

February 2024



Connecticut FREEMASONS

LETTERS



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

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RW Deputy Grand Master

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Bro. Shane Dufresne
RW Grand Junior Warden

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RW Grand Junior Steward

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RW Grand Chaplain

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Bro. Andrew R. Melillo
RW Grand Historian

Bro. Gary Graham
RW Grand Organist

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

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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



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

Not just a man. A Mason.



Volume 19 - Number 6

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THE GRAND LODGE
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Hey! Where's My Connecticut Freemasons Newspaper???

by Francis G. Way

In October 2022, at the Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, the Craft voted for a budget that reduced the allocation of funds to the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper. The plan put in place, beginning in April 2023, was that only Connecticut Masons 70 years of age and older, or those brothers who were Boosters, would receive the newspaper in the U.S. Mail. Brothers under the age of 70 who were not Boosters would not receive the paper in the mail but could access it electronically, in PDF format, from the Grand Lodge website: <https://ctfreemasons.net>, available on the front page. This change was communicated in various places, including the Grand Master's Message when the new Grand Lodge year began.

Since last April, however, we at Grand Lodge Publications have continually fielded questions from some brothers essentially asking the question in the headline of this article. Brothers are unaware of this change, are unaware of how to find the PDF version of the paper online and are also unaware of how to find the back issues. (There are over 10 years of back issues available.) Additionally, we've heard from some of the Grand Lodge officers that they, too, are fielding the same questions.

So, to be clear, currently:

- If you are 70 years old or older, you receive the paper in the U.S. Mail.
- If you are a current Booster, you receive the paper in the U.S. Mail.
- If you are younger than 70, and you are not a current Booster, all brothers can access the paper electronically on the Grand Lodge website.

Our hope is that by addressing this in the cover story of this issue we might spread the word a little bit better. Please mention this at your lodge meetings too, so that the word gets spread.

However, in the words of the late Billy Mays: **"But WAIT! There's MORE!"**

Last October at the Semi-Annual Communication, the Craft voted for a budget that restored the funds to the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper. **In May 2024, all Connecticut brothers should again expect to find their *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper in their U.S. mailboxes**, arriving (approximately) between the 1st and the 7th of the month.



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

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



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235th ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

The 235th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A. M. of Connecticut will be held at the **Marriott Hartford/Windsor Airport, 28 Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT 06095** (I91, exit 38), on **Saturday, April 6, 2024**. The formal opening of the Grand Lodge will be at 9:30 A.M.

This is the "CALL" to that meeting.

Registration will start at 8:00 A.M. Please note: **All voting delegates must register at the registration table and present their 2024 Dues Card to the Grand Tiler upon entry to the session.** Registration will be by Home/Primary Lodge number as designated by posted signs in the area.

A proxy form will be sent directly to the Lodge Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden should they: 1) not be able to attend this Annual Communication in person [proxy must be executed in advance]; 2) be entitled to vote by virtue of holding one of these offices in more than one lodge; 3) be entitled to vote by virtue of being a Grand Lodge Officer or a permanent member of Grand Lodge. Please inform any brother who is attending as a proxy that he must present his 2024 dues card. All brothers entitled to vote should bring the apron and jewel of their office, whether as permanent member, lodge officer or serving as proxy.

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

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

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

The Grand Lodge Office cannot make hotel reservations. Lodges and brothers are responsible for making their own reservations with the **Marriott Hartford/Windsor Airport**. We encourage you to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. Room rate is \$129 per night plus tax. Last day to book is **Friday, March 8, 2024**. To reserve your room use this link: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1704310896526&key=GRP&app=resvlink> or call 860-688-7500 (ask for Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut when making reservations by phone).

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

FRIDAY BANQUET: The Grand Master's Banquet for Grand Lodge Officers, Distinguished Guests, members of the Craft and their ladies will be held on Friday evening, April 5, 2024, at 7:00 pm with a social hour at 6:00 pm in the Windsor Ballroom. All brothers and their ladies are invited to attend. Please make every effort to send your reservation in early as tickets to this banquet are sold on a first come - first serve basis. The **deadline for reservation tickets is March 8, 2024.**

A banquet reservation form for the Friday night banquet is included in this publication. The entrée will be Filet Mignon \$60.00, Herb Frenched Chicken \$60.00, Filet of Salmon \$60.00, or Vegetarian \$60.00 and all by advance order. All prices are per person and include tax and gratuity. Please make all checks payable to the "Grand Lodge of Connecticut" and mail with the banquet reservation form. Banquet tickets will be mailed to those placing an order **PRIOR TO MARCH 8, 2024**. It would be appreciated if a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) was also included. For orders received after that date, tickets will be held at the door.

SATURDAY LUNCH: On Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 12:00 Noon, the Past District Deputies Association of Connecticut will host a luncheon. Lunch choices are Roast Beef Sandwich for \$35 or Grilled Chicken Caprese for \$40. All prices are per person and include tax and gratuity. All brothers are invited to attend. See reservation form included in this publication. Reservations can be mailed to Bro. Brian Beals, 175 Mercier Ave, Bristol, CT 06010 or call 860-620-4102. **Reservation deadline is March 8, 2024.** Lunch will also be available at other venues in the surrounding areas.

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

With my fraternal best wishes

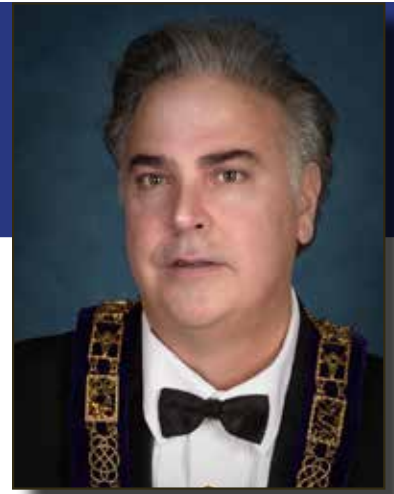
James M. Anderson

R.W. Grand Secretary

February 1, 2024

Grand Master's Message

by MWB Joseph J. Porco



A warm greeting to all. With installations now in the rearview mirror, February is the time when Worshipful Masters gain traction and commence implementing their plans. Hopefully Wardens are already assisting their Worshipful Master in the discharge of his duties. Primary officers should be prepared to impart knowledge of Masonic law and custom so that the Craft may never suffer from the lack of proper instruction. Officers and members alike should remain attentive and reflect the will and pleasure of the Worshipful Master.

Much will be accomplished this year if Worshipful Masters focus on setting the Craft to work and provide clear instruction for their labor. Regular communication with your District Deputy and Grand Line officer will be of benefit, so please engage their assistance. Communication with the members and cooperation from the members is essential. Do your best to promote the peace and prosperity of your lodge.

I request that Worshipful Masters make it a priority that when men express interest in Masonry that they are contacted promptly. Please move suitable petitioners forward and initiate EAs without delay. Doing so will energize your lodge and strengthen it. Our Blue Wave Program now has additional outreach channels including Bing and Reddit. As a result, more men will be expressing interest and inquiries will increase.

Administratively, January 10 was the deadline for reporting membership numbers for Grand Lodge assessment. In regard to the measurement count of the brothers we have lost due to death and those in the category of Non-Payment of Dues (NPD), I can report that every district in our jurisdiction still reflects positive membership growth. The Grand Lodge Office has tallied the count. Inclusive of 2023 up to January 10, 2024, we had 163 NPDs recorded. This is a marked improvement over 2021 (228 NPDs) and 2022 (243 NPDs). A decrease (of NPDs) of 28.5% and 32.9% respectively. This reduction in NPDs is significant and welcome news. With a little effort, some of the 2023 NPDs can also be recovered.

Overall, lodges are having better retention outcomes and morale is reported to be high. Lodge attendance is increasing in numerous locations across the jurisdiction. A record number of degrees were completed and verified. **Well done brothers!** Lodges are more active, and some brothers are returning to lodge who had been absent for a while. Brothers are likely returning in light of the positive buzz and momentum they are hearing about.

There are factors which are entirely in the Grand Architect's hands, such as the deaths of brothers we loved. It is important that we maintain our focus on welcoming suitable men into our fraternity. The average age of new men joining is approximately age 40. We have established

an effective process for raising membership awareness. We recognize the strength and agency we do possess. Masons throughout Connecticut have witnessed that membership can and is growing. Membership will continue to increase if we continue to act decisively. The gains we achieve are the result of the work we perform, the efforts we make, and the blessings the Grand Architect bestows.

Our success is directly proportional to the manner in which we treat one another and how we adhere to the high standards we pledge to uphold. There will always be bumps in the road. I appeal to the Better Angels of Our Nature. For the most part, the self-governing aspect of Freemasonry (which we pride ourselves on) is effective but there are times when Grand Lodge intervention must occur. As for the vast majority of brothers who do their level best to help others, lead, and move this jurisdiction forward, I sincerely thank you. Please do not let your heart be troubled or allow your mind to dwell on negativity or a singular circumstance of unmasonic behavior. While incidents do arise and will be dealt with accordingly, unmasonic behavior is not widespread, it is not a trend nor the norm. Most of our brothers are doing a fantastic job within our lodges and for the communities in which we live.

Most undesirable incidents can be avoided by a time-proven remedy which is simply for brothers to know and follow our Rules and Regulations. Every brother should have a clear understanding of our rules, be cautious in carriage and not do things that are prohibited or injurious to another brother or the fraternity at-large. Moreover, we are reminded to study the Great Light of Masonry and live according to its divine teachings, so that Masonry can shed its beneficent influences on mankind. Freemasonry requires a high standard of its members, nothing less. Rules exist to guide us, keep us within due bounds and to enable leadership to govern.

