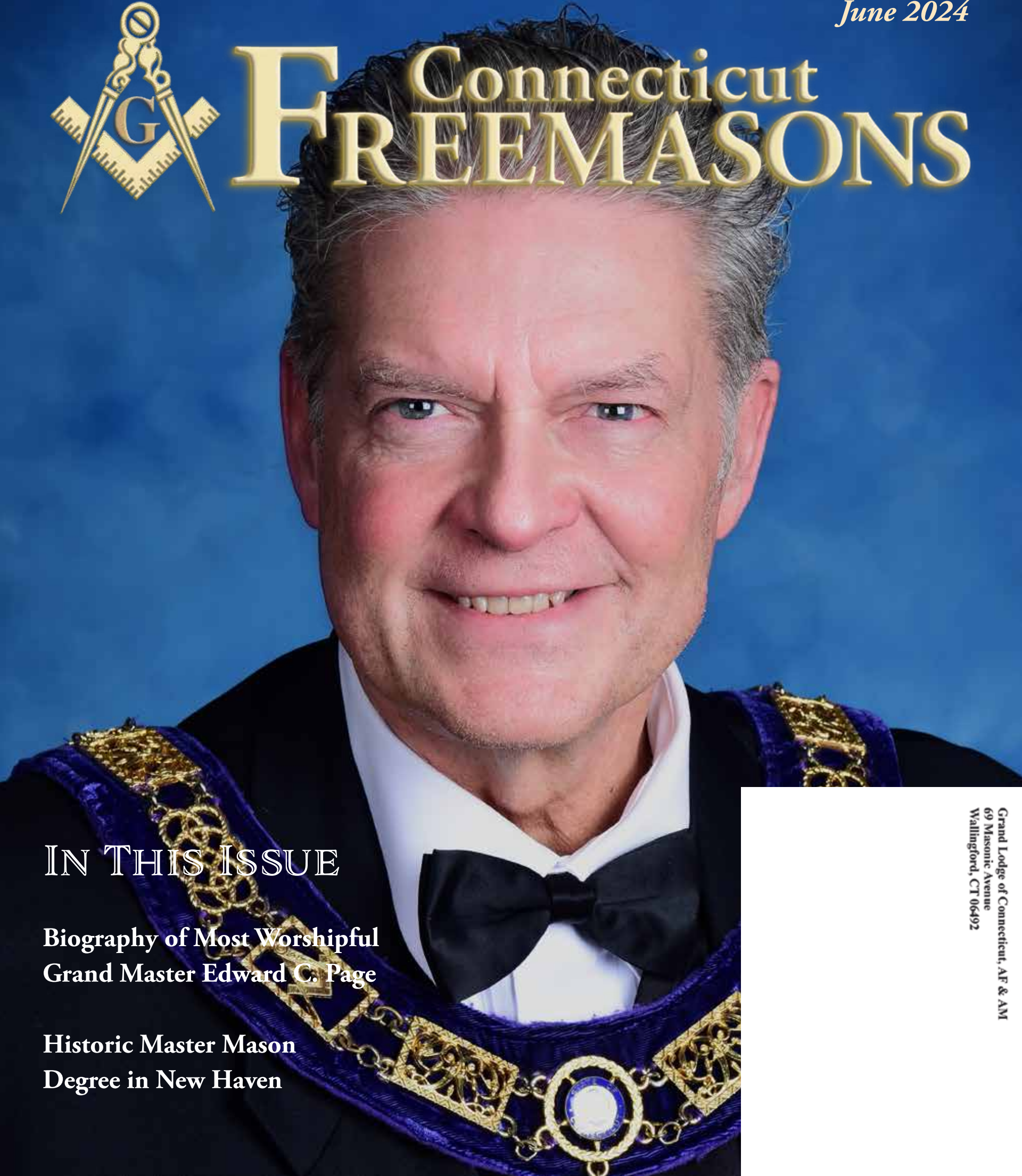


June 2024



# Connecticut FREEMASONS



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**Biography of Most Worshipful  
Grand Master Edward C. Page**

**Historic Master Mason  
Degree in New Haven**

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

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



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# Biography of Most Worshipful Grand Master Edward C. Page

by **Francis G. Way**

*Ed. note: In past years, it was not uncommon for The Connecticut Freemasons to publish a biography of the incoming Grand Master. We are pleased to revive this tradition and hope to see it continue in future years.*

**M**ost Worshipful Grand Master Edward C. Page was born on March 8, 1963, in Waterville, Maine, a small town just 20 miles east of Augusta, to Orville Carleton Page, Sr. and Mary Eleanor (Tibbetts) Page. Orville, affectionately known as “Gus,” passed away in 2004 at the age of 77, after dedicating 53 years of his life to Freemasonry.

Edward spent his childhood playing little league baseball and basketball, riding snowmobiles, skiing, and helping out on his mother’s family dairy farm. He learned the value of hard work and the reward of being part of a team. He helped his father at Masonic fundraisers and events. Gus was a funeral director, and Edward envied his Dad’s ability to speak to people in difficult life moments and remembers how a sense of humor at the right time could make most people feel comfortable.

In Winslow High School, Edward received several awards for sports achievements, including Most Improved for Varsity Baseball, Best Defense for Varsity Basketball, and Best Male Athlete presented by the Waterville Jaycees. Edwards's musical interest also started in school, joining the band in junior high school and continuing through high school as well as playing trombone in Pep Band.

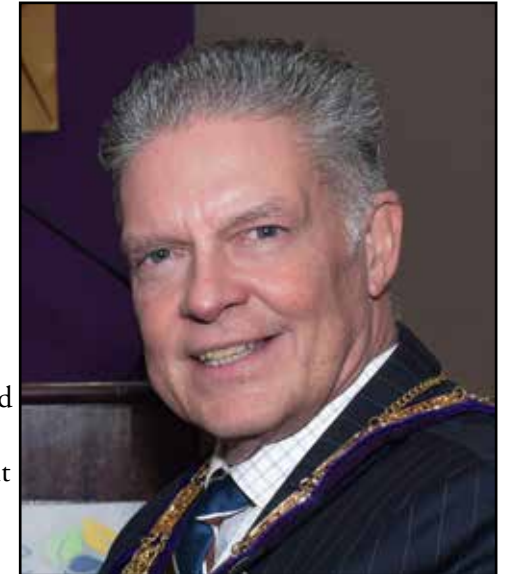
Although Gus was disappointed Edward didn’t join him in the funeral business after graduating from high school in 1981, he was very proud to see his son graduate in 1983 with an associate degree in mechanical engineering. In college, Edward joined the basketball team and became their captain, frequently scoring a record number of points; this was a remarkable achievement given his start in basketball came just two years prior at high school. He had previously focused on playing and excelling at baseball.

Having watched his parents work hard, Edward quickly began his engineering career in Keene, NH, with Kingsbury Machine. From there, he took his mechanical skills to U.S.C.I., Bard in Fitzwilliam, NH, and when that company transferred him to Billerica, MA, he settled into what would be a long and satisfying career designing medical devices. During this time, Edward was an avid runner and competed in many road races, and he also got into bodybuilding, competing in the 1992 American Natural Body Building 6th Annual Green Mountain Classic.

While working in Billerica, he met his now-former wife, Christina. Christina’s mother, Ruth, worked for the same company but in Ohio. While on a business trip to Ohio, Ruth introduced them. After eight months of long-distance dating, Edward proposed, and they were married on August 30, 1997. They began their lives in Baldwinville, MA, and a few years later, moved to Brooklyn, CT.

Although working 50 hours a week designing medical devices, for which he now holds multiple patents, Edward went back to school and subsequently graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering.

Even before Edward became a Freemason, he was always helping his community, and he was recognized by receiving the coveted Dean’s Distinguished Public Service Award from the University of



Continued on page 4

## Biography of MWGM Edward C. Page continued from page 3

Massachusetts in June 2003. He also volunteered his time to judge science fairs at local schools and participated in Relay for Life events.

Upon graduating from UMass, Edward decided to revisit one of his fears: the fear of heights. He began taking flying lessons to earn his pilot's license. He had also previously completed bungee jumping off a fixed site while on vacation to work on conquering his fear.

In February 2005, Edward began his Masonic journey. Although Edward's father, grandfather, and uncle were all very active as Freemasons, Edward had fears of speaking in front of people and worried about the memorization of ritual; he stopped by one day at Moriah Lodge No. 15 and spoke to a gentleman there. That man became Edward's mentor and dear friend, Frank E. Maxim, III. Frank immediately put Edward at ease with his concerns of speaking in front of others and learning rituals, reminding him that Freemasons are exceptional men who have all gone through the same steps and similar fears. With RWB Frank by his side, he completed the Entered Apprentice degree on September 14, 2007, the Fellow Craft degree on October 10, 2007, and was raised to the Sublime Degree Master Mason on November 14, 2007, by his Uncle Paul.

