

May 2023

Connecticut FREEMASONS



*Joseph J. Porco
Installed as the 177th
Most Worshipful Grand Master
of the Grand Lodge AF&AM
of Connecticut
143rd Annual Session of the
Grand Lodge of Connecticut*

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

Officers of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut A.F. & A.M. 2023- 2024



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Most Worshipful Grand Master

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Assistant to the Grand Master

GRAND LODGE March 31 - April 1, 2023



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

Not just a man. A Mason.



Volume 18 - Number 10

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Annual Session of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut

On Saturday, April 1, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, with MWB Bruce R. Bellmore presiding, convened at the Marriott Hartford/Windsor Airport Hotel. The culmination of MWB Bellmore's year in the Grand East, dignitaries from other jurisdictions and other Masonic bodies were on hand to make the day special.

The budget, the only piece of legislation tabled from the semi-annual session, was passed, and the new membership program was unveiled.

Later in the afternoon, the session having been called to refreshment, Most Worshipful Joseph J. Porco knelt at the altar, was obligated, and was installed as the Most Worshipful Grand Master for 2023-2024.

As the sun rules the day and the moon governs the night, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut conducts its business and transitions power with equal regularity.



Friday
Evening,
March 31,
2023



Photos from Annual Session continued on pages 1, 2, 4, 6, 11, 12, 13, 29

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

St. Pauls Lodge No. 11
Joshua Miles Weiner

Federal Lodge No. 17
Marshall Patrick Millette

Seneca Lodge No. 55
Francis T. Baba

Seneca Lodge No. 55
Michael Nelson, Jr.

Corinthian Lodge No. 63
Robert Nunez
Erik William Olmstead

Washington Lodge No. 70
Darren Matthew Waterhouse

GRAND LODGE SESSION
Saturday, April 1, 2023



Your Masonic Record is Now Online!

To access your record:

- Visit the **Grand Lodge of Connecticut website** at <https://ctfreemasons.net> and select **“Member Portal”**. This will bring you to the Grandview sign in page, select **“Member Registration”** at the top right and follow the directions.
- If you have any problems, please call the Grand Lodge office at 203-679-5903 or email at grandlodge@ctfreemasons.net for person-to-person help.

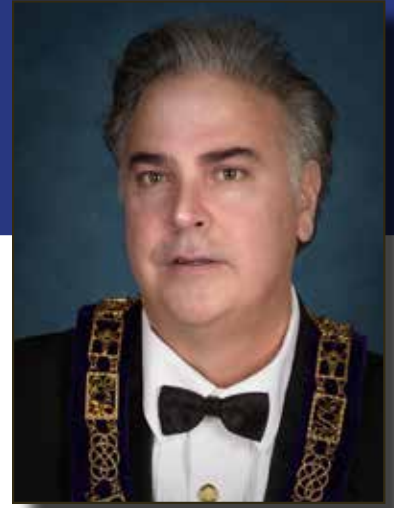
Once you are signed on you will have access to Masonic information, i.e. Rules and Regulations, Official Directory, Master Path Program, etc. To reach general Masonic information go to **“My Portal”** then **“Resources”** and check things out.

Also under **“My Portal”** you will find **“Seminars”** and you will see a number of informational Masonic lectures that you may view at your leisure.



Grand Master's Message

by MWB Joseph J. Porco



Greetings to all, and best wishes for May,

I begin this message with a few lines from the poem 'Song on May Morning.'

*Now the bright morning Star, Dayes harbinger,
Comes dancing from the East, and leads with her
The Flowry May, who from her green lap throws,
The yellow Cowslip, and the pale Primrose. . . - John Milton*

From a fraternal perspective, I can confirm that May's green lap does throw, and new growth has begun. For those concerned with what leadership is doing to directly benefit the lodges and brethren, I will jump right in. Considerable progress has taken place since my last message. The Acquisition and Retention Committee has implemented our new membership program, Project Blue Wave. The program is fully operational and on schedule. Our District Deputy Seminar was held on April 8. Everyone in attendance received a thorough orientation. Due to the digital media support engaged, our awareness messaging is picking up steam. Inquiries are coming in and being assigned to lodges.

Our Grand Line officers, District Deputies, and Associate Grand Marshals will aid lodges by participating in a coaching and facilitating role to help increase membership and improve retention. These officers will coach lodges to understand the program outline and facilitate best practice opportunities. A greater influx of new inquiries will necessitate timely management of the process.

On April 19, an orientation was held for the lodges selected to participate in the first wave of training. Participation included representation from two lodges from every district. The lodges were identified and selected by recommendation from their Grand Line officer to best manage education and initial training. Approximately 18 lodges were selected. All Master Masons may now begin to review the program material, which is hosted on Grandview in the resource section. Lodges that wish to participate in the second wave of training need to discuss their interest with their District Deputy and Grand Line officer. These officers will help any lodge that is interested.

Whether a lodge is in the first wave of training or the second, it will not matter over the long run. Just as a rising tide lifts all boats, this will be the cause and effect of the program for any lodge that embraces it. All lodges in this jurisdiction will benefit.

A few accommodations will be necessary, and some adjustments will be made. If we are to reverse a six-decade-long trend of negative net membership (i.e., deaths and NPDs), we must make some adjustments. To paraphrase musician, host, and entrepreneur Jimmy Dean (1928-2010) ... "We can't change the direction of the wind, but we can adjust our sails to reach our destination." Due to the timing and flow of new inquiries, lodges in the first wave must be prepared to manage and follow through with all membership

inquiries received during the summer. Yes, it is a big commitment, but one with a big reward! If you do not water a seed planted, it will not grow. While these lodges will remain open, they will not be conducting other business during that time.

Electronic Membership Requests (EMRs) will continue to flow to all lodges as they have in the past. However, a greater concentration of EMR placement will be on those lodges committed to the workflow. During the summer, EMRs will flow exclusively to those selected to participate in the first wave because they meet the criteria and have chosen to remain open. If an inquirer is located too far away geographically, after they are initiated, they will later be reassigned to the appropriate lodge of reasonable distance. Hence the lodges in the first wave will be helping other lodges in their district. The details of how this will work over the summer will be explained to the lodges by their Grand Line officer at the end of May. All matters such as investigation, guarding the West gate, voting, EA initiation, and future reassignment have been thought through. Please be patient as you await further explanation and instructions.

Individuals expressing an interest in Freemasonry during the summer months will not be put on the back burner. While review of suitability is necessary, we are not going to stall the process. We will engage in a modified version of the Six Steps. Processes must be purposeful and practical, with an emphasis on the individuals who are expressing an interest in Freemasonry.

A new company for background checks is being reviewed. Prior to my installation, MWB Bruce Bellmore suspended the background checks because the company we were using was unable to fulfill our needs in a timely fashion. For now, lodges are asked to 'properly' manage investigations as they did for years. The reintroduction of the background check and its process will be announced later. The aim is for the process to be less burdensome without causing undesirable delays.

On the surface, the introduction of some of these temporary adjustments might seem unusual or unwelcome to those that are resistant to change. However, there are aspects of these adjustments that are quite familiar. Our brothers have received degree work in other lodges before. Brothers from one lodge have assisted other lodges.

Let us remember that we are brothers of one jurisdiction with a central objective, to promote the brotherhood of good and upright men and to mentor new members. With that goal in mind and personal accountability, be encouraged, brothers, that this jurisdiction can experience positive net growth over the next 12 months.

