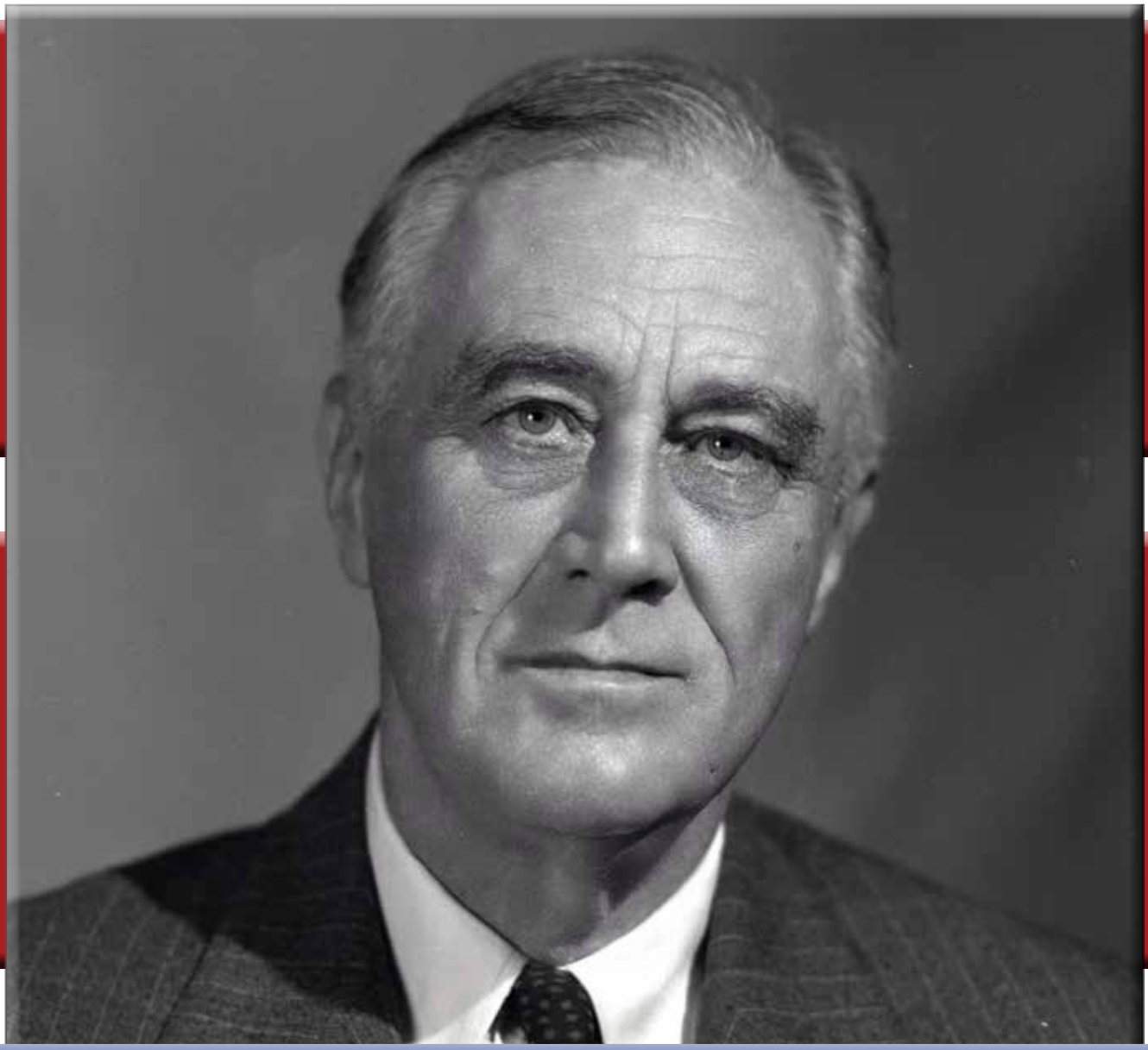
LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS

FROM THE VALLEYS OF BRIDGEPORT, NEW HAVEN, AND WATERBURY

OLDEST CONSISTORY IN THE NORTHERN MASONIC JURISDICTION

Issue No. 34 FALL 2022



"THE TEST OF OUR PROGRESS IS NOT WHETHER WE ADD MORE TO THE ABUNDANCE OF THOSE WHO HAVE MUCH; IT IS WHETHER WE PROVIDE ENOUGH FOR THOSE WHO HAVE TOO LITTLE."