Edward quickly began making up for what he considered to be "lost time" and was asked to be on the Grand Lodge Strategic Planning Committee in 2009-2012. He was a member of Moriah Lodge's Building Corporation Committee, and he became Moriah Lodge's Worshipful Master in 2011 and again in 2012. He dedicated his term to his father, Gus, and created the "God – Unity – Service" theme, donating a brand-new complete set of officer jewels and aprons with an inscribed wooden box in which to keep them. He started an annual Down East Maine Table Lodge dinner to help raise funds for the small lodge, which has become one of the district's favorite events, with guests always guaranteed a good time with music and friends.

He was installed as Associate Grand Marshal of District 9A in 2010-2012. He was installed as District Deputy of 9A for 2015-2016 and then finished the term the District Deputy of 9B, who laid down his working tools and answered his summons to the Celestial Lodge Above. Also, that year, Edward was appointed as the Grand Lodge Representative to the state of North Carolina, which he was pleased to accept as he is a huge North Carolina Tarheels fan and he was also appointed to the Grand Lodge Sessions Committee, which he is still currently serving on.

Professionally and in Masonry, 2017 was a memorable year for Edward. He was promoted to Executive Director of Operations and Engineering at his place of employment, and in April, Edward was appointed and installed as the Grand Junior Steward for the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

In October 2023, Edward was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge AF & AM of the State of Connecticut and was installed on April 6, 2024.

Edward is also very active in York Rite. He was Knighted a Sir Knight of St. John's Commandery No. 11 KT in June 2009, serving as Eminent Commander (2013-2016), and currently serves as Recorder. He is a Companion of Trinity Chapter No. 29 RAM and a Companion of Montgomery Council No. 2, R&SM. In April 2016, he received the Knight Commander of the Temple award by the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America. In 2022-2023, he served as Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in CT. Edward was also privileged to be invited to join the Apostles Tabernacle No. 17, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, and was ordained on December 7, 2017.

With his father being a member of the Scottish Rite, Edward has also chosen to follow in his footsteps and, in February 2018, joined the Scottish Rite Valley of Norwich, receiving his 32nd Degree in May 2018. Edward's Father, Gus, was also a member of Kora Temple Shrine in Lewiston, Maine, so in 2023, Edward was proud to be accepted into the Pyramid Shrine No. 9 in Stratford.

At the Annual Grand Lodge Communication in 2020, Edward received the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze from MWGM Stephen Petri. This presentation was even more special as his great friend, MWB Glenn S. Carlson, Past Grand Master of Rhode Island, also presented with this district honor.

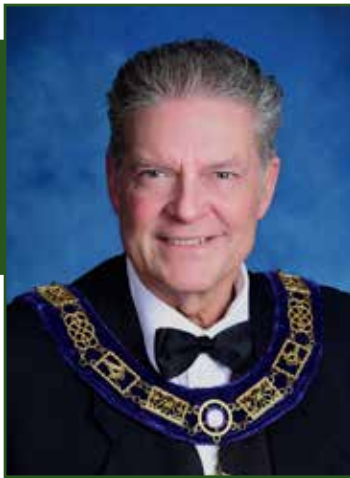
Anyone who has met Edward knows he is a hugger and is a generous person. His genuine concern for others is obvious, and his compassion to those in need is undeniable. Whether he is paying and pumping gas for an elderly stranger, going out of his way to open or hold a door for someone, gifting money to brothers in need without asking for it in return, or giving rides to brothers wanting to attend lodge functions; Edward is clearly happiest when he is helping others.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 75-YEAR BROTHER!**

**Joseph C. Martinelli**

**Evening Star Lodge No. 101**



# Grand Master's Message

by MWB Edward C. Page

Shortly after my late uncle, WB Paul H. Page from South China, Maine, raised me to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, I was encouraged to attend Grand Masters Day. Eager to learn as much as possible, as quickly as possible, I anxiously attended my first one only six months after joining, and it didn't disappoint. Young and old, the brothers in polo shirts, the prestige of those in white jackets, and all around were bonds of strong friendship. I learned so much about who we are, what we do, and the wonderful facility and organization that is Masonicare. But more than all this was the family I had joined, our beloved Craft.

At Grand Masters Day, it is an opportunity to meet brothers from across the state that one hasn't seen in a while and catch up on their lodge and family happenings, meet dignitaries who one might not have previously met, experience Masonicare and see the enthusiasm of the residents for the parade, the bands, horses, lodges cars, motorcycles youth and all the local participants, and finally to become familiar with other Masonic bodies (York Rite, Scottish Rite Shrine, Amaranth, Eastern Star, DeMolay and Rainbow (IORG)). That's not to mention the food and entertainment, craft, and other booths.

Now, for the Grand Master, it is like a family reunion, meeting new members of the family, as well as meeting veterans of so many Grand Masters Days, those of advanced age and wisdom who are always so eager to share. Grand Masters Day is indeed a celebration – not for the Grand Master as I have stated as your Servant Leader – but for our gentle Craft, and our Masonic fellowship. We learn in our journey *“Each Mason gives of his substance; many give also of their time; others add loyalty and steadfast devotion. But to all of us, our gentle Craft gives far more than we could give to it in a lifetime of service... we pay tribute also to the Fraternity which opened its portals..., and which made it possible for you to build your life on the sublime principals.”*

During my first month as your Grand Master, I have traveled as much as possible, to everywhere I have been invited and as much as my schedule has allowed. The brothers and families I have had the absolute pleasure of being with have given me an unbelievably energizing experience, I humbly bow to Serve the Craft. So it is my continued belief that Grand Master's Day is about the Craft, and I look forward to greeting each and every one of you with a warm handshake and a loving hug to celebrate our wonderful Craft.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

**John Belicka**  
Acacia Lodge No. 85

**Andrew C. MacGregor**  
Washington Lodge No. 70

**George A. Pattison**  
Columbia Lodge No. 25

**Roy B. Bradrick, Jr.**  
Putnam Lodge No. 46

**Thomas McCauley Maxwell, II**  
Harmony Lodge No. 42

**William B. Spector, MD**  
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

**Randall B. Gouveia**  
Washington Lodge No. 19

**David E. Nash**  
Corinthian Lodge No. 104

**Raymond J. Taupier**  
Hiram Lodge No. 1

**John R. Hannah**  
Union Lodge No. 40

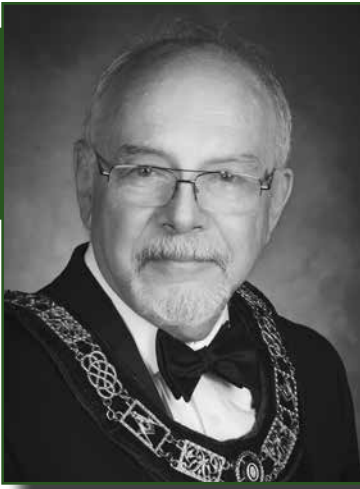
**Thomas H. Nash, Jr.**  
Corinthian Lodge No. 104

**Edwin B. Tuthill, Jr.**  
Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34

**Carl C. Heinrich**  
Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34

**George F. Palmer**  
Estuary Lodge No. 43

**Robert Harris Wade, Sr.**  
Brainard Lodge No. 102



## Grand Chaplain's Pulpit

by The Rev. Bruce R. Bellmore, PGM

*As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord.*

**M**ax Schlesinger lived through the Holocaust. He came to the United States with his wife, Ceil; they

raised two sons and started an interior decorating business. I had the pleasure of meeting Max when he petitioned Olive Branch Lodge No. 84 in 1979. His sons were both grown, and he was in his early 60s. He joined and was an ardent supporter of Freemasonry. When I was Master in 1981, Max was appointed Junior Deacon. Unfortunately, Max died before he had an opportunity to sit in the Oriental Chair. Regrettably, although his "heart was expanded by beneficence," it was also stricken with cardiovascular disease.

The thing that anyone who knew Max remembers about him was his deep devotion to God and his willingness to serve his fellow man. Whenever anyone asked Max to do them a favor or perform some duty, Max would always thank them for that opportunity. He was the perfect example of a servant-leader – one who leads by his example of service. I was honored and privileged to call him my friend.

We are each called upon as Masons to serve our fellow man. The tenets of our institution, brotherly love, relief, and truth, are not passive terms. They are calls to action. We must seek to love our neighbors as ourselves, to help them in times of need and distress, and to bring the light of truth to those who are in darkness.