Brothers continue to care for one another. Grow your membership, mentor our new brothers and work together to address the needs of your lodge. Please keep your eyes on the prize. Stay focused on the opportunities before you. Enjoy your time together and celebrate your accomplishments.

Blessings to All

Credits throughout:

Installation of Officers Ceremony and Connecticut Ritual

Deputy Grand Master's Message

by Edward C. Page

Upcoming in April: Grand Masters Council of Physical Fitness

In my travels both now and before I was a Grand Lodge officer, I have tried to be mindful of what other lodges, districts, jurisdictions, and other organizations have offered as a benefit to its members. Since my youth growing up in Winslow, Maine, sports have been instrumental in my personal growth. When I was in junior high school, our physical education department required all children to participate in the Presidential Council of Physical Fitness. I was terrible at most tasks, but as the year and years rolled along, I got better and actually enjoyed the process.

As part of my initiatives, I am offering a new program, one that I have never seen in any other organization but is near and dear to my heart. While our fraternity does a wonderful job of trying to address our Craft's mental improvement and the salvation of our soul, this program is an attempt to close the three-sided aspect of us as human beings, Mind – Body – Soul... the body. We are taught through our ritual that "The design of the Masonic institution is to make our votaries wiser, better, and consequently happier." I hope this initiative accomplishes that and makes us happier and healthier.

The rough layout of the program is as follows: the program is solely voluntary (not in any way mandatory), and there is no cost to any Connecticut Freemason, any part of the Grand Lodge, or its budget. I am

personally funding this program.

I have researched and am in the process of purchasing smartwatches/fitness trackers for all participants. While only the steps will be used to gauge progress, calories may also be included, and these will be distributed at our Annual Communication on April 6, for all who wish to participate.

An email has been set up (GrandMasterCouncilFitness2024@hotmail.com) to post individual results. A project manager will be in charge of collecting the data and populating a spreadsheet that has been created. No specific data will be shared. A categories matrix has been designed to be populated and tracked and will be used to award certain achievements with a specially designed plaque. A certificate has been created, and everyone who participates is eligible to receive one.

The aim of this endeavor is to improve the health of our Craft, challenge you, challenge a brother (if you so desire), watch your improvement, and track your results. As this is the inaugural launch, there may be some unforeseen hurdles, but I only ask that you be patient and enjoy this journey we are taking together to improve our physical health — with improved health comes great longevity. I want all my brothers to be around for a good long time to enjoy our wonderful fraternity and each other.

Annual Grand Lodge of Connecticut Dinner Reservation
Marriott Hartford/Windsor Airport, Windsor
Friday, April 5, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.

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

Entrée:

Please send _____ ticket(s) at \$60.00 each for Filet Mignon
Please send _____ ticket(s) at \$60.00 each for Herb Frenched Chicken
Please send _____ ticket(s) at \$60.00 each for Filet of Salmon
Please send _____ ticket(s) at \$60.00 each for Vegetarian Meal

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Mail tickets to: _____
Address _____
City, ST, Zip _____
Signed: _____

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

Deadline for Reservation: March 8, 2024



Past District Deputies Association

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

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

Annual Reunion Luncheon

beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 6, 2024

at the Marriott Hartford/Windsor Airport

28 Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT 06095

The luncheon menu will include:

1. **Grilled Chicken Caprese** with Pesto, roasted Tomato, Mozzarella Cheese, fresh Basil \$40
& Balsamic glaze, with Tricolor Fingerling Potatoes & broccolini

OR

2. **Roast Beef Sandwich** served on a French baguette with Cheddar cheese & horseradish mayo \$35

***** Please indicate your choice below *****

Please make checks payable to: *Past District Deputies Association*
and mail **before March 8, 2024**, to:

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

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

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

Thank you!



Past District Deputies Association – Annual Reunion Luncheon April 6, 2024

1. Grilled Chicken Caprese \$40 Qty _____

2. Roasted Beef on a French Baguette \$35 Qty _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Name: _____ Cell: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD SERVICE

March 2024

To Prospective Masonicare Board and Committee Members:

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

Applications are to be submitted to me and postmarked no later than April 19, 2024. Applicants will be contacted to schedule interviews.

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

MASONICARE is the Parent Corporation of our system, and all nominees must be members in good standing of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, with the exception of three who shall be members in good standing, and appointed one each from The Grand Chapter of Connecticut, Order of the Eastern Star; the Order of the Amaranth State of Connecticut; and Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of Connecticut. The Board of Trustees is composed of no less than twelve but no more than fifteen members. Three seats are filled annually by members in good standing of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, through the nomination and election process. The term of service on this board is three years, commencing in November 2024.

The term of service for The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut Board of Directors and for Masonicare Board Committees is one year commencing in November 2024.

Please feel free to address any questions you may have regarding this process to Jon-Paul Venoit, President and CEO, 203-679-6000 or jvenoit@masonicare.org. Thank you for your assistance and participation.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Christopher Earle

Christopher Earle, Chair
Nominating Committee

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION FOR BOARD SERVICE

Requests for a Nomination Application can be completed by returning the attached request. Once completed, the form should be sent to Christopher Earle, Chair of the Masonicare Nominating Committee, via U.S. Postal Service to the address listed below; by Facsimile to 203-679-3045; or you may send the information electronically to jvenoit@masonicare.org. A Nomination Application will be sent to all applicants for completion. Please indicate your preference on how to receive the form. The Nomination Application may be returned via U.S. Postal Service, Facsimile, or electronically.

Christopher Earle, Chair
Masonicare Nominating Committee
Masonicare Corporation
22 Masonic Avenue, P.O. Box 70
Wallingford, CT 06492

Name _____

Mailing address _____

Daytime phone number () _____ Evening phone number () _____

Mobile number () _____ Fax number () _____

Email address _____

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

Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc.

Call to Meeting

In accordance with its by-laws, the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc. will conduct a brief meeting and election of representation to its Board of Directors at the will and pleasure of the Most Worshipful Grand Master during the Annual Stated Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut on Saturday, April 6, 2024. All members of the Grand Lodge who are in good standing are invited to attend.

Fraternally,
Bro. Christopher J. Earle, Chairman

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

America St. Johns Lodge No. 8

Joseph Charles Alexander
Jonathan Ernesto López
Edward Rivera
Michael Chad Urban

Union Lodge No. 40

Tyler Poznick

Temple Lodge No. 65

Thomas M. Belden

Montgomery Lodge No. 13

Matthew Gabriel
Barrie David Richardson

Widows Son Lodge No. 66

Daniel Majeed
Jonathan Paul Sherman
Anthony Daniel Vlahos, Jr.
Robert Warner

Hiram Lodge No. 18

Hans Hermann Barth
Ryan McDougall
Gabriel Sandrini
Brian A. Vargas

Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Matthew Russell Osborn
Keith Merrill Smith, III

Trumbull Lodge No. 22

Bryant Wesley George
Giles Leween Howell
John Michael Iacobucci
Sean Patrick O'Hara, Jr.
Lawrence Parker
Claudio Rojas-Verde
Ivan Volodchenkov

Anchor Lodge No. 112

Curtis George Strong, Jr.

Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149

Yves Beauchamps
Chavane Celius
Robert B Cenatus
Paul Elie Etienne
Kevin Lord Josue
Ernsy Pointdujour
Jimmy Pointdujour
Daniel Joseph Tozzi

Ark Lodge No. 39

Cristian C. Taut

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

Howard Martin Backus

Union Lodge No. 31

Ronald A. Glifort

Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Peter Benjamin Keefe

St. Andrews Lodge No. 64

James E. Scory

Granite Lodge No. 119



Grand Chaplain's Corner

by Christopher J. Earle, Grand Chaplain



The Greatest Of These

I was raised in an Episcopalian family where my mother was the religious compass. In spite of the fact that my father was one of the few people that I ever met who had read the Bible cover-to-cover (thanks to an illness during World War II that put him in an Army hospital for three weeks with no other reading material available) it was my mother, a strict adherent to the Book of Common Prayer and the King James Version of the Bible, that set the tone for us spiritually. So, when I became the State Chaplain of Connecticut DeMolay at age 17 and was responsible for two worship services at the Masonic Healthcare Chapel, my mother wasn't leaving anything to chance when it came to selected readings.

The Annual Christmas Service reading was easy. Luke Chapter 2 Verses 1-14 is the well-known story of The Nativity and was perfect and obvious, even to a teenager. The Annual Mother's Day Service reading was a harder decision as there was no set passage guided by the calendar. This is when Mom came forth, stating, "Well, you will use St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians Chapter 13, of course!" When I tried to show off by asking which verses, her terse reply of "All of it." set me in my place. As she was strictly a KJV reader, the word "Charity" had not yet been replaced by the word "Love" as it is in more modern Bibles. "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not

charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

For our purposes, "charity" is perhaps more apt. Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth are the basic principles of Freemasonry. "Relief" and "charity" are synonymous. The practice of Masonic charity is recognized all over the world. Those brothers who have become Shriners have, through their Children's Hospitals, been the most visible ambassadors of Masonic charity. Locally, we have The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, which is the philanthropic arm of Masonicare, the largest provider of geriatric healthcare services in the state. Also, we have the CT Freemasons Foundation, Inc., which spreads Masonic charity to other relief agencies locally and nationally. Your continued support for these organizations is earnestly encouraged.

