

June 2023



Connecticut FREEMASONS

IN THIS ISSUE

FATHERS AND BROTHERS

CHANGES IN THE
CONNECTICUT FREEMASONS
NEWSPAPER DISTRIBUTION

PHOTOS OF
GRAND LODGE OFFICERS,
DISTRICT DEPUTIES,
ASSOCIATE GRAND MARSHALS,
& ASSOCIATE GRAND ALMONERS

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



Bro. Joseph J. Porco
Most Worshipful Grand Master

Bro. Edward C. Page
RW Deputy Grand Master

Bro. Les B. King
RW Grand Senior Warden

Bro. Rinaldo F. Magliano
RW Grand Junior Warden

Bro. Thomas Gondek
RW Grand Treasurer

Bro. James M. Anderson
RW Grand Secretary

Bro. Shane Dufresne
RW Grand Senior Deacon

Bro. F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr.
RW Grand Junior Deacon

Bro. Mark H. Hawkins.
RW Grand Marshal

Bro. Matthew F. Griffin
RW Grand Senior Steward

Bro. Nicholas H. Ives
RW Grand Junior Steward

Bro. Christopher J. Earle
RW Grand Chaplain

Rev. and Bro. Carl H. Anderson
RW Grand Almoner

Bro. Andrew R. Melillo
RW Grand Historian

Bro. Gary Graham
RW Grand Organist

Bro. Richard C. Memmott, Jr.
RW Grand Tiler

Bro. Michael Abrahamson
Associate Grand Tiler

Bro. Frederick A. Marotti
Associate Grand Tiler

Bro. Daniel W. Nichols
Associate Grand Tiler

Bro. Brian E. Beals
Deputy Grand Treasurer

Bro. Gregory K. Whitehouse
Deputy Grand Secretary

Bro. Robert F. Polito, Jr.
Assistant to the Grand Master



Table of Contents

Fathers and Brothers	3
Masonic Moments.....	3
Changes in Connecticut Freemasons Newspaper Distribution	4
Congratulations to Our 50-year Brothers!	4
Grand Master's Message - Joseph J. Porco	5
Congratulations to Our 75-year Brother!	5
Welcome to Our New Brothers	5
Renaming the Medical Office Building at Masonicare	6
From the Desk of Jon-Paul Venoit.....	7
Grand Chaplain's Corner	8
Called by The Grand Architect.....	8
Lafayette Consistory	9
Sphinx & Pyramid Shriners.....	10
Valley of Hartford, AASR.....	11
Masonicare: CareConnect.....	12
Districts 1, 2,	13-16
Officers of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM ~2023-24	17
District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals, AF & AM, 2023-24	18-19
Associate Grand Almoners, AF & AM, 2023-24	20
Book Review: From Paratrooper to Public Defender	20
CT Widows Sons on the Move as Weather Warms	21
Districts 3, 5, 4, 6, 7, 9	22-31
Your Masonic Record is Now Online!	30
Sphinx and Pyramid Shrines Hold Joint Ceremonial	32
"The Sky is the Limit II" Skydiving Fundraiser!	33
Booster Lists	34
Your Brain Health - Save the Date.....	35
Masonicare Grand Master's Day Family Festival.....	36

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 11

Publisher

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

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Theodore J. Nelson, Chairman

Francis G. Way, Editor

Jeff S. Bartlett

Bud Buckner

Rev. Carl H. Anderson, Masonicare

Adam Raider, Masonicare

Pat Kalinauskas, Creative/Layout

CONTRIBUTORS

John Amarilios

Jeffrey A. Blayman

David R. Blythe, Sr.

Robert Dodge

Shane Dufresne

Christopher J. Earle

Robert Furce

William L. Greene

Sandie Greene

Mark Hawkins

Arnie Grot

Eric Iken

Nicholas H. Ives

Melvin E. Johnson

Patrick Jones

Brian Keith

Matthew Kuhr

Michael Leser

David A. McClain

Hiram Morales

Daniel W. Nichols

Joseph J. Porco

Eric Pogg

William Rootsi

Jon-Paul Venoit

Rob Wallace

Grand Lodge of Connecticut A.F. & A.M.

69 Masonic Avenue • Wallingford, CT 06492

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

1:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

203-679-5903

Fax: 203-679-5996

email: grandlodge@ctfreemasons.net

web: www.ctfreemasons.net

Fathers and Brothers

by Francis G. Way

Recently I became a grandfather for the first time. Holding my granddaughter Riley, and talking with her father, my stepson Kurt, brought back many memories of my girls being born, and the almost fiercely primal feelings that set in when a man becomes a father. A man, like Kurt, may be logically prepared to become a father, and know his duties will expand, but in addition to that logical knowledge comes the instinctual need to protect, provide for, and nurture – in that regard a complement to the child's mother to be sure. And there is also satisfaction that the family group has grown – a new generation springing to life.

It is not lost on me, as we begin to experience the very real growth that the Blue Wave is starting to cause, that a lodge is somewhat similar when a new brother joins the "family." The lodge celebrates the addition, to be sure, but also needs to nurture and mentor the new brother. Lodge brothers need to protect and provide for the new member. Obviously not as a father protects a newborn, but to take such steps that the new brother is not overwhelmed, to take those steps to make him feel most welcome, and to nurture him by steadily feeding him Masonic education, Masonic tradition, and practice, with a heaping side of friendship and brotherly love. For it will not profit the lodge if the new brothers joins, and then falls by the wayside only to dimit or go NPD a couple of years later.

Here in this jurisdiction, which this newspaper does its level best to cover and publicize, we have a great opportunity to increase not only the quantity but the quality of new members with this new program. If all the brothers who are fathers take a moment to see the new brothers as "theirs" and act accordingly, then lodges can once again thrive. And by setting that example, those brothers who are not (yet) fathers, can emulate their practice and help nurture the lodge's new generation.

To all our brethren who are fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, or father figures, we wish you a Happy Father's Day.



by Nicholas H. Ives

Each month the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper has news stories from around the jurisdiction of what is happening in lodges throughout the state. However, we are missing dozens of great photos and stories, as most of the features are longer form articles accompanied by photos.

In order to share more stories with each other and the world, there will be a new section in the *Connecticut Freemasons* devoted to interesting pictures and a quick caption with that image. This should be short and to the point, describing the moment and that great picture. Please include

the name of the associated lodge with your entry. Please note that the caption should be in a Word doc or plain text file when submitting.

The best photos and captions will be selected for publication in the newspaper and on the CTFreemasons Facebook and Instagram pages to get more people to see all the meaningful, fun brothers are having in the Craft.

In the long term, this is a great way to let the public know what is going on in your lodge and hopefully increase your prospect count. Any prospect that mentions your lodge or the picture will go directly to your inbox!

Ed Note: *When submitting Masonic Moments, please send the caption in a Word doc or txt file, with original size photos (not downloaded from Facebook first) attached separately.*

See the accompanying photos throughout the paper for examples of great photos and captions!

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

69 Masonic Avenue
Wallingford, CT 06492



203.679.5903
grandlodge@ctfreemasons.net

From: Grand Treasurer

RE: Changes in *Connecticut Freemasons* Newspaper Distribution

Due to rising publication and mailing/delivery costs and based on the 2023-2024 Budget approved at the Grand Lodge Annual Session on April 1, 2023, the production and distribution of the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper will be cut in half beginning with the July/August 2023 edition.

We will continue to deliver paper copies of the Connecticut Freemasons to those who are 70+ years old and to individual Boosters who have donated a minimum of \$25 who still wish to receive a paper copy. The *Connecticut Freemasons* is available to everyone else on the homepage of the Grand Lodge website <https://ctfreemasons.net>.

A printed copy of the *Connecticut Freemasons* is free to Boosters for a minimum donation of \$25. <https://ctfreemasons.net/ct-freemasons-magazine/>

The *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper can also be emailed to individual emails.

To sum up, there are several ways to continue to enjoy reading about our Craft at labor or at refreshment:

- 1) Free to 70+ years of age
- 2) Free to Boosters with a minimum donation of \$25 <https://ctfreemasons.net/ct-freemasons-magazine/>
- 3) Free on the homepage of the Grand Lodge website <https://ctfreemasons.net>
- 4) Free electronic copy using individual email.