Grand Chaplain's Corner

by Christopher J. Earle, Grand Chaplain



“Who are you, and what are you doing here?”

Near the conclusion of the 234th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge AF&AM of Connecticut on April 1, our Most Worshipful Grand Master Joseph J. Porco told the story of the Rabbi in ancient times who was reading scripture as he was walking home one day. He was so engrossed in the text that he missed the fork in the road that led to his home and ended up in front of a Roman fort, where the sentry demanded of him, “Who are you, and what are you doing here?” The Rabbi thought for a moment and answered with his own question: “How much are you paid to stand there and ask this?” The soldier said, “two drachmas a day.” The Rabbi replied, “I will pay you twice that amount to stand outside my house and ask me that question every day.”

Who are YOU? What are YOU doing here? Our fraternity urges us to answer, “I am a just and upright Mason, and I will

endeavor to walk and act as such!”

Further, we are taught to keep a tongue of good report, to maintain secrecy, and to practice charity.

This last, charity, is inculcated to us throughout our Masonic rituals, especially as when we learn that the basic tenets of our are brotherly love, *relief*, and truth. We are exhorted to provide for the relief of a distressed worthy brother, his widow, and orphan as liberally as we can without injury to ourselves. This relief (or charity) is manifest in the charitable works of our individual brothers and their constituent lodges, particularly through the work we all support at Masonicare. All editions of *Connecticut Freemasons* are full of reports on this charitable work.

Can more be done? Always. But in the meantime, we can answer the question “Who are we and what are we doing here?” emphatically, “We are just and upright Masons, and we practice the virtue of charity!” Amen.

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

Richard M. Archer
Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116

Leonard Herbert Barker
Paul F. Blake
Columbia Lodge No. 25

Thomas C. Bogart
Compass Lodge No. 9

Edward Samuel Brown, Jr.
Evening Star Lodge No. 101

Timothy Michael Burns
Hiram Lodge No. 1

Carl H. Carlson, Jr.
Rip Tosun
Liberty Continental Lodge No. 76

William Colton, Jr.
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Everett Martin Demers
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Charles August Eckert
Sequin Level Lodge No. 140

John Robert Fowler
Temple Lodge No. 16

Arthur M. Pugh, Sr.
Center Lodge No. 97

George Howard Ward
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

Lex Walter Wiltrout
Coastal Lodge No. 57

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

I was at an event recently when another attendee walked over to my table and asked, “Do you work at Masonicare?” He’d recognized the Masonicare logo on my shirt and wanted to praise our staff for the care they had provided a member of his family. Receiving positive feedback like that is always gratifying... even more so when other people within earshot get to hear it!

Our employees are also great about recognizing each other. Denise, a team member at Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, wrote me to praise the outstanding care that three colleagues had provided a hospice patient named Brian. There were the hospice nurses, Donna and Andrew, who not only displayed great compassion and expertise in caring for Brian over the final two weeks of his life but also offered emotional support to Brian’s family ... sometimes with humor, other times with a much-needed hug. Denise also singled out Richard, one of our massage therapists, for his ability to provide Brian with comfort and relaxation, which, in turn, relaxed everyone.

The kicker of this story is that Denise witnessed all of this firsthand because Brian was her stepfather. She described the decision to use Masonicare for end-of-life care as “the greatest gift I have ever given to my mom and stepfather.”

“I have been with Masonicare for almost 24 years,” she wrote. “I can now understand why I am still with this amazing organization! I am proud to be part of this company. This experience has taught me so many things about myself, but, most of all, it confirmed that Masonicare Home Health & Hospice is the best homecare agency

in the state, and there is no other place I would work for!”

I am so grateful to Denise for taking the time to share the details of her family’s experience and to everyone who played a role in her stepfather’s hospice journey.

Plans for this year’s Grand Masters Day Family Festival – Saturday, June 10, on our Wallingford campus – are well underway. Along with welcoming MW Grand Master Joseph Porco and MW Grand Master Alfred Grady, Jr. of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Connecticut, we’ll have the attractions you know and enjoy...and some surprises! As always, admission is free.

When you come to our campus, I urge you to check out the renovated main floor of Masonicare Health Center, which is a brighter, more welcoming space for residents, visitors, and employees. Enhancements include new flooring, new furniture, new artwork, a massive employee recognition board, and a dedicated space in the Walker Building to display Masonic memorabilia accumulated over the last century.



Jon-Paul Venoit

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History on Display at New Masonic Museum



As part of renovations at Masonicare Health Center, there is now a dedicated space to honor the Masonic family and the vital role it has played in building and sustaining the whole of Masonicare, Connecticut's largest non-profit healthcare provider for seniors. A museum, located in the Walker Building, houses a rotating collection of Masonic regalia, documents, photographs, portraits, and other items, much of it donated by members of the Masonic family.

"The museum is a tribute to the Masonic family," said Rev. and Brother Carl Anderson, Right Worshipful Grand Almoner and Vice President

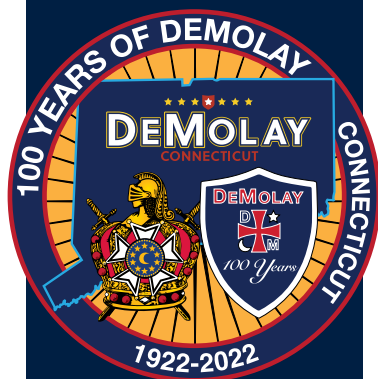
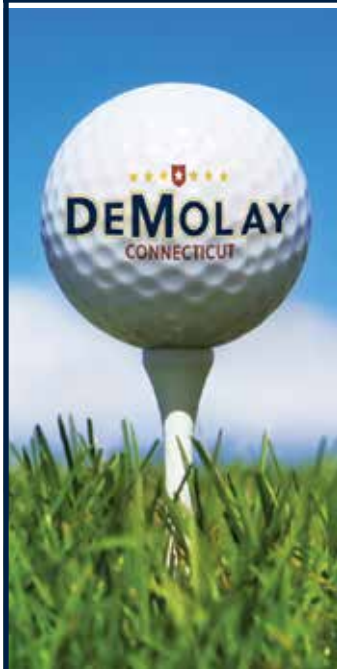
for Fraternal Relations at Masonicare. "They have given so much of their time, talent, and resources to support the mission of the organization, which began as a widows and orphans fund and then a home for those in need following the Civil War. Many notable leaders, including the founder, Luke Lockwood, are memorialized at the museum and honored for their unwavering dedication to the Masonic values to help aid and assist those in need."

Tours of the museum are available by calling Bro. Carl at 203-679-6917. There is no charge for admission.

We are *your* Masonicare.

Learn more about our ageless commitment to caring at masonicare.org.

Masonicare 
An Ageless Commitment to Caring



★★★★★
DEMOLAY
CONNECTICUT

15TH ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

**The Geoffrey Cornish-designed
The Farms Country Club**

180 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

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

Sponsorship levels:

\$3,000 - Tournament Sponsor (includes 8 golfers)

\$1,700 - Gold Sponsor (includes 4 golfers)

\$1,400 - Silver Sponsor (includes 4 golfers)

\$850 - Bronze Sponsor (includes 2 golfers)

\$500 - Beverage Sponsor

\$250 - Longest drive sponsor

\$1,000 - Foursome and tee sponsor

\$500 - Twosome and tee sponsor

\$2,000 - Cart Sponsor

\$1,000 - Lunch Sponsor

\$750 - Golf Ball Sponsor

\$250 - Closest to the pin sponsor

\$175 - Tee sponsor

\$225 - Individual player

\$60 - Non-golfing social

All sponsorships include acknowledgement in the Connecticut DeMolay Journal.

