and a hearty lunch will be had. To register to join either Pyramid or Sphinx Shrines online, go to www.BeAShrinerNow.com.



To answer some questions that you may have, here are some questions and answers for you.

- 1. What is Shriners International?** The worldwide organization is a fraternity based on fun, fellowship, and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth. There are 200 Shrine Centers located around the world. Connecticut has Pyramid in Stratford and Sphinx in Newington.
- 2. What is Shriners Hospitals for Children?** Our unique healthcare system presently has 23 locations in three countries and is dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, conducting innovative research, and offering outstanding teaching programs for medical professionals. All care and services are provided regardless of the family's ability to pay. Pyramid and Sphinx support Shriners Children's New England in Springfield, MA, our orthopedic and sports medicine clinic, and Shriners Children's Boston, our burns hospital.
- 3. What is Shriners International's connection to Shriners Hospitals for Children?** The fraternity was founded and continues to support the healthcare system as its official philanthropy.
- 4. Where does the money come from to operate Shriners Hospitals for Children?** As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Shriners Hospitals for Children relies on the generosity of Shriners, corporations, and the general public to carry out its mission and improve the lives of children every day.
- 5. What percentage of Shriners Hospital for Children operating budget is spent directly supporting the organization's three-part mission of patient care, research, and education?** Approximately 85 percent.
- 6. How can I learn more about Shriners Hospitals for Children?** For information about ways to give and support Shriners Hospitals for Children, please visit www.shrinerschildrens.org or call (800) 241-GIFT.
- 7. When was the first Shrine Temple (Center) established?** Mecca Shrine was established in New York City in 1872.
- 8. Why does Shriners International have a near east theme?** Like collage fraternities that use a Greek motif, Shriners International selected Near Eastern iconography and regalia to serve as the fraternity's theme when it was founded in 1872. The Shriners' red fezzes (hats) and the costumes they sometimes wear in parades pay tribute to this long-standing tradition.
- 9. When and where did the first hospital open?** We opened our first

hospital in 1922 in Shreveport, LA. The hospital initially focused on treating the orthopedic aftereffect of the polio virus, which was rampant at the time.

The Sphinx Shriners Annual Kids Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 8, from 8-10:30 a.m. It includes all-you-can-eat breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Basket Raffle, and a special guest appearance by the Easter Bunny. The cost is \$5 per person; kids 12 and under are free. Registration is due no later than April 8. Payments can be made online at www.sphinxshriners.org.

Save the date of Wednesday, June 14, and join us for a Sphinx Fundraiser for Shriners Children's New England at Broad Brook Brewing in Suffield from 3-7 p.m. A great get-together for brothers, ladies, friends, and Nobles alike.

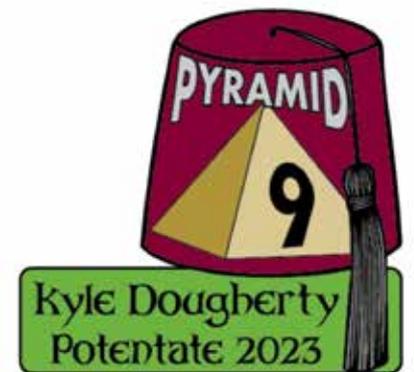
Pyramid Shriners in Stratford has already had the Motorcycle Club, Brew Crew, and Hillbillies Club host their first events of the year, and attendance and enthusiasm are high. The Game Club has had its first event, too, even though they're not officially a club yet! Another unofficial ongoing activity has been getting together for some indoor simulator golfing over the winter. It is tougher than it looks!

The various parade units are gearing up for the upcoming years' various parades and events. It's one of the primary ways we raise money for our Temples and/or the greater organization. At Pyramid, we have Motor Patrol (that's the very popular mini cars), Legion of Honor, Clowns, and Pipes and Drums. We'd love to show you what we do, and you're welcome to check us out.

Saint Patrick's Day is a busy time of year with numerous parades, events, dinners, and the Epic Annual Pyramid Pipes and Drums Parade and Pub Crawl – lasting from noon until 11 p.m. (or later!) and starting at the Bridgeport St. Pat's Parade at noon and bagpiping up and down the coast hitting at least eight clubs, bars and restaurants from Stamford to Orange. When the bagpipes fire up on St. Pat's, the establishments and their patrons get pumped, and their generosity and hospitality are inspiring. There may be no better embodiment of the Shriners' motto, "Fun and Philanthropy."

Upcoming events: St. Patrick's Day Dinner, March 11, Pyramid Temple, 2428 Main St., Stratford.

Get your lodge and organizations on our email list by sending your email address to recorder@pyramidshriners.org



How is Your Masonic Apron?

by John A. Amarilios, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

One of the big benefits of being part of the Scottish Rite family is the eligibility to apply for the Leon B. Abbott Scholarship program. To apply for the scholarship, you must meet any of these criteria: 1) A Scottish Rite Mason of the NMJ who is in good standing, 2) A student related (by blood or legal means) to a current or deceased member of the Scottish Rite in the NMJ, 3) A member of a Masonic youth group located within the NMJ (DeMolay International, Job's Daughters, Order of Rainbow for Girls), 4) A student or past student of our Children's Dyslexia Centers. To be considered for an Abbott Scholarship, the applicant must be a high school senior, a high school senior currently accepted at an accredited Trade School, or an undergraduate or graduate student who has a minimum of 2.75 on a 4.0-grade scale. To proceed, you must download the 2023 application form at: <https://scottishritenmj.org/abbott>. This is a fillable pdf form that you can print. Only the 2023 form may be used! The application, in duplicate, with school transcripts (in a sealed, unopened envelope with the school's stamp intact on it) and one or preferably two letters of recommendation should be mailed or couriered in a manner so as to arrive no later than the deadline of April 1, to Abbot Scholarships, Lafayette Consistory, PO Box 309, 2422 Main St., Stratford, CT 06615-3879. If you have further questions, call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064.

RITE ON THE ROAD programs proliferates this season with presentations of the 4th Degree visiting the lodges listed below. The program allows new candidates and current Rite members to witness the 4th Degree in a tiled lodge setting near them. New candidates must apply for membership online at least a week in advance of the program (and obviously be in good standing with a 2023 Blue Lodge dues card) at <https://scottishritenmj.org/membership-application>. If you have questions, again, call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064

- March 8 – Ivanhoe Lodge No. 17, Darien
- March 15 – Widow's Son Lodge No. 66, Branford
- April 25 – Corinthian Lodge No. 104, Stratford
- May 18 – Morning Star Lodge No. 47, Seymour

Our labors in March involve two live degrees performed by the Valley of Bridgeport in New Haven, the 4th and 20th Degrees. We will be back

in the theatre in Stratford on April 10 to do the 27th Degree live with a video rendition of 19th Degree.



We have often spoken about the dual nature of man – corporeal and eternal. Freemasonry's most striking symbol is the apron, which figures prominently in the three Blue Lodge degrees. In each successive degree, the way the apron is worn undergoes a transformative step, much unlike the evolving placement of the square and compasses on the altar of each degree (which was discussed here in the past).