~ ILL .·. FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, 33°

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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
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Harvey J. Hartin was Awarded the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze by the Grand Master at the Valley of Bridgeport Organizational Dinner on August 11, 2022.

l-r: Ill. Martin J. Macary, 33°; MWGM Bruce R. Bellmore, Harvey J. Hartin, 32°; Ill. Jack J.S. Farkas, MSA, 33°; Ill. Robert J. Furce, MSA, 33°; and Ill. James R. Spencer, Jr., MSA, 33°, are all recipients of the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze.

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
ILL.·. KEVIN J. HECHT, 33°
Deputy for Connecticut
ILL.·. BRUCE T. WORK, 33°
Active for Connecticut
ILL.·. RICHARD V. TRAVIS, 33°
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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

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Attest: THOMAS E. BECK, MSA, 32°
Secretary for the Valley of Bridgeport
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

Ill.·. Robert J. Furce, MSA, 33° - Commander-in-Chief
Harold A. Elwell, MSA, 32° - 1st Lt. Commander
Daniel Galloza, MSA, 32° - 2nd Lt. Commander
Ill.·. Steven P. Schreck, MSA, 33° - Orator
Erik P. Meyer, MSA, 32° - Chancellor
Raymond J. Savoy, 32° - Master of Ceremonies
Il.·. Martin Ede, MSA, 33° - Engineer and Seneschal
Il.·. Carl H. Anderson, 33° - Organist

Dewitt Clinton Lodge of Perfection

Tyreke M. T. Bird, 32° - Thrice Potent Master
Guy O. Whelchel, III, MSA, 32° - Senior Warden
Gary Ecsedi, 32°- Junior Warden
John H. Kelley, 32°- Orator
Stephen J. Nevins, 32° - Master of Ceremonies
Michael S. Abrahamson, 32°- Captain of the Guard
Travis E. Gerald, 32° - Master of Entrances
Martin Cernuch, 32° - Standard Bearer

Washington Council Princes of Jerusalem

Jerry Gruenbaum, 32° - Sovereign Prince
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
Ryan P. Caplette, 32° - Master of Entrances
Renen F. Hamoy, 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
David C. Gianetti, 32° - Standard Bearer

Valley Officers for all Bodies

Ill.·. Edward R. Ham, 33° - Treasurer
Thomas E. Beck, MSA, 32° - Secretary
Ill.·. Robert J. Furce, MSA, 33° - Assistant Treasurer
Ill.·. Jack J.S. Farkas, MSA, 33° - Associate Secretary
Jonathan G. DeBaun, MSA, 32° - Assistant Secretary
Ill.·. David B. Urban, MSA, 33° - Hospitaler

Valley Officers cont.

Gary D. Shepard, MSA, 32° - Tyler & Class Marshal
Harvey J. Hartin, MSA, 32° - Assistant 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 S. Lengyel, MSA, 32° - Asstistant Manager, Stage & Properties
Andrew P. Kolaski, Jr., 32° - Lighting Manager
Michael S. Abrahamson, 32° - Sound Manager
Jonathan G. DeBaun, MSA, 32° - Membership Chairman
John A. Amarilios, MSA, 32° - Assistant Membership Chairman
Gary Ecsedi, 32° - Family Life Chairman
Jerry Gruenbaum, 32° - Family Life Assistant Chairman
John A. Amarilios, MSA, 32° - Newsletter Editor

Valley of New Haven

Timothy C. R. Wilkins, 32° - Thrice Potent Master
Frederick A. Marotti, 32° - Sovereign Prince
Kirk C. Trofatter, Jr., MSA, 32° - Most Wise Master
Salvatore R. Ferrigno, 32° - Treasurer
Jerry Gruenbaum, 32° - Secretary

Valley of Waterbury

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Michael K. Kenausis, 32° - Sovereign Prince
Raymond J. Savoy, 32° - Most Wise Master
Ill.·. Charles A. McCollum, MSA, 33° - Treasurer
Ill.·. Charles D. O'Neill, MSA, 33° - Secretary

Letters from the Archives: Baghdad in Greatness

We have another insightful piece from Brother James W.D. Acosta. This one came to the Valley after his viewing of the 15th Degree on Monday, October 16, 2006, in Stratford.

