



July/August 2023

Connecticut FREEMASONS

**GRAND MASTERS DAY & MASONIC FAMILY DAY
at MASONICARE on JUNE 10, 2023**



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

2023- 2024 Officers of the Grand Lodge Af & AM of Connecticut



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

Grand Masters Day June 2023.....	3
Photos: Grand Masters Day & Masonic Family Day.....	1, 3, 9, 16, 34, 35
Changes in Connecticut Freemasons Newspaper Distribution	4
Congratulations to Our 50-year Brothers!	4
Welcome to Our New Brothers	4
Grand Master's Message - Joseph J. Porco	5
Grand Chaplain's Corner	6
Called by The Grand Architect... 6Grand Master's Appeal, Connecticut Freemasons Foundation	7
We Are Your Masonicare	8
From the Desk of Jon-Paul Venoit.....	9
Valley of Hartford, AASR.....	10
In Memoriam - Ill. Brother David R. Blythe, Sr., 33°	10
Lafayette Consistory	11
Sphinx & Pyramid Shriners.....	12
Jennifer King Honored by Masonicare with Lockwood Medal	13
Pyramid Shriners March for Needy Children.....	14
Pyramid Shriners Shine at the Monroe Bicentennial Celebration.....	14
Masonicare at Ashlar Village Residents' Scholarship Fund.....	15
Pyramid Shriners Golf Tournament	15
Officers of the Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut, 2023-24	17
District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals 2023-24.....	18 -19
Masonic Moments,.....	19 & 22
Associate Grand Almoners, AF & AM, 2023-24	20
District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	20-25
Masonic Impacts	26
Booster Lists	27
District 6, 7, 9	28-33
Your Masonic Record is Now Online!	34
Masonicare: CareConnect.....	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 Amarillos

Jeffrey A. Blayman

Bill Buckbee

Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Patrick J. W. Chagnon

Jeff Davis

William L. Greene

Sandie Greene

Arnie Grot

Patrick Jones

Steve Lewis

Stan Mackiewicz

Daniel W. Nichols

Joseph J. Porco

Eric Pogg

Jon-Paul Venoit

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

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

Grand Masters Day June 2023

by Francis G. Way

On June 10, the fraternity again celebrated Grand Masters Day at the Wallingford campus of Masonicare. WMB Joseph J. Porco, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge AF&AM of Connecticut, and MWB Alfred J. Grady, Jr., Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F&AM of Connecticut, were welcomed and honored at the gala event.

The day began with a parade, a part of Grand Masters Day that always delights the residents and featured food, fun, ceremonies, and awards.

The July/August edition of the Connecticut Freemasons prominently features Grand Masters Day, and this year there are several articles and many photos that capture the special day's event for posterity.

If you've never been to Grand Masters Day, make plans to attend next year, for it is an event not to be missed.

GRAND MASTERS DAY & MASONIC FAMILY DAY at MASONICARE on JUNE 10, 2023



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

From: Grand Treasurer
69 Masonic Avenue
Wallingford, CT 06492



203.679.5903
grandlodge@ctfreemasons.net

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.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

Compass Lodge No. 9
Taras Dumansky

Morning Star Lodge No. 47
Mark Thayer Goodfellow, Jr.

Temple Lodge No. 16
Christopher Anthony Jones

Ansantawae Lodge No. 89
William Smith Hall, III
Steven G. Narvaez
Glen Terry Rosengrant

Harmony Lodge No. 42
Colten C. Matthews
Wilfram R. Beniquez

Granite Lodge No. 119
Dylan Partick Kessler

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

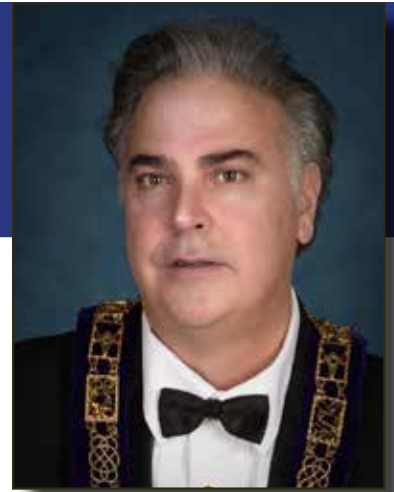
David E. Haynes
Harmony Lodge No. 42

Anthony J. Pulcinella
Corinthian Lodge No. 63



Grand Master's Message

by MWB Joseph J. Porco



A warm greeting to all.

I begin this message by recognizing that the end of May and the onset of June delivered us the sad news of the unexpected loss of loved ones within our Masonic family. We first pause for those that have suffered a loss. On behalf of all the Grand Lodge Officers and myself, please know our thoughts and heartfelt prayers remain with our brethren and their families during this difficult time.

Your Grand Master, Grand Line Officers, District Deputies, and Committees of the Grand Lodge are working very hard to present new opportunities for positive outcomes for your lodge. We know that the membership program is now delivering a substantial number of inquiries to every district in the State. Please follow through on every opportunity placed at your doorstep.

On June 5, our Acquisition & Retention Chairmen hosted Project Blue Wave's review meeting and announced that results from the digital awareness outreach efforts have been so successful that a second wave of lodges is required to handle the volume of inquiries. By July 1, approximately 600 men in our communities have expressed interest in Freemasonry. We expect the pace of inquiries to continue.

To address the surge of expressed interest and in anticipation of an upcoming increase in Entered Apprentice Degree work, I issued a dispensation on June 7 containing several provisions to assist lodges in the handling of this work. This dispensation was posted on Grand View. Your District Deputies were briefed, and they will keep Worshipful Masters informed regarding other announcements over the summer. The balance of the summer and early fall will be a very busy time for many of our lodges and, hopefully, a time of great exuberance and fellowship. Any lodge that needs help with inquiry management or degree work, please call your District Deputy and/or Grand Line Officer. Lodges desiring to participate in the second wave of Project Blue Wave's orientation should contact your District Deputy as soon as possible.

It was great to see so many of you attend Grand Master's Day on June 10. As always, it was well organized. Considerable attention goes into the planning for this event and its festivities. A big "Thank You" to RWB Carl Anderson and his team for their hard work, which made the day so pleasant. It is a special day for our Masonic Family to enjoy and an opportunity to recognize the generous philanthropy of our donors. Additionally, we are given an opportunity to express gratitude to the core team of workers and praise for the leadership team that keeps our wonderful Masonicare facility delivering the 'best of care and services' to its residents. Most

importantly, the day is an opportunity for the fraternity to come together to express their gratitude, support and to let our residents know how valued they are!

The third week of June presented the opportunity for me to represent our Jurisdiction in Washington, D.C. which marked the 300th Anniversary of the 1723 Constitutions of the Free-Masons. It was an honor for me to participate in this historical event, and I will report on it in a subsequent issue.

Thus far, I have had the pleasure of visiting every district in the state, some districts more than once. In every case, in every place where I visited, brothers are energized, optimistic, and on fire with motivation to assist their lodge.

As Masons, we are all called to be light bearers in service to the Grand Architect. We seek to be of greater service to the Almighty, to one another, and to our communities in which we live. It is for this reason that we desire growth and the strengthening of our lodges. Engaging in service to others enriches our own lives. The teachings of Freemasonry repeatedly make these points very clear. Are we listening?

Remember, The Grand Architect is working behind the scenes to equip, strengthen and prepare us. 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, continue to lift your brothers up. Share the light of this understanding. When a new brother joins your lodge, help him move beyond feeling included. Help him know that he belongs.

Fraternally,

Bro. Joseph J. Porco

M.W. Grand Master



Grand Chaplain's Corner

by Christopher J. Earle, Grand Chaplain



“Are There Any Questions?”