For registration flyer, please contact:

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

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

or

David O. Stern

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

Make checks payable to:

**The Connecticut DeMolay
Foundation, Inc**

a 501(c)3 charitable
organization

REGISTRATION WITH PAYMENT DUE BY MAY 27, 2023

REGISTRATION FORM

15th Annual Connecticut DeMolay Golf Tournament – Tuesday, June 6, 2023

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

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

Please *PRINT* all information on all lines.

Please *PRINT* all information on all lines.

Company/Individual Sponsor Name		
Name and Title of Person Authorizing Sponsorship		
Address		
City/State/Zip		
Telephone number:	Cell number:	Email Address:

Please check desired level of participation.

Sponsorships

- ☐ \$3,000 Tournament Sponsor - includes 8 players
- ☐ \$1,700 Gold Sponsor - includes 4 players
- ☐ \$1,400 Silver Sponsor - includes 4 players
- ☐ \$850 Bronze Sponsor - includes 2 players
- ☐ \$2,000 Cart Sponsor - includes name on carts
- ☐ \$1,000 Lunch Sponsor
- ☐ \$750 Golf Ball Sponsor
- ☐ \$500 Beverage Sponsor

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

Players/Guest

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

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

Player/Guest 1	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	
Player/Guest 2	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	
Player/Guest 3	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	
Player/Guest 4	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	

Please complete and return with payment by May 27, 2023

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

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

Connecticut Masons Make a Positive Impact on Health in Unexpected Ways

Did you know that a Mason was behind the science that paved the way for devices like the defibrillator (AED) and pacemaker? And did you know that Connecticut Masons have been longtime supporters of the lab where that same Mason made his discoveries?

Gordon Moe, M.D., was a pioneer in cardiovascular medicine and the study of arrhythmias, and his contributions to heart science were even recognized by *The New York Times*. Dr. Moe was also Brother Moe, a Mason, and the Director of Research for 25 years at Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI). In more than 65 years of discovery, MMRI continues to produce groundbreaking science and peer-reviewed studies today, with the help of Masons nationwide, including the Masons of Connecticut.

Since 2014 alone, Connecticut Masons have given over \$146,000 to fund research at MMRI through donations from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation. In February 2023, in Arlington, Virginia, at the annual Conference of Grand Masters of North America, the Grand Master of Connecticut, MWB Bruce Bellmore, announced a donation of \$15,000 to MMRI. At an event with representatives from the 51 Grand Lodges of North America, Grand Master Bellmore presented the check to MMRI's representatives, RWB Dr. Bob Hewson (Board President), Maria Kontaridis, Ph.D. (Executive Director, Gordon K. Moe Professor and Chair of Biomedical Research and Translational Medicine), and Stephen Izzo (Development Director).

To learn more about the groundbreaking scientific work taking place every day at Masonic Medical Research Institute or to subscribe to their free newsletter, please visit their website at: www.MMRI.edu



(l-r): Maria Kontaridis, Ph.D., MWB Bellmore, RWB Robert Hewson, and Stephen Izzo.

District 1

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



America-St. John's Lodge No. 8 Celebrates Easter

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Masons from America-St. John's Lodge No. 8 in Stratford celebrated Easter with their annual Family Pancake Breakfast. Brothers cooked up scrumptious flapjacks with sausage and muffins. Children in attendance scavenged for more than 250 eggs filled with all kinds of goodies. The Easter Bunny made a special appearance and posed for pictures. Pyramid Shriner Clowns entertained the guests with balloon animals and games.



Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 Performed Entered Apprentice Degree

On Saturday, March 25, WM Christopher Holms and the officers of Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 in Easton performed an excellent and memorable Entered Apprentice Degree for their newest brother, Alex Holms, the son of WM Chris Holms. It is always a special moment when a father can bring his son to light and guide him as he progresses through the degrees. WM Holms learned this from his father, who was also a Master Mason.

Candidate Holms first spent time reflecting on his decision to join the craft in Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge's Chamber of Reflection before being initiated. After meditating in the chamber, WB Aaron McGoldrick prepared him to be made a Mason.

RWB Raymond Collette answered the alarm at the preparation room door and conducted the candidate about the lodge. After taking his obligation, WB Darin Silhavy presented Brother Holms with his leather apron and the Apron Lecture.

After refreshment, Brother

William Curwen III presented the Working Tools, and Brothers Jose Guzman and Exel Rivera delivered the First Lecture. WB Curwen, Sr. gave the Charge, and WB Mark Zuccerella discussed some of the points contained within the Second and Third Lectures. In keeping with a lodge tradition, WB John Deer presented Brother Holms with a Forget-Me-Not lapel pin and explained its significance to a Freemason.

Lastly, WB Holms gave his son the Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge coin and told it to him as a reminder to always provide brotherly love and relief to those in need and to keep paying it forward.



District 2

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



St. Lukes Lodge No. 48 Brother Presides in the East for the First Time

St. Lukes Lodge No 48 met on Thursday, April 6, in Kent. Brother David Warren, Sr., presided in the East for the first time in his Masonic journey. Bro. Dave began his journey 13 years ago. Congratulations to Bro. Dave and all the officers of St. Lukes Lodge.



Meet the Lodges of Masonic District 2 *by Daniel W. Nichols*

The Masons of Masonic District 2 are very excited that the Most Worshipful Grand Master Joe Porco is from the district. What an honor it is for the district to “lead the way” in Masonry this year. It is an exciting time with a new generation of Masons that are leading, mentoring, and supporting Masonry in Connecticut. MWB Joe has many plans and ideas that will be coming forward.



In the meantime, traveling brothers should stop by and visit one of the seven lodges in the district. All are active and always pleased to see traveling brothers. The district has a rich history worth hearing and

lodges that played a role in our country's independence. Many of the founders of those lodges were not only revolutionaries but leaders in their respective communities as well.

If you are ever in need of a tour guide, I am listed in Grand View; reach out to me anytime.



Here is a list of our District 2 Lodges:

Montgomery Lodge No. 13 – Lakeville, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
St. Lukes Lodge No. 48 – Kent, Thursday on or before the full moon.
St. Peters Lodge No. 21 -- New Milford, 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
Hiram Lodge No. 18 -- Sandy Hook, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.
Union Lodge No. 40 – Danbury, 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
Ark Lodge No. 39 – Danbury, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Jerusalem Lodge No. 49 – Ridgefield, 1st and 3rd Monday.

District 2 Attends District Deputy Seminar *by Daniel W. Nichols*

On April 8, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut held its District Deputy seminar at the Masonic building in Meriden. Many new and returning District Deputies arrived to hear the vision of MWB Joe Porco and the Grand Lodge officers for the ensuing year.

Many items were discussed, most importantly the new program from the Committee for Acquisition and Retention. This is an exciting time to be a Connecticut Mason. The fraternity will be building on a foundation that has been laid out specifically for success. Now is the time to increase membership. But like all endeavors, it will only be a success if the work is put in.

This program has a proven track record in other jurisdictions and has been tailored to fit Connecticut's needs. Now all that is needed is working the program. Details are available in Grand View.



(l-r) RWB Daniel Nichols, WB John Arizzi, RWB David McClain, WB Nathan Schoonover, and RWB Peter Dolce.

