



LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY

NEWS

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

Issue No. 37

Fall 2023



CLASS OF 2023

Six Connecticut Brothers Coronated in Louisville, Kentucky, August 29, 2023

L to R Rear - John A. Amarilios, Walter Grube, Guy O. Whelchel, III
L to R Front - William L. Greene, William H. Morse, Jr., Frederick J. Taft



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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.



Walter F. Wheeler, MSA, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander, 2023, has been a Scottish Rite Mason since 1980 and is a member of the Valley of Michigan. Commander Wheeler was made an Active Member of the Supreme Council in Boston in 2009.

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.: WALTER F. WHEELER, MSA, 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: THOMAS E. BECK, MSA, 32°

Secretary for the Valley of Bridgeport

ILL.: JACK J. S. FARKAS, MSA, 33° Secretary Emeritus

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

ILL.: Martin Ede, MSA, 33° - Engineer and Seneschal

ILL.: Carl H. Anderson, 33° - Organist

Dewitt Clinton Lodge of Perfection

Jeff Feinson, 32° - Thrice Potent Master

ILL.: Guy O. Whelchel, III, MSA, 33° - Deputy Master

Gary Ecsedi, 32° - Senior Warden

John H. Kelley, 32° - Junior Warden

Michael S. Abrahamson, 32° - Orator

Travis E. Gerald, 32° - Master of Ceremonies

Alexander J. Defranco, 32° - Captain of the Guard

Michael D. Sabia, Jr., 32° - Master of Entrances

Washington Council Princes of Jerusalem

David V. Papp, MSA, 32° - Sovereign Prince

Jack J. Baril, Jr., 32° - High Priest

T. Woodford Hittle, 32° - Senior Warden

R. Scott Nocerino, 32° - Junior Warden

Colin C. Souney, MSA, 32° - Orator

Michael L. Todd, MSA, 32° - Master of Ceremonies

William W. Roots, 32° - Captain of the Guard

Bermann Thelison, 32° - Master of Entrances

Isaak Waseman, 32° - Standard Bearer

Pequonnock Chapter Rose Croix

David H. Cooper, 32° - Most Wise Master

Christopher S. Jennings, 32° - Senior Warden

Lorenzo P. Gaudioso, 32° - Junior Warden

Victor D. Ojeda, 32° - Orator

William E. Schueler, 32° - Master of Ceremonies

Pedro Garcia, II, 32° - Captain of the Guard

David C. Gianetti, 32° - Master of Entrance

Sebastian R. Pesquera, 32° - Standard Bearer

Valley Officers for all Bodies

ILL.: Robert J. Furce, MSA, 33° - Treasurer

Thomas E. Beck, MSA, 32° - Secretary

ILL.: Jack J.S. Farkas, MSA, 33°, Secretary Emeritus

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

ILL.: Guy O. Whelchel, III, MSA, 33° - Choir Coordinator

ILL.: Raymond J. Dolyak, MSA, 33° - Manager, Stage & Properties

Joseph S. Lengyel, MSA, 32° - Assistant Manager, Stage & Properties

Andrew P. Kolaski, Jr., 32° - Lighting Manager

Michael S. Abrahamson, 32° - Sound Manager

ILL.: Bruce R. Bellmore, MSA, 33° - Membership Chairman

Sebastian R. Pesquera, 32° - Assistant Membership Chairman

R. Scott Nocerino, 32° - Family Life Chairman

Jerry J. Gruenbaum, 32° - Family Life Committee

ILL.: John A. Amarillos, MSA, 33° - Newsletter Editor

Valley of New Haven

Scott B. Bumps, MSA, 32° - Thrice Potent Master

Albert R. R. Johnson, MSA, 32° - Sovereign Prince

Cyril K. Embil, 32° - Most Wise Master

Salvatore R. Ferrigno, MSA, 32° - Treasurer

Jerry J. Gruenbaum, 32° - Secretary

Valley of Waterbury

Harold A. Elwell, MSA, 32° - Thrice Potent Master

Michael K. Kenausis, 32° - Sovereign Prince

Raymond J. Savoy, 32° - Most Wise Master

Eric M. Bogert, 32° - Treasurer

Daniel D. Sharkis, 32° - Secretary



LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES: 7TH DEGREE, THURSDAY OCTOBER 1, 2009 NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REPUTATION MATTERS

Excitement from reading Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol* two weeks ago lingers as a warm feeling of expectation as I approach my first view of the 7th Degree. The Valley of Hartford has a beautiful theater in Newington with dinner served in an adjacent building. I'm happy to have been here before because my mind isn't distracted by directions and distances and the awkwardness of being a stranger.