In the Great Light, the apron figures prominently in Genesis 3:7 “they made themselves aprons.” Note that the Masonic apron is of pure white. The apron is a symbol of the vesture and condition of the soul – that invisible, eternal element that will survive the eventual cessation of the physical body in which it has been housed since birth. Every soul fashions its own “apron” by its thoughts and desires. The body will be dense and opaque if the thoughts and desires are impure. If they are light-seeking and pure, they will be white

and transparent. When the Senior Deacon presents the candidate with the white apron during the EA Degree, he, in essence, is acting as the candidate's symbolic soul, investing him with an apron of white, indicating the mental and spiritual purity contemplated as a goal of the EA Degree. In reality, each man's soul automatically clothes itself with its own self-made vesture that marks its relative progress in attaining a life of light). What is your path in life doing to your allegorical apron?

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.

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention All Master Masons!

SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES

Mon., Mar. 20 - 7:30 p.m.
4th Degree & 20th Degree in New Haven

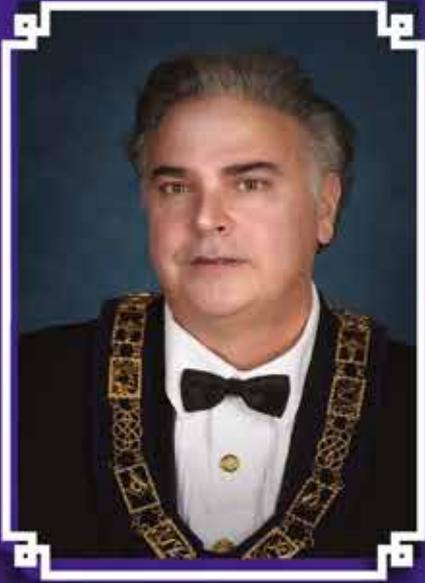
Mon., April 10 - 7:30 p.m.
27th Degree (Live), 19th Degree (Video)
in Stratford

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.



**The Brothers of
Hiram Lodge
No. 18**

Invite you to join us!



Annual Gala Dinner

to honor Brother

Joseph J. Porco

the incoming

Most Worshipful Grand Master of the
Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of the State of Connecticut

Please join us to congratulate, support,
and celebrate!

May 7, 2023 - 6 to 10 p.m.

The Woodwinds
29 School Ground Road
Branford, CT 06405

\$55 per person or \$550 table of 10
Includes buffet dinner, music, dancing,
hand-rolled cigars, and a
cash bar (credit, debit card only)

For reservations please
scan the QR code.

You may also mail reservations
and payment to:

Hiram Lodge No.18
P.O. Box 526
Sandy Hook, CT 06482
(please make checks out to: Masonic Temple Corp. of Newtown)



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

As we enthusiastically embark on a new year and look back at FY '22, we are extraordinarily proud of our legacy organization. With numerous challenges weighing heavy on the industry and our organization we have continued to utilize resources, innovation and at times sheer determination to move through what has paralyzed so many companies. The labor market, which has suffered a significant blow at the hands of the pandemic, has left the industry strapped with hefty temporary wages and increasing costs of care. The Mercer Report estimates 6.5 million healthcare workers will leave the profession in the next five years, with less than 2 million filling their spots. Moreover, as the population continues to age and the demand for healthcare services rises, healthcare organizations will be faced with tough decisions.



With our eyes cast ever so closely on the changing tides, Masonicare has made some remarkable moves to mitigate the pandemic ripple effect. While we are not free from the burden of temporary worker wages, we have implemented creative recruitment, retention and career path programs, which play a significant role in bringing to our company the best and brightest employee team members. Additionally we remain committed to further exploring technology such as telehealth and Caavo to reduce reliance on staff.

Skilled Nursing & Hospital Services

We are aware that we will not sustain the long-term burden of temporary labor costs, particularly at the health care center, and are working to bring to the organization new opportunities to increase revenue while decreasing

expenses. In FY '22, we opened the newly renovated Wooster 3 Memory Care Unit, and with occupancy in our 43 bed Behavioral Health Hospital at 97%, received approval to open seven more behavioral health beds on 4 Central. While we continue to monitor occupancy at the health center and watch closely industry market trends, we moved forward with much needed renovations that will continue over the next few years, elevating the health center to 21st century aesthetics. We believe that environment makes a difference to our patients, residents and employee team members, and are grateful that we have been able to make good on our promise to bring those in our care the healing benefits of a thoughtfully designed environment.



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Home Health & Hospice

As we worked to bring expenses in line with our mission to serve as many patients and residents as possible, we found opportunity in the consolidation of four home health branches. Bringing our teams closer together while reducing the overhead cost of separate locations was an easy win for Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, improving efficiencies and teamwork while reducing expenses. As a result of hard work and steadfast focus, Masonicare Home Health raised their STAR ratings and were invited to participate in Yale New Haven Health's 2023 preferred provider network.

Residential Living

The senior residential living industry is experiencing a welcome resurgence in growth, with large chain acquisitions occurring nationally despite an unstable economy, regulatory headwinds, labor market challenges, and the cost of construction, goods and services. We are proud that despite the industry challenges, all of our communities remained above 90% occupancy, with Chester Village hitting 100% occupancy in time to celebrate our 5 year anniversary owning and operating this beautiful, quintessential New England community.

Our Mystic property proudly served as the highlight host for the 2022 MCSA conference, and delighted guests with tours, drinks and fine culinary cuisine. This wonderful

gathering of like-minded, mission driven providers was a unique opportunity to foster supportive relationships to further our collective mission.

Our Wallingford communities continue to seek ways to create enduring value through technology and programs that keep people connected to what matters most; their health and well-being. Piloting Virtual Reality programs that offer relaxation, recreation as well as rehabilitation experiences and serving as the development sight for Masonicare's own community based web application, Ashlar Village is preparing for the future residential consumer while continuing to provide the iconic service the community is known for.

GENM

While Masonicare worked to navigate new horizons, our consulting company GENM brought on another client, Atlas Healthcare, and began supporting the marketing and strategy efforts of their newly acquired senior living property in Connecticut. Additionally, GENM has expanded their work with Hoffman SummerWood and successfully rebranded the over-arching Hebrew Senior Care company. And while we continue to monitor closely the utilization of staff and resources, we are excited to watch GENM continue to grow.

Partnerships & Opportunities

While hospitals and healthcare organizations cautiously emerge from the financial aftershock of the pandemic, we have been able to continue our efforts at bringing new partners to the organization. In 2022, we signed a Master Service Agreement with Griffin Health to lease space and provide lab and radiology services to our residents as well as the community. Like-minded in both philosophy of care and service, we are excited about the expanded opportunities this partnership will bring.

As we continue to embark on this journey, we owe enormous thanks to our employee team members, donors and Board of Trustee members who share in our mission. A special thanks to our outgoing Board of Trustee members, William Bowman and Patrick Birney. Your service and commitment to our organization has helped us move our legacy organization forward through unpredictable and

uncharted waters. As we work to navigate new horizons, we welcome our incoming Board members who bring a wealth of energy and enthusiasm to the table. We are grateful for your service and commitment to our collective mission.

Masonicare's work has been recognized locally and nationally. Our financial repositioning has earned us an increased rating and recognition from FITCH. But nothing is more important than the difference we make in the lives of the individuals we serve. It is more than a job. It is our calling. It is our collective legacy that we are leaving with every act of kindness and service we extend. In the words of Albert Pike, "What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for the others and the world remains and is immortal."