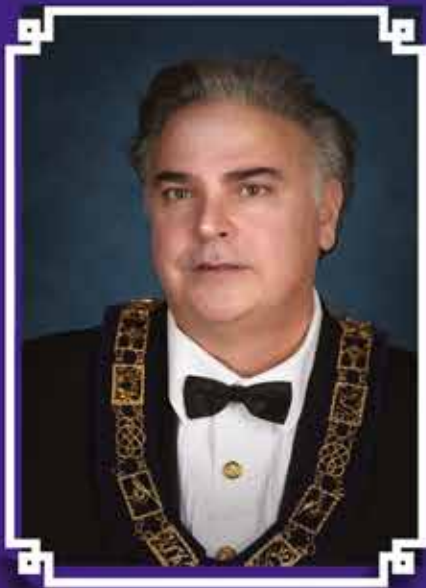


Union Lodge No. 40 Shuffleboard/ Basketball/Chili Cookoff/Bring a Friend Event *by Daniel W. Nichols*

On March 25, Union Lodge No. 40 in Danbury hosted a shuffleboard tournament for those who wanted to show their sports ability. There was also a large screen TV to watch the NCAA Basketball Tournament. And to feed the attendees, there was a chili cookoff. The event was for friends, family, and any interested parties that wanted to hang out and meet the brothers.

It was a huge success! The lodge hall was packed with brothers, family, friends, and people who were just interested. Everyone had a great time, and laughter was abundant.

RWB Dave McClain, District Deputy of Masonic District 2B, won the chili cookoff with his “Devil’s Tower Elk Chili.” Hosting events like this can be easy -- do what comes naturally and what is fun, and that’s what makes people want to come around.



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

Invite you to join us!



Annual Gala Dinner

to honor Brother

Joseph J. Porco

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)





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

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

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

GRAND LODGE SESSION - Saturday, April 1, 2023



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 75-YEAR BROTHER!

George L. Wald
Sequin Level Lodge No. 140

GRAND LODGE SESSION
Saturday,
April 1, 2023



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

Theodore C. Jones
William Ernest Mellow
Evening Star Lodge No. 101

James L. Mills
Manchester Lodge No. 73

Kenneth M. Norris
Union Lodge No. 31

Nelson L. North
Old Well St. Johns Lodge No. 6

Frederick A. Norton
Wolcott Lodge No. 146

David A. Peck
Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

Kenneth G. Schielke
King Solomons Lodge No. 7

Zoltan A. Toman
America St. Johns Lodge No. 8

GRAND LODGE SESSION - Saturday, April 1, 2023



INSTALLATION OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS - Saturday, April 1, 2023



District 4

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



Robert Burns Night at Widow's Son Lodge No. 66

On Saturday, February 25, at Widow's Son Lodge No. 66, 75 friends and brothers came out to enjoy the annual Robert Burns Night with pipes, drums, haggis, and more. MWB Marshall Robinson and five current Worshipful Masters were in attendance: WB Rich Memmott, Widow's Son Lodge; WB Colin Souney, St. Albans Lodge No. 38; WB Al Johnson, Hiram Lodge No. 1; WB Jonathan Glassman, Quinta Essentia Lodge No. 500, and WB Chris Belous, Annawon Lodge No. 115.

The haggis was presented by WB Al Johnson and piped in by Bro. Gary Jenson of Sphinx Temple Shriners. WB Jonathan Collingwood gave the address to the haggis from memory. Many toasts, food, and drink followed. The meal of roast pork, mashed potatoes, turnips, and green beans was prepared by the kitchen crew: WB Al Johnson, Cindy Sorrentino, Jerry Nero, and WB Scott Atkins. Rotisserie chicken was provided for those who do not eat pork. The Cock-a-Leekie soup was made by Lorraine Cole. The haggis was prepared by Cindy Sorrentino and was excellent. Music was provided by the Sphinx Shrine Highland Pipers.

Fellowship and brotherhood made this night a success. The brothers and family members of the kitchen staff were from both Hiram Lodge and Annawon Lodge. The Sphinx Shriners are brothers from throughout the state -- "the Highlanders are always looking for new members to fill their ranks, and they will teach you how to play." That all these brothers came to join in Widow's Son Lodge for Robert Burns Night speaks to the strength of the fraternity and the joy of fellowship.

The evening closed with all holding hands and singing Auld Lang Syne.

In the words of the immortal Robert Burns:

*And you, farewell! whose merits claim
Justly that highest badge to wear:
Heav'n bless your honour'd noble name,
To Masonry and Scotia dear!
A last request permit me here, --
When yearly ye assemble a',
One round, I ask it with a tear,
To him, the Bard that's far awa.*



Historic 50-Year Masonic Service Awards at Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 *by William Roots*

The presentation of a 50-year Masonic Service Award is most certainly a highlight for the recipient. However, when two Master Masons are receiving awards, and those awards are made by the same Worshipful Brother who raised them 50 years ago, it takes on a level of historical significance.

Such was the case recently at Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 for Bro. Thomas G. Riso, Jr., and WB Frederick E. Schumitz. They received their awards from PGM Kenneth B. Hawkins, Sr. Also attending were MWB Bruce R. Bellmore and MWB Charles Buck, Jr.

Bro. Rev. Richard E. Beattie and Bro. Pasquale Nastri, Jr. also received their 50-year awards in separate ceremonies.



(l-r) Judy Hosking, WB Frederick E. Schumitz, PGM Kenneth B. Hawkins, Sr., Bro. Thomas G. Riso, Jr., and Diane Riso.



Temple Lodge No. 16 Easter Pancake Breakfast *by Donald M. Casey, Jr.*

Masons from Temple Lodge Number No. 16 in Cheshire celebrated Easter with a family pancake breakfast. The Easter Bunny made a special appearance and posed for pictures with guests. This is one of the two-holiday breakfasts the lodge has throughout the year.

Milford Rainbow's "Fun Degree" at Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 *by William Roots*

Milford Assembly No. 4, International Order of Rainbow for Girls, brought their "Fun Degree" to Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 in Milford recently. Four lucky lodge officers were inducted into the Assembly through a ceremony not soon to be forgotten by the participants and attendees.

WM Ryan Elblein, JW Julio Calvao, SD Jeff Scepanski, and JD Mike Gendreau were clothed in colorful skirts, wearing rouge, lipstick, and powder so they would be 'proper' candidates, then led around the lodge hall to the beat of music. The Honorary Rainbows were then presented a charge to which they all gladly agreed. Smiles and laughter abounded during the 30-minute degree.





Valley Lodge No. 36 Hosts Annual Easter-eve Community Event

On Saturday, April 8, more than 150 people attended a free community event that has been an annual tradition for the brothers of Valley Lodge No. 36 in Simsbury. Nearly 20 brothers and their families came out in support and volunteered their time, and cooking skills to put together a full breakfast buffet of pancakes, bacon, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit, coffee, and juice.

Families lined up to take silly and festive selfies in a photo booth, while the kids were 'hopping' with 'egg-citement' when the Easter Bunny herself arrived for a special visit. She led the older children on an egg hunt around the property while the younger children hunted in the lodge room with less fear of competition. The golden egg was discovered nearly 7 minutes into the hunt after many had already filled their baskets and were tending to their spoils!

This event checked every box for WM Nate Jillette's 2023 mission of fellowship, family, and community. Seeing the hall filled with so many smiling faces and the kitchen with brothers excited to be at a lodge event provided a wonderful feeling.