Tonight, I travel with my friend Gary Shepard and experience a degree in my home Valley of Bridgeport for the first time. I am one of a dozen candidates, half of whom are black immigrants from Haiti who formed a new and vibrant lodge this year, Universal Fraternity No. 149, in Stratford, doing much of their work in French. I receive a name tag and sit in a former theater purchased by the Scottish Rite. I again ponder the changing fortune of buildings before concentrating on the 15th Degree.

The Babylonian captivity is familiar because I majored in Religious Studies in college, but my memory of details is poor, and my curiosity pulls me into the story. The costumes are brightly colored, and the acting is passionate. I consider the contrast between ancient Babylon and modern Iraq, and wonder how often battles have raged on her soil.

At home, I focus on the prologue to the degree. "Allegory" is a precise word. I turn to Webster's: an allegory is "the expression by means of symbolic fictional figures and actions of truths or generalizations about human existence."

Zerubbabel is incredibly lucky to be ruled by a king such as Cyrus. I believe men most often face Pontius Pilate when trying to fix social ills. Punishment is swift from men in power and redeemers wait in vain for support from the masses.

Cyourus may represent God giving an example of right action to be emulated by men in positions of power. Cyrus is a Zoroastrian, yet he respects the Hebrews Daniel and Zerubbabel. He even says they all worship the same God, though Cyrus knows Him as "Ahura Mazda." Zerubbabel is a man of principle who does not yield. His virtue is admired and rewarded. We should treat the Zerubabbels within r grasp with similar respect whether we are their bosses, heads of the committee, teachers, or coaches.

Beyond the degree, I reflect on Cyrus the Great. In history, Cyrus is an enemy to the Greeks, whom we revere. Then again, the Philistines, who are great enemies of the Hebrews whom we praise in many Masonic ceremonies, were likely Greeks. We honor the Greeks as fathers of democracy but are left speechless when confronted by their stratified society and slave-based economy. Perfection is elusive; we should strive for it in stages and celebrate each other's small successes.

Two Cents on Pike's 15th Chapter, "Knight of the East or of the Sword," in *Morals and Dogma:* Pike emphasizes the allegorical nature of this degree by not even mentioning Zerubbabel, Cyrus the Great, or Babylonia. He immediately states, "The leading lesson of this degree is fidelity to obligation, and Constancy and Perseverance under difficulties and discouragement" (237) and discusses philosophy rather than particular characters. I guess this is the reason why Scottish Rite leaders sometimes change the historical settings of degrees. The degrees teach morality, not history.

The 4th Degree introduced me to characters in World War II whose story is the subject of a future degree. This 1940s setting must supplant Pike's work as he changed many of the degrees when rewriting the entire Scottish Rite between 1853 and 1860 (Tresner, 236-237).

The circumstances of Pike's life when writing **Morals and Dogma**, published in 1871, gives power to the moral lessons of the degree. Here is a Southern frontiersman at the outbreak of the Civil War (though born and raised in Massachusetts) who supported the Constitution and opposed secession. He is a veteran of the Mexican War and believes himself duty-bound to support the Confederacy when his elected representatives lead Arkansas out of the Union. Once committed, he exerts all of his energy and talent for the *Lost Cause.* He rises to the rank of Brigadier General. He loses his home and fortune. He witnesses brutality and suffering (Tresner, 183, 198-205). Yet six years after the war, while Arkansas remains under Yankee military rule, he writes of God's plans and interventions, "All is good and well and right, and shall be so forever." (Pike, 240).

Pike's faith is in a benevolent, paternalistic God who is lovingly involved in daily events. His call to action is to individual men, "It is to single men, and not to the united efforts of many, that all the great works of man, struggling toward perfection, are owing" (Pike, 238). Pike dismisses arguments favoring caution, a weighing of risks and rewards, and inquiry into popular sentiments. Forcefully, he insists "… that the only question for us to ask, as true men and Masons, is, what does duty require; and not what will be the result and our reward if we do our duty" (Pike, 239).

Yes, Pike's philosophy stands well on its own. It is an optimistic, courageous, and virtuous system. But its power comes from an understanding of its development. Pike writes as a man of experience. He knows suffering and glory, good men and bad, love and disappointment. Albert Pike is Job praising God throughout the vicissitudes of life, and he is a prophet urging men to action.

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

Castroll, Michael L. 2006. "The Feast of St. Jean Baptiste." *Connecticut Freemasons*, November, p. 13 [concerning the founding of Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149].

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.

