LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS

FROM THE VALLEYS OF BRIDGEPORT, NEW HAVEN, AND WATERBURY

OLDEST CONSISTORY IN THE NORTHERN MASONIC JURISDICTION

Issue No. 33 SUMMER 2022

MWGM Ill.·. Bruce R. Bellmore, 33°, Installs the Heads of the Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Bridgeport on May 16, 2022

Tyreke M.T. Bird, 32° - Thrice Potent Master, Dewitt Clinton Lodge of Perfection
Jerry Gruenbaum, 32° - Sovereign Prince, Washington Council Princes of Jerusalem
David H. Cooper, 32° - Most Wise Master, Pequonnock Chapter Rose Croix
Ill.·. Robert J. Furce, MSA, 33° - Commander-in-Chief, Lafayette Consistory

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Harvey Hartin, MSA, 32°, prepares the cookies and coffee for those with a penchant for java after each and every degree and meeting night.

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

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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 J. SAMIEC, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander
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Active Emeritus for Connecticut
ILL.·. DAVID L. SHARKIS, 33°
Active Emeritus for Connecticut
ILL.·. GAIL N. SMITH, 33°
Active Emeritus for Connecticut

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Attest: THOMAS E. BECK, MSA, 32°
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ILL.·. JACK J. S. FARKAS, MSA, 33°
Associate Secretary for the Valley of Bridgeport
JONATHAN G. DEBAUN, MSA, 32°
Assistant Secretary for the Valley of Bridgeport

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Lafayette Consistory

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Martin Cernuch, 32° - Standard Bearer

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David V. Papp, 32° - High Priest
Rafael F. Hamoy, 32° - Senior Warden
Jack J. Baril, Jr., 32° - Junior Warden
T. Woodford Hittle, 32°- Orator
R. Scott Nocerino, 32°- Master of Ceremonies
Colin C. Souney, 32° - Captain of the Guard
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Renen F. Hanoy, 32° - Standard Bearer

Pequonnock Chapter Rose Croix

David H. Cooper, 32° - Most Wise Master
Jonathan G. DeBaun, MSA, 32° - Senior Warden
Christopher S. J. Jennings, 32° - Junior Warden
Lorenzo P. Gaudioso, 32° - Orator
Victor D. Ojeda, 32°- Master of Ceremonies
William E. Schueler, 32°- Captain of the Guard
Pedro Garcia, II, 32° - Master of Entrances
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Jonathan G. DeBaun, MSA, 32° - Assistant Secretary
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Joseph S. Lengyel, MSA, 32° - Asstistant Manager, Stage & Properties
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Jerry Gruenbaum, 32° - Family Life Assistant Chairman
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Ill.·. Charles D. O'Neill, MSA, 33° - Secretary

Letters from the Archives:
Common Symbols

We have another insightful piece to share from Brother James W.D. Acosta. This one came to the Valley after his viewing the 28th Degree on November 27, 2006, in New Haven.

Help Me Understand: Use Common Symbols to Teach Masonic Values

Obscure vocabulary and unknown history make it difficult for me to understand this degree as quickly as the George Washington Degree with its familiar American setting. Here I am reminded of lessons I did not fully learn in school. I hear of alchemy, the philosopher's stone, the Rosicrucian brotherhood, Charles II of England, and Ferdinand III of Bohemia and Hungary. My ignorance prevents me from engaging in the drama. I accept that Charles II endangers his life by meeting with the Rosicrucians but I have nothing invested in his fate. I don't know him.

I find the script contributing to my difficulty. The two sections of the degree are too separate. The connection between the opening ceremonial section depicting, I'm presuming, an operative stonemason's initiation and the closing section in which candidates for initiation in the Rosicrucians are tested, is not clear enough. Too much relies on the explanation in the Prologue and on Elias Ashmole's ending dialogue. The connection would be stronger with Ashmole going through the stonemason's initiation and then reemerging in the meeting of the Rosicrucians. This would give me a character to follow throughout the degree.

My complaints about this degree illuminate the degree's advice of using common symbols to communicate. The Rosicrucians fail to carry their message to large numbers of men because the vocabulary and symbols of alchemy that they use are too obscure. Ashmole suggests switching to the common working tools of Masons because those tools are recognized and understood by the general population. Similarly, I am not engaged because the setting in 17th-century Europe is obscure.