Several years ago, I heard the story of the theology student who, whenever someone lecturing or speaking, ended their remarks with, “Are there any questions?”, he would raise his hand and ask the speaker, “What is the meaning of life?” While this was often met with disdain or derision, the student persisted in doing this as he wouldn’t allow ridicule to cause him to miss the opportunity of receiving a serious answer.

As chance would have it, one day, he was listening to a chemistry lecture, and the professor ended his prepared remarks with, “Are there any questions?” With that, our would-be theologian raised his hand and, when recognized, asked, with all seriousness, “What is the meaning of life?” While the question was met by the usual groans and laughter, the professor was carefully watching the young man and realized that he was in earnest in his query. After the hubbub died down, the professor paused, reached into his wallet, and pulled out a

small mirror. He used the mirror to catch the light from one of the lamps in the lecture hall and reflect it into a dark corner of the room.

As the class watched this, he said, “To me, the meaning of life is to shine light into the dark places. Once those places are no longer dark, then truth can live there. Does that answer your question?”

Many places in Scripture relate Light and Truth, and one of my favorites is Matthew Chapter 5, verse 16, in the King James Version of the Bible. I know that I used this verse last issue when discussing The Sermon on the Mount: “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Some things are worth repeating. Are there any questions?

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

Harold R. Chick
Compass Lodge No. 9

Robert Joseph Coollick
Ionic Lodge No. 110

Peter S. Copeland
John J. Mendillo
Day Spring Lodge No. 30

Robert Moore Eldridge
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Edward Robert Ham
America St. Johns Lodge No. 8

Edward C. Hemmann
Granite Lodge No. 119

Benford J. Hilliker, III
Warren Lodge No. 51

Elliot J. Kerzner
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Delbert Amos Little
Center Lodge No. 97

George M. Reed
Vasilios G. Tiniakos
Friendship Lodge No. 33

George Wellington Sherwood
Coastal Lodge No. 57

Peter Sponheimer
Union Lodge No. 40

Thomas H. Stein
Old Well St. Johns Lodge No. 6

Robert E. Strom
Wyllys St. Johns Lodge No. 4



CONNECTICUT FREEMASONS FOUNDATION, INC.

A 501(c) (3) Tax Exempt Organization

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



Joseph J. Porco.
Grand Master



PO Box 69
Wallingford, CT 06492

My Brothers, Family, and Friends,

June 15, 2023

We are taught that Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth are the foundational principles that unite us in this great fraternity. These principles are the basis for the formation of the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc., our 501(c)3 charitable arm. It is my honor this year to appeal to you to support the vital charitable activities of our Foundation, by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc.

I have singled out three options for your special consideration. You may split your gift, if desired. Please check choices in the return section and indicate the amount of your gift that you desire to restrict to that category. A gift of any size is meaningful, so please consider contributing whatever is within your means. Thank you for your consideration of this appeal.

- First is our Grand Almoner's Fund. We are reminded continually of the importance of providing for "the relief of poor distressed Master Masons, their widows, and orphans." Our Almoners provide a focus for ensuring this duty is carried out and the fund is an important element of that relief.
- Second is our Matching Grant Program. It is designed to encourage Lodges to actively support charitable causes in their local communities by having the Foundation match the cash gifts made by the Lodges to those 501(c)3 charities. The size and scope of this activity will depend on the support you give to it in this Appeal. The goal is to raise enough to match up to the first \$1,000, on the dollar that Lodges gift to qualifying entities.
- Third is our General Endowment Unrestricted Funds Option which enables the Board of Directors to utilize the funds for any pressing circumstance which arises. In the past we have provided help to relieve human suffering caused by devastating hurricanes, tornadoes, and fires. We are one fraternal body, wherever so dispersed.

Fraternally,

Brother Joseph J. Porco
M.W. Grand Master 2023

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

Your support for 2022 totaling \$152,416 includes donations to:

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

The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation Inc.

Board of Directors:

Christopher J. Earle, Chairman, Trumbull No. 22
Paul L. Watson, Secretary/Treasurer, Uriel No. 24
Robert H. Everest, Valley No. 36
Les. B. King, Somerset St. James No. 34
Edward C. Page, Moriah No. 15
Joseph J. Porco, Hiram No. 18
Garret W. Post, Temple No. 16
O. James Purnell, Fayette No. 69
Marshall K. Robinson, King Hiram No. 12

NOTE: Donations can be made via PayPal on the Grand Lodge website www.CTFreemasons.net
Located under "About Us" "The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation"

XXX-----XXX

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

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

_____ Grand Almoner's Fund
_____ Matching Grant Program
_____ General Endowment (unrestricted)
_____ Other-please note in the memo section of your check

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

Please send notice of my gift to: _____

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

Living Her Best Life at Ashlar Village

Jane Misencik (right) has viewed Masonicare from virtually every perspective, including as a family member, volunteer, patient, and donor. Now, as a resident of Ashlar Village, she is able to maintain her independence while taking advantage of the extensive amenities and services available to everyone who calls Masonicare home.

A member of the Order of the Eastern Star of Connecticut (Azalia Chapter No. 2, Stratford) for nearly 70 years, Jane remembers bringing gifts to the residents of what was then known as the Masonic Home and Hospital in Wallingford when she was a youngster in the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. Years later, when her mother moved to the former Masonicare at Newtown, Jane and her late husband, Joe, visited nearly every day, eventually becoming fixtures as volunteers in the Recreation Department. For over 25 years, long after Jane's mother passed away days shy of her 104th birthday, the Misenciks ran the popular Friday Bingo games, accompanied residents on out-trips, and helped with a myriad of other activities.

In 2011, not long after moving to Ashlar Village, the Misenciks were recognized for their outstanding service to Masonicare with the Luke Lockwood Medal.



Even after all this time, Jane – who recently celebrated her 93rd birthday – is still finding ways to be an advocate for Masonicare.

“I had a friend from Bingo,” she said, “who had some health problems. I encouraged her to think in terms of how long she’d still be able to live independently in her condominium. I told her about all the features of life at Ashlar Village. The activities, amenities, dining, shops ... the works. And now she’s here. That was my one success as a salesperson!”

To learn more about independent living, assisted living, or memory care at Ashlar Village, please call 1-800-982-3919. And remember: Masonicare's Concentric Circle Policy offers move-in specials for members of the Masonic Family!

We are *your* Masonicare.

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

Masonicare 
✧ An Ageless Commitment to Caring

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

My sincere thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make last month's Grand Masters Day Family Festival on our Wallingford campus extra-special, from chief event organizer RW Bro. Carl Anderson to the staff at Masonicare Health Center, who made it possible for residents to join in the festivities.

I was pleased to welcome Bro. Joseph J. Porco, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, and the Most Worshipful Grand Master Honorable Alfred Grady Jr. of Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. for a day of family fun and recognizing some good friends for their contributions to Masonicare and the communities we serve.

Jennifer King, Executive Director of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, received the Luke Lockwood Medal for distinguished service to Masonicare. Jennifer has been a respected colleague and friend for nearly 25 years – someone who embraced the mission of Masonicare in a way that resonated deeply with residents, donors, vendors, volunteers, community partners, and members of the Masonic family. Sadly (for us), this was her last Grand Masters Day as an employee of Masonicare before she retires from our organization this fall. I'm not entirely sure what the next chapter of life has in store for Jennifer, but I'm confident it will involve helping others. You can read more about Jennifer's award on Page 13 of this issue.

We also established a new award, the Masonicare Leadership & Legacy Award, to recognize and honor individuals who have worked, volunteered, or contributed to their community or business in a way that has made a lasting or significant positive cultural impact. I was pleased to present the first Leadership & Legacy Award to a longtime friend of Masonicare and an

incredibly dedicated public servant, Wallingford Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. You may know that Mayor Dickinson is one of the longest-serving mayors in the state. But this, his 40th year in office, will be his last since he announced he will not be seeking re-election. When we talk about "leadership and legacy," Mayor Dickinson has certainly provided both for the people of Wallingford, and that includes the residents and employees of Masonicare.



