

December 2023

Connecticut FREEMASONS



IN THIS ISSUE

Changing Year, Changing Times

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

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Grand Lodge Aﬀ & AM
of Connecticut



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

Not just a man. A Mason.



Connecticut
FREEMASONS

Volume 19 - Number 4

Publisher

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

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Changing Year, Changing Times

by **Francis G. Way**

Having just reached the age where I'm required to sign up for Medicare, and having filled out and submitted the application, I've found myself a bit nostalgic of late. For whatever reason, many memories of elementary school days have popped into my head at odd times, and the takeaway is "Wow, how times have changed."

In those years, as Thanksgiving approached, a staple of music class was singing "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing, He hastens and chastens His will to make known." That would never fly today. The following month, our combination cafeteria/auditorium at Eastbury School brightly lit with Christmas lights, our school Christmas concerts centered around singing Christmas carols. Again, that would never fly today – neither the lights, the Christmas concert, nor the carols.

While I was singing those songs and enjoying those concerts in the mid-1960s, Masonic lodges in our jurisdiction were initiating brothers in record numbers. A story I often heard from the older brothers of Level Lodge No. 137 was that "a lot of Mondays we'd have a special at 5:30, initiate five brothers, sit down and have dinner, and at our stated at 7:15, we'd initiate five more." By the time I was initiated in 1995, those days were long gone, a lot of lodges were hanging on for dear life,

and new members were almost as rare as a school Christmas concert would be today.

However, my 8th grade U.S. History teacher, the late Bro. John Waterhouse, always said, "Things go in cycles, just watch for something to come around again." His words are ringing true with our MWGM Porco's Blue Wave initiative. While I haven't yet seen any articles describing special communications before dinner initiating five brothers, followed by dinner and a stated communication initiating another five, it is abundantly clear that membership is growing at a rate not seen in more than 30 years. It is not so crazy to foresee a time in the near future where multiple brothers may want to fill that single chair that is open in the officer line, and when lodges have much more to do than read minutes and pay bills – along with the manpower to do it!

Christmas will soon be upon us, as will lodge annual meetings, elections, and installation of officers. Many incoming Worshipful Masters may well have ahead of them a busy year of initiating new brothers, educating those new members of our craft, and giving them good and wholesome instructions as they learn to labor among us – something that most of us would not have been able to imagine just a few years ago. Wow, how times have changed.



The Editor and staff of Grand Lodge Publications wish you and yours a merry Christmas, a wonderful, joyous holiday season, and a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year.



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,

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 |
| • CT Freemasons Foundation General Endowment | for Children, Springfield |
| • 32nd Degree Children's Dyslexia Center of CT | |

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

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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

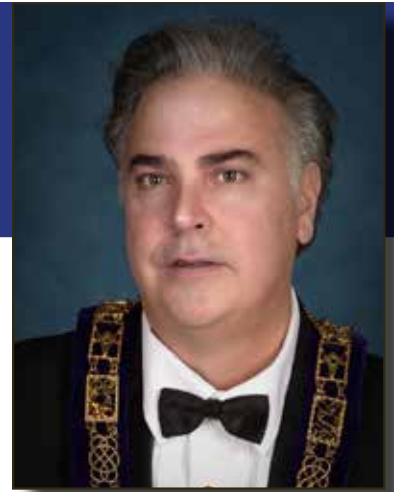
If your donation is "in honor of," or "in memory of," (circle one) a loved one, please include their name below:

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. _____

Grand Master's Message

by MWB Joseph J. Porco



A warm greeting to all. The special season of light is upon us. We are fortunate to live in a country whose aim, since its founding, ordained a Constitution inclusive of its Preamble to form a more perfect union, establish justice, provide for domestic tranquility, common defense, promote the general welfare of its citizens and secure the blessings of liberty. These principles included religious freedom and the right to act in accordance with the same. Such liberty must never be taken for granted, but rather cherished and preserved. The holiday season is a great reminder of such liberties. Whatever your faith or tradition, I hope the coming weeks will bring additional light into your life, along with ever-increasing joy and goodwill towards others.

It is no secret to the brethren that your current Grand Master was raised in the Christian faith. I am familiar with the scriptures, and I walk in faith each day. Albeit, like every man, I sometimes stumble. The celebration of Christmas is especially important to my family because of our faith in Jesus and the teachings he proclaimed. As each of us navigate through this world and the days we are granted, we take hold of certain precepts and connect with divinity in the way we understand, likely how we were raised, or now prefer.

As Americans, we should remember that our Founding Fathers were keenly aware of the need to protect religious diversity when they drafted our constitution. The "New World" they envisioned (The Great American Experiment) aimed at constraining government's reach by dividing powers to protect liberties in a pluralistic society. Religious issues were front and center. This was not an esoteric concept. There were many different voices that shaped the discussion. The list of influence included Enlightenment Deists,

Puritans, Civic republicans (focused on civil peace) and Evangelicals that dissented from the stricter structure of the Church of England. Yes, there were other influences, though my short list should convey the point that multiple perspectives, not a singular force, helped shape the legal doctrines under which we live. At the heart of it was the notion that every human being has the right to personal religious liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

From the onset of my journey in Freemasonry, I treasured the fact that Freemasons embrace faith in the Almighty and require its adherents to confirm their understanding of that trust. I was equally taken in by the emphasis on reverence to our Creator, tolerance among men, universal brotherhood, and the golden rule. I was relieved to discover that sectarianism is absent and that men of all faiths and race are welcome to petition to become brothers and join in the work and privileges that we enjoy. What a unique and marvelous organization Freemasonry is; a place where the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man is emphasized. In many ways, Freemasonry is a hand-in-glove model of our Republic. It is my hope that during this season, every brother will reflect upon the freedoms we enjoy, celebrate our diversity, and lift up the spirit of others as we all prepare for the new year.

I wish you and your family a very merry Christmas, a happy Hanukkah, and a joyful new year.



Joy to the world



Grand Chaplain's Corner

by Christopher J. Earle, Grand Chaplain



From Whence Come You?

All Masons remember the answer to this question from the Worshipful Master to the Senior Warden to begin opening a Lodge of Entered Apprentices: "From the Lodge of The Holy Saints John at Jerusalem." Masons acknowledge that they all came from the same place. Our antecedents are the same.