"And now abideth faith, hope and charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity," ends the reading. It is in line with the 3rd Section Lecture of the Entered Apprentice Degree, which says: "Faith may be lost in sight; hope ends in fruition; but charity extends beyond the grave through the boundless realms of eternity."

Amen

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

Robert Scott Bowe
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Robert L. Bristol
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Miles E. Cochran, Jr.
Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34

Allen G. Dugdale
Washington Lodge No. 70

Howard David Fink
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Jerry E. Hamilton
St. Andrews Lodge No. 64

Edward Robert Jacovino
St. Pauls Lodge No. 11

Robert Harris
Union Lodge No. 5

John A. Jordan
Washington Lodge No. 70

Mark L. Prelli
St. Andrews Lodge No. 64

Valdemar Ramos, Jr.
Washington Lodge No. 81

Charles E. Ricker
Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14

Daniel S. Sanchez
Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge No. 142

Edward T. Willard, Jr
Day Spring Lodge No. 30

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

Over the holidays, I had the pleasure of joining Masonicare Health Center Administrator Courtney O'Sullivan and our Board of Trustees Chairman, RWB Chris Earle, in delivering gifts to all of our long-term care residents. This annual tradition is made possible by donations to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, our philanthropic affiliate. To those of you who are Foundation supporters, please know that your generosity is helping us enhance the quality of life of residents and patients in need ... not just during the holidays, but all year long.

For many people, January is a month full of optimism and new beginnings. For Masonicare, it was also a great time to welcome two new additions to our senior leadership team: Laurie St. John, Executive Director of Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, and Lindsey Smith, Vice President of Human Resources.

Laurie St. John brings extensive leadership experience in the home health, hospice, and palliative care sector, including oversight of clinical operations, business development, and regulatory compliance. Most recently, she served as Director of Hospice at Constellation Health Services. She has also held senior leadership positions with Hartford HealthCare at Home, VITAS Healthcare, and VNA Healthcare. In 2021, the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home presented Laurie with the Judith Hriceniak Career Achievement Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership. We're excited to be adding a leader of her caliber to our homecare agency!

Lindsey Smith brings over 20 years of HR leadership experience in healthcare, including the last seven as Director of Human Resources at Waterbury Hospital. At Masonicare, she will oversee all aspects of our HR functions, including employee relations, compensation and benefits, recruitment and retention strategies, employee recognition programs, internal communications, and employee health.




Although Lindsey and Laurie each bring plenty of experience to their respective roles, I also sense that they will adapt easily to the Masonicare culture – a culture that embraces our benevolent mission while holding itself to high standards so that we can continue to serve you for many years to come.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Jon-Paul Venoit



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Healthier Hearing = Healthier Aging

At Masonicare, we recognize hearing loss is not a standalone disability because it touches virtually everything you do every single day. Think about it: hearing impacts your social interactions, family connections, workplace productivity ... even your enjoyment of your favorite movies, TV shows, or pieces of music.

After making an appointment to see Dr. Hillary Lewis (right) at the Masonicare Hearing Center in Wallingford, **Bro. Mark H. Hawkins, RW Grand Junior Deacon**, rediscovered what had been missing from his hearing care: the pleasure of being treated like a patient, not a number.

"The warmth and the personal touch were there," Bro. Hawkins recalled. "Dr. Lewis asked me lots of questions in her initial evaluation. We talked at length

about my hearing and the experiences I've had. Then I took a hearing test, which was actually *fun*. We reviewed the test results together and Dr. Lewis provided me with options to address my hearing loss."



Ultimately, Bro. Hawkins decided to purchase hearing aids directly through Masonicare. These were tested – and re-tested – to ensure he was getting the maximum benefit.

"The entire experience of using the Masonicare Hearing Center," Bro. Hawkins concluded, "from

beginning to end, was just phenomenal."

Dr. Lewis and the Masonicare Hearing Center make it easy to get quality hearing care because failing to get hearing tested and corrected early can have negative health consequences. Hearing loss is associated with earlier onset of dementia, earlier mortality, and six times the rate of falls compared to those with normal hearing.

Anyone age 18 or older can utilize Masonicare's expert audiology services, including a FREE hearing screening in our brand-new space in the Erickson Medical Building. Start the process today by scheduling an appointment on our website, masonicare.org (Select Services > Hearing Center) or call the Hearing Center at 203-872-0869.

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22 Masonic Avenue . Wallingford, CT

District 1

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



Washington Lodge No. 19 Donates to Project Warmth and Monroe Food Pantry by Roy Nealon

On Monday, January 8, WM Steve Ackley presented the lodge's annual donations to Project Warmth and Monroe Food pantry. The evening also featured a visit by Monroe's new First Selectman Terry Ronney. WM Steve presented checks to Kim Cassia and Eddie Lui from the town of Monroe.



District 2

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



Hiram Lodge No. 18 Completes an Even Dozen Degrees In 2023 by Nathan Schoonover

On Wednesday, December 20, 2023, the brothers of Hiram Lodge No. 18 in Sandy Hook, held their 12th degree of the year, with MWB George Greytak sitting in the East. It was a Master Mason Degree with three brothers — Alex Pashaian, Geoffry Estes, and John Parkurst — raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

After the new Master Masons received the degree, the entire degree was performed again with Bro. Christopher Follen, Jr., acting as the exemplar, so the new Master Masons could witness what they had just experienced.

It was a wonderful evening for everyone involved. Bro. Christopher received his Master Mason Degree during the COVID-19 restrictions and was able to experience the degree from a different perspective. He, like the three new Master Masons, was extremely grateful for everything the brothers of Hiram Lodge did to make the evening special.



District 3

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



St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64 Helps Salvation Army In December by Keith Dearden, George Frascarelli, and Ben Isaacson



The brothers of St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64 in Winsted truly got into the holiday spirit by helping the Salvation Army on two different weekends in December.

Brothers Keith Dearden, George Frascarelli, and Ben Isaacson continued a tradition that started over 100 years ago, collecting funds for the Salvation Army by ringing the ever-present bell next to the red kettle the Salvation Army uses. Standing outside the Stop & Shop in Winsted the brothers collected donations and wished shoppers a Merry Christmas.

The lodge continued to support the Salvation Army the next weekend hosting a toy give-away at the lodge. The toys were collected at the Winsted police station, then transported to the lodge. The toys were wrapped at the family's request by the brothers and their families and were distributed before Christmas so that all the children would have something to enjoy for the season.



Seneca Lodge No.55 Installation of Officers by Matthew Kuhr

On Tuesday, December 19, 2023, Seneca Lodge No. 55 installed its officers for 2024 in front of a record crowd of more than 70 brothers and guests. WB Robert Namias was installed as Worshipful Master for a second year by MWB George Greytak and Installing Marshall RWB Mark Dzurak.

CT DeMolay presented the "Ceremony of Light," IORG Hope Assembly No. 46 performed the "Square Degree," and Ephraim-Kirby Chapter No. 75 OES presented the "Star Points." A very special surprise appearance by MWB Joseph Porco provided an auspicious start for Seneca Lodge's newly installed officers.

Good luck to Seneca Lodge in 2024.



King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 Serving Their Communities

by Steve Lewis

King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 supports several food and fuel banks in the geographic area that surrounds their temple.

In December, a donation was made to the Southbury Food Bank, that has the mission to eliminate hunger in the community by offering food assistance with respect and dignity to those in need.

Assistance can be obtained by calling (203) 721-0377 or emailing southburyfoodbank@gmail.com. After contacting them, they will schedule an appointment for your initial shopping visit. At that time, they will review the program in detail, and you will shop in a private setting for your first appointment. They will answer any questions you may have and assign you a shopping day and time for future visits.

The food bank is located at 88 Main Street South in Southbury.

(l-r) Bro. Mitchell Goldburgh (Chaplain), Mary Ellen Zakrzewski (Food Bank Assistant Director), Angie Villadolid (Food Bank Director), and Bro. John Monteleone (Treasurer)



Masonic District 3A Breakfast with Santa by Matthew Kuhr

On Saturday, December 9, 2023, St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, Federal Lodge No. 17, and Seneca Lodge No. 55 hosted a breakfast with Santa. Families and friends of the lodges were treated to a hearty breakfast followed by a special visit from Santa who arrived with a full sack of toys.

Rainbow Girls from IORG Hope Assembly No. 46 helped hand out presents to all the children on the good list and read *The Night before Christmas*.



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 Installation of Officers by Bill Roots

On Friday evening, January 5, Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 installed the officer line for 2024.

Bro. Dennis S. McNamara, Jr. was installed as Worshipful Master, and his suite of officers consists of: Bro. Julio A. Calvao, Senior Warden; Bro. Jeffrey J. Scepanski, Junior Warden, WB Jesse T. Batterton, Treasurer; WB Charles A. McCollum, Secretary; Bro. Michael R. Gendreau, Senior Deacon; Bro. Joseph Soto, Junior Deacon; Bro. Alexander C. Campana, Senior Steward; Bro. Sebastian



R. Pesquera, Junior Steward; Bro. Gregory C. D'Andrea, Marhsal; Bro.

Richard P. Smeland, Jr., Tiler; WB Ernest A. Dubois, Organist; Bro. Robert W. Volgmuth, Historian; Bro. William W. Roots, Chaplain. The suite was installed by Installing Master MWB Charles A. Buck, Jr. and Installing Marshal, RWB Scott T. Sherrick.

District 5

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



Hospitality Lodge No. 128 Installs Officers for 2024

by Francis G. Way

On Wednesday, January 10, Hospitality Lodge No. 128 in Wethersfield installed its 2024 officer at their regular meeting place, The Solomon Welles House on Hartford Avenue.