If you are **not** 70+ years old or a Booster, you will **not** receive a mailing of the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper beginning with the July/August 2023 edition.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

Gary S. Adams
Washington Lodge No. 19

Orrin G. Hakey, Jr.
Fayette Lodge No. 69

Joseph L. Steinfeld
America St. Johns Lodge No. 8

David I. Barton
Valley Lodge No. 36

James C. Hoffmann, Jr.
Village Lodge No. 29

Bernard F. Trott
Manchester Lodge No. 73

Robert L. Burton, Jr.
Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34

Arthur W. Longley, III
Corinthian Lodge No. 63

James G. Weyant
Compass Lodge No. 9

Nicholas P. Caracciolo, Jr.
Frank A. Diamond, Jr.
America St. Johns Lodge No. 8

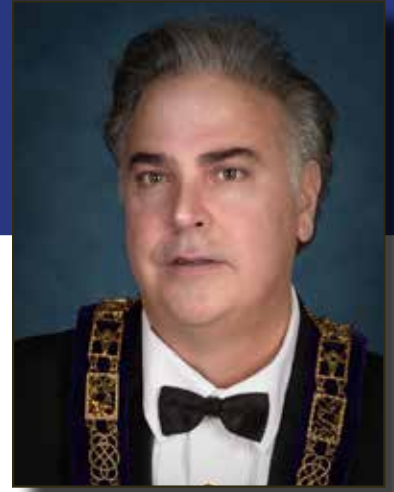
Robert Harold McNeil
Ashlar Lodge No. 332

Frederic Wilcox Wilson, III
Temple Lodge No. 16



Grand Master's Message - June

by MWB Joseph J. Porco



A warm greeting to all. I begin this message by expressing my gratitude to everyone who supported and attended our recent gala celebration, held on May 7. Our committee members who organized the event went above and beyond to make the evening special. In addition to the fellowship we enjoyed, generosity abounded, and \$3,000 was raised for the needs of DeMolay and Rainbow. Thank you.

I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to our brothers throughout this jurisdiction for their dedication and commitment to be of service to one another, the general needs of their lodge, district, and the membership program we have launched. Within the first 60 days of our awareness outreach, our efforts resulted in more than 200 inquiries expressing interest in Freemasonry. Inquiries are being assigned to lodges in every district. This count does not include interest expressed, and petitions received through organic acquisition. In August, a report will be generated identifying how many new petitions our lodges have received. That figure will provide the Craft with a baseline for the projected growth in membership over the next nine months. Yes, I did say membership growth! The six-decade-long declining net membership trend is being extinguished by the Craft. Across the state, the brethren have drawn a line in the sand. Everywhere I have traveled, brothers are smiling, full of enthusiasm, and no longer believe in the myth of an inevitable declining membership.

From mid-April through May, I had the pleasure of visiting every district in the state, some districts more than once. I felt it was important that I personally delivered 'The Charge' to every new District Deputy, and as of June 1, that objective has been met. In every case, in every place where I visited, there are brothers who appear energized, optimistic, and on fire with motivation to

assist their lodge. I had the opportunity to share my Grand Master's message at every District Deputy celebration. Though each message was slightly different, at the core of each message is the reminder

that there is nothing beyond the Grand Architect's ability to repair, restore, or bring to pass. It is our relationship with the Almighty that matters most. The teachings of Freemasonry repeatedly make that point very clear.

When our desire for growth is to be of greater service to our communities, and we humbly ask the Grand Architect for guidance and help, blessings will be provided. Understanding this principle is among the greatest light of all. Please, continue to lift your brothers up. Share the light of this understanding. The Grand Architect is working behind the scenes to equip, strengthen, and prepare us for that which is planned so that when it dawns, we can embrace it with confidence, humility, and strength of character. The 'Giver of all Good Gifts and Graces' will never cease addressing the needs of those that come forward with open hands and a grateful heart. Please follow through on every opportunity placed at your doorstep. When a new brother joins your lodge, help him move beyond feeling included. Help him know that he belongs.

I look forward to seeing a robust turnout from the districts at our Grand Masters Day Parade on Saturday, June 10, on the campus of Masonicare in Wallingford. Please set time aside to be part of this gathering so that together we can warm the hearts of the Masonicare residents and spend a few joyful hours together.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 75-YEAR BROTHER!

George E. Thomson
Composite Lodge No. 28

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

King Solomons Lodge No. 7

Kevin W. Brown
Bruce Raymond Morrone
Steven Andrew Morrone

Madison Lodge No. 87

Jayson Frederick Bellaria
Patrick McBride

Morning Star Lodge No. 47

Jeremy Michael Johnson
Juan Santana
Kyle Taraskewich



Join us as we honor longtime Masonicare board chairman

RWB Carleton V. Erickson

with the renaming of the
Medical Office Building at Masonicare

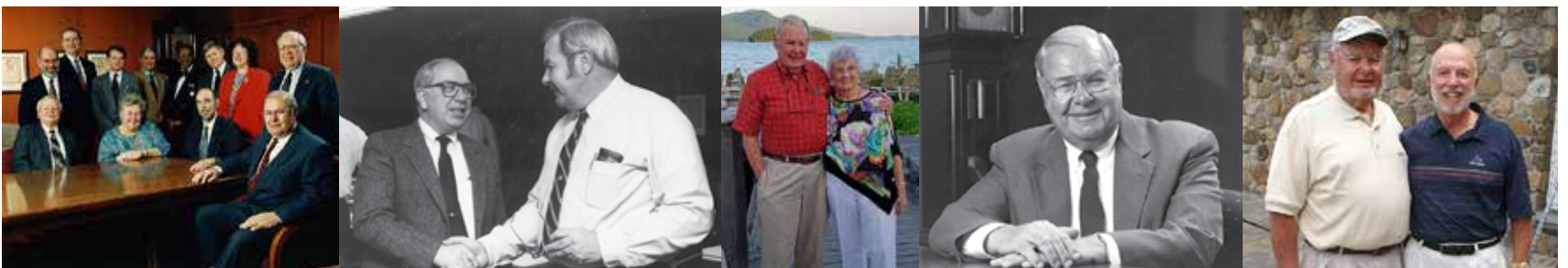


Saturday, June 10, 2023 • 1:00 PM
67 Masonic Avenue, Wallingford

Parking available on campus near the Medical Building (Lot A)

For more information, please contact:

Rev. and Brother Carl Anderson, Right Worshipful Grand Almoner and Vice President
for Fraternal Relations at Masonicare, at 203-679-6917



Masonicare 
★ An Ageless Commitment to Caring

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

So many of the buildings on Masonicare's Wallingford campus were dedicated as tributes to the builders, visionaries, and benefactors who furthered our benevolent mission: Charles A. Ramage, Frank L. Wilder, A. Norman Johnson, Leslie G. Wright, and Kenneth B. Hawkins, Sr. to name just a few.

Now, the Masonicare Medical Office Building will be renamed the Erickson Medical Building in honor of longtime Board of Trustees Chairman Bro. Carleton V. Erickson, Right Worshipful Past District Deputy. Friends, family, Masonic dignitaries, and Masonicare colleagues past and present will join Bro. Carleton at a special renaming ceremony beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 10 (Grand Masters Day).

A funeral director by trade and owner of Beecher & Bennett, Inc., Bro. Carleton joined the Board of Managers of The Masonic Charity Foundation in 1983. When he succeeded Board President Arthur (Bud) Simpson in 1986, Bro. Carleton became the first man to hold the leadership role without having come through the Grand Line. In 1994, he was instrumental in the corporate reorganization that created "Masonicare" as a parent company for the various affiliates.

Bro. Carleton's 17 years at the helm was a period marked by unprecedented growth for the organization that included entry into the home health business, the construction of Pond Ridge Assisted Living, the Leslie G. Wright Residence, and the A. Norman Johnson Apartments, as well as the expansion of Masonicare at Ashlar Village, where he lives today with his wife, Georgia.

What I've always admired and appreciated most about Carleton is how his focus has always been about doing the right thing for Masonicare. During board meetings, he would talk a lot about the mission of the organization and how we were going to push forward. And he always asked every person in the room to give their input. He had a distinctive presence that commanded respect.



Carleton was someone who valued traditions but was also willing to embrace new strategies and ideas. Maybe that's why he was so supportive of me when I was chosen to serve as President of Ashlar Village back in 1999. I do laugh when I remember how he told me I wasn't ready ... but that's Carleton. He was just being honest and, again, putting the organization first. I am deeply grateful that he has continued to be a voice of support for me over the years and looking forward to celebrating his dedication to the mission of Masonicare.

Jon-Paul Venoit



MWB Kenneth Hawkins presented 50-year pins to two Master Masons at Ansantawae Lodge No. 89. He knows the year they were raised - as he was the Worshipful Master who raised them!

Grand Chaplain's Corner

by Christopher J. Earle, Grand Chaplain



“Blessed and Blessings”

Recently, I was fortunate to be included in the cast for the 18th Degree of Scottish Rite Masonry, “Knight of the Rose Croix,” performed in excellent fashion by the Valley of New Haven. The Scottish Rite system of degrees divides the 32 different degrees into sets that are performed by specific bodies.

The first three being the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason, are performed by the Blue Lodge, of course. After those, the remaining 29 are portrayed by certain bodies which have in their degrees specific messages and goals. The Lodge of Perfection performs Degrees 4-14 which are called the “Ineffable Degrees,” and draws their lessons from the biblical era leading up to the building of King Solomon’s Temple. Degrees 15 and 16 are portrayed by the Council of Princes of Jerusalem and are centered around the captivity and subsequent release of the Israelites from Babylon and the rebuilding of the Temple.

