

May 2024



# Connecticut FREEMASONS



## IN THIS ISSUE

**Brother Edward C. Page Installed as  
178th Most Worshipful Grand Master  
of the Grand Lodge AF&AM  
of Connecticut**

**235th Annual Session of the  
Grand Lodge of Connecticut**

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

**2024- 2025 Officers of the  
Grand Lodge Af & 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 Senior Warden

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Bro. Mark H. Hawkins  
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Assistant to the Grand Master

**Not just a man. A Mason.**



Volume 19 - Number 9

**Publisher**  
**THE GRAND LODGE**  
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at **submissions@ctfreemasons.net**  
and are due on the 10th of the month prior  
to the next issue.

# The 235th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut

by Francis G. Way

Promptly at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 6, the Deputy Grand Master, RWB Edward C. Page, received Brother Joseph J. Porco, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut, into Grand Lodge, and MWB Porco then proceeded to open the Grand Lodge.

After the usual roll call of lodges and the Necrology that sadly included RWB Les B. King, who was the incumbent Grand Senior Warden when he passed, the Grand Master received the many distinguished guests who were attending the session. These included representatives from the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, the York Rite, and the Shrine. Immediately after, distinguished guests from sister jurisdictions were welcomed. These included Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Virginia, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Vermont, Delaware, Maine, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, the Ambassador from Lebanon to America, and last but certainly not least, Prince Hall Affiliation.

A large contingent of Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters of Connecticut was welcomed, MWB Charles Yohe (1996, 2015) being the most senior in attendance, and the current District Deputies, Associate Grand Marshals, Associate Grand Almoners, and Associate Grand Chaplains were also recognized.

The Grand Lodge was called from Labor to Refreshment to welcome visitors from the concordant bodies. A contingent from DeMolay presented the National Colors. Representatives were received from Masonicare, DeMolay, the International Order of Rainbow for Girls, The Order of Eastern Star, Amaranth, and the Daughters of the Nile.

A Hometown Hero Award was then presented to WB Michael J. Waite of Meridian Lodge No. 77. WB Waite is a USPS Letter Carrier and was delivering mail at a condo complex in Wallingford in December 2023 when he saw smoke coming from one of the units. He quickly called the Fire Department and proceeded to alert residents, including a mother and her three daughters, who were asleep at the time. WB Waite's actions saved lives and his heroism was recognized by his brothers.

Following speeches from the distinguished representatives and slightly ahead of schedule, MWB Porco dismissed the Craft for lunch with instructions to be back by 1:15 p.m.

Following lunch, the Grand Lodge returned to labor. Illustrious Brother Kevin J. Hecht, Scottish Rite Deputy for Connecticut, and Sir Knight Hal Elwell, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander of Knights Templar, who was representing Right Eminent Grand

Commander Edward C. Page, were invited to give remarks.

A report from MWB Chip Stamm, Chairman of the Fraternal Relations Committee, informed the Craft that full recognition has been extended to the Grand Lodge of Baja California and that two requests for recognition have been received from Grand Lodges in Brazil. Also of important note is that Amity is making a "Tyler's Book" available to any lodge (for \$16) that clearly and succinctly shows which lodges are in amity with Connecticut. That will make it easier to verify that visitors are from a grand jurisdiction recognized by Connecticut.

At that time, voting was taken up on the proposed background check legislation. The proposal concerned lodges doing background checks via publicly available websites (state judicial sites and sex offender registries) as opposed to using a paid service. The legislation was laid over from the semi-annual session in October. This legislation passed overwhelmingly.

After several reports (Grand Treasurer and CT Freemasons Foundation), a series of awards were presented to lodges and brothers.

Continued on page 4

## GRAND LODGE SESSION ~APRIL 6, 2024



## The 235th Annual Communication continued from page 3

Lodge Fixup Awards: Friendship Lodge No. 33 and Washington Lodge No. 70. Master's Achievement Award: WB Robert Dodge, Washington Lodge No. 70. Hiram The Builder Award: WB Pedro Garcia, Corinthian Lodge No. 104. Demonstrating Good Mentoring: Raymond Benson, Kyle Podpulacha, Pedro Garcia, and Robert C. Dodge.

Communications/Trestleboards; Outstanding Trestleboards: Washington Lodge No. 19, Seneca Lodge No. 55, and Wolcott Lodge No. 60. Excellent Trestleboards: Temple Lodge No. 16, Valley Lodge No. 36, Warren Lodge No. 51, Washington Lodge No. 70, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88, Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142, and Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145.

RWB Edward C. Page, Deputy Grand Master, presented the Perfect Ashlar Awards. A group

of 25 brothers, possibly the largest group of Perfect Ashlar Award winners ever, came forward west of the altar to receive their certificates from RWB Page.

In addition, three lodges were recognized for having three or more Perfect Ashlar recipients in their lodge: Hiram Lodge No. 1, Seneca Lodge No. 55, and Annawon Lodge No. 115.

MWB Joseph J. Porco presented his Grand Master's report. Of the many accomplishments and highlights of his year in the Grand East, none was greater than his Blue Wave program that reversed 60 years of membership decline in this jurisdiction. For the first time in 60 years, Connecticut experienced positive growth, and the momentum established should easily carry forward.

MWB Porco presented awards to lodges who'd brought in the most members in the Blue Wave

initiative. Honorable Mention was Hiram Lodge No. 18, Temple Lodge No. 22, and Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149. Runner Up (20 additions) was Hiram Lodge No. 1. Grand Prize (23 additions) went to Annawon Lodge No. 115.

Three brothers were recognized for outstanding service in the prospect manager role: WB Dennis Frosolone (Annawon Lodge No. 115), WB Albert R. Johnson (Hiram Lodge No. 1), and WB Anthony S. Neri (Hiram Lodge No. 18).

All in all, it was a phenomenal year for membership growth in Connecticut.

Following the awards, and some housekeeping regarding reports, MWB Porco called the Craft from Labor to Refreshment for the purpose of installing the new Grand Lodge officers.

## Installation of MWB Edward C. Page, 178th Grand Master

At 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, following the 235th Annual Session of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Connecticut, MWB Charles A. Buck, Jr., Installing Master, began the installation of Grand Lodge officers and the 178th Grand Master, Bro. Edward C. Page. Assisted by MWB William L. Greene, Installing Marshall, and MWB Bruce R. Bellmore, Installing Chaplain, MWB Buck conducted the ceremony with the appropriate amount of pomp and circumstance, gravitas, and just a bit of humor sprinkled in.

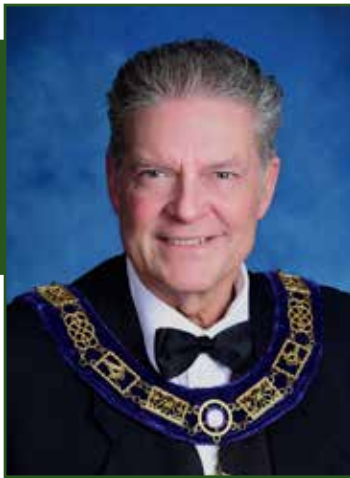
MWB Page took the obligation and was escorted to the Oriental Chair, and the rest of his Grand Line was installed.

Following that, MWB Page and RWB Ronaldo F. Magliano, RW Deputy Grand Master, installed the District Deputies, Associated Grand Marshals, and District Lecturers by presenting them with their collars, jewels, and commissions.

MWB Page's installation was celebrated with a banquet later that evening.

### GRAND LODGE SESSION APRIL 6, 2024, INSTALLATION





# Grand Master's Message

by MWB Edward C. Page

## Brotherly Love and Affection

My induction into this fraternity was one of the greatest decisions

I have ever made. Freemasonry runs deep in my family; my dad, Orville Gus Page, his brother, Paul H. Page, and my grandfather were all Freemasons in the China—Vassalboro—Waterville, Maine area, and both my father and uncle were members of Commandery in Waterville.

Growing up among most men my age, affection was usually exchanged physically with a handshake or a pat on the back for a job well done. When the discussion of Freemasonry came up around the house, as I saw my Dad's Masonic Bible frequently, he was rather reserved and didn't say too much, except in later years, shortly before he passed.

In my life's personal journey, I have encountered hurdles. Those hurdles and setbacks have made me a better person and stronger because I have tried to learn from them and grow, and I have chosen not to be bitter and angry. One incident in my youth caused me to reflect on many aspects of being human. Out of that self-reflection, I grew a newer, wiser, better version of myself, and I began to embrace those close to me with a hug. Upon returning home to Maine to visit my parents one weekend, I left with a hug. Not knowing how it would be received, I was ever so nervous. To

my surprise and delight, it was met with overwhelming acceptance. From that moment on, hugs would be part of me.