In this 13th year since the lodge's "reconstitution" in 2012, RWB Theodore L. Hasty was installed as Worshipful Master, WB Alberto Dieguez as Senior Warden, RWB Charles Weiss as Junior Warden, RWB Richard R. Jones, Jr. as Treasurer, and RWB Matthew F. Griffin as Secretary. Bro. Joseph Distin will serve as Senior Deacon, Bro. Jed Philip as Junior Deacon, and Bro. Douglas Maliszewski as Senior Steward.

The lodge has a busy year ahead; the first order of business will be raising three Fellowcrafts. There are also interested gentlemen in the EMR pipeline. RWB Hasty will also continue the philanthropic efforts that have become lodge tradition and add a fundraiser to help support those efforts. An increased presence in local news will be a priority.



(front l-r) RWB Charles Weiss, JW; RWB Theodore L. Hasty, WM; MWB William E. Bohman, Installing Master; (rear l-r) Bro. Jed Philip, JD; RWB Richard R. Jones, Jr, Treasurer; Bro. Douglas Maliszewski, SS; WB Alberto Dieguez, SW; RWB Matthew F. Griffin, Secretary; and Bro. Joseph Distin, SD

Friendship Lodge No. 33 News by Michael Leser

Second year Worshipful Master Allyan Lopes raised three brothers at Friendship Lodge No. 33 on Saturday Dec. 9. Brothers Richard Donovan, Issac Asare, and Jeremy Mongillo were raised in the morning then after lunch provided by Junior Warden Omar Pichette, everyone enjoyed the MM Tragedy presented in the afternoon.

Friendship Lodge No. 33 Installation of Officers by Michael Mesner

Friendship Lodge No. 33 installed most of the 2024 officers slate on Dec. 17, 2023. After serving two years as Senior Warden due to a vacancy in the officer line, Brother Mike Leser was finally installed as Worshipful Master. Outgoing WM Allyan Lopes was installed as Chaplain.

The lodge room was filled to capacity as the Marcus Holcomb/ Nathan Hale DeMolay chapter presented the colors and MWB Gary Arsenault installed the team with the assistance of WB Bob Buntin as Installing Marshal. After the ceremonies, everyone enjoyed a meal catered by JD's Restaurant.

The following evening at the lodge's Stated Communication, the remaining three officers were installed: SW Omar Pichette, SS Patrick Caron and Organist Charles Wilson.



(center l-r) Richard Donovan, Issac Asare, and Jeremy Mongillo. (center rear) WM Allyan Lopes.

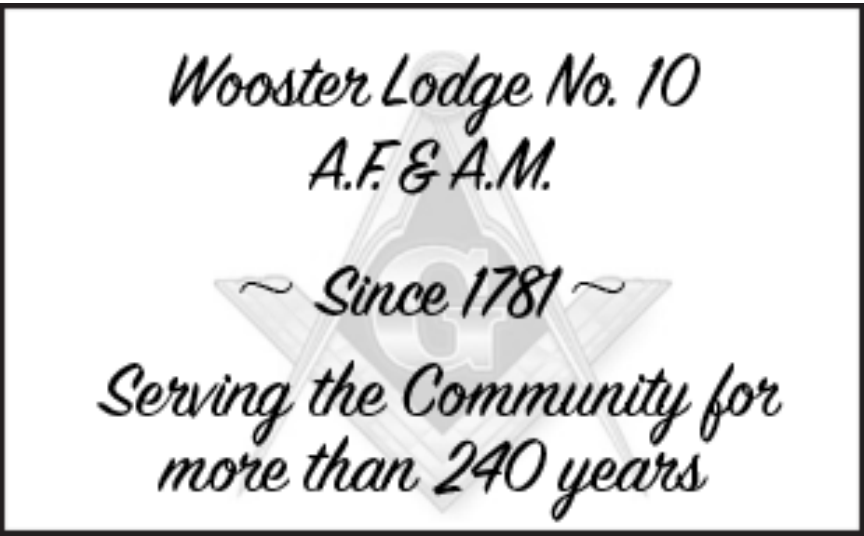


Frederick Franklin No. 14 Hosting Silent Auction April 28

Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14 in Plainville will be hosting a silent auction on April 28th at 3 p.m. The Grand Prize to be auctioned is a week's stay at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, from Sunday, June 23, checking out Sunday, June 30. Also included will be 10 snack coupons and complimentary planning for dining reservations. Please note that travel, dining, and alcoholic beverages are not included in the Grand Prize.

Also being auctioned are a social membership to Chippabee Country Club, a set of four tickets to a Hartford Yard Goats home game, a one-day admission to Lake Compounce Amusement Park, and gift cards to several area restaurants.

All proceeds will benefit the Frederick Franklin Lodge's philanthropic efforts. More details to follow, so please stay tuned to the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper!



Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14 Installs Officers for 2024

by Andy Bronson & Patrick Kilb



The colors were presented by the Nathan Hale Chapter of DeMolay and conducted the Pledge of Allegiance. Xavier Color Guard of Plainville High School led the assembly in singing the Star-Spangled Banner.

Installed were WB Andrew Bronson, Worshipful Master; RWB G. Randal Honraday, Senior Warden; Michael Kelly, Junior Warden; RWB Frank Dlugoleski, Treasurer; RWB Chet Russell, Secretary; Charles Rowland, Senior Deacon; Marlon Zakuri, Junior Deacon; Mike Menendez, Senior Steward; Justin Talarski, Junior Steward; Dan Levine, Chaplain; Jay Bostwick, Marshal; Charles Weiss; Almoner; Edward Lawon, Historian.

Connecticut State Representative Francis Cooley presented Past Master Dan Levine with a citation from the state capital recognizing his service to the local community. MWB Greytak completed the ceremony by presenting the gavel to WM Andrew Bronson, who took charge of the assembly.

WB Andy's family had made it safely in from central New York the previous evening, and while the dinner of "chicken riggies" made by his mother had to be postponed, the support and involvement of his family during the night's proceedings proved to be more enduring than the rough weather.

Saturday, January 6, was a busy day for Connecticut Masonry, as many lodges from across the state held their officer installations. The officers of Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14 in Plainville, however, had a more adventurous day than had been planned!

Weather reports forecast a winter storm for the early hours of Sunday morning, but as the week progressed, the expected arrival of the heaviest snow targeted 7 p.m., the start time for the installation. Phone calls from incoming WM Andy Bronson, outgoing WM Dan Levine, and Secretary RWB Chet Russell informed all involved that the scheduled dinner was canceled and the installation moved to 6 p.m. to beat the snow.

Fifty brothers, family, and friends assembled at the lodge with MWB George Greytak serving as Installing Officer, MWB William Bohman serving as Installing Marshal, assisted by MWB Gary Arseneau and RWB Matthew Griffin and WB Ed Lawson leading the lodge in prayer.



"The Master's Apron," a poem by Brother Robert Burns, welcomes the new masters this year.

"THE MASTER'S APRON" **By Robert Burns**

There's many a badge that's very grand
With ribbon, lace and tape on
Let kings and princes wear them all,
Give me the Master's apron!

The honest craftsman's apron,
The jolly Freemason's apron,
Be he at home or roam afar,
Before his touch fall bolt and bar,
The gates of fortune fly ajar,
When he but wears the apron!

For wealth and honor, pride and power
are crumbling stones to base on
Eternity should rule the hour,
and every worthy Mason!
Each Free Accepted Mason,
Each Ancient Crafted Mason.

Then Brethren, let a wholesome song
Arouse your friendly ranks along.
Good wives and children blithely sing
To the ancient badge with the apron string
That is worn by the Master Masons!



Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 Installation by Jon Faasen

On Saturday, December 16, 2023, WB Brian Sprouse was installed as Worshipful Master of Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 for 2024, along with his suite of officers.



Valley Lodge No. 36 Installs 2024 Officer Suite by Nate Jillette

Family, friends, and brothers filled the lodge on Saturday, January 6 for the installation of officers at Valley Lodge No. 36. Brother Kevin Hobson was installed as Worshipful Master. Brothers Shane Dawe and James Tsaptsinos were installed as Senior and Junior Wardens respectively. MWB William Bohman presided over the ceremony with RWB Guy Whelchel serving as the installing Marshall. The remaining officer line looks just as strong and hopeful. Be on the lookout for great things from Valley Lodge No. 36 this year!



Continued on page 31



Richard Charles Memmott, Jr., Awarded Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze

Richard Charles Memmott Jr., was born July 30, 1970, to Carol and Richard Memmott. Rich attended Notre Dame High School in West Haven. After high school he attended college at Eastern Connecticut State University where he was a statistician on the baseball team that won the National Championship in 1990.

Richard Memmott's Masonic career started at a very early age. His father Richard, Sr., and grandfather Charles were both Masons and members of Annawon Lodge No. 115 in West Haven. He remembers going to the lodge as a kid to help with the trestle board. He decided to join the Robert H. Heller Chapter of DeMolay in 1984, making him a third-generation member. Within two years he was elected Master Councilor in 1986. In addition, he served on the state level as Marshal, Senior Deacon and Junior Councilor. His love for DeMolay has never faltered and as he grew past the maximum age, he still found ways to be involved. Rich has been on the Advisory Board since 1994, has served as Chairman, State Athletic Director, and as the Grand Commander of the Connecticut Court of Chevalier's in 1996-1997. He received the following awards: Past Master Councilor's Meritorious Service Award, William Campbell Medal, Chevalier, and the Cross of Honor.