Family 5th Fridays at Valley Lodge No. 36

by Nate Jillette

If a month has five Fridays in 2023, the fifth Friday evening is being reserved at Valley Lodge No. 36 in Simsbury for a family-friendly event. It will bring together families of Masons and non-Masons alike to build stronger familial bonds and have fun at the same time!

The first of these events was held on Friday, March 31, when the lodge hall was transformed into a movie theater for “movie night!” A concession window provided pizza, hot dogs, candy, popcorn, and drinks to the attendees while a projection of a family favorite movie, “Up” was displayed for all to view. Some brought blankets to lie on the floor, some brought camp chairs for comfort, while others sat around tables for dinner and a movie experience. Everyone certainly had fun.

There will be two more “family 5th Fridays” in 2023, and all are invited to join in the fun! On Friday, June 30, the lodge will be hosting “grill and games”



– the obviously grilled dinner and various outdoor games such as cornhole, etc. On Friday, September 29, the games come inside for a “board game night” – family favorites for all ages!

Hope to see you soon!

District 6

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



Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 Initiates Two Brothers

by Arnold Grot

On April 6, Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 initiated two Entered Apprentices. As is their tradition, JW WB Gabriel Garmendia presided in the East. Twenty-three brothers participated in or observed the degree. The

performance was a delight for all and gave the candidates a magnificent initiation into their Masonic journey. A sausage and peppers dinner, arranged by SW Joe Grieco, Jr., preceded the degree, and cookies and coffee accompanied fellowship afterward.

WM John DiCioccio, Jr., took the opportunity to share the *Trestleboard of Excellence Certificate*, presented at the Grand Lodge annual communication, with the lodge. He praised the editorial team for their endeavors leading to this achievement.



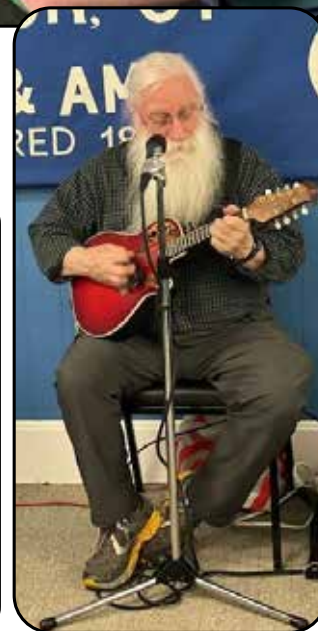
(l-r) RWB Thomas Duclos, RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Bro. Jesse Chadwick, WM John DiCioccio, Jr., Bro. Keith Victor, JS Juan Ulloa, and WB John H. LeDoux, Jr.



(l-r) WB Brad Young, WM John DiCioccio, Jr., Secretary Eric Hoy, and WB Steve Spencer

Washington Lodge No. 70 Spring Events

Brotherly love and friendship were as strong as an Irish Brogue at the Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon on March 18, hosted by WM Robert Dodge and his wife Stephanie hosted. Everyone enjoyed a traditional Irish meal of shepard's pie, corned beef and cabbage, boxty, and homemade desserts prepared by JW Kenneth Roach III and the culinary team. Renowned musician Bill Wallach played acoustic Irish music on the mandolin as the crowd sang along.



On March 27, tradition was alive and well as the lodge's table lodge. Dodge and his officers greeted visiting dignitaries, including RWB F. Matthew Heinrich and RWB Gregory Stump. Visiting brothers included those from Columbia Lodge No. 25 and Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88. The seven-course meal was prepared by WB Mark Fernandes and 11 other brothers.





Finally, the lodge prepared for Easter with an Easter egg coloring part on April 2, part of the continuing series of events hosted by WM Dodge and his wife, Stephanie, to include brothers and families. Both young and old enjoyed decorating 16 dozen eggs. The fun, joy, and laughter emphasized the importance of family values. WM Dodge and Stephanie hope the event is here to stay.



New Master at Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 Brings New Ideas, Activities *by Patrick Jones*

Brian Douglas Warren was recently installed as Worshipful Master of Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88. Brian, 40, is father to four children and a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of Iraq. He has been instrumental in organizing and leading numerous successful programs at the lodge over the past few years, including the annual Halloween Party for the public, the "Adopt A Child" program in cooperation with the Town of South Windsor Department of Human Services, and "Leaps of Faith," a recreational program for the physically challenged.

WM Brian has had a very successful beginning to his tenure. The list of accomplishments is long and continues to grow. Since January, the lodge room has been painted a beautiful blue, a Fellowcraft Club established, he has planned and held a fundraiser for Fayette Lodge No. 69, conducted an Entered Apprentice Degree, and has encouraged the brothers and officers of the lodge to attend the Grand Lodge Annual Communication.

Most recently, Hartford Evergreen Lodge has enjoyed the support of Temple Chapter No. 53, the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. They meet at the lodge and have helped with events such as the annual Halloween party for



the community. Pat Kalinauskas and her husband Vinny, who is Worthy Patron of the chapter,

and Wayne and Grace Rettburg, were more than willing to offer a helping hand. Pat is an 8-time Past Matron, and Grace is a Past Matron as well. Vinny is a Past Master of Washington Lodge No. 81 and is currently a member of Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145. He is also a Past Grand Patron. Wayne Rettburg is a Past Master of Washington Lodge No. 70 and Hartford Evergreen Lodge. He will be installed as Worthy Grand Patron of Eastern Star this month.

Recently Pat and Vinny attended a lodge business meeting, a sure sign of their intention to be involved. There have been some fruitful discussions about some exciting programs and activities that the lodge and chapter can do together.

WM Brian has not done all of this by himself. As with most leaders, he has enlisted the support of the lodge brothers and gained their respect and admiration. It's an interesting transition that occurs when a new Master comes in, and the outgoing Master departs. Masonry has an uncanny ability to attract good men and provide them with an opportunity to show leadership and positive results. That has certainly been the case at Hartford Evergreen Lodge.

District 7

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



Granite Lodge No. 119 Presents Hometown Hero Award *by Gordon Hurlbert*



(l-r) Jeffrey Ogilvie, Chris Turkington, Gordon Hurlbert, HVFD's Captain Joshua Meyer, Chief Sam Babar, Dylan Kessler, Hank Roberts, and Ian Lewis.

Worshipful Master Gordon Hurlbert and the brothers of Granite Lodge No. 119 presented a Hometown Hero award to Captain Joshua Meyer at Haddam Volunteer Fire Department headquarters on Monday, March 6. Brother Dylan Kessler described Captain Meyer as "someone who has provided exemplary service to the town of Haddam with the HVFD and HV Ambulance Service as well as extensive service with the US Air Force."

The award was accompanied by donations from Grand Lodge to HVFD and from Granite Lodge to Captain Meyer.



WM Gordon Hurlbert presents Captain Joshua Meyer with the Hometown Hero award.

District 3

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



And The Winner Is...

by **Steve Lewis**

Not every event at King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 is ritual and ceremony. Sometimes the brothers get together to enjoy comradery, bad jokes, delighting in each other's supposedly superior culinary skills, and vying to take home the coveted "Golden Ladle" trophy. All of that happens in the annual Thunder on the Rock Chili Cookoff.

