



# LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS

FROM THE VALLEYS OF BRIDGEPORT,  
NEW HAVEN, AND WATERBURY  
OLDEST CONSISTORY IN THE NORTHERN MASONIC JURISDICTION

Issue No. 31

WINTER 2022

## 18TH ANNUAL TURKEY DAY TROT 2021 ~ STRATFORD, CT



(l-r) Mark H. Hawkins, 32°, and DeMolay Dads Kevin M. Field and Julio A. Calvao ~ Volunteers at the 18th Annual Turkey Day Trot



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Lafayette Consistory News is the official publication of the Valley of Bridgeport and Lafayette Consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, USA © The Board of Trustees of the Valley of Bridgeport.

**ALLEGIANCE**

The Bodies of the Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Bridgeport, State of Connecticut, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts.

- ILL.: PETER JOHN SAMIEC, 33°  
Sovereign Grand Commander
- ILL.: KEVIN J. HECHT, 33°  
Deputy for Connecticut
- ILL.: BRUCE T. WORK, 33°  
Active for Connecticut
- ILL.: RICHARD V. TRAVIS, 33°  
Active Emeritus for Connecticut
- ILL.: JAMES R. SPENCER JR., MSA, 33°  
Active Emeritus for Connecticut
- ILL.: DAVID L. SHARKIS, 33°  
Active Emeritus for Connecticut
- ILL.: GAIL N. SMITH, 33°  
Active Emeritus for Connecticut

- Attest: ILL.: JACK J. S. FARKAS, MSA, 33°  
Secretary for the Valley of Bridgeport
- THOMAS E. BECK, MSA, 32°  
Assoc. Secretary for the Valley of Bridgeport
- GARY D. SHEPARD, MSA, 32°  
Asst. Secretary for the Valley of Bridgeport

**Lafayette Consistory**

- Ill.: Paul L. Chello, 33° - Commander-in-Chief
- Ill.: Robert J. Furce, MSA, 33° - 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander
- Harold A. Elwell, MSA, 32° - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander
- Daniel Galloza, MSA, 32° - Orator
- Ill.: Steven P. Schreck, MSA, 33° - Chancellor
- Erik P. Meyer, MSA, 32° - Master of Ceremonies
- Raymond J. Savoy, 32° - Engineer & Seneschal
- Willis E. Copeland Jr., MSA, 32° - Organist



Colin Souney, 32°, helps man the water station at this years turkey trot which was attended by more than 900 runners.

**Dewitt Clinton Lodge of Perfection**

- Raymond J. Savoy, 32° - Thrice Potent Master
- Jeff E. Feinson, 32° - Deputy Master
- Tyreke M. T. Bird, 32° - Senior Warden
- Stephen S. Elliott, 32° - Junior Warden
- Guy O. Whelchel, III, MSA, 32° - Orator
- Gary Ecsedi, 32° - Master of Ceremonies
- John H. Kelley, 32° - Captain of the Guard
- Stephen J. Nevins, 32° - Master of Entrances

**Washington Council Princes of Jerusalem**

- Jonathan G. DeBaun, 32° - Sovereign Prince
- Jerry Gruenbaum, 32° - High Priest
- David Papp, 32° - Senior Warden
- David Rupar, 32° - Junior Warden
- Jack J. Baril, Jr., 32° - Orator
- Calvin K. Foreman, 32° - Master of Ceremonies
- T. Woodford Hittle, 32° - Captain of the Guard
- Colin Souney, 32° - Master of Entrances

**Pequonnock Chapter Rose Croix**

- Silas Mante, 32° - Most Wise Master
- David H. Cooper, 32° - Senior Warden
- Jonathan G. DeBaun 32° - Junior Warden
- Christopher Jennings, 32° - Orator
- Lorenzo P. Gaudio, 32° - Master of Ceremonies
- Victor D. Ojeda, 32° - Captain of the Guard
- William E. Schueler, 32° - Master of Entrances

**Valley Officers for all Bodies**

- Ill.: Edward R. Ham, 33° - Treasurer
- Ill.: Robert J. Furce, MSA, 33° - Assistant Treasurer
- Ill.: Jack J.S. Farkas, MSA, 33° - Secretary
- Thomas E. Beck, MSA, 32° - Associate Secretary
- Gary D. Shepard, MSA, 32° - Assistant Secretary