The most important thing to Rich is his family. He met his wife Cheryl Knowlton who was a Rainbow Girl while he was in DeMolay. Together they have three children: Sarah and Ashley who are Rainbow Girls and James who is in the Boy Scouts. His grandparents all had Masonic connections. Harriet Goldbeck and Ruth Memmott were both members of Golden Rod Chapter, OES and Charles Memmott and Paul Goldbeck were both Masons. His brother Michael is also a member of Annawon Lodge. Rich worked for 27 years as a Programmer/Analyst for Anthem and is a member of the First Congregational Church of West Haven.

Bro. Richard was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on November 14, 1994, at Annawon Lodge. After serving in several officer positions, he served as Master in 2002, 2011 and 2015. He received the Master's Achievement award for his time in the East in 2002. In 2005, he was officially certified to open and close lodge. Rich also affiliates with Hiram Lodge No. 1 and Widows Son Lodge No. 66, in the latter of which he is serving as Master for 2023. In 2010, he was honored by Annawon Lodge as the Mason of the Year.

In addition to his time in Annawon Lodge, he also served as the President of Blue Lodge Council for the 4th Masonic District. For the past 16 years, he has served as Secretary for the 4th District Actual Past Masters Association. Brother Rich is also a member of Scottish Rite and York Rite Chapter and Council.

Richard was honored by RWB Bruce R. Bellmore to be recommended to MWB Joseph J. Howard and MWB George S. Greytak to serve Connecticut Masonry as Associate Grand Marshal for District 4 in 2005 and 2006. In 2013, he was appointed by MWB Simon R. Laplace as Associate Grand Tiler. MWB Gail N. Smith appointed Bro. Richard as Right Worshipful Grand Tiler in 2016 and he serves in that position to this day.

In recognition of his service to our fraternity, his lodge and community, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the state of Connecticut is pleased to present Right Worshipful Brother Richard Charles Memmott, Jr. the Pierpont Edwards Medal In Bronze For Distinguished Masonic Service

November 13, 2023





Nicholas Harold Ives Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze

Nicholas Harold Ives was born on January 3, 1978, to Harold Lee Ives and Michelle (Nicholas) Ives in West Haven. The family moved to Branford where Nick graduated from Branford High School in 1995. He later studied at Arizona State University and Southern Connecticut State University where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. in History with Education Certification. He is also a certified librarian and possesses an M.L.I.S. from SCSU. He received a Doctor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the same institution, where his dissertation focused on residential selection preferences.

Nick met his wife Amber on a trip to visit her hometown of Thousand Oaks, California, when he was 18 years old, and she married him in 2003. She is a home care physical therapist at Hartford Home Health Care. They reside in Meriden

Nick taught World History and Economics at Mark T. Sheehan High School in Wallingford from 2002-2009. He is currently the school librarian at Sheehan High and is fortunate to be avid reader who shares that love with his students. He advises the Media Club, Computer Club, the National Honor Society, and the Gaming Club. He founded the school's Special Olympics Basketball team and the eSports program. Nick was also proud to coach the Girls' Tennis team for eight years. Nick is a graduation marshal, the school's livestream coordinator and regularly consults with school administration on data analysis.

Locally in Meriden, Nick served as the Congregational President of Immanuel Lutheran Church in 2012 and 2013 and was a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Meriden for three years.

Nick has varied passions outside of Masonry. He can often be found sailing at the helm of his Marlowe-Hunter sailboat "Thalassa" or on the mats in the gym practicing Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu where he currently holds the rank of blue belt. He recently became certified in scuba diving by a brother Mason. His other hobbies include being a Dungeon Master for a weekly group of students and playing Warhammer with brother Masons. He has also been known to enjoy a good Nicaraguan cigar from time to time.

Nick was initiated on November 17, 2008, passed on January 19, 2009, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 16, 2009, in Meridian Lodge No. 77 of Meriden. He joined the officer line as soon as he was able and served honorably in each position. Nick presided over Meridian Lodge No. 77 as Worshipful Master in 2013 where he led an extremely successful term initiating 10 brothers into Meridian Lodge in his year alone (three of whom are now Past Masters themselves). Many of the changes that WB Nick implemented during his year as Master of Meridian Lodge remain today.

Bro. Nick is the president of the Past Master's Association of Meridian Lodge and a member of Keystone Chapter No. 6 of Meriden. One of his passions is organizing the conferral of the Perfect Craftsman Degree for the 4th Masonic District in collaboration with RWB Lewis P. (Uncle Lew) Bither.

Nick served as Associate Grand Marshal for RWB Roger R. Cole in 2014 and RWB James M. Anderson in 2015. In 2016, RWB Nick became the District Deputy for Masonic District 4A, where he worked alongside RWB Jason Morse in representing the Grand Master to the lodges of Hiram Lodge No. 1, Compass Lodge No. 9, Temple Lodge No. 16, St. Alban's Lodge No. 38, Annawon Lodge No. 115, and Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125. He was given the distinct honor of being named an honorary member of Hiram Lodge No. 1 at the conclusion of his term as District Deputy.



Continued on page 22

Nicholas Harold Ives Receives Pierpont

continued from page 21

In 2015, Brother Nick and a group of Masons met to form the Green Dragon Masonic Discussion Club. Since its inception, Nick has served as president of that group. Later, the group decided to petition the Grand Lodge to become a new lodge. On August 7, 2019, Ouroboros Lodge UD received permission from MWGM Melvin E. Johnson to proceed with their labors as a lodge. RWB Nick was the Worshipful Master under dispensation and was honored to be elected as the Worshipful Master of Ouroboros Lodge No. 151 when the charter was issued on October 17, 2020. Nick completed his term as Worshipful Master in December 2022, and currently serves as Chaplain of the lodge.

On January 9, 2023, Right Worshipful Brother Nicholas H. Ives joined the Ancient Accepted Scottish of Freemasonry as a member of the Valley of New Haven and a member of the Lafayette Consistory. On May 1, 2023, R.W.B. Nick was raised to the 32nd Degree, Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret.

Nick has been a member of the Grand Lodge Committee for Masonic Education since 2012. His 10-year tenure saw him become chairman in 2019. He continues to serve in that role today, producing seminars designed to improve lodge leadership and support lodges in their labors. Nick was a member of the Archives Committee from 2011-2018 and served as chairman of that committee in 2018. Nick is also a member of the Committee on Legal Matters, where he participates in the Special Projects sub-committee. He has volunteered for the Grand Lodge committee on Masonic membership retention for the year 2023 and serves as co-chair for MWGM Joseph J. Porco's 2023 Blue Wave Project. RWB Nicholas H. Ives also currently serves as a member of the Grand Lodge EMR Committee and Masonic Awareness Committee.

On April 1, 2023, RWB Nicholas H. Ives was honored to be installed as Grand Junior Steward of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Connecticut and Grand Line Officer of the 4th District at the 234th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Connecticut.

In recognition of his service to our fraternity, his lodge and community, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the state of Connecticut is pleased to present Right Worshipful Brother Nicholas Harold Ives, the Pierpont Edwards Medal In Bronze for Distinguierend Masonic Service.

November 28, 2023



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Laurel Forest # 130 Tall Cedars of
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is proud to host Brother Anthony Leroux
presenting a program on the

George Washington Masonic Apron

Thursday, February 22, 2024 - 7 PM

Ashlar Lodge No. 332

Masonicare at Ashlar Village

1000 Ashlar Village Drive, Wallingford, CT

All Brother Master Masons and their
ladies are cordially invited to attend

**RSVP "Yes" only to
rowlandca1224@att.net
by February 15, 2024**

The Valley of New Haven
Scottish Rite

Invites you to join us for

THE NEW HAVEN St. Patrick's Day *Parade*

March 10, 2024
**Please Come March
with Us!**

Meet at the
New Haven Masonic Lodge
285 Whitney Avenue, New Haven

Hot breakfast served from 9 to 11 A.M.
Barbecue picnic lunch to follow parade!

Come and represent Connecticut Masonry and our extended family.

Bus transportation is provided for marchers from the lodge to the staging area beginning at **NOON**. The parade steps off at 1:30 p.m. You can walk the parade route or sign up to ride the 45' float. (limited seating)

Lodge officers wear formal attire, tuxes/dark suits, jewels, aprons, and top hat. Lodge members wear dark suits and aprons. Your family is very welcome to march with us and enjoy the fun. The more, the merrier! After the parade its back to the lodge for a barbecue lunch and fellowship.

Please contact WB Fred Marotti with questions at fred@absct.com or 203-641-3932 or to let us know you're coming before **March 5, 2024**. Additional parking across the street in Yale lot.

**Scan the QR code to
R.S.V.P. that you
are attending.**

Breakfast -Parade



Parade-Lunch



All three events



SALIX NONIS TENGU

by John A. Amarillos, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

The Lafayette Consistory begins its degree season for 2024 this February. On Monday, February 4, the Valley will present two live degrees, namely the 4th and 5th Degrees. On Monday, February 26, the 12th Degree will be presented live, followed by a video rendition of the 23rd Degree, and on March 25, the 15th Degree will be presented live with a video rendition of the 9th Degree following it. All degrees start at 7:30 p.m. at the theater in Stratford, with dinner served before at the Shrine next door at 6:00 p.m. Reservations made a few days in advance help the Valley ensure that enough food is on hand the night of the degree. Call in your intentions to attend at (203)375-0064 and leave a message.