There's a large audience of thirteen or so candidates, five or six thirty-three Degree Masons, two Grand Lodge officers, and about three dozen others. Emory Meyerjack comes and sits with me. He is on the verge of his year as Master of Ashlar Aspetuck and shares my ambition to see all Scottish Rite Degrees.

Workmen file in from the rear of the auditorium. The setting on stage is of an ancient stone quarry supplying blocks for the Temple of Solomon. Working tools are in abundance.

Jeroboam, a false and lazy worker steals the carefully wrought key stone from Amos. Amos is blamed for the loss and is bewildered by the betrayal of his heretofore trusted friend. A Provost Judge intervenes to uncover the truth.

Jeroboam's past violations cast doubt on his claim while Amos's exemplary record stirs the judges to press each man about their conflicting claims and to seek independent means to discover the truth. Reputation matters.

In the end, Jeroboam confesses and admits jealousy, envy and hatred toward his harder working, more highly skilled friend. He pleads for mercy. Unbelievably, Amos supports his plea, for as God is merciful, so also should we be.

Coincidentally, it's just a few days now since Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement and holiest day in the Jewish

religion when Rabbis remind their congregants of the virtue of mercy. Truth, justice, and mercy are timeless and never change. One of the arguments in favor of mercy is that a man's conscience will plague him forever. But what of men who lack conscience and feel no guilt?

Two Cents on Pike's Seventh Chapter, "Provost and Judge," in *Morals and Dogma*: Pike's chapter on the 13th Degree was mercifully short making my return to *Morals and Dogma* for the 7th a real pleasure. I enjoy his maddening digressions, challenging references, stern judgments, and determined optimism about man's potential. Immediately, I discover a plain truth which I had not recognized: jurors are judges when called upon to determine guilt or innocence. How many courtroom dramas have I seen on television and films? How many times have I been called for jury duty and not realized that had I been chosen, I would bear the burden of Solomon in company with my fellows?

Pike chooses unrelenting passages from Gregg's *Creed of Christendom* to emphasize the terrible impact of wrongdoing: "A wrong done to another is an injury done to our own Nature, an offence against our own souls, a disfiguring of the image of the Beautiful and Good. . . . The act which has debased our soul may be repented of, may be turned from; but the injury is done. . . . The commission of the wrong is an irrevocable act . . . Repentance is still as valid as ever; but it is valid to secure the Future, not to obliterate the Past." (200-201 and De Hoyos's notes 3-7) Convincingly, he makes his case that, "There must always be a wide difference between him who only ceases to do evil, and him who has always done well." (200)

But with humility and wisdom, Pike explores the varying degrees of temptation and the weight of circumstances

Continued on page 5

WHAT IS MORE FUN THAN A SUMMER CLAMBAKE?



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

- AUGUST 5-
BOOTHE
MEMORIAL
PARK,
STRATFORD

VALLEY OF BRIDGEPORT 2023 DEGREE SCHEDULE



DATE	DEGREE(S)
Mon. Oct. 2	Stated Meeting, and 24th Degree (live), 22nd Degree (video)
Mon. Oct. 23	25th Degree and 29th Degree (live)
Mon. Nov. 27	19th Degree (live), 26th Degree (video)
Mon. Dec. 4	32nd Degree (live)

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.

Letters from the Archives continued from page 3

experienced by men when committing wrong. In his own voice he declares, “When we condemn or pity the fallen, how do we know that, tempted like him, we should not have fallen like him, as soon, and perhaps with less resistance?” (203) His conclusion resounds with Biblical authority, “On all accounts, therefore, let the true Mason never forget the solemn injunction, necessary to be observed at almost every moment of a busy life: ‘Judge not, lest ye yourselves be judged: for whatsoever judgment ye measure unto others, the same in turn be measured unto you.’” (206) So mote it be.