*Serving the Masonic Family
for more than a century.*

Robert F. Polito, Jr.,
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Jon-Paul Venoit,
President and Chief Executive Officer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022-2023

Robert F. Polito, Jr. - *Chair*
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Steven Beaulieu - *CFO & Assistant Treasurer, Masonicare*

EMERITI

Carleton V. Erickson
Kenneth B. Hawkins, Sr.
David P. Hocking
Barbara F. Lott
Howard W. Orr
Duane G. Roberts

2022 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

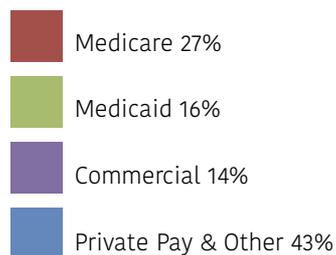
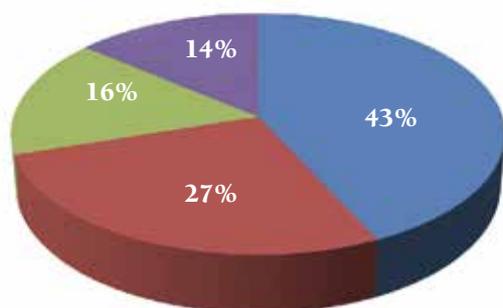
Results of operations at Masonicare for fiscal 2022 reflect a year that we continued our long term strategy to refocus our business model to one that reduces our reliance on less than optimal governmental funding. Operating revenues of \$147.4 million are up 1% from the prior year reflecting growth in our residential living communities as well as the impact of increased revenue from our Behavioral Health Hospital. Operating expenses of \$155.9 million are in line with the prior year. Contribution and investment income of \$8.4 million fell \$6.6 million as the markets reported sizable losses. Holding gain (loss) on equity securities declined by \$29.9 million, and a \$7.1 million favorable impact of our interest rate swaps are reported. The ability to hold tightly to our investment policy has allowed us to avoid having to realize any unnecessary losses.

Fiscal 2022 Obligated Group operations declined by \$29.7 million over the prior year. Fluctuations in the markets outpaced the

favorable operating improvements at MHC, MHHH, MAV, and MCV. Fiscal 2022 Non-Obligated Group gain from operations improved by \$2.1 million lead primarily by continued high occupancy at SLM.

Changes in the financial position of Masonicare at year-end 2022 from the prior year include: a decline in the levels of unrestricted cash & investments (to 255 days on hand from 321 days); reduction in net property and equipment as depreciation expense exceeded acquisitions; reduction in current liabilities as funds advanced through the federal government were repaid, and accrued salaries and related expenses declined; reduction in other long-term liabilities as accrued pension and postretirement benefits, and estimated self-insurance liabilities declined; and decrease of net assets with 2022 deficit of revenue over expenses, change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments and change in the post-retirement benefits plans' liabilities.

2022 REVENUE BY PAYER



COMPARATIVE INCOME STATEMENT (000's Omitted)

	2022	2021	% Change
Operating Revenue	\$147,360	\$145,183	1%
Operating Expenses	(155,871)	(156,112)	0%
Non-operating Income	8,354	14,953	
REVENUE OVER (UNDER) Expenses	(157)	4,024	
Holding gain (loss) on equity securities	(20,673)	9,221	
Change in value of interest rate swap	6,671	(441)	
Minority interest	(392)	269	
EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER REVENUES	\$(14,551)	\$13,073	
Obligated Group	\$(16,264)	\$13,428	
Non-Obligated Group	1,713	(355)	
TOTAL	\$(14,551)	\$13,073	

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEETS (000's Omitted)

	2022	2021	% Change
Current assets	31,687	37,587	
Investments- unrestricted	94,794	114,293	
Investments- restricted	69,115	72,858	
Property plant and equipment	169,612	174,568	
Other assets	2,365	986	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$367,573	\$400,292	-8%
Current liabilities	30,623	37,826	
Long-term debt	149,512	151,679	
Other long-term liabilities	71,272	75,650	
Net assets	116,166	135,137	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$367,573	\$400,292	-8%
	2022	2021	
Days Unrestricted Cash/Investments	325	218	

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY

OCCUPANCY

	2022	2021
MASONICARE HEALTH CENTER (BEDS-UNITS)		
Skilled nursing beds (260/333)*	91.6%	78.6%
Acute psychiatric beds (43/29)	93.0%	85.2%
Residential care units (86/86)	78.7%	84.3%
Independent living units (93/93)	94.1%	96.8%

*Received State approval to reduce beds to 260. *Received State approval to increase Acute Psychiatric beds to 43.

	2022	2021
MASONICARE AT ASHLAR VILLAGE (UNITS)		
Independent living (360/360)	92.0%	91.1%
Assisted living (137/137)	74.4%	66.4%

	2022	2021
MASONICARE AT MYSTIC (UNITS)		
Independent living (99/99)	96.0%	94.9%
Assisted living (80/80)	86.3%	87.5%

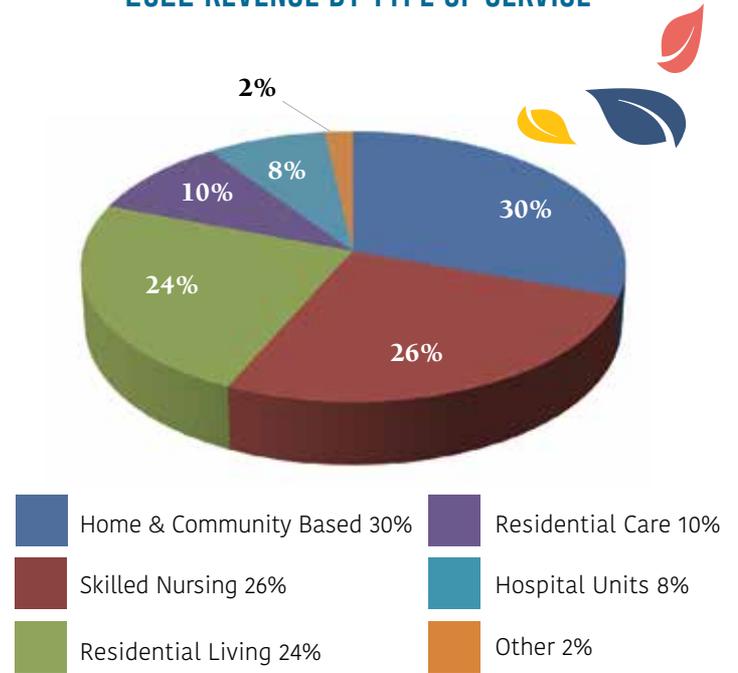
	2022	2021
MASONICARE AT CHESTER VILLAGE (UNITS)		
Independent living (105/105)	98.7%	96.2%