After a decade's absence, the Rite's most profound symbol has been reintroduced into the body of the 32nd Degree. If you haven't observed the 32nd Degree since before the past decade, the upcoming presentation on May 6 is something you will not want to miss. The complex symbol shown below represents the Scottish Rite camp, which maps out the encampments of the assets that the Order employs to bring light to the brethren. The camp consists of concentrically placed geometric shapes, namely the nonagon (9), heptagon (7), pentagon (5), triangle (3), and circle (1).



As you circumscribe the Nonagon, you will notice the letters that make up the motto of the degree – “Salix Nonis Tengu” – which are transposed from the Latin “Lux inens nos agit,” which means “The light within guides us on.” The Order seeks to awaken and strengthen that light that is present in each of us, but ignorance or indolence remains faint and dim in most of us.

The field tents and their attendant color flags represent the various units that are designed to battle the darkness of ignorance. The initial unit is represented by the tent flying the blue flag, which represents the Blue Lodge degrees. The balance of the tents and their flags on the nonagon represent the three “divisions” or Scottish Rite bodies, namely the Lodge of Perfection, The Princes of Jerusalem, and the Chapter of the Rose-Croix, and the degrees that they employ to shed darkness and spread light. This carries us through the 18th Degree.

The second concentric symbol is the heptagon, which represents the Trivium and the Quadrivium, also known as the seven liberal arts and sciences. These represent the knowledge required to be mastered by each of us in order to survive and thrive on the material plane. Without the

ability to succeed in our usual vocations, we can never hope to have the wherewithal to seek higher knowledge. Anciently, this was also seen as the realm of cooperative defensive exchange between the three lower bodies and the Consistory as they fended off darkness from without. In other words, the Consistory rendered assistance to lower bodies as they were on the front lines of fighting the darkness.

The third concentric shape is the pentagon, and each of the tents and their flags represents the unit known as the Consistory and the tools it employs from the 19th through the 32nd Degrees.

The triangle represents the honorary 33rd Degree, and the body of the Grand Inspectors General, and the circle represents the Sovereign Grand Commander.

There are varying nuances of the interpretations of the symbol, especially between the Southern and Northern jurisdictions. Also note that I have given you a brushstroke treatment of this complex symbol, which would need to be further expounded on in a discussion group. In the meantime, if you have not already done so, you might want to consider joining one of the Order's lines against darkness and ignorance and further expand your Blue Lodge understanding.

One last historical note is that the numbers 9,7,5,3, and 1 add up to 25, which is the number of degrees in the Early French Rite of Perfection. We can thus see that the symbol itself emanates from a much earlier time in Masonic history and merits study not only for its practical and instructive significance but also from its historical value!

Fiat Lux!

As always, the Valley of Bridgeport stands ready to help you gain more understanding and clarity of the Blue Lodge Degrees, their meaning, and their application in practical day-to-day situations. For more information, please call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064.

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention All Master Masons!

SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES

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)

Mon. March 25, 7:30 p.m.

15th Degree (Live), 29th 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.

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203-375-0064

Valley of New Haven
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New Haven, CT 06511
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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.



Sphinx & Pyramid Shrines

by Eric Pogg



Congratulations to the newly elected Potentates for Pyramid and Sphinx Shrines, Illustrious Sir Justin Magri of Pyramid, and Illustrious Sir Nick DiRenzo of Sphinx. The joint Installation of Officers was held at the New Haven Masonic Temple on Sunday, January 14. Elected lines of both Shrines were also installed. The installation was attended by many Grand Lodge officers, Potentates, and Divans from New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. From Pyramid the officers are Thom Beck, Chief Rabban; Al Johnson, Assistant Rabban; Steve Saxton, High Priest & Prophet; Isack Wasserman, Oriental Guide; Mike Mulherin, 1st Ceremonial Master; Dean Buzzell, 2nd Ceremonial Master; Raymond Collette PP, Recorder; Gavin Forester, Treasurer; Wayne Scinto, Outer Guard; and Ray Roche, Captain of the Guard. From Sphinx, the officers are Stuart Post, Chief Rabban; John Radziunas, Assistant Rabban; Joseph Piatti, Jr., High Priest & Prophet; Charles Jewart, Oriental Guide; Kent Stoddard, Treasurer; and Eric Pogg, PP, Recorder. Congratulations to both new Potentates and Divans as well as wishes for a successful year.

The schedule for the major conferences is fast approaching. The Mid Atlantic Shrine Association Mid-Winter Meetings will be held in Atlantic City from April 10 -14 at the Tropicana Hotel and Casino. In addition to the meetings, a Bay Cruise and Dinner Buffet and The Hook Show, an homage to Atlantic City's glorious golden age of entertainment at Caesar's, will be extra entertainment for the Nobles and Ladies. The Northeast Shrine Association Mid-Winter Meetings will be held in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, from April 18 - 21. Details are forthcoming. The Membership & Marketing Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida on April 25 - 28. This conference is open to all Nobles, Masons, and Ladies from all Masonic bodies. Registration Information can be found at www.shrinersinternational.org.

Tab collections, which support the Sphinx Shriners Transportation Fund, can be dropped off at the Sphinx Shriners office location at 65 Maselli Road, Newington. The old Sphinx Shrine building has been vacated and will be torn down to make way for a more modern building for the Scottish Rite Valley of Hartford. Clean cans and bottles can also be dropped off at 65 Maselli Road to help support the Sphinx Shrine Motor Patrol activities. The Transportation Fund helps Shriners, patients, and families with transportation, food, and lodging for those who need it.

For those who like to support events from the comfort of home, Shriners International has a couple of sports activities you may enjoy. The Shriners Children's Clearwater Invitational will be held on February 15-18. Shriners Children's is expanding our nearly century-long involvement in collegiate athletics by adding an event featuring female student-athletes. This softball tournament will promote our mission to millions of fans through the ESPN telecast. This tournament is the finest in-

season NCAA women's softball event in the nation, and our story will be told during 18 live, nationally televised games on ESPN. Go to clearwaterinvitational.com for more information.

The second event is the Shriners Children's College Showdown, February 16 – February 18 at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas. The 2024 college baseball season is kicking off at Globe Life Field, home of the Texas Rangers, with six elite teams poised for an action-packed nine-game tournament. Baylor, Oklahoma, and Texas Tech will compete against Nebraska, Oregon, and Tennessee in support of Shriners Children's. For more information, go to shrinersshowdown.com.

If you did not see the Shriners Children's Rose parade float, Believe in Tomorrow, in Pasadena, California, you can find it on YouTube. See Imperial Sir James E. "Ed" Stolze and First Lady Jolylnn Dickens, along with our patient ambassadors. Also televised earlier this month was the 99th East-West Shrine Bowl, played at the Ford Center, headquarters of the Dallas Cowboys in Frisco, Texas. Several hundred Shriners and families had a great time, especially with the tailgating before the game.

Looking for something to do on the First Friday of the month. Check out the Pyramid Shriners Brew Club First Friday events in Stratford. Food, fun fellowship, and, of course, beer is always on tap on First Fridays. Look for updates on the Pyramid Shrine web and Facebook pages.

This is a reminder to pay your dues if you have not done so as of yet. You can pay online at Shriners International or call your Shrine Recorders office. Remember to download the My Fezcard viewer on your phone. A quick and easy way to hold your membership card before you are scanned into a meeting.

On behalf of myself and Illustrious Sir Kyle Dougherty, we would like to thank all of you for your support during the past year. Our travels in the United States and Canada have been an experience that we will never forget. Meeting and enjoying the fellowship of Potentates, Nobles, and Ladies is nothing compared to the support that we have seen for our patients and families. It has reaffirmed our commitment to our children. Once again, thank you for your support and for all that you do.

Candidates Are Not Customers, Are They?

by Bruce Work

A recurrent debate within the Masonic community, in my mind, is whether candidates should be regarded as customers. Here I refer to participants joining the Masonic Fraternity, not initiates in college educational fraternities.

Technically speaking, the answer is obvious: "While some of our leaders find it difficult to accept the idea of members and candidates as consumers, in reality, that's what they are in today's competitive marketplace. Lodges are **sellers** offering degrees, and a rich fraternal life. Candidates and members are **buyers** who register for membership, apply for initiation, and pay dues as members. The longer these ongoing transactions are satisfactory to both parties, the longer the relationship will endure, to the benefit of everyone."

Seen in these terms, there seems little left to discuss. But it is worth pointing out that this somewhat simplistic, customer-supplier interpretation fails to see the candidate as a learner, who should trust the institution where he is studying. They should be encouraged to see the learning experience as a personal transformation. At times this will challenge the tastes, desires, and preconceived opinions they might have held up till now. The term might have been misused, and certainly it has been criticized, but to a large degree, the candidate is "raw meat" during the learning process, and progresses toward a finished product, but a product of their own choosing. Does the term "rough ashlar to smooth ashlar" ring any bells? It is precisely this voluntary immersion in a learning process that allows candidates to overcome short-term difficulties, and to understand, at least in retrospect, the importance of certain lessons that they may not have understood at the time of their initiation.

A thorough learning-process means being open to constant experimentation, to meeting challenges constantly, and to encouraging the spirit of personal development. It may also lead to questioning previously held values that may have been less than thought through, or lacking focus. Socrates was right to tell his new pupils, "you know nothing."

In this context, "The best candidates don't view themselves as customers, and they shouldn't be treated as such."

My experience bears this out: the brightest and best candidates tend to be modest, tend to respect the advice of their brothers, and have the need to be open to new ideas. Thus, tending to get the most out of their Masonic careers.

As Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, Emeritus Professor at George Washington University, once said: "Students are not customers, nor

are they not customers. They are investing time and money with a purpose in mind. The school that does not serve that purpose will not survive. Students are looking for a quality education, and they want distinguished and accomplished professors on the faculty."

This is even more appropriate today, as the new generation will not waste their time or money on a product which does not serve their purpose. To state this another way, the fraternity that does not serve their purpose will not survive. Long hours spent memorizing antiquated ritual with language that nobody can pronounce, and most can't understand, will not survive.

I believe being a fraternity who takes care of its members, is based on core values, has members with moral compasses and like-mindedness, is going to be where the new generation will invest their resources.

It may not be good to apply the consumer spirit in Masonry. In the learning context, the candidate is an active participant, but also the subject on which the transformation is directed. In Masonry, the candidate is acting somewhat on faith that there will be self-satisfaction at the end of his initiation. To some extent it is good to let the Masonic leaders do their job, however, this should not be without a mentoring brother and constant dialogue with the candidate to be sure he is achieving what he set out to find, when he petitioned the organization. We cannot be the supplier who "takes their money and runs."

In closing, allow me to formulate some recommendations to candidates, to Masonic leaders as well as, to Masonic brethren.

-To Candidates: In order to make the best out of a learning experience, it is recommendable to have an open mindset and be modest and humble, which is sometimes incompatible with a consumers mood. It is very advisable to recall a version of **Socrates'** maxim cited above: "I only know that I know nothing."

To illustrate this idea, recall an analogy from **Michelangelo**. The great artist believed that the job of the sculptor is to free the forms that were already inside the stone. The job of Masonry might be interpreted in a similar way, that is, freeing candidates' potential, a.k.a. "taking good men and making them better." Think about some of our best Masonic Brothers and leaders...we did not make them Masons; we simply gave them dues cards. They were Masons in their hearts, long before they joined our Fraternity.

Continued on page 27

Candidates Are Not Customers, Are They? continued from page 26

-To Masonic Leaders: Candidates who approach the learning process with modesty and a candid willingness to learn are the best possible gift. A good candidate with the right attitude is what prompts our passion and fascination for education. While I don't consider candidates as consumers, we still should strive for excellence in Masonic Fraternalism and all its related products and services. Each candidate deserves to be treated with equal concern and respect. We need to understand that we are not a "one size fits all" fraternity, and we should be adaptable to the needs of our candidates. Through continued dialogue with our "customers," we will know if we are supplying the products and services they came

to expect. Don't be afraid to alter the delivery of the product.

-To Masonic Brethren: We must share the light of Freemasonry. We must share the gift that each of us has given to ourselves. The world has provided for each of us the opportunity to go back to our respective lodges, to take the hand of a friend who has just knocked on the door for the very first time and lead him on a journey that will last the rest of his life. We owe it to the customer and to the Fraternity.

Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association Recognizes Six Eagle Scouts by David Elkodsi

Six Eagle Scouts were recognized at their Eagle Scout Court of Honor, from Troop 24, Malverne, NY, on Friday, December 21, at the American Legion Hall in Malverne. The scouts were each presented with the CMSA Eagle Scout Commendation, a letter of congratulations from MWB Joseph Porco, Grand Master of Connecticut, along with a collector CMSA Eagle Scout patch. The presentation was made by Brother David Elkodsi of the Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association (CMSA).

The scouts were also presented with a Commendation and letter of congratulations from the Grand Lodge of New York, F & AM, and MW Richard Kessler, Grand Master of the State of New York, and a commemorative medal.

It is believed this was the first Eagle Scout presentation that included both jurisdictions of Connecticut and New York.



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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.



Craft At Labor

To have your lodge events appear in the newspaper, please update your lodge event in Grand View prior to the 10th of the previous month. If your lodge needs assistance accessing Grand View events please have the Master or Secretary or Calendar Admin contact the Grand Lodge office.

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

Grand Lodge Annual Session

Saturday, April 6, 8 a.m., Marriott, Windsor

Entered Apprentice Degrees

Tues, Feb 20, 6:30 p.m., Union Lodge No. 40, Danbury, Dinner

Mon, Feb 26, 7:30 p.m., Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville

Fellowcraft Degrees

Thurs, Feb 1, 6:30 p.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, Dinner

Wed, Feb 21, 7:30 p.m., King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury

Thurs, Feb 22, 6:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Dinner

Master Mason Degrees

Tue, Feb 6, 6:30 p.m., Union Lodge No. 40, Danbury, Dinner

Sat, Feb 10, 3 p.m., Columbia Lodge No. 25,
South Glastonbury, Dinner at 5 p.m., second half to follow

Mon, Feb 19, 7:30 p.m., Meridian Lodge No. 77, Meriden

Thurs, Mar 7, 6:30 p.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42,
Waterbury, Dinner

Saturday, March 30, 9:30 a.m., Statewide Blue Wave MM Degree,
New Haven, 285 Whitney Ave, New Haven

Craft At Refreshment

For more details about any of these events, please contact the lodge directly. In many cases, reservations are required, and they may or may not be open to the public.

All times are supplied by the lodges. The Connecticut Freemasons newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events.

For recurring events and breakfasts, they may not take place during the summer months – call to check.

Recurring Events

Every Thursday, Putnam Lodge No. 46,
Putnam, 7 p.m., Thursday Night Meeting
Socializing, Rehearsing, Prepping.

Second, Fourth Wednesday of the Month, Union Lodge No. 5,
Stamford, 7 p.m., Fellowship Night at the Lodge. *Open to all brothers, friends. Refreshments and discussion. Please call to verify.*

Recurring Breakfasts

First Sunday of the Month, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140,
Newington, 7 a.m., SBA Breakfast Fundraiser

Second Sunday of the Month, Compass Lodge No. 9,
Wallingford, 8 a.m., Fellowship Breakfast (8 a.m. to 10 a.m.)

Third Sunday of the Month, Washington Lodge No. 19,
Monroe, 8 a.m., *Country breakfast*

First Thursday of the Month, 8th Masonic District,
Groton, 9 a.m., *Groton Townhouse Restaurant*

Third Saturday of the Month, Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14,
Plainville, 8 a.m., *Uncle Bob's Ham & Eggers, 2 Linden Street, Plainville*

Events

Sat, Feb 17, 6:15 p.m., King Solomon's Lodge No. 7,
Woodbury, *Sweethearts Dinner*

Sat, Feb 17, Seneca Lodge No. 55, Torrington, "Bro's Giving – Thanks-giving for Brothers & Wives" Joint Event with St. Paul's Lodge No. 11

Mon, March 4, 7:30 p.m., Federal Lodge No. 17, Waterbury, *Card Night*

Sat, March 10, 1 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1,
New Haven, *St. Patrick's Day Parade*

Valley Lodge No. 36 Hosts Awards Night Dinner, Donates to Local Charities **by Nate Jillette**

On December 18, 2023, family, friends, and neighbors gathered for a hearty dinner and the 227th-anniversary celebration of Valley Lodge No. 36. A year-in-review video of 2023 was shown, and WM Nate Jillette presented multiple special awards during the evening program.

Brother Shane Dawe received the Adam W. Leighton Memorial Masonic Service Award for his continued support and dedication to Valley Lodge through his organization of the annual golf tournament. Brother James Tsaptinos received the Excellence in Masonic Ritual Award for his outstanding contribution to this year's degrees. RWB Don Skinner received the Past Master of the Year award for his ever-present attitude and commitment to supporting the lodge, especially through the Blue Wave initiative. Newly raised Brother Christopher Warren received the Masonic Watch Award, identifying him as a brother to keep an eye on as he progresses in his masonic journey. Building manager Carla Marciano was awarded the Excellence in Community Engagement Award for her efforts in supporting Valley Lodge through charity and leadership. Present and deserving of special recognition was WB Gordon Willoughby Jr., who received his 60-year pin for 60 years of Masonic service.

After a successful year of fundraising, the brothers of Valley Lodge were also able to provide substantial gifts to local organizations, including a large donation of toys for the Salvation Army of Greater Hartford's annual Holiday Toy Store on December 12, 2023. At the Awards Night Dinner on December 18, brothers presented monetary gifts to members of Bloomfield, Granby, and Simsbury volunteer ambulance associations, the Simsbury volunteer fire company, and the Interval House – an organization working to end domestic violence.



District 6

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



Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 Installation of Officers

by Joseph P. Grieco, Jr.

On Saturday, December 16, 2023, Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 installed its officers for 2024. RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Grand Senior Deacon, presided as installing Master, assisted by WB Christopher Ramsey, Installing Marshal.

The Presentation of the Colors, Pledge of Allegiance, and National Anthem were led by a color guard from Washington Commandery No. 1, KT.

The suite of officers installed was: Worshipful Master, WB Joseph P. Grieco, Jr.; Senior Warden, WB James Bradford Young; Junior Warden/Historian, WB Richard Berson; Treasurer, WB Russell L. Scull II; Secretary, RWB Eric Hoy; Senior Deacon, Bro. Jared Garthe; Junior Deacon, Bro. Juan Villalobos; Senior Steward, Bro. Jessie Chadwick; Tiler, Bro. Charles L. Jenkins; Chaplain/Almoner, WB Scott Reid.

Following the installation, all who attended enjoyed a luncheon.

Photo by Bro. Donald Janelle



Officers Step Up for Washington Lodge No. 70 Fellowcraft Degree by Robert Dodge

On Monday, December 18, 2023, the officers of Washington Lodge No. 70 stepped up for a Fellowcraft degree. Junior Warden Kenneth Roach III presided in the East.