The prologues of the degrees emphasize the allegorical nature of the portrayals and my experience tonight convinces me that the settings *should* evolve. New daily experiences in telecommunications suggest familiar terms such as "interfacing" and "text messaging" and traumatic events such as the Columbine Massacre and the 9-11 attacks in the United States could readily provide powerful settings for teaching Masonic values.

Martin Luther's axiom of "the priesthood of all believers" continues to direct intense efforts to translate the Bible into local languages. Acceptance of doctrines is easier when core texts are accessible. Similarly, familiar symbols and settings improve Masonic communication and education. I look forward to witnessing dynamic changes in some of our degrees.

Two Cents on Pike's 28th Chapter, "Knight of the Sun, or Prince Adept" in *Morals and Dogma*: This chapter is dense and endless. I press for a month to get through the material and rebel at its difficulty; this offering of two hundred pages must represent years of research and synthesis by Pike.

Why does Pike spend so much time and energy reviewing ancient religions? The oneness of God and the brotherhood of man are evidently close to Pike's daily consciousness. If asked, "In whom do you place your trust?" I imagine Pike's affirmation that he places it in God to resonate vibrantly in his soul.

I see and hear oaths to God so often that I think little of them. I see "In God We Trust" printed and minted, and hear it announced repeatedly in my daily life as a public school teacher. Athletes and coaches signal their thanks to God for touch downs, baskets, and goals. But deep feelings of reverence toward God are not at the center of my life. Pike pushes me to be more aware of God's blessings and guidance.

Pike insists on common spiritual impulses and beliefs among the ancients. He strains to uncover a brotherhood of man through common belief in one God and in the immortality of the soul. For example, "The worship of the Sun became the basis of all the religions of antiquity" (598) and "Behold the great fundamental primitive truths!" (609). Pike repeats the phrases "Primal Unity" (613), "the old primeval faith" (616), and "the doctrine of one God" (616). Does Pike want this result so badly that he distorts the material? Does he begin by examining ancient religions and then conclude that they have profound similarities or does he begin with a burning desire to find unity and interpret the material to fit this conclusion?

An extension of his thesis of unity is his implication that modern Freemasonry descends from ancient mystery religions, "Though Masonry is identical with the Ancient Mysteries, it is so in this qualified sense; that it presents but an imperfect image of their brilliancy; the ruins only of their grandeur, and a system that has experienced progressive alterations, the fruits of social events and political circumstances." (624) On this point I find the author of a Short Talk Bulletin devoted to the subject to be convincing, "It does not necessarily follow that different groups are somehow connected just because we find similarities among them" (Leazer, 8).

Pike's distain for the intelligence of the general public surprises and challenges me. His phrases are aggressive and damning. He writes, for example, "… the Mysteries were carried into every country … [where they] might be known to those who were capable of

Letters from the Archives continued on page 4

Letters from the Archives continued from page 3

understanding them, and maintaining the true doctrine incorrupt; which the people, prone to superstition and idolatry, have in no age been able to do" (624). The purpose of the Mysteries, after ancient times, became to teach "… the intelligent laity the folly and absurdity of the creeds of the populace" (625).

To Pike, it's more than a question of education, there are people who are capable of understanding and people who are not. Though he is benevolent to all, he devotes his talent to an elite group while ignoring religious and socio-economic barriers. Pike's Masonry improves life for all people by educating, leading, encouraging, and sustaining the reflective, open-minded, and intellectual among us.

I review Pike's life and see his opposition to slavery fail, his championing of the rights of Native Americans fail, his efforts to avoid civil war fail, and the happiness of his marriage fail. The destruction and suffering he witnesses in the Civil War and its long aftermath substantiate his Masonic beliefs in the fleeting nature of wealth and social position. His disappointments in democracy and in marital happiness threaten to turn him bitter, elitist, and reclusive. Instead, he channels his energy, nurses his optimism, and remains vitally involved in society.

Often I hear that Masonry's mission is to improve society one good man at a time. I believe Pike sustained himself through his failures and disappointments by devoting part of his substantial gifts to finding, supporting, and leading a select group of men. His aristocracy is not of land, wealth, or academic achievement. Pike's world view divides the ethical and open-minded from the base and narrow.

The correct stewardship of the gift of ground, life, and talent from God is to lead others to greater comfort and happiness. Pike concentrates, especially after the Civil War and as he ages, on training leaders. He feeds his optimism and faith by devoting his energy to like-minded men. He is a farmer spreading seeds on fertile ground.