VISITS / DAYS

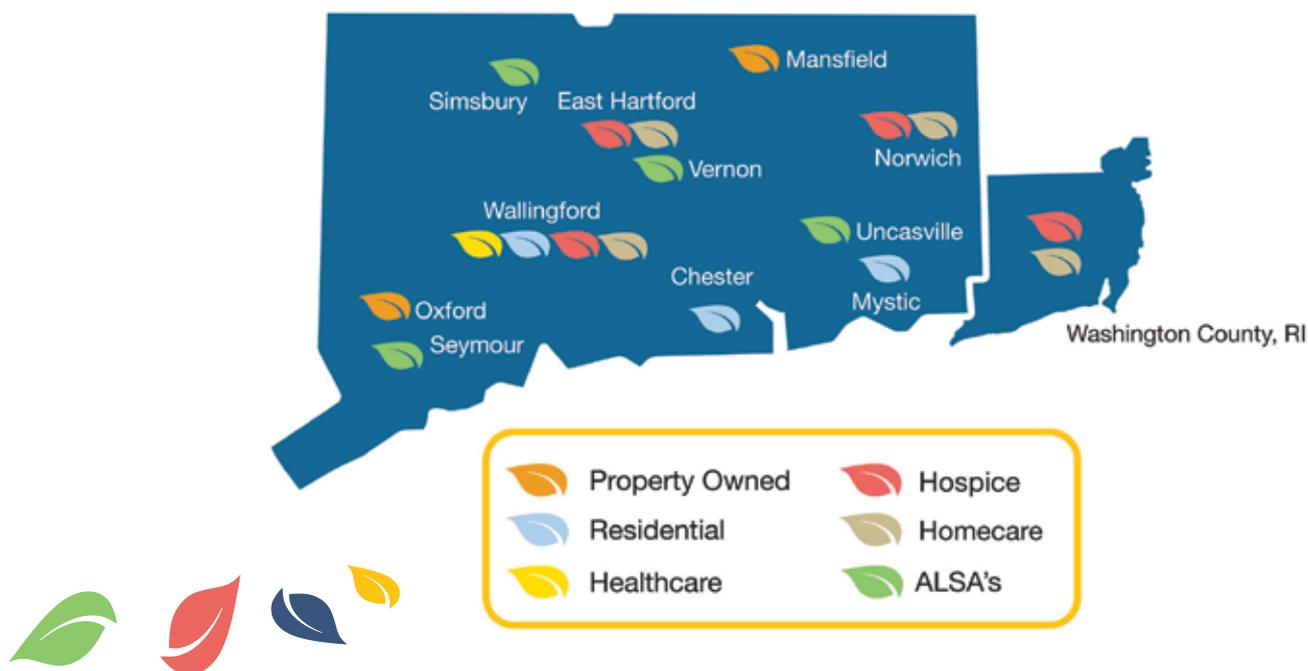
	2022	2021
MASONICARE HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE		
Total Care of the Sick Visits	135,867	154,305
Hospice and Palliative Care Days	88,415	85,361

	2022	2021
MASONICARE AT HOME		
PCA / Homemaker Visits	17,394	25,660
Live-In Days	7,478	12,013

2022 REVENUE BY TYPE OF SERVICE



2022 Service Area



— MCF YEAR IN REVIEW —

FISCAL YEAR 2022

THE MASONIC CHARITY
FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023

During fiscal year 2022, the fundraising efforts of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut secured \$5,841,238 in support of the programs and services of Masonicare and its affiliates. These gifts came in many forms, including bequests, trust distributions, beneficiary designations, charitable gift annuities and outright major gifts, as well as donations to the Masonicare Annual Appeal and to The Foundation's special events. Between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022, unrestricted contributions totaling \$2,645,220 were received, as well as \$644,196 in funds given by perpetual trusts and \$2,551,822 in restricted donations. Of particular significance was the very generous gift of \$380,000 from The Eastern Star Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

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James J. Pyskaty
Vice Chair

David O. Stern
Treasurer

Gordon C. Hurlbert, III
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Christopher T. Carrott

Christopher J. Earle

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FISCAL YEAR 2022 CONTRIBUTIONS:

Bequests and Trusts	\$3,874,198
Major Gifts (Outright gifts of \$10,000 or above)	469,091
Perpetual Trusts	644,196
Gift Annuity Residuals	54,579
Masonicare Annual Appeal	454,376
Holiday Appeal	12,142
Masonicare Golf Classic	214,250
Masonicare Wine & Beer Tasting	118,406

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

\$5,841,238

MASONICARE ANNUAL APPEAL

ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF MASONICARE RESIDENTS AND PATIENTS IN NEED

Seniors across Connecticut continue to entrust their health and safety to Masonicare, and we are privileged to provide our residents and patients with the highest standards of care, regardless of their financial circumstances. As seen in the examples below, gifts to the Masonicare Annual Appeal of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut help brighten the lives of Masonicare's long-term care residents and community-based patients through the little things that make a big difference.

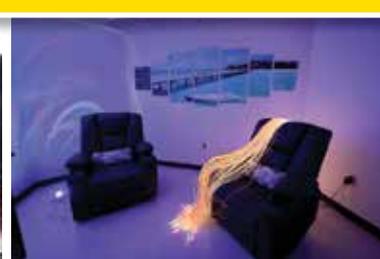
The Masonicare Annual Appeal provides Masonicare Health Center residents with..



Satellite TV to ensure residents have access to a variety of programming, keeping them connected with the outside world



Sundries Cart to bring free, favorite snacks and personal care items right to residents' doorsteps



The Snoezelen Room to offer memory care residents soothing sensory experiences to ease agitation



The Lunch & Supper Club to provide residents with special meals from local restaurants

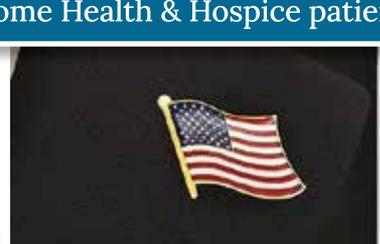
Annual Appeal dollars help Masonicare Home Health & Hospice patients through...



Nutrition Consultations to reduce hospital readmissions through proper nutrition



Social Work Visits to navigate the issues and challenges that can come with the process of aging



Veteran Pinning Ceremonies to honor our hospice patients for their military service



Art and Music Therapy to support the overall health and well-being of hospice patients

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Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut A.F. & A.M., Most Worshipful Brother Bruce R. Bellmore and Pro Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, Most Worshipful Brother Jonathon Spence.

At the banquet for the celebration, the host at the table of MWGM Bellmore was Sir David Wooton, Deputy Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England and former Lord Mayor of London.

District 5

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



Friendship Lodge No. 33 Supports Southington Community Services

In early January, the food pantry in Southington — Southington Community Services (SCS) put out a plea for food donations following a higher-than-usual demand during the recent holidays. Senior Warden Mike Leser of Friendship Lodge No. 33, knowing the lodge had supported SCS after Worshipful Master Allyan Lopes contacted them in 2022, realized the lodge had to step up and help.

After announcing the impromptu food drive at the lodge's first meeting, the brothers came through with over 100 pounds of food. SW Leser delivered the food to SCS on January 17.



Masonicare Hosting 'Planning Before a Crisis'

Masonicare is hosting 'Planning Before a Crisis' on March 15, 2023, from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. in the Knapp Auditorium at Masonicare at Ashlar Village, 74 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT. The guest speaker is Steven L. Rubin, a certified elder law attorney. Attorney Rubin will be sharing his expertise on the legal aspects of having a plan for your future care vs. making decisions at the time of a health crisis. The event is open to the public and free of charge. RSVP is required by calling (203) 679-6460.