Freemasonry is indeed a philosophical institution, but its teachings are useless if we only practice them inside our lodge and not in the world. Let us consider for a moment our Founding Fathers of

the United States. They made great sacrifices and took great risks to build this nation. Many paid the ultimate price for freedom. When it came time to establish the Constitution upon which our laws are based and which protects our rights as citizens, these men based it upon the teachings of Freemasonry as embodied in the Constitutions of 1723 and the word of God. They understood that to be a good leader, one must be a steadfast and loyal servant to their country and to their God.

After the Israelites had enjoyed several years of peace following the great wars with their neighbors, Joshua called upon the people of Israel to renew their covenant with God. After years of living among the Amorites, they had begun to follow the Amorites' customs and adopt their religion. Joshua spoke to them saying, "And if it seems evil unto you to serve the Lord, chose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

Well-known Masons like George Washington and quiet little-known Masons like Max Schlesinger have heeded Joshua and chosen to serve the Lord and their fellow men. I pray that each of us will also choose to serve the Lord and to serve each other with gladness and singleness of heart.

God Bless!




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# Grand Historian's Corner

Bro. David J. Stewart

I begin where I left off in the May 2024 *Connecticut Freemasons* Grand Historian's Corner. The Lodge

Historian can be and should be the keeper of his lodge's history.

Be it that you may be a long-standing brother or a brand new one, you can enrich your life as a Freemason by endeavoring to understand and enlighten yourself and thus become a well-versed brother in this great fraternity that we call Freemasonry.

Here's a list of items that you should be aware of, in no certain order: The lodge secretary's minute books – where are the old ones? Have you reviewed or perused these "historical gems?" Does your lodge have any type of library? If so, included therein should be the Secretary's minute books, Treasurer's ledgers, and other financial books or documents. Also, the Grand Lodge annual proceedings (these are a year-by-year publication containing just about all that happened within our jurisdiction). Pick a year and read through it; you'll soon see that it contains a great deal of our history.

A few of the books and publications that could be of great reference concerning the history of Freemasonry:

Albert Gallatin Mackey, 33 - There are volumes to be reviewed.

Robert Freke Gould - A great collection of Masonic History.

Thomas Smith Webb - Our rituals that lead and guide us forward.

Jeremy Ladd Cross - Brother Cross was a District Lecturer and a lot more.

1723 Book of Constitutions by Dr. James Anderson - Where it all started.

"Thank You, Mr. Edwards" by James Royal Case & PGM Merle P. Tapley, 200 years of Connecticut Masonry 1789 – 1989.

You should know the answers to these questions:

1. When was the Grand Lodge of Connecticut established?
2. Who was the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut?
3. Who is commonly known as The "Father of Masonry" in Connecticut?
4. When was your lodge chartered?
5. Has your lodge merged with another lodge? If so, when and why?
6. Who was the first Worshipful Master of your Lodge? Charter members?
7. Do you have your "original" charter and a copy? Where are they?
8. Has a book/pamphlet been written about the history of your lodge?
9. Where do the two words "operative and speculative" fit in our world?

The above items are just some of the important facts to know. With the advent of the "Blue Wave" project, our Grand Lodge has significantly increased its membership rolls. If I were one of these new Master Masons, I surely would appreciate a brother providing me with the answers—it's our history, and now it's theirs. Knowing just the "little things" will go a long way in assisting our new brothers on their journey.

In closing, I am here as your facilitator to assist you in your Masonic membership journey and educational endeavors.

Need help, maybe questions? Your comments are most welcome, reach out to me at: [dstewart@ctfreemasons.net](mailto:dstewart@ctfreemasons.net)

So, our journey continues!



JUNE 16, 2024

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



## **A Message to the Masonic Family**

Over the past eight years, Masonicare has successfully navigated a transformative repositioning that has allowed us to not only create a stabilized organization, but one that is poised for growth and expansion. We have worked together to bring our legacy organization to a place of strength and resilience, and I am grateful for the outpouring of dedication and support shown by all of you. While our work continues, so does our quest to develop meaningful partnerships and potential collaborations that will further support our mission.

With that, I am excited to share, that after months of careful planning and informative due diligence, we will be announcing our intent to enter into a strategic alliance with United Methodist Homes, a 150-year-old organization with locations in Shelton, Farmington and Newington, Connecticut as well as a nationally recognized third-party management business. This agreement is designed to strengthen the delivery of care and services for the residents and patients in our care and expand employment growth opportunities for our valued employee team members.

As part of the agreement, the United Methodist Homes will become part of the Masonicare family. I will remain as President and CEO of Masonicare, and David Lawlor, the current President and CEO of the United Methodist Homes, will hold an executive role serving as Masonicare's CFO and also President of its management/consulting services division. The alliance remains subject to, among other things, regulatory approvals and approval from the organizations' governing bodies, however, I anticipate that the affiliation will be completed in early 2025.

Once concluded, this strategic union will mark a significant milestone in the history of both organizations and will set the stage for a new era of growth, innovation, and sustainability.

At the heart of this alliance lies a shared vision and mission that aligns perfectly with the values and goals of both Masonicare and United Methodist Homes. This collaboration will not only enhance our collective capabilities but will foster a culture of creativity and excellence. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead as we embark on this journey together.

Please watch for details of the alliance and the benefits it will bring to the Masonic family, including increased access to care and services. I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Masonic family for your continued and unwavering support. Your trust in us over the years has been instrumental in making this alliance a reality. I look forward with great enthusiasm to this next step in Masonicare's legacy as we expand our reach and mission to serve.

Jon-Paul Venoit

President and CEO, Masonicare



# From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

## President & CEO of Masonicare

Since the announcement that Masonicare and United Methodist Homes (UMH) would unite in a historic coming together of two mission-based, non-profit organizations, I've been in contact with employees, residents, members of the Masonic family, vendors, and others to discuss what this agreement will mean for us and everyone we serve.

First and foremost, welcoming UMH into our continuum fits perfectly with our long-term strategy of expanding our senior living portfolio and represents a massive growth opportunity for Masonicare that will help ensure our long-term sustainability.

I would characterize most initial reactions as a mix of excitement and curiosity. One of our employee team members asked at a town hall meeting, "How is UMH's quality of care?" It was a great question, and I was pleased to respond that UMH maintains similarly same high standards as Masonicare. I would go so far as to say this agreement would not have been possible without both organizations having confidence in the other's commitment to providing quality, compassionate, person-centered care. I can see it and feel it every time I visit a UMH community, and I've been to all of them on multiple occasions.

At another town hall, this one for some of our independent living residents, I was asked how I thought the agreement might impact Masonicare's mission and culture. Our goal will be to extend the former and enhance the latter by combining the best qualities of

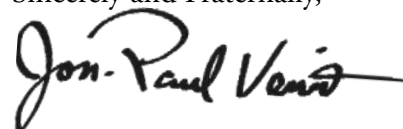
both organizations. And I suspect our shared values will help reinforce an already solid foundation that was laid over 125 years ago by the Freemasons of Connecticut.

There is still a tremendous amount of work to be done before UMH officially joins the Masonicare family in early 2025. This is the beginning of a long process that will require the integration of systems, practices, and – most importantly – people.

We need to make sure it's handled respectfully and in a spirit of collaboration. I will be sure to update you on our progress. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.

I hope to see you all on Saturday, June 8, for our annual Grand Masters Day Family Festival. The festivities begin at 10:00 a.m. outside Masonicare Health Center!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,



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

**Lawrence Becker**  
Uriel Lodge No. 24

**Philip C. Dennen**  
King Solomons Lodge No. 7

**Jerome H. Diamond**  
Wyllys St. Johns Lodge No. 4

**Thomas William Hawkins, Jr.**  
Washington Lodge No. 19

**Albert A. Kandarian**  
Wyllys St. Johns Lodge No. 4

**Wayne Shawn Rettburg**  
Washington Lodge No. 70

**John P. Reynolds**  
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

**John H. Schatzlein**  
Hiram Lodge No. 1

**Edward L. Schmidt**  
Unity Lodge No. 148

**Craig Willis Schroeder**  
Sequin Level Lodge No. 140

**Arthur H. Trevorow, Jr.**  
King Hiram Lodge No. 12

**Robert Daniel Trussell**  
Temple Lodge No. 16

**Alan H. Webb**  
Granite Lodge No. 119

# Gratitude and making connections at Masonicare Health Center



If you've ever been a volunteer – and most members of the Masonic family have – you know that the joy and satisfaction doesn't come from attention or acclaim, but from helping uplift others.

Stop by the Masonicare Health Center gift shop sometime and you might run into **Laura Michnowski**, Past Matron of Ashlar Chapter No. 116, Order of the Eastern Star. Laura volunteers at the store with restocking, seasonal decorating, and some ordering. She enjoys

helping residents and their families find everything from stamps and small gifts and to greeting cards and snacks.

"I love the look on someone's face when I'm able to help them find something they're looking for," she said. "But ultimately, it's about making connections, especially with the people who live here. Sometimes, residents will come in just to browse or to have someone to talk to."

In addition to helping out at the gift shop, Laura also gives of her time as the O.E.S. representative on the Masonicare Board of Trustees, which she joined after previously serving on the board of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

Laura's involvement with Masonicare began about 15 years ago when her late mother first moved into the Wright Residence, a residential care community on our Wallingford campus.

"It all started with her," Laura said. "I'm extremely grateful for the difference that Masonicare made in her life. Before she moved into Wright, my mother had been depressed and was deteriorating. But here, she discovered a new group of friends with similar interests and experiences. Her whole lifestyle changed, and she perked up. I really think it extended her life. And I was enormously relieved that she was well cared for in a safe environment."

Just as Laura is grateful for the transformative effect that Masonicare had on her mother, we deeply appreciate her volunteerism and advocacy.

If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities at Masonicare Health Center, please contact Mary Cooper, Hospitality and Volunteer Services Manager, at **203-679-6253** or **macooper@masonicare.org**.

## We are *your* Masonicare.



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# THE ULTIMATE TOOL OF ANY MASON

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

The Valley of Bridgeport will end its degree season with a live presentation of the 8th Degree on Saturday, July 27. Then, starting at 11 a.m., a video rendition of the 25th Degree will be shown, followed by a luncheon at the Shrine building next door.

Upcoming Family life activities include the semi-annual fishing trip out of Clinton on The Lucky Lady on June 2. On July 21, we board the ferry at Bridgeport for an excursion to Long Island's Port Jefferson. Be at the port no later than 8 a.m.; the cost is \$25 pp. On August 9 is the semi-annual cigar night at the Stamford Cigar Bar, 75 Research Dr. The ANNUAL CLAMBAKE PICNIC on August 10, at Booth Memorial Park, 5800 Main Street, Stratford, starting at 12 p.m. Availability is limited so please contact the office at (203) 375-0064 to verify availability and costs.



As builders and architects of our own temple made without hands, we must understand the process by which we can improve the designs on our own trestleboard. We must not only come up with the design, but we must develop procedures by which we can actually implement and complete its construction. Henry David Thoreau once said the world is "but a canvas to our imagination." Imagination is much more than mere daydreaming or a fleeting fancy. Seneca warned that humanity suffers more from uncontrolled imagination, which often causes us to incur more needless fright than actual hurt. Humanity often suffers more from imagination than from reality.

Imagination, if properly employed, can be a powerful tool that can aid us in attaining the mundane and spiritual goals in our lives. Richard L. Peterson once said, "Imagination is the spark which ignites the spark of our creativity. It is the first step in everything that we wish to create." Napoleon Hill went further by stating, "Imagination is the miraculous inconceivably powerful force that the world has ever known. The imagination is the workshop of the soul, where all the plans for individual achievement are shaped." Brother Albert Einstein also said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge, for knowledge is limited whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress and giving birth to evolution".

In many ways, your imagination is the preview of life's coming attractions. One of the attributes that separates man from animals is this faculty of imagination. Imagination is the conceptive or receptive power of the soul and the physical mind and acts like a magnet, attracting to us what we hold in our imagination. Paracelsus, the father of modern medicine and the head of his Paracelsian Mystery School, felt that imagination was of the utmost importance.

He stated that the "Cornerstone of wisdom rests on prayer, faith, and imagination." Imagination is the handmaiden of faith. A strong faith and a powerful imagination are the pillars upon which support the door to spiritual achievement. He further stated that we possess a visible and invisible workshop. The visible one is the body. The invisible one is our imagination, and all our imagination originates in our hearts. If our imagination is sufficiently strong to penetrate into all the corners of our interior world, it will be able to create things in those corners and whatever we think will take form in our soul.

We are a little world – a microcosm whereby our mind creates thought forms that are good or ill and are the result of the imagination. Our imagination is akin to the sun in our soul acting in its own sphere, just like the orb of the sun operates in the macrocosm of the physical universe. Wherever the physical sun shines, germs planted in the soil will grow and vegetation will spring up.

In like manner, the sun of the soul acts similarly in the microcosm and calls the forms of the soul into existence. Paracelsus added "that we become the thoughts that we think – if the thoughts are of the light, then light will be born in our soul. If our thoughts are of war, then war is certain."

It all depends on whether the whole of our imagination becomes an entire sun or, in other words, the whole of our imagination is given

## LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



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

**Sat. July 27, 11 a.m. - 8th Degree (Live) and 25th Degree (Video)**  
Saturday degrees starts at 11 a.m. with lunch following the degrees. Reservations required. 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/>

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

to one thought and directed by our will. We all have the ability to use our imagination for good or harmful purposes.

Curses and blessings work through the same power of imagination; consequently, it would behoove us to guide our desires, thoughts, and imagination in harmony with the will and laws set down by the GAOTU. We begin with a desire that is in conformity with the will and laws of the GAOTU, which is constructive and of the light. We imbue this thought with strong desire and bring it into an image in our minds eye by employing our imaginative faculty. We then employ our will to act upon this desire and give it form in the physical plane of existence. If we do not engage in physical action after having formed the matter in our imagination, our imaginative faculty atrophies and fades away.

George Bernard Shaw once said, "Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine, and at last, you create what you will." The concept was well known by the Ancient Egyptians and appears in the advanced Kabbalistic Text Sepher Yetzirah, which talks about visualizing things in order to create them. Today, this is known as Creative Visualization or Formology. Both of these require a heartfelt desire and the willingness to do what is necessary to manifest this desire. We can use these methods to help ourselves, our families, and our communities on a material, physical, or spiritual plane. We

Continued on page 12

## Masonicare Wraps Up 4th Year of Innovative Students in Residence Program Integrating Quinnipiac University Students with Assisted Living Community.

Masonicare is proud to announce the successful completion of the 4th year of the Quinnipiac University Students in Residence Program. This unique program is designed to integrate college students into our assisted living community to live, work, and interact with residents for the duration of an academic year.

This pioneering endeavor is a testament to Masonicare's commitment to fostering intergenerational connections and providing enriching experiences for both residents and students. Through this program, we aim to create a vibrant, inclusive environment that promotes lifelong learning and meaningful relationships.

Key features of the Students in Residence Program include:

- 1. Living among residents:** College students reside within the assisted living community, offering them the opportunity to immerse themselves fully in the daily life of our residents. This arrangement encourages organic interactions and facilitates the development of genuine relationships.
- 2. Work experience:** Students participate in various aspects of community life, including assisting with recreational activities, providing companionship to residents, and supporting staff members as needed. This firsthand experience not only enhances

their interpersonal skills but also provides valuable insights into the field of senior care.

**3. Academic integration:** The Students in Residence Program is designed to complement students' academic pursuits. Participants can engage in reflective learning experiences, seminars, and projects that explore topics related to aging, healthcare, and community engagement.

**4. Community engagement:** Beyond their roles within the assisted living community, students also are encouraged to participate in community outreach initiatives and collaborative projects with local organizations. This holistic approach fosters a sense of civic responsibility and empowers students to make a positive impact beyond our walls.

"We are thrilled with the success of our Students in Residence Program which welcomes a diverse group of college students into our community," said Rachael Laudano, executive director at Masonicare at Ashlar Village Assisted Living. "This innovative initiative aligns with our mission to create an inclusive environment where individuals of all ages can thrive. We look forward to the enriching experiences and meaningful connections that will emerge from this program in the future."

Masonicare at Ashlar Village invites interested college students and community members to learn more about the Students in Residence Program and how to get involved by attending a program on May 15, 2024, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm at Masonicare at Ashlar Village, 74 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT.



## The Ultimate Tool continued from page 11

can use this process to obtain physical items such as a house or car. We can use this to help our body heal from mental stress or physical conditions. Dr Emmet Miller has stated that guided imagery is effective and clinically proven to reduce stress and improve health, increase the speed of healing, enhance wellness, awaken self-awareness, optimize creativity, enhance self-awareness and inspire peak performance.

We can help others heal by visualizing them in a healthy state, strong and radiant, and augmenting that image with our will. If we collectively engage in this type of imagery with our will, we can help bring peace and harmony to the world and radiate healing to the collective humanity around us. We can use this power to help awaken, individuate, and develop our souls as well.

Imagine if our lodges collectively, every time they meet, engaged in a guided exercise to send healing and peace to unfortunately

afflicted brothers, neighbors, and even to our communities, and if we did this around the state, how the situation would improve. We were once touted as the "silent fraternity," but imagine if every Masonic lodge and appendant body in this country were to devote five minutes to such an exercise every time we met, how we could quietly and imperceptibly bring great and healthful change to our communities, to our members and their families. We would be all walking the path of light that the GAOTU has laid out for us, and in turn, we would garner improvements not only for our members but for our institution.

I, for one, am convinced that the nadir that our fraternity is currently negotiating would soon become a memory, and the fraternity's fortunes would turn upwards and rocket once again  
TOWARDS THE LIGHT!

### For the latest copy of the Lafayette Consistory News visit

<https://ctfreemasons.net/appendant-bodies/lafayette-consistory/> or use the QR Code below.

*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.*



# 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 your articles as 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. However, please submit your ADS as PDFs. Try to avoid JPGs and PNGs for ADS.
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 9

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



### Fayette Lodge No. 69 News

by **D. Raymond Chouinard**

On Tuesday, April 23, Fayette Lodge No. 69 hosted Ill. Brother Walt Grube, MSA, 33° of the Valley of Hartford AASR, who shared all the advantages and exciting things that joining the Scottish Rite entails. The lodge was so grateful to host this guest speaker!

At this same meeting, the assembled brethren viewed *Martin & Max*, a fantastic program performed by WB Bob Buntin and WB Larry Baker and directed by MWB Gary Arseneau. Thank you, brothers, for coming

to display this brilliant rendition at Fayette Lodge.

The lodge also thanks Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 for collaborating to initiate a Fayette Lodge's newest brothers, Bro. Tom Vaughn, at their Entered Apprentice Degree on May 6.

The Worshipful Master of Fayette Lodge and his officers remained busy by attending the annual Grand Lodge Communication, MWB Edward Page's Gala, the Blue Lodge Council meeting for District 9 at Ionic Lodge No. 110, and the lodge will host a Master Mason degree in the Fall.

Thank you to all Brothers who continually contribute to the dutiful work being done by Fayette Lodge No. 69!



# Historic Statewide Master Mason Degree in New Haven

by Christopher J. Earle

On March 30, in New Haven, a select team of brothers raised 45 candidates to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in one day! This innovative portrayal of the full degree involved using all three lodge rooms in the New Haven Masonic Temple simultaneously.

MWB Bruce R. Bellmore presided over the first half of the degree, assisted by brothers principally from Trumbull Lodge No. 22 and Meridian Lodge No. 77, in the Scottish Rite room. There, the entire group of candidates was received, obligated, and instructed at once.

The second half divided the candidates into three groups, in the Greek, Egyptian, and the Scottish Rite rooms. Every candidate was raised in due form. The team in the Egyptian room was provided by Hiram Lodge No. 1, in the Greek room by Annawon Lodge No. 115, and the team in the Scottish Rite room comprised brothers from the first half, presided over by MWB Marshall K. Robinson.

Once all the candidates had been raised, the Hiramic Tragedy was presented in the Scottish Rite room by a full team of craftsmen from the Valley of New Haven AASR. The Valley also hosted the building, breakfast, and lunch.

The First Section Lecture and the Long Form Master Mason Degree Charge completed the ceremonies. After congratulatory remarks by then-current Most Worshipful Grand Master Joseph J. Porco, he closed the lodges.

A committee consisting of MWB Bellmore, RWB Nicholas Ives, RWB Salvatore R. Ferrigno, Jr., and RWB Christopher J. Earle developed the format and recruited the 50-plus brothers in response to the need for Master Mason degrees for the many new initiates produced by the Blue Wave membership program.



# WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

## Hiram Lodge No. 1

Robert Frank Baer  
Denis K. Byron  
Roberto Christian Cerrud-Rodriguez  
William Joseph Garcia  
Paulo Ernesto Gaviria  
Anthony Joseph Mansi  
David Anthony McElfresh

## St. Johns Lodge No. 2

Jean-Pierre Vargas  
William S. Zanks

## Wyllys St. Johns Lodge No. 4

Jonathan De Barros  
Justin Tyler Knapp

## Compass Lodge No. 9

Christopher Braga  
Brandon DeMars  
Andre Finn  
Matthew James Kelley  
Joseph Medina  
Jeremy Michael St. Pierre

## St. Peters Lodge No. 21

Tyler Michael Androvett  
Steven Douglas Newth

## Trumbull Lodge No. 22

George Baah  
Jacob Robert Brown  
Rodney Peterson  
Kaunda Thomas

## Harmony Lodge No. 42

Daniel Adrian Mina  
Christopher Anthony Morgado  
Albert Edward Podzunas, Jr.  
Michael Stanley Pranulis  
Felix M. Rodriguez

## Seneca Lodge No. 55

J. Raymond Hebert, Jr.  
Thomas Joseph Kenney, III  
Eric Mahon

## Harmony Lodge No. 67

Sergii Rakhuba

## Meridian Lodge No. 77

Ian D. Bennet  
Kyle Joseph Holmes  
Scott Anthony Lenzo  
Joseph Zembrowski, Jr.

## Wooster Lodge No. 79

Mark Anthony Defrancesco  
Joseph Velasco

## Acacia Lodge No. 85

Kristian Fontanilla  
Nicholas Nishesh  
Luimar Rivera

## Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

Jonathan Hood

## Corinthian Lodge No. 104

Joshua Garcia

## Annawon Lodge No. 115

Jorge A. Echevarria  
Brian P. Hyman  
Pierre A. Jean-Louis  
Nicholas Ray McNellis  
Steven J. Nazareus  
Robert William Stanton  
AWalter Ufot

## Hospitality Lodge No. 128

James Cadmus Dake  
Jade Philip  
Gregory Ryan

## Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

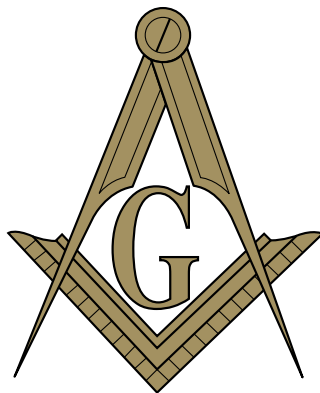
Luis Enrique Echevarria  
Ismael Robles  
Keith Brian Victor

## Purity Lodge No. 150

Kevin Jabez Lathrop

## Ashlar Lodge No. 332

Plinio Manuel Garcia  
Kellogg H. Wong



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**William A. Soderman**  
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Annawon Lodge No. 115  
Fellowcraft Club

**MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024**

**WHEELER Family TRADITIONS Golf club**  
37 Harrison rd. Wallingford, Ct 06492

Registration 8:00 am Shotgun start 9:00 am  
Breakfast Sandwich and Raffle Tickets at sign in.  
4-player Scramble, Lunch available on the course  
Followed by a Dinner Banquet, and raffle prizes  
awarded along with tournament prizes awarded.  
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**\$700** per Team  
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For Registration and info.  
Contact  
Jerry Nero 203-415-6443  
jnero@neroac.com  
Make checks payable to:  
Annawon Lodge Fellowcraft  
Club  
P.O. Box 9 West Haven, Ct.

**REGISTRATION WITH PAYMENT DUE BY AUGUST 10, 2024**

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# District 7

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



## The Holy Saints John

by Jeffrey A. Blayman

On a recent third Thursday, the brothers of Warren Lodge No. 51 in Portland, with guests from Anchor Lodge No. 112, Annawon Lodge No. 115, Solar Lodge No. 131, Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34, St. John's Lodge No. 2, and Wooster Lodge No. 10 had the privilege of listening to WB Doug Turcotte of Masonic Lodge of Research expound on the many levels of historical and religious significance associated with Holy Saints John. It has been noted by many that the presence of quality education, as well as a festive board, are two of the secret ingredients to successful attendance on lodge evenings.



The Holy Saints John, being opposite in astrological significance as the summer and winter solstices, so too are the other attributes of these two figures. As St. John the Baptist is both literal and humble, St. John the Evangelist is found to be philosophical and lofty. The two act as a Masonic yin and yang.



The parallels and poles of these two saints were discussed at length as WB Doug poignantly elucidated on their unique characteristics. At the end of the evening RWB Howard J. Swanson presented WB Doug with one of his hand tool pointers as has become a thoughtful tradition. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship of the evening.

We hope you will join us on some third Thursday. Please feel free to RSVP the Master and join us for a lovely meal and an educational evening. Warrenlodge51@gmail.com

## RWB David F. Mosher Presented as District Deputy

by Jeffrey A. Blayman

On Sunday, May 5, Anchor Lodge No. 112 in East Hampton hosted the District Deputy presentation for RWB David F. Mosher and WB James McKinney AGM. The Grand Line was received, and many other worthy brethren and family members were welcomed. Once everyone was seated, the gavel was passed from WM John Garcia to RWB Michael Schaeffer, District Deputy of Masonic District 7B, the Master of Ceremonies.