**Valley Officers cont.**

- Ill.: David B. Urban, MSA, 33° - Hospitaller
- Harvey J. Hartin, MSA, 32° - Tyler
- Ill.: Carl H. Anderson, 33° - Director of Music
- Guy O. Whelchel, III, MSA, 32° - Choir Coordinator
- Ill.: Raymond J. Dolyak, MSA, 33° - Manager, Stage & Properties
- Joseph Lengyel, MSA, 32° - Asst. Manager, Stage & Props.
- William F. Henning, II, MSA, 32° - Lighting & Sound
- John A. Amarilios, MSA, 32° - Membership Chairman
- Gary D. Shepard, MSA, 32° - Family Life Chairman
- John A. Amarilios, MSA, 32° - Newsletter Editor

**Valley of New Haven**

- Ill.: Randy S. Stevens, 33° - Thrice Potent Master
- Jerry Gruenbaum, 32° - Sovereign Prince
- Ill.: Bradley K. Cooney, 33° - Most Wise Master
- Ill.: Richard C. Memmott, Sr., 33° - Treasurer
- Ill.: Charles D. O'Neill, MSA, 33° - Secretary

**Valley of Waterbury**

- Jack J. Baril, Jr., 32° - Thrice Potent Master
- Steven J. Nevins, 32° - Sovereign Prince
- Daniel J. Reeve, 32° - Most Wise Master
- Ill.: Charles A. McCollum, MSA, 33° - Treasurer
- Ill.: Charles D. O'Neill, MSA, 33° - Secretary



# John A. Amarilios, BOL OF *John A. Amarilios*, PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

*It's always interesting to see how brothers are affected by degrees that they view for the very first time. Rarely do we get correspondence from a brother who is so profoundly affected by what he has seen at a Scottish Rite Theater. Brother James W. D'Acosta took time out to write down his impressions. Here are his impressions after watching the 14th degree on Wednesday, October 11, 2006 in Waterbury, Connecticut:*

I find myself in a converted church for the 14th Degree. I see pews and can easily tell where generations of choir members sang hymns, anthems, and dirges. I wonder whether the congregation prospered and moved to a larger site or withered and left their dead in a forgotten graveyard? I realize that buildings are more transitory than their bricks and mortar appear. Buildings serve people. When people move, buildings stay behind providing the community with an echo of the past. Dinner reminds me of Christian's, a favorite restaurant in New Orleans that serves its soft-shelled crabs in a former sanctuary.

Two blue lodges make use of the building for regular meetings, and a principal charity of this Scottish Rite Valley is housed next door. The 32nd Degree Masonic Learning Center for Children provides tutoring for dyslexic children. My reading is slowed as I pause to distinguish lower case "b's" from "d's." Children with crippling levels of this malady must find school intensely frustrating and life as adults very difficult in our highly literate society. This is a wonderful charity.

Props include the 10 Commandments and the Ark of the Covenant. I inch forward as the Ark comes into view and recall the magnificent model displayed at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia. Few objects from antiquity are subjects of such awe.

Bread and wine are passed. I am uncomfortable. The brotherhood and virtue commended is not in conflict with the Gospel, but it is not the same as claiming to be blood and body in a religious ceremony. The contrast is heightened by

the use of the same tray and plate of individual cups of wine and small servings of white bread as used in many Protestant communion services. Is this an attack on a familiar symbol? I listen closely. We are called to behave as brothers. There is no dogma here. Trust in God. Enjoy the gift of life. Help those in need. Live in peace.

This night I am one of three candidates. One speaks with the heavy accent of an eastern European language I can't distinguish. The other brother, visiting from Hartford, is accompanied by an officer of his Consistory and is a different African American man than I met in the 4th Degree. We are treated to equal measures of warmth and sincere welcome. The current political debate over immigration and the persistent remnants of prejudice holds no currency here.

Rain makes driving conditions dangerous as I leave. I left my glasses at home and now try my prescription sun glasses. Within moments I nearly hit another car. I throw off my sun glasses and squint for the remainder of my trip. I place my trust in God. "There are no atheists in fox holes," wrote Stephen Ambrose describing soldiers on the front lines during WW II. Danger prompts prayer.