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

de Hoyos, Arturo. "The Mystery of The Royal Arch Word" in *Freemasonry In Context: History, Ritual, Controversy* edited by Arturo de Hoyos and S. Brent Morris, Lexington Books, New York, 2004, pages 221-222 on the Rosicrucian Brotherhood and the existence of both spiritual and mystical alchemy.

Leazer, Dr. Gary. "Mystery Religions and Freemasonry," The Short Talk Bulletin vol. 80 no. 6 (June 2003), page 8.

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.

Cast for the 30th Degree on March 21.

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

Devotion to Country and the Divine Law ~ *John A. Amarilios, MSA, 32°*

One of the principal core values of the Scottish Rite is devotion to country.

Men, no matter what nation they are born into, or have citizenship in, are bound by national and divine law to be loyal, thinking, and ever reminding themselves in their active consciousness that this is *their* land. The soul that is born or naturalized into the United States of America, if he is to be a true American in spirit, is also under the law of the prophets, who had deemed that America is a nation set aside for a specific purpose. America is not just another nation-state. The mission and existence of this nation have a high moral and spiritual purpose, unlike any other nation that has ever existed. I point the interested reader to two sources of background for this revelation, namely, Manly P. Hall's "Secret Destiny of America", and Grace Kincaid Morey's "Mystic Americanism or The Spiritual Heritage of America Revealed."

It should be clear to anyone who can generate a breath that our country today has reached a point of existential crisis.

Abraham Lincoln gave an address to the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield, Illinois on January 27, 1838, titled "The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions" in which he stated: *"Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant to step into the ocean and crush us at a blow? Never! All the armies of Europe, Asia, and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest, with a Bonaparte for a commander, could not by force take a drink from the Ohio or make a track on the Blue Ridge in a trial of a thousand years. At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer. If it ever reaches us it must spring up amongst us; it cannot come from abroad. If destruction is our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time or die by suicide."*

Each American, as a citizen, or by becoming a citizen, assumes the responsibility of complete nationalism. As such, he must fulfill the law of individualization – meaning standing aside from all other men, yet in harmony with them in bringing about the fulfillment of his own spiritual destiny, and then that of America as a chosen land. Failing those two goals relegates him to the pile of chaff spoken of in Revelation.

While I have written about soul consciousness and awakening the proverbial "master within" in the past on these pages, it is now imperative that sufficient numbers of awakened brothers lift the nation up in thought, desire, act, and consequence so that the nation regains its footing so as to remain above the herd law which dictates to the members of decadent nations. The country must once again be populated by masses who through desire and personal effort have lifted themselves into a strong and positive consciousness, so proud and strong that America, as a whole, will once again be composed of an uncounted number of citizens, permitted to think, live, and work as free men with little interference.

The individual destinies of all men, if they accept the instructions embedded in the divine law as laid out and embedded in the Great Light, are identical, except that citizens of decadent nations remain enslaved under the Herd Law that manages their mass collective mind. Those souls, if they act upon an earnest and conscious desire to escape the Herd Law prevailing in those dark and unhappy lands, come to America to be free from those Herd Laws, and with the requisite mindset can join us in lifting and keep the nation above the morass of the Herd Law. If they desire to be free to choose their own goals and do so while not interfering with the rights of others, and as long as they have the love of America at heart and loyalty to America – American nationalism, second only to love and loyalty to their Creator - they will be fine additions to our land. Ignoring these imperatives, and not properly inculcating our citizens, let alone those who seek to be naturalized due to our collective sloth, self-centeredness, or inattention will lead us to the suicide that Lincoln so poignantly spoke about in 1838.

Scottish Rite Building Corporation and t
Valley of Bridgeport

Bro. Renan Hamoy, 32° signs in for the Annual Meetings of the Scottish Rite Building Corporation and the Valley of Bridgeport.

Annual Meeting

The Valley of Bridgeport's new Secretary, Thom Beck, MSA, 32°, with outgoing Secretary Ill.·. Jack Farkas, MSA, 33°, and Treasurer Ill.·. Edward R. Ham, 33°, keep track of the agendas.

The Feast of
Paschal La

On April 11, the Valley of Br remembered and honore brothers who have passed the past three years, with th of the Paschal Lamb cere

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he retiring heads of the 2021-2022 Scottish Rite Bodies,
r) S.P. Jonathan G. Debaun, MSA, 32°, T.P.M. Raymond J. Savoy, 32°.
.W.W. Silas Mante, 32°, and 1st Lt. Ill∴Robert J. Furce, MSA, 33°, in for
-i-C Ill∴Paul L. Chello, 33°.