Shortly after being raised at Moriah Lodge No. 15, I had the occasion to be at a local breakfast sponsored by Moosup Lodge No. 113. Being unsure of myself and how I fit into this new fraternity, I was cautious and respectful of my greetings. As I was introduced to two brothers from Rhode Island, they greeted me, whom they had never seen before, with a welcoming handshake and a hug. This fraternal greeting meshed so perfectly with who I was; I felt so at home. Those two brothers from Rhode Island who impacted my future journey were the late RWB Robert Sweet and the late Past Grand Master Russel Davis. Our friendship only strengthened over time.

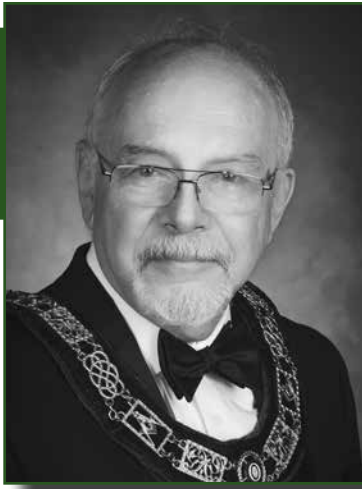
At all possible opportunities, I now try to greet all brothers, family, and friends with a hug that I love to give. I heard once say that a hug completes us as humans. We each have our heart on the left side of our body, but with a hug, there is a heart on both sides, making the hug a completion of the souls.

Part of my mission during my term as Grand Master is to continue to be an Ambassador of Freemasonry in all my travels and interactions on a daily basis and to encourage all others to do likewise. I hope that one day, however unlikely these days, Freemasonry will have a positive impact all over the world.

We all know it can – one HUG at a time.



**GRAND LODGE SESSION  
APRIL 6, 2024, INSTALLATION**



## Grand Chaplain's Pulpit

by The Rev. Bruce R. Bellmore, PGM

My dear brothers,

Last fall, I took a trip to Gettysburg with RWB Chris Earle, his brother, and their sons. We toured the battlefield, monuments,

attractions, and the National Cemetery.

One of the most moving moments for me personally was seeing the Friend-to-Friend Masonic Memorial. For those of you who may not be familiar with this monument, it refers to the friendship between Union General Winfield Scott Hancock and Confederate General Lewis Addison Armistead. Both were members of our fraternity and served together in the United States Army prior to the Civil War. They were destined to meet again at Gettysburg.

It is ironic that they were both wounded on the day of "Pickett's Charge," —Armistead mortally. The statue depicts the wounded Armistead being aided by Union Captain Henry Bingham, a brother Mason, and staff assistant to General Hancock. It shows Armistead giving his watch and personal effects to Bingham to be delivered to his friend and brother, General Hancock. The strong bonds of brotherly love and charity overcame the differences and divisions of war.

My brothers, we live in a period where our world is beset with wars and divisions. Conflicts in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere are threatening to expand and engulf the entire world. We again see instances where brothers may be forced to take

up arms against brothers. But our beloved fraternity helps us to rise above our differences. Freemasonry offers the hope and promise of a better world.

This was made evident to me recently at a meeting of Cosmopolitan Lodge in New Haven. This lodge, chartered in 1919 as an answer to the rampant antisemitism of the time, was founded by Jewish brothers as a place where they could meet without religious persecution. Upon their altar, they have the Holy Bible, the Quran, and the Bhagavad Gita: The Holy books of the religions practiced by the various members of the lodge. At the end of their meetings, they meet upon the level and sing a traditional Jewish song, "Hine ma Tov," in Hebrew. The song is taken from the 133rd Psalm, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Standing with my brothers of different faiths and backgrounds singing this song while the October 7 attack and the ongoing conflict in Gaza dominated the news filled me with deep emotions. Once again Freemasonry demonstrates its ability to overcome the differences between men and offer the hope of a better world.

My brothers, we must continue to keep Freemasonry a beacon of light and hope for the world. Let us then dedicate ourselves, as sons of the Grand Architect of the Universe, to practicing the virtues of brotherly, relief, and truth, changing the world one good man at a time, making a difference by setting an example for the world, and pray for the advent of the day when we may truly see the Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God.

So, mote it be!



**ANCIENT ACCEPTED  
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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)

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

**Norman Carl Anderson**  
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

**Raymond T. Barker**  
Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14

**Richard E. Blake**  
Putnam Lodge No. 46

**Stephen Shelby Elliott**  
Daytime Lodge No. 144

**Robert Fitzroy**  
Acacia Lodge No. 85

**Robert P. Forrest**  
Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107

**Meredith O. Grant**  
Fidelity St. John's Lodge No. 3

**William S. Hart**  
Evening Star Lodge No. 101

**Kenneth H. Johnson**  
Madison Lodge Lodge No. 87

**John L. Mauer, IV**  
King Solomons Lodge No. 7

**Alden F. Mitchell**  
Coastal Lodge No. 57

**Charles D. Nelson**  
Washington Lodge No. 81

**Russell Harry Powers**  
Sequin Level Lodge No. 140

**Earl M. Robertson**  
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

**William Schuck**  
Trumbull Lodge No. 22

**Irving A. Wilson**  
Sequin Level Lodge No. 140



**GRAND LODGE SESSION ~ APRIL 6, 2024**





## Grand Historian's Corner

Bro. David J. Stewart

Brethren all,

Let me start by saying that I am most humbled and honored to serve all of you as your Right Worshipful Grand Historian. I will endeavor to fulfill my duties to the best of my abilities.

Our newly installed Most Worshipful Grand Master, Edward C. Page, has chosen as his theme for the coming year "God – Unity – Service." To that he has added a fourth additional service in the form of "Servant Leadership." Servant leadership has many forms and usages. We start with the correct mindset, as a Servant Leader: "It is not about you." I am here to serve the Craft in any way I can with regard to Masonic history; whatever is needed, I will do my best. To those points, I will add education and bring forth Masonic history. Just what is our history, and why do I think it is ever so important?

I started my Masonic journey 41 years ago, and my road was full of twists and turns, bumps, and potholes until about 15 years ago. Then the "Light" turned bright, and I realized that my Masonic education was severely deficient. With that, the Grand Architect provided me with the direction that I had been searching for. I began reading as much as possible, always searching for more light and direction.

The history of our Craft has been and remains today one of the most enlightening adventures I have undertaken. Where does one start? Over the ensuing year I will endeavor to bring forth ways that may

help *you*. Where does one begin? Your journey is one that will bring clarity and, I hope, a clearer understanding of our Masonic history.

I will serve our Craft in any way I can, always with a focus on your education. I am not here to be your teacher but rather your guide, answer your questions, provide ideas, and help you along your journey.

Now, to those of you who serve as the Lodge Historian, I cannot begin to say how important the part you play in this journey is. The more you can learn (or refresh) about your lodge's history, the better equipped you and your brothers can become. You can help, aid, and assist your brothers in gaining that all-important history of one's individual lodge and how it fits into this "puzzle" of what I call "our Masonic history."

The proverbial who, what, where, and when is tantamount to the journey. Just ask me, and I will help. I have thrown a line into the dark and deep mysterious waters of our Craft. I do not know what my "big" catch will be, but you can surely bet I will keep fishing. Won't you join me on this journey?

In closing, I am humbled by the fact of having known three of my predecessors, especially RWB James Royal Case, who served our Craft for over 35 years as our Grand Historian. I write this while sitting in our grand library here in Wallingford and cannot help feeling that his presence is always with me.

So, mote it be!



**FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024  
BANQUET**





# And We're Back, in 3...2...1

by Francis G. Way

For the past year, the Connecticut Freemasons has not been mailed to approximately half of all brothers in Connecticut, and judging from some emails I received, hardly any of the other jurisdictions who normally would have received it. The budget adjustments voted at the Semi-Annual Communication in October 2023 meant that only brothers over 70 years of age would receive the paper by U.S. Mail. Brothers under 70 who were boosters would also find the Connecticut Freemasons in the mailbox each month. All the rest were expected to find it electronically.

From the amount and regularity of the emails I received, usually starting like "Hi, I haven't seen the paper in my mailbox in a while, and was wondering...", it was clear that word did not travel fast... or at all. It certainly didn't travel to other jurisdictions – they're not on our email list, and any of the announcements made in the paper would have been pretty impossible to read when they weren't actually receiving the paper. Places like the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania were left wondering where the newspaper was.

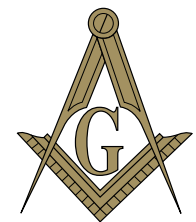
But based on the budget voted last October, the newspaper is back. Beginning with this May issue, it should regularly appear in mailboxes across the state and in those other jurisdictions to which the news of Connecticut Masonry has regularly been mailed in the past.

It goes without saying that the newspaper is always available on the Grand Lodge website (the most recent editions appear under the fold on the page), and there are links to more than 10 years of back issues. If you missed anything this past year, you can always pop in there and look.

If you like the newspaper, and if you missed it during the past year, consider becoming a booster. Those contributions do help immensely, but of course, it is no longer required that you become a booster to receive a hard copy. And perhaps consider advertising your services in the paper as well. We tend to think of the publication as only serving Connecticut but believe me, there are other jurisdictions out there that receive it as well, and depending on what you do and advertise, you never know who will see it and have a need.

In the meantime, keep an eye out for the familiar newspaper appearing in your mailbox. And to paraphrase the immortal words of Randy Quaid as Russell Casse in *Independence Day*, "Hello boys! We're BACK!!!"

## GRAND LODGE SESSION APRIL 6, 2024, INSTALLATION



### NOTICE

TO THE HOLDERS OF OUTSTANDING STOCK IN THE MASONIC BUILDING  
ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLETOWN, INC.:

Pursuant to the terms of the issuance its shares, the Board of Directors of The Masonic Building Association of Middletown, Inc. have VOTED to CALL in all issued and outstanding shares of stock for redemption. Certificates of stock shares must be delivered to the Corporation at P.O. Box 961, Middletown, CT 06457 no later than sixty (60) days from the publication of this Notice.

THE MASONIC BUILDING ASSOCIATION  
OF MIDDLETOWN, INC.

  
Robert Grismer, Vice President

Date: 17 March, 2024

# Masonicare's CareConnect Navigator

Navigating the complexities of health and senior care services can leave one feeling exhausted, frustrated, or just plain lost.

Masonicare's CareConnect Navigator program helps individuals through the process of acquiring care and services for themselves or a loved one. A **complimentary** service available to the Masonic Family and the general public, CareConnect Navigator was borne out of an idea from Bro. Joseph J. Porco, MWPGM, following his own challenges as the primary caregiver for an aging parent.

Audrey Grove, who spent nearly a decade with Masonicare Community Services, is Director of the CareConnect Navigator program. She describes her role as taking the work she was doing

previously "to the next level."

"What's wonderful about CareConnect Navigator," she said, "is that it fits so well with the Masonicare mission. It's a resource for people outside of Masonicare to ask questions about anything related to senior healthcare or senior living. When someone contacts CareConnect Navigator, they reach someone who is completely focused on their needs and who can provide recommendations or connect them with services that may or may not be offered by Masonicare. And there is no cost involved."

Audrey notes that CareConnect Navigator is often utilized by adult children seeking to identify services for a parent and seniors concerned about the well-being

of a spouse. In many cases, there is a medical crisis creating a greater sense of urgency.

"At any age," she said, "this process can be stressful and even scary. It makes me really happy to be able to bring people peace of mind."

*In addition to overseeing CareConnect Navigator, Audrey also facilitates support groups at Masonicare and is organizing a Health, Wellness, and Community Resource Fair to be held on Grand Masters Day (Saturday, June 8) on our Wallingford campus. It will be under its own tent and feature representatives from local healthcare providers and senior services agencies.*

To access CareConnect Navigator, please call **888-332-0033** or email [CareConnect@masonicare.org](mailto:CareConnect@masonicare.org). Learn more at [masonicare.org/careconnect-program](https://masonicare.org/careconnect-program).

## We are *your* Masonicare.



[masonicare.org](https://masonicare.org) |  22 Masonic Avenue . Wallingford, CT

# From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

## President & CEO of Masonicare

Partnering with other best-in-class providers is part of Masonicare's strategy for growth. We are also keen on finding ways to better utilize available space on our campuses. We made progress on both fronts recently with the opening of Griffin Health's new occupational health, radiology, and laboratory facilities at Masonicare Health Center.

This expansion of healthcare services will enable us to better serve the needs of Masonicare and neighboring businesses and communities. A brief overview of the health and diagnostic services now offered by Griffin Health at Masonicare Health Center:

- **Lab Services:** Griffin Health's state-of-the-art laboratory facility will provide improved community access to diagnostic testing and screening, from routine blood work to specialized tests. In addition to Griffin Health's freestanding lab, it will provide in-home lab services for residents of Masonicare on an as-needed basis and oversee all laboratory diagnostic testing at Masonicare Health Center and Masonicare Behavioral Health Hospital.
- **Radiology Services:** Located adjacent to lab services, Griffin Health will provide low-dose digital X-ray/radiology services. These services are open to the public, as well as Masonicare residents and employees.
- **Occupational Health:** Available by appointment only, Griffin's Occupational Health Services are tailored to meet the needs of both employers and employees. Available to Masonicare and other area businesses, the clinic offers pre-employment screenings, workplace injury management, health promotion programs, and other services.

We are excited about this partnership with Griffin Health and the addition of new services on our Wallingford campus because they

will not only benefit our patients, residents, and employees but also contribute to the overall health and wellness of our surrounding businesses and communities.

A couple of months ago, I shared with you that Masonicare's Chief Financial Officer, Bro. Steve Beaulieu will be retiring at the end of March. However, Steve has graciously agreed to stay on as Interim CFO, giving us more time to find an ideal successor. I am grateful to Steve for his willingness to delay retirement for just a bit longer, and I deeply appreciate all the ways he continues supporting the mission of Masonicare.

Finally, I want to congratulate Bro. Edward C. Page on his installation as Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of the State of Connecticut and wish him all the best as he takes his turn at the helm of our fraternity. I also want to congratulate MWPGM Bro. Joe Porco on a successful year and thank him, again, for his unwavering and heartfelt support of Masonicare.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

**Ramon G. Doss**  
Anchor Lodge No. 112

**Kenneth Lawrence Dworkin**  
**Michael S. Hillsberg**  
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

**Brian W. Fitzsimonds**  
Washington Lodge No. 70

**Craig R. Flanagan**  
NY Consolidation

**Winston S. Hunt, Jr.**  
St. Andrews Lodge No. 64

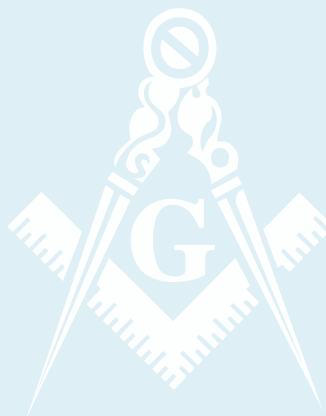
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Harmony Lodge No. 67

**Eugene Ott**  
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

**Ronald D. Peaslee**  
Washington Lodge No. 70

**James L. Titus**  
Wolcott Lodge No. 60

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Solar Lodge No. 131



# WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

**Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14**  
Patrick Iannotti

**Hiram Lodge No. 18**  
Rohit Anand  
Deneon Lopes DeSales

**Columbia Lodge No. 25**  
Phillip D. Crump  
Brian Douglas Dikun  
Jason Samuel Felber  
Tushar Meshram  
Exequiel Zamora

**Union Lodge No. 31**  
Santos Cordero Jr.

**Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34**  
Jake Austin Fowler  
Jose-Michael Gonzalez  
Austin James Ladd

**Coastal Lodge No. 57**  
Timothy James DeVeau

**Washington Lodge No. 70**  
John Angelakopoulos  
John W. Plotica

**Unity Lodge No. 148**  
Carlos Andre Fontes  
Christopher Grant  
James Silvio Pierlioni  
Jeffrey Lawrence Stanley, Jr.

**GRAND LODGE  
SESSION  
APRIL 6, 2024**



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

*~ Since 1781 ~*

*Serving the Community for  
more than 240 years*



# District 1

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



## Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149 19th Anniversary Gala by Franklin F. Bartley

Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149 held its 19th Anniversary Gala at VFW Post 9460 in Stratford with 120 brothers and friends in attendance. WM Bermann Thelison presented a Special Award (the Franklin F. Bartley Award) to WB Franklin F. Bartley for his contributions to the lodge over the past 19 years.

RWB Barry Buzzel was WB Franklin's mentor from the beginning, and he was so happy to congratulate him.



# Washington Lodge No. 19 Raises Three Master Masons

Monday, April 8, was a great night at Washington Lodge No. 19, with three brothers raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason! Brothers from both Washington Lodge and Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 put on an awesome degree.

Brothers Pedro Garcia and Peter Redwood of Washington Lodge and Bro. Christopher Kowalski of Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge were raised.



# Washington Lodge No. 19 Holds Pin and St Patrick's Day Dinner

Everyone enjoyed corned beef and homemade pies, as Washington Lodge No. 19 in Monroe celebrated St. Patrick's Day and awarded service pins.

Congratulations to WB William Zaleha on receiving his 50-year pin, and congratulations to all the pin recipients.



# Washington Bible to Visit Temple Lodge No. 65

by Richard Ruggiano

On Saturday, May 18, the George Washington Bible will arrive at Temple Lodge No. 65 in Westport as part of the lodge's 200th anniversary celebration. A contingent of brothers from St. John's Lodge No.1, Grand Lodge of New York F&AM, will transport the Bible from New York City to Westport, where it will be displayed in the lodge room of Temple Lodge.

Brother Masons can visit the lodge from 12 to 2 p.m. to view the Bible on which Bro. George Washington took his oath of office as the nation's first president. The lodge will also be open to the public from 2 to 5 p.m.

Cherry pie will be served throughout the day, and brothers of Temple Lodge and St. John's Lodge will make special presentations.



Source: Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license. (Link [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Washington\\_inauguration\\_bible.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Washington_inauguration_bible.jpg))



## GRAND LODGE SESSION ~ APRIL 6, 2024



# District 2

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



## St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 Honors Grand Master Joseph J. Porco by Matt Fitzgibbons

On Tuesday, April 2, St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 held a stated communication welcoming the Grand Master, MWB Joseph Porco, and his suite of officers, including the current and past district officers of Masonic Districts 2A and 2B.

The evening culminated in WM Daniel Keeler presenting the Grand Master with an honorary membership in Saint Peter's Lodge for his leadership and service to the lodge, the district, and Connecticut Masonry.



## First Brought to Light: Hiram Lodge No. 18 Initiates New Brothers

by Anthony S. Neri

On Wednesday, March 6, Hiram Lodge No. 18 initiated three brothers into the Craft, one of whom is blind. They also initiated a candidate from Annawon Lodge No. 115. The new Hiram brothers are Ryan Silveira, Andrew Engels, Thomas Nolan, and Martin Podsiad from Annawon Lodge.

WM Anthony Neri presided in the East for the degree. Bro. Christopher Follen performed a Protocol Lecture that was informative and interesting for the new brothers. Visitors in

attendance were RWB David McClain, District Deputy for Masonic District 2B, and WB Andrew Haslam from Hiram Lodge No. 180, F& AM in South Portland, Maine, who was in the area and happened to stop by.

On Wednesday, March 27, brothers from Annawon Lodge traveled with candidates to join Hiram Lodge again to perform a joint Entered Apprentice degree. Brothers Jose Fuentes and Sean Daly from Hiram Lodge and Daylon Earl London, Sr., and Arsenio Cruz from Annawon Lodge were initiated.

WM Tony Neri and his degree team performed a great degree, and WM Joseph McVety of Annawon Lodge also assisted in the degree. Everyone enjoyed dinner, and all the smiling faces proved that Masonry is a team sport.





# District 3

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



## King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 Holds 11th Annual Chili Cookoff by Steve Lewis

King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 brothers wholeheartedly believe in abiding by Freemasonry's three basic tenets: brotherly love, relief, and truth.

With the 11th Annual Chili Cookoff as their reason, they bound together in brotherly love at the Woodbury Brewing Company, imbibing in good cheer and great beer in the lodge's 259th year. The relief came with the sharing of joy and stories, the telling of jokes, and the sharing of chili secrets.

The truth came out when the voting was finished. Clearly, the truthful winner was RWB Albin Weber by an overwhelming and resounding shout of approval.

WM Lorenzo Gaudio and RWB Shane Dufresne, Grand Marshal, were on hand to present RWB Weber with the coveted "Golden Ladle" trophy.

This year's annual Thunder on the Rock Chili Cookoff occurred at the Woodbury Brewing Company, providing 16 taps of fresh house-brewed ales and lagers. There was something for everybody, from sours to stouts and pilsners to porters. The brewery is a warm, family-friendly, relaxed atmosphere where well-behaved dogs and minors accompanied by a parent are welcome.

The cookoff is an annual fundraising event to support the lodge's ambitions for kitchen renovation. Each entrant provided their time-tested and family-approved chili in quantities sufficient for all participants and spectators to test. An entry fee was charged as a donation to the fundraising effort. A door prize and discounted special drinks at the bar were offered.

This year's illustrious Golden Ladle trophy winner, RWB Albin Weber, graciously has



provided his closely guarded, family-secret recipe below. In full disclosure, while not precisely Bro. Weber's world-renowned winning chili recipe, it is a recipe that is sure to win you accolades at home or with any party guests:

### Ingredients:

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 chipotle peppers in adobo sauce
- 1 (10 ounce) can diced tomatoes with green chile peppers
- 2 (15 ounce) cans kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 3/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 3 teaspoons hot pepper sauce
- 1/4 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Chipotle peppers can be found in the Mexican specialty aisle of the supermarket or at a Latin grocer. Make sure to purchase the chipotle peppers in the can with Adobo Sauce. If you don't want it too spicy, reduce the hot sauce and chili powder.

### Directions:

- In a large sauté pan, brown ground beef with onion, chipotle peppers and 3 tablespoons of the adobo sauce; drain well.
- In a large stock pot, combine the beef mixture, stewed tomatoes, kidney beans, Kosher salt, ground cumin, garlic powder,

and chili powder. At this point, adjust to taste with hot pepper sauce. Heat through and serve garnished with Cheddar cheese.



*Golden Ladle Award Presentation (l-r): WM Lorenzo Gaudio, RWB Albin Weber (winner), and RWB Shane Dufresne.*



Continued on page 18



WM Lorenzo Gaudio.



Bro. Rich Miska and Bro. Kevin Brown.



## District 4

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



## Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 Baseball Rivals Whip Up St. Patrick's Day Breakfast

by Bill Roots

Baseball rivals WB Chuck McCollum, and Bro. Ray Cruciani were on the kitchen crew for the Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 St. Patrick's Day breakfast. Although they support different teams, at least they agreed on the proper green color for the day!



# Lessons in Brotherhood: Brothers Answer the Call for Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 by Charlie Miller

As Worshipful Master of Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 in Branford, I had scheduled a Fellowcraft Degree on March 20. About two weeks earlier, I found I needed shoulder surgery. Not wanting to disappoint the Entered Apprentices, we approached Madison Lodge No. 87 and asked for help.


WB Tim Brocket and the Madison Lodge brothers came to our assistance. While the brothers of Widow's Son Lodge opened and closed, WB Fred Muzer orchestrated a beautiful degree. WB David Cole delivered his usual incredible Middle Chamber lecture. WB Kyle Podpolucha and Bro. John O'Reilly also stepped up to fill parts. Bro. O' Rielly had never met anyone at Widow's Son Lodge, but he delivered a perfect lecture when he heard we needed the Letter G lecture.



All their efforts helped to pass Bros. Isaiah Simmons and George Zinycz of Widow's Son Lodge and Bro. Chad Ellis from Madison Lodge.

Thankfully, I was in better shape than expected after surgery, and knowing those brothers helped made my recovery easier. In March, I learned an incredible lesson: in this family, if you need help, all you have to do is ask. We asked, and our brothers delivered.





## *Noshes and Knowledge*

Do you enjoy intellectually stimulating conversations? If so, you are invited to join the Brothers of Wyllys St. John's Lodge No. 4 as we dive into the following diverse topics at 3 PM on the first Sunday of each month.

A short talk by an expert will precede each discussion. The first three topics and sample discussion questions follow.

**April 7.** How did the Puritan's shape the American intellectual experience? How important was their focus on logic? How did the Congregational Church and Harvard influence America?

**May 5.** Is Mozart's "Magic Flute" technically an opera? What are its Masonic allusions? Did his characters represent real individuals?

**June 2.** How does our Working Memory operate? What is its importance? Can we improve its functioning? How is it affected by age?

Open to Brothers, families and guests  
*Wyllys St John's Lodge No. 4*  
160 South St., West Hartford, CT  
Melvin Johnson, Secretary (860) 586-8114

## REMINDERS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS if you are submitting content to the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper:

1. Text content should be in Word doc (doc, docx, or txt format) attached to the email. Please DO NOT just write the content in the body of the email.
2. DO NOT submit PDFs. While PDFs can be edited with the right software, it's a laborious process, and we don't have that kind of time. Please, just don't do it.
3. If you want something to appear in Craft At Labor or Craft At Refreshment, please enter it in Grandview, or (for the near term at least) if you are still using your lodge's Google calendar, enter it in there. We don't accept email submissions for lodge events – with 80+ lodges in the jurisdiction, it's impossible to handle individual submissions for events. We automatically pull from Grandview and (for the near term at least) Google to produce those lists.
4. It would be really helpful if your article included the following: where it happened, when it happened (i.e., a date), the full names of the brothers mentioned, and, for degrees, the names of the candidates!

# District 5

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



## Friendship Lodge No. 33 Enjoys St. Patrick's Day Dinner

by Rudy Cabata

On Sunday, March 17, the Cabata family, with the help of the brothers of Friendship Lodge No. 33, held their traditional St. Patrick's Day dinner at the lodge in Southington. More than 100 people attended and enjoyed the spirit of St. Patrick and a dinner of corned beef, cabbage, colcannon, Irish soda bread, dessert, and coffee.

Door prizes were provided by Entertaining Styles by Sandra and the Cricco and Cabata families. The event was open to the public. While there was no charge for dinner, a free-will offering was collected that raised \$2,000 for the American Cancer Society and Marcus Holcomb chapter of DeMolay.

No one left hungry, and we are sure St. Patrick is smiling from above.



## Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14: Last Chance to Win a Trip to Disney World!

Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14 is now in its final month of sales for its Disney raffle to support its lodge philanthropy. For only \$50, you could win a resort stay for four at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge from June 23-30, a \$5,000 value! Whether you want to visit the Magic Kingdom, enjoy the food and shopping experiences at Disney Springs, or simply relax poolside, this is your chance to get away.

Second and third prizes will also be awarded. Second prize is a \$1,000 social membership to Chippanee Country Club in Bristol. Third prize is a Family Summer Fun pack of tickets, consisting of four right field porch seats for a Hartford Yard Goats game, a one-day Family Four Pack to Lake Compounce, and two adult admissions to the Mystic Aquarium—valued at over \$150! One ticket gets you entry for all three prizes.

We will accept ticket sales until May 28, when the raffle drawing will be held at Frederick Franklin Lodge's annual Awards Night. Though the event will be semi-public, winners need not be present at the time of the drawing. Don't miss your chance to win one of these fabulous prizes!

# District 6

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



## Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 Welcomes New Brother and Bids Farewell to Beloved Brother by Pat Jones

Brother Jonathan Hood was welcomed into the lodge on March 30 as part of the statewide "Blue Wave" Master Mason Degree. The "Blue Wave" success was evident when Jonathan was interviewed. Young and energetic, he has already become an important member of the fraternity, representing the best virtues of Masonry.



Bro. Jonathan's addition takes away some of the pain in the recent loss of one of our best brothers, WB Wayne S. Rettburg. WB Wayne was a

beloved brother and a well-known Masonic ambassador. Known for his kindness and humor, he represented the best in Masonry and will be greatly missed.

The Masonic fraternity was an important part of Wayne's life. Raised at Friendship Lodge No. 145, he was a Past Master of both Hartford Evergreen Lodge and Washington Lodge No. 70. In recent years, he had significant involvement with the Order of the Eastern Star. He was a Past Patron of Temple Chapter No. 53 in South Windsor and was the Worthy Grand Patron of the Connecticut Order of Eastern Star this year. He and his wife, Grace, played important roles and were both loved by anyone they encountered.

He was very proud of his children, Kayla and Cortland, and with good reason. I had numerous conversations with him over the years and knew how much he treasured them. He would have been proud of Kayla and her presentation at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication on Saturday, April 6.

He was recently remembered and celebrated with Amaranth, Eastern Star, and Masonic Services. As we walked away after the services, it was clear that this man touched many lives in both the Masonic world and well beyond. We also felt confident that his family would continue his good work.



**GRAND LODGE  
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### **2nd Mondays**

Join us at 7PM on the 2nd Monday of each month at Wyllys St John's Lodge #4

You are invited to spend about an hour listening to and discussing a short lecture. Dress-casual, Discussion-stimulating, Light refreshments-served



Is this your approach to memorizing ritual? Want an easier, effective and proven way to do it? On **April 8** the lecture by an acting coach will focus on how to memorize short scripts. You will apply those techniques to an E. A. Lecture. P.S. Check out "Power Memorization for Masons" on Grand View?

Heard of the **Regius Poem**? Do you know why it was written in about 5400AL or that the middle chamber lecture is that old? Discover why Euclid was so important. May 13th will be your chance to discuss this important document.

How important was the **Enlightenment** to Freemasonry and how important we were in its spread? Ever heard of Elias Ashmole or the Royal Society? **June 10th** you can learn about this exciting period from 1650 to 1780.

All Brothers incl. EAs and FCs are welcome  
Time for proficiency will follow each session

*Wyllys St. Johns Lodge No. 4*  
160 South Street, West Hartford, CT  
RSVP Secretary (860) 586-8114

# District 7

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



## Anchor Lodge No. 112 Shines Bright in the 7th Masonic District by Jeffrey A. Blayman

The brothers of the 7th Masonic District came together at the American Legion in Marlborough to break bread. This Blue Lodge Council Table lodge was well staffed by many brothers from Anchor Lodge, including three new EAs who graciously kept the cannons charged. Numerous distinguished guests were present, including many past DDs and AGMs. MWGM-elect Edward C. Page and DGM-elect Rinaldo F. Magliano, Jr. joined the Worshipful Masters at the Masters' table.

Everyone enjoyed the victuals, libations, and the evening's education, which included excerpts from "A Craft Driven Lodge" provided by RWB John Main. As the evening drew to a close, everyone linked arms and recited Auld Lang Syne, as is table lodge tradition.

Two nights later, in East Hampton, Anchor Lodge initiated another man of legal age who came well recommended. Bro. Dan Boggs became the newest brother in Anchor Lodge. The brothers moved swiftly through the degree, and it was apparent they had put in the time to rehearse for this event. After the lectures concluded and the charge was given, a special presentation was made by Brother and Sgt. Charles Weinstein to WM David Mosher. Bro. Weinstein presented a U.S. flag and a certificate stating that the flag accompanied his Blackhawk helicopter on multiple med-evac missions during Operation Inherent Resolve over the skies of Iraq. It was indeed a touching tribute to brotherhood as Bro. Charles mentioned his gratitude for the many care packages and support the lodge provided for him and his men during his deployment.

Masonry was well represented by these fine brothers that evening and indeed brought great pride to Anchor Lodge and the 7th Masonic District.





# District 8

Lodges 10, 31, 34, 57, 102, 116, 120, 150



## The First St. James Lodge No. 23 Meeting Place by Greg Webster

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut chartered St. James Lodge No. 23 on May 18, 1793.

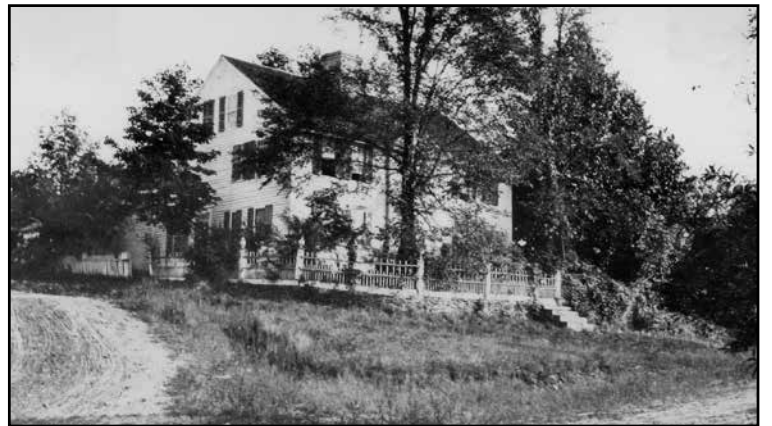
Brother Calvin Barstow owned the stately Georgian Colonial house at the intersection of Northwest Corner Road and Amos Road in Preston. The brothers of St. James Lodge met for the next 19 years in the beautiful second-floor rooms.

In 1786, Bro. Calvin bought “between 1 and two acres” from Adam Stanton. Construction of the Barstow House, as it became known, started in 1792 and ultimately completed in 1800. The house was 40 feet by 30 feet and constructed around a central chimney, which was common for the period. The framing was

done with heavy oak timbers over 14 inches wide.

All the rooms in the house were detailed with fine colonial craftsmanship, including beautiful chair rails, wainscoting, inside shutters with hearts cut into the panels, fireplaces, and decorative moldings. Bro. Calvin’s son Joshua, a blacksmith, made many fine hardware items throughout the house.

The two rooms on the second floor are the most interesting. The south end is one large room with an arched ceiling – “a beautiful room. This is the old Masonic Hall, the



*The Barstow House circa 1905.*

birthplace of St. James Lodge, now of Norwich (Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34). This room has a beautifully detailed chair rail and fireplace. The northwest

Continued on page 24

room has its original decorative stenciling on the floor around the border of the room and a Masonic emblem, an eight-pointed star, in the center of the room.

A simple picket fence and a stone retaining wall originally set off the exterior of the property. A set of stone steps led from Amos Road up to the front of the house. Today, in front of the stone retaining wall stands a stone marker that reads: "Birthplace of St. James Lodge No. 23 A.F. & A.M. Chartered May 18, 1793."

It is noteworthy to mention that General and Bro. Samuel Mott, who served under General George Washington, was a charter member of St. James Lodge and lived on his own property next door to the Barstow House.



*The Barstow House in 1968.*



*The Masonic star on the floor.*



*The arched "beautiful room."*



*The Barstow House with historic marker today.*

**GRAND LODGE SESSION  
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# THAT'S WHAT MASTERS DO

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

The penultimate degree of the Scottish Rite is the 32nd Degree, and this year, it will be performed on May 6 at the theater in Stratford. Due to the large demand for dinner seating, the Consistory asks that you call the office as soon as possible to reserve dinner and the time of seating. Dinner will begin being served at 5 p.m., with subsequent seating every 45 minutes. You must reserve your dinner seating by calling the office at (203) 375-0064. The degree will commence at 7:30 p.m.

The annual summer degree will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 27. The 8th Degree will be presented live, followed by a video rendition of the 25th Degree. A luncheon will be served immediately afterward, and everyone should be on their way home by 2 p.m. Degree work will then be on hiatus until September 7.

This is the time of year when Family Life activity really begins to take off:

May 19: Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestras Concert, Spring Concert, Klein Auditorium, Bridgeport. This is free to all members, but reservations are required for tickets.

May 27: Memorial Day Parade, Stratford. Meet at the Leo H. Lohrman, II, Scottish Rite Theatre at 12 p.m.

June 2: Fishing on the Long Island Sound, on the Lucky Lady, Clinton. Limit of 35, plus \$5 for pool, no glass bottles or bananas per order of Captain. Be at the Lucky Lady by 12:30 p.m. \$20 per person.

July 21: Port Jefferson Ferry Ride from Bridgeport to Long Island. This trip across Long Island Sound is a day of leisure in Port Jefferson, NY. Be at the port at 8 a.m. \$25 per person.

All these events require advance reservations as they may be sold out. Again, the office number is (203) 375-0064.



These are strange times that the nation is undergoing, and there is much activity that appears to be dissolving the very structures upon which the nation was founded. This should be no surprise for those who observe the markers in the heavens. The nation has reached a time where it must reassert its founding principles and restructure all that its society has found to be counterproductive and wasteful. If not, this grandest of human experiments may be for naught. In other words, this is the time when matters, policies, and institutions must be re-sharpened and returned to their original tenor in light of the nation's original goals of existence.

The Fraternity was a cornerstone institution in the context of the events leading to the founding of the nation. In the past few decades, it has unraveled in terms of participation and, perhaps, in part, direction. When we look back at the brothers in the fraternity who lived the events and times of the nation's founding, we can find that the "prominent movers and shakers" all had but one object in mind – the welfare and progress of humanity with a view to action for the greatest good to the largest number of people. Many of the true masters sacrificed much, if not all, in order to help humanity reach a progressive society unlike any that existed in the late 18th century.

## LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



**Attention All Master Masons!**  
SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES

**Mon. May 6, 7:30 p.m.** - 32nd Degree (Live)  
Dinners are at 6 p.m. in the Shrine building unless otherwise stated. Reservations required.  
Call the Consistory Office at 203-375-0064.

**Sat. July 27, 11 a.m.** - 8th Degree (Live) and 25th Degree (Video)

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

<p><b>Contact the Consistory Office to arrange for seating and meals for any of the degree events.</b></p> <p><b>Valley of Bridgeport</b> 2422 Main Street Stratford, CT 06615 Office@LafayetteConsistory.com 203-375-0064</p>	<p><b>Valley of New Haven</b> 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com 203-269-0336</p>	<p><b>Valley of Waterbury</b> 529 Highland Avenue Waterbury, CT 06708 cdoneill@snet.net 203-754-8209</p>
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For more information, contact the Valley near you or email [Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com](mailto:Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com).

While the public generally cannot comprehend why anyone should perform unselfish services without hope of compensation, this is of little interest or importance to the true and realized master. Masters seeking wisdom and true enlightenment have a primary directive, and that is their inherent desire to help humanity. This allows a master to uncover the meaning and goal of human evolution and development in a personal and microenvironment. This work can be accomplished on a grand scale of effecting corrective changes in our neighborhoods, towns, or states, as well as on the micro level, "mano a mano," as they say. Every positive act that we do to assist and improve others is never a matter of unheralded self-sacrifice or personal loss. The Nazarene taught us, "As ye sow, so shall ye reap." Under this law, no living creature can perform a useful service without being compensated, regardless of whether he expects benefits in any form.

The time to retune, repair, and repaint our society is upon us. As Master Masons, we are charged with a duty to steer society in a direction that our Founding Fathers would be proud of. Each one of us is akin to a point of light, and our presence and participation in the process are needed by a nation that teeters on a lack of productive direction. Get involved and effectuate and steer change around your little sphere of influence, keeping in mind at all times your working tools and your search for light even in the darkest recesses outside the lodge room.

*FIAT LUX!*

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



**For the latest copy of the Lafayette Consistory News visit**  
<https://ctfreemasons.net/appendant-bodies/lafayette-consistory/>  
or use the QR Code above.



# Unlock a New Chapter of Independent Living at Masonicare at Ashlar Village

Are you a Mason or a Member of the Order of Eastern Star seeking an enriching chapter in your retirement journey? Look no further than Masonicare at Ashlar Village, where independent living meets the values of brotherhood and community.

Nestled amidst the serene landscapes of Connecticut, Masonicare at Ashlar Village offers an exclusive haven tailored for seniors aged 55 and above.

**Engaging Lifestyle.** Experience the freedom to pursue your passions and interests while enjoying a vibrant lifestyle enriched with camaraderie and shared values. Our community fosters a culture of inclusivity and mutual respect, where every individual is valued and celebrated.

**Distinguished Amenities.** Indulge in a plethora of amenities designed to elevate your living experience. From meticulously manicured grounds to elegant dining options and stimulating recreational activities, every aspect of Masonicare at Ashlar Village is crafted to exceed your expectations.

**Peace of Mind.** Rest assured with our comprehensive range of on-site services and top-tier healthcare facilities, providing you and your loved ones with peace of mind for the future. Our commitment to excellence ensures that your well-being remains our top priority.

**Fraternal Family.** Embark on a new chapter of fulfillment and companionship at Masonicare at Ashlar Village. Join fellow Masons and Eastern Star Members in a

community where bonds are forged, memories are cherished, and each day brings new opportunities for growth and connection.

Ready to embark on your next adventure? Contact us today to schedule a personalized tour and discover the unparalleled lifestyle awaiting you at Masonicare at Ashlar Village.

**Masonicare at Ashlar Village:  
Community. Connection. Choice.**

For more information, please visit  
[www.masonicare.org](http://www.masonicare.org) or call 203.679.6425

Masonicare   
at Ashlar Village





# Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*<sup>SM</sup>



## Donate Your Time to Donate Life by Kyle Podpolucha

Are you someone who is passionate about Masonry and looking to get involved? Do you enjoy donating your time and efforts to a worthy cause? Are you interested in being on a Grand Lodge committee that is involved in community action? If so, then Donate Life needs your help! I am currently looking for individuals to be the committee leader for each of the Masonic districts. If this interests you and you would like to learn more about it, please contact me at [Kyle.Podpolucha@ctfreemasons.net](mailto:Kyle.Podpolucha@ctfreemasons.net)

As our new Grand Lodge calendar begins, so does a new year of planning and execution. I am very humbled to have been given the opportunity to head Donate Life for the Connecticut Freemasons, and I hope that I am able to fill the giant shoes of our past coordinator, Richard Denno. This magazine does not have enough space to say all that could and should be said about his efforts. Under his tutelage, I will begin my transfer from the Child Identification Program to Donate Life. Child Identification is now in a great place, and I am positive that Chris Hoyt will take it to even greater heights. I know with a little help that, lightning can strike twice, and we can emulate that success.