In much the same way, the three great monotheistic religions of the world acknowledge that they originated from the same place. Their antecedents are the same. In Genesis 12:1-3, God promised to Abraham two things: First, that he would be the father of many nations, that kings would descend from him and that his progeny would inherit the Land of Canaan (roughly defined as the area between the Nile and Euphrates rivers). Second, that in him all the families of the earth would be blessed. So, the Jews, Christians, and Moslems of the world trace their lineage back to Abraham. They are all related.

How then, does one rationalize the conflicts occurring in Gaza? If we are all descended from Abraham, is that not like cousins waging war upon each other? I realize that this is unanswerable due to the unexplainable forces that inspire extremism and terrorism. Yet one must search for light.

Freemasonry offers an example of how man can ascend from the depths of extremism and reach a higher plane. Our Working Tools provide lessons that can lead all peoples to a peaceful coexistence: The Square teaches us to regulate our actions; the Compasses to limit our desires in every station; the Plumb to walk uprightly in our several stations; and most especially, for this discussion, the Level demonstrates that "We are descended from the same stock, partake of the same nature and share the same hope".

That same hope? The hope for peace among the peoples of the world. If we, as Masons, continue to shed the lights of brotherly love, relief, and truth and share these Lights with others, less informed, then we can fulfill the answer to the next question asked by the Worshipful Master to the Senior Warden in the Entered Apprentice Degree Opening: "What come you here to do?" The answer: "To learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry." To improve ourselves in Masonry, we must share its beneficent light with the rest of the world.

Amen

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

Harry Ward-Keith Anderson
Wooster Lodge No. 10

John A. Birdsall
Union Lodge No. 31

Harold R. Candee
Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge No. 142

Willard R. Carter
Jerusalem Lodge No. 49

Robert M. Hadley
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John Alfred Young
Widows Son Lodge No. 66

Freemasonry in the Philippines – A Return Back Home

by **Richard F. Denno**

Bro. Rey “Francis” Millares, Junior Warden of Anchor Lodge No. 112, returned to the Philippines this past summer to celebrate his parents’ 50th wedding anniversary.

With the assistance of Francis’ friend, WB Robert Ozoa, he was able to attend a lodge degree and fellowship night where he had the honor of meeting Don Ramas-Terng-Uypitching, the incumbent Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines. WB Ozoa is a Past Master of Mt. Kaladias Lodge Dumaguete City, Philippines.

“I was welcomed with warm fraternal greetings, smiles and handshakes with the lodge brothers, many of whom were lodge officers, and a fellow traveler from Spain at the Grand Master’s residence in Valencia Philippines. MWB Don greeted me with the same aura of brotherly love and friendship, which made my experience very humbling and memorable.

I also had the opportunity to present our famous Anchor Lodge souvenir coins, courtesy of WM Dan Alexander, to MWB Don Ramas-Uypitching and brothers, and we also took some photos with our famous Anchor Lodge traveler’s banner,” said Brother Millares.

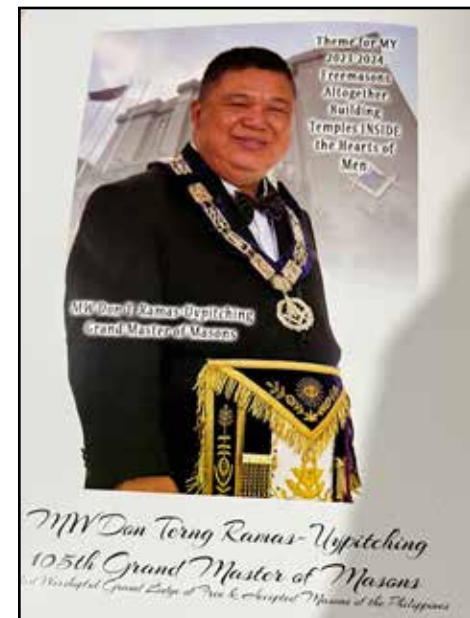
The term of a Philippine Grand Master is normally one year. He is the 105th Grand Master, for the 111th year of Grand Lodge of the Philippines history. Currently, there are about 500 Masonic Lodges and 25,000 Master Masons in the Philippines.

While there are numerous Grand Officer line positions, only six are elected. The remaining officers are appointed by the Grand Master as part of his one-year term. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Grand Secretary, and Grand Treasurer are collegially elected by a singular vote by the outgoing Grand Master, representing the General Assembly during the Annual Communication in one balloting. The Grand Junior Warden is chosen by a “very long process,” according to the Grand Master.

How does someone become a Freemason in the Philippines? “Ask one to be one.” Any interested individuals may inquire and ask a Brother Master Mason how to become one. His Masonic journey officially begins once a petitioner submits his petition with the required fees and other documentary requirements. Some districts require possible petitioners to demonstrate humility by serving the brethren for one or two years. As brothers progress, they are required to demonstrate proficiency.

Masonic Lodges are encouraged to adopt schools and provide academic scholarships, conduct tree plantings, other environmental projects; as well as free medical-dental clinics, feeding programs and other humanitarian endeavors.

It is plain to see that Freemasons throughout the world demonstrate what it means to be a Mason.



Today's Top Story: Masonicare Welcomes Carrie McMahon

Carrie McMahon was working as a television news reporter in Florida when it dawned on her that, maybe, her dream job wasn't all that it was cracked up to be.

"So much of the news I was covering was tragic," she recalled. "That's the opposite of who I am, which is to try to look on the bright side, to fix things, and make them better."

Her producer boss chided the young reporter for favoring human interest "fluff" stories by repeating the old cliché, "If it bleeds, it leads!"

Then, one day, Carrie flew back to Connecticut to help her parents organize a fundraiser to benefit uninsured dialysis patients (her father was a kidney transplant patient at the time).

The excitement of planning an event in service to a good cause appealed to Carrie who, up to that point, hadn't considered a career in philanthropy. But the seed was planted.

By the time she joined Masonicare this past July as the new Executive Director of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, Carrie was a seasoned fundraising professional who'd not only honed her craft at organizations like the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Trinity Health New England, and the March of Dimes Foundation, but even founded

her own nonprofit where she serves in a volunteer capacity as President of the Board. She's been busy familiarizing herself with our statewide healthcare continuum and the many ways that donations to the Charity Foundation help Masonicare residents and patients in need.



"I'm looking forward to growing awareness of The Foundation," she said, "and finding new ways to engage what I'd call our 'external donors' who might not have ever attended one of our special events."

Like her predecessor, the recently retired Jennifer King, Carrie is happy to know she can count on the Masonic Family for support.