James W. D’Acosta

Fidelity-St. John’s 3, Fairfield, CT

Scottish Rite Valley of Bridgeport, CT

Greg, William Rathbone. *The Creed of Christendom; Its Foundations and Superstructure*. London: John Chapman, 1851. Identified by De Hoyos as a work used by Pike in creating *Morals and Dogma*.

Pike, Albert. *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*. Edited by Arturo De Hoyos. Washington, D.C.: Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., 2011.

~ IN MEMORIAM ~

*We mourn the passing of the following Scottish Rite Brethren
whose deaths were reported in 2022-23*

<i>NAME</i>	<i>32° CONFERRED</i>	<i>LODGE</i>	<i>HOME VALLEY</i>	<i>DATE OF DEATH</i>
Robert F. Avrutik, 32°	05/02/1977	Wynyah NY Lodge No. 866	Bridgeport	10/10/2020
Bill Baker, 32°	05/01/1989	Krypton Lodge No. 905	Waterbury	03/19/2023
Robert A. Beardsley, 32°	12/05/1994	King Solomon's Lodge No. 7	Waterbury	08/04/2022
David R. Blythe, 33°	12/01/1979	Compass Lodge No. 9	New Haven	06/07/2023
Peter S. Copeland, 32°	12/01/1985	Day Spring Lodge No. 30	New Haven	04/20/2023
Donald L. Disbrow, 32°	12/01/1969	Day Spring Lodge No. 30	New Haven	03/03/2023
Herbert Galvez, 32°	12/03/1990	America St John's Lodge No. 8	Bridgeport	06/22/2023
George R. Grandell, 32°	12/01/1962	King Solomon's Lodge No. 7	Waterbury	07/22/2023
Eugene H. Haaf, 32°	12/01/1983	King Hiram Lodge No. 12	New Haven	03/23/2023
Edward R. Ham, 33°	12/01/1980	America St John's Lodge No. 8	Bridgeport	04/01/2023
Robert J. Hanks, 32°	05/01/1983	Corinthian Lodge No. 63	New Haven	04/27/2023
Robert W. Harriman, 32°	12/02/1985	Ansantawae Lodge No. No. 89	Bridgeport	08/07/2023
Themis P. Hios, 32°	12/01/1964	Harrison NY Lodge No.1093	Bridgeport	06/17/2023
William A. Kosche III, 32°	05/01/1983	Fidelity St John's Lodge No. 3	New Haven	01/08/2022
Irving Lieff, MSA, 32°	04/09/1960	Old Well St. John Lodge No.108	Bridgeport	05/11/2023
E. Parker Lilya, 32°	12/01/1981	Center Lodge No. 97	New Haven	04/21/2023
Delbert A. Little, 32°	05/02/1994	Center Lodge No. 97	New Haven	04/09/2023
Lee J. Loftus, 32°	12/01/1968	Ansantawae Lodge No. 89	New Haven	03/08/2022
Richard C. Memmott, 33°	05/01/1975	Annawon Lodge No. 115	New Haven	07/03/2023
John J. Mendillo MD, 32°	05/01/1972	Day Spring Lodge No. 30	New Haven	04/01/2023
Roger N Payne, 32°	05/04/1998	Federal Lodge No. 17	Waterbury	05/31/2023
Thomas D. Reid, 32°	05/07/2001	Day Spring Lodge No. 30	New Haven	05/04/2022
Thomas H. Stein, 32°	05/03/1999	Old Well St. John Lodge No. 108	Bridgeport	04/25/2023
Kevin M. Sullicam, 32°	12/07/1987	King Solomon's Lodge No. 7	Waterbury	08/15/2023
Samuel J. Urban, 32°	05/03/1993	Daytime Lodge No. 144	Bridgeport	07/17/2023
James L. Vander Eyk, 33°	05/01/1989	Friendship Lodge No. 33	Waterbury	09/02/2023
Lloyd B. Walker, 32°	05/01/1983	Davis ME Lodge No.191	New Haven	11/08/2019
Andrew D. Weaver, 32°	12/01/1977	Widow's Son Lodge No. 66	New Haven	06/21/2023

~ May they rest from their labors. ~

VALLEY OF BRIDGEPORT APPRECIATION DINNER



RIVERVIEW BISTRO,
STRATFORD



AUGUST 10, 2023



VALLEY OF BRIDGEPORT INSTