



*March 2024*

# Connecticut FREEMASONS



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

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



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Most Worshipful Grand Master

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RW Deputy Grand Master

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RW Grand Junior Warden

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Deputy Grand Treasurer

Bro. Gregory K. Whitehouse  
Deputy Grand Secretary

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



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be sent to the Editor Frank Way  
at [submissions@ctfreemasons.net](mailto: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 7

### **Publisher**

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

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# **The Responsibility We Now Have**

**by Francis G. Way**

In one of the articles this month, I read about the new Worshipful Master of Hartford-Evergreen Lodge No. 88, WB Alex Prague, whose father and grandfather were brothers in my mother lodge, Level Lodge No. 137. Reading that line as I edited it immediately brought back a flood of memories from what, to me, seems almost like a different era.

On Monday night, September 11, 1995, I showed up at Level Lodge No. 137 at the appointed hour to take my Entered Apprentice Degree. I had no idea what to expect, but having survived that evening, it is indelibly imprinted on my memory. A future Grand Master conducted me, hoodwinked, about the lodge; brothers from Sequin Lodge No. 140 (with whom Level Lodge would later merge) presented exemplary 2nd and 3rd section lectures, and when the evening was over, my EA lecture in hand to be memorized for proficiency. I remember I had a very distinct feeling: I was at the start of something very special – exactly what I truly wasn't totally sure, but it was very, very clear to me that it was something exceedingly special.

Several months later, in January, I was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason by RWB Morton N. Katz (who, at the time of this writing, is 104 years old). That was another evening, as any Master Mason will tell you, I will never forget.

Those early years in lodge were exciting. I'd been installed as Senior Steward so there were officer duties to learn, ritual to learn, lodges to visit, and explorations of just what Masonry is. Each stated communication was another opportunity to learn and to improve myself. There began to be a comfort and familiarity in the opening and closing ritual, and there was a growing fellowship as well.

That was 28 years ago. Level Lodge merged with Sequin Lodge in 2003. The building where MWB Chip Stamm first conducted me once about the altar and where I was later raised, that large lodge room where I would later conduct candidates myself, give the Middle Chamber lecture, and preside over degrees from the Oriental Chair, is now gone. The building was torn down, and an apartment building was put up in its place. I suppose that's better than a parking lot, but that lodge room now exists for me only in my memories.

It is the nature of human life that as we progress through time, on our various journeys, our perceptions change. No journey, no experience, stays new and fresh and exciting forever. The flaming fire of a fresh beginning will, in almost every case, settle down to the warmth of a glowing bed of coals. I have had many Masonic experiences and many incredibly enjoyable moments in the intervening years, but that jittery excitement of those first, early evenings of my Masonic journey could happen only once and is now something to be treasured and remembered. In its place, I have other feelings, feelings that are just as deep and intense but, understandably, of a different nature.

Of late, I have seen and heard of the many degrees that are once again welcoming a large number of men into our gentle Craft. I have witnessed the fresh enthusiastic joy of those new brothers taking their first Masonic steps. There is pleasure in that, and it brings those early memories back to the forefront of my mind and mingled with them is a warmth and familiarity that can only come from experience after a long time laboring in the quarry.

For those of us who have "been around a while," our responsibility now is to ensure these new brothers who are riding the crest of the Blue Wave will feel that same jittery excitement of their new beginning. We are the ones who must be well-versed in our Craft so that we can answer the questions these new brothers will surely have and give good guidance and counsel. We are the ones who must carefully set a fine example of what this fraternity is. Because someday, all too soon, they will be 28 years in, and we want to ensure that they too can fondly remember their first days as a Mason with warmth and good feelings and be ready to assist the next new brothers.

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

JAMES M. ANDERSON  
GRAND SECRETARY  
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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

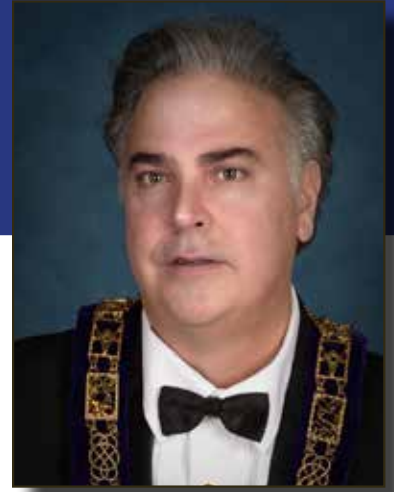
*James M. Anderson*

R.W. Grand Secretary

February 1, 2024

# Grand Master's Message

by MWB Joseph J. Porco



A warm greeting to all. In my previous message, I stated that our success is directly proportional to the manner in which we treat one another and how we adhere to the high standard we pledge to uphold. We are witnessing success across the jurisdiction in regard to an increase in new membership, retention of members, widespread charitable works, and an improved focus on mentoring. The vast majority of brothers are doing their level best to help others, lead, and move this jurisdiction forward. As with any large organization, there will be occasional setbacks. We recently had one lodge in our jurisdiction that received corrective intervention from the Grand Master. The intervention was embraced cooperatively, and the lodge is in the process of earnestly addressing its issues.

Most undesirable incidents can be avoided by a time-proven remedy which is for brothers to know and follow our Rules and Regulations. As Masons, we have made promises to one another that we freely accept as part of our duty and obligation. Sometimes brothers fall short when our Rules and Regulations are not followed. To avoid a lack of understanding, I am announcing that a Rules and Regulations Home Study Guide is now available for Master Masons. The printable document resides in Grandview under Resources -> Master Mason -> CME. The study guide will be expanded over time.

I request that Worshipful Masters take advantage of this material and begin to introduce a brief Rules and Regs "Masonic Moment" during their stated communications. Doing so will help fulfill their charge to promote knowledge as well as address the admonition to preserve moral deportment and to read them from the Book of Constitutions in lodge so that none may pretend ignorance of its requirements. Likewise, Wardens should be imparting knowledge to all who have been placed under their care. Lodge officers are asked to engage the Home Study Guide and hold meetings for discussion. Well-versed officers will strengthen your lodge. Questions that arise can be forwarded to your District Deputy or Grand Line officer.

Rules exist to help and guide us, keep us within due bounds, and enable leadership to govern. Adherence to and the study of the rules of any organization should not be viewed as parochial overreach by leadership but rather an opportunity to work in unity so that we may function in an agreed-upon manner. To achieve new heights, we need to do more than just be together in a lodge. Our jurisdiction needs to dwell in unity in order to best work and best agree.

Gathering in one place at the same time does not have the same meaning or produce the same outcome as dwelling together in unity. When we dwell together in unity, Psalm 133 tells us that the Grand Architect commands a blessing. If one separates themselves from being part of the unity, they cut themselves off from the blessing that the Grand Architect has commanded. Masons have heard this scripture read many times. Have we examined its meaning? A quick review of Psalm 133: 1-3 reminds

us of a promise that the Grand Architect has made, one which is ours if we are willing to listen and receive it:

1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; 3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Behold (Hinneh) means more than to gaze upon. It carries the emphasis of paying attention and having a thorough understanding. Note that it does not simply say "dwell together" but adds the requirement of "unity." In the Torah, as I understand it, the precious ointment is an anointing of the Grand Architect's protection. In the New Testament, the connection is that "the anointing" implies ongoing provision (grace) for believers. Understanding the meaning from both perspectives is fascinating. Think about it. That precious ointment went beyond the head. It ran down the beard and upon the garments, moreover to the skirts of the garments. Further, the imagery of the dew falling down from Mount Hermon (the highest peak) and as far-reaching as Mount Zion covering all of Israel shows the extent of the blessing that occurs when all are unified. The blessing is extended to the whole.

What more? Psalm 133 tells us that "there" in that unity, God has commanded the blessing. The choice of the word "commanded" emphasizes the force behind that blessing. The Grand Architect does not just bless, He commands. There is weight. When there is unity beyond togetherness, a blessing is commanded. No wonder these short three verses were placed into our ritual by the brothers that came before us.

Living in unity requires maintenance. We must be willing and eager to maintain unity, regardless of differing beliefs and opinions. It is dependent on each of us to maintain unity with one another. We must celebrate what we have in common while being respectful of our differences. If we are eager to maintain unity, we should be eager to show grace. We must remain committed to one another to serve one another, not only ourselves.

We have been told that the Great Light of Masonry guides us to all truth and directs our path. With great seriousness, we are taken by the hand, led to the Altar, and pointed to the open Bible. We are then urged to find the light therein. The teachings provided in Freemasonry are numerous, and each teaching points out spiritual keys that can open doors. If we pay attention to the meaning of what we recite, more light will pour into us. Knowledge, understanding, and wisdom will then follow.

All we need is a bit more light.



# Deputy Grand Master Message by Edward C. Page

## DISTRICT LECTURERS

When I started out as a lodge officer of my lodge, Moriah Lodge No. 15 in Brooklyn, there were many aspects of each office that required different and specific skillsets to understand and hopefully master as I progressed through the officer line. Some of those skills were inherent; others were a learned venture, from ritual, Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations, our landmarks, business meetings, harmony and brotherly love, organization, financial responsibility, community activity, and mentoring.

I mention ritual first as it separates us from so many other organizations. We have this rich history and ritual to help convey our principles to new initiates through beautiful allegories passed down from age to age. Some brothers learn ritual very easily. Others, like me, have to work hard to attain the same seamless presentation of our degrees. I have always been a hard worker, so I enjoyed the process of committing to memory, our lectures, and ritual.

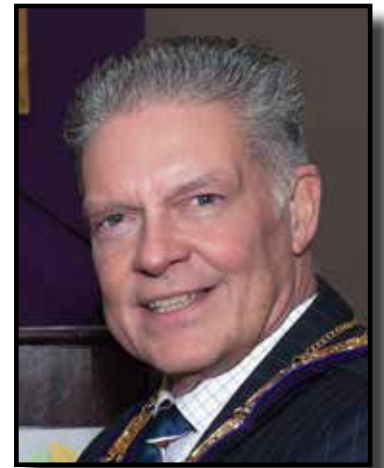
As I approached the office of Master, there was a mechanism in place to allow me to challenge my progress and prove to myself, to my brothers, and to the District Lecturer my competency at the minimum requirements of ritual to be elected Master of the lodge. Upon successfully completing that evaluation, the District Lecturer, Bro. Barry Kromer presented me with a Certificate of Completion, which I still have in my possession and am so very proud of achieving. To that end, and with that satisfaction of accomplishment in mind, I am reinstating the Connecticut Grand Lodge District Lecturer program for my term as Grand Master.

The requirements to be appointed to the position are similar to those for appointment to District Deputy, with an additional requirement focused upon a strong knowledge of ritual. Potential District Lecturers do not have to be experts at all levels of ritual (although it would be a plus if they are) but should be exceptional at the basic requirements a brother should possess to be elected Worshipful Master of a lodge. He should be able to congregate, open on at least the Entered Apprentice Degree, go to refreshment, return to Labor, be able to give one Obligation, be able to receive dignitaries, and close.

It is my desire that the District Lecturers will evaluate and help lodges improve their ritual and also assist the lodges with their mentoring program or help them establish one if one doesn't exist. The most important responsibility, however, is that they be good communicators, working "with" the brothers, encouraging, not reprimanding, that they are advocates, and assist with rehearsals and memorization before (not during) lodge meetings, and assist with pronunciation, articulation, and diction.

I would further ask that the District Lecturer, before installation, have the Master-elect or returning Master perform his proficiency. If deemed acceptable, the District Lecturer would provide a Certificate, signed by him and by my hand.

Over the years, we have lost so many great ritualists, mentors, and Past Masters. With this program, I hope to bolster our rich heritage of strong ritual and understanding of what the words and phrases mean and how they apply to our daily lives in and around our community and to make our brothers stronger and better citizens for this United States of America, the greatest country on the face of the Earth.



## 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



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:jvenoit@masonicare.org). Thank you for your assistance and participation.

Sincerely and fraternally,

*Christopher Earle*

Christopher Earle, Chair  
Nominating Committee

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### 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](mailto: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) \_\_\_\_\_



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**

## DID YOU KNOW? Grand Lodge Library Ready for Research!

by David J. Stewart

Brethren, I bring you greetings from your Grand Lodge Library. As has been reported over the past few years, I have been working with the many publications currently in and around the library located in the Grand Lodge building in Wallingford. With that, just over five months ago, I started the daunting task of conducting an inventory of just what is included in your library. Today, I am most happy to report that the inventory has been completed, publications organized, some purged, some repaired, and the inventory is now in a more presentable and suitable form for your research. Just over 3,000 items were inventoried.

Many thanks go to MWB Joe Porco for reappointing me to handle this task. He has provided me with much encouragement and guidance when I needed it, and for this, I am ever thankful! I look forward to bringing all of you more details as time goes on.



Wooster Lodge No. 10  
A.F. & A.M.  
~ Since 1781 ~  
Serving the Community for  
more than 240 years

## *Grand Chaplain's Corner*

by Christopher J. Earle, Grand Chaplain



### **Ye are the Light of the World**

All brother Master Masons will remember when, in the Master Mason Degree, they were instructed: "Before setting out, therefore, upon so serious an enterprise as this, you will repair to the altar for the purpose of prayer. Heretofore, you had a brother to pray for you; now, you must pray for yourself. Go then, my brother, and may the blessings of God accompany you." The Senior Deacon conducts him to the altar and says: "You will now kneel and pray, your prayer may be either mental or audible at your own discretion, and when completed you will rise to your feet." It is a moment when many brothers find themselves ill at ease due to the attention being focused on them. It is easiest to kneel silently with one's own thoughts and arise silently.

At a Master Mason Degree for five new brothers this past weekend at Unity Lodge No. 148, where I participated as Chaplain, we witnessed a singular circumstance: One of the brothers being raised made his prayer audibly. I have been a Mason for over 47 years and have witnessed dozens of Master Mason Degrees, and this was only the second time I heard an audible prayer by a candidate.

As striking as that is, what was more remarkable was how heartfelt, eloquent, and moving the prayer given was! Realizing that the man

had no time to prepare, what he said showed how important his Masonic Journey was to the brother and how impressed he was with the degrees conferred upon him. He asked for guidance so that he may continue on the path set for him by the fraternity and be a worthy brother as time passes. It was well said and well spoken, which is often lacking in extemporaneous utterances.

This brings us to the thought that the brother may have been motivated by Scripture that we have discussed previously in this column: The Sermon on the Mount when Jesus instructed the multitude: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set upon a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven."

Amen

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

**Dexter C. Avery**  
Uriel Lodge No. 24

**Arthur H. Bishel**  
Wooster Lodge No. 10

**George C. Buckbee, Sr.**  
St. Peters Lodge No. 21

**Ross K. Burke**  
St. Andrews Lodge No. 64

**Mario Joseph Paul Calabro**  
Madison Lodge Lodge No. 87

**Robert Barry Deickler**  
Jerusalem Lodge No. 49

**Robert Scott Erwin**  
St. Peters Lodge No. 21

**Howard Stanton Franson**  
Federal Lodge No. 17

**Richard Lumpkin**  
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

**Ernest Charles Murphy**  
Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116

**Willard George Nielson**  
Composite Lodge No. 28

**James C. Robinson**  
Old Well St. Johns Lodge No. 6

**Donald C. Sause**  
Hiram Lodge No. 1

**William Evert Sunblade**  
Madison Lodge Lodge No. 87

**Charles S. Terbush**  
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

**Louis Thavenet, Jr.**  
Coastal Lodge No. 57

**Ronald Ernest Vanacore**  
Day Spring Lodge No. 30

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

**Bryan P. Burk**  
Evening Star Lodge No. 101

**James Edmond Czel, III**  
Old Well St. Johns Lodge No. 6

**Robert D. Hafner**  
Valley Lodge No. 36

**James R. Kane, Jr.**  
Brainard Lodge No. 102

**Very Rev. Joseph R. Krusienski**  
Compass Lodge No. 9

**Michael John Narus**  
Unity Lodge No. 148

**Alan D. Normand**  
Village Lodge No. 29

**Richard Ware Osborne, Jr.**  
Compass Lodge No. 9

**Bruce W. Trask**  
Uriel Lodge No. 24

**Joseph F. Turechek, Jr.**  
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

**Herman August Wolf**  
Union Lodge No. 5

**Charles William Yohe**  
Montgomery Lodge No. 13



## *The Coca Corner* **Turbocharge Lodge Gifts with COCA** by **David A. McClain**

One of my favorite parts of reading through the Connecticut Freemasons is getting to see all the amazing work lodges around the state-supported by their innovative fundraising and donations. From pancake breakfasts raising funds for heating assistance programs to golf tournaments for veterans organizations, the range of causes and the generosity of the giving is inspiring. I am proud of all the ways our lodges give back to their communities.

Do you realize that your lodge's efforts in these good and great works can be magnified?

If the cause your lodge is supporting is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization or a government entity such as a volunteer fire department or local Library, the CT Freemasons Foundation may match your donation through the COCA Matching Funds Programs.

The program is simple: the first \$500 your lodge raises and donates to an eligible entity can be matched dollar-for-dollar. The next \$500 can be matched 50 cents on the dollar. So if your lodge raises \$1,000 and donates it to an eligible organization, your gift may be matched by a donation of \$750. So your \$1,000 donation becomes a \$1,750 donation to a worthy cause.

The catch is that you have to fill out the paperwork and submit it! You also have to follow some basic rules, like providing evidence of the gift and that it's a legitimate charity. Both the application and Program Guidelines can be found on Grandview under Resources > COCA. Completed applications and any questions should be directed to [davidmcclain@ctfreemason.net](mailto:davidmcclain@ctfreemason.net).

Please keep the COCA Matching Programs in mind when you are planning your fundraising and donation efforts!

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

**Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14**  
Scott James LaRocque  
Justin Talarski

**Hiram Lodge No. 18**  
Geoffray Estes  
John Parkhurst  
Alexander Scott Pashaian

**Uriel Lodge No. 24**  
Aaron Peter Bowman

**Friendship Lodge No. 33**  
Isaac Asare  
Richard D. Donovan  
Jeremy Mark Mongillo

**Fayette Lodge No. 69**  
Randall Mark Cote  
Wayne Robert Hare  
Roland Harold Mason  
Matthew David O'Brien, Jr.



# Masonicare's Senior Behavioral Health Hospital

The number of Americans aged 65 and older is rapidly increasing ... as is the number of older adults with acute mental health and behavioral issues.

Masonicare is working to meet this population's growing demand for behavioral health services. The Senior Behavioral Health Hospital at Masonicare Health Center cares for individuals with acute psychiatric symptoms or behaviors that interfere with care at home or elsewhere.

"Older adults with mental health issues are often also experiencing one or more medical conditions," said Behavioral Health Hospital Executive Director Cara Carbray (above left, with team members Jill and Christina). "All of these things affect their behaviors. Our multidisciplinary team includes medical and psychiatric providers, occupational therapists, speech therapists, and

recreation therapists working together to get the patient back to their baseline so we can safely discharge them."

Diagnoses and symptoms treated at the Behavioral Health Hospital include dementia accompanied



by behavioral disturbances, major depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, psychotic disorders, suicidal ideation, and alcohol withdrawal. A specialized care plan is developed for every patient in a safe, secure environment. The average length of stay is 21 to 26 days.

One does not need to be an

existing Masonicare patient or resident to receive care in the Behavioral Health Hospital. Quite a few referrals come from other skilled nursing facilities, assisted living communities, and even emergency departments from around the state. The Behavioral Health Hospital has an intake coordinator on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to conduct an initial assessment of the patient to determine their mental health needs and establish care requirements.

Providers can call the Behavioral Health Hospital's 24-hour admissions line at **860-996-2396** to begin the referral process. However, *this number is also available to the public*. If a family member is exhibiting signs of acute mental illness or distress, and you are unsure of where to turn, please give us a call to discuss diagnosis and treatment options.

## We are *your* Masonicare.

**Masonicare**   
An Ageless Commitment to Caring

[masonicare.org](https://masonicare.org)



22 Masonic Avenue . Wallingford, CT

# From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

## President & CEO of Masonicare

I mentioned last month that Laurie St. John had joined our senior leadership team as Executive Director of Masonicare Home Health & Hospice (MHHH). Since then, we received the fantastic news that MHHH's quality rating increased to four stars! Although we've known for a while that this rating adjustment would occur sometime after the New Year, it was fantastic to finally see it become official.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) uses the star rating system as a tool to help consumers choose a home healthcare provider. Achieving a four-star quality rating required a lot of hard work, attention to detail, and a shared commitment to excellence on the part of many current and former MHHH employees. They all should be extremely proud of this accomplishment. Under Laurie's leadership, the agency will continue striving to improve patient outcomes.

I often write in this space about the importance of partnerships and how cooperation between like-minded providers results in better care for those we serve. I am pleased to share that, effective April 1, Griffin Health will become the new laboratory services provider for Masonicare Health Center and the Masonicare Behavioral Health Hospital. This represents an expansion of Masonicare's existing relationship with Griffin Health. Our Health Center currently hosts nursing students from Griffin Hospital as they begin their clinical rotations, offering them valuable real-world patient care knowledge and experience. Griffin was also a COVID testing partner on our Wallingford campus during the pandemic and was among the providers that administered COVID vaccines to our staff and residents. We're looking forward to growing our partnership with a trusted, proven healthcare provider whose values

align with our own.

This month marks four years since the start of the pandemic. It was certainly an interesting time to have to recruit for a new Chief Financial Officer at Masonicare. In an atmosphere of uncertainty, we needed a "sure thing" – someone with experience in healthcare, senior living, long-term care, and home care, and a proven track record of implementing short-term and long-term strategies to improve an organization's bottom line. Bro. Steve Beaulieu, who will be retiring this spring as our CFO, was the right man at the right time. I really can't imagine how Masonicare would have navigated the stormy seas of the past few years without Steve's expertise and foresight. He's been a trusted friend and colleague and I hope you will join me in thanking him for his invaluable contributions to Masonicare. You can read more about Steve and his future plans in this issue of *Connecticut Freemasons*.

Sincerely and fraternally,

*Jon-Paul Venoit*



### Be a Connecticut Freemasons Booster!

**LISTING IS FOR 11 ISSUES**

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State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Booster appearing as \_\_\_\_\_

Makes checks payable to: Grand Lodge AF&AM of CT • 69 Masonic Avenue • Wallingford CT 06492  
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\$25-\$49.99

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\_\_\_\_ Entered Apprentice

\$75-\$149.99

\_\_\_\_ Fellow Craft

\$150-\$249.99

\_\_\_\_ Master Mason

\$250 or more

# OF THE KNIGHT OF THE EAST AND THE THREE ALCHEMICAL BIRDS

by John A. Amarillos, [membership@lafayetteconsistory.com](mailto:membership@lafayetteconsistory.com)

The degrees for March, as usual, begin at the theater at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 25. The 15th Degree will be performed live on the stage in Stratford, and a video rendition of the 9th Degree will follow. Dinner will be served preceding the degrees at the Shrine Building next door starting at 6 p.m. Those wishing to sit for dinner should call the Consistory office at least three days in advance to ensure that there is enough food on hand. The Consistory can be reached at (203) 375-0064

The 15th Degree illustrates the Scottish Rite core value of Integrity, and the 9th Degree propounds the core values of Reverence for Deity and Service to others.

A full listing of the degree schedule through December can be found in the latest copy of the Lafayette Consistory News, which can be accessed by the link found at the bottom of this page.



The 15th Degree, known as the Knight of the East, is one of two degrees that fall under the auspices of the Scottish Rite body known as the Princes of Jerusalem. The other degree is the 16th Degree. They were formerly known as the Historical Degrees and are set in the time period from 538 to 516 BC. For those who have not seen it lately, the degree is presented in sumptuous costuming and represents events that occurred during the tail end of the Babylonian captivity of the Israelites.

The modern degree traces its origins back to the original Francken Ritual of 1783, which predates the founding of the order by about a score of years. For those who are historically inclined, the original Francken rituals have been reproduced in a hardback tome by the NMJ and can be ordered online from the online shop website in Lexington (<https://bit.ly/49b3vex>).

The degree is impressive and merits a revisit periodically by members wishing to alchemically reinforce the core value exemplified by the degree. If you are new to the Order, this is one degree that merits seeing as soon as you can as it underpins a foundation for your personal quest for more light.

Last month, we reviewed the AASR symbol of the 32nd Degree camp, which was recently reintroduced. Traditionally, it appears that the NMJ did not feature the symbol of the three birds between the triangle and the circle. The three birds are a raven, a dove, and a phoenix. While this might be of SMJ origin, the three birds do have esoteric correlations as follows:

## LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



**Attention All Master Masons!**  
SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES  
**Mon. March 25, 7:30 p.m.**  
15th Degree (Live), 29th Degree (Video)  
**Mon. April 15, 7:30 p.m.**  
26th Degree (Live) and 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.  
For the latest copy of the Lafayette ConsistoryNews visit <https://ctfreemasons.net/appendant-bodies/lafayette-consistory/>

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

<b>Valley of Bridgeport</b> 2422 Main Street Stratford, CT 06615 <a href="mailto:Office@LafayetteConsistory.com">Office@LafayetteConsistory.com</a> 203-375-0064	<b>Valley of New Haven</b> 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 <a href="mailto:Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com">Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com</a> 203-269-0336	<b>Valley of Waterbury</b> 529 Highland Avenue Waterbury, CT 06708 <a href="mailto:cdoneill@snet.net">cdoneill@snet.net</a> 203-754-8209
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For more information, contact the Valley near you or email [Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com](mailto:Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com).

The raven typically connotes spiritual resourcefulness, intelligence, and psychic abilities. The dove connotes peace, love, and spirituality, while the phoenix represents death, rebirth, and immortality. The alchemical progression represented here, although not touched on by the current degrees of NMJ, represents a time-honored understanding of soul development. The dove comes first in one's progression of development. Once the dove is established within the candidate, he begins to develop faculties represented by the raven. If these faculties are properly employed in service to humanity, the soul reaches the exalted state alluded to by the phoenix. I'll keep you posted should I hear otherwise from Lexington.

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.*

**For the latest copy of the Lafayette ConsistoryNews visit**  
<https://ctfreemasons.net/appendant-bodies/lafayette-consistory/>

Or use the QR Code







# Sphinx & Pyramid Shrines

by Eric Pogg



“More in 24” is the slogan for this year. Potentates Justin Magri and Nick DiRenzo plan to do more by spreading the word about more Shrine activities. A significant part of that strategy is to use the different media outlets that the Shrine currently uses, as well as explore other methods of getting the word out. This partnership is crucial in ensuring information about events, fundraisers, and the latest news reaches our members. By assisting our clubs and units, we aim to foster a more cohesive and vibrant Shine community. You may notice in the upcoming months some cross-promotion of events between the different websites, Facebook pages, emails, and calls.

Shriners Children’s Boston and Shriners Children’s New England in Springfield have also started working more closely together. Boston has, in the past, worked with children with burns and Springfield with orthopedics. Orthopedic surgeries have begun in Boston, and a new burn clinic is about ready in Springfield. Sharing some of the care that our patients need will enable a better experience for our children. In most cases, a shorter drive and more staff training for follow-up care will enable our patients to have shorter and happier visits with our caregivers. Shriners Children’s will continue its commitment to serve more children in more locations.

Shriners Children’s New England celebrated its first year as a clinic model after moving from a hospital model in 2023. In the first year, the clinic cared for 21,585 patients, and surgeons performed 322 surgeries. There was no change in the quality of care from the patients and families as determined by surveys. All care continues despite the family’s ability to pay.

The outpatient clinic services include clinic appointments, rehabilitation services (physical, occupational, and speech therapy), motion analysis, radiology, orthotic and prosthetic services, and care management.

Another area on which Shriners Children’s prides itself is staff satisfaction, which continues to remain high. The Office of Philanthropy organized a new signature fundraising event called Cheers for Children and, in its first year, raised \$345,295. Increased media coverage in the Springfield, Hartford and Albany areas continue to spread the good word about our services. Thank you to all of our staff, Shriners and all of the Masonic bodies that continue to support Shriners Children’s. Your dedication and devotion help children smile.

An event that has not happened in Connecticut for many years is returning. Potentates Dinner and Reception, will be held on Saturday, September 28, at the Waters Edge at Giovanni’s, 2748 Boston Post Road, Dairen, at 6 p.m. in the Swan Suite. Room blocks are expected to be available at the Stamford Marriott hotel.

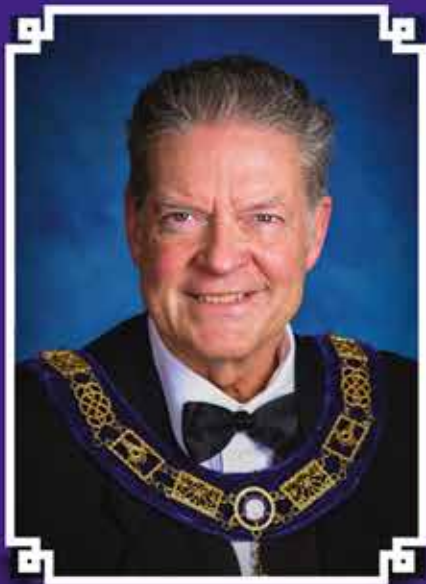
Successful events over the past month include Pyramid’s First night out sponsored by the Pyramid Shrine Brew Crew. It’s always on the first Friday of the month, dinner, adult beverages, as well as fun and fellowship are included. Other events were Valenshrines Day Dinner, Pyramid Night Out (which seems like its going to be a monthly event as it continues to be sold out), Brunch which included a variety of drinks and an excellent menu, Super Bowl Pot Luck Party, as well as other dinners and events spread across the state.

This month the parade season starts off. The Sphinx and Pyramid Motor Patrols have been busy readying the vehicles for the various St. Patrick’s Day parades in New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport and Mystic. Oil and tire changes, a new coat of wax, break checks, as well as other motor and mechanical maintenance have been completed during the winter months. We look forward to seeing you along the parade routes during the month of March.

A summer date to remember is the picnic. Saturday, August 10, at Sunrise Park in West Suffield. Together with Syria Grotto, Nutmeg Forest No. 116, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Composite Lodge No. 28 and Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88. All family members are welcome. A beautiful pavilion overlooking the water with plenty of food, swimming, fishing, hiking, or just relaxing in the country environment will suite your needs.

Did you know that you can join the Shrine at any monthly meeting? No reason to wait for a full Ceremonial. If you are interested in driving a mini jeep, mini fire engine, motorcycle, want to play the bagpipes or drums, attend social functions, enjoy a great meal, or just want to support Shriners Hospitals for Children, contact either the Sphinx or Pyramid Shrines to join. The best way to fill out an application is online at [www.BeAShrinerNow.com](http://www.BeAShrinerNow.com). This enters you into or database and notifies the closest Shrine center as to your intention to join. Return contact to you is in less than 24 hours.





## The Brothers of Moriah Lodge No. 15<sub>1</sub>

Invite you to join us!



# Annual Gala Dinner

to honor Brother

## Edward C. Page

the incoming

Most Worshipful Grand Master  
Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of the State of Connecticut

Please join us to congratulate, support, and  
celebrate!

April 28, 2024 from 6 to 10 p.m.

**The Woodwinds**  
29 School Ground Road  
Branford, CT 06405

\$55 per person or \$550 table of 10  
Includes buffet dinner, music, dancing  
hand rolled cigars  
Cash only bar

For reservations please  
scan the QR code

You may also mail reservations  
and payment to:

R.W.B. Edward Page  
Gala Moriah Lodge No. 15  
P.O. Box 212  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

(please make checks payable to: Moriah Lodge No. 15)



# Brother John Chan Inducted into Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame

by William L. Greene

On January 25, Brother and Captain John M. Chan, U.S. Air Force (retired), was inducted into the "Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame". Bro. John is a member of Hartford Chapter No. 56, National Sojourners. The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame, located in Rocky Hill, was established to increase awareness of the lifetime contributions of veterans after the completion of honorable military service. The first class of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame was inducted in 2005 and includes the 41st President of the United States, George W. Bush.

I had the privilege of attending the very impressive ceremony where 11 very deserving members were inducted. The Master of Ceremonies for the investiture was USMC veteran Gil Simmons, morning meteorologist on WTNH News 8. Assisting in the induction ceremony were the Honorable Susan Bysiewicz, Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut, and Mr. Ronald P. Welch, Commissioner, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Please congratulate Bro. Chan when you see him on this outstanding honor. Bro. John presently resides in Avon.



**ANCIENT ACCEPTED  
SCOTTISH RITE  
Valley of Hartford**

207 Deming Street  
Newington, CT 06111

## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE IN MASONRY?

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

\* Justice \* Integrity \* Tolerance \* Service  
\* Reverence to God \* Devotion to Country

The Scottish Rite is a Masonic organization where you will find Inspiration – Convenience – and Enjoyment with fellow brethren.

We are now accepting applications for our next class.

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

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

Email: [office@valleyofhartford.com](mailto:office@valleyofhartford.com) [www.valleyofhartford.org](http://www.valleyofhartford.org)



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](mailto: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



# 2023 Annual Report



As we celebrate another year of unprecedented care amidst a backdrop of industry uncertainty, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the milestones we achieved, the obstacles we overcame and the unwavering spirit that fuels our mission. We are incredibly proud of our employee team members who are the heartbeat of our legacy organization. This year we celebrated 120 employee team members who collectively achieved 1,580 years of service. And while we said farewell to some long-standing team members, we also opened the door to new additions who bring with them fresh ideas and renewed focus.

Despite the challenges at play in the health and senior care industry, we have proven, once again, that anything is possible when a team of committed individuals share a common vision.

While 2023 has undoubtedly continued to test our resilience, fortitude, and adaptability, we have made significant progress in key areas of our business. We have strengthened partnerships with like-minded organizations to bring to Masonicare a five-star experience. We have continued to position all our service lines for sustainability, recognizing that for some that means repositioning, right-sizing and

restructuring, while others expanded and increased capacity. The never-ending ebb and flow of the health care industry dictated by payers is fueling the many changes that are occurring nationwide. And while we are watching nursing homes and home health agencies across the state close or change hands, and senior living communities struggle to regain occupancy in a post-pandemic world, Masonicare continues to outpace the competition as a result of a multi-point strategy, portfolio diversification and yes ...fierce determination. It is a combination of tenacity, dedication and forward-thinking initiatives that has positioned us for continued growth.

20  
23

(cont'd)

Looking ahead, we continue to assess opportunities while keeping watch over the changing tides. We are welcoming additional providers and partners to our campus and sharing our expertise with other organizations through GENM Senior Care Consulting.



*Christopher J. Earle*      *Jon-Paul Venoit*

**Christopher J. Earle,**      **Jon-Paul Venoit,**  
Chairman, Board of Trustees      President and Chief Executive Officer

We have expanded program offerings in all our service lines, keeping pace with market demands. And despite the rising acuity, we have continued to provide the highest level of care and service.

We have come to know well that the only constant is change. Masonicare and the people who make up this iconic organization have faced adversity, uncertainty and unyielding change with remarkable grace and poise. We celebrate, with deepest gratitude, your work and the profound impact you have made on the lives we care for.

Thank you to our board members, strategic advisors, employee team members, residents, patients, families and friends for your ongoing support and commitment to those in our care. We are grateful for the trust and confidence you have placed in us and above all your shared dedication to our mission.



Board of Trustees 2023-2024		Emeriti
Christopher J. Earle, <i>Chair</i>	Rinaldo Magliano, Jr.	Carleton V. Erickson
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Kevin J. Hecht	Jon-Paul Venoit, <i>President/CEO &amp; Asst. Secretary, Masonicare</i>	
Shelby P. Jackson	Steven Beaulieu, <i>CFO &amp; Asst. Treasurer, Masonicare</i>	
John P. Lawlor		



2023

# Financial Performance

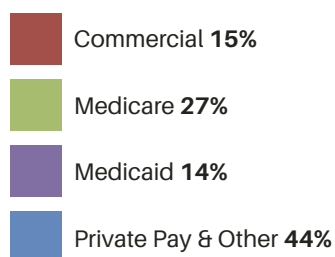
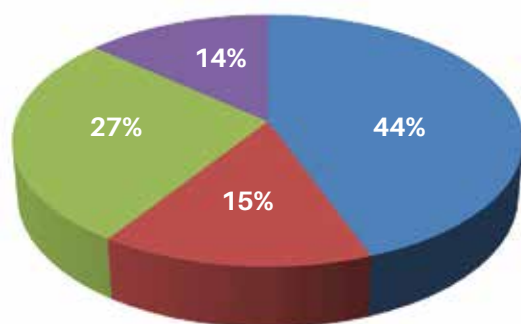
Results of operations at Masonicare for fiscal 2023 reflect a year that we continued our long-term strategy to refocus our business model to one that reduces our reliance on less-than-optimal governmental funding. Operating revenues of \$149.2 million are up 1% from the prior year, reflecting growth in our residential living communities as well as the impact of increased revenue from our Behavioral Health Hospital. Operating expenses of \$137.8 million are up 3% over the prior year driven by increased labor, facility, and food costs. The contribution and investment income of \$8.3 million is consistent with the prior year. Holding gain (loss) on equity securities increased by \$29.9 million because of favorable market conditions. Our continued ability to hold tightly to our investment policy has allowed us to avoid having to realize any unnecessary losses.

**Fiscal 2023 Obligated Group** operations improved by \$31.1 million over the prior year. Fluctuations in the markets offset the growth in operating expenses at Masonicare Health Center and Masonicare Home Health and Hospice.

**Fiscal 2023 Non-Obligated Group** gain from operations improved by \$0.5 million lead primarily by continued high occupancy at SLM.

Changes in the financial position of Masonicare at year-end 2023 from the prior year include: an increase in the levels of unrestricted cash & investments (to 282 days on hand from 255 days); reduction in net property and equipment as depreciation expense exceeded acquisitions; reduction in current liabilities as accrued salaries and related expenses declined; reduction in other long-term liabilities as accrued pension and postretirement benefits declined; an increase in net assets with 2023 excess of revenue over expenses, change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments and change in the post-retirement benefits plans' liabilities.

## 2023 Revenue by Payer



COMPARATIVE INCOME STATEMENT (000's Omitted)	2023	2022	% Change
Total Operating Revenue	\$149,221	\$147,360	1%
Operating Expenses	(137,796)	(133,997)	3%
<b>EBITDA (Contribution margin)</b>	<b>11,425</b>	<b>13,363</b>	
Depreciation	(12,708)	(12,152)	
Interest and other fees	(7,032)	(7,053)	
Total Gain (loss) from Operation*	(8,315)	(5,842)	
Non-Operating Income	6,580	5,685	
Revenue (under) over expenses	(1,735)	(157)	
<b>EBITDA (Contribution margin)</b>			
Obligated Group	\$7,398	\$9,621	
Non-Obligated Group	4,027	3,742	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,425</b>	<b>\$13,363</b>	

\* Excludes net post retirement costs (other than service costs), holding (losses) gains on equity securities, Change in fair value of interest rate swap, and non-controlling interest in consolidated subsidiaries, other changes in net assets without donor restrictions

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEETS (000's Omitted)	2023	2022	% Change
Current Assets	36,678	31,687	
Investments- Unrestricted	98,763	91,291	
Investments- Restricted	67,210	69,115	
Property, Plant, and Equipment	165,107	169,612	
Other Assets	5,614	5,868	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$373,372</b>	<b>\$367,573</b>	<b>2%</b>
Current Liabilities	33,306	36,011	
Long-Term Debt	140,019	144,124	
Other Long-term liabilities	68,411	71,272	
Net Assets **	131,636	116,166	
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$373,372</b>	<b>\$367,573</b>	<b>2%</b>

**2023**      **2022**

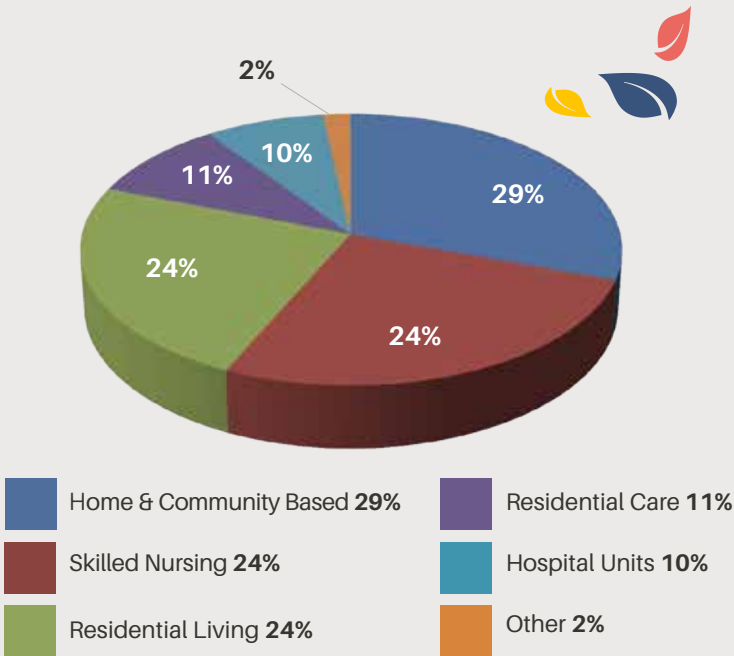
Days Unrestricted Cash/Investments      282      255

\*\*Certain reclassifications have been made to the amounts reported for fiscal 2022 to conform the presentation with the 2023 presentation. These reclassifications had no effect on total net assets or the change in net assets.

# Summary of Activity

OCCUPANCY	2023	2022
<b>MASONICARE HEALTH CENTER (BEDS-UNITS)</b>		
Skilled nursing beds (260/260)*	88.3%	91.6%
Acute psychiatric beds (43/43)	91.9%	93.0%
Residential care units (86/86)	79.1%	78.7%
Independent living units (93/93)	96.5%	94.1%
* Received State approval to increase Acute Psychiatric beds to 50.		
<b>MASONICARE AT ASHLAR VILLAGE (UNITS)</b>		
Independent living (360/360)	90.5%	92.0%
Assisted living (137/137)	86.0%	74.4%
<b>MASONICARE AT MYSTIC (UNITS)</b>		
Independent living (99/99)	96.9%	96.0%
Assisted living (80/80)	83.8%	86.3%
<b>MASONICARE AT CHESTER VILLAGE (UNITS)</b>		
Independent living (105/105)	98.1%	98.7%
<b>VISITS / DAYS</b>		
<b>MASONICARE HOME HEALTH &amp; HOSPICE</b>		
Total Care of the Sick Visits	118,825	135,867
Hospice and Palliative Care Days	81,958	88,415
<b>MASONICARE AT HOME</b>		
PCA / Homemaker Visits	15,202	17,394
Live-In Days	5,463	7,478

2023 Revenue by Type of Service



## 2023 Service Area





# MCF Year in Review

## Fiscal Year 2023

**THE MASONIC CHARITY  
FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024**

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**EMERITI**

Carleton V. Erickson

Gail N. Smith

During fiscal year 2023, the fundraising efforts of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut secured **\$2,929,744** in support of the programs and services of Masonicare and its affiliates. These gifts came in many forms, including bequests, trust distributions, beneficiary designations, charitable gift annuities and outright major gifts, as well as donations to the Masonicare Annual Appeal and to The Foundation's special events. Between October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023, unrestricted contributions totaling **\$2,263,515** were received, as well as **\$567,004** in funds given by perpetual trusts and **\$99,225** in restricted donations. Of particular significance was the very generous gift of **\$380,000** from The Eastern Star Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

### FISCAL YEAR 2023 CONTRIBUTIONS:

Bequests and Trusts	\$1,113,381
Major Gifts (Outright gifts of \$10,000 or above)	440,300
Perpetual Trusts	567,004
Gift Annuity Residuals	52,290
Masonicare Annual Appeal	415,489
Holiday Appeal	10,857
Masonicare Golf Classic	201,530
Masonicare Wine & Beer Tasting	128,893

### TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

**\$2,929,744**

## Masonicare Annual Appeal Enhancing the Quality of Life of Masonicare Residents & Patients in Need

Seniors across Connecticut continue to entrust their health and safety to Masonicare, and we are privileged to provide our residents and patients with the highest standards of care, regardless of their financial circumstances. As seen in the examples below, gifts to the Masonicare Annual Appeal of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut help brighten the lives of Masonicare's long-term care residents and community-based patients through the little things that make a big difference.

### The Masonicare Annual Appeal provides Masonicare Health Center residents with...



**Satellite TV** to ensure residents have access to a variety of programming, keeping them connected with the outside world



**Sundries Cart** to bring free, favorite snacks and personal care items right to residents' doorsteps



**The Snoezelen Room** to offer memory care residents soothing sensory experiences to ease agitation



**The Lunch & Supper Club** to provide residents with special meals from local restaurants

### Annual Appeal dollars help Masonicare Home Health & Hospice patients through...



**New electronic purring cats** to alleviate patients' anxiety and reduce their pain.



**Social Work Visits** to navigate the issues and challenges that can come with the process of aging



**Veteran Pinning Ceremonies** to honor our hospice patients for their military service



**Art and Music Therapy** to support the overall health and well-being of hospice patients

**Learn more & donate today at [www.masonicare.org/mcf](http://www.masonicare.org/mcf)**



# District 1

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



*Ed. Note: The following article was printed on the Monroe Historical Society's Facebook page and touches on the history of the old lodge building of Washington Lodge No. 19 in Monroe. It is reprinted here with permission of the author.*

## The Old Town Hall (1800 – Present & Beyond)

**by Kevin Daly, Historian, Monroe Historical Society**

This week's Monroe history takes us to Monroe Center, to the northwest corner of Church Street and Monroe Turnpike, right beside Beardsley Hall at the Monroe Congregational Church. Very few who drive hurriedly through this area today are aware that Monroe's first town hall once stood at this very corner. Well, to be completely accurate, the building, which was constructed between 1799 and 1800, was built as the original home of Washington Lodge No. 19. It was through the generosity of our Freemasons that it was granted for additional use as our first town hall when Monroe was incorporated in 1823. Over the generations it was also used as an academy, one of many private institutions of higher learning in our town.

The old hall served these multiple roles well for nearly a century, until 1897, when the construction of a new town hall was completed. That was followed in 1904 with the dedication of the current Masonic lodge. With these modern replacements now established, the old hall soon fell into disrepair. It was in 1908 that its very existence was threatened by the increasing popularity of the automobile and the need to modernize the path of Monroe Turnpike. Its fate appeared grim at best. That is until Albert Wheeler purchased the building and hired a contractor from Trumbull to relocate it to a plateau atop his property known as HILLCREST, at 777 Monroe Turnpike. In its new location it would serve as a barn for Albert's farming needs.

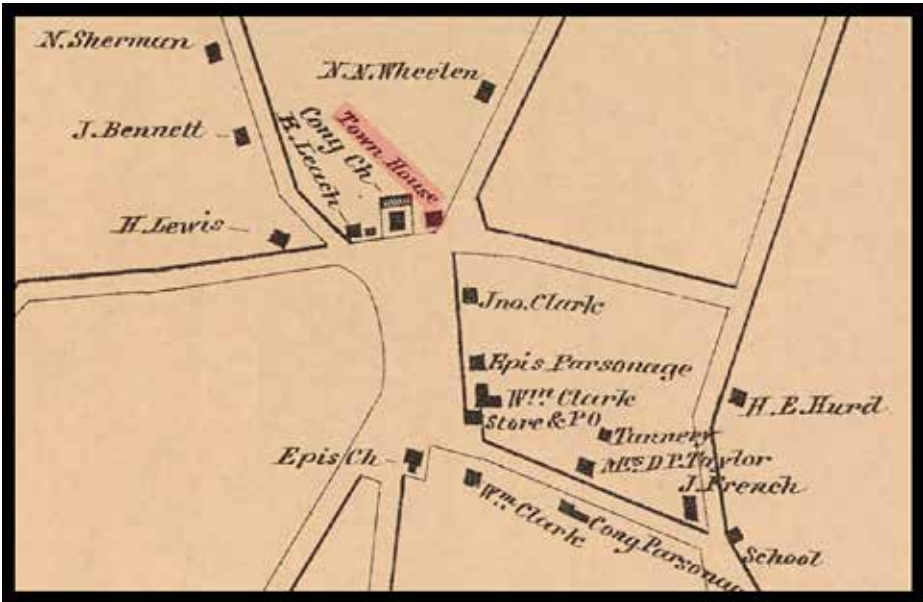
Our old town hall stood on this property for nearly 70 years, when in 1975, it was gifted to the Monroe Historical Society by then owners Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Hurd. The society's goal was to find a suitable location in the area to relocate it to for a full restoration. Land was ultimately acquired on Wheeler Road near its intersection with Church Street, but when the building was later dismantled in 1977, it was soon apparent that its structural integrity was severely compromised. The original plan to restore it was deemed impractical. With a revised plan to save this important history, the best timbers were selected for preservation and eventually found their way to the garage at the society's Beardsley Homestead on Great Ring Road.

The timbers lay undisturbed for years until 2016 when the decision was made to donate the finer surviving pieces to be used for Monroe history inspired projects. The goal as always was to honor the history. Some pieces were claimed by Washington Lodge No. 19 and others were selected by Monroe resident wood workers, Kevin Reid and Al Cascella. Together, they transformed the ancient timbers into a unique podium, intended to be used at Masuk High School events. Whatever happened to that podium you



ask? Well, it has been used as the centerpiece of Masuk's graduations ever since – a fitting homage to Monroe's tradition of excellence in education. Perhaps you've seen it without knowing of its near 225-year Monroe history.

I hope you all enjoy the historic spotlight on our first Masonic lodge and town hall. Now, I ask you. Isn't this a beautiful example of Monroe history come full circle? Our past really is always present! If you're so inspired, feel free to leave us a comment - and perhaps even a review. We always love to hear from you. Thank you for your continued support and interest in Monroe's rich history. Please share this with your family, friends, and any Monroe student you may know. Someday, that very student may stand at this historic podium and address their fellow graduates, inspiring them to go forth and make their own history.



# Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107 Enjoys Wine Tasting Session by John Amarilios

Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107 in Darien held a wine-tasting session on Saturday, February 3, that was attended by 34 brothers and family members. An excellent presentation on red wines was well received by all those present.





# District 2

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



## Union Lodge No. 40 Raises Three Master Masons

by **Rodrigo Martins**

On Tuesday, January 23, the brothers of Union Lodge No. 40, in Danbury, celebrated the raising of Brothers Fabricio Vivaldi, Paul Steele, and Matthew Ficus to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. This significant milestone marks a journey of dedication, commitment, and profound growth within the brotherhood.

This degree was conducted with the utmost reverence and tradition through the collaborative efforts of several brothers, including visiting brothers Gabriel Sandrini, Al Balwigg, John Glenn, and Michael Scribner. Each of them contributed significantly to the success of the degree, ensuring that it was a memorable and impactful experience for the newly raised Master Masons.



Congratulations to the newly raised brothers for embodying the principles of Masonry in their journey.

## Hiram Lodge No. 18 Welcomes a New Year and a New Brother

by **Nathan Schoonover**

As the brothers of Hiram Lodge No. 18 came together on January 17, they began the New Year in a very special way. Mr. Dylan Reed entered the lodge with friends but left with brothers. The brethren in Sandy Hook performed an Entered Apprentice Degree, making Brother Dylan the first new member of Hiram to join in 2024. The degree was performed by WM Anthony Neri, Past District Deputy at Large, as the brothers of Hiram Lodge brought in a new year and their new brother.





# St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 Donates Over 300 Coats to Social Services by Matthew Fitzgibbons

St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 was recently featured on the New Milford Now website for their extremely successful annual coat drive. Recently elected WM Dan Keeler has been a member of St. Peter's Lodge for seven years and decided to make community assistance and outreach a priority for his term.

For more than 14 years, Bro. Warren Hengel has coordinated the annual coat drive with brothers and their families, donating what they could to assist local residents with badly needed coats during the cold Connecticut seasons. But this year, WM Dan Keeler and Bro. Warren worked together to come up with a plan to ramp the program up by procuring over 300 coats for all ages to provide to Social Services for the increase in local residents in need of warmth.

Junior Warden Daniel Whelan and Senior Steward Matthew Wolk provided badly needed manpower in sorting through the piles of pre-washed coats. At a time when Social Services is experiencing a 20-25 percent increase in the need for assistance, the results of these brother's efforts couldn't have come at a better time.

All of the brothers who worked so hard on this successful program were interviewed for the original article, which is well worth reading at <https://www.newmilfordnow.org/headlines?headline=Masons-give-a-helping-hand-to-community> (Short URL: <https://bit.ly/3OzvYSJ> ).







## King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 259th Suite of Officers

by Steve Lewis

King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 came together to install the newly elected and appointed officers on January 17, for the 259th time since being chartered by the Provincial Grand Lodge in Boston in 1765.

Longtime friends of King Solomon's Lodge performed the ceremony: RWB Hal Elwell, Installing Master, presided, assisted by RWB Steve Chiappalone as Installing Marshall. The flag was presented by RWB Mark Orsini and Larry Brandolini in a moving and meaningful Commandery ritual.

WM Lorenzo Gaudio, having presided over a productive 2023, was unanimously elected to serve a second term. The talented WB John Novak moved into the West, and Bro. Sultan Ayash into the South. Bro. John Monteleone and WB Rich Miska agreed to continue as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. The father-son team of Bruce and Steve Morrone filled the Deacons offices.

The remainder of King Solomon's Lodge officer slate is as follows:

Senior Steward:	Bro. Matthew Brouillard
Junior Steward:	Bro. William Hubert
Chaplain:	Bro. Mitchell Goldburgh
Almoner:	Bro. Steve Lewis
Marshal	Bro. Richard Silverman
Tiler:	Bro. David Friebe
Historian:	RWB Albin Weber
Elected Trustees are Bros. John Novak, Albin Weber, and John Monteleone.	

The brethren look forward to the continued friendship, fidelity, fraternity and fun that fellowship at King Solomon's Lodge provides.

*Photos by Trhacy Gaudio*



*Bro. Sultan Ayash and WB John Novak*



*WB Lorenzo Gaudio*



*(l-r) RWB Elwell, RWB Chiappalone, Bro. Bruce Morrone, and Bro. Steve Morrone*



*(l-r) RWB Elwell, RWB Chiappalone, RWB Orsini, and RWB Brandolini.*



*Bro. Richard Silverman and Bro. Mitchell Goldburgh*



*Trhacy, Alphonso, WM Lorenzo Gaudio*

## District 5

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



### Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14 Changes Silent Auction to Raffle **by Andy Bronson**

For the past few months, Frederick Franklin No. 14 has planned a silent auction to raise funds for the lodge and its charitable efforts. However, after careful examination of the work and costs involved, it was decided to do a raffle instead.

The Grand Prize will be a 7-night stay for up to 5 guests from June 23-30 at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge in Orlando, Florida. This covers the ROOM ONLY, \$5,000 value! Cost of travel, park admission, food, and beverages are NOT included.

Second Prize will be a 2024 Social Membership to Chippanee Country Club in Bristol (a \$1,000 value).

Third Prize will be a "CT Summer Fun Package," consisting of 4 weekday home game tickets to the Hartford Yard Goats, a Family 4-Pack to Lake Compounce Amusement Park, and two adult admissions into the Mystic Aquarium. One raffle ticket will enter you for all three prizes.

Raffle tickets will go on sale on February 28, and the drawing will be held at Frederick Franklin's Lodge of Sorrows and Awards Night on May 28 at 7:30 p.m. There will be a limited amount of raffle tickets printed, so act quickly!

For more information, contact Lodge Secretary Chet Russell at [secretary14@gmail.com](mailto:secretary14@gmail.com).



# District 6

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



## Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 Welcomes Worshipful Master Alex Prague by Pat Jones

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 is happy to welcome WB Alex Prague as Worshipful Master of Hartford Evergreen Lodge for 2024. He has been a Mason since 2016. Inspired by a long family history in Masonry, he is a 3rd generation Mason and revealed that he became a Mason to honor his family. His father and grandfather belonged to Level Lodge No. 137. Alex is also a member of the York Rite and was knighted a Knight Templar in 2023.

He brings youth and energy, as well as an impressive educational background, to his new position. Holding a Bachelor's Degree in History with a minor in Sociology from CCSU and a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management from UCONN, he is currently employed as a government contractor for the Air Force as a Human Resource Administrator. Alex has been in the Connecticut Army National Guard since 2011. He enlisted as an Administrative/Human Resources Assistant and received a commission as an officer in 2022, currently assigned as a Supply and Logistics Officer. In his free time, he enjoys going to the gym, the shooting range, and hiking.

He is excited about the coming year and plans to continue involving families in the lodge's activities. Some events he has planned are an exotic meats night, a historical arms and armor demonstration, and a murder mystery dinner. He has invited the brothers of Hartford Evergreen Lodge to design a challenge coin to commemorate special lodge achievements or occasions. Numerous brothers have submitted designs. Members of the lodge will vote on the final version at a stated communication. Although a final decision has not been made as of this writing, this contest has inspired much creative thinking.



## Columbia Lodge No. 25: And Then There Were Five by Arnie Grot

Columbia Lodge No. 25, riding an influx generated by the Blue Wave program, was preparing to raise seven Master Masons in one degree on February 10, having obtained the necessary dispensation for this number. A conflict arose in mid-January for one of the Fellowcraft, and a second had to cancel the day before the degree. While seven would've been magnificent and six would be great, five was delightful.

Lodge was opened at 4 p.m. for the first section of the degree. The lodge was called from labor to refreshment for dinner and fellowship. WM Diaz resumed labor for the second section and raised the five Fellowcraft to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Then, all enjoyed the traditional Master Mason Tragedy, which was preceded by a portrayal of the Builder's Lodge. Only three lodges in Connecticut are known to do this work. The Lodge closed at 8:45 p.m.



*Altar set at rehearsals for six potential candidates.*



*(front row l-r) Bros. Brian D. Dikun, Jason S. Felber, Phillip D. Crump, Exequiel R. Zamora, and Tushar Meshram. (back row l-r) Eric H. Hoy (Hiram Abif), Ray Ahmed (Unity Lodge No. 148), WM Juan C. Diaz, Christopher D. Ramsey (Hiram King of Tyre), and David A. LaFargue (King Solomon).*

# District 9

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



## Bro. Dan Buchanan Awarded District 9A Mason of the Year by Brian Keith

Every successful lodge has its visionaries, its ritualists, and most importantly, its workers. While the visionaries and ritualists receive most of the attention and praise, the workers seem to get overlooked. But this year, Masonic District 9A took a step towards rectifying that by recognizing Bro. Dan Buchanan of Moosup Lodge No. 113 as Mason of the Year at its Blue Lodge Council meeting on January 30.

A fixture at the Moosup Lodge benefit breakfasts for the past 15 years, Bro. Dan has prepared gallons of pancake mix and has washed a mountain of pots, pans, and dishes -- all while smiling and laughing. Besides his service to the lodge, Bro. Dan devotes even more hours to coaching youth sports, including youth football and both girls' volleyball and softball, in which he has coached both his daughters, Danielle and Stephanie. In 2014, his Moosup Senior League softball team claimed the state championship. He has also volunteered on the Plainfield High School staff for nearly 10 years.

A tireless worker, an active participant in his community, a role model, and a leader, he exemplifies the very best a Mason has to offer to his lodge, town, and nation. Bro. Dan Buchanan is rightfully the 2024 District 9A Mason of the Year.



March 17, 2024





# Reconstitution of Syria Grotto (M.O.V.P.E.R.)

by Charles Jewart

On January 27, at Composite Lodge No. 28 in Suffield, The Supreme Council of Grottoes International of the Mystic Order of the Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm met for the purpose of reconstituting Syria Grotto, which went dark when the Masonic bodies left Hartford. An endeavor that began with a conversation at the Grand Lodge Annual Session in 2022 between the Monarch of Monker Grotto, Michael Sabia, and the WM of Composite Lodge No. 28, Charles Jewart, became a reality. Prophets from all over Connecticut as well as Massachusetts attended. One hundred four years and 10 days from the date Syria Grotto was first chartered in Hartford, Grand Monarch Victor Mann performed the reconstitution ceremony.

Charles Jewart was chosen by the members to be the first Monarch, Eric Pogg the first Chief Justice, and Robert Lamanga, Jr. as the first Master of Ceremonies; they and the other officers were sworn in, the charter was signed, and Prophets of Syria Grotto and its guests began the celebration of a job well done.



*All Prophets in attendance.*



*The Monarchs from the four Grottoes of CT with the Grand Monarch: Mark Orsini (Zindah, Waterbury), Charles Jewart (Syria, Suffield), Victor Mann (Grand Monarch), JD DeBaun (Monker, Stratford), and Michael Abrahamson (Hejaz, Wallingford).*



*Signing of the charter.*



*Monarch Jewart with members from Be-la Grotto from Agawam, MA.*





# Set to Retire, Masonicare CFO Reflects on Challenges, Successes, and the Future

By the fall of 2020, Bro. Steve Beaulieu was 16 years removed from a stint in Masonicare's Finance Department and getting ready to call it a career when he was presented with an opportunity to return to the organization as its Chief Financial Officer.

"I didn't have any desire to go back to work in the middle of COVID," he admitted. "But I only considered it because it was Masonicare. It may sound corny, but I believed in Masonicare, and I believed in leadership's ability to work their way through the crisis. I also believed in the mission and the integrity of the organization. That laid the foundation for a good relationship. I recognized the need for someone who could help Masonicare maintain that integrity without being disruptive."

Another selling point is knowing Masonicare has strong support from the Masonic fraternity.

"I don't think I would've come back without it," he said.

Three and a half years later, as he prepares to take a second swing at retirement, Steve's financial expertise and foresight are credited for helping Masonicare not only survive a global pandemic but emerge stronger than ever.

"My goal was not only to provide strategic support to the organization," he said, "but also to collaborate with our senior leaders to keep all of our service lines moving forward. It was challenging. But safeguarding the assets of Masonicare is how we make sure there's enough funding to keep the mission alive."

In 2022, Wall Street credit-rating agency Fitch upgraded Masonicare's debt rating outlook from "stable" to "positive" – validation that hard financial decisions made prior to and during the pandemic were paying off.

"Helping guide Masonicare through COVID," he recalled, "and achieve success in the eyes of our bondholders is what I'm most proud of. We exceeded all expectations. I'm also pleased that we were able to overcome some struggles with Masonicare at Mystic, which, today,



is in a much better position financially."

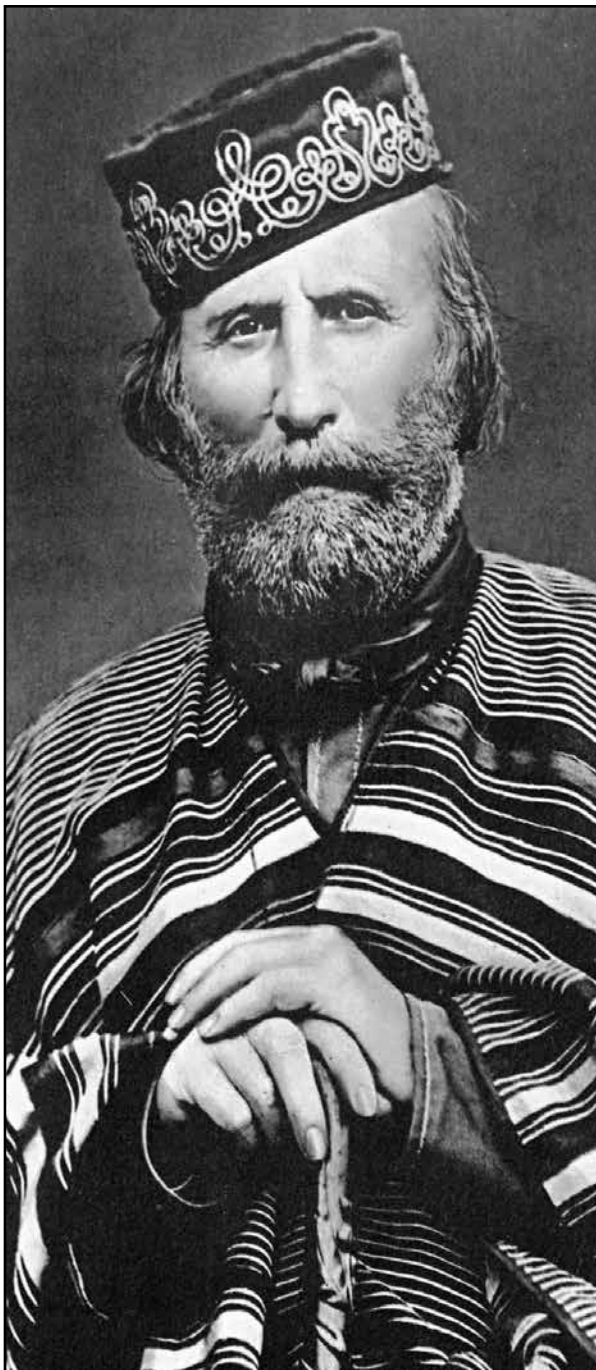
As of this writing, the search for Steve's successor was underway. Though he could not predict who will occupy his chair next, he did offer that the strategy of reducing the organization's reliance on poor governmental funding in favor of more reliable revenue sources is essential and needs to continue. He also predicts that, over the next few years, smaller organizations lacking Masonicare's breadth and scope of services will struggle to survive. This, he said, will present new opportunities for growth.

"I'm confident we will find the right opportunity," he said. "And when it comes, we need to embrace it. Maybe it won't be through an outright acquisition but by adding affiliations with other providers. Here, again, we'll

need the support of the Masonic fraternity in understanding the necessity for change. The industry is changing rapidly, and we need to be able to adapt."

As for his own immediate future, Steve will be on the lookout for ways to give back to causes that are important to him. That may include serving on the board of a nonprofit that would benefit from his experience in finance. Most importantly, he'll also have more time to spend with family, some of whom are out of state. But he insists that Masonicare, with its storied ties to Freemasonry, will continue to be part of his life post-retirement.

"I'm not going to abandon Masonicare or the fraternity," he said. "I'm sure my face will be around for a while."



## THE GARIBALDI A UNIQUE ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024, 7:30 P.M.  
GARIBALDI LODGE NO. 542,  
MAIN ROOM OF THE GRAND LODGE OF  
NEW YORK IN MANHATTAN.**

This world-renowned degree is presented completely in Italian and will have as many as 15 candidates. If you have new Entered Apprentices or Fellowcraft, these brothers can be afforded a special viewing place to observe the degree, but need advanced notice.

The cost is \$70/person for Motor Coach only.

Payment must be made in full, online, by April 5, 2024.

Brothers must pay by credit card, debit card, or with a PayPal account. You can pay online via our lodge website. We have added the Garibaldi Lodge #542 Bus Trip to our "Payments and Event Tickets" page, which can be accessed directly at: <https://lodge140.ctfreemasons.net/payments/>

- The bus leaves at 1:00 PM from Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140; Brothers will be given the option of stopping for lunch at The Famous Katz's Deli in Manhattan.