Eric Meyer, MSA 32° reports on building repairs and renovations.

The lines are sworn in.

May 16, 2022

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he Feast
emony.

WALK

TO HELP CHILDREN WITH DYSLEXIA

Sponsored by

Children's Dyslexia Centers, Inc.

Now with 3 Connecticut Locations

The Waterbury Learning Center
529 Highland Avenue
Waterbury, CT 06708

The Bridgeport Tutoring Satellite
961 Huntington Turnpike
Bridgeport CT 06610

The Hartford Area Tutoring Satellite
2 High Street
Farmington CT 06032

When: Sunday October 2, 2022
(Rain or Shine)

Where: Waterbury Masonic Temple
(Town Plot Area)
531 Highland Avenue
Waterbury, CT 06708

Course: 2 miles

Time: 12:00 Noon Registration
1:00 PM Step Off (start of event)

Info: Russ Griswold: 203-755-9179
Or Children's Dyslexia Center
of Connecticut: 203-465-0830
email : Waterbury@cdcinc.org
Picnic Lunch to follow WALK

Registration

☐ I plan to participate in the WALK. Enclosed is my registration fee of $15 (ages 12 and older), $5 (children under 12), $25 (family of 2 or more).

☐ I cannot attend, but enclosed is my donation of $_____.

☐ I would like to volunteer the day of the Walk. Please contact me at the phone/email below.

- Please make check payable to **CDC of CT WALK**
- Mail your registration form to: Children's Dyslexia Center of Connecticut, ATTN: 2022 Dyslexia Walk, 529 Highland Avenue, Waterbury, CT 06708.

_____
Name (please print)

_____
Address

_____
City/State/Zip

_____
Home Phone

_____
Email

_____
Work/Cell Phone

_____
Emergency Contact and Phone Number

Participant Liability Agreement:

Please enter me in the "Walk to Help Children with Dyslexia". I, on behalf of myself, my heirs, executors and administrators hereby release Children's Dyslexia Centers, Inc. from any and all claims, damages and rights of action I may have, present or future that may arise out of, or be incident to my participation in the Walk event. In addition, I grant permission for the use of my name and/or picture in any photograph, film or videotape of the event for any purpose.

_____
Signature (parent or guardian if under 18 years of age)

This agreement must be signed for the registration to be valid.

Walker's Name:_____

My Fundraising goal is: $_____

- Children's Dyslexia Centers, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and pledges are tax deductible.
- Please make checks payable to **Children's Dyslexia Center of CT**
- Pledges will be collected when you check in.

Sponsors (please print):

Name:_____

Phone:_____Amt: $_____

Name:_____

Phone:_____Amt: $_____

Name:_____

Phone:_____Amt: $_____

Name:_____

Phone:_____Amt: $_____

Name:_____

Phone:_____Amt: $_____

Name:_____

Phone:_____Amt: $_____

Name:_____

Phone:_____Amt: $_____

Name:_____

Phone:_____Amt: $_____

Name:_____

Phone:_____Amt: $_____

Total Collected: $_____

Return this page with amounts raised.

Valley of Bridgeport 2022 Degree Schedule

DATE		DEGREE(S)
Satruday	July 23	7th Degree (live), 24th Degree (video)
Monday	Sept. 12	4th Degree (live), 13th Degree (live)
Monday	Oct. 3	28th Degree (live), 6th Degree (video)
Monday	Oct. 24	16th Degree (live), 15th Degree (video)
Monday	Nov. 14	22nd Degree (live), 17th Degree (video)
Monday	Dec. 5	32nd Degree (live). Dinner starts 5 p.m.

Dinners are at 6 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 the Bridgeport degrees on Mondays are at 6 p.m. in the Shrine building, unless otherwise noted,

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 or call 203-375-0064.

Fellowship and Family Life Activities - July 2022 - February 2023

Following All Safety Precautions - Limited Numbers
Please Call the Office in Advance to Reconfirm Details Before Attending any of the Events.

JULY 10 - The Bridgeport & Port Jefferson Ferry. Ferry ride from Bridgeport, CT to Long Island, NY. 8 a.m. at the dock. On the ferry by 9 a.m. Everyone on their own to enjoy Port Jefferson. Dine, shop, tour, and return on your own. $20/person.