The presentation began with a brief history of the role of the District Deputy by RWB John Main, detailing the establishment of the position in 1904, preceded by "appointment representatives" as far back as 1821. The symbolism of the District Deputy Jewel was presented by RWB Bill Field,



while RWB John Spencer described the Apron and its importance to the craft. After receiving the charge, RWB Mosher invested WB James McKinney, his AGM, with the jewel and apron of his office. Both brothers will undoubtedly serve the 7th district with distinction over the coming two-year term.

The afternoons festivities concluded with some touching words from MWB Edward C. Page, after which Grand Honors were given and the lodge was closed in ample form. The spirit of brotherhood was palpable as congratulations were given and everyone settled in to break bread and celebrate the dawning of a new day in the 7th Masonic District.



# Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association Award Eagle Scouts

by Jonathan Glassman

Congratulations to new Eagle Scouts Zachary Creigh of Scouts BSA Troop 721 in Milford, and Tim Nunn of Troop 32 in Southington, pictured at their respective Courts of Honor receiving the Connecticut Masonic Eagle Scout Commendation from the Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association and Grand Lodge of Connecticut.



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# MWPGM Gail Nelson Smith Receives the Grand Encampment Knight Commander of the Temple Award

by Vincent A. Cowie

During the early afternoon on May 3, Brother & Sir Knight Gail N. Smith was presented with the Grand Encampment Knight Commander of the Temple award. The presentation was made at his home by Sir Knight Vincent Cowie, Right Eminent Past Department Commander, Northeast Department of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar USA.

The prestigious Knight Commander of the Temple award was derived from a program developed by SK William H. Thornley when he served as Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar USA as a means of recognition for dedicated service. The program is called the College of Honors and is administered by the appointment of Deputies by the ME Grand Master. They serve during the triennium of the ME Grand Master, and they may be re-appointed by the next ME Grand Master. Some States have one jurisdictional Deputy some have more than one. In Connecticut, there are two, and each serves as Co-Deputies. I have the honor to serve as one, and the other is SK Stuart Drost. He received his appointment during his term as Department Commander. Nominations are received annually and reviewed. Selections are made by the Deputies, then forwarded to Grand Encampment for approval.

Congratulations to Brother and Sir Knight Gail N. Smith. You have served with honor and distinction and are now among the 20 living Connecticut recipients of this high honor.



## Grotto and Tall Cedars of Lebanon Upcoming Joint Ceremonial

Syria Grotto MOVPER and Nutmeg Forest Tall Cedars of Lebanon will hold a joint ceremonial on Saturday, August 17, at the Valley of Hartford AASR in Newington. This is an opportunity to join either or both appendant bodies. The newly reconstituted Syria Grotto is the formal host, joined by three other grottoes from Connecticut and visiting brethren from around New England—Both bodies are open to Master Masons in good standing.

The Grotto, known as the “Master Mason’s playground,” is all about fun and camaraderie, symbolized by their black fezzes with red tassels. The Tall Cedars of Lebanon, on the other hand, are dedicated to “Fun, Frolic, and Fellowship,” as reflected in their multi-colored pyramids. Both bodies are centered around fellowship and philanthropy, providing a vibrant and engaging environment. The Grotto supports dental care for special needs children, and the Tall Cedars raise money for Muscular Dystrophy, with Nutmeg Forrest having founded the Manchester Road race, adding a sense of purpose to the fun.

This day will mark a significant milestone in the history of our fraternity. It will be the second time in two years that the Grottos of Connecticut have put on the full ceremonial and the first time in 50 years that the Tall Cedars have put their degree on live. Both events are open to all members of those bodies and present a unique opportunity for new members to join and be part of this historic moment.

The morning will start with registration for Tall Cedars and/or Grotto, formal greetings and the Tall Cedar degree followed by lunch from an assortment of food trucks. The Grotto degree will take place in the afternoon.

And if these fun bodies aren’t near you, just remember that 25 or more Master Masons can submit a petition to re-charter the dark Grottoes or Forests of Connecticut, as Syria did earlier this year.

Please contact the following for petition information and joining fees of the individual bodies:

**Syria Grotto (Suffield, Masonic District 6)**

Secretary: Mike McClellan [mike.mcclellan324@outlook.com](mailto:mike.mcclellan324@outlook.com)

**Hejaz Grotto (Wallingford)**

Secretary: Gary Matican [gmatican@yahoo.com](mailto:gmatican@yahoo.com)

**Zindah Grotto (Waterbury)**

Secretary: Stewart Crouse [willtwo@hotmail.com](mailto:willtwo@hotmail.com)

**Monker Grotto (Norwalk)**

Secretary: Michael Sabia [mdsabiajr@gmail.com](mailto:mdsabiajr@gmail.com)

**Nutmeg Forest (Manchester)**

POC: Joseph Grieco [joe.grieco@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joe.grieco@sbcglobal.net)

# District 6

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



## Columbia Lodge No. 25 Celebrates 2024 Awards by Arnie Grot

Columbia Lodge No. 25 in South Glastonbury held their awards night on May 1. MWGM Edward C. Page; RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Grand Junior Warden; RWB Thomas A. Duclos, WB John H. Ledoux, Jr., WB Donald A. Wills, RWB Russell W. McClelland and RWB Richard E. Berson were the dignitaries in attendance. Bro. Seby Milardo and the kitchen crew served an excellent dinner prior to the ceremonies.

Erik Roberts presented this year's Community Service Award to Mrs. Judy Harper.

Jeff Spooner presented the Emerson C. Reed Award to his dad, WB Rodney A. Spooner. Rodney was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on December 17, 1987, in Warren Lodge No. 51, and progressed rapidly through the chairs, demonstrating excellence at every office, and served as Worshipful Master of Warren Lodge in 1991 and again in 1992. WB Rodney affiliated with Columbia Lodge in 2016. When there was a vacancy in the officer line, Rodney immediately agreed to step in as Senior Warden in 2018. He then advanced to Worshipful Master in 2019, marking his third time as Master of a lodge. Rodney was installed as Marshal in 2021 and still serves in that office. WB Rodney joined the Scottish Rite Valley of Hartford in 1997 and regularly attends all meetings. Rodney further expanded his Masonic participation by joining the York Rite in 2021.

He is a member of all three York Rite bodies, Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, Royal Arch Masons; Wolcott Council No. 1 Royal and Select Masters; and Washington Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar. WB Rodney Spooner has a deep commitment to whatever he undertakes.

Walt Grube presented the Daskam-Nott Award to RWB David S. LaFargue. Dave was raised a Master Mason on April 15, 2010, in Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145. In 2018, he became Worshipful Master of the lodge. In 2020, RWB Dave affiliated with Columbia Lodge. In 2021, Dave agreed to take the office of Junior Warden to



Brothers gather after opening the lodge at the request of MWGM Edward Page for a picture. He also took his signature selfie.



Christopher J. Gness, 5 years



David A. Wills, 20 years



Howard D. Turner, 40 years.



Donald A. Wills, 45 years.



Russell W. McClelland and Harold M. Waters, Jr., 55 years

fill a void in the officer line. He then progressed through the chairs to be installed as Worshipful Master in 2023. Dave's great grandfather, Stanley LaFargue, served as Worshipful Master of Daskam Lodge No. 86 in 1908. Daskam Lodge later merged with Columbia Lodge. RWB Dave also served as District Deputy of Connecticut Masonic District 6A in 2020 and 2021. He joined the Scottish Rite Valley of Hartford in 2011. He is responsible for lighting and sound for the Scottish Rite degrees. Dave received the Scottish Rite's Meritorious Service Award in 2017, and in 2021, he was coronated an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33rd Degree in Cleveland, OH. Dave further expanded his Masonic experience by joining the York Rite in 2019. He is a member of all three York Rite bodies, Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, RAM; Wolcott Council No. 1, R&SM; and Washington Commandery No. 1, KT.



*John proudly joins his wife, Judy Harper, this year's Community Service Award recipient.*



*Rodney Spooner receiving the Emerson Reed Award.*

Service pins were presented to • 5 years – Christopher J. Gness • 10 years – Deepak C. Saluru, • 20 years –David A. Wills, • 35 years – Walter Grube • 40 years – Howard D. Turner • 45 years – Donald A. Wills • 55 years – Harold M. Waters, Jr., and Russell W. McClelland

The award plaques were donated by Quality Nameplate, as they have done for many years.

RWB Matt Heinrich said it was a pleasure to attend Awards Night and offered congratulations to all the award winners. MWB Edward C. Page said it had been a fantastic evening and offered Grand Honors to all award recipients. The Grand Master emphasized that he was here to support us. He also spoke of the theme for his year, which is God, Unity, and Service (GUS). Brother Edward reminded me of the importance of family, both Masonic and personal. His father, Gus, a Mason, passed on before Edward began his Masonic journey, but he will always be an inspiration to him.



*Dave Lafargue receiving the Daskam-Nott Award*



*MWGM Edward Page addresses the gathering.*

So, Mote It Be for each of us.