Another memorable highlight from Grand Masters Day, the renaming of our Medical Office Building in honor of RW Bro. Carleton V. Erickson reunited Masonicare leaders past and present, including former Masonicare President and CEO Barry Spero and my direct predecessor, Stephen B. McPherson. I know it meant a lot to Carleton and his family to see so many people on hand for this special event. Like the rest of the day's activities, this was very much a team effort, but extra kudos are owed to Ann Collette, Masonicare's Chief of Strategy, and Masonicare Health Center Facilities Manager John Vance for stepping in at the 11th hour to keep our plans on track.

I wish you all a good summer and hope it's filled with great times with friends and family. See you in September!

Jon-Paul Venoit

GRAND MASTERS DAY & MASONIC FAMILY DAY at MASONICARE on JUNE 10, 2023



VALLEY OF HARTFORD

IN MEMORIAM –

ILL. BROTHER DAVID R. BLYTHE, SR., 33°

by Francis G. Way.

Since January 2007, this space has been occupied by a column written by Ill. Brother Dave Blythe, most recently Secretary Emeritus for the Valley of Hartford. On the morning of June 7, Ill. Brother Dave laid down his working tools and answered the summons of the Grand Architect of the Universe to the Celestial Lodge above.

I worked closely with Ill. Brother Dave, first at the Valley of Hartford when I worked on the View of the Valley newsletter, and for these past 10 years with the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper. Ill. Brother Dave produced a column for the Valley 11 months a year for 16-plus years.

People who have never worked on a publication may not realize how heavy the responsibility of producing a monthly column can be. Trying to create a new message that is fresh and not repetitive is not an easy task. Producing that column with space constraints and a narrow focus on the subject complicates that effort. Ill. Brother Dave was not Ernest Hemingway – few of us could ever aspire to such levels of greatness – but his good work, square work, and true work, communicated the important happenings in the Valley of Hartford and their upcoming events. He employed a creativity that many are not capable of.

The responsibility for his column arose from Dave being the Secretary of the Valley of Hartford for many years following the retirement of Bro. Carl Edgerton, MSA. He juggled all of the duties that any lodge or Valley secretary must handle, and our interactions always had a warmth of brotherly love that made working with him just a little bit easier.

Dave was very dedicated to writing his column. In the last months of his life, while he was battling health issues and hospitalization and rehab, he would handwrite his columns and give them to his son, Dave, Jr., to email to me. I was deeply touched by that kind of dedication in light of all that Dave was going through. I found it inspirational and humbling.

I will miss working with Ill. Brother Dave, and even more so, I will miss him.

In the coming months, this column will have a new voice from the Valley of Hartford. Times change, the old passes away, and the new begins. A different brother will shoulder the burden of producing fresh content 11 months out of the year. It will be a new experience for us all.

Requiescat in pace, Ill. Brother Dave. Rest easy, and we'll take it from here.



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

What Really Happened To The Three Ruffians?

by John A. Amarilios, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

It is summertime again, and the Valley of Bridgeport has a large number of varied and fun Family Life activities planned for this season! The season kicks off with a trip to the Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park, NY, on Saturday, July 15. Following the tour, the group will stop at a local winery and then move on to dinner at the historic Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck. Availability is very limited already, so please call the office immediately for reservations. The group leaves by bus from the parking lot behind the Stratford Theater.

The next activity is a Mets/Yankees game on July 26 at Yankee Stadium. Everyone will board the Yankee Clipper as it passes their local Metro North station. Tickets include seating in the Jim Beam Suite, which has cushioned seats, and food and draft beer provided in the suite. Again, for details, call the Consistory office ASAP.

August rolls around with the annual members and family-only clambake at Booth Memorial Park on August 5, followed by a Friday night Cigar Nite in Stamford at the Stamford Cigar Bar at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 11.

Lastly, we have our annual bus trip to Tanglewoods at Lenox, MA, for an evening concert preceded by a stop at a local Berkshires winery.

The office number is (203) 375-0064 for all inquiries and reservations.

Lest you think the Valley is about all play, there will be summer work as well. On the morning of Saturday, July 22, at 10:30 a.m., the Valley will perform the 14th Degree and a video rendition of the 6th Degree, followed by a sumptuous meal at the Shrine building next to the theater. Reservations are necessary so we have enough food on hand. If you are contemplating starting your Scottish Rite Journey, the 4th Degree will be shown immediately prior to the 14th so that you can get a good start on your passport.



The tabernacle of the soul is built “without the sound of a hammer, or any tool of iron.” It does work with material substances of gross matter, i.e., the body. It is like that other, the spiritual temple, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The Kabala teaches that the immortal spirit (the soul) of man is the artificer or rebuilder of the body and its source of life. It is taught that this spirit is the immediate vehicle of the soul that inhabits the body and dissipates at the time of transition. Hiram, or if you will, the soul, becomes the mediator between the physical man and the Universal Spirit – our Father who art in Heaven.

The “poor blind candidate,” who is the man immersed in the physical senses, would, through this work, learn the Ineffable Name and obtain the Lost Word. He, however, seeks a shortcut to “climb up some other way.” He would attain wisdom and eternal life or soul consciousness but doesn’t care to do the work involved. This is the man who would not employ self-dominion

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.

over himself; he desires Power without sacrifice (the transmutation of strictly self-interest).

He will not listen to the pleadings of his Hiram: “Wait until the Temple is completed, and then, if you are found worthy, you shall receive them...” He is managed by his material self – NO! He wants his reward immediately before exerting himself in the labor. Like the three Ruffians, he silences the still voice of his consciousness while he commits his atrocity and flees into the mountains and deserts of remorse, trying to hide himself from his bad conscience arising from his trying to circumvent the need for hard work. He is thus terminated in the physical world.

Defeat gives promise of victory on another day. Being immortal, man cannot really die. Realizing his error and purified by suffering the spirit of man, he will again be lifted up (and be saddled with the terms of Karma).

Perhaps the next time, he will receive the substitute for the Lost Word as he will intuitively feel that he must engage and complete the work of his own volition. Further trials and more sincere endeavors in the future will bring greater reward.

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



Summertime is here. Time for picnics, vacations, car shows, parades, and some good relaxation. As with most lodges, the Shrine takes a break from meetings in the summer. Some of the clubs continue to meet, however, as it is a great time to get together with brothers and friends. The Kaabans will continue to meet at the East Street Eatery in Wolcott. Camel's milk, a game of left, right, center, and a meal outside overlooking the beautiful landscape is a good way to spend a Monday afternoon or evening. The Bedouins continue to meet at the Groton Townhouse as they take off the winter months.

The Sphinx False Alarmers are presently looking for drivers. These are the "little" firetrucks. The False Alarmers presently has eight vehicles that are roadworthy. If you are interested, please call the Sphinx Shrine office for details. Training is minimal, operation is simple, and the smiles of those along the parade routes are plentiful.

Activities for Sphinx and Pyramid Shriners this summer include the Imperial Session in Charlotte, NC, the Northeast Shrine Association Field Days in Concord, NH, the Boumi Shriners Crabfest in Maryland, Water Buffalo Degree in Wilmington, MA, a picnic at Sunrise Park in West Suffield, and various parades and competitions. We will also be ramping up for fun-filled activities at the Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association convention in Virginia Beach. Fun-filled with a casino night fundraiser for Shriners Hospitals, a beach blast, museum tours, cigar night, skeet shooting, golf tournament, mini golf, hospitality room crawl, competitions, a parade down Atlantic Avenue, and of course, plenty of sun, sand and great waves.