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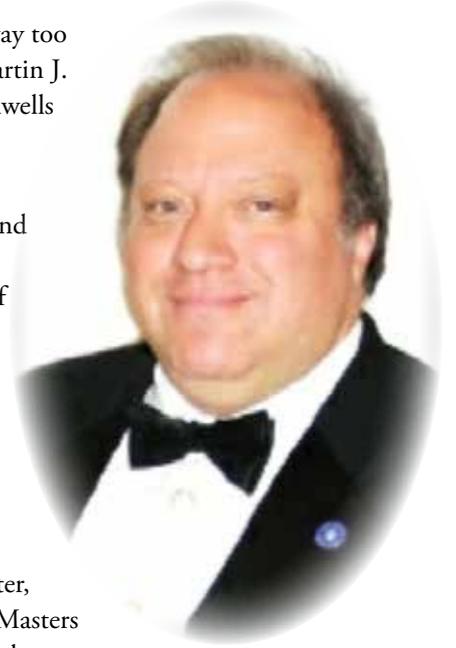
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Email: office@valleyofhartford.com
www.valleyofhartford.org

Tribute to RWB Martin J. Macary

by *Shane Dufresne*

On January 25, a bright light was extinguished way too early, leaving a dark void for all of us. RWB Martin J. Macary laid down his working tools and now dwells with the Grand Architect of the Universe.

To describe or articulate what Brother Marty meant to his wife, Terry, his many friends, his Masonic brothers, and Masonry, in general, would never do him justice. To so many people, he meant so many things. His collection of friends was enormous because of his wide interests and hobbies. To me, he was not only a brother but a best friend for 25 years. We first became friends and law enforcement brothers in 1997 while working together at the Waterbury Police Department. Our friendship expanded, cemented, and flourished when we became Masonic brothers taking our degrees together in 2002 at Harmony Lodge No. 42 in Waterbury. A couple years later, we entered the chairs a year apart, culminating in being Masters of the lodge in back-to-back years. We pushed each to be better men and Masons. In 2010 and 2011, he was my AGM.



To so many people, Marty was someone who would always whisper good counsel, someone who could put things to perspective, someone who could make sense of nonsense, and someone who always had the time and ear to hear someone. He always knew what to say and when and how to say it. Sometimes you got a pat on the back or a kick in the pants, whatever was needed at the time. He was a friend and mentor to countless Masons.

Marty was involved in so many aspects of Masonry. He was a District Deputy in 2018 and 2019. At the time of his death, he had been the Secretary of Harmony Lodge for 14 years. He was 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason from the Valley of Waterbury. He was involved in all the York Rite bodies in Meriden; he was the Treasurer of Zindah Grotto, a Sphinx Temple Shriner, a member of the Sphinx Kaabans Club and the Tall Cedars of Lebanon. He belonged to the Garibaldi Supper Club and was looking forward to delivering the Charge at the upcoming Entered Apprentice Degree at the Garibaldi's first degree on February 16. He was a recipient of the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze in 2021. He received the Grand Lodge Mentor Award in 2019. He was the Harmony Lodge No. 42 Robert S. Walker Mason of the Year in 2014. He also served on various Grand Lodge Committees.

Harmony Lodge is the lodge that is fortunate to have strong brothers of all ages in the chairs. It is an active lodge where many Past Masters and District Deputies are still involved. Some of these men are some of the best and brightest Masons you'd ever meet. But Marty seemed to be the fabric and glue that held this lodge together. He was the one person that everyone went to for help or as a resource. As a brother stated at the lodge's first meeting after his passing, we have big shoes to fill, and many people will need to step up to fill the void that he leaves.

This just scratches the surface of the legacy that brother Macary has left. I could go on and on about what he has done and what he means to us all. But I hear him in my ear, "stop it; this is not what we are supposed to be doing." He was a humble man who truly lived his obligations and downplayed his achievements, accomplishments, and importance. He will be missed by many, but he made each of us a better person by simply knowing him. Marty, you were a meteor who streaked across all of our lives. You leave us in awe and wanting to see more. But it was not meant to be. We will pick up your working tools and carry on. But it will never be the same.

Alas, alas, alas, my brother.

DAUGHTERS OF THE NILE TO INSTALL OFFICERS



Aisha Temple No. 83
Sunday, March 5th at 2 p.m.
New Britain Masonic Lodge
10 Mason Drive, New Britain
Michelle Sawyers Queen-elect
Reception to follow.

Pyremus Temple No. 82
Sunday, March 26th at 2 p.m.
Masonic Hall, 59 Broad Street, Milford
Lynn Fortier, Queen-elect
Reception to follow.
RSVP by 3/24 to 959-901-3712

Pyramid Shriners Shine at the Northeast Clown Institute

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

P pyramid Shriners recently participated in an event at the Northeast Clown Institute held in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Pyramid Shriners served as mentors for other clowns and earned first place during the Whiteface Makeup and Clown competition.



Washington Commandery No.1 KT Enrolls Nine as Knights of Malta

by Arnie Grot

On January 17, Sir Knights gathered at York Masons Hall in East Hartford for a conferral of the Order of Malta by Washington Commandery No.1, KT. This Order requires the Mason to profess and practice the Christian faith. It emphasizes the lesson of faith and is centered on allegorical elements of the Knights of Malta, inheritors of the medieval Knights Hospitaller. It is a sublime and sacred Order that culminates in the enrollment of the supplicants as Knights of Malta.

No Order is performed without a dedicated director and a coordinated cast. REPGC William L. Miller, II is a superb director processing a keen knowledge of the proper flow of the Order and of people, costumes, and props.

His direction enabled the 16 cast members to perform with remarkable precision to the delight of the nine mesmerized candidates and four Sir Knights in the audience. He received the heartfelt gratitude of all. This night was his masterpiece.



The cast and new Knights of Malta.

Freemasonry In a Troubled World

by *Kenneth Greenhill*

As Masons, we are taught to change. That must be impossible because “change has an implied prohibition” in our Craft. You’ve heard, “We’ve done it that way forever,” or “That’s not how the Past Masters think,” or even “That will never work.” But to subdue our passions and improve ourselves must mean change, or little else can. As we approach the lessons revealed within the countless pages of our volumes, the theme of self-improvement is told over and over.

However, some things shouldn’t change. Our Landmarks demand from us a standard of life that reinforces our belief in an authority outside and above us, that admonishes us to act uprightly and forces a moral code within us to ensure worthiness to partake of a resurrected life that seeks the understanding of true equality among mankind, that requires patriotism rather than political view, that has always and shall forever seek that one thing that solidifies us and sets us apart from any other institution — Harmony. This set of unchanging principles serves as the bedrock of our fraternity, without which we become just another faded institution.

It is actually this set of core values that relates to change. We must accept and understand that we all must improve, if only within our hearts. Once we accept our fallibility, we can find strength in that

weakness and walk forward to a better world. What greater message to convey to this “troubled world?”

Who better to guide the change the world needs than those who have been taught the value of change, beginning with themselves? It’s time for our fraternity to come out of the shadows and conscientiously work to alter a world marked by everything contrary to our morals and principles. No longer quiet examples of community service with parades and banners, clean-ups, dinners honoring the past, or scholarships, but with overt exertions of the values that guide us. It’s time to push back against a world that would diminish the value of the love and harmony we enjoy. It’s time to acknowledge that, although we are not seeking a new world order, we do want a better world for all. It’s time to act and live our precepts openly so this world might see the values contained in what we are taught. “Let your light so shine among men...”

If ours is an individual journey, what might we change in our fraternity that could affect the world in which we live? We must expand our visible social presence. Today people live on their phones and computers. We find it difficult to engage face-to-face with one another except electronically. Few can argue that a true message is often lost without proper tone or inflection. The same is true in getting the message of Freemasonry out to the world. Should we continue to rely on YouTube or History channel to convey the beauty of our precepts, or should we go out in the world and demonstrate them?

We must become more visibly engaged in the places where people still go. A booth at a craft fair, visiting schools to talk about our work before giving out scholarships that we are so proud of, men’s church groups, gun shows, or even military events. Proudly answering the questions, interested people will certainly ask. Take credit for what we do with pride and let the world know there is something ancient and special in what we have learned within the lodge.