## Washington Lodge No.70 Provides First Aid Training With a Free Pancake Breakfast by Ken Roach

Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor conducted first aid training for the brothers and their family members after a Saturday morning free pancake breakfast. Breakfast offered an opportunity to enjoy fellowship between the brothers and their families. After breakfast, prepared by Stewards Sam Caligiuri and Pat Chagnon, the first aid training provided a review of important vital information with emphasis on the Automated External Defibrillator (AED). A review of the device had not been conducted for some time.

Brother Pat Chagnon organized the training, which was well received. As a result of the AED training, the lodge decided to purchase a second device and offer training again in the Fall. Of course, there will be a free pancake breakfast. Brothers from other Lodges will also be invited to attend.

*Brothers and family receive first aid training.*



# Washington Lodge No. 70 Invite a Friend Night and Blood Drive

by Ken Roach

Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor rounded off April with a flurry of activity. On April 26, they held its semi-annual "Invite a Friend Night." Blue Wave contacts and their families, along with invited friends of brothers, enjoyed a traditional Masonic dinner. Many brothers welcomed the invited friends. After dinner, everyone was invited to the lodge room to receive an explanation of Freemasonry's values and beliefs from WB Mark Fernandes. RWB Carl Anderson presented information on Masonicare. The program was well received, and the lodge was pleased to have Associate Grand Almoner Richard Berson share the evening.



*Guests listen to RWB Rev. Carl Anderson discuss Masonicare.*

The next day, the lodge hosted its semi-annual Red Cross Blood Drive. The drive was a tremendous success and could not have been accomplished without many lodge brothers helping to serve breakfast for the donors, a long-standing tradition of the Lodge. Thanks go to WB Ron Eleveld, Chair of the Blood Drive Committee, for another outstanding event.



*Guests and brothers enjoy a traditional Masonic dinner*

# Washington Lodge No. 70 Passes One in Fellowcraft Degree by Ken Roach

Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor orchestrated a Fellowcraft Degree on April 22. Bro. Michael Champlin was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft by WM Ken Roach. The brothers were honored to have new District Deputy RWB John Dicioccio, his AGM WB James B. Young (Brad) of Masonic District 6A, and District Grand Lecturer Don Wills in attendance.



## Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 News by Pat Jones

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 in South Windsor hosted Tobacco Valley Blue Lodge Council on April 30. The council meets at each member lodge during the year and is an excellent forum for fellowship and sharing ideas. Brothers from all lodges are welcome to attend!

This year, the Council's officers are President Charles Jewart, Composite Lodge No. 28; Vice President Derek Bensley, Composite Lodge No. 28; Secretary/Treasurer Walter Grube, Columbia Lodge No. 25; and Chaplain Michael McClellan, Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88. The highlight of the evening was WB Andy Work of Washington Lodge No. 70's interesting presentation about one of Connecticut's highly successful business corporations.

May began with an Entered Apprentice Degree on May 6. Bro. Mario Graham, a talented 31-year-old from Hartford, became a member of Hartford Evergreen Lodge, and Bro. Tom Vaughn, a personable and enthusiastic young man, joined Fayette Lodge No. 69. It was quite

enjoyable to see brothers from both lodges working together to make this a successful event. The cooperation and outstanding performances were noteworthy. With barely more than a year of Masonic service between them, Stewards Jonathan Hood and Kirk Montstream were outstanding in delivering the First Section Lecture. Bro. Hood also explained the Working Tools. RWB Bob Malt, District Deputy of Masonic District 9B, treated those in attendance with a brilliant presentation of the Second Section Lecture. WM Ray Chouinard of Fayette Lodge and WM Alex Prague of Hartford Evergreen Lodge were ecstatic about bringing in these new brothers.

In a continuing commitment by the lodge to include wives and significant others in the lodge's activities, a "Ladies at Table" table lodge will be held on Saturday, May 18. Bro. Khamp Phimvongsa, Senior Warden, has managed this successful event for several years. The brothers and their guests are never disappointed by his cooking. This year, he plans to offer a menu that includes lobster and filet mignon.

Finally, the lodge is eagerly anticipating our Annual Award's night on June 17.

## Wyllys St. John's Lodge No. 4 Enjoys Mozart in Noshes and Knowledge Program by Melvin E. Johnson

On Sunday, May 5, the brothers of Wyllys St John's Lodge No. 4 in West Hartford were treated to a pair of videos about *The Magic Flute* by Mozart. One was a short musical synopsis of the opera, and the second was an in-depth discussion of the numerous Masonic implications of both the story and the music. This was followed by a discussion of the opera and its Masonic themes. Several brothers brought friends and family members, and all enjoyed the fellowship and refreshments. One friend indicated an interest in Masonry and another in Eastern Star.

This was the second of the lodge's Noshes and Knowledge presentations, which are held on the first Sunday of each month. The next presentation in the series, which will be on June 2, will cover how our working memory operates and how we can improve it.



## District 2

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



## Hiram Lodge No. 18 Passes Three by Anthony S. Neri

On May 1, WM Anthony S. Neri and the brothers of Hiram Lodge No. 18 in Sandy Hook passed three Entered Apprentices to the degree of Fellowcraft. Bros. Sean Daly, Jose Fuentes, and Rabbi Ryan Silveira, who is blind, became the lodge's newest Fellowcrafts.

MWB Joseph J. Porco witnessed the degree in his own lodge after a year in the Grand East. Many of the parts of the degree were performed by new brothers who were in the first class of Brother Porco's "Blue Wave" from last year. A great time was had by all.





# District 5

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



## Unity Lodge No. 148 News by Hiram Morales

Unity Lodge enjoyed an amazing evening at J. Timothy's Tavern on April 16, celebrating the lodge's annual Couples Night. In all, 42 brothers and significant others came out to eat, drink, and be merry.

For Teacher Appreciation Week this year, May 6-10, the lodge provided snacks for the teaching staff of four schools. On Monday, brothers delivered snacks to Slade Middle School, on Tuesday to New Britain High School, on Wednesday to Vance Elementary School, and finally on Thursday to Diloreto Magnet School, where Brother Dario Soto is the Principal.



# Hospitality Lodge No. 128 Cleans Wethersfield Cove Park

by Francis G. Way

On Saturday, May 4, a sunny day in Old Wethersfield, brothers from nearby Hospitality Lodge No. 128 donned work gloves, grabbed trash bags, and performed their annual cove cleanup at Wethersfield Cove Park.

The Cove (as it is known in Wethersfield) sees a lot of traffic, ranging from boaters using the boat launch to folks just wanting to enjoy the outdoors. With a lot of traffic comes a lot of trash, and the lodge has committed to helping the town by giving it a good cleanup each spring before the unofficial start of summer, the Memorial Day Weekend.

Multiple bags of trash were collected, and more importantly, the poison ivy was avoided.

The brothers of Hospitality Lodge support the town in many ways, and the cove cleanup is just one



*(l-r) RWB Ted Hastly, RWB Rich Jones, Bro. Doug Maliszewski, Bro. Joe Distin, and WB Alberto Dieguez.*

## District 4

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



## Quinta Essentia Lodge No. 500 News by Jonathan Glassman

Brothers of Quinta Essentia Lodge and guests enjoyed good food, drink, and fellowship at a recent Stated Communication and Festive Board!

They also traveled to Deer Lake to once again support the Boy Scouts of America at the Connecticut Yankee Council's annual Game Dinner. Beaver, venison, bear, moose, kangaroo, antelope, alligator, pheasant, elk, buffalo and more were enjoyed!



# Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 News by Bill Roots

On May 3, Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 welcomed their most recent Master Mason. Bro. Murat Basar was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by WM Dennis McNamara.

At their recent awards nights, the lodge saw two 50-year pins awarded. RWB Robert Bateman and Bro. John Knight received their pins and certificates from RWB Nick Ives, Grand Senior Steward. WB Gregg Bateman had the honor of pinning the 50-year pin on his father, RWB Bateman.

Finally, a contingent from the lodge traveled to the recent Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star session to celebrate the installation of Worthy Grand Matron Wendy Batterton. Sister Wendy is married to WB Jesse Batterton and is the daughter of WB Ernie Dubois.



*WB Gregg Bateman pins the 50-year pin on his father, RWB Robert Bateman.*



*Murat Basar*



*Lynn Knight, Bro. Jeff Knight, RWB Nick Ives*



*JW Jeff Scepanski, SW Julio Calvao, WGM Wendy Batterton, and WM Dennis McNamara.*

## District 3

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



## District Deputy Presentation for RWB Daniel Reeve

On Thursday, May 9, RWB Shane Dufresne, Grand Senior Warden, conducted a District Deputy reception for RWB Daniel Reeve at Seneca Lodge No. 55 in Torrington. A very large turnout witnessed the event, including MWB Edward C. Page and a large number of Grand Lodge officers.