It is not too early to sign up for and to sponsor the Pyramid Shrine Golf Tournament at Blackhawk Country Club in Stratford on September 29. Contact Past Potentate Bill Russo at (203) 994-9455 for more information. There may be a few clowns on the links. The clown limit per golf cart is set at twenty.

If you are looking for a car show this summer, stop by the Old Well Tavern, 20 Tarrifville Road, Simsbury, on July 22. Sponsored by Jimmy's Tire and Auto and the Old Well Tavern, this "Topless" Car Show will concentrate on jeeps and convertibles, although any 4x4 or classic car is welcome. Proceeds will benefit Shriners Children's New England in Springfield.

For those that ride, the Melha Riders in Chicopee, MA, will be holding its 16th Annual Hospital Run on August 20, \$15 per person. Line up at 10 a.m., KSU at 12 p.m. at the Polish Club of Agawam, 139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The ride will go to the

Shriners Children's New England on Carew Street, Springfield, and return to the Polish Club for food, music, and more fun.

Special thank you to Broad Brook Brewery in Suffield for hosting a fundraiser for Shriners Children's New England and to Buffalo Wild Wings in Wethersfield for a fundraising event for Sphinx Shriners. A shout out to Handcock Pharmacy, not only for its contributions to the Shrine but for all that it does for Freemasonry. Thank you to everyone that continues to donate tabs and refundable bottles and cans to the Shrine.

At Grand Masters Day this year, Pyramid and Sphinx joined other Masonic bodies and groups in the parade. The combined motor patrols were joined by a resident of Masonicare, A. Scott Dean, who donned his fez and joined the parade, and participated in simple maneuvers in his chair. We think he found a new gear as he did not know his chair could go that fast. It was not the first time a battery-operated vehicle has joined the parade, and it most likely will not be the last.

If you are interested in joining either Pyramid or Sphinx Shrine, please go to www.BeAShrinerNow.com and fill out the online application. The site has been updated so that you can add a current copy of your lodge dues card to the application.

Do not forget the biggest fundraiser in years for Shriners Children's New England in Springfield. Cheers for Children will take place on Friday, October 20, from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the MGM Grand Ballroom in Springfield, MA. Join us for a fun-filled evening for adults (21+) featuring samplings from the area's finest restaurants, breweries, wineries, and distilleries.

Cheers!



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!

Jennifer King Honored by Masonicare with Lockwood Medal

Jennifer King, longtime Executive Director of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, is the 2023 recipient of the Luke Lockwood Medal for distinguished service to Masonicare. WB Jon-Paul Venoit, President and CEO of Masonicare, presented Jennifer with the award on Grand Masters Day.

The Luke Lockwood Medal is struck with the image of Luke A. Lockwood, an attorney, and philanthropist who served as Grand Master of Connecticut Masons from 1872 to 1873 and is considered the founder of the organization that eventually became Masonicare. In 1970, under the leadership of Charles J. Ramage, the Masonicare Board established the Lockwood Medal as a means of recognizing outstanding service to Masonicare.

For Jennifer, the award also helps bookend a nearly 25-year tenure with Masonicare. In February, she announced she will be retiring at the end of the current fiscal year.

Jennifer's legacy was shaped as much by her passion for working with older adults as her expertise in philanthropy. In leading The Foundation's fundraising efforts, including planned giving, major gifts, annual giving campaigns, and special events like the Masonicare Golf Classic and the annual Beer & Wine Tasting, Jennifer helped make it possible for Masonicare to provide countless residents and patients in need with resources and services that have enhanced the quality of their lives.

As proud as Jennifer is of those professional accomplishments, what she has found most rewarding are the "amazing relationships" she's forged along the way with residents, donors, benefactors, and others.

"People like John O. Brandt, Jr., Ferd Hartog, and Henry and Edythe Knapp, to name just a few, led very full lives, had interesting stories to share, and so much wisdom to impart," she said. "It was always sad when someone I knew passed away, but I'm grateful that our lives intersected, even if only for a brief period of time."

A 1990 graduate of Cornell University, Jennifer gained valuable experience in fundraising and special event planning while working in the Yale and Wesleyan University development offices. From there, it was on to a community hospital in Waterbury, where she discovered a deeper purpose in the non-profit healthcare sector. She joined the Masonic Charity Foundation in 1998.

In MWPGM Gail N. Smith, Masonicare's former Director of Fraternal Relations and President of the Masonic Charity Foundation, Jennifer found a mentor who has continued to be among her strongest advocates.

"Gail was always encouraging and supportive of me," she said. "Whatever additional training I needed to become more familiar with planned giving, I was able to get. Gail gave me the space and the resources I needed to grow into the role. He was amazing."

Bro. Gail was also Jennifer's tutor on all things Masonic, as she came to Masonicare with no personal or familial connections to the fraternity. He encouraged her to be inquisitive and keep an open mind.

"I quickly realized that the Masons not only do good works in the community," she said, "but their values are in synch with my own. My interactions with the Masons and the entire extended Masonic family have been overwhelmingly positive because

they attract so many good people. In their dealings with The Masonic Charity Foundation, I've seen them be equally engaged with and passionate about the mission, regardless of their means. So while I'm not a part of the Masonic family, I do consider many of them to be friends, and they've been great donors and volunteers and friends of Masonicare who made me feel welcome."

In 2017, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, A.F. & A.M. awarded Jennifer with the David Wooster Medal in Bronze for eminent service to humanity, an award that now has some company in the form of a Luke Lockwood Medal.



Jennifer King receives the 2023 Luke Lockwood Medal from Masonicare President and CEO Jon-Paul Venoit

Pyramid Shriners March for Needy Children

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Nobles from the Pyramid Shrine Temple in Stratford celebrated Memorial Day by marching in the 77th Annual North Haven Parade. Shriners from the Divan leadership team, Pipes & Drums, Motor Patrol, and Clown Units participated in the parade. Pyramid Shriners were able to share their mission of helping needy children receive excellent medical care at Shriners Hospital.



Pyramid Shriners Shine at the Monroe Bicentennial Celebration

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Pyramid Shriners from Stratford participated in the Monroe Bicentennial Celebration. It was held on Stepney Green and featured a carousel, cake walk, historical tent, food carts, antique machines, and a couple who role-played President James and First Lady Elizabeth Monroe.

The Shriners twisted balloon animals and hats. Patrons posed for pictures in a Motor Patrol parade car. They also distributed information pertaining to the excellent medical care provided at Shriners Hospital for Children.



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*

Masonicare at Ashlar Village Residents' Scholarship Fund Helps 13 Young People Further Their Educations

The 19th annual Masonicare at Ashlar Village Residents' Scholarship Fund presentation was recently held in the Hartog Activity Center at Masonicare at Ashlar Village.

Thirteen young men and women, who are either employees of Masonicare at Ashlar Village or the children of employees, were honored during the presentation. A total amount of \$28,600 in scholarship funds was raised this year and distributed at the special awards ceremony.

The young men and women receiving scholarships this year are Sheraud Wilder, Braden Golden, Tamara Barkasy, Aaron Mansfield, Britney Diakpieng, Kolby Rios, Montgomery Rios, Maddyson Horobin, Ally Kaider, Sylvia Young, Benjamin Busillo, Miles Bishop, and Cody Reardon.

Masonicare at Ashlar Village residents established the Scholarship Fund in 2004 to provide educational scholarships for young people who either work at Ashlar Village or are children of employees. The funds are raised in a variety of ways, but mainly through the sale of unique, handmade craft and clothing items in the Ashlar Village Specialty Shop. Residents of Ashlar Village make the items, as well as manage and stock the Specialty Shop.