"While the fraternal aspect of Masonicare is new to me," she said, "it feels familiar to work with people who are very generous with their time and want to make a difference in the lives of others. Everyone has been so nice, so welcoming, and so willing to help me learn more about the Masonic Family."

If you'd like to learn more about the work of The Masonic Charity Foundation, please visit masonicare.org/mcf. For questions about all other Masonicare programs and services, please call **1-800-982-3919**.

We are *your* Masonicare.

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

Masonicare 
✧ An Ageless Commitment to Caring

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

It was my honor at last month's Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, A.F. & A.M., to congratulate Bro. Christopher J. Earle, RW Grand Chaplain, on his election as Chairman of the Masonicare Board of Trustees! Congratulations, also, to MWPGM Bruce Bellmore on being named Vice Chair.

A banker by trade whose relationship with Masonicare dates back to his youth in the Order of DeMolay, Bro. Chris understands the financial challenges Masonicare faces as a non-profit healthcare provider. But he also sees potential and opportunities for growth as laid out in our long-term strategic plan. I look forward to a new spirit of collaboration as we work to push Masonicare forward.

I want to thank Bro. Chris' predecessor, RWB Bob Polito, for his leadership over the last seven years. I remember when Bro. Bob came onto the board in 2013 with that trademark energy and enthusiasm for the mission of Masonicare that has not waned one iota. He has been – and will continue to be – a good friend and great ally and advocate for Masonicare.

As of this writing, we are recruiting for a new person to lead Masonicare Home Health & Hospice (MHHH). It was with mixed emotions that we said goodbye in November to Executive Director Ann Olson, who left to pursue a new career opportunity. In her three years with us, Ann prioritized improving MHHH's star rating – a system used to measure a care provider's performance – but did so in a way that balanced high expectations with empathy and compassion. She was proud of the group effort that resulted in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announcing this past summer that MHHH's star rating had improved to three stars. When it jumps again to FOUR stars in January, as we've been told it will, know that Ann helped make it possible.

We were saddened to learn of the unexpected (and unrelated) passing of two current Masonicare employees: Pamela Briganti, a Home Health Aide at Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, and Marcy Brusseau, a Resident Care Assistant at Pond Ridge Assisted Living who also worked a secondary role with Masonicare at Home. This year marked Pamela's 25th with our organization. She is remembered as outgoing, deeply compassionate, and willing to drive great distances to help cover homecare visits. Marcy, meanwhile, dedicated more than 20 years of her professional life to caring for others, including the last two with Masonicare. Her kindness and commitment to our residents

made a strong impression on those around her.

In happier news, I was in Florida recently to see Masonicare's Executive Director of Assisted Living, Rachael Laudano, honored by Aging Media as part of its Future Leaders Class of 2023. The event showcases dynamic leaders aged 40 and under in the behavioral health, home health and home care, hospice and palliative care, senior housing, and skilled nursing industries. Rachael currently oversees all assisted living services at Ashlar Village.

We officially added seven more beds to the Behavioral Health Hospital at Masonicare Health Center, most of which were filled by mid-month. Such is the demand for this specialized level of care.

Cherie Macri was named Director of Masonicare LiveHome, our CCRC Without Walls program that allows seniors to reap the same benefits of traditional continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) while still aging in place. This was a sort of homecoming for Cherie, who previously worked for Masonicare as a recreation therapist at Pond Ridge Assisted Living and as an occupational therapist at Masonicare Health Center and Masonicare Home Health & Hospice. She rejoins Masonicare after three years as a rehabilitation supervisor.

As we approach the end of 2023, I wish you peace and joy this holiday season and all the best for the coming new year.

Sincerely and fraternally,



THE IMPORTANCE OF LIGHT

by John A. Amarillos, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

The Valley of Bridgeport will wrap up its degree season on December 4 when it will present the 32nd Degree, live at 7:30 p.m. Due to the high interest in that degree there are three seating's for dinner at 5, 5:45, and 6:30 p.m. Reservations are required.

Family Life events in December include a visit to Waterbury's Palace Theater to view the Nutcracker. The bus departs Stratford at 2:15 p.m. Following the ballet, the group will be treated to a sumptuous holiday meal and then return to Stratford. Tickets are \$70 a person and again reservations in advance are necessary. Lastly the annual Holiday party at Woodwinds in Branford will take place on Friday, December 15. There are some seats still available at \$40 a person. This very happy event is another fundraiser for the Children's Dyslexia Center so expect outstanding auction items to be available. Please call the office at (203) 375-0064 at your earliest convenience so as to avoid disappointment.



One of the cornerstone goals of Freemasonic Order is to introduce the concept of the light to the members of the fraternity and to instill within each one of its members the awareness and an eventual desire to attain it.

The existence of an order of men who have made their life's goal the attainment of light has traversed the many ages of humanity. Societies have reached pinnacles of achievement and expressions of philosophical and spiritual attainment when there were a sufficient number of souls present to steer the path of their society in that direction. Ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome all were thus richly endowed, however all wavered and eventually collapsed when the numbers of enlightened light seekers waned.

Many societies have reached pinnacles of prominence only to fade out and wither. If one drills down into the root cause of each of these failures, we find that the light was extinguished as the society abandoned its preoccupation with the light and turned to a fascination with materialism, greed, luxury, and sensuality. Each of these dead societies fell into an inescapable abyss when the light had been turned off.

Just like the lifeless remains of a person from whose body the light has receded at the time of physical death, the shell of what used to exist is lifeless, drawn, and grey. So are societies when the light has been removed from their body politic. When the light withdraws from the body, be it a person or a nation, we know that the temple is no longer occupied by the Living God.

Ancient Egypt is a prime example of how a society, which once had reached the pinnacle of a light-endowed society, fell through widespread degeneracy, lust, passion, hate, and fear. As the priests of ancient Egypt employed their skills for selfish purposes, they grew progressively weaker and the light on that society's proverbial altar grew dimmer and dimmer. The priests lost the word, which was the name of the flame, so a bit

at a time the flame grew weaker until the mighty nation died, buried underneath the ashes of its own spiritual fire.

In but two or three short generations our society has trod a similar degenerative path. I am old enough to personally know and remember the society of 60 years ago. The path our nation is treading on is not one that leads to the light. It is imperative that we all redouble our efforts to not only personally seek it, but also to find men who are lost and seeking it and offer them the advantages of our working tools. Our fraternity's tools are unique and will equip any soul walking into our fraternal school the ability to reach out and attain the light if they so desire.