Other images push their way into my mind's eye. Tonight, I examined the bylaws book of the Valley of Waterbury. This book contains the signatures of every member since 1897. Graceful strokes of fountain pens dominate the early decades and notations in pencil give death notices in the margins. Men have come together here for over 100 years. The building has changed, but the ideals of Masonry ever call men to mutual support in making themselves and society better.

I wasn't the only one who forgot something that evening; Tom Kozlowski, my brother candidate from Poland, forgot his wallet. His face became radiant as he described the joy of handling his 4-month-old grandchild just before our meeting. New life overtook his regular cares. God called, I believe, reminding him of the beauty and goodness of life and the promise of immortality.

**Letters from the Archives continued on page 9**



# THE REBIS: A SYMJohn A. Amarilios, BOLOF *John A. Amarilios*, PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

~ John A. Amarilios, MSA, 32°

## HOSPITALER'S CORNER

Your gifts to the Hospitaler Fund assist David in helping out local Brothers who are members of the Consistory. Unfortunately, there never has been a greater need. If you have experienced good fortune in the past year, why not pass a portion of it forward to help a Brother in need. Many are struggling with age-related debilities, as well as misfortunes of every kind.

Please make your contribution payable to **Lafayette Consistory** and mail to **David B. Urban, Hospitaler**  
**P.O. Box 309,**  
**Stratford CT 06615**

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W.M.: What are you here to do?

S.W. : To learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry.

The illustration of the Rebis first appeared in an alchemical text entitled “Azoth of the Philosophers,” written by Basil Valentine in 1613. The Rebis is the successful final product of a personal alchemical transformation. Its meaning is derived from the Latin for “double matter.” Personal transformation is a slow, steadfast regimen that involves several different steps through which the proverbial rough stone is fashioned into a finished one. This endeavor, often referred to as “The Great Work,” involves the awakening of the slumbering eternal Master within, so that it establishes primacy over the temporary personality with which it shares the bodily vehicle for the current lifetime.

The Rebis represents the finished product after one has gone thru the processes of putrefaction and purification, which entails separating two opposing qualities and then reuniting them. Putrefaction alludes to the burning out of the dross and impure, while purification reunites them in a clean and unsullied form. This Rebis represents the reunited opposites after they have been “cleaned up.” Anciently this was referred to as the divine “Hermaphrodite.”

The five planetary glyphs represent the influence that the heavenly orbs bear upon the qualities being transformed. The sun and the moon allude to the male and female potentialities, while the glyph for Mercury is found between the two heads. Mercury works as the divine communicator allowing the male and female potentialities to communicate and understand their need for balance and the division of responsibility in the work.

The Rebis figure stands on a circle that encompasses a triangle and a square. The triangle alludes to spirituality, and the square alludes to terrestrial materiality—major points on a compass and the seasons. The two added together equal seven, which is a number of completions, as in the number of days it took deity to fashion the world per the Great Light. The Rebis holds two working tools, the compass (for drawing circles and alluding to the spiritual) and the square for drawing right angles in squares or rectangles, thus alluding to the world of material endeavor. The fire-breathing dragon below alludes to the transformative nature of heat. The dragon in alchemical literature often represents the element of Sulphur, which is instrumental in the process of merging the material with the spiritual. We can thus see that some of the symbolism employed by Freemasonry can be found in the cloudy mists of the old alchemical tradition of the Middle Ages.



# ENJOYING THE BOSTON POPS



DECEMBER 4, 2021



'TIS THE SEASON . . .

. . . FA-LA-LA!



# 18TH ANNUAL TURKEY DAY TROT

**A FUN DAY!**



**FOR  
FAMILY,  
SERIOUS,  
AND FUN  
RUNNERS**



**FOR  
SPECTATORS**



# STRATFORD, CT ~ NOVEMBER 25, 2021



Approximately 2,000 spectators watched more than 900 runners complete the 18th Annual Turkey Day Trot on Thanksgiving morning. Consistory members ran in the turkey trot and also volunteered their time. A portion of the proceeds from the Turkey Day Trot will be donated to the Childrens Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut.