Masonicare is the state's largest nonprofit provider of senior care, offering a full continuum of senior living and services, including independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing, rehabilitation care, memory care, home care, and hospice and palliative care. Masonicare has campuses in Wallingford, Mystic, and Chester and offices throughout Connecticut.



Pyramid Shriners Golf Tournament

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

Blackhawk Country Club
385 Oronoque Lane, Stratford, CT 06614

\$140 per person - 4 Person Scramble

Entry Fee Includes- 18 holes of golf w/cart, lunch & 2 drink tickets

TEE TIME: 8:30AM SHARP- Shotgun Start

Prizes For 1st, 2nd & 3rd place teams

50/50 Raffle, Closest to the Pin & Longest Drive

GOLD SPONSOR	SILVER SPONSOR	BRONZE SPONSOR	TEE SPONSOR
Includes one foursome & signage on tee	Includes one twosome & signage on tee	Includes one person & signage on tee	Signage on tee
\$850	\$425	\$225	\$125



For more information about tournament and sponsor information please contact Bill Russo 203-994-9455

PROCEEDS GO TO THE
SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN

Please make checks payable to:
Pyramid Shriners Golf Club

Mail to:
Pyramid Shriners
2428 Main St., Stratford, CT 06615

GRAND MASTERS DAY & MASONIC FAMILY DAY at MASONICARE on JUNE 10, 2023



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



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. Urban
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 John Wadsworth III
Associate Grand Marshal
WB Andrew Pedro II



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



On Thursday, May 25, King Hiram No. 12 hosted the Third District Blue Lodge Council. Over 30 brothers attended the dinner and meeting, followed by an entertaining and insightful presentation on leadership and Masonry, given by WB Blair Richardson.

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

District 1

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



Washington Lodge No. 19 Memorial Day Parade

Sunday, May 28, in Monroe, CT, the 2023 Memorial Day Parade theme was "Honoring Our Heroes." The parade also commemorated the Bicentennial of the Monroe Volunteer Fire Department. Brothers from Washington Lodge No. 19 enjoyed being part of the festivities.



District 2

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



District 2 Lodges Hold Entered Apprentice Degrees

by **Daniel Nichols**

On three successive June nights, District 2 initiated six new brothers. On June 5, Jerusalem Lodge No. 49 initiated three, with WM Rodney Hatch doing an outstanding job performing the degrees.

On June 6, St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 initiated two, with WM Mark Bagg with his officers performing a degree that was second to none. The new brothers had been coming to the Sunday "build a brother" sessions that the Lodge holds every week, which provides a good way to talk and meet with someone before they take their first steps in Masonry.

On June 7, Hiram Lodge No. 18 initiated one brother. MWB George Greytak said that evening that "We should stop calling it the blue wave and call it the blue tsunami." The new brother had come to a dinner at the lodges weeks before. He met the brethren and became comfortable with them, but more importantly, the brethren got to meet and get to know the prospect, enabling the lodge to guard the west gate.

This influx of brothers in District 2 lodges has not been seen in quite some time. To maintain this momentum, lodges should have an event in mind that new prospects can be invited to when contacting them. That makes it possible to meet them before they submit a petition. And, of course, stay on top of the prospects in Grand View.



Jerusalem Lodge No. 49



St. Peter's Lodge No. 21



Hiram Lodge No. 18



District 2 Team at Wolcott Lodge No. 146 Golf Outing

by *Daniel Nichols*

On June 4, Wolcott Lodge No. 146 held its annual golf outing to raise money for its scholarship fund. Brothers from District 2 have played in the event in the past, so naturally, it was something that the brothers looked forward to. The day was overcast, and the geese were abundant.

Teams of four players competed for the bragging rights of who is the best "Masonic golfer." Everyone had a great time, and Wolcott Lodge put on an outstanding event. After golfing, the players enjoyed a sit-down dinner. The District 2 team did not win any awards when the awards were announced, but they were thankful for Wolcott Lodge putting on this fun public event. Raising money and having a good time can always be done in conjunction if planned out. District 2 looks forward to next year's event and maybe some bragging rights!

(l-r) RWB Daniel Nichols, WB Greg Bollaro, RWB David McClain and RWB Peter Dolce.



District 5

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



Unity Lodge No. 148 Supports New Britain Fire Explorers

by *Jeff Davis*

WM Jeff Davis (Lieutenant with the New Britain Fire Department) and WB Paul Catanzaro (Alderman for the City of New Britain) present a check on behalf of Unity Lodge No. 148 to Raul Ortiz, Chief of the New Britain Fire Department, and representatives of the New Britain Fire Explorers. Chief Ortiz is in the initial process of forming the group of Fire Explorers, and the check will assist with their startup costs.



On Saturday, June 3, Seneca Lodge was at the Torrington Strawberry Festival to promote our open house on Monday, June 12. Extra special thanks go to stand-out Bro. Frank Baba, whose enthusiasm and natural charisma captivated festival goers and showcased Freemasonry as a welcoming and fun Fraternity.

District 3

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



Workday at King Solomon's Lodge No. 7

by **Steve Lewis**

Keeping a nearly 200-year-old building and its grounds in pristine shape is often a challenge. Under the leadership of Bro. Mitchell Goldburgh, President of the King Solomon's Temple Corporation, many Brothers arrived with yard tools and equipment to lend a hand on the second weekend of June.

In addition to outside maintenance, the brothers created a rustic stairway to what is locally known as "Drum Rock." The lodge is built on a rock ledge outcropping overlooking the valley in which the town of Woodbury is situated. It is the highest point in the center of Woodbury, which in colonial days was known as the Pomperaug Plantation until named as a formal town in 1673.

The townsfolk paid for a full-time drummer to live upon "Drum Rock" and beat out rhythms for different occasions. The 19th-century historian William Cothren states:

"The people were called to church on the Sabbath by the beat of the drum upon the rock on which the Masonic Lodge now stands. The same instrument was used to call the people together on other days of the week and for other purposes. It beat for meetings of the town, for the assembly of the train-band, and in cases of alarm in time of war. There was a particular beat for each of these occasions, but what was the difference in the roll of the drum ecclesiastical, the drum military, and the drum civil is not known. During the perilous times of the French and Indian wars, guards were placed on Lodge [Drum] Rock, while the people, who also carried their arms, worshipped."

The brothers are working to open up Drum Rock, which has been overgrown for decades, as a historic site and allow public access to one of the best views in town.

This is yet another example of Masonic brothers extending their welcoming hands to the local community. Thanks to all who gave up a Saturday at home to create an environment for the greater good of the local community.



Bros. Lee Warner and Bill Huber.



Bros. Wayne Anderson and Steve Lewis.



Stairway to Drum Rock.



Bros. Mitchell Goldburgh and Dennis Huebner.



Bro. David Bethancourt.



50-Year Pin Presented at Harmony Lodge No. 42

Right Worshipful Brother Shane Dufresne, Grand Senior Deacon, presented WB Gary Rosengrant his 50-year pin at Harmony Lodge No. 42 on June 1. WB Gary is a very important part of the lodge. He is a true brother in all aspects and mentor to many brothers.



Fathers of Seneca Lodge No. 55 Honored by Hope Assembly No. 46

On Tuesday, June 6, Seneca Lodge No. 55 hosted IORG Hope Assembly No. 46. The Rainbow girls performed the Father's Degree to honor all the dads of Rainbow and Freemasons. The degree was led by Worthy Advisor Carter along with Rainbows Aryana, Shayla, Emily, Lily, Liv, and Pledge, Harper. Their requested meal of chicken nuggets and mac & cheese was delivered by the stewards prior to the degree.