My main goal for the program is to bring awareness to all the members of Connecticut Freemasonry. I was very surprised to discover how

many brothers have never heard of Donate Life and how few have never participated in an event. The program currently needs to grow, and this starts by building up the committee. We need a representative from each district to represent and lead your district's efforts. This would mainly consist of participating in educational tabling, raising funds, and possibly even jumping out of a perfectly good airplane to raise both money and awareness for Donate Life.

After much thought, I have decided that to keep the momentum going, that we will continue the Jump For Life Skydiving event. The event will take place on July 20, with a rain date of July 21. I would like to thank Bro. Bruce Fagan for all his efforts in keeping this event moving forward from year to year. I am waiting for the payment information so a flyer can be released. We are expecting this information shortly. If you want to learn more about this event before the flyer is released, please contact me.

For those interested in being a district leader or needing early information about participating in the skydive, please feel free to email me at [Kyle.Podpolucha@ctfreemasons.net](mailto:Kyle.Podpolucha@ctfreemasons.net)



## GRAND LODGE SESSION APRIL 6, 2024, INSTALLATION



# 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.

## Additional Concentric Circle Benefits include:

- **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)



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



Masonicare Community Services **800.982.3919**

22 Masonic Avenue . Wallingford, CT 06492

**GRAND LODGE SESSION  
APRIL 6, 2024**



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**Since 1995!**

Now accepting applications for the  
**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

*HOLIDAYS  
in MAY*

*May 5  
Cinco de Mayo*

*May 12  
Mother's Day*

*May 18  
Armed Forces Day*

*May 27  
Memorial Day*

# BOOSTERS

Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: April 15, 2024.

An asterisk next to your name indicates that your support in the Booster list expires in one month. Please consider renewing your support of the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper at your current rate or at the next level up. After reviewing all of the receipts for Boosters, the lists are the Boosters who are current (i.e., within the 11 issue window). If your name does not appear and you feel that you should be on the list, please contact us. Note: Booster support is not deductible as a charitable contribution under IRC Section 170(c).

## Grand Master's Circle \$100 or more.

Roger & Linda Bissell*	Robert Dodge	Bill & Sandie Greene	John Novak*	Dean True
Lawrence L. Brandolini	Bill Ferguson	Arnold Grot	Paul S. Patterson	Edwin B. Tuthill, Jr.
Newton & Bobbi Buckner	Aubrey V. Fisher*	Mark Hawkins	Robert F. Polito, Jr.	Andy Zeidler
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Sam S. F. Caligiuri	William H. Flagg	Pete Kenyon	Phil Sharkey	
Alexander Campana	John W. Ford	Karl King	Michael Shear	
Lowell H. Cantor	Robert J. Furce	Kenneth H. Kirschner	Gail N. Smith	
Miles E. Cochran Jr.	Col. John G. Gergulis	Kurt Maehlenbrock	John & Jane Sterry	
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## Lodges & Organizations

<u>MASTER MASON LEVEL \$250 +</u>	King Hiram Lodge No. 12	<u>Entered Apprentice Level \$75 - \$149</u>	Evening Star Lodge No. 101
Annawon Lodge No. 115		Coastal Lodge No. 57	Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89*	<u>Fellowcraft Level \$150 - \$249</u>	Columbia Lodge No. 25	Quinta Essentia Lodge No. 500
Corinthian Lodge No. 63*		Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association	
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88			
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Donald M. Casey, Jr.	Gordon R. Hallberg	Kristopher Milardo	William T. Shopey*	Maroun G. Zoghbi
Coastal Lodge No. 57	Gordon C. Hurlbert	Bruce Morrone	Edward Sullivan	In Memory of John Birdsall Sachem Chapter No. 57 OES
Philip D. Cogle	Dana W. Ivey	Robert Nunez	James Talamini	
David Cole	Vin & Pat Kalinauskas	Martin Rudnick	Kenneth Tarwood	

Now you can support **Connecticut Freemasons** newspaper online! There is a PayPal dropdown *Connecticut Freemasons* Booster form on the Grand Lodge home page (ctfreemasons.net) just below the PDF version of the paper. \*\*Use the dropdown to select your level, click the "Pay Now" button and then follow the directions. You can pay with credit or debit cards or a PayPal account.

Or, scan the QR Code on the right with your smartphone to go directly to the Connecticut Freemasons page on the website. Scroll down and follow the instructions indicated \*\* above. The funds are used to help cover the printing and mailing expenses of the paper.



# 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 Freemasons" newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the lodge secretary to verify all times and events and to inquire about dinner reservations

## Entered Apprentice Degrees

**Tues., May 7, 6:30 p.m.**, Union Lodge No. 40, Danbury, Dinner

**Wed., May 8, 7:30 p.m.**, Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142, Easton

**Mon., May 13, 7:30 p.m.**, Washington Lodge No. 19, Monroe

## Fellowcraft Degrees

**Thurs., May 2, 7:30 p.m.**, Friendship-Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester

**Wed., May 29, 6:30 p.m.**, Hospitality Lodge No. 128, New Britain, Dinner, *Tentative Date, Location TBD, Contact Sec'y for more info*

## Master Mason Degrees

**Sat., May 18, 11 a.m.**, Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville

**Sat., May 19, 6 p.m.**, Universal Fraternity No. 149, Stratford, Dinner

**Mon May 20, 6:30 p.m.**, Valley Lodge No. 36, Simsbury, Dinner

# 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 lodge secretary to verify all times and events.

**Recurring events and breakfasts may not occur during the summer months – call to check.**

## Recurring Events

**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.*

**\*\*\* NEW \*\*\* Second Monday of the Month**, Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4, West Hartford, Discussions of Masonic Interest. *Open to all brothers (EA, FC incl), short lecture and discussions on Masonic subjects.*

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

**\*\*\* NEW\*\*\* First Sunday of the Month**, Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4, West Hartford, 3 p.m., Noshes & Knowledge, *Conversations on subject of Masonic interest, light refreshments. ALL are welcome*

## 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*

**\*\*\* NEW \*\*\* Fourth Sunday of the Month**, Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, 9 a.m – 12 p.m., *All You Can Eat Breakfast, \$10 pp*

## Events

**Wed., May 1, 7:30 p.m.**, Columbia Lodge No. 25, Glastonbury, *Awards Night*

**Sat., May 4, Ark Lodge No. 39**, Danbury, *Derby Day*

**Sat., May 4, 9 a.m.**, Hospitality Lodge No. 128, Wethersfield, Cove Cleanup, Wethersfield Cove Park, clean up for Memorial Day weekend, *gloves, bags provided, coffee & donuts, please email H128reservations@gmail.com so we have enough*

**Sat., May 4, 5 p.m.**, Columbia Lodge No. 25, Glastonbury, *Derby Day*

**Sun., May 5, 3 p.m.**, Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4, West Hartford, Noshes & Knowledge. *Mozart's Magic Flute*

**Mon., May 13, 7 p.m.**, Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4, West Hartford, "2nd Mondays", *Lecture & Discussion on The Regius Poem, MASONS ONLY*

**Fri., May 17, 6 p.m.**, Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, *Wine Tasting*

**Sat., May 18**, Widow's Son Lodge No. 66, Branford, *Thimble Island Cruise*

**Sat., May 25**, Federal Lodge No. 17, Waterbury, *Memorial Day & Parade Marching*

**Sun., May 26**, Washington Lodge No 19, Monroe, *Memorial Day Parade*

**Mon., May 27**, Seneca Lodge No. 55, Torrington, *Memorial Day Parade*

**Mon., May 27, 8:30 a.m.**, Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville, *Memorial Day Parade*

**Mon., May 27 1 p.m.**, Valley Lodge No. 36, Simsbury, *Memorial Day Parade*

**Sun., June 2, 3 p.m.**, Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4, West Hartford, Noshes & Knowledge *How Does Your Working Memory Operate?*

**Mon., June 10 7 p.m.**, Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4, West Hartford, "2nd Mondays", *Lecture & Discussion on Freemasonry & The Enlightenment, MASONS ONLY*

# Keystone Chapter No. 6, RAM, Installs Officers by Mark Orsini

On Tuesday, April 2, Keystone Chapter No. 6, Royal Arch Masons, in Meriden, met to hold their annual meeting and install the 2024 suite of officers.

Installing Officer Michael E. Seamon, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Royal Arch Masons of Connecticut, led the ceremonies with the assistance of Past Grand High Priest Clyde W. Kayser, II. Companion Steven J. Chiappalone was installed as High Priest, along with a full line of officers. Congratulations to HP Chiappalone and his officers, and all the best for a great year!



# Masonic Family Day 2024, A Fundraiser for Masonicare

by Jeffrey A. Blayman

To the Masters, Wardens, and brothers of the fraternity,

On Friday, July 12, we will be holding our 3rd Annual Masonic Family Day baseball game at Dodd Stadium in Norwich. Our hosts, the Norwich Sea Unicorns home team, have graciously allowed 50 percent of the pre-sold ticket sales to benefit Masonicare!

This year, Grand Master Edward Page will throw out the first pitch in addition to a few other Masonic surprises spread throughout the game, and there will be a huge post-game fireworks extravaganza!

We need your support. Maybe you could organize a small group outing or even just a few brothers and their families would like to go. I would love to see every lodge throughout the state represented that day in the stadium. Obviously, some lodges may be too far away to feasibly attend which is understandable. In a case like this, the tickets can be easily donated to one of the many youth groups we have locally, like the Cub Scouts, the Bully Busters, DeMolay, Rainbow, etc.

If you would consider supporting this Masonic Family Day

fundraiser in any amount, you could use the tickets to join brothers from around the state at the game...or ask us to donate any tickets you purchase to many worthy youth organizations as an act of charity. Either way, Masonicare will benefit financially, and additionally, we can look forward to some increased visibility as we fill a good portion of the stadium. Consider that the stadium will also be full of hundreds if not thousands of other men of legal age who may, in fact, seek out more information about Freemasonry based on our presence, should we also have a decent turnout.

If you should choose to vote to support this unique Masonic Family Day fundraiser baseball event, I would be eternally grateful. Checks can be made out to **Warren Lodge No. 51** with **Masonic Family Day** on the memo line. Tickets are \$10 each. Please include a note indicating whether you would like the tickets mailed back to the lodge for your use or donated if you will not be attending.

Please mail to Jeffrey Blayman, P.O. Box 1034, Norwich, CT 06360.

I hope to see you all on Friday, July 12.





NORWICH  
*Sea Unicorns*™



# MASONIC FAMILY DAY

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2024 @ 6:30PM

POST-GAME FIREWORKS

HALF OF PROCEEDS FROM  
TICKET SALES, GO DIRECTLY TO  
MASONICARE OF CT



**\$10**



DODD STADIUM  
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NORWICH, CT 06360

CONTACT

JEFF- JBLAYMAN@GMAIL.COM  
KC- KC@GOSEAUNICORNS.COM



# 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Tuesday, June 4, 2024**

**The Geoffrey Cornish-designed  
The Farms Country Club**

**180 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT 06492**

Registration and Raffle Ticket Sales starting at 10:30am. Noon Lunch; Shotgun start at 1:00pm in a 4-player scramble. Dinner, silent auction, and raffle prize awards following tournament. Prizes for 1st and 2nd low gross and low net, longest drive and closest to the pin, men and women.

### Sponsorship levels:

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| \$3,000 - Tournament Sponsor (includes 8 golfers) | \$2,000 - Cart Sponsor             |
| \$1,700 - Gold Sponsor (includes 4 golfers)       | \$1,000 - Lunch Sponsor            |
| \$1,400 - Silver Sponsor (includes 4 golfers)     | \$750 - Golf Ball Sponsor          |
| \$850 - Bronze Sponsor (includes 2 golfers)       | \$250 - Closest to the pin sponsor |
| \$500 - Beverage Sponsor                          | \$175 - Tee sponsor                |
| \$250 - Longest drive sponsor                     |                                    |
| \$1,000 - Foursome and tee sponsor                | \$225 - Individual player          |
| \$500 - Twosome and tee sponsor                   | \$60 - Non-golfing social          |

All sponsorships include acknowledgement in the Connecticut DeMolay Journal.

*For registration flyer, please contact:*

**Chris Earle, The Campaign for  
Connecticut DeMolay**

P.O. Box 8832, New Haven, CT 06532  
(203) 915-1229 or cearle@comcast.net

*or*

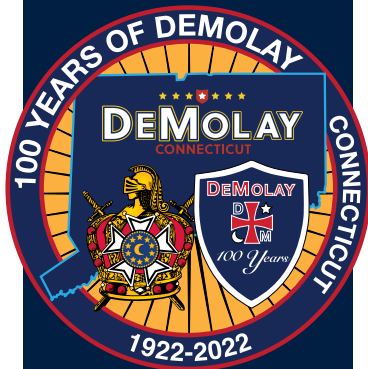
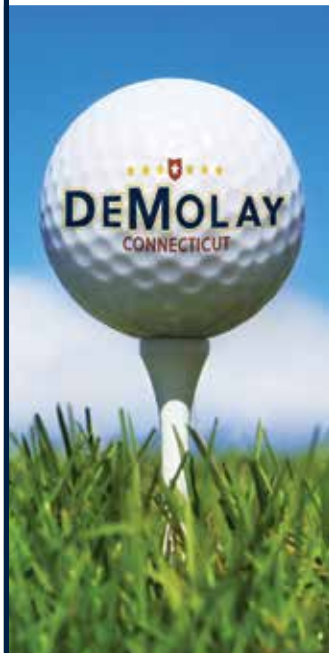
**David O. Stern**

(203) 444-2077 or dsternct@gmail.com

*Make checks payable to:*

**The Connecticut DeMolay  
Foundation, Inc**

a 501(c)3 charitable  
organization



**REGISTRATION WITH PAYMENT DUE BY MAY 27, 2024**

# REGISTRATION FORM

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut DeMolay Golf Tournament – Tuesday, June 4, 2024 The Farms Country Club, 180 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

To benefit Connecticut DeMolay and The Connecticut DeMolay Foundation, Inc. (a 501(c)3 charitable organization)

Please **PRINT** all information on all lines.

Please **PRINT** all information on all lines.

Company/Individual Sponsor Name		
Name and Title of Person Authorizing Sponsorship		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone number:	Cell number:	Email Address:

**Please check desired level of participation.**

### Sponsorships

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> \$3,000 Tournament Sponsor - includes 8 players</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> \$1,700 Gold Sponsor - includes 4 players</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> \$1,400 Silver Sponsor - includes 4 players</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> \$850 Bronze Sponsor - includes 2 players</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000 Cart Sponsor - includes name on carts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Lunch Sponsor</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> \$750 Golf Ball Sponsor</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Beverage Sponsor</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Closet to Hole Sponsor</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Longest Drive Sponsor</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> \$175 Tee Sponsor</li> </ul> <p><b>Players/Guest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Foursome &amp; Tee Sponsor</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Twosome &amp; Tee Sponsor</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> \$225 Individual player</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Non-golfing Social</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

**Note: The dress code at The Farms Country Club requires collared shirts and no cut-off shorts.**

Player/Guest 1	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	
Player/Guest 2	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	
Player/Guest 3	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	
Player/Guest 4	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	

**Please complete and return with payment by May 27, 2024**

Make check payable to **"The Connecticut DeMolay Foundation, Inc."** — P.O. Box 8832, New Haven, CT 06532 • 203-915-1229  
For additional information contact: Chris Earle, (203) 915-1229 or cearle@comcast.net • David O. Stern, (203) 444-2077 or dsternct@gmail.com

# Join Us!

★ **Grand Masters Day Family Festival** ★  
★ **Saturday, June 8, 2024** ★

**A day to honor individuals, past and present.**  
**Masonicare Health Center, 22 Masonic Ave., Wallingford**  
**10:00AM - 3:00PM**

- **The Grand Masters**, Edward C. Page and Alfred Grady, Jr.
- **10:30am: Parade** featuring bands, motorcycles, antique cars, and marching bands from across the state
- **Festive food** by Masonicare
- **Music** under the big tent
- **Community Health Fair**
- **Enhanced Free Youth Activities**
- **Carnival Games**
- **Petting Zoo**
- **Model Railroad & Masonicare Museum**
- **Dance Party** - with DJ under the main tent 1:00pm

Activities &  
**FUN**  
for all ages!  
**FREE!**  
Admission!



**Edward C. Page**

Most Worshipful Grand Master,  
Grand Lodge of CT, A.F. & A.M.



**Alfred Grady Jr.**

Most Worshipful Grand Master,  
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of CT.



**Questions? Call 800.982.3919**

**Masonicare**   
An Ageless Commitment to Caring