**FOR VOLUNTEERS AND EVERYONE!**



**Two Cents on Pike's 14th Chapter, "Grand Elect, Perfect, and Sublime Mason," in *Morals and Dogma*:**

There is enough heresy here against Catholic dogma to condemn a man to burn at the stake. I can picture a papal functionary peering greedily into the eyes of a defendant reciting Masonic philosophy: "Masonry, around whose altars the Christian, the Hebrew, the Moslem, the Brahmin, the followers of Confucius and Zoroaster, can assemble as brethren and unite in prayer to the one God who is above all the Baalim, must needs leave it to each of its initiates to look for the foundation of his faith and hope to the written scriptures of his own religion" (226). And then there is: "He is our Father; and we are all brethren" (227). Well, spread the charcoal briquettes, throw a match on the lighter fluid, grab the hot dogs, and get the party going!

I am thankful that men took action long ago to end the Inquisition, but I am aware of similar intolerance today. My brother-in-law, a conservative Christian, quit Masonry because of its universality. An Imam at a Mosque in Bridgeport said Buddhists are idolaters condemned to the hell fire, although a Buddhist monk in a temple a few buildings away made clear to me that Buddhists do not worship the myriad images of

Buddha proliferating their temples, homes, work sites, and public spaces. The nightly news carries examples of religious fanatics slaughtering non-believers. I am also thankful for our secret modes of recognition because danger depends more on local circumstances than on history.

James W. D'Acosta  
Fidelity-St. John's 3, Fairfield, CT  
Scottish Rite Valley of Bridgeport, CT

*Pike, Albert. **Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry**. Charleston: Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, 1871; reprint, Richmond: L. H. Jenkins, Inc., 1944.*



Valley of Bridgeport and Lafayette Consistory

# Scotch and Cigar Night

Friday, January 14, 2022  
7 to 10 p.m.

**Stamford Cigar Bar,**  
75 Research Drive,  
Stamford, Ct.

Bring your fellow friends for an evening of good fellowship.  
Scottish Rite, Masons and men interested in our Fraternity  
are all welcome! Dress is business casual.

Limit is 35.  
Make your  
reservations soon!

**CONTACT**  
Mike Jachimczyk at  
203-979-5011 or email  
[mcjesq@icloud.com](mailto:mcjesq@icloud.com)  
or the Consistory at  
203-375-0064 or [email  
Office@LafayetteConsistory.com](mailto:Office@LafayetteConsistory.com)  
\$15.00 per person for:  
two cigars and one drink.  
Additional available.

**DIRECTIONS FROM GREENWICH**  
I-95 to Exit 9–Glenbrook. Turn left on to Seaside Ave. Turn left on to East Main Street. Turn right on to Courtland Ave. Follow Courtland Ave. to the end. Turn right on to Glenbrook Road. Turn left on to Research Drive. Stamford Cigar Bar is on left.

**DIRECTIONS FROM BRIDGEPORT**  
I-95 to Exit 9 – Glenbrook. Turn right at East Main Street. Quick right on to Courtland Ave. Follow Courtland Ave. to the end. Turn right on to Glenbrook Road. Turn left on to Research Drive. Stamford Cigar Bar is on left.



# New 33rds Honored



*September 18, 2021 ~ The new 33rds and their ladies at the Hawthorn in Berlin.*

.....

## I AM

Without beginning, without end,  
Older than night or day,  
Younger than the babe new-born  
Brighter than light  
Darker than darkness,  
Beyond all things and creatures,  
Yet fixed in the heart of everyone.

Of all existences I am the source,  
The continuation and the end.  
...All things and creatures I send forth;  
I support them while they stand without;  
And when the dream of separation ends,

I cause them to return to myself.  
Apart from me  
There is neither wisdom,  
Nor knowledge, nor understanding.

My presence is the substance of all things...  
See me and regard me equally in all, O Israel  
And thou shalt see indeed.

*Br. Paul Foster Case,  
Book of Tokens, Aleph*

# John A. Amarilios, BOL OF *John A. Amarilios*, PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

*We mourn the passing of the following Scottish Rite Brethren  
whose deaths were reported in 2020-2021*