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 Past Master Leads Milford VFD Memorial

Worshipful Brother Steven Schreck of Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 led the 2023 Milford Volunteer Firemen's Memorial Observance. Held on the city's historic green, it recognized all volunteer firefighters who have passed. WB Schreck, a member of the Woodmont Volunteer Fire Company, is joined by his wife, Debbie, at the 1932 Maxim pumper engine.





Robert N. Jones
Memorial & Remembrance
Spencer Funeral Home

Memorial for WB Robert N. Jones

by Jeffery Blayman

In memory of the life and legacy of WB Robert N. Jones, brothers from Anchor Lodge No. 112, Warren Lodge No. 51, St. Johns Lodge No. 2, and other lodges gathered at Anchor Lodge on Saturday, May 20 to honor him with a funeral service. WB David Mosher took his position at the head of the procession, and the brothers marched two by two across the street to Spencer Funeral Home, the sky threatening rain.

There were six Knights Templar in the Honor Guard, with two Sir Knights standing at attention next to Brother Bob's remains at all times. Their dignity and precision during the Honor Guard rotations would have made Bob proud.

The invocation by RWB Paul David Cross was a beautiful beginning to the proceedings. This was followed by the eulogy, written by RWB Raymond E. Moore and presented by WB James A. McKinney. RWB John H. Spencer then recited Robert Burns' The Farewell in his best Scottish brogue.

The Masonic Service culminated with brothers in procession placing springs of Acacia, symbolizing eternal faith and the immortality of the soul. After giving funeral grand honors, the brothers stood in silence, wrapped in the memory of their fallen friend and brother.

Afterward, as the brothers congregated, one noted the rain had started to pour heavily outside, and this was symbolic of the tears of the brethren for their loss. The Worshipful Master agreed, adding it could also be Heaven's tears of joy, rejoicing in Brother Bob now being there for eternity.



Masonic Impacts

by **Bill Buckbee**

I grew up at a lodge. My father, a 50-year Mason, Past Master, and Past District Deputy, instilled the values of the Craft long before I knew that they were. My extended family was the brethren of St. Peter's Lodge. Their sons became some of my closest friends. Family picnics and holidays at the lodge were a massive part of my childhood, and I'll never forget gathering around the organ in the lodge, singing Christmas carols, and just simply being in awe of the temple itself.

I didn't join the lodge until 2010. I was 38 years old and had spent a lifetime giving back to the community as a coach, a firefighter, and through non-profit charities and boards. It's just what I felt compelled to do for others. I began to ask myself, "Why haven't you joined this lodge you grew up loving?"

We were at the firehouse when I asked one of my father's closest friends about it. His answer was quite simple. He said, "I'm sure your father would love to answer that question, as we've been waiting to hear you say those words." It wasn't their old-school philosophy of 2B1Ask1, but rather, they were hoping I'd recognize the brotherhood and would never feel pressured to do so. While I'd waited until I was 38, it happened organically. Slowly but surely, organically.

Once I joined, I couldn't stop talking about it and being proud of the lodge within my circle of friends outside the Craft. Many good friends and good men have joined because I shared the experience and the feeling of belonging that the lodge offers.

Since that time, I have moved up the line, changed lodges, and traveled to many states and visited lodges. I have found the brotherhood in many places. The warmth and kindness of a brother in Mississippi brought me serious comfort and a great meal. In New York, there was a newfound immediate acceptance. In Pennsylvania, my biological brother joined soon after me, brought me to his lodge, and eventually, our family had three Past Masters. The journey has been worth all of the challenges.

I have also taken a moment to reflect and focus on some career goals as well. I am currently sitting as a State Representative for this great state of Connecticut. Politics and Masonry do not mesh in lodge, but I have found many within the Craft inside the Capitol.


On my first night in the building after my first election, a brother noticed my ring and offered to show me around. Within days I'd made three new friends in the brothers I'd found. They were on both sides of the aisle, and one was randomly assigned as my mentor in the building. We even received a petition in the Capitol, and that brother is now a 5-year Master Mason. The

ability to take each other at their word, have mutual respect for one another, and have an attentive ear on policy or personal matters is truly invaluable.

Today, there are five brothers in the House of Representatives. Two on each side of the aisle and one who works as staff. There's also a brother in the Senate. The next time you see the local news, watching legislators fight across the aisle in heated debate, know that there are some truly whispering good counsel to one another and that it is not entirely contentious. The next time you hear one of those discussions on the House floor, take a moment to consider the discussions off-camera and outside the chamber, and like outside the lodge room, they can be quite impactful.

I can't imagine my time in the General Assembly if I hadn't been impacted with such incredible positivity in that lodge when I was just a child running around with my friends, learning the lessons of being a good man before I knew they were lessons.

The brotherhood takes us to many places in life, and it can be found in the places we least expect it. I firmly believe the Grand Architect of the Universe places our brothers along the path where we can best help one another throughout this journey. Perhaps you'll be along mine soon, and I yours. I certainly hope so.



Be a Connecticut Freemasons Booster!

Name or Lodge _____

Address _____

Town _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Booster appearing as _____

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

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).

BOOSTERS

Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: June 13, 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	Lester Culver, Jr.	Bill & Sandie Greene	Jamie Pearson	Richard R. Washburn
Anonymous	William H. Flagg	Mark Hawkins	Robert F. Polito, Jr.	Andrew G. Weimann II*
Roger & Linda Bissell	Leonard W. Finegold	Pete Kenyon	Joseph J. Porco	Charles & Barbara Yohe
Gary A. Byram	Aubrey V. Fisher	Karl King	Marshall Robinson	Andy Zeidler
Newton & Bobbi Buckner	Michael & Melinda Fitting	Kenneth H. Kirschner	Phil Sharkey	In Memory of A. Richard Kirschner
Sam S.F. Caligiuri	John W. Ford	Charles & Gloria Klein	Gail N. Smith	
Alexander Campana	Howard, Steve & Keith Franson	Paul Locicero	Stuart M. Smith*	
Lowell H. Cantor	Robert Furce*	Rinaldo & Mary Magliano	George A. Stickels	
Roger & Joan Cole	Thomas J. Gondek	Kurt Maehlenbrock	Arthur R. Tinsz	
Carlton R. & Susan A. Csiki	Andy Goodhall	John Novak	Scott Werner	

GRAND BOOSTERS (\$50 - \$99.99)

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

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

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*

Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14

BOOSTER (\$25 - \$49.99)

Michael Abrahamson	Coastal Lodge No. 57	Vin & Pat Kalinauskas	Glenn K. Pennell	Robert J. Shopey, II	Jonathan White
All Star Home Renovations	William G. Demetriades	Roger Knickerbocker	Anton Petras	Robert J. Shopey, III	In Memory of Mario Accornero
Robert Andrews	Ward M. Edgerton	Richard Sr. & Wendy Memmott	Martin Rudnick	William T. Shopey	
Michael Baker	Victor S. George	Richard Memmott, Jr.	George P. Rutherford, Jr.	Edward Sullivan	
Raymond Barker	Gordon R. Hallberg	Kristopher Milardo	Darrel Scribner	James Talamini	
Ken Buckbee	Gordon Hurlbert		Robert J. Shopey, Sr.	Gerald Usher	

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.



District 6

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



Washington Lodge No. 70 Participates in Annual Shad Derby

On Saturday, May 20, the Town Green in Windsor Center was transformed for the annual Shad Derby celebration. Washington Lodge No. 70 hosts its famous pulled pork and hot dog tent each year.

The night before, brothers gather at the lodge to slow cook the pork, an annual tradition that the brethren look forward to all year. WM Robert Dodge organized the event with the help of many great brothers.

While Mother Nature washed out the parade and dampened the crowds, there was no dampening the outpouring of brotherly love and affection that day.