The 17th and 18th Degrees are called the “Philosophical and Doctrinal Degrees” and are portrayed by the Chapter of Rose Croix. They strive for a deeper understanding of religion, philosophy, ethics, and history. The Knight of Rose Croix draws its tenets from the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth and features the “Sermon on the

Mount.” It is in that sermon that Jesus gives the Beatitudes:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.”

As Masons, we are “blessed” to be able to share the knowledge and love of our Fraternity with others. It is a “blessing” that we do this while forging lifetime attachments and friendships that are based upon that shared knowledge and love. Jesus closed the sermon with words we all can follow: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, who is in heaven.”

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

Bill Baker
Raymond A. Cobb
George Wilhelm Golnik
Frederick Franklin Lodge No.14

Ford William Cole
Temple Lodge No.16

Rodger E. Sperling, Jr.
Hiram Lodge No.18

Donald L. Disbrow
Day Spring Lodge No.30

Jack Homer Stevens
Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34

Shaen Sulo Murteza
Harmony Lodge No. 42

Robert S. Lloyd
Jerusalem Lodge No. 49

Allan F. Bowen
Temple Lodge No. 65

Robert David Sherrick, Sr.
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Robert N. Jones
Anchor Lodge No.112

Philip J. Brown
Cosmopolitan Lodge No.125

Is Your Temple Being Properly Constructed?

by John A. Amarilios, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

The Valley of Bridgeport is gearing up for the 2023 summer season with degrees and Family Life events.

On June 4, there is a fishing trip leaving out of Clinton. These are very popular, and seating is limited, so contact the office as soon as possible if you are interested. On July 15, there is a Bus tour to the Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park, NY, with a stop at a local winery and dinner at the Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck. On July 26, there is a trip to Yankee Stadium to see the Mets play the Yankees, and travel is on the Yankee Clipper on Metro North. On Saturday, August 5, there is the annual Clambake at Booth Memorial Park; on August 11, a Scotch and Cigar Night at the Stamford Cigar Bar; and on August 19, a Trip to Tanglewood in Lenox, MA, with a stop at a local winery. Contact the Consistory office for details, costs, and reservation details.

Degree work continues on Saturday, July 22, with a presentation of a live 14th Degree at 10:30 a.m., followed by a video rendition of the 6th Degree and preceded by the 4th Degree. After the degree work, there will be a sumptuous lunch at the Shrine building next door. Everyone should be heading home by 2:30 p.m., affording those older brothers plenty of daylight time to travel. Remember the theater and the lunchroom are air-conditioned. Those traveling from out of town can take Metro North, as the Stratford station is a few short feet from the theater.



The Holy Bible (the repository of Divine Laws) is the Great Light of Masonry and bears a profound meaning when coupled with the tradition of the Ineffable Name or Lost Word. The objective set before the Masonic Seeker is his personal search for the Lost Word. He may travel across many different lands and, along the way, receive Masters Wages (representing knowledge and power). In a much more profound and Kabbalistic sense, the esoteric meaning of the Master's Word is the Consciousness of the Soul, which grants the possessor thereof Master's wages, which entail Illumination and Immortality.

Accordingly, the wages of a Real Master are the satisfaction and spiritual power flowing from the possession of real knowledge. Pike once wrote that the power of the Word lies in the knowledge of the philosophy, which is its perfect synthesis. This, my brothers, is what is meant by "knowing how to pronounce the Word." The traditions, symbols, and ritual of our Blue Lodges center around the building of the Temple. The legend of the Widow's Son, Hiram Abiff, who lost his life in the defense of his integrity (which every Seeker must be ready to do) and the Search for the Lost Word. As our candidates progress through the degrees, they are furnished with the Working Tools suited to his degree of knowledge and proficiency and given instructions on their use. Simultaneously the lesser and greater

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
--	---	--

For more information, contact the Valley near you or email Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com.

Lights are revealed and explained. Through this curriculum, each outer form or material thing is shown to be a symbol of a deeper mystery with a concealed potency.

If one steps back and re-reads the rituals of each degree in a quiet and solitary environment, stilling our minds to the noise of modern living, one can glean the essence of the Mysticism that is contained therein. In our ritual, King Solomon's Temple is a symbol. The building and restoration of the Temple in Jerusalem, which play prominent parts in our Blue Lodge ritual and some of the Scottish Rite degrees, are a sophisticated play on words and a parity of events which are but allegories for the personal drama that every Soul must pass if it is to attain Soul Consciousness and reach, in part, what Jung once called Self Individuation. Thus, we can infer that the Real Temple (and perhaps the only one worth considering) referred to from first to last in Freemasonry, as in the Schools of Ancient Initiation, is the Tabernacle of the Soul.

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.



Sphinx & Pyramid Shrines

by Eric Pogg



Pyramid and Sphinx Shrines have been busy over the past month. Pyramid continues with the First Friday Nights, the Kentucky Derby Day dinner, and Poker Run. Sphinx had a fun-filled night at Buffalo Wild Wings in Wethersfield. Sphinx has participated in many parades in the state, including Newington, Portland, East Hartford, Mystic, Vernon, Windsor, New Britain, and Middlebury. Memorial Day is always a busy time for the Shrine. We are looking forward to Grand Masters Day in Wallingford.

Sphinx will be having a fundraiser for Shriners Children's New England in Springfield on Wednesday, June 14, from 3-5 p.m. at Broad Brook Brewery in Suffield. Shriners Children's New England is one of the two Shrine Medical facilities that Both Pyramid and Sphinx support. The other facility is in Boston. Stop by the brewery, have a pint, wings, or a delicious meal with plenty of music for all to enjoy.

Last month Pyramid and Sphinx held a joint Ceremonial at Brainard Lodge No. 102 in Niantic. Fourteen new Nobles were created. The new Nobles learned about our clubs and units as well as our ever-expanding healthcare network across the globe. Special thanks to MWPGM Theodore Nelson for his hard work in this endeavor. Noble Nelson has been running the Bedouin Shrine Club in Groton for several years. The Bedouin Shrine Club meets at the Groton Townhouse Restaurant on the fourth Monday of every month except for January and February at 6 p.m. in a private room. Special thanks to the brothers of Brainard Lodge for their warm hospitality.

Sphinx will be having a Comedy Night on Saturday, June 17, at the Sphinx Shrine Center, 197 Deming Street, Newington. There are three headliner

comedians, doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person or \$60 per couple. Group seating is available. Watch your emails and other forms of social media for more information.

Sphinx will be holding its annual Summer Picnic at Sunrise Park, 2075 Mountain Road, West Suffield, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The pavilion overlooks the tranquil waters of Whites Pond. Swimming, fishing, hiking, disc golf, new kids' playground, volleyball, horseshoes, and more are available. Open to Nobles, ladies, kids of all ages, and prospective members and their families.

Later this month, Pyramid and Sphinx will be traveling to the Queen City, Charlotte, North Carolina, for the Imperial Session. Pyramid will continue to have a strong showing with the Pipes and Drums. They are always able to find a respectable pub or more to entertain the masses as well as compete in Highlander competitions. The Sphinx Motor Patrol will look to compete in the Motor Corps competitions as well. The Shrine Ladies will be able to compete in the Hell on Wheels go-cart obstacle course competition. A visit to the NASCAR Hall of Fame is expected as our hotel is next door.

The sudden loss of our immediate Past Imperial Potentate, 2021-2022, William "Bill" Bailey, in May deeply saddened us all. Prayers go out to Lady Debby and to the rest of the Bailey family.

A couple of "Save the Dates" from Pyramid: The Pyramid Shriners Golf Tournament, Friday, September 29, at the Blackhawk Country Club, in Stratford, with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. On Friday, October 6, is the Pyramid Comedy Night.

A couple of "Save the Dates" from Sphinx: Saturday, December 2, Potentate's Homecoming at Composite Lodge No. 28 in Suffield. Ceremonial, Hospital tour, and so much more.

MASA, or the Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association, will be held in Virginia Beach again this September. Recently Pyramid and Sphinx attended the Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association meetings in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Hosted by President Tony Maxwell, the Nobles were treated to not only a fun business session but a wine tour, tax-free shopping for the ladies, a brewery tour of Dogfish Head Brewery, a banquet, a hospitality beach house, and plenty of great sun and surf.

Be on the lookout for the continued First Friday events at Pyramid. Fun, fellowship, and even more fun and the cornerstones of the First Friday events.

If you are looking to join the Shrine, you can go to www.BeAShrinerNow.com. Fill out the easy application, and you will be contacted within seventy-two hours by either one of the Shrines. Clowns, pipers, drummers, mechanics, drivers, flag bearers, singers, brewery club members, and dinner club members are just a handful of the kinds of Noble we are looking for more.