Until the COVID-19 lockdown, this was an annual fundraising event. This year's event was met with renewed enthusiasm and support. Each entrant provided their time-tested and family-approved chili in quantities sufficient for all participants and spectators to test. The entry fees were donations to the fundraising effort. Voting was by a nearly secret ballot, and at the end of the evening, the winner was announced.

This year's illustrious Golden Ladle trophy was awarded to Bro. Rich Miska, who graciously has provided his closely guarded, trade secret recipe:

Bro. Rich Miska's world-renowned winning chili recipe:

- 2 lb. Ground Turkey
- 1 lg sweet onion diced
- 2 tsp minced garlic
- 2 x 28 oz cans diced tomatoes
- 2 oz tomato paste
- 28 oz can black beans
- 14 oz can roasted corn
- 5 tbsp chili powder
- 4 fresh jalapenos finely chopped
- ¼ c molasses
- 2 x 8 oz G. Washington bullion powder
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- 2 tbsp salt
- 1 tsp red pepper flakes

- 1 tsp oregano
- 1/4 tsp dried cilantro

Sauté onions and garlic in a pan to caramelize.

Brown the meat.

Combine all in a pressure cooker and cook for 2.5 hours.

Enjoy!



(l-r) Brothers Steve Saxton, Bill Hubert, Kevin Brown, Rich Miska, Albin Weber, and John Stack.

King Hiram Lodge No. 12 Welcomes New Brother!

by **Eric Iken**

On March 22, the brothers of King Hiram Lodge No. 12 initiated their newest brother, Joseph Milici, into the Entered Apprentice degree. Joe patiently waited for the interview process to be completed and is excited to begin his Masonic journey. The brothers thoroughly enjoyed performing this degree for him, and we have a Fellowcraft degree planned for May 16.



Seneca Lodge No. 55 Presents Awards to Eagle Scouts

On March 27, Seneca Lodge No. 55 and the CT Masonic Scouters Association (CMSA) were privileged to attend the Troop 3 Torrington Court of Honor to bestow Benjamin Jeannin and Andrew Meyer with the CMSA Eagle Scout Commendation Award. AGM Daniel Reeve, WB Robert Namias, Brother Jason Mendez, and Brother Matthew Kuhr made the presentation.

Benjamin earned 34 merit badges and refurbished the church office at Trinity Episcopal Church in Torrington.

Andrew earned 26 merit badges and coordinated building of three kiosks at the Bethlehem Fairgrounds.

Seneca Lodge is very proud of the newest Eagle Scouts and looks forward to them leading future generations in scouting and citizenship.

If you wish to become a CMSA member, please contact Ken Krasco at sandbservices@yahoo.com.



Garibaldi Masonic Club of CT Initiates Two Brothers

by Matt Kuhr

On March 21, Seneca Lodge No. 55 hosted the Garibaldi Masonic Club of CT to initiate two new Masons into the craft. Thomas Kenney III of Seneca Lodge No. 55 and Edgardo Alvarado of Harmony Lodge No. 42 experienced an impeccable performance in front of a crowd of over 40 brothers. All attending enjoyed a corned beef dinner.

For more information regarding the Garibaldi Masonic Club of CT, please contact Club President WB Joe Pisani at IronAndOak357@gmail.com



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more than 240 years*

The Masonic Altar

by John A. Amarilios, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

Another spring season has rolled around, and the Lafayette Consistory begins to re-emphasize fellowship and Family Life Activities with three activities; namely, on Sunday, May 21, the Consistory will be sponsoring free tickets to the Connecticut Youth Orchestra at the Klein Auditorium in Bridgeport beginning at 3:30 p.m. On Monday, May 29, the Consistory will gather at the theater and march in the Memorial Day Parade, and lastly, on Sunday, June 4, there will be the semi-annual fishing trip out of Clinton Harbor aboard the “Lucky Lady.” Seating is very limited for the last activity, so call the Consistory office immediately if you are interested at (203) 375-0064.

A full calendar of the Consistory’s Family Life Activities can be found on Page 11 of last month’s Spring 2023 Lafayette Consistory News, which was an insert in the April Lafayette Consistory News. For those of you who would like to embark on your Scottish Rite Journey, a quick reminder that Rite on the Road program will take place at these lodges in the weeks ahead:

May 18 – Morning Star Lodge No. 45, Seymour

June 14 – Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107, Darien

Online pre-registration is required at: <https://scottishritenmj.org/membership-application>.



The altar is a lodge fixture whose prominence cannot be denied. It sits in front of the Master and typically resides in the middle of the lodge room. Historically altars have been considered a location of importance, a place of refuge, justice, sacrifice, and or sacredness. The Masonic altar is also a place where men of all faiths pray and take their obligations. It is at those moments of obligation taking that a candidate may glean the spiritual (not religious) significance of Masonry.

He begins to understand that the Masonic altar is a fixture and a location that imparts freedom of faith and not freedom from faith. It imbues the alert candidate with the significance of our fraternal unity and allows him to absorb the lack of divisiveness that adherence to dogmatic allegiance fosters. Here on our altar, there is no demand of uniformity of opinion, and each brother is permitted to determine his own path with respect to a personal philosophy of truth, his religious expression, and his preference for church life and attachment. It is at the Masonic altar that the candidate has his eyes symbolically opened, and his attention is directed to the Sacred Writings, which henceforth are to be his rule and guide in faith. Our altar is a place of awakenings and realizations that brotherhood and the tolerance and acceptance of others for who they are in a state of existence much closer to the one that we will all eventually retire to when we put down our working tools.

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention All Master Masons!
SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES
Sat., July 22, 11 a.m.
14th Degree (Live) 6th Degree (Video)

Mon., Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m.
31st Degree (Live) 7th Degree (Video)

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

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

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

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.

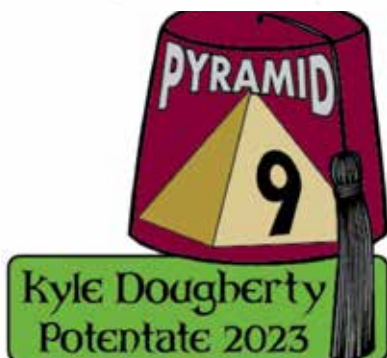
GRAND LODGE SESSION Saturday, April 1, 2023



Sphinx & Pyramid Shriners

In Masonry, we have several charities that our fraternity supports. Shriners International, including Pyramid Shriners and Sphinx Shriners, supports Shriners Hospitals for Children or Shriners Children's. Over the years, everyone became familiar with the 22 hospitals in North America that support orthopedic care and burns. With the changes in the healthcare system over the years, Shriners Children's has changed as well.

There are no longer 22 hospitals. Shriners Children's is now in over 100 locations worldwide. Hospitals, clinics, ambulatory care centers, hospitals within hospitals, and other forms of healthcare for children have created access to more children around the globe than at any other time. This number is expected to double within the upcoming years. With this, we would like to tell you one story of one patient's journey.



When Peyton, 12, was born with a cleft lip and palate, his parents, Jamie and Derrick, were shocked. He was transferred to the NICU of a larger hospital, where it became clear that many challenges loomed ahead. "We had this fear that every time we fed him, he might choke or stop breathing," said Jamie. "It was a really difficult time for us."

The family made their first 7-hour trip to Shriners Hospitals for Children in Springfield, Massachusetts from their home in Northern Maine when Peyton was just a few weeks old. They met with Philip Stoddard, M.D., beloved plastic surgeon and head of the cleft lip and palate program. Dr. Stoddard performed Peyton's first surgery to repair his cleft lip at 6 months old. This was followed by another procedure at 18 months to repair his palate and help prevent fluid in his ears.