Proceeds from the event help fund the lodge's scholarship fund and various local charities. Be sure to have some of the lodge's famous pulled pork at next year's Shad Derby on Saturday, May 18.



Not A Typical Stated Communication *by Patrick J. W. Chagnon*

On Monday, May 22, thirty-one brothers gathered at Washington Lodge No. 70 for the lodge's stated communication. It looked to be a typical gathering of brothers sharing an outstanding meal, fellowship, and lodge business. However, those who did not attend because they thought it was just a typical stated communication missed out on something special.

In attendance that evening as guests were RWB Matt Heinrich, Grand Junior Deacon, RWB Greg Stump, DD of Masonic District 6A, and WB Justin Nash, WM of Manchester Lodge No. 73. RWB Heinrich had with him a large shopping bag.

Midway through the stated communication WB Ken Roach II, presiding in the East and filling in for WM Robert Dodge, called on RWB Heinrich, who presented to WB Roach a silver cup that had previously been presented to MWB James McCormack in 1910. WMB McCormack served as Grand Master of Masons in CT in 1881. MWB McCormack, whose portrait hangs in Washington Lodge, was a member of Manchester Lodge and subsequently affiliated with Washington Lodge in 1886. The inscription on the cup reads in part, "MW James McCormack from Associate Past Masters of Manchester Lodge 73 AF & AM with Fraternal Love and Appreciation January 20th, 1910."

WM Ken Roach II excepted the silver cup and expressed sincere gratitude on behalf of WM Dodge and the brothers of the Washington Lodge, and he said that the cup will be prominently displayed within the lodge.

MW James McCormack passed away in 1917 and is buried at the Palisado Cemetery in Windsor. His Masonic legacy is still impacting Connecticut Masonry more than 100 years after his passing. The lesson learned on this night was that there is no such thing as a typical stated communication.



Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 Lake George Visit *by Joe Grieco*

On the weekend of June 9, WM John DiCioccio of Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, and his degree team, visited the Master and brothers of Queensbury Lodge No. 120, in Queensbury, NY, for a weekend of ritual and fellowship.

On Friday evening, while the ladies of Friendship Tuscan Lodge enjoyed an evening of dining and entertainment, WM DiCioccio and his degree team presented the Entered Apprentice Degree using Connecticut Standard Ritual to WM Joshua Proulx and the brethren of Queensbury Lodge.

On Saturday, brothers of both lodges and their families enjoyed fellowship on a tour of nearby Lake George on the MV Mohegan, operated by the Lake George Steamship Company. Dinner followed at a nearby restaurant.

Friendship Tuscan Lodge has a long tradition of visiting other lodges in other states and countries, spreading fellowship, and forging bonds of friendship. This was the first time the lodge was able to do so since COVID-19. Thank you to WMs DiCioccio and Proulx, and WB Brad Young for their efforts in bringing this visit to fruition.



Bro. Brian J. Berk Honored by Columbia Lodge No. 25

by **Arnie Grot**

The Columbia Lodge No. 25 Daskam-Nott Award is presented to a brother who has demonstrated outstanding and unselfish service to Columbia Lodge or Masonry in general for an extended period of years. It is named in honor of Bro. George F. Daskam, the Grand Master when Daskam Lodge No. 86 was chartered in 1858, and Bro. John Nott, the first Worshipful Master of Columbia Lodge when it was chartered in 1793. The 2023 award was presented to Brian J. Berk on May 17.

Brian was born in January 1984 in Manchester and graduated from East Hartford High School in 2002. He attended college at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, MA, where he attained a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in Mechanical Engineering and Manufacturing Engineering in 2006. After graduating, he moved back to East Hartford for a few months during this time before purchasing his first home in Enfield, CT. He reconnected with an old school friend, Danielle Potterton, whom he had known since middle school. Friendship soon grew to love, and the two were married in May 2011. They have two young daughters, Natalie and Valerie.

Brian is currently employed at Collins Aerospace as a lead project engineer. He continues to grow in his position at the



Walt Grube presenting Brian J. Berk the 2023 Daskam-Nott Award.

company and has worked on many impressive projects for them, working with NASA (and others) to complete projects in the company's space and defense departments. He is currently working with NASA to complete plans for a new rover vehicle to travel to Mars and collect the samples and artifacts that the current Mars Rovers have been collecting on the planet and bring them back to Earth for study.

Brian was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on January 16, 2008, in Columbia Lodge. Some years later, Brian was

reading a history of MWB Philip James Jones, Grand Master in 1949, who was raised in Orient Lodge No. 62. Brian learned that MWB Jones's grandson is Brian's uncle.

Brian was elected Worshipful Master of Columbia Lodge in 2014 at the age of 29. He is believed to be the youngest ever to be elected Master of Columbia Lodge. He continues to participate in degree work and in the annual Lodge Installation of Officers. For many years, Brian organized the lodge's Ladies at Table event, giving the wives an opportunity to enjoy an evening out at the lodge with their husbands. Brian has also assumed the chairmanship of the lodge's wine-tasting event, held annually on the first Saturday in October, which raises money for the lodge Scholarship Fund.

Brian has continued to pursue more light in Masonry, joining both the Scottish Rite and York Rite. In the Scottish Rite, Brian is Master of Ceremonies in the Cyrus Goodell Chapter of Rose Croix. In the York Rite, Brian was Thrice Illustrious Master of Wolcott Council No. 1, Royal and Select Masters in 2021. Brian served as Associate Grand Marshall for District 6B from 2021-2022. He was Right Worshipful Master of the Hartford County Lodge of Actual Past Masters in 2022.

Columbia Lodge No. 25 Passes Two Fellowcrafts by **Arnie Grot**

On June 7, Columbia Lodge No. 25 passed two Fellowcrafts. SW Juan Diaz was in the East for the degree. As it was the official lodge inspection by RWB Tom Duclos, WM Dave LaFargue officiated the remainder of the meeting.

WB Brian Berk gave the Approach lecture, the meaning of the Letter G was explained by WM LaFargue, and WB Jack Ranney presented the Working Tools. WB Walter Grube recited the Middle Chamber lecture. The On Coming to Light lecture and Charge was given by RWB Earl Evans. The Stewards presented the Fellowcraft lecture, and Historian Dave Lockard shared lesser-known knowledge on the Fellowcraft.

Prior to the meeting, the Stewards served a wonderful lasagna dinner with a tossed salad and a chocolate layer cake for dessert. Junior Warden Diaz and Entered Apprentice Tushar Meshram assisted them. All brothers worked together for an inspiring night of refreshment, ritual, and fellowship.



(l-r) RWB Arnie Grot, FC Tushar Meshram, RWB Tom Duclos, SW Juan Diaz, WM Dave LaFargue, FC Saint Patrick and RWB Jeff Flynn.

Bro. Gilbert D. Spencer Honored by Columbia Lodge No. 25

by Arnie Grot

The Columbia Lodge No. 25 Daskam-Nott Award is presented to a brother who has demonstrated outstanding and unselfish service to Columbia Lodge or Masonry in general for an extended period of years. It is named in honor of Bro. George F. Daskam, the Grand Master when Daskam Lodge No. 86 was chartered in 1858, and Bro. John Nott, the first Worshipful Master of Columbia Lodge when it was chartered in 1793. The 2022 award was presented to Gilbert Spencer on May 17, as he was unable to attend the Lodge's Awards Night in 2022.

Gil, as he is known by all, was born in April in Hartford. He was raised in Wethersfield and graduated from Wethersfield High School in 1957. He attended the New England School of Mortuary Science in Boston, Massachusetts, to become a funeral director.

He worked at the James T. Pratt Funeral Home and Newkirk & Whitney Funeral Home, both in West Hartford, and also served in the Air National Guard as a Chaplain's Assistant on Cape Cod. In 1970, Gil and his wife Rhoda established the Glastonbury Funeral Home and became an active member of that.