<i>NAME</i>	<i>32° CONFERRED</i>	<i>LODGE</i>	<i>HOME VALLEY</i>	<i>DATE OF DEATH</i>
William Blythe, 32°	12/1/63	Meridian Lodge Lodge No. 77	New Haven	2/15/17
R. Anthony Ciociola, 32°	4/8/06	Wooster Lodge No. 79	New Haven	6/19/21
Dennis J. Darak, 32°	12/1/79	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89	New Haven	4/28/21
William N. Elliott, 32°	5/2/94	Temple Lodge No. 16	Waterbury	3/11/21
Joel A. Goldberg, 32°	5/2/05	CosmopolitaLodge No. 125	New Haven	7/2/21
Howard M. Goldman, 32°	5/4/81	Annawon Lodge No. 15	New Haven	3/6/21
Charles Haigh, 32°	12/4/95	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89	New Haven	5/3/21
Edward J. Holliday, 32°	11/12/16	Renovation, NYLodge No. 97	Bridgeport	5/26/21
Paul F. Johnson, 32°	12/1/72	Housatonic Lodge No. 61	Waterbury	3/19/21
Stanley G. Kost, 32°	12/1/80	Fidelity-St John's Lodge No. 3	Bridgeport	5/17/21
John W. Krisak, Sr., 32°	12/7/87	Center Lodge No. 97	New Haven	5/1/21
Harry A. Leigh, 32°	1/10/04	Acacia Lodge No. 85	Bridgeport	5/30/20
George D. Lyon, Jr., 32°	12/1/62	Harmony Lodge No. 42	Bridgeport	1/28/21
Eugene F. Martin, 32°	12/1/74	King Solomon's Lodge No. 7	Waterbury	3/3/21
Joseph S. Misencik, 32°	5/1/67	Washington Lodge No. 19	Bridgeport	5/27/21
James A. Nankin, 32°	10/8/01	Temple Lodge No. 16	New Haven	5/14/21
Gennaro J. Paolillo, 32°	5/6/02	Corinthian Lodge No. 63	New Haven	9/5/19
Nicholas G. Papadopoulos, 32°	5/1/79	Annawon Lodge No. 15	New Haven	3/13/21
Edward Paradise, 32°	5/7/98	Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14	Waterbury	2/15/21
Louis Parsitsky, 32°	11/12/05	Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125	New Haven	3/5/21
Philip E. Perrigo, 32°	5/7/88	Corinthian Lodge No. 104	Bridgeport	5/2/21
Peter J. Stapleton, 32°	1/10/04	St. Alban's Lodge No. 38	Bridgeport	6/27/21
John W. Taylor, Jr., MSA, 32°	5/4/87	Mound City, KS Lodge No. 33	Bridgeport	7/10/20
David F. Yerxa, 4°	10/19/98	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89	New Haven	5/11/21

*May they rest from their labors.*

# HEADED HOME AFTER A DAY OF FISHING SEPTEMBER 26, 2021



## BROTHERS REMEMBER

Whether traveling from in or out of the state it is easy to get to the Stratford Leo H. Lohrman, II, Scottish Rite Theatre via Metro North. Our Theatre is located right next door to the Stratford Train Station. Avoid I-95 traffic and parking concerns. Consult the Metro North Train Schedule at: <http://Www.mta.info/schedules>.

### LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS

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## VALLEY OF BRIDGEPORT 2022 DEGREE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	DEGREE(S)
Monday February 7	Stratford	9th Degree (live), 19th Degree (video)
Monday February 28	Stratford	21st Degree (live), 31st (video)
Monday March 21	Stratford	30th Degree (live), 23rd Degree (video)
Monday April 11	Stratford	Paschal Lamb (live)
Monday April 25	Stratford	5th Degree (live), 12th Degree (video)
Monday May 2	Stratford	32nd Degree (live), dinner starts at 5 p.m.
Saturday July 23	Stratford	7th Degree (live), 24th Degree (video)
Monday September 12	Stratford	4th Degree (live), 13th Degree (live)
Monday October 3	Stratford	28th Degree (live), 6th Degree (video)
Monday October 24	Stratford	16th Degree (live), 15th Degree (video)
Monday November 14	Stratford	22nd Degree (live), 17th Degree (video)
Monday December 5	Stratford	32nd Degree (live), dinner starts at 5 p.m.

Dinners are at 6:00 p.m., degrees at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. The 4th Degree video is offered as needed to new candidates prior to degree portrayals, so they can start their Scottish Rite journey on any date.

New candidates must register 45 min before degree. Dinners before Bridgeport Degrees on Mondays are at 6 p.m. unless otherwise noted, in the Shrine building. Saturday Degrees at 11 a.m., followed by lunch in the Shrine building. \$10/per Brother. RSVP required for dinner or lunch. Email: [Office@LafayetteConsistory.com](mailto:Office@LafayetteConsistory.com) or call 203-375-0064.