Although Peyton's early care at Shriners greatly improved his ability to eat, breathe and hear, his cleft lip and palate caused him to develop a speech impediment as he grew and started to talk. Dr. Stoddard performed a soft palate repair when Peyton was 7, but his speech was still affected.

Peyton began to experience bullying during elementary school because he looked and sounded different than his peers. He became very angry



**Shriners Hospitals
for Children®—Springfield**

and upset, and developed severe anxiety. The family sought assistance from a local therapist who helped Peyton process his feelings and channel them into positive thinking.

The care team at Shriners was also instrumental in helping to build Peyton's self-esteem. "The staff are so great about asking him not only about his condition, but about who he is as a human," said Jamie. From the nurses and physicians to the child life and security staff, everyone encourages Peyton and really listens to what he has to say."

“ The way I look now makes me feel proud of the treatment I received. ”

With a newfound sense of confidence, Peyton has persevered. "The way I look now makes me feel proud of the treatment I received," he said. Currently in 7th grade, Peyton participates in many sports, including cross country, skiing and baseball. He has had bone graft surgery to further repair his palate, and will continue to see the team at Shriners as he enters his teenage years.

Peyton's family is grateful to Shriners Hospitals for Children for helping him face, and embrace, his challenges. "The care that they've provided is beyond what I would have ever imagined. It's been life changing," said Jaime.

Today, Peyton hopes to be a mentor to others. "I don't want other kids to go through the same thing I did," he said. "I want them to have the confidence to be proud of how they look and who they are. I know I am."



516 Carew Street | Springfield, MA 01104 | ShrinersNewEngland.org | 413-787-2000

Hamilton Council No. 9 Hosts 12th Annual Robert J. DiPasquale Memorial Dinner *by Mark Orsini*

The tradition of gathering for an evening of fellowship and a delicious meal, hosted by Hamilton Council No. 9, continued at the 12th annual Robert J. DiPasquale Memorial Surf and Turf Dinner on Saturday, March 11, at the Meriden Masonic Temple. Family and friends enjoyed New York strip, baked stuffed shrimp, lemon garlic parmesan green beans, and baked potato expertly prepared by Hamilton Council's Past Thrice Illustrious Master Steven J. Chiappalone and current Thrice Illustrious Master Christian Schumann.

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

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



Traveling

by James A. Saraceni

Are you a Traveling Man?

As a Master Mason, by definition, you are. But what does traveling mean? To answer that question, we must look at the Masonic origin of the phrase.

Historically:

"In the ancient European world of operative Masons, the only people allowed to freely travel from town to town were Masons going to and from work sites. In speculative Masonry, Master Masons may freely move from lodge to lodge, whether visiting or moving membership, upon proper avouchment, and/or by testing be found worthy to attend another Master Mason Lodge."

"Members were ranked based upon experience and knowledge. Members entered as Apprentices; entry-level stonemasons indentured to their masters ... After completion of their apprenticeship, members were promoted to Journeymen, ...who were paid for their work. The highest honor members could receive was the title of Master Mason, which meant they were trusted to travel and work freely for their patrons. Master Masons were also in possession of the Master's word (password) and grip (handshake)" ...sound familiar?

Meaning:

What do we mean when we, in Masonry, refer to traveling? Is it going to a lodge other than our own, or is there more meaning behind the concept of traveling? I contend that it is the physical act of traveling to another lodge and the esoteric journey we all share. "In the ritual work and literature of Freemasonry, we encounter a lot of talk about traveling."

The Physical Journey:

The benefits of physically visiting other lodges are plentiful. "In the modern day, traveling is the primary method by which a Mason expands his Masonic horizons, gains increased knowledge of our Craft, and meets new brothers. By visiting another lodge, a Mason gets to see variations in the work and gains insight into the different ways a Masonic lodge manages its internal business. This valuable experience will make the man traveling a better Mason and, in return, will make his lodge better by virtue of his experience."

Additionally, physically traveling to other lodges has psychological and emotional benefits. As Worshipful Brother John Bartoszak observed in an article for The Grand Lodge of New Hampshire Free & Accepted Masons, "Another benefit of traveling is the feeling of belonging. No matter what lodge I travel to, I am accepted as a friend and honored guest."

This has certainly been my experience both as I traveled and also having brothers visit my lodge.

I have always been warmly received and have observed how visitors to my home lodge have been received and treated.

The Esoteric Journey:

Physically visiting other lodges is important to our growth, both personally and as a Craft. However, the importance of traveling does not stop the journey from Darkness to Masonic Light.

"Light in Masonry is knowledge, and from that knowledge comes information and understanding. A Master Mason is taught to always seek more light there. "Today, being a Traveling Man represents." We, as Masons, should embrace the esoteric journey and always endeavor to be the student and the teacher. The phrase, "Masonry makes good men better," is often heard. As you travel on the level plane of Masonry, you will encounter brothers and circumstances from which you can learn and improve yourself, not just in Masonry but as a man. Equally, you will encounter brothers and situations in which you may find yourself uniquely situated to impart knowledge. You should do so in a brotherly way with the benefit of the craft as your goal.

In closing, I submit that the physical act of traveling and the esoteric travels we embark upon have equal value, and I encourage you to embrace both. I look forward to meeting new brothers as I continue my Masonic Journey.

BOOSTERS

Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: April 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. 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).

GRAND MASTER'S CIRCLE \$100 or more.

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Gary A. Byram	Aubrey V. Fisher*	Karl King	Robert F. Polito, Jr.	Richard R. Washburn
Sam S.F. Caligiuri	Michael & Melinda Fitting	A. Richard Kirschner	Joseph J. Porco	Andrew G. Weimann II
Alexander Campana	John W. Ford*	Kenneth H. Kirschner	Michael S. Shear	Charles & Barbara Yohe
Lowell H. Cantor	Howard, Steve & Keith Franson	Charles & Gloria Klein	Gail N. Smith	Andy Zeidler
Carlton R. & Susan A. Csiki	Robert Furce	Paul Locicero	Stuart M. Smith	In Memory of John F. Paulsen*
Lester Culver, Jr.	Thomas J. Gondek	Rinaldo & Mary Magliano	John & Jane Sterry*	
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William H. Flagg	Bill & Sandie Greene	Paul S. Patterson	Arthur R. Tinsz	

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Judd S. Blaze	David Hocking	Raymond E. Moore	Wayne Rettburg	George R. Zack*
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Roger R. Cole*	Benjamin Isaacson	Frederick Newberth	Rodney A. Spooner	
Jack Dilks	John R. Kinkade	Robert Peck	Gerald F. Thompson	
Ralph W. Ely, III	Robert J. Knowles	Lewis Pennell	Dean True	
Earl S. Evans	Donald G. Maehlenbrock	Edwin J. Phelps, Jr.	Doug Turner	
Matthew F. Griffin	James Maxwell	Clinton Potter	Gordon Willoughby	

LODGES & ORGANIZATIONS

<u>MASTER MASON LEVEL \$250 +</u>	<u>Fellowcraft Level \$150 - \$249</u>	<u>Entered Apprentice Level \$75 - \$149</u>	Temple Lodge No. 16*
CT DeMolay Supreme Council Members*	Ashlar Lodge No. 332	Anchor Lodge No. 112	Trumbull Lodge No. 22*
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88*	Garibaldi Masonic Club	Coastal Lodge No. 57	
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Ken Buckbee	Carroll Hersom*	Glenn K. Pennell	Robert J. Shopey, Sr.	
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Now you can support **Connecticut Freemasons** newspaper online! There is now a PayPal dropdown **Connecticut Freemasons** Booster form on the Grand Lodge home page (ctfreemasons.net) just below the PDF version of the paper. **Use the dropdown to select your level, click the "Pay Now" button and then follow the directions. You can pay with credit or debit cards or a PayPal account.