Discernment is a faculty that belongs to the soul. As one develops their souls' strength, the vacuousness of the glitter of materialism should grow apparent. The fraternity and its members must work tirelessly to attain this discernment. The Scottish Rite degrees are designed to embellish and reinforce the lessons of the three Blue Lodge degrees. There is no better investment in time and effort that a brother can make.



FIAT LUX!

As always, the Valley of Bridgeport, stands ready to help further your understanding of the Three degrees of Freemasonry. Should you have questions about the Scottish Rite, please feel free to contact me at the email address above or call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064.

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention All Master Masons!
SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES
Mon., Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.
32nd Degree (Live)
Mon. Feb. 5, 2024, 7:30 p.m.
4th and 5th Degrees (Both Live)
Mon. Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m.
12th Degree Live, 23rd Degree (Video)
Dinners are at 6 p.m. in the Shrine building
unless otherwise stated.
Reservations required. Call the
Consistory Office at 203-375-0064.

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

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



Sphinx & Pyramid Shrines

by Eric Pogg



The end of the year is always the busiest for all of our Masonic organizations, and the Shrine is not immune. Along with all of our lodge, York Rite, Scottish Rite, Grotto, Eastern Star, and other organizations, holiday parties are on top of each other. It is amazing that we can make it to most of them. Sphinx and Pyramid has recently held kids and adult parties as well as unit and club parties. Some are on regular meeting nights with secret Santa gift exchanges, while others may have ugly sweaters, be formal with music and dancing, or just a handful of brothers enjoying a pint or two.

It is also that time of year where we remember all of those who have passed through the unseen portals — brothers, sisters, loved ones, friends all. It has been a somber year as we have lost many who have been dear to us. We bid them peaceful eternal rest.

Shrine elections are in December with installation of officers in January. Both Shrines will be looking forward to new leadership and are always looking for new officers to join the lines. Divan lines (elected and appointed) are not the only positions needed every year. Also need are insurance committees, patient drivers, trustees, and especially unit and club officers. Units and clubs are the heart of the Shrine just like the lodges are the lifeline of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. It is easy to get involved. To be one, ask one.

Shriners Children's New England in Springfield and Shriners Children's Boston will have new Board of Governors. These boards are comprised of dedicated Shriners from across New England and New York. They meet regularly once a month. Most members start off as associate members, learning how these healthcare facilities work each day. Time as an associate member can be for one year to as many as the member wishes to be an associate. Full voting members are nominated and processed by various committees and boards and have a maximum term limit of nine years. Sphinx and Pyramid Shrines are fortunate to have many board members that take the time to serve. It is not only a one day a month endeavor; there are several events to help cultivate funds, supporters, relationships with patients and the community, that require many days and months commitment.

This past October, Shriners Children's New England in Springfield held its first Cheers for Children event at the MGM Hotel and Casino in Springfield. Dozens of vendors, including food, breweries, wineries, banks and entertainers donated time, funds and items for the silent auction to help support our Shrine Kids. The auction raised \$345,295 for our patient care. Special thanks to Stacey Perlmutter and the entire development team for an excellent job! The date for Cheers for Children next year is October 18, 2024. Save the date. We look forward to seeing you there.

At one time there were Shrine clubs all across the state. As Masonic membership declined over the years so have these clubs. Those that are still around are in Groton, Middletown, and Wolcott. The newest one is the Naugatuck Shrine Club. They meet in various restaurants in Pyramid and Sphinx territories. Many brothers who are unable to make monthly Shrine meetings in either Newington or Stratford enjoy the fun and fellowship of belonging to a more local Club.

One of my lodges, Composite Lodge No. 28 in Suffield, holds an Annual Chicken BBQ every June that supports various local charities, including many turkeys around Thanksgiving. Looking into Shrine history, the Tehran Shrine Club was started at Doric Lodge No. 94 in Enfield and then moved to Apollo Lodge No. 59 in Suffield. The Tehran Shrine Club started the chicken BBQ as a way to support Shriners Hospitals for Children and the local DeMolay Chapters and Rainbow Assemblies. After the Shrine Club closed in 1982 the lodge continued the tradition of service to the community. Even the original recipe for the chicken from the 1970s is still in use. Plans to open other Shrine Clubs in the state are in the works.

After the December elections, the newly elected Potentates and Divans will be working on plans for upcoming events and membership drives. Over the years, we have heard many times from brothers that when a new initiate joins a lodge he will be asked "Are you joining the lodge just to join the Shrine?" In some cases that may be true. It is also true that many Shriners continue to be active in lodges across the state and some new members join a lodge and continue to enjoy the fellowship there. Shriners International has had thousands of requests from men wishing to join and are referred to various Grand Lodges across the country. We will continue to work to make men better. To join the Shrine in Connecticut, go to www.BeAShrinerNo.com or contact one of the Shrine offices.

Pyramid and Sphinx Shrine wish each of you and your families a safe and happy new year.



Five Lodges Staff Water Station at the Eversource Hartford Marathon by Arnie Grot

For many years, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 staffed a water station in front of its lodge in South Windsor until the Hartford Marathon Foundation changed the marathon course in 2023.

WB Don Wills arranged with the foundation to place the 14-mile water station in front of his house on King Street in East Hartford, and with Hartford Evergreen Lodge, he recruited brothers to staff it. Brothers from five lodges, Columbia Lodge No. 25, Washington Lodge No. 70, Manchester Lodge No. 73, Hartford Evergreen lodge, and Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, worked at the water station on the morning of October 14.

There were 1,605 registered participants (individual runners, wheelchair, and relay teams) for the marathon.



Brothers in front of the Nuun Electrolyte Sports drink tables.



Bro. Mike McClellan gives instructions on handing out water or Nuun Electrolyte Sports drink to the runners as David LaFargue demonstrates how to hold a cup for easy exchange with a runner.



Brothers offering water to the marathon runners.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

Hiram Lodge No. 1

Baron Andre Dyer
Willard Jerome Fleming, Jr.
Nathan Davin Kyder
Jerome Deiago Paterson

Uriel Lodge No. 24

John William Gorsky, Jr.

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No.88

Kirk Montstream

Wooster Lodge No. 10
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Washington Commandery No. 1 Knights Six

by **Arnie Grot**

On October 17, Shane Csiki, Christopher Gness, Joseph Grieco, Jr., G. Randal Hornaday (exemplar), Alexander Prague, and Rodney Spooner were dubbed Sir Knights in Washington Commandery No. 1. Each had the unique honor of being escorted by two Right Eminent Past Grand Commanders who served as Junior and Senior Warden.