JULY 16 - Rhinebeck Aerodrome Air Show and Dinner. Rhinebeck, NY. Air show highlights from before WWI through the '20s and '30s. $65/person. Bus leaves The Leo H. Lohrman, II, Theatre in Stratford at 9 a.m. Air museum and snack stand on premises. Pre-show activity starts at 2 p.m. Air show at 2:30 p.m. Dinner at Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck.

AUG. 6 - Annual Clambake Picnic. A fun day for the entire Scottish Rite family. Bring a chair. 12 to 4 p.m.. Boothe Memorial Park, Stratford, CT. $10/person.

AUG. 12 - Scotch and Cigar Night. Limited to 35 people. $15/person. 75 Research Drive, Stamford CT. 7 -10 p.m.. Introduce your friends to the Scottish Rite. Limit to 35.

AUG. 27 - Tanglewood. Bus Trip to Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, MA, and Michael Tilson Thomas Night at Tanglewood, Lenox, MA, with piano prodigy Alexander Malofeev. In conjunction with Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

SEPT. 10 - Valley of Bridgeport Installation Dinner. Riverview Bistro, Stratford, CT. 6:30 p.m.. Cocktails followed by dinner. $20/person.

SEPT. 25 - Fishing Trip on Long Island Sound. Limited to 35 people - $20/person in advance to reserve your spot. Leaving Clinton's Riverside Basin Marina on the "Lucky Lady" Clinton, CT at 12:30 p.m. sharp. Introduce your friends to the Scottish Rite.

OCT. 1 - Essex Steam Train and Riverboat Cruise. Essex Steam. Train and Riverboat Cruise into the heart of the unspoiled Connecticut River Valley with a box lunch. Back by popular Demand. Details to follow.

OCT. 8 - Curling and Coctails. Bridgeport. Beer and libations. Further information coming.

OCT. 22 - 42nd Street at the Goodspeed Opera House. Dinner next door at the Gelston House followed by the musical show. Bus leaves the Leo H. Lohrman, II, Theatre at 4 p.m.. $95/person. Limit 50.

NOV. 24 - Annual Turkey Trot Road Race. 8 a.m. (Thanksgiving morning) – Annual fundraiser for local charities and the Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut.

DEC. 3 - Boston Pops Holiday Concert at Symphony Hall. Holiday concert. Shopping or dinner on your own at Faneuil Hall Market Place afterwards. $95/person. Details to follow.

DEC. 16 - Annual Holiday Party and Fundraiser for the Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut. Roaring Twenties or Formal Dress again! Includes cigar rolling and silent auction. The Woodwinds, 29 Schoolground Road, Branford CT. $40/person.

FEB. 24, 2023 - Trip to The George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria, VA. Re-enactment of the cornerstone laying on Monday, February 20, President's Day. **Three-day trip from 2/18/2023 to 2/21/2023.** Further details to follow.

SCOTCH AND CIGAR NIGHT

JANUARY 14, 2022

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.

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.

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

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS

From the Valleys of
Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury

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Published quarterly and inserted in the
Connecticut Freemasons newspaper

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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 Station. Avoid I-95 traffic and parking concerns. Consult the Metro North Train Schedule at: http://www.mta.info/schedules.

SAVE THE DATE TO
PLAY IT AGAIN AT THE

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PARTY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022

6 -10 P.M.

WOODWINDS, SPECIAL EVENTS VENUE

A Holiday Buffet Dinner
At the WoodWinds by Chef Silvio
And Dancing with a DJ

Four Hour Premium Open Bar
Cocktail Hour, Hot and Cold Hors d'Oeuvres
Salad Station
Pasta Station
Farfalle with Sunday Sauce, Tortellini Alfredo
Entrée Station
Chicken Marsala, Chicken Florentine, Salmon Champagne
Carving Station
Prime Rib & Stuffed Roast Pork
Complements Station ~ Herb Roasted Potatoes,
Seasonal Vegetables Medley, Rice Pilaf
Desserts ~ Assortment of Cookies and Pastries
Served with Coffee, Tea, or Expresso

DRESS is FORMAL or ROARING 20'S STYLE

ONLY $40.00 a person (cost the same as last year)
Reserve your place today.

Silent Auction and a Cigar Roller after dinner to
benefit the Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut.

CALL the Scottish Rite Office today to RSVP: 203-375-0064
Limited Space so RSVP Early by Friday, December 9.