We need to do less strutting in our regalia and spend more time sharing that what we do and believe is clearly different and only available in one place — Masonic lodge. The value of our teachings can change how men relate and thus help the world to see that there might be a better way. None of this is secret!

If you feel that our anonymity is a better posture to assume, I only ask, “How’s that working for you?” I don’t have all the answers. I only know we can offer this troubled world an alternative to division, hate, and selfish motives. But this requires a change. Let’s together change the world to one that would please the GAOTU. My sincere hope is that this might stimulate further actions among us. Remember: If nothing changes...nothing changes!

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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)

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Masonicare Community Services **800.982.3919**

22 Masonic Avenue . Wallingford, CT 06492

The Pythagorean Tetraktys Part Three: The Plane

by Jaime Paul Lamb

In a previous issue of *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper, we continued a four-part series on the Tetraktys of the Pythagoreans (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) and its significance, in both the geometrical (operative) and metaphysical (speculative) senses. We began by examining the point, which issues from the first or top tier of the great Tetraktys and noted how this position (for it is more of a place than a thing) symbolizes God, the Monad, and the individual Mason. We next considered the line, which is a straight segment connecting two points and is denoted by the second tier of the Tetraktys. We then discussed how the line represents the Dyad in the Pythagorean tradition. This installment will move to the third ‘Tetraktyan’ emanation: the *plane*, or *superficies*.

The Plane

Geometrically, a plane is described as a flat, Euclidean, two-dimensional surface or superficies. A plane is constructed if a third point is positioned anywhere in relation to the two points of the line (other than on their axis). The simplest plane consists of three points, therefore representing the Triad.

As we have previously mentioned, the quantitative and the qualitative exist in harmony in the Pythagorean worldview. Numbers are not merely seen as counting integers but as archetypal concentrations, pregnant with ‘meta-numerical’ meaning. The number three is at once a quantity and a quality.

According to Pythagorean number symbolism, the Triad is the oldest and ‘first born’ number because the equilateral triangle (which consists of three points) is the first polygon to emerge from the *vesica piscis*. They also noted that the number three is the only number that is equal to the sum of the two preceding numbers. To the Pythagoreans, the Triad was considered perfect (consisting of a beginning, a middle, and an end; a past, a present, and a future; a youth, a manhood, and an old age) and symbolized proportion, harmony, and perfection.

The Operative and Speculative Denominations

As we’ve been establishing in this series of articles, the Pythagorean marriage of the quantifiable and the qualifiable is reminiscent of the operative and speculative denominations of the Craft. The operative stonemason is engaged in the erection of the physical temple, whereas the speculative Freemason is concerned with building a metaphysical Temple. This is mirrored in the Pythagorean approach to numbers, which also had both an operative and speculative component.

As we consider the three points that form a plane from a symbolic and meta-numerical perspective, we are reminded of both the Neoplatonic and Christian *Hypostases*. According to the

philosophical doctrines of the Neoplatonists, the higher spiritual principles were stratified into the hypostasis of the *One*, the *Intellect*, and the *Soul*, as laid out in the work of Plotinus. Christian theology adopted and modified this model as the *Father*, the *Son*, and the *Holy Ghost*.

Speculatively or metaphysically, we encounter this triadic distinction in what has been called the “triune nature of man.” This doctrine differentiates the body, mind, and spirit as distinct components of being. In ancient Greek philosophy, we see this triad in the *soma*, *psyche*, and *pneuma* (Latin: corpus, anima, and spiritus). The body is the physical vessel; the mind is the numinous product of the brain, consciousness, and thought, and the spirit is the animating life principle, the seat of emotions and character.

This triad also has a correlative in alchemical theory. Paracelsus, in his *Liber Paragranum* (1565), was looking for an alternative to the humoral theory, which was popular in the medicine of his day; he came up with what is known as the *Tria Prima* (“three primes”): *salt*, *sulphur*, and *mercury*. Salt corresponds to the body, sulphur to the soul, and mercury to the spirit.

In this series’ next and last article, we will move on to the fourth and final tier of the Tetraktys, consisting of four points, and examine its operative and speculative implications while showing how the Tetrad symbolizes the final phase of the Pythagorean cosmogony...



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Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE* SM



Organ Donation, Parachutes – And Other Stuff!

by *Richard F. Denno*

In early 2009, with the blessing of two Past Grand Masters, Bob Stika, and Art Carlstrom, our program was formed. Over 13 years later, we are still going strong. Donate Life CT and New England Donor Services were and continue to be invaluable components in our success. Due to the anonymous nature of organ donation, we'll never know the total number of lives impacted through the efforts of our committee. But, by families coming forward, we know of nine recovered corneas. Those corneas restored or improved the sight of at least 18 people on the donor waiting list.

Your support, both financial and in terms of manpower, has meant so much to our success. For example, last July's "The Sky Is the Limit" skydiving event to benefit New England Donor Services was enthusiastically supported by Freemasons, their families, and friends. The skydive raised over \$5,000 and was so successful that we have scheduled "The Sky is the Limit 2" to be held on Saturday, June 24, at Ellington Airport in Somers. Our hosts will again be CT Parachutists. The rain date will be June 25. More important than the funds raised was the participation of Connecticut Freemasons. The Rainbow Girls

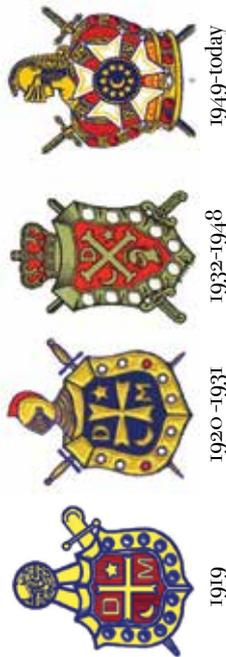
will again be helping with the food and raffle prizes. Come and make a day of watching people jump out of perfectly good airplanes. There will be much more info on the dive in next month's column, including how you can sponsor a diver, donate to the cause, or make the jump yourself!

Now to the other stuff... WE NEED YOU! For a committee to be as active as long as we have, we need dedicated, motivated, and passionate brothers and friends. Perhaps you or your family have been touched by organ donation. You may know of someone on the organ donor waiting list, hoping an organ becomes available in time to extend their life. WE NEED YOU!

New brothers with fresh ideas and commitment will find personal rewards and the satisfaction of knowing their contribution means life for those who volunteer. To volunteer or for more info, contact me at toursone@comcast.net. To learn more and register as a donor, go to registerme.org.

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

Please join us as we celebrate
100 years of DeMolay
in Connecticut!



• **March 4th, 2023 - 4 to 7 p.m.**

The Hartog Center at Ashlar Village Wallingford, CT

For more information, please email "eo@ctdemolay.net"

We invite everyone who would like to celebrate with us to join the festivities. Family and friends are also very welcome! Ticket are \$50 per person and include dinner, displays, presentations, souvenirs and lots of memories. Active DeMolay members are free of charge. All RSVPs by Feb 25th.

Please scan the QR code with your smart phone to make reservations and buy tickets on-line.