Eminent Commander Steve Matthews, Jr. opened the Commandery with the officers at their usual stations. REPGC William A.G. Mackey and REGPC Charles B. Fowler, Jr. served as the aforementioned Wardens.

Afterward, REPGC James S. McNeely IV reflected that each order Washington Commandery performs is unique and this night's rider will be listed as top notch in the hearts of all present. Right Eminent Grand Commander Edward C. Page congratulated the members of Washington Commandery No. 1 on its inspection and also for being the first Commandery after the pandemic to include the Order of the Temple as part of that inspection. He then welcomed the six new Sir Knights into the Order.



*The six new knights assemble with the cast, EC Matthews in center.
Photo by Edward C. Page.*

Pyramid Shriners Clown Around at the Pumpkin Festival

by **Donald M. Casey, Jr.**

Nobles from the Pyramid Shrine Temple Clown Unit participated at the 28th Annual Great Pumpkin Festival. This event was held at Boothe Memorial Park in Stratford on October 21. They distributed toys to all the trick or treaters. Clowns led the costume parade through the grounds of the park. They also were able to share their mission of providing assistance to needy children and supporting excellent medical care at Shriner's Hospital.



(l-r) Nobles Scott Adelman and Donald Casey, Jr.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

John D. Brewer
Donald A. Smith
Seneca Lodge No. 55

Kenneth Wayne Hartwick
Jeptha Lodge No. 95

Russell A. Schiebel
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 75-YEAR BROTHER!

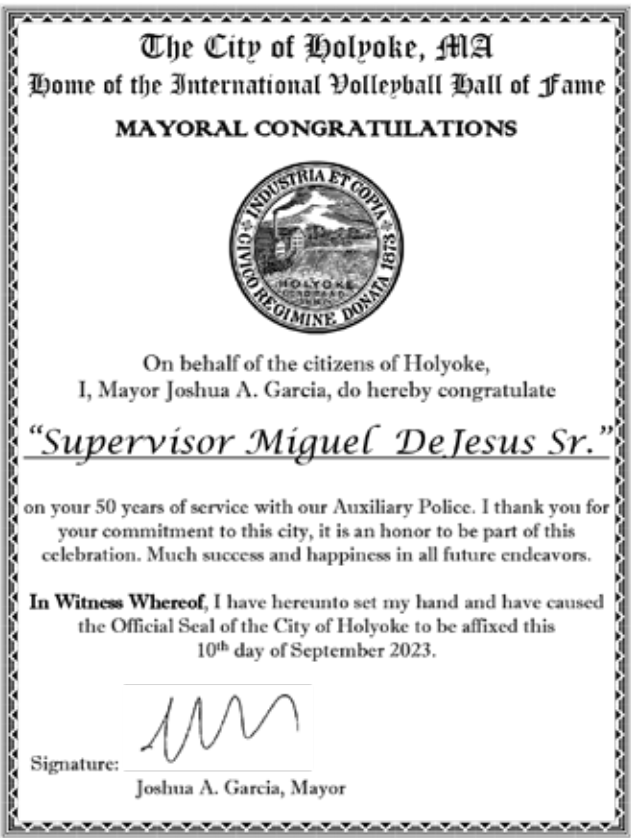
Thomas Olson, Sr.
Day Spring Lodge No. 30

Brother Miguel DeJesus, Sr., Recognized by the City of Holyoke, MA

Bro. Miguel DeJesus, Sr., of Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor, recently received Mayoral Congratulations from the City of Holyoke, MA. Mayor Joshua A. Garcia congratulated Bro. DeJesus for his 50 years of community service with the Auxiliary Police Department.

Brother DeJesus, who serves as Washington Lodge’s Marshal, can always be found lending a helping hand during many of the charity events sponsored by the lodge.

Congratulations Brother Miguel.



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District 1

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



Washington Lodge No. 19 Fellowcraft Degree

In October, Bro. Einar Ulfsson received more light in Freemasonry by being passed to the degree of Fellowcraft.



District 2

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



Jerusalem Lodge No. 49 Initiates the Brother of a Brother

by **Rodney Hatch**

On Monday, November 6, Jerusalem Lodge No. 49 performed an Entered Apprentice Degree and initiated Bro. Stephen Leavy, who is also brother of Bro. Don Leavy.

Thank you to all the brothers who made the degree a success, including Bro. Gabriel Sandini from Hiram Lodge No. 18, WB Jerry Myers from St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 and, as always, RWB Jeff Feinson. Thank you also to RWB David McClain, District Deputy of Masonic District 2B and his AGM WB Nathan Schoonover, both for attending, assisting, and supporting the lodge.

The evening was well attended, a healthy dinner was served, and Jerusalem Lodge now has five recent Entered Apprentices who will pass to the next degree as a group once their proficiency has been completed.



Photo by Nathan Schoonover

30th "Almost Annual" Table Lodge Honors MWB Joseph J. Porco by **David McClain**

On Tuesday, September 19, the brothers of Hiram Lodge No. 18 hosted their 30th "Almost Annual" Surf and Turf Table Lodge in Sandy Hook. This year's sold-out event was held in honor of Hiram Lodge's own, Brother Joseph J. Porco, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons in Connecticut.

MWB George Greytek, Hiram 18's current WM led the evening's festivities, well attended and with distinguished guests including several members of the Grand Lodge office line. Also attending were brothers from the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Connecticut, including Most Worshipful Grand Master Honorable Brother Alfred Grady Jr, Deputy Grand Master Brother Daniel L. Blackmon, and Past Grand Master Honorable Brother Arnold L. Holmes.

The evening began with an expertly executed meal of lobster and steak and culminated with the presentation of awards, including the Mason of the Year presented to Bro. Gerald Nero, and the Mason of the Year Emeritus Award presented to Bro. Anthony Neri. RWB David McClain, District Deputy of Masonic District 2B was named an Honorary Brother of Hiram No. 18.

Finally, the man of the hour, MWB Brother Porco, gave a rousing address and encouraged the brothers to check out the website 1723constitutions.com for more light into The Constitutions of Freemasonry, "whose Enlightenment principles provide the philosophical foundations of modern Freemasonry."

The evening concluded with all the brothers enjoying each other's brotherhood, refreshments and cigars.



An Evening of Brothers and Fellows by Nathan Schoonover

On Tuesday, October 17, the brothers of St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 and Union Lodge No. 40 came together for a joint Fellowcraft Degree at Union Lodge in Danbury.