Or, scan the QR Code on the right with your smartphone to go directly to the **Connecticut Freemasons** page on the website. Scroll down and follow the instructions indicated ** above. The funds are used to help cover the printing and mailing expenses of the paper.





Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34 Passes Two

Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34 passed two brothers to the degree of Fellowcraft on Wednesday, April 5, at the Preston Masonic Center. It was a joint degree with Moosup Lodge No. 113, with great representation from both lodges. The two new Fellowcraft are studying and are on their way to being raised, Master Masons.

Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 Hosts Hometown Hero Night

Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 hosted a Hometown Hero night in honor of local Montville Social Services coordinator Kathleen Dhorty-Peck. The evening was with moving testimony of how Kathleen's dedicated service to her town and its people. Representatives of the city council, the mayor, her coworkers, and her family shared stories of her volunteer work and the impact it has left over the years.

MWB Bruce R. Bellmore presented her with a plaque and a donation to Montville Social Services.



Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 Hosts Easter Egg Hunt for Local Families

Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 hosted its annual Easter egg hunt on April 2 at the Camp Oakdale ballfield. The turnout was tremendous, with kids on three different fields collecting hundreds of eggs in a matter of minutes. Bro. Ron Lynch expertly filled the bunny suit providing a perfect picture opportunity for all the families with already skeptical children. Thank you to all the brothers who volunteered to help set up and support the egg hunt!



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE IN MASONRY?

Why not attend the College of Freemasonry where the CORE Values of LIFE are portrayed in theatrical presentations of the Scottish Rite degrees:

- * Justice * Integrity * Tolerance * Service
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The Scottish Rite is a Masonic organization where you will find Inspiration – Convenience – and Enjoyment with fellow brethren. We are now accepting applications for our next class.



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Contact Tony Angelica, 33°, at the Valley of Hartford, AASR: (860) 666-0712
Email: office@valleyofhartford.com www.valleyofhartford.org

Hometown Hero Award Program Continuing

by Shane Dufresne

During MWB Bruce Bellmore's year as Grand Master, a total of 17 Hometown Hero Awards were presented throughout the state. Each recipient received a plaque and a \$100 check from the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation made out to the recipient's agency if they were a first responder or to a non-profit charity. MWB Joseph Porco will be continuing this program in his year.

This is a great way to get publicity and recognition for your lodge at relatively no cost. Although the check will no longer be a part of the award, the plaque is paid for by the Grand Lodge. It can be presented to the person at one of your lodge meetings as a stand-alone event or as part of your lodge's awards night. An article and photo sent to your local newspaper, posted to your social media accounts, and submitted to the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper will get the word out that Freemasonry is alive and thriving in your community.

The recipient need not be a Mason. They can be a first responder, a doctor, a nurse, a veterinarian, a military person, a teacher, or whomever else your lodge deems worthy. If your lodge participated in MWB Bellmore's year, it can do so again this year.

If interested, please contact the new chairperson for this program, WB Rob Namias at RNSeneca55@gmail.com

Pyramid Shriners March for Needy Children and Fundraise at Rite Aid Pharmacy *by Donald M. Casey, Jr.*

Pyramid Shriners of Stratford recently marched in the Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade. Nobles from the Clown, Motor Patrol, Pipes & Drums, and Legion of Honor Units marched. Most importantly, Pyramid Shriners were able to share their mission of at Shriner's Hospital.



And, Pyramid Shriners conducted their 6th annual spring fundraising event at Rite Aid Pharmacy in Monroe. They distributed informational pamphlets and coloring books pertaining to Shriner's Hospital for Children. In addition, donations were collected, and funds will be used to assist needy children receiving excellent medical care through The Red Sneaker Fund.

The Red Sneaker Fund, first started in 1973 at the Pyramid Shrine Temple, provides financial support for research aimed at finding improved treatments and techniques for children with burn injuries at the Shriner's Hospital.



(l-r) Pyramid Shriners Donald M. Casey, Jr. and Christopher Hoyt.

JOIN US

In-Person or “Stay at Home”

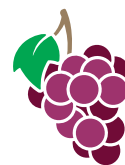


Friday, May 19, 2023 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Register online today at
www.masonicare.org/2023wine

For just \$45 per ticket, join us in person or virtually & enjoy:

- Samples of fine wine and craft beer in person at Masonicare at Ashlar Village or by virtual care package
- Light hors d'oeuvres
- Opportunity to purchase raffle tickets
- Supporting Masonicare residents and patients in need
- High-quality event souvenir
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Begins at 6 p.m. (Online & In-Person)

Health & Senior Care Decisions Are Not Easy. But You Don't Have To Go It Alone.

Introducing Masonicare's CareConnect Navigator Services, a complimentary program designed to help guide you through the process of acquiring the care and services you need, when you need them.

Who is the CareConnect Navigator?

Audrey Grove, Masonicare's CareConnect Navigator, has dedicated her career to working with older Americans as they transition through retirement and senior living. She facilitates support groups that focus on support for Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, and Long-Term Care Residents and their families. Audrey also coordinates a state-wide educational program for seniors and works with community partners to help craft better resources and opportunities for older Americans.

Who can utilize the Navigator services?

The program was designed specifically to support the fraternal family; however, like all Masonicare services the CareConnect Navigator program is open to all.

Is there a fee for using Navigator services?

No. The program is complimentary and you will not be charged for using Navigator services.

How do I reach the CareConnect Navigator?

1.888.332.0033 or email CareConnect@masonicare.org

What type of things can the Navigator help me with?

From referrals and recommendations to education and support, the CareConnect Navigator is available to assist you with accessing the services, care and support you or your loved one needs.

Will I be referred only to Masonicare services?

No. We strongly promote freedom of choice. You will be given recommendations and options so you can make the most informed decision about where you receive services.

How do I join the CareConnect mailing list where I can receive educational materials on health and wellness and support groups?

Email request to: CareConnect@masonicare.org

CareConnect Navigation Services. *Lighting the Way.*



22 Masonic Avenue • Wallingford, CT 06492 • 888.332.0033 • Masonicare.org

Join Us!

★ **Grand Masters Day Family Festival** ★

★ **Saturday, June 10, 2023** ★

A day to honor individuals, past and present.

Masonicare Health Center, 22 Masonic Ave., Wallingford

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

- **The Grand Masters**, Joseph J. Porco and Alfred Grady, Jr.
- **10:30am: Parade** featuring bands, motorcycles, antique cars, and marching bands from across the state
- **Festive food** by Masonicare
- **Music** under the big tent
- **Community Health Fair**
- **Enhanced Free Youth Activities**
- **Carnival Games**
- **Petting Zoo**
- **Model Railroad & Masonicare Museum**
- **Dance Party**- with DJ under the main tent 1:00pm

**Activities &
FUN
for all ages!**

**FREE!
Admission!**



Joseph J. Porco

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



Alfred Grady Jr.

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



Questions? Call 800.982.3919

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