The largest event for Shriners Children's New England in Springfield will be held on Saturday, October 20. Cheers for Children! will be held at the MGM Grand Casino ballroom in downtown Springfield, MA. Breweries, wineries, restaurants, games, raffle prizes beyond belief, and so much more. Purchase your tickets early; they are now just \$45 per person.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

Cheers!

VALLEY OF HARTFORD, AASR

by David R. Blythe Sr.

June 15 marks the end of the Scottish Rite AASR activity for 2022-2023. To begin this new year, it is time to review what happened before starting the next year in the Valley of Hartford.

First, the officers and members of the Valley presented the following degrees to the most recent class, either on DVD or portraying them live: 4th, 9th, 10th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, and the 32nd. They also portrayed the Feast of the Paschal Lamb for brethren and families to remember our recently departed brethren from the Valley of Hartford.

The following Scottish Rite brothers completed their degree requirements on April 22:

James M. Andersen (Meriden), Meridian Lodge No. 77
Raonak (Ray) Ahmed (Newington), Unity Lodge No. 148
Charles S. Wilson (Newington), Friendship Lodge No. 33
Michael McClellan (S. Windsor), Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88
Allyan L. Lopes (Southington), Friendship Lodge No. 33
Rudolph L. Cabata (Plantsville), Friendship Lodge No. 33
Hiram Morales II (New Britain), Unity Lodge No. 148
Juan M. Villalobos (E. Hartford) Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 148

In addition, the following family Life Events took place during the year:

September 3, Family Picnic
October 8, Hartford Athletics Game
November 20, Newport, RI Christmas Mansion Tour

December 2022 Holiday Movies and Ugly Sweater Party/ Contest

December 8, a trip to New York City to see the Rockettes

January 2023, New England Air Museum

February 2023, Hartford Wolf Pack hockey game

April 2023, bus trip to the Scottish Rite Museum in Lexington

May 2023, the Lady Katharine Cruise.

Looking ahead, in June, the Valley will hold its annual fishing trip; attend a Hartford Yard Goats baseball game (call the Valley office or watch your email for more information).

On July 15, there will be a Cross Sound Light House cruise, and on July 22, we will be holding our Annual 5K run/walk to support the Children's Dyslexia Center.

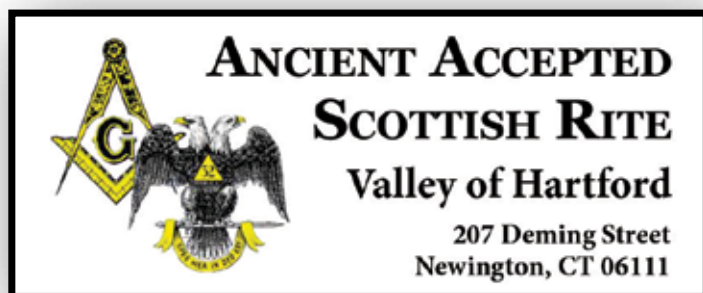
On July 29, there will be another Cross Sound Lighthouse Tours if the demand exceeded the original allotment of tickets.

In August, the Valley will attend another Yard Goats baseball game and will hold the Annual Worker's Night Banquet and Installation of Officers

The Valley of Hartford Foundation held its Annual Luncheon and Election of Officers. All members of the Valley are eligible to join the Foundation for a one-time fee. For more information, contact the Valley Secretary or any Foundation.

On September 3, the Valley will hold the Annual Summer Picnic. Mark your calendars.

So, now as we enter the Scottish Rite year 2023-2024, it's time for those Blue Lodge brothers who have not yet sought more light in Masonry to apply to be a member of the next class of candidates. If you know someone that is interested or if you are a Master Mason reading this article, contact the Valley office via email: office@valleyofhartford.com, or by phone (860) 666-0712.



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
* Reverence to God * Devotion to Country

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

For more information about becoming a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, or to receive a copy of a Scottish Rite informational DVD . . .

Contact Tony Angelica, 33°, at the Valley of Hartford, AASR: (860) 666-0712

Email: office@valleyofhartford.com

www.valleyofhartford.org

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

District 1

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



District Deputy Presentation at America St. John's Lodge No. 8 *by Mark Hawkins*

On Saturday, April 29, at America St. Johns Lodge No. 8 in Stratford, RWB Mark Hawkins, Grand Marshal, presided over the presentation of two new District Deputies in Districts 1B and 1C: RWB David Urban and RWB Tim Quinn and their Associate Grand Marshals, WB Waldemar "Wally" Jimenez, and WB Robert Furce.

Biographies and felicitations were presented by RWB Barry Buzzell, and MWGM Joseph J. Porco presented the charge and his message this afternoon.

This was a wonderful presentation for four great brothers! Good luck this upcoming year.



Be a Connecticut Freemasons Booster!

Name or Lodge _____

Address _____

Town _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Booster appearing as _____

Makes checks payable to: Grand Lodge AF&AM of CT • 69 Masonic Avenue • Wallingford CT 06492
Booster support is not deductible as a charitable contribution under IRC Section 170(c).

LISTING IS FOR 11 ISSUES

____ Individual Booster
\$25-\$49.99

____ Grand Booster
\$50-\$99.99

____ Grand Master's Circle
\$100 or more

LODGES & ORGANIZATIONS

____ Entered Apprentice
\$75-\$149.99

____ Fellow Craft
\$150-\$249.99

____ Master Mason
\$250 or more

Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 Hosts Pampered Chef

by Robert Furce

Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 in Easton hosted a Pampered Chef presentation by Christina Holms, the Worshipful Master's wife, before their Stated Communication in April. The lodge and the community enjoyed the informative program.

At their Stated Communication, the brothers performed an excellent EA degree for their annual evaluation.



District 1 Blue Lodge Council with the Grand Master

by Mark Hawkins

On Wednesday, April 26, Washington Lodge No. 19 was packed for the evening's District 1 Blue Lodge Council meeting. The brothers learned about MWGM Joseph J. Porco's roadmap for the upcoming year.

Growing membership and strengthening fellowship to help build upon that cornerstone of strength and stability were emphasized. The Craft is in great hands for this upcoming year.



District 2

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



Union Lodge No. 40 Welcomes RWB David McClain *by Daniel Nichols*

On April 18, Union Lodge No.40 in Danbury welcomed RWB David McClain with a District Deputy Reception. It is an honor to serve, and RWB McClain has shown his ability to lead.

The master of ceremonies was MWPGM George Greytak. MWB Joseph J. Porco gave RWB McClain his obligation. Then RWB McClain clothed his AGM WB Nathan Schoonover.

Before the ceremony was over, RWB McClain thanked the most important people in his life, his family, who support him and make his involvement in Masonry possible.



Union Lodge No. 40 Passes a Fellowcraft *by David A. McClain*

The evening of May 2 was wet and unseasonably cold, but spirits were high in Danbury as the brothers of Union Lodge No. 40 assembled. After another great meal prepared by the stewards, the brothers retired to the lodge room and passed Brother Tyler Poznick to the degree of Fellowcraft.

The ritual work was performed with SD John Zielger in the East, with a mix of veterans and first-time ritualists. It was a growth experience for all the brothers.

Union Lodge meets the first and third Tuesday of each month, dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.



Project Blue Wave Off to a Strong Start at Hiram Lodge No.18

by *Daniel Nichols*

On May 3, Hiram Lodge No. 18 in Sandy Hook held a Master Mason Degree. With four brothers to raise, they are off to a good start. But that's not the half of it.

Since the lodge has been reaching out to people that have shown interest, six men attended the dinner before the degree to get to know and meet the brothers. These men were able to see brothers conduct themselves and how they treat each other. They were able to see a glimpse of the fraternity.

These little moments are what make men realize how great the fraternity truly is. When someone expresses interest, contact them immediately and have them meet the brothers.



"Stagnation is death. If you don't change, you die. It's that simple. It's that scary." -- Leonard Sweet

St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 Attends Grand Master's Galas

by *Daniel Nichols*

On May 7, the gala dinner to honor Most Worshipful Grand Master Joseph J. Porco was held. It was a spectacular event as brothers from around the state gathered to show MWB Joe their support and congratulate him on his ascension to the Grand East.

It was a night of festivities and fun with fresh cigars rolled, and top-notch food served. Many brothers from the Grand Master's home district attended to make sure MWB Joe knows that District 2 will always be there for him.



WB Nathan Schoonover, RWB Peter Dolce and RWB Daniel Nichols.