Bros. Mathew Alan Ficus, James Pesantez, Paul Steele, and Fabricio Sorrentino Vivaldi of Union Lodge, and Bro. Steven Douglas Newth of St. Peter's Lodge, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. WM Mark Bagg of St Peter's Lodge opened the lodge while Union Lodge WM Rodrigo Martins closed.

Brothers from both lodges took their places and stations and performed the roles of the degree together while brothers from several lodges and districts all enjoyed the Middle Chamber performed by WB Eric Meyers, WM of Corinthian Lodge No. 104 in Stratford.



Hiram Lodge No. 18 Degree Work

by David McClain

Hiram Lodge No. 18 continued its banner year and held another Entered Apprentice Degree on October 18. Brothers Deneon Lopes DeSales and John Parkhurst from Hiram Lodge and Brother Michael Lathrop, Jr. from Union Lodge No. 40 were initiated with MWB George Greytak presiding in the East.

It was a special evening for Bro. Jason Parkhurst, recently affiliated with Hiram Lodge, as he conducted his father John as he was welcomed into the Fraternity.

On Wednesday, November 1, brothers from six different lodges assisted in raising of four new Master Masons. Brothers Hans Barth, Ryan McDougall, Gabriel Sandrini, and Brian Vargas were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason with MWB George Greytak presiding in the East.



After EA Degree



Master Masons at Hiram Lodge No. 18. Photo by Kraig Gray.



District 3

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



Trunk or Treat with King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 by Steve Lewis

On October 31, the Woodbury Park and Recreation Department sponsored a Halloween "Trunk or Treat" event at Hollow Park providing the area's children a safe and fun place to participate in All-Hallows Eve.

Six brothers from King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 spent several hours preparing the treats to be distributed and Bro. Cohen's 1978 Cadillac "scare-mobile" drew the admiration of children and parents.

The brothers of the lodge make consistent and concerted efforts to participate in the local community's activities. Being visible in the community sponsoring food drives, blood drives, and being visible to the public through Masonic funerals, lodge open houses, and other non-Masonic sponsored events make the Masons less of a quiet, mysterious organization and more of locally known entity and respected neighbor.

The brethren are about town every day, but few know them as Masons. By participating in local activities, they become known not only as parents, citizens, religious attendees, retailers, politicians, businessmen, and educators... but also as the good men of the Masonic fraternity.



Bros. John Stack, Mark Cohen, Matthew Brouillard, and Dennis Huebner.



Bros. John Stack, Matthew Brouillard, and Mark Cohen.

District Wide Master Mason Degree in 3rd Masonic District by Shane Dufresne

The 3rd Masonic District conducted a district-wide Master Mason degree on Saturday October 7, for three Fellowcrafts. It was held at Harmony Lodge No. 42 in Waterbury. The newly raised Master Masons were from multiple lodges from the district. Officers from the nine lodges filled all of the station and places, including all of the other numerous parts that make up a Master Mason degree.

MWB Marshall Robinson was in his usual spot as MEKS with RWB Grant Gould portraying King Hiram Abiff for the tragedy. Seeing these two brothers perform the tragedy is a bucket list item!

MWB Robinson stated it was probably the best Master Mason Degree he has ever been a part of. No one missed a line, nor did anyone need a prompt. It was a flawless degree. The brothers from the district were so motivated by the performance they are looking forward to collaborating again for another degree in the future.



Did You Know?

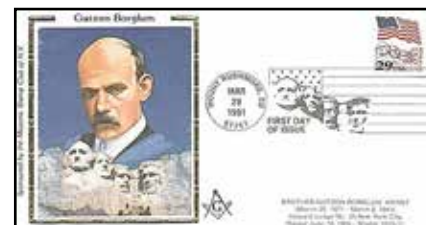
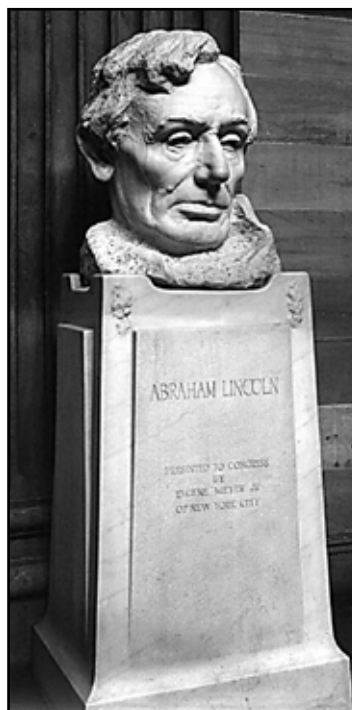
by John Monteleone

John Gutzon de la Mothe Borglum (March 25, 1867–March 6, 1941) was an active member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons raised in Howard Lodge No. 35, New York City, on June 10, 1904, serving as Worshipful Master 1910–11.

In 1915, he was appointed Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Denmark near the Grand Lodge of New York.

He received his Scottish Rite Degrees in the New York City Consistory on October 25, 1907.

Borglum lived in Stamford, Connecticut and as an American sculptor he is best known for his work on Mount Rushmore. He is also associated with various other public works of art across the U.S. including Stone Mountain in Georgia, statues of Union General Philip Sheridan in Washington, D.C. and Chicago, and a bust of Abraham Lincoln that is now held in the United States Capitol crypt in Washington, D.C.



District 4

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



Trumbull Lodge No. 22 Raises Four by Grant Gould

On November 2, Trumbull Lodge No. 22 in New Haven recently raised four brothers, Sean O'Hara, Giles Howell, Bryant George, and John Iacobucci, to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

The ritual work was exemplary with RWB Chris Earle in the East for the first half and MWB Marshall K. Robinson as MEKS in the second half.




by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Continued on page 21



A red vintage pickup truck is shown from a side profile, parked on a snowy surface. The truck's bed is filled with a large, dense Christmas tree heavily decorated with white lights and red ornaments. The truck is also covered in a light dusting of snow. The background is a deep blue night sky with falling white snow and several snow-covered evergreen trees. The overall scene is festive and wintry.

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Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 Tournament Benefits Local Youth Sports **by David Cole**

In 2021, the brothers of Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 teamed with Annawon Lodge No. 115 for a lodge cook-off. The funds raised by the lodge sponsored Branford youth sports. This began a community project that still continues. This year Branford High School field hockey was the beneficiary.