The Grand Lodge, AF&AM of Connecticut,

The Valley of New Haven Scottish Rite,
The 4th Masonic District B.L.C.,
Hiram Lodge No. 1, and
St. Alban's Lodge No. 38

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**

***Hot breakfast served from 9 to 11 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.

***Scan the QR Code to
R.S.V.P. by March 6.***



Please let us know you are coming before March 6 by scanning the QR Code, or by contacting WB Fred Marotti at fred@absct.com or 203-641-3932.

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Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: February 14, 2023.

An asterisk next to your name indicates that your support in the Booster list expires in one month. Please consider renewing your support of the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper at your current rate or at the next level up. The form to continue your financial support of this publication as a Booster is on page 26. After reviewing all of the receipts for Boosters, the lists are the Boosters who are current (i.e., within the 11 issue window). If your name does not appear and you feel that you should be on the list, please contact us. Note: Booster support is not deductible as a charitable contribution under IRC Section 170(c).

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District 3

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



Seneca Lodge No. 55 Resurrects Fellowcraft Club After Almost 50 Years *by Matt Kuhr*

The brethren of Seneca Lodge No. 55 have reestablished the Fellowcraft Club of Torrington, CT. One can only speculate how long it has been since the club has met. Using by-laws from January 12, 1960, the lodge met for an annual meeting on January 31, 2023, to elect the officers who will promote fraternal relations among its members. The officers elected to serve for 2023 are Matthew K Kuhr, President; Mychael J. Scribner, Vice-President; Jason Mendez, Treasurer; and Joseph Iavasile, Secretary. During the meeting, the most recent meeting minutes from the 1970s were read, and a lot has certainly changed.

Any Master Mason in good standing may become a member of the Fellowcraft Club of Torrington, CT, by completing an application and submitting the fee of \$1. There are no dues, and the clubs exist solely to propagate fellowship among Freemasons.

If you would like to affiliate with the Fellowcraft Club of Torrington, CT, please contact Bro. Matthew Kuhr at mkkuhr@gmail.com for an application. We hope you visit soon.



BSA Visits Seneca Lodge No. 55

by Matt Kuhr

On January 17, Seneca Lodge No. 55 in Torrington hosted guests from Boy Scouts of America in order to form lasting bonds with their local youth. RWB Tom Transue presented information on the Masonic Scouter Association, while local pack committee chair and Eagle Scout, Jeff Seiser, presented information on Troop 3 and Pack 3 in Torrington.

Mr. Seiser was enthusiastic about presenting opportunities for the Freemasons to become merit badge counselors, hold committee meetings in the lodge, and present Eagle Scout Commendation Awards at the Court of Honor.

RWB Transue spoke about the Masonic Scouter Association, applications for the Eagle Scout Commendation Award, and the Daniel Carter Beard award for Masons, who work to strengthen the ties between Scouting and Freemasonry.

Seneca Lodge has four brothers with children active in Pack 3 Torrington, and at least three joined the Masonic Scouter Association on the Thursday after the meeting. Everyone looks forward to collaborating with each other and guiding our youth by instilling Masonic and Scouting tenets and being a good example for the future.



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District 6

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



Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 Pancake Fundraiser Helps Brothers in Need

by *Dave Prior and Pat Jones*

On January 7, a fire occurred at Fayette Lodge No. 69 in Ellington, Connecticut. Ellington firefighters quickly extinguished the fire, containing it to the entryway and base of the stairs to the second floor. The Town of Vernon Fire Department aided them. Smoke permeated the building and accounted for most of the damage. The building will need numerous repairs and extensive cleaning.

Soon after hearing about the fire, WM Brian Warren and WB Dave Prior of Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 were thinking about how to help Fayette Lodge No. 69 recover. WM Warren offered Hartford Evergreen Lodge to WM Rod Neff and WM-Elect David Boland for their installation of officers and as a temporary home until Fayette Lodge could be occupied. The brothers of Hartford Evergreen Lodge also decided to host a benefit pancake breakfast and silent auction. It was planned for January 21.

The planning and logistics for the event occurred over the following two weeks. Social media and email were used to announce the event, and response from around the state was strong. Several Grand Lodge dignitaries attended, including MWPGM Bill Bohman, RWB Edward Page, GSW, RWB Matthew Griffin, GJS, and RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Grand Marshal. Brothers from various lodges around the state were also present.

Brothers from Fayette Lodge and Hartford Evergreen Lodge worked together to make this a success. WM Warren, Brother Bruce Putinas, and his wife Pam gathered items from other lodges, civic organizations, and friends for the silent auction. Brothers Eli Johnson, Michael McClellan, and Duane Mason procured the breakfast ingredients.



On the big day, the crews arrived at 6:30 a.m. to prepare breakfast and set up the tables for the silent auction. Guests arrived at 8 a.m. and came steadily throughout the day, with approximately 120 attendings. No one was disappointed, as the pancakes were delicious. Brother McClellan served as cashier and serving crew of Brothers Rafael Miranda, Eli Johnson, Duane Mason, and WM Brian Warren handled a large crowd of hungry and enthusiastic guests. A multitude of other brothers was on hand as well. The event ended at the auction's closing, and the high bidders were notified that they had won their items. More than 39 items were donated to the silent auction.

This was a highly successful event raising several thousand dollars. As RWB Heinrich said, "from my observations this morning and speaking to others, it appears the breakfast and auction to benefit Fayette went very well."

A building is only a place for a lodge of brothers to meet, and "brotherhood can be found anywhere, whether in a building, an opening among the trees, in a green pasture, or under the bright shining stars of heaven."

District 1

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



Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149 Installs Officers for 2023

by *Franklin Bartley*

On Saturday, January 21, 49 brothers and 37 friends and family attended the 2023 installation of officers at Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149 in Stratford.



District 4

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



Trumbull Lodge No. 22 Visits Yale University Art Gallery

by Amos Brooks

On January 21, the brothers and friends of Trumbull Lodge No. 22, named after Governor Johnathan Trumbull, Sr., visited the Yale University Art Gallery. Before leaving for the exhibit, MWB Bruce Bellmore brought out the banner of Franklin Chapter No. 2, RAM.

This silk banner was painted by John Trumbull, son of the governor, with a portrait of Benjamin Franklin on one side and the Chapter insignia on the reverse. This priceless painting is wisely kept in a sturdy frame under glass. It is displayed only on special occasions in the New Haven Masonic Temple.

Many of the paintings of John Trumbull (1756-1853) are on display at the Yale University Art Gallery. He was an American artist known as the

“Painter of the Revolution,” traveling the country and painting portraits of many prominent men and women of the time. He used these portraits when composing the scenes of the American Revolution, such as the “Signing of the Declaration of Independence” and “The Surrender of Lord Cornwallis.”

One of John Trumbull’s masterworks is a large painting of General George Washington. The largest painting on display depicts the famous general standing in full military uniform in front of his horse, Blueskin. In the distance is the scene of the bridge at Assunpink Creek with campfires and artillery. The detail in this, as well as all the paintings at the gallery, is astounding. This is well worth a visit for anyone interested in Revolutionary-era history.

The tour concluded with a return to the lodge for lunch and fellowship. The lodge will retake this trip for those who missed it.





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Quinta Essentia Lodge No. 500 Installation of Officers and Festive Board *by Jonathan Glassman*

The brothers of Quinta Essentia Lodge No. 500, with family, friends, and visiting brethren, gathered on Sunday, January 22, at The Elm City Club in

New Haven to install officers for 2023. They also enjoyed a Festive Board. It was a wonderful evening, and congratulations go out to the brothers who have taken on positions of responsibility for the coming year: WM Jonathan Glassman, SW Paul Speranza, JW Cyril Embil, Treasurer Kristian Maiorino, Secretary Charles Tirrell, SD Ted Doolittle, JD Eric Setreus, Steward Madhavan Parthasarthy, Marshal & Orator Brad Cooney, Chaplain Jason Morse, and Tiler Martin Ede! The brothers look forward to an excellent year for Quinta Essentia Lodge!