DEE'S ANTIQUES

\$ PAYS \$ TOP DOLLAR ☛ 203-235-8431

BUYING Gold, Silver, Jewelry, Coins, Military Items, Musical Instruments, Old Advertising Signs & Memorabilia, Fishing & Hunting Equipment, Vintage Toys, Comic Books, Antique Furniture, Anything Old & Unusual

Serving Community & Family Respectfully for Over 50 Years

Call Thomas Spratta at 203-235-8431
600 West Main St., Meriden, CT 06451
TJS600@cox.net

*Wooster Lodge No. 10
A.F. & A.M.*

~ Since 1781 ~

*Serving the Community for
more than 240 years*

Officers of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF&AM ~ 2023-24



Front Row: L-R: Thomas J. Gondek, R.W. Grand Treasurer; F. Matthew Heinrich Jr., R.W. Grand Junior Deacon; Rinaldo F. Magliano Jr., R.W. Grand Junior Warden; Edward C. Page, R.W. Deputy Grand Master; Joseph J. Porco, Most Worshipful Grand Master; Les B. King, R.W. Grand Senior Warden; Shane Dufresne, R.W. Grand Senior Deacon; James M. Anderson, R.W. Grand Secretary.

Back Row L-R: Richard C. Memmott Jr., R.W. Grand Tiler; R.W. Brian E. Beals, Deputy Grand Treasurer; W.B. Frederick A. Marotti, Associate Grand Tiler; R.W. Gregory K. Whitehouse, Deputy Grand Secretary; Nicholas H. Ives, R.W. Grand Junior Steward; Matthew F. Griffin, R.W. Grand Senior Steward; Mark H. Hawkins, R.W. Grand Marshal; Christopher J. Earle, R.W. Grand Chaplain; Gary Graham, R.W. Grand Organist; Carl H. Anderson, R.W. Grand Almoner.

Below: Grand Lodge Officers not in group photo above.



Andrew R. Melillo
R.W. Grand Historian



Michael S. Abrahamson
Associate Grand Tiler



Daniel W. Nichols
Associate Grand Tiler



Robert F. Polito
Assistant to the
Grand Master

District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals 2022-2023



District Deputy
RW James C. Peters
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Theodore L. Thomas



District Deputy
RW David B. Urbam
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Waldemar Jimenez



District Deputy
RW Timothy R. Quinn
Associate Grand Marshal
W.B. Robert J. Furce



District Deputy
RW Peter W. Dolce
Associate Grand Marshal
WB John J. Arizzi



District Deputy
RW David A. McClain
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Nathan D. Schoonover



District Deputy
RW Peter B. Keefe
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Stephen T. Saxton



District Deputy
RW Jack J. Baril, Jr.
Associate Grand Marshal
WB John J. Papp



District Deputy
RW Glenn A. Jacques
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Francis P. Barnes



District Deputy
RW Konstantinos Antoniou
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Christopher J. Reilly



District Deputy
RW Robert J. Kovi
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Kevin F. Weirsman



District Deputy
RW Thomas A. Transue
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Douglas A. Ross



District Deputy
RW Frank Dlugoleski
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Michael K. Butteri

District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals 2023-2024



District Deputy
RW Gregory Jay Stump
Associate Grand Marshal
WB David G. Larsen



District Deputy
RW Thomas A. Duclos
Associate Grand Marshal
WB John H. LeDoux, Jr.



District Deputy
RW Steven F. Saehrig
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Kurt T. O'Neil



District Deputy
RW Michael B. Schaefer
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Andrew S. Warren



District Deputy
RW John E. Stogden
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Jason A. Fletcher



District Deputy
RW Phillip E. Rathbun
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Eric C. Donch



District Deputy
RW Richard S. Bruyere
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Eric S. Bruyere



District Deputy
RW Robert P. Malt
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Geoffrey J. Holmes



Associate Grand Almoners 2023-2024



Associate Grand Almoner
WB Adam J. Plotnick
District 1



Associate Grand Almoner
Bro. Paul J. Garavel
District 2



Associate Grand Almoner
WB Kenneth R. Tarwood, Jr.
District 3



Associate Grand Almoner
RW Gary E. Cohen
District 4



Associate Grand Almoner
WB Rudolph L. Cabata
District 5



Associate Grand Almoner
WB Mark Fernandes
District 6



Associate Grand Almoner
RW Raymond E. Moore
District 7



Associate Grand Almoner
WB Fred R. Driscoll
District 8



Associate Grand Almoner
RW Christopher T. Carrott
District 9

Book Review: *From Paratrooper to Public Defender*

by **Melvin E. Johnson**

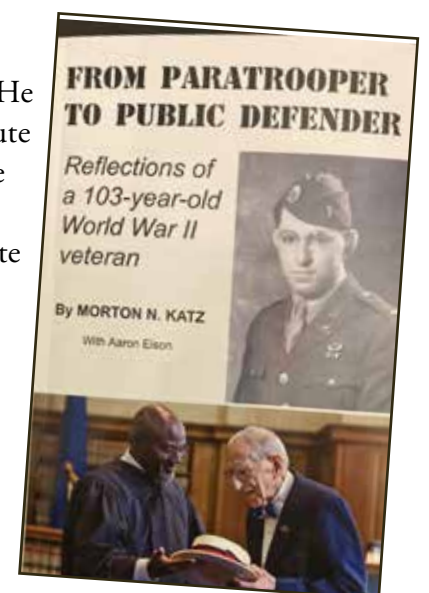
From Paratrooper to Public Defender is a book by RWB Morton N. Katz. I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing RWB Mort for many years as we are both members of Wyllys St. John's Lodge No. 4. Therefore, when I discovered that he has authored a book on his reminiscences, I immediately ordered a copy. Reading it is more like listening to RWB Mort enthral me with stories of his incredibly interesting life than reading a biography. It is filled with personal remembrance of events that were sometimes exciting, occasionally terrifying, often amusing, and many times poignant.

He had received a Commission through the Citizens Military Training Camp as his chemistry labs interfered with his continuing through Advanced ROTC. While working on his master's degree at Iowa State College, he was attending a meeting in the Student Union on December 7, 1941, when he learned of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and four days later received orders to report to Fort Benning.

His career as a paratrooper began when he signed an attendance sheet for a briefing about Parachute School, only to discover that

in so doing, he had volunteered. He became part of the 509th Parachute Infantry in North Africa, and one of his first training jumps almost became his last when his parachute malfunctioned, finally opening too close to the ground, but he avoided injury.

He served throughout the African Campaign and was part of the invasion force landing at Anzio (where he was awarded a Bronze Star). He saw combat in the Italian campaign, Southern France, the Rhineland, and the Battle of the Bulge. The 509th ended that battle with seven officers and 43 enlisted men still standing. The unit was disbanded, and RWB Mort became part of the 505th in the 82nd Airborne



Continued on page 21

CT Widows Sons on the Move as Weather Warms *by Rob Wallace*

The CT Widows Sons took full advantage of the perfect weather on the first weekend in May. On Saturday, May 6, they rode to Massachusetts to gather with Widows Sons from Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. The five states supported a suicide prevention ride that took them to the Minute Man National Park and Old North Bridge.

On Sunday, May 7, they and their Ladies were out again, this time supporting the Pyramid Shrine Motorcycle Club and their poker run. It was a great weekend of brotherhood and fellowship.

If you're interested in joining us in our fun, find us at ctwidowssons.org and reach out.



Book Review: From Paratrooper to Public Defender *continued from page 20*

Division. He includes many personal observations regarding the officers with whom he served and events that made a special impression. Two of the most poignant were the liberation of the Wobbelin concentration camp and his being given the honor of reading the first blessing at the reading of the Torah when the principal synagogue in Berlin was re-consecrated after having been closed and desecrated by the Nazis.

He went on to law school and a career as a Public Defender and Magistrate, retiring at the age of 100. He remained in the Army Reserves and retired in 1972 as a Colonel. He was born on May 15, 1919 (Straw Hat Day), and will be turning 104 shortly after my writing of this review.

He was initiated as an EA on May 2, 1962, passed to FC on June 20, 1962, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 7, 1962. He served Wyllys Lodge No. 99 as Worshipful Master in 1976 and as District Deputy of Masonic District 6A in 1984 and 1985. He also served six terms as Chairman of the Trial Commission and received the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze on June 17, 2013.

I heartily recommend this outstanding set of personal observations that cover an important period of our history from a remarkable brother Mason who has served both his country and Freemasonry with great distinction. The 92-page book is available at Amazon.

District 3

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

King Hiram Lodge No. 12 “Pumps” Up Donations to Scouts

by *Eric Iken*

On Saturday, May 6, King Hiram Lodge No. 12 sponsored and participated in the Sporting Clay Event Fundraiser benefiting the Housatonic Council of Scouts BSA. The weather was great, and the event was well attended.

After the event, WB Blair Richardson set up a shotgun cleaning station that resulted in an additional \$440 in donations for Housatonic Council!



Worshipful Bunny Visits Seneca Lodge No. 55

by *Matthew Kuhr*

On Saturday, April 15, Seneca Lodge No. 55 in Torrington held its “Hop into Spring” family party. Members of IORG Hope Assembly and surrounding lodges came together to celebrate as one big Masonic family!