Serving with RWB Reeve in Masonic District 3B will be his AGM, WB Neal White. Also presented was WB Kenneth Tarwood, who will serve with RWB Jack Baril in Masonic District 3A.



*WB Kenneth Tarwood, RWB Daniel Reeve, RW Steven Chiappalone, Marshal-in-Chief, WB Neal White*



# Griffin Health Partners with Masonicare to Expand Laboratory, Imaging, and Occupational Health Services

Griffin Health and Masonicare have partnered to expand health services offered on Masonicare's Wallingford campus.

Through this partnership, celebrated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Masonicare Health Center (MHC) on April 16, Griffin Health is now offering a comprehensive range of health and diagnostic services aimed at improving access to care for patients, residents, employees, and neighboring businesses and communities.

Services now available at Griffin's dedicated space at MHC include laboratory blood draws and radiology/X-ray services, ensuring patients from both the community and across campus can conveniently access diagnostic tests and screenings and receive prompt and accurate results to support their healthcare needs.

Additionally, Griffin Health Occupational Medicine services will provide local employees and employers with a range of services, including physicals, drug and alcohol testing, injury prevention and management, workplace injury management, and support for overall employee well-being.

"We are thrilled to partner with Griffin Health to expand our healthcare offerings and enhance access to diagnostic care and services," said WB Jon-Paul Venoit, President and CEO of Masonicare. "The addition of these services underscores Masonicare's dedication to meeting the evolving needs of our community and fostering a culture of health and wellness. By collaborating with Griffin Health, we are able to leverage their expertise and resources to deliver exceptional care close to home."

Griffin Health President and CEO Patrick Charmel said this partnership has been in the works for several years and capitalizes on the strengths of two great organizations focused on delivering person-centered, compassionate care.

"We're in the acute care space and do outpatient diagnostics," he added, "but Masonicare has a world-class continuum of elder care services that really is the envy of the industry."

To contact the on-site Griffin Health services at Masonicare in Wallingford, please call (203) 513-5150.



*Representatives from Masonicare and Griffin Health celebrate the opening of a new space in the Sturges building at Masonicare Health Center offering laboratory, diagnostic, and occupational health services*

# 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

## Fellowcraft Degrees

**Wed., June 12, 6:30 p.m.**, Hospitality Lodge No. 128, Wethersfield, Dinner Note: Degree is at Unity Lodge No. 148 in New Britain. Dinner Reservations to [H128Reservations@gmail.com](mailto:H128Reservations@gmail.com)

## Master Mason Degrees

**Sat., June 1, 9 a.m.**, Trumbull Lodge No. 22, New Haven, Coffee & Donuts

**Wed, June 5, 6:30 p.m.**, Columbia Lodge No. 25, Glastonbury, 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 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.

### **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

### **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

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

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

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

## Events

**Sun., June 2, 3 p.m.**, Wyllys St. John's Lodge No. 4, West Hartford, Noshes & Knowledge Improving Our Working Memory

**Tue, June 4,** DeMolay Golf Outing Far.ms Country Club

**Sat., June 8, 12 p.m.**, Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, Annual MWB Benjamin Franklin BBQ. Pig roast with all the fixings, outdoor games, and good fellowship! Open to all Brothers and male guests. Tickets \$30 in advance.

**Mon., June 17, 6 p.m.**, Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville, FC Steak Outing



**Sat, Jul 6,** Seneca Lodge No. 55, Torrington, Family Mini-Golf Outing Matterhorn Mini Golf, 10 Dyer Cemetery Rd, Canton

**Sun., July 7, 3 p.m.**, Wyllys St. John's Lodge No. 4, West Hartford, Noshes & Knowledge, The Declaration of Independence

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# The Meeting of George Washington and Samuel Mott In Preston City on March 5, 1781 by Greg Webster

In a public area, in the basement of the Preston Town Hall on Rt. 2 in Preston, is a painting titled *The Meeting of George Washington and Samuel Mott in Preston City on March 5, 1781*. It is the work of Plainfield artist David Wagner. Mr. Wagner began his painting career in Spain and was a successful landscape and portrait painter in Europe. His interest in painting the history of Connecticut began with a commission to paint an early forge. He completed five bicentennial murals for surrounding towns in eastern Connecticut.

This painting, commissioned by the Preston Bicentennial Committee in 1975, represents the meeting of George Washington and Samuel Mott on March 5, 1781, in Preston City. General Washington was on his way to Newport, then to his final victorious confrontation with Britain's General Cornwallis in Yorktown,

Virginia. Colonel Mott, a civil engineer who served the revolutionary cause throughout the war, was a resident of Preston City at the site of what is now the Old Library. The mural includes several other men and women of the town who are supposed to have witnessed Washington's stopover with his friend. Major Edward Mott, like his brother, played a large part in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga. Dr. Joshua Downer served as a surgeon throughout the war, and Colonel Jeremiah Halsey served with the 47th Regiment.

The small boy at the left of the mural represents the colonel's son, George Washington Halsey, who allegedly received his name on the occasion of a previous visit to the town by Washington. Also shown in the mural is Major Nathan Peters, a Preston man who covered himself with glory during the war and went on to become a learned and able lawyer.

Since none of these personages left behind a likeness of their features, the author felt free to take gentle liberty with the historical truth and fill these blank and unknown visages with the features of Preston townsfolk in 1976.

*The author wishes to thank the Preston Historical Society for assisting him in his research and for the photos.*

## Key to the Preston Revolutionary War Mural

Location: Looking down Amos Road, the north end of an early Amos (Jones) home may be seen. It is noted to be the Poor House. Across the road is the town pound, still usable and owned by the Town of Preston. The center house and the small blue cottage were owned by Dr. Joshua Downer in 1781. Both structures were destroyed when the 1935 highway was constructed.



Individuals, left to right:

1. Dr. Joshua Downer – Richard Camp
2. Major Nathan Peters – Frederick Mahler
3. Bodyguard – Paul Brown
4. Mrs. Samuel Mott (Lydia Tyler) – Sophie Woodmansee
5. Mrs. Jeremiah Halsey (Esther Parke) – Joyce Steffenson
6. Mrs. Joshua Downer (Hulda Crary) – Mary Mahle
7. Sally Peters (d. of Nathan & Lois Crary) – Emily Camp
8. George Washington Halsey (s. of Jeremiah & Esther Parke) – Peter Camp
9. Lydia Mott (d. of Samuel & Lydia Tyler) – Susan Quinn
10. Colonel Samuel Mott – William Quinn
11. Aide-de-camp – David Wagner, Artis
12. Major Edward Mott – William Champagne
13. Bodyguard – Wilfred Park
14. Colonel Jeremiah Halsey – Palmer Steffenson, Town Clerk
15. General George Washington – Likeness from Houdon clay bust made in 1785
16. Bodyguard – David Norman
17. Bodyguard – Nicholas D'Aquila
18. Bodyguard - Henry Piszczek – First Selectman





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# The Garibaldi Degree: A Degree Unlike Any Other...

by Jeffrey A. Blayman

Thanks to the thoughtful planning of Bro. Jerry Nero, there were plenty of tickets reserved for a contingent of brothers from Connecticut to attend the Garibaldi Degree at the Grand Lodge of New York. After battling the traffic and the insanity of parking in the Big Apple, it was a few blocks walk to the lodge building. Once inside, throngs of attendants and brothers offered greetings, celebratory ribbons, commemorating the occasion, and commemorative Giuseppe Garibaldi lapel pins for sale.

The Garibaldi Degree, as it is called, is reminiscent of late 1800s, early 1900s Masonic European ritual. With the addition of physical trials and a little bit of fire, brothers are transported into a different time and country. The brothers of Garibaldi Lodge No. 542 delivered the degree with the profound power of the Italian language, occasionally translated by a Master of Ceremonies, who helped to organize the crowd at the appropriate times and also delivered some well-placed comedic remarks.

With nine friends becoming brothers, the evening was not short on theatrics, nor was there an empty seat to be seen as nearly 1,000 brothers came together to witness this Entered Apprentice degree. Brothers traveled from Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and upstate New York. The Grand East was full of Past Grandmasters, including two from Connecticut: MWB Rev. Bruce R Belmore and MWB Melvin E Johnson, who looked on fondly, remembering their own Entered Apprentice degree to be sure.

After the long evening drew to a close, everyone said their goodbyes, took their group photos, and made their way down to the ground floor and out onto the streets of New York, where the city was still buzzing, even after 11 p.m. It was indeed a special evening for all who attended, and something that should be added to any brother's to-do list for next year.

Una nota speciale di gratitudine ai nostri fratelli italiani della Loggia Garibaldi, 542. Grazie mille





July 20th,  
2024



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★ **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

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**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.



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