To continue contributing to local youth sports, the lodge hosted a cornhole tournament on Sunday, October 22. All teams participating enjoyed both breakfast and lunch. A hearty appetite, friendly competition and a good cause made for a great time had by all. As one brother said after this successful day, "[I] cannot say enough how important it is to have events like this. Teamwork makes the dream work."

Widow's Son Lodge not only contributed with fundraising but also made their lodge available when the location for the Branford's Middle School Girls Field Hockey Team (Walsh Intermediate) banquet fell through. Head Coach Kristen Liguori and Asst. Coach Rudy Gosteli along with 28 team members and 34 parents were able to enjoy the banquet.

The lodge thanks JW Randy Frazier for making the event possible and allowing the lodge to continue to support Youth Sports in Branford.



District 5

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



Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14 To Hold Fundraiser Silent Auction **by Andy Bronson**

Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14 is a very active lodge in their community. In addition to an annual food drive to support the Plainville Food Pantry and putting on a free haunted house during the Plainville Pumpkin Festival, they also donate meals and grocery gift certificates to the needy during the Thanksgiving season.

To ensure they can continue to support their community, the lodge will be holding a silent auction this spring as a fundraiser to support these community events. The grand prize will be a week's stay at Disney Vacation Club Villa at Disney World with two one-day park passes included.

Stay tuned to the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper and Grand Lodge emails for more details on how you can participate in this fundraising event.



Hospitality Lodge No. 128 Passes Three Brothers

by Francis G. Way

On Wednesday, October 27, Hospitality Lodge No. 128 of Wethersfield, moved their charter and paraphernalia to the lodge room at Unity Lodge No. 148 for the purpose of conferring a Fellowcraft Degree on Bros. James Dake, Gregory Ryan, and Jade Philip.

As RWBs Frank Way (Senior Steward) and Brian Beals (Senior Deacon) were “on injured reserve” for waxing old and infirm, several brothers from other lodges stepped up to help conduct the candidates and fill parts. Brother Brian Sprouse of Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 sat as Senior Deacon, Brother Sebastian Pesquera of Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 sat as Senior Steward and Brother Michael Wilcox of Unity Lodge No. 148 filled the Junior Steward chair.

WB Alberto Dieguez, Senior Warden, presided in the East, received AGM WB Mike Butteri representing District Deputy RWB Frank Dlugoleski, and presided over a fine degree.

The Middle Chamber was presented by RWB Way, the Stewards Lecture was rehearsed by RWB Beals and Bro. Pasquera and the Working Tools as well as the Charge were presented by RWB Matthew F. Griffin, Right Worshipful Grand Junior Steward.

Hospitality Lodge would like to thank all of the brothers who filled chairs, as well as WB Keath Romano who prepared the candidates and helped in a variety of ways.



District 6

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



Ladies Appreciation Luncheon at Washington Lodge No. 70 by Robert Dodge

The brothers of Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor hosted a ladies appreciation luncheon, an afternoon tea, on Saturday, November 3, with over 60 guests attending. The ladies were asked to wear their fanciest hats, to enjoy fancy table settings and decorations, a variety of decadent finger sandwiches, and desserts.

New Britain Assembly No. 6, International Order of Rainbow for Girls performed the “Mothers Degree” for the ladies and guests, organized by Sammie Creighton, Mother Advisor. The girls then took turns answering questions about Rainbow and the work they do for charity.

The recognition of lodges, ladies and widows is a tradition carried on by Washington Lodge Almoner, Bro. Bob McKay. This year special thanks go to Stephanie Dodge, her daughters Morgan and MacKenzie, and sister Claudette. They made all the finger sandwiches (ham salad, chicken salad, egg salad, cucumber cream cheese, and veggie cream cheese), couscous, cranberry-gorgonzola, and broccoli salads, and desserts.



Fellowcraft Degree at Washington Lodge No. 70

by Robert Dodge

On Monday October 23, WM Robert Dodge, and the officers of Washington Lodge No. 70, passed Bros. John Angelakopoloulos and John Plutica to the degree of Fellowcraft.

Brother Patrick Chagnon explained the Working Tools, Senior Deacon Bro. Victor Barile gave the Middle Chamber lecture and WB Paul Hendricks delivered the Letter G lecture. Junior Warden, Bro. Kenneth Roach III offered the charge of the degree.

Special thanks to all the visiting brethren who came out in support of this degree, especially WM David Boland of Fayette Lodge No. 69 in Ellington, who brought with him four Fellowcrafts who had recently taken the degree, and several other brothers from Fayette Lodge.



Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 News by Pat Jones

On October 16, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 held their Awards Night. Masonic Service Awards were presented: 65-years: Aaron Gersten; 60-year: Frank Rist, Philip Prisk, Ray Zaugg. 55-year: Anderson Zeidler, Paul Berg. 50-year: Charles Fisher, Charles Abronze. 40-year: William Fraize, Wayne Merris. 35-year: Dan Aldrich, Wayne Rettburg, Mark Stuart. 30-year: Cliff McClellan, Scott Horsfield, Arthur Langlais, Harvey Levack. 15-year: Barry Lazlo. 10-year: Dave Larsen, Rich Lumpkin, Michael Hirth, and Gil Gamboa.

WM Brian Warren also announced the scholarship recipients for 2023: Ashlyn Larsen, Lincoln Memorial University; Brianna Miranda, Central CT State University; Allyson Montstream, Colorado School of Public Health; Jacqueline Crenshaw, Manchester Community College; Kiefer Culligan, Dean College; Landon Fearn, Wentworth Institute of Technology; and Matthew Aldrich, Manchester Community College.

Halloween night 2023 will be remembered for the many children and parents from all over South Windsor and beyond who visited the lodge and enjoyed a wagon pulled by a tractor that went up and down historic Main Street. Everyone was invited to enjoy a light supper before departing. Thanks to WB Kirk Montstream who provided the wagon and WB Dave Prior who drove his tractor, and WM Brian Warren who made sure that everyone had plenty of candy.



The best news that the brothers of Hartford Evergreen Lodge have heard all year is that WB Wayne Rettburg is home from the hospital and doing well!



Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 Initiates an Entered Apprentice

by Joe Grieco

On Thursday, October 19, WM John DiCioccio, Jr. of Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, and his degree team, presented the Entered Apprentice Degree for the lodge's newest brother, Carlos Ruiz Carrascal. Bro. Carrascal was congratulated by RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Grand Senior Deacon.