Hamburgers and hotdogs were served along with an assortment of sides while the

kids searched the lodge for hidden eggs. There was an egg decorating contest, musical chairs, and a special appearance of the Worshipful Bunny.

Thank you to everyone who joined us; we hope to see you at the next family gathering.



Seneca Lodge No. 55 Cleans Up Torrington

by *Matthew Kuhr*

On April 22, Earth Day, families of Seneca Lodge and IORG Hope Assembly did their part in aiding Torrington's Conservation Commission by cleaning up parts of the community. Led by WM Rob Namias, the Namias, Vaill, and Kuhr families descended upon Besse Pond and the area around the high school. They removed multiple bags of trash from the park. Seneca Brother Frank treated the diligent workers to Gatorade and snacks after the event.



District 5

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



Friendship Lodge No. 33 Debuts New Community Volunteer Shirts

by *Michael Leser*

To boast visibility and volunteerism in the community, Friendship Lodge No. 33 in Southington unveiled their custom-made community volunteer shirts for a town-wide cleanup event on Earth Day, April 22. Eight brothers led by volunteer coordinator SW Mike Leser posed in front of the lodge for a few photos, then headed to the town's Pollinator Garden to help spread mulch at the town-wide event.



Unity Lodge No. 148 Celebrates Teacher Appreciation Week

by Hiram Morales

An investment in youth is an investment in the future. As educators continue to battle with the troubling effects that virtual learning had on these young minds, they provide more than just teaching lessons. They provide council to troubled youth, comfort for those less fortunate, and arbitrate when conflicts arise. The many responsibilities of a teaching staff can become frustrating and exhausting.

For this reason, Unity Lodge No. 148 began providing snacks and drinks for the staff as an appreciation of their hard work. It started with one school (Vance Elementary School) last year and this year has grown to three schools, adding Jefferson Elementary School & Slade Middle School, with hopes of adding additional schools every year.



Unity Lodge No. 148 Enjoys Couples Night

by Hiram Morales

The brothers of Unity Lodge No. 148 enjoyed a lovely evening with their ladies for Unity Lodge's 2nd annual Couples Night event. It was again held at J.Timothy's Taverne, which did an amazing job putting together a buffet dinner that was enjoyed by all.

Giving the brothers the opportunity to join their significant others in a more relaxed environment has been a huge success. All are looking forward to next year!



District 4

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

Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 Raises Three New Master Masons

by William Roots

During a recently stated communication, three Fellowcrafts were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason at Ansantawae Lodge, No. 89, in Milford. Ansantawae's Worshipful Master Ryan Elblein raised Brothers Steven Narvaez, William Hall, III, and Glen Rosengrant.

Bros. Steven Narvaez, William Hall, III, Bro. Glen Rosengrant, and WM Ryan Elblein.



District 6

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



Harmony Lodge No. 241, Queens, NY Visits Wyllys St. John's No. 4

by Melvin E. Johnson

On Saturday, April 15, thirteen brothers from Harmony Lodge No. 241, led by WM Brian Budhram, drove from Queens, NY to Wyllys St. John's Lodge No. 4 to present a demonstration of the EA Degree using NY ritual. The brothers of Wyllys St. John's Lodge who hosted them were treated to an outstanding demonstration of both floor work and lecture delivery. All three of the EA lectures were presented, as well as a Bible presentation lecture.

This was followed by a discussion of some of the key differences in both the floorwork and lectures. It was an outstanding afternoon of Masonic fellowship. WB Nick Koziara expressed our gratitude to WB Gregory Matthaey, who arranged the visit and is a member of both lodges, as well as to the brothers from Queens who spent their Saturday driving up and back as well as making the presentation.

We all agreed they set a high standard for us to aspire to in our upcoming EA Degree.



Washington Lodge No. 70 News

by Robert Dodge

Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor held a very successful Invite-A-Friend Night on Friday, April 14. This event was spearheaded by WB Mark Fernandes, Associate Grand Almoner, and Membership Committee Chairman Michael Lawler Jr. Almost 40 brothers and wives from Washington Lodge brought ten men interested in learning more about Freemasonry. Everyone enjoyed a meal, and WB Fernandes made a presentation on the history of Freemasonry, the benefits of the Fraternity, and what makes Washington Lodge No. special. Guest speaker Rev. Brother Carl Anderson, Grand Almoner, spoke about Masonic care, their history, and all the great programs they have to offer. WM Robert Dodge spoke about the importance of events that include our wives, special someones, families, and friends. RWB F. Matthew Heinrich Jr., Grand Junior Deacon, gave closing remarks.

On Monday, April 24, the lodge passed Bro. James Durant to the degree of Fellowcraft. WM Robert Dodge presided in the East, the Work Tools were explained by SS Jeremy Gaffney, the Staircase Lecture by SD Victor Barile, the "G" Lecture was presented by WB Mark Keenan, and the Charge by JD Michael Lawler Jr.

To conclude April, the lodge hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive. This was their first since COVID-19, but it continued the long-standing history of hosting three to four drives a year. WB Ronald Eleveld chaired the event with the assistance of WM Robert Dodge and 18 brothers.

Special thanks to Cassidy Roach, who took orders and ran food from the kitchen while the Culinary Team in the kitchen served up breakfast to order.

The lodge exceeded the minimum of pints required to continue Saturday blood drives.



Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 134 Inspires with Fellowcraft Degree *by Arnie Grot*

Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 in Manchester performed a Fellowcraft Degree on Thursday, April 27. Three brothers were passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. WM John DiCioccio, Jr., opened and closed the lodge and received RWB Thomas A. Duclos, District Deputy Masonic District 6B, and WB John H. LeDoux, Jr., Associate Grand Marshal, as part of the lodge's annual evaluation.

The degree was splendidly performed, by SW Joe Greico, Jr., in the East in keeping with lodge tradition for the FC Degree. Friendship Tuscan Lodge was assisted by Columbia Lodge No. 25, with JW Deepak Saluru as SD, and Secretary WB Walter Grube presenting the Middle Chamber lecture.

RWB Gary Graham, Grand Organist, performed music during the degree, including an inspirational solemn rendition of "Three Blind Mice" during the circumambulation.



(l-r) RWB Thomas A. Duclos, Bro. Jesse Chadwick, WM John DiCioccio, Jr., Bro. Bismark Amedzro, Bro. Keith Victor, and WB John H. LeDoux, Jr.

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 News *by Pat Jones*

Busy and active best describes spring 2023 for the brothers of Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88, including two District Deputy receptions, a Ladies at Table event, and an Entered Apprentice degree. Looking ahead, the brothers are considering a merger with another lodge and a Fellow Craft club trip to a Yard Goats baseball game sponsored by the Scottish Rite. The brothers are also feeling proud to be chosen as one of the lodges to launch the "Blue Wave."

On Saturday morning, April 15, there was a District Deputy Reception at Uriel Lodge No. 24 for RWB Robert Malt, appointed District Deputy of Masonic District 9B. Brother Patrick Jones, Secretary of Hartford Evergreen Lodge, offered felicitations, as RWB Malt is a Past Master of Hartford Evergreen Lodge.

On that same day, the lodge held a Ladies at Table event attended by approximately 20 brothers and their ladies. WM Brian Warren served as Master of Ceremonies, JW Khamp Phimvongsa provided a tasty and elaborate dinner which included medallion steaks and baked stuffed scrod, and Brothers DeShawn Morris and Duane Mason did a superb job of serving and helping in the kitchen. Numerous brothers gave toasts to the significant women in their lives.



On Monday, April 17, the lodge portrayed an Entered Apprentice Degree. Candidates Kirt Ciantar and Kirk Monstream were initiated. The Stewards Lecture was presented by Bros. Steve Rucki and Khamp Phimvongsa, and the Working Tools by Bro. Don Robertson. Bro. Chris Packer-McCarthy did a masterful job with the charge.

In other news, Bro. Chris and his wife, Gnan, recently enjoyed the arrival of their third child, a beautiful seven-pound baby girl, Cira.

Finally, in May, Brother Duane Mason was named "Mason of the Year" for the 9th Masonic District. He is a member of Fayette Lodge No. 69 and an affiliate member of Hartford Evergreen Lodge.

Presentation of Thomas A. Duclos, District Deputy Masonic District 6B

by Arnie Grot

On Saturday, April 22, a reception for RWB Thomas A. Duclos and WB John H. Ledoux, Jr., was held at their home Lodge, Composite Lodge No. 28 in Suffield.

WM Andy Work opened the program and called on Presiding Officer RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., and Marshal-in-Chief RWB Eric Hoy to conduct the ceremonies. MWGM Joseph J. Porco and many current and past Grand Lodge officers attended.

A color guard from Washington Commandery No. 1, KT, presented the American flag. The three Knights Templar in the color guard are all Past Masters of Composite Lodge. MWB Porco gave the charge to RWB Duclos. Near the end of the program, MWGM Joseph J. Porco shared how his Masonic journey has improved his character and changed his perspective.