- Pick-up is available for 5 or more brothers at a place of convenience at a park and ride on route to New York City. (I need to know the route the bus company is taking so we can plan a pick-up that is convenient),

- There will also be a tour of the various lodges that inhabit the 17-story building; Go to the Grand Lodge of New York website and check out this unique building. [www.nymasons.org](http://www.nymasons.org)

Contact: Brother Don Adams [bronzebird64@comcast.net](mailto:bronzebird64@comcast.net) or 860-236-5411.



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*Passover, also known as Pesach, celebrates the emancipation of the Jewish people from slavery in ancient Egypt. The following in part from cleveland.com.*

## Passover is Later than Usual this Year.

The festival dates are usually determined by the 15th day of the month of Nisan, which is on the first night of a full moon after the Spring equinox. The holiday can be seven or eight days long with one or two seders. Typically, the holiday is seven days in Israel and eight days everywhere else.

The dates are determined by the Hebrew calendar, which is based on lunar cycles, and while it falls later than usual this year, it is not as late as it could be. In 2024, Passover will begin on April 22 and end on April 30 (14-22 Nisan 5784).

This also happens to be a Jewish leap year. Leap years are built into the lunar calendar because the lunar year is about 11 days shorter than the solar year, so an extra month is added to certain years to make up the difference.



### TEN MASTER MASONS

Ten Master Masons, happy, doing fine  
One listened to a rumor, then there were nine.  
Nine Master Masons, faithful, never late  
One didn't like the Master, then there were eight.  
Eight Master Masons, on their way to heaven  
One joined too many clubs, then there were seven.  
Seven Master Masons, life dealt some hard licks  
One grew discouraged, then there were six.  
Six Master Masons, all very much alive  
One lost his interest, then there were five.  
Five Master Masons, wishing there were more  
Got into a great dispute, then there were four.  
Four Master Masons, busy as could be  
One didn't like the programs, then there were three.  
Three Master Masons, was one of them you?  
One grew tired of all the work, then there were two.  
Two Master Masons with so much to be done  
One said What's the use, then there was one.  
One Master Mason, found a brother true!  
Brought him to the Lodge, then there were two.  
Two Master Masons didn't find work a bore  
Each brought another, then there were four.  
Four Master Masons saved their Lodge's fate  
By showing others kindness, then there were eight.  
Eight Master Masons, loving their Lodges bright sheen  
Talked so much about it, they soon counted sixteen.  
Sixteen Master Masons, to their obligations true  
Were pleased when their number went to thirty-two.  
So we can't put our troubles at the Lodge's door  
It's our fault for harming the Lodge we adore.  
Don't fuss about the programs or the Master in the East  
Keep your obligation by serving even the very least.  
All about the same person still causing issues.

*-Anonymous*



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# Norma Brandt Nursing Scholarship

at Masonicare



Throughout her career as a Registered Nurse, Norma Brandt (1942-2005) was known for her extraordinary compassion and dedication to her patients. The nursing scholarship established in her name by her husband, the late Bro. John Brandt, is awarded by Masonicare to qualified individuals enrolled in an accredited nursing program (Associate Degree, BSN, or RN). In addition to emulating Norma's passion for nursing, recipients must be benefit-eligible Masonicare employees with at least one year of service **or** the children/grandchildren of Masonicare employees **or** affiliated with a Masonic organization, either as a member or child/grandchild of a member.

For more information or to receive an application, please contact Lindsey Smith at 203-679-6166 or [lsmith@masonicare.org](mailto:lsmith@masonicare.org).

**Application deadline is Friday, May 24, 2024**

**Masonicare**   
★ An Ageless Commitment to Caring

**HE IS NOT HERE. HE HAS RISEN, JUST AS HE SAID.**  
*Matthew 28:6*



*Easter Sunday ~ March 31, 2024*

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*Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: February 11, 2024.*

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King Hiram Lodge No. 12

### Fellowcraft Level \$150 - \$249

Entered Apprentice Level \$75 - \$149  
Coastal Lodge No. 57  
Columbia Lodge No. 25

### Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association

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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, Hartford/Windsor Airport

## Entered Apprentice Degrees

**Mon., April 1**, Federal Lodge No. 17, Waterbury

## Fellowcraft Degrees

**Thurs., March 7**, Trumbull Lodge No. 22, New Haven

**Mon., March 18**, 6:30 p.m., Valley Lodge No. 36, Simsbury, Dinner

**Mon., April 8**, Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville

## Master Mason Degrees

**Mon., March 4**, Meridian Lodge No. 77, Meriden

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

**Sat., March 23**, St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, Litchfield

**Sat., March 30**, Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Statewide Master Mason Degree

# 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*



# Masonicare is Here for You!

We are giving Masons and fraternal family members even more reason to choose Masonicare. With benefits developed exclusively for Masons, you can be sure you are receiving the best-in-class care and service you deserve from the provider you trust.




## The Concentric Circle is Growing!

**For new move-ins:** Masonicare is offering Masons, Masonic widows, and the rest of the Masonic Family a six-month, 5% discount on base monthly fees (excluding healthcare charges) in our Independent Living and Assisted Living communities! These include Masonicare at Ashlar Village, Pond Ridge Assisted Living, Masonicare at Chester Village, Masonicare at Mystic, and the Apartments on Masonic Avenue in Wallingford – A. Norman Johnson Apartments, Hawkins Apartments, and Wells Apartments – all of which offer convenient access to Masonicare Health Center.

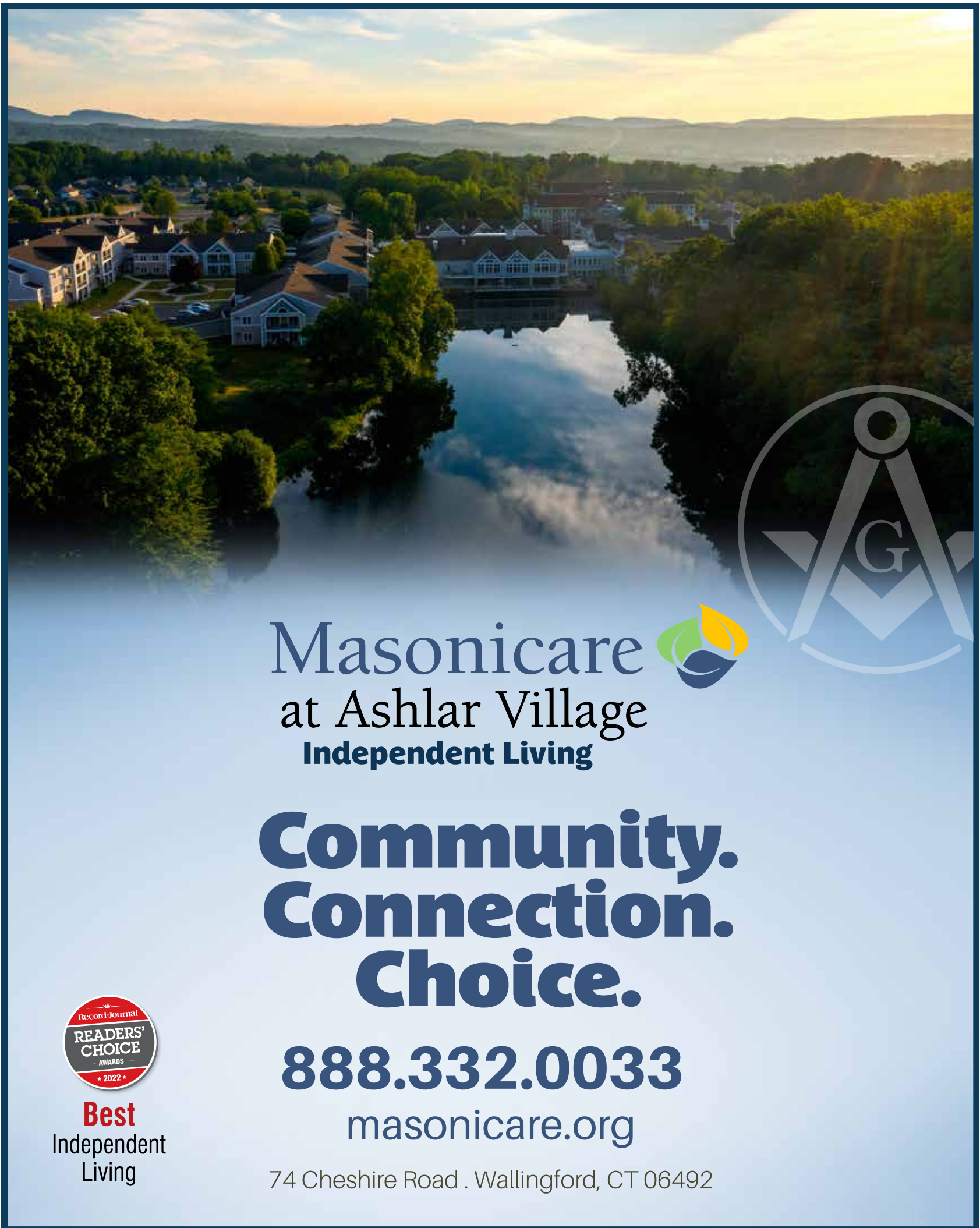
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- **PRIORITY ADMISSION / ACCESS** to Masonicare following the “Concentric Circle” guidelines for Connecticut Freemasons, relatives, and appendant bodies
- **REDUCED PRICING** on applications for our residential communities
- **FREE HEARING SCREENINGS** in the Masonicare Hearing Center
- **FREE BALANCE ASSESSMENTS** in the Masonicare Health Center Outpatient Rehabilitation Department
- **WAIVED ADVANCE PAYMENTS** on Masonicare at Home (in-home, non-medical homemaker-companion services)



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