District 8 and 9

Lodges 10, 31, 34, 57, 102, 116, 120, 150 and Lodges 15, 24, 46, 60, 69, 110, 113, 122



Districts 8 and 9 Portray Entered Apprentice Degree

by Edward C. Page

On Saturday, October 14, at Somerset-Saint James Lodge No. 34 in Preston, the Masonic Districts 8 and 9 came together in unity to portray an Entered Apprentice Degree for the Blue Wave initiative. With MWPGM Theodore J. Nelson serving as Worshipful Master, and RWB Edward C. Page, Deputy Grand Master in the West, the degree welcomed four new brothers to the fraternity. Brothers Jose-Michael Gonzales (Somerset-St. James Lodge), Emmanuel Omenge (Moosup Lodge No. 113), Jeremy Nelson Bonoyer (Moosup Lodge), and Robert Christopher Reimer Jr (Purity Lodge No. 150) were initiated into the secrets of Masonry.

The other officers, in their places and stations were:, RWB Richard Miller (Brainard Lodge No. 102), Jr. Warden; WB Scott Daniels (Somerset-St. James Lodge), Treasurer; WB Frank J. Saviano, III (Somerset St. James Lodge), Secretary; WB Andrew Pedro (Coastal Lodge No. 57), Sr. Deacon; Brother Seth Beebe (Brainard Lodge), Jr. Deacon; WB Kenneth Stilwell (Moosup Lodge No. 13), Tiler; RWB Christopher Carrott (Moosup Lodge) Marshall; RWB Craig Pedro (Coastal Lodge), Sr. Steward; RWB James Moran, Jr. (Brainard Lodge), Jr. Steward; WB Brian Keith (Moosup Lodge), Steward; and RWB Kenneth Luutsema, (Uriel Lodge No. 24, Chaplain.

A Bible lecture was delivered by WB Andrew Pedro and the apron presentation was performed by RWB C.A. Duke.

After the first half was concluded, all enjoyed a fabulous dinner of pork loin in the dining room. Following dinner, back in the lodge room, additional instruction was provided. RWB Craig Pedro and RWB James Moran flawlessly presented the First Section lecture, RWB Robert Malt, current District Deputy of District 9B, wonderfully portrayed the



Second Section Lecture. Finally, RWB Richard Miller warmly presented the Charge.

At the conclusion, everyone greeted new brothers and MWB Joseph J. Proco, Grand Master, personally welcomed the new brothers into the fraternity, praised and thanked all officers for a splendid degree, and expressed hope it would leave a firm and lasting impression upon the new brothers' hearts and minds.



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Wonderland at Roseville Lights Up for Shriners Hospital Children

by Donald M. Casey, Jr.

Brother Eugene Halliwell, of Corinthian Lodge No. 104, has been celebrating the holidays for the past 24 years with his “Wonderland at Roseville” light display in Fairfield. He and his family have created a magnificent display consisting of 500,000 lights, synchronized music, and 2,000 figures. While the display is free of charge to the public, the Halliwell family created a personal fundraising project for the Shriners Hospital. All donations help needy children receive excellent medical care.

“Wonderland at Roseville” is located at 226 Roseville Terrace in Fairfield and will be open every night from Thanksgiving through December 30.



A 70-year Pin for RWB Lloyd D. Drager, Jr.

by Jeffrey A Blayman

Brothers from the 7th Masonic District traveled to Solar Lodge No. 131 in Colchester to attend the momentous occasion of RWB Lloyd D. Drager, Jr., receiving his 70-year pin. After opening the lodge, WB Andrew Warren put the lodge at ease and the story of RWB Drager's life was told.

"The man, the myth, the legend" is an apt use of the phrase for someone with the life experience of this brother. Born in 1930, he lived through the Great Depression and was not unaccustomed to hardship. He joined the Army and spent time abroad retiring after 4.5 years as a 2nd LT. In Australia, on leave, he bought his first motorcycle, a 1942 Army Harley with the stick shift on side. Thus started his love for motorcycles and the open road.

He spent some time in Los Angeles running with the Galloping Goose MC, of which he stated, "If you'd like to hear those stories, we'll need to

close the bible." That very morning, at 93 years of age, RWB Lloyd had been out riding his motorcycle around Old Saybrook where he resides.

RWB Lloyd was raised on October 13, 1953, in Village Lodge No. 29. He has been a member and WM of many lodges, including Solar Lodge No. 131, Estuary Lodge No. 43, Mount Vernon Lodge, and lodges in Oklahoma and Sydney, Australia. His seven decades toiling in the quarry have included time as a Knight Templar, Past Thrice Illustrious Master in Council, with memberships in Scottish Rite, York Rite and Order of the Amaranth where he was a Past Grand Royal Patron.

RWB Lloyd is a retired veterinarian with multiple college degrees and certifications. The evening was full of stories recounted by friends and family. RWB Michael Schafer, District Deputy of Masonic District 7B shared stories from their many car rides. Others shared stories like when he landed a plane on the Army parade grounds with an expired pilot's license in order to not be late, when he organized the Fort Lewis rodeo club, or when he shot himself in leg doing a quick draw shooting competition, just to name a few. The evening was delightful, and RWB Drager even did went one better by closing the evening reciting "Casey at the Bat" with fervor. RWB Lloyd Drager -- The Man, the Myth, The Legend. Congratulations on 70 years!



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District 7

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



Riding the Blue Wave in the 7th District by Jeffrey A. Blayman

With inquiries flooding in throughout the state and statistical data showing a record number of brothers being initiated, passed and raised one can't help but be hopeful. One aspect of this momentum is the obvious reverse of a decades long decline in membership, but another positive attribute is indeed the labor itself.

As we have been accustomed to fewer and fewer inquiries over the years, the humdrum nature of lodge life became its single biggest threat. Without meals, education, and community action to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood, some lodges were reduced to reading minutes, paying bills and other aspects of any standard communication that sometimes feel like drudgery. This compounded the problematic decline in membership by ushering many brothers to sit at home rather than be bothered with another eventless meeting. Thus, every lodge has a contingent of brothers who live in town or close by but who have not been seen in years.

Yet with this blue wave, brothers have been re-energized to entertain and investigate potential candidates, to practice and perform ritual, and once again labor in the quarry of Freemasonry. Having traveled to four lodges within the 7th Masonic District over the course of a recent week, I was able to bear witness to the enthusiasm of the craft. Each lodge is working in its highest capacity to perform the work of the day and to move boldly towards a new and brighter future.



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this Holiday Season.*



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