Refreshments and fellowship followed.



*Color Guard, SKs Bill Zimmerman, Dean Gousse,
and Chuck Jewart.*



*WB John H. Ledoux, Jr, RWB Thomas A. Duclos,
and RWB Eric Hoy.*



MWGM Joseph J. Porco and Grand Lodge officers.



*MWGM Joseph J. Porco giving the charge to
RWB Thomas A. Duclos.*



*MWGM Joseph J. Porco addresses
the gathering.*

District 7

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



A Full House at Warren Lodge No. 51

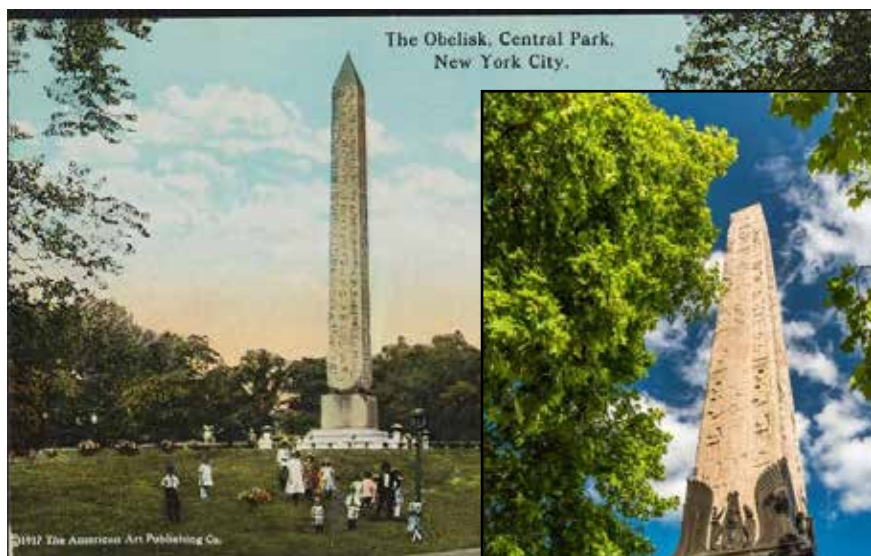
by Jeffrey A Blayman

After a fine evening of a festive board and fellowship at the Portland Ale House, the brothers walked to the lodge, enjoying the beautiful weather. Warren Lodge No. 51 was opened and set at ease for a distinguished guest speaker from the Masonic Lodge of Research, Bro. Jaime Pearson.

He elucidated on the “Missing Link in Freemasonry,” Cleopatra’s Needles, which are a pair of ancient Egyptian obelisks, now separated, in London and New York City. The obelisks were originally made in Heliopolis (modern Cairo) during the New Kingdom period, inscribed by the 18th dynasty pharaoh Thutmose III and 19th dynasty pharaoh Ramesses II. They were later moved to the Caesareum of Alexandria, which had been conceived by Ptolemaic Queen Cleopatra VII, for whom the obelisks are named. They stood in Alexandria for almost two millennia until they were re-erected in London and New York City in 1877 and 1881, respectively. The Masonic symbolism held within the base of the structure leaves no doubt as to a connection.

With brothers attending from Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116, Solar Lodge No. 131, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88, Wooster Lodge No. 10, and Anchor Lodge No. 112, the room was full of interest and fervor. As the evening drew to a close, brothers said their goodbyes and exchanged dates of mutual importance-- the coming months having a multitude of degrees and celebrations throughout the state.

If you would like to join us at Warren Lodge on a third Thursday, please feel free to reach out. RSVP by phone at (860) 334-5277 to WM Jeff.



Grand Senior Deacon Returns Historical Item to Jephtha Lodge No. 95

by *Shane Dufresne*

On April 11, I visited Jephtha Lodge No. 95 in Clinton to bring a historical item back to them. The brothers warmly greeted me, and they proceeded to show me some of their historical items in a section of the museum in the Clinton Town Hall, where Jephtha has met on the top floor since 1938. They also pointed out some other significant historical buildings within sight of Town Hall. I also was given some history of the Town of Clinton. Rightfully so, the brothers of Jephtha are proud of their town, their lodge, and their history.

When it was time for the presentation, I met RWB John Main, the Worshipful Master of Jephtha, on the level in the East. I turned over the Past Master jewel belonging to Lucius K. Stevens, who was Master of Jephtha Lodge in 1909. I explained to RWB Main and the other brothers that my best friend, the last RWB Martin Macary, and I would locate personal Masonic items on E-bay, in antique stores, or at flea markets. We would then bring them to the lodge to put with their other historical items.

RWB Macary located this Past Master Jewel in an antique store not far from Jephtha Lodge in late 2022. We had planned to bring it to them after the New Year. Unfortunately, Marty passed away unexpectedly on January 25. While recently going through some of Marty's Masonic items with his widow Terry, I came across the jewel and explained the circumstances to Terry. She replied, "You need to bring it to the lodge." On behalf of RWB Marty, the jewel was returned home.



Closeup of the jewel.



(l-r) RWB Shane Dufresne, Grand Senior Deacon; RWB John Main, Master of Jephtha Lodge

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.



Moosup Lodge No. 113 Table Lodge Tribute to Ben Franklin

by **Brian Keith**

Thunder rumbled menacingly through the blackened lodge room, followed by a flash of lightning in the west. The chandeliers flickered and threw a dim light, revealing two men standing side by side, flying a kite in the maelstrom.

"Aren't you afraid?" asked William Franklin. "Afraid?" replied his father, Benjamin, "What is there to fear? Nature is God's creation, and in God, we trust!" With that, a large stroke of lightning and a squealing crack of thunder filled the room. Beside the two, a key enclosed in a mason jar began glowing with an electrical discharge. "Huzzah!" enthused the elder Franklin. "We have done it! Lightning in a bottle!" And with that, the Moosup Table Lodge had reached its crescendo and completion.

Widely regarded as the preeminent table lodge in the state, and perhaps anywhere, the Moosup Lodge No. 113 table lodge combines elaborate props, play-acting, and a subject that venerates a Masonic person or premise. This year's theme, Prometheus, honored MWB Benjamin Franklin, who, in his time, was referred to as "The Modern Day Prometheus" for his experiments in electricity. Each guest was presented with the customary toasting glass and a commemorative slate coaster, laser engraved with the evening's lightning bolt insignia.

"The lodge east is Tun Tavern," explained WB Chris Britland, who acted as William Franklin. "Three of us took a trip to Philadelphia to visit Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania before coming up with the decorations and theme. Ben Franklin belonged to the first lodge in Philadelphia – St. John's Lodge No. 1 – and they originally met in the Tun Tavern."

Brother Bill Nagel, who portrayed MWB Franklin himself, stood before a full-sized replica of the Liberty Bell in the south and joked, "I think the guys are mad at me. I asked

how I could help when we were building the props, and they told me to work on the bell – but I accidentally cracked it!"

"Each table lodge has a memento that everyone signs," explained RWB Bob Raymond. "We've had swords, gladiator helmets, bells; you name it. This year, we all signed the Declaration of Independence. We framed it, and it's hanging on the wall in our anteroom with all the other mementos. They give us a living record of each event and everyone who was there."

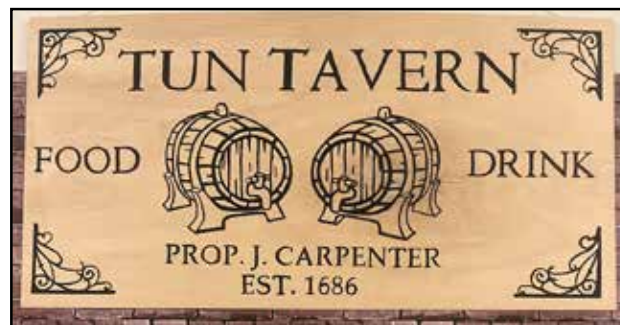
With the last morsel served and the last toast made, the festive board was complete, and the sell-out crowd stood to applaud the servers, actors, and kitchen crew, who once more