Tresner, James T. II. Albert Pike: *The Man Beyond the Monument*. New York: M. Evans and Company, Inc., 1995.

Consistory Trip to Roosevelt Homestead and Rhinebeck Aerodome

The Consistory had a grand outing on July 16, visiting the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum with special interest since President Roosevelt was coronated posthumously on August 25, 2020. The brothers and their families then went to the Rhinebeck Aerodrome for an antique airplane show followed by Dinner at the Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck.

"Franklin Roosevelt was initiated October 10, 1911, passed November 14, 1911, and raised November 28, 1911, in Holland Lodge, No. 8, New York City.

He petitioned the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in the Albany Consistory of New York, February 28, 1929, and received his 32nd Degree the same day. On March 26, 1930, he became a Shriner in Cyrus Temple, AAONOMS (Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine), Albany, New York. He was also a member of Greenwood Forest, Tall Cedars of Lebanon in Warwick, New York. On October 30, 1931, he was made a Prophet at Sight in Tri-Po-Bed Grotto, MOVPER (Mystic Order Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm) of Poughkeepsie, New York. Franklin Roosevelt held a number of honorary memberships in various Masonic lodges, among them in the Architect Lodge, No. 519, New York, where he raised his sons, Franklin, Jr., and James, on November 7, 1935. He was also an Honorary Grand Master of Georgia, and, in 1934, was made Honorary Grand Master of the Order of DeMolay."

"FDR at his induction into the Albany lodge on February 28, 1929 (while he was Governor of New York)."

- *In Roosevelt History* from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library

Consistory members, family, and friends enjoyed a trip to the Hudson Valley in New York, visiting both the Franklin D. Roosevelt Homestead, and the museum at the Old Rhinebeck Aerodome with an air show, and then dinner at Beekman Arms.

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

The New 988 Lifeline

~ John A. Amarilios, MSA, 32°

This summer, the US transitioned from a complex, difficult-to-remember Ten-digit National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to a Three-digit number, which is much easier to remember and quicker to dial – **988**.

I recently ran into an amazing statistic that in the US, there is one death by suicide every 11 minutes as of 2020 as reported by the CDC. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for young people aged 10-14 and 25-34. From April 1st, 2020, to April 1st, 2021, more than 100,000 people died of drug overdoses. In 2021 Lifeline received more than 3.6 million calls, chats and texts, and the number is expected to double once the easier-to-remember number is widely disseminated.

Studies taken on post-call clients have found that most Lifeline callers are significantly less depressed, less suicidal, less overwhelmed, and more hopeful. The VA, which maintains the Veterans Crisis Line can now be accessed through the **988** number with option 1 pressed once it connects.

The suicide epidemic is serious, and its unhappy maw stretches over all communities regardless of demographics. The current administration in Washington is trying to address the suicide epidemic, especially with the torment visited upon the country with the pandemic and has increased funding 18-fold from 24 million to 432 million to invest in upgraded crisis centers and backup center capacity, as well as to provide a sub-network for those who speak Spanish.

Our community is not immune to the pressures and stresses that life inflicts upon our members, and a vigilant eye on our brothers and their family members who may be exhibiting the onset of such unhappy desires are in order. Educating the brothers to recognize the onset of symptoms might be a good educational program for masters to consider for lodge nights.

Lastly, the old Lifeline Number 1-800-273-TALK (8255) will continue to function and route calls through the **988** number. Veterans can still access the Veterans Crisis Line thru 1-800-273-8255 and then press 1 or they may continue to text 838255.

PORT JEFFERSON ON LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

A FERRY RIDE, THEN DINE, SHOP, AND TOUR!

CONSISTORY AND FAMILIES ENJOYED A BEAUTIFUL DAY

JULY 10, 2022

Fellowship and Family Life Activities

- October 2022 - February 2023

-Following All Safety Precautions - Limited Numbers

Please Call the Office in Advance

to Reconfirm Details Before Attending any of the Events.

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.

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

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. 18, 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.** More details to follow.

Annual Clambake

~ AUGUST 6, 2022 ~

Boothe Memorial Park, Stratford

F BRIDGEPORT

Organizational Dinner
~ AUGUST 11, 2022 ~

Riverview Bistro,
Stratford

Valley of Bridgeport Fall 2022 Degree Schedule

DATE		DEGREE(S)
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 pm.

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 are 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.

SCOTCH and CIGAR NIGHT

AUGUST 12, 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.

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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.