Brother Luis Echevarria was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. The working tools were explained by Junior Deacon Jeremy Gaffney. The staircase lecture was given by Senior Deacon Michael Lawlor, Jr. WB Steve Matthews presented the "G" Lecture, and Bro. presented the charge. Michael McClellan.



Brother Echevarria is a member of Friendship-Tuscan Lodge No. 145 in Manchester, and the officers of Washington Lodge were proud to extend the courtesy of hosting the degree. Several brothers from Friendship-Tuscan attended, including newly elected WM Joe Grieco, and Past Master John DiCioccio.

Incoming Master at Washington Lodge No. 70 Installed In A Historic Manner by Robert Dodge

Washington Lodge No. 70 installed its Master and officers on Saturday, January 6, but it was not your typical installation. WB Jon White and WB Paul Hendricks were to be Installing Officer and Marshall, but when WM Robert Dodge asked for the installing suite to be introduced, he was informed they were indisposed. What followed was a surprise to all present.

Lord Charles Cornwallis, General of the British Army during the American Revolution, and George Washington, General of the American Army, were introduced as Installing Officer and Marshal; Lord Cornwallis informed WM Dodge that while it is a well-known fact that Master-Elect Kenneth Duane Roach II is a cousin to both Lord Cornwallis and George Washington, he is also a cousin to King George III of England. When King George III heard that Cousin Roach was without installing officers, he immediately dispatched Lord Cornwallis, who in turn requested the aid of his military counterpart, George Washington. This was all very irregular, but noting the great distances the two had traveled, WM Dodge allowed the Installation to continue.

Brother Kenneth Duane Roach II was installed as Worshipful Master of Washington Lodge No. 70, along with his suit of officers. Distinguished guests included MWB Charles B. Fowler Jr., MWB Marshall Keith Robinson, MWB Theodore James Nelson, RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Grand Senior Deacon, RWB Gregory Stump, District Deputy 6A, and WB David Larson, AGM District 6A.

The brothers and families of Washington Lodge wish WM Kenneth Roach II all the very best in 2024.



Hartford Evergreen Lodge

No. 88 News by Pat Jones

Several special events highlighted November and December at Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88. On Saturday, November 25, 2023, approximately 60 brothers and their significant others traveled to the Salem Cross Inn in Massachusetts for dinner and horse-drawn wagon rides. The main course was prime rib, and brothers and guests sat around an open fire pit and enjoyed the beautiful atmosphere that put everyone in the holiday spirit. Some of the brothers were introduced to the intricacies of cooking over an open fire.

In December, the lodge participated in the Holiday House Tour on Main Street in South Windsor, which was sponsored by the South Windsor Historical Society. Numerous historic houses were open to the public including Evergreen Lodge. An open house and tour of the lodge building was the ideal setting for the questions asked by the many enthusiastic visitors who were treated to an abundance of snacks.

Wreaths Across America, held at Veterans Memorial Park in South Windsor, observed the laying of wreaths at the graves of more than 1,200 veterans in South Windsor. The lodge has participated in this worldwide ceremony in honor of our veterans for many years.

South Windsor Social Services Department’s “Adopt A Child Program” brought together brothers to purchase gifts for eight deserving children in the community, helping to make their holiday season merrier.

The Hartford Evergreen Lodge Holiday Party on December 11, 2023, at The Mill on the River restaurant in South Windsor marked the culmination of a very successful year for WM Brian Warren. More than 80 attended and shared much joy and fellowship.

The lodge’s Installation of Officer took place on December 17, 2023, welcoming new Worshipful Master Alex Prague. Officers for 2024 were Senior Warden Khamp Phimvongsa, Junior Warden Duane Mason, Treasurer Greg Stump, Secretary Pat Jones, Senior Deacon Dave Prior, Junior Deacon DeShawn Morris, Historian Don Robertson, Almoner Charles Weiss, Organist James Purnell, Senior Steward Rafael Miranda, Junior Steward Kirk Montstream, and Tiler Curt Dynak. The brothers of Hartford Evergreen Lodge are looking forward to a successful and happy new year in 2024.





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Columbia Lodge No. 25 Installs 2024 Officers

by **Arnie Grot**

On Wednesday night, January 3, Columbia Lodge No. 25 installed its 2024 officers, except for the Stewards. It was a regular Stated Communication opened on the Fellowcraft Degree to accommodate two such brothers. WM Juan C. Diaz first served as Worshipful Master in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. After the lodge returned to hybrid and live meetings in 2021, WB Juan was elected to serve as Junior Warden

in 2022 and as Senior Warden in 2023. WB Juan is very excited about this year as Worshipful Master and envisions a great year with new blood coming from the lodge's many new members.

Thanks to the efforts of the Blue Wave program, the lodge has seven Fellowcrafts who will be raised as Master Masons in February. These Fellowcrafts have been active in the lodge, working in the kitchen and traveling to other lodges to attend EA Degrees and Blue Lodge Council meetings. Two young men from this group will be appointed by WM Diaz as Senior and Junior Stewards and installed thereafter.



Maria Diaz crowns her son WM Juan Diaz with his top hat, while Installing Master WB Walt Grube uncovers.

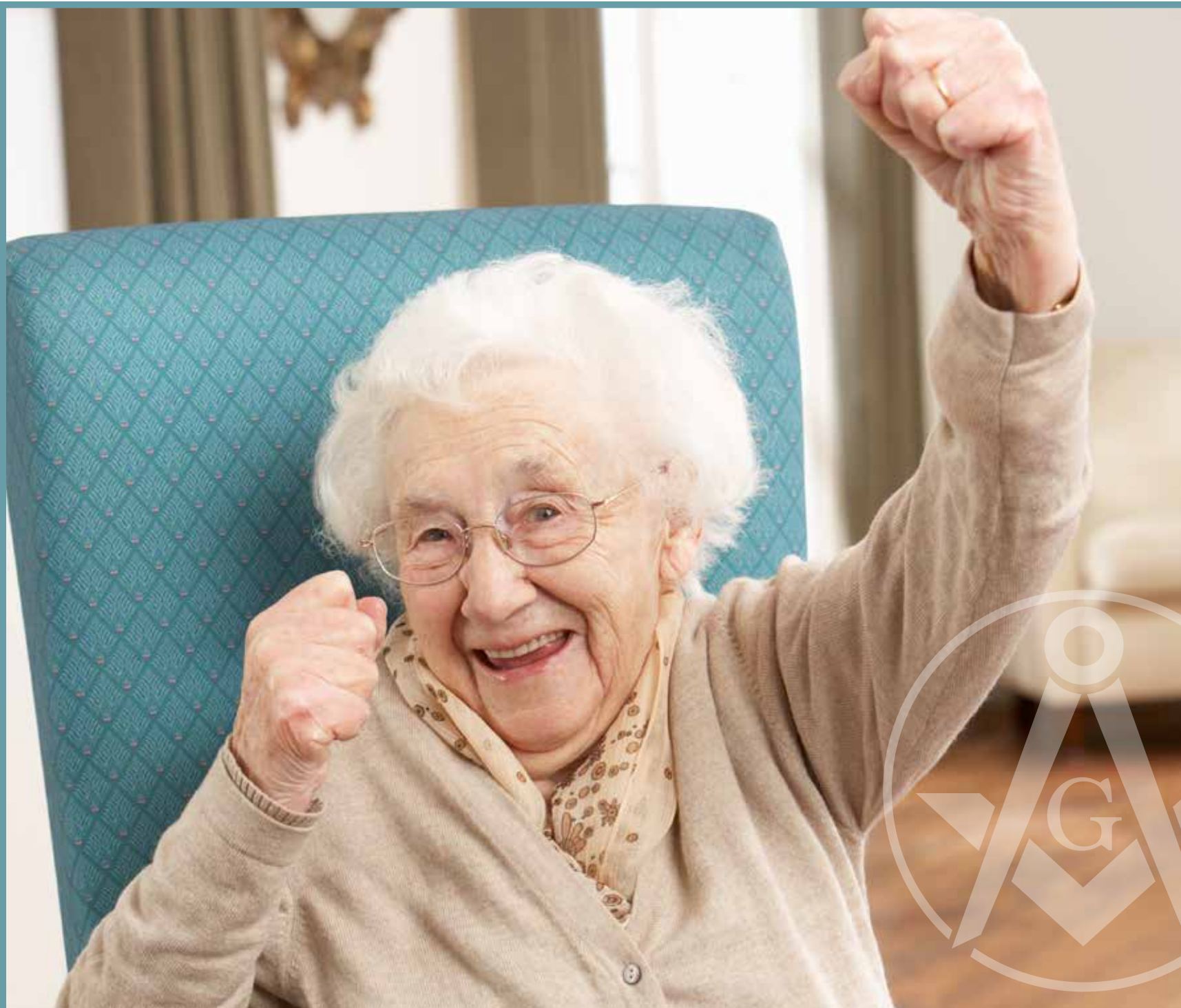


(from left) Historian David C. Lockard, Treasurer RWB Richard L. Beebe, Tiler Keith R. Carlough, Almoner RWB Jeffery A. Flynn, JD Jeffrey A. Spomer, WM Juan C. Diaz, Secretary WB Walter Grube, Chaplain RWB Earl S. Evans, JW Christopher J. Gness, SW Deepak C. Saluru, Marshal WB Rodney A. Spooner, and JD Michael Lombardi.



Notice of Correction: Pet Supply Drive

Due to space limitations, the Pet Supply Drive event that was to take place at Grand Lodge Annual Session on April 6, has been postponed until the Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Session in October. Please watch for further updates in the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper.



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