Brother Jonathan Glassman being installed as Worshipful Master.



Outgoing Master Charles Tirrell presents the charter.

District 9

Lodges 15, 24, 46, 60, 69, 110, 113, 122,



Moosup Lodge No. 113 Benefit Breakfast Support Non-Profits *by Brian Keith*

The Moosup Lodge dining hall was packed and abuzz with conversation and background music. The kitchen service bell sounded, and a Sterling Community School PTO member hustled through the swinging doors. “Two French toast, table five,” called out WB David MacLelland, then the volunteer whisked the plate away to an expectant diner.

“This started over ten years ago now,” recounts WM Ken Stilwell. “Brother Greg Joslyn and RWB Ken Sheldon began the breakfast when we lost our tenants. But once we replaced those tenants, we continued the breakfasts and now we use every other one to support some nonprofit group. In the last year we’ve supported Senior Olympics, an animal shelter, a scholarship fund, a fire department, the Red Cross to assist some local residents displaced by a fire...I can’t even remember all the recipients right off the top of my head.” In fact, the lodge supported eight different nonprofits in the last year, raising them over five thousand dollars. “I think this is what being a Mason is all about,” says WB MacLelland. “It gives us a real sense of purpose.”

Three hours later, the breakfast was complete, and the tally was counted. “We served 120 people and raised \$868 dollars for the Sterling School eighth grade class trip,” reports SW Chad Dufault. “Not too shabby!” The entire kitchen crew agreed and smiled at the result.

“I’ll tell the truth,” Says WM Stilwell, “It’s a little work. We’ve got between five and seven brothers in the kitchen, and another couple out front along

with a few volunteers from each nonprofit taking orders and busing the tables, but when a group can raise a few hundred dollars with one morning’s work, they’re happy...and we’re happy to help.”

“It’s civic involvement and civic action,” says WB Christopher Britland, “And I’m proud of our lodge and the way we support our community.”

If you think you’d like to do something similar at your lodge, and you’re interested in how Moosup Lodge runs their benefit breakfasts, drop them a line at Moosup113@yahoo.com for more information.



District 2

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



Montgomery Lodge No. 13 Installs Officers for 2023

by *Daniel W. Nichols*

On January 15, RWB Joe Porco installed the officers of Montgomery Lodge No.13 in Lakeville. The lodge was opened by outgoing Master RWB Bobby Thompson, who received accolades of appreciation for all his Masonic efforts before bringing the lodge to refreshment.

Family and friends witnessed RWB Gary Ross installed as Worshipful Master. Montgomery Lodge is a rich lodge full of history; many people know the good deeds performed over the years.

After the ceremony, the food was excellent, and there were many smiles and laughs. RWB Gary might not be new to the East, but with his experience and leadership, the year ahead will prove successful.



RWB Bobby Thompson offering gavel to RWB Joseph Porco.



RWB Joseph Porco gives RWB Ross his obligation.

Ark Lodge No. 39 Installs Officers for 2023

by *Daniel W. Nichols*

On January 11, WB Paul Moncuse installed the officers for Ark Lodge No. 39 in Danbury. The installation was special because WM Chuck Ruiz is a first-time Master, and also because WB Moncuse presided over all of WM Ruiz's degrees. Ark Lodge takes much pride in watching a brother ascend with hard work and perseverance.

The lodge has been very fortunate in recent years to have brothers come forward, ready to serve. WM Chuck has great skill and will perform to the best of his abilities. Many look forward to his ideas and his year.



WB Moncuse installs WM Ruiz.



WM Ruiz takes his obligation as his parents look on.



Isack Wasserman Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal In Bronze

Isack Wasserman was born on November 10, 1969, in Bogota, Colombia to David and Meira Wasserman. His family later moved to Israel where he grew up and joined the Israeli Air Force in 1987. Isack served well as a Fire Control and Armament System Technician and received the Air Force Commander Excellence Award. He was also a recipient of the Wing and Unit Excellence Award more than once and earned an Associate Degree from Israeli Air Force Technical College.

Brother Isack pursued further education in the United States in 1999, attending the University of Bridgeport where he earned his Bachelor's degree and finished third in his class in 2002. Isack was a mentor, Residence Hall Director, Resident Advisor, recognized as among the Who's Who among students in American Colleges and Universities, and on the Dean's and President's list multiple times. Isack stayed at the University of Bridgeport after his bachelor's degree, earning his Master of Science in Computer Engineering.

Isack found his lifelong partner Dajong Jong and were married on July 21, 2006. Isack and Dajong settled in Monroe. They go to worship in Chabad at Trumbull. WB Isack is currently employed by Teico Depot, Inc. as Systems Integrating Engineer.

Brother Isack began his Freemasonry journey when initiated into the Entered Apprentice Degree on May 28, 2008, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on June 8, 2008, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on July 14, 2008, in Washington Lodge No. 19 in Monroe. In the following year, Brother Isack began his journey through the line of officers until elected as Worshipful Master in 2012. He did not hesitate to serve again as Worshipful Master when he was needed by the lodge in 2013.

Worshipful Brother Isack is also an active member of the Shriners as a Noble since 2016, currently serves as the Secretary and a Trustee of Washington No. 19 and is a jack of all trade by actively participating in lodge functions, assuming different roles in the lodge during and outside meetings with good command presence and precision. Brother Isack is passionate and enjoys cooking for the brothers, family, friends, and for the community – he is an excellent chef!

Worshipful Brother Isack is a true embodiment of the tenets of Freemasonry in words as well as in deeds. He continues to be a mentor and a wise counsel to the brothers in the lodge, especially those just starting their Masonic journey. Brother Isack helps in the lodge's physical building improvements, as well as to the new and old living stones in rituals and fellowship. He is a model to all members by quietly performing services, seeking no recognition for his efforts.

In recognition of his service to the fraternity, his community and to the state of Connecticut, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the state of Connecticut is pleased to present Worshipful Brother Isack Wasserman the Pierpont Edwards Medal In Bronze For Distinguished Masonic Service.



Craft At Labor

To have your lodge events appear in the newspaper, please update your lodge website Google calendars prior to the 10th of the previous month. If your lodge needs assistance accessing the website please have the Master or Secretary or Calendar Admin contact the Help Desk: <https://ctfreemasons.on.spiceworks.com/portal>.

All times are supplied by the lodges. If there is a dinner, the time in the heading reflects that. The Connecticut Freemason Newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events and to inquire about dinner reservations.

Grand Lodge Annual Session

Saturday, April 1, 8 a.m., Marriott, Windsor

Entered Apprentice Degrees

Wed., Mar. 1, 7:30 p.m., Columbia Lodge No. 25, South Glastonbury, Dinner

Fellowcraft Degrees

Thu., Mar. 16, 6:30 p.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42 Waterbury, Dinner

Sat., Mar. 18, 6:30 p.m., Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149, Stratford, Dinner

Mon., Mar. 20, 7:30 p.m., Valley Lodge No. 36 Simsbury

Master Mason Degrees

Wed., Mar. 15, 7:30 p.m., King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury

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