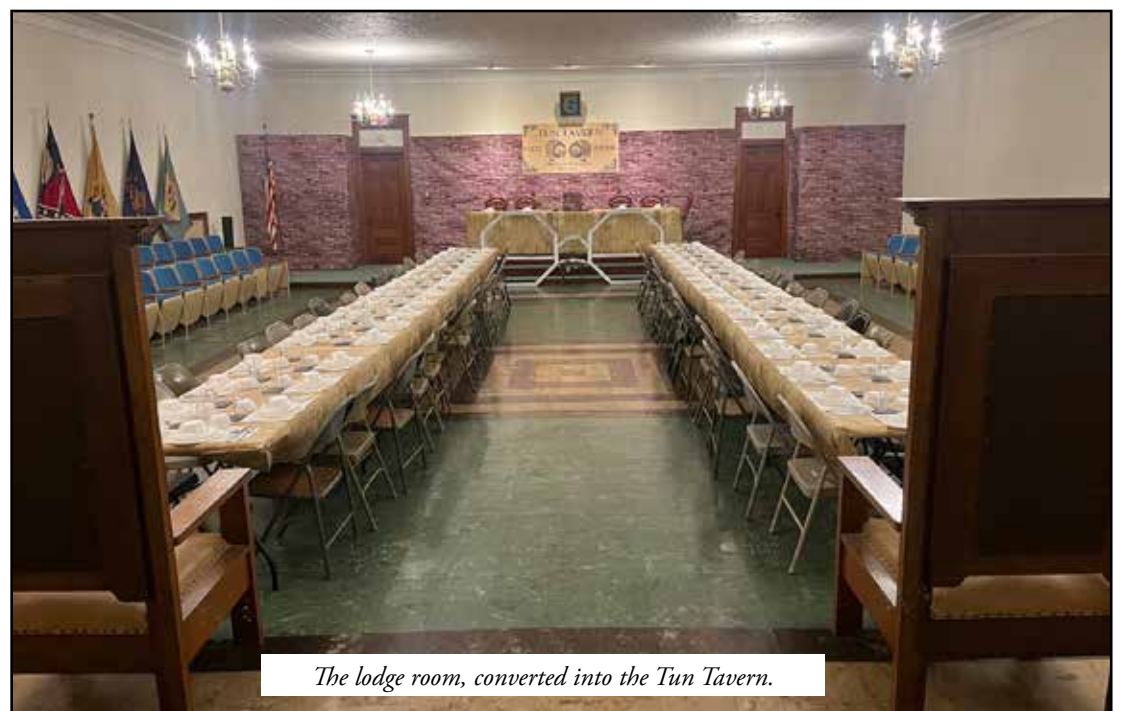
A replica of the Liberty Bell rests in the south.

made the Moosup Lodge table lodge an evening to remember. RWB Edward Page, Deputy Grand Master, remarked, "There is nothing anywhere like a Moosup table lodge. It's not just a table lodge – it's an event!"

Make it a point to come to the next table lodge for a night to remember always.



Tun Tavern sign hand painted by WB Tim Fitzhugh.



The lodge room, converted into the Tun Tavern.

Sphinx and Pyramid Shrines Hold Joint Ceremonial

by Eric Pogg

On May 6, Sphinx and Pyramid Shrines held a joint Ceremonial at Brainard Lodge No. 102 in Niantic. Fourteen new Nobles were created. The new Nobles were also treated to a presentation by Shriners Children's New England.

Congratulations to all the new Nobles!



The Presentation of Kostatinous Antoniou was celebrated at Compass Lodge No. 9 in Wallingford with a large group of brothers to cheer him on in his new position representing the Grand Master.



Ouroboros Lodge No. 151 invited the president of the Wallingford Historical Society to tell them more about the long history of Freemasonry in our lodge's town.

Family Owned & Operated Since 1972



AUTO REPAIR INC.

Foreign & Domestic Repairs

Paul Locicero

860-646-5036 Fax: 860-646-1552
174 West Center Street • Manchester

www.pp-autorepair.com

ppautopaul@yahoo.com



Since 1995!

"The Sky is the Limit II" Skydiving Fundraiser

Saturday, June 24, 2023
10 am - 3 pm

DEADLINE TO
REGISTER
TO DIVE IS
NOW!

Raise \$500
or More and
Dive for
FREE

To support New England Donor Services (NEDS).

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

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

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

- Online by credit card by visiting our www.ctfreemasons.net website. Click "About Us," then click "Connecticut Freemasons Foundation" and "Donate" where you can pay by **Credit or Debit Card**. Use the Grand Almoner's fund selection as to where the funds should be directed. Under "Write a Note" indicate "Skydiving for Masonic Donor Program."

- Checks should be made out to "The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation" and mailed to 69 Masonic Avenue, Wallingford, CT 06492. Your registration is not complete until payment is received. In memo please note "Skydiving for Masonic Donor Program."

Can't dive? Come join us for a festive time as we cheer on the divers as they land. There will be prizes, food provided by Rainbow for Girls, and fellowship. If a brother from your lodge is jumping earlier, feel free to come early!

The location is Ellington Airport, 360 Somers Road, Ellington, CT. **Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your jump and check in.** If weather is questionable, call ahead to the Ellington Airport - 860.871.0021. **Rain date: June 25.** For questions call: **Bro. Bruce Fagan at 203.417.8031 or email AnchorLodge112@outlook.com.**



Grand Lodge session brings a lot of people together. Brothers and their wives enjoy a little hospitality at the Grand Lodge dinner.



After a long ceremony downstairs, the brothers of Meridian Lodge No. 77 cool off on the roof with a glass of refreshment.

BOOSTERS

Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: May 15, 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.

Daniel P. Alexander	William H. Flagg	Bill & Sandie Greene	John Novak	Arthur R. Tinsz
Roger & Linda Bissell	Leonard W. Finegold	Pete Kenyon	Paul S. Patterson*	Scott Werner
Gary A. Byram	Aubrey V. Fisher	Karl King	Jamie Pearson	Richard R. Washburn
Sam S.F. Caligiuri	Michael & Melinda Fitting	A. Richard Kirschner*	Robert F. Polito, Jr.	Andrew G. Weimann II
Alexander Campana	John W. Ford*	Kenneth H. Kirschner*	Joseph J. Porco	Charles & Barbara Yohe
Lowell H. Cantor	Howard, Steve & Keith Franson	Charles & Gloria Klein	Michael S. Shear*	Andy Zeidler
Carlton R. & Susan A. Csiki	Robert Furce	Paul Locicero	Gail N. Smith	
Lester Culver, Jr.	Thomas J. Gondek	Rinaldo & Mary Magliano	Stuart M. Smith	
Shane Dufresne*	Andy Goodhall	Kurt Maehlenbrock	George A. Stickels	

GRAND BOOSTERS (\$50 - \$99.99)

Douglas T. Barrett	Robert Griffith	Scott A. Mantz	Edwin J. Phelps, Jr.	Gerald F. Thompson
Judd S. Blaze	Walter Grube	James Maxwell	Clinton Potter	Dean True
James Cockerille	David Hocking	Jesse J. Meeker	John R. Ranney	Doug Turner
James W. D'Acosta	Joseph O. Hoefflinger	Raymond E. Moore	Wayne Rettburg	Gordon Willoughby
Jack Dilks*	Benjamin Isaacson	C. Frederick Neuffer	Charles A. Rogers	H. Frederick Wintsch
Ralph W. Ely, III	John R. Kinkade	Frederick Newberth	John H. Spencer	
Earl S. Evans	Robert J. Knowles	Robert Peck	Rodney A. Spooner	
Matthew F. Griffin	Donald G. Maehlenbrock	Lewis Pennell	John A. Sturges	

LODGES & ORGANIZATIONS

MASTER MASON LEVEL \$250 +

Ansantawae Lodge No. 89
 Corinthian Lodge No. 63
 CT Widows Sons Masonic Riders Assoc.
 King Hiram Lodge No. 12

Fellowcraft Level \$150 - \$249

Ashlar Lodge No. 332
 Garibaldi Masonic Club

Entered Apprentice Level \$75 - \$149

Anchor Lodge No. 112
 Coastal Lodge No. 57
 Columbia Lodge No. 25
 Evening Star Lodge No. 101

BOOSTER (\$25 - \$49.99)

Robert Andrews	Gordon Hurlbert	Anton Petras	Robert J. Shopey, II
Ken Buckbee	Roger Knickerbocker	Martin Rudnick	Robert J. Shopey, III
Ward M. Edgerton	Richard Sr. & Wendy Memmott	George P. Rutherford, Jr.	William T. Shopey
Victor S. George	Sandra Osten*	Darrel Scribner	Gerald Usher
Gordon R. Hallberg	Glenn K. Pennell	Robert J. Shopey, Sr.	In Memory of Mario Accornero

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.



YOUR BRAIN HEALTH:

Sleep, Memory & Movement Disorders

SAVE THE DATE

June 1, 2023 - 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Masonicare at Ashlar Village, Hartog Center, Knapp Auditorium



Join us for an evening with experts from Hartford HealthCare's Ayer Neuroscience Institute for educational discussion and Q&A.

The panel will lead you on a journey inside the inner workings of the human brain including:

Memory Care

What is part of normal aging and what is not

Brain Games

How to keep your mind healthy and active

Sleep

Importance of sleep and effects on the brain

Movement Disorders

Signs, symptoms and how to manage certain conditions



Q&A

After the presentation



Registration is Open!

Visit bit.ly/YourBrain2023 or scan the QR code to RSVP.



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

Masonicare 
An Ageless Commitment to Caring