Gil and his wife Rhoda married in 1964 and have three children: Tracey, Sharon, and Penny, and now have six grandchildren. Sadly, Rhoda passed to her reward in heaven a few years ago.

Gil was a member of the Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department, a past member of the Jaycees, Scottish Rite bodies, Sphinx Temple AAONMS, and a former member of the Royal Order of Jesters of Hartford. He has been active in Rotary for many years, beginning his membership when he lived in West Hartford and transferring it to Glastonbury, where he later served as President and received the Paul Harris Award for Service Above Self. Gil was also a member of the Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce and received the Businessman of the Year Award in the late 1980s.

Gil was the longest-serving member of the Glastonbury Fire Commission, serving for over 35 years, many of which were as Chairman or Vice Chairman. He also served as Second Chairman of the Commission on Aging for 10 years, where he helped develop Meals on Wheels, Dial-a-Ride, and Gideon Wells Senior Center.



Gil Spencer receives the 2022 Daskam-Knott Award from Don Wills.

Gil was raised a Master Mason in Hospitality Lodge No. 128 in Wethersfield, on April 12, 1961, by his uncle, WM Raymond E. Britney, assisted by his father Raymond, a longtime Secretary of the Lodge. Gil is now a member of Columbia Lodge No. 25 in South Glastonbury.

Columbia Lodge No. 25 Honors Lewis Masons by Arnie Grot

At their Awards Night on May 17, Columbia Lodge No. 25 honored Bro. Paul Finney and Bro. David Wills as Lewis Masons.

A Lewis is an operative Mason's tool. It is a simple but ingenious device employed by operative Masons to raise heavy blocks of dressed stone into place.

A speculative Lewis is the son of a Mason. VWB Don Wills presented each with a Lewis Jewel. The jewel consisted of an upper nameplate with the name of the brother's father and a lower plate with the name of the brother and the date initiated. (January 21, 2004). Under these plates was suspended the Lewis Tool. Bro. Finney's father was Steven and Bro. David's father is VWB Don. Bro. Dave had two additional plates for his grandfather (Stephen. J. Stevens) and great-grandfather (Arthur E. Stevens) as well.

In 2004, Don was Worshipful Master of Daskam-Columbia Lodge No. 25, On St. Patrick's Day that year he raised both brothers. He was assisted by Bro. Steven Finney, a member of Hartford-Evergreen Lodge No. 88 before he died, helped raise his son Paul.



Lower plate with Lewis on David Wills Lewis Jewel.

Continued on page 32



David Wills and his father Don.



Paul Finney with his mother Shirley and Don Wills.



2004 MM Degree: (front l-r): David Wills, Paul Finney. (rear l-r) WB Don Wills, Bro. Steven Finney.

Quilts Of Valor Honors Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

by Pat Jones

On Monday, May 15, Quilts of Valor came to Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 to recognize three veterans. The Quilts of Valor organization, located in all fifty states, was founded by Catherine Roberts in 2003. Dawna Cavagnaro leads the local chapter and organizes and plans their activities, and they meet at Hartford Evergreen Lodge.

Ms. Cavagnaro explained, "The mission of Quilts of Valor is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor." Beautiful works of art, the quilts are designed to comfort and heal the living. Anyone who has taken the Oath of Enlistment has accepted the burden and risk and has been touched by war in ways that are not readily apparent.

The quilts are awarded, not just passed out. They are handmade and of high quality. It does not have to be red, white, and blue, but patriotic colors are very popular with recipients. It's a meaningful way to say "thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor in serving our country." Quilts are not awarded posthumously.

Brothers Don Robertson, Duane Mason, and Eliad Johnson were recognized on this special night.

Brother Don Robertson, Historian, was in the Army from 1967-71. He left after a year tour of Vietnam and three tours in Germany. He served in the Army National Guard for 15 years and the Air Force Reserve for 11 years. Don left the service after 30 years with the rank of E-7, Master Sergeant.

Brother Duane Mason joined the U.S. Army in 1976. When he completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, he continued his Ad-

vanced Individual Training at the U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. He was then assigned to the 5th Infantry Division Mechanized "Red Diamond" at Fort Polk, Louisiana, repairing tank turrets and weapons. Brother Duane was honorably discharged in 1978.

Brother Eliad Johnson entered active duty in 1993. Stationed in Fort Knox, Kentucky, for training on the M1 Abrams tank, his military occupational specialty was as a specialist responsible for armored equipment. He was honorably discharged in 1996.



Brother Bob Dynak, Marshal, who received a quilt a few years ago, is the lodge's liaison with Quilts of Valor. Staff Sergeant Bob Dynak served with the Massachusetts Air National Guard and the United States Air Force from 1956-1968. He was activated by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 for the Berlin Crisis. His fighter squadron was sent to Phalsbourg Air Base, France, as part of the largest deployment of fighter aircraft since WWII, known as "OPERATION STAIR STEP." In 1962, Bob was deployed to Wheelus Air Base, Tripoli. The crisis ended in 1962, and he was deployed back to the

United States. He has been actively involved with the American Legion, the VFW, and the East Windsor Veterans Commission.

Quilts of Valor has met at Hartford Evergreen Lodge for many years. In recent years they have awarded numerous veterans of Hartford Evergreen Lodge with quilts. WM Brian Warren and the brothers of Hartford Evergreen Lodge are honored to have them use the lodge.

District 7

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



Washington Lodge No. 81 Presents Scholarships at Cromwell High School *by Stan Mackiewicz*

On May 18, as has been customary for more than three decades, the brothers of Washington Lodge No. 81 presented scholarships to two well-deserving Cromwell High School graduating seniors. RWB Stephen Saehrig and WM Stan Mackiewicz were proud to present the scholarships to Thomas Pier and Eman Rafiq.

Thomas is headed to Hofstra University, and Eman will be attending the University of Connecticut.

The scholarships are given in memory of Gregory G. Gaulton, a young man with special needs who briefly but proudly attended Cromwell High School in the fall of 1985, fulfilling his greatest wish to do so.

The funding for the awards was raised with profits made from pancake breakfasts held in the spring and summer, as well as donations given to the lodge.

The Gaulton family expresses their gratitude to the brothers of the lodge for continuing to present these scholarships in memory of their son.



(l-r) WM Stan Mackiewicz, Thomas Pier, RWB Stephen Saehrig

District 9

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



Ionic Lodge No. 110 Recognizes Students for Good Citizenship

On June 1, Ionic Lodge No. 110 in North Windham presented four local high school graduates with the “William L. Greene Good Citizenship Award.” Each student received a monetary grant in recognition of their good character and commitment to service to their family, school, and community.

This is the 21st year that Ionic Lodge has presented this award to a graduating student at these schools. The program started in 2003 and has been awarded each year, except for 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the roots of Freemasonry in the craftsmen trades and its belief in community service, the members of Ionic Lodge designate this award for individuals who are well-rounded conscientious, and responsible citizens. In addition to the grant, each student receives an engraved trophy and is invited with their families, school guidance counselors, and teachers to a special awards dinner at the lodge.



(l-r) RWB Fred Watts, award program Chairmen; MWB William L. Greene; Mr. Vincent Gauvin, Windham Technical High School; Miss Paige Deane, Coventry High School; Mr. Edwin Salgado Quiroz, Windham High School; Mr. Damien Maines, E.O Smith High School; and WM Gregory J. Messier.

GRAND MASTERS DAY & MASONIC FAMILY DAY at MASONICARE on JUNE 10, 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 MASTERS DAY & MASONIC FAMILY DAY at MASONICARE on JUNE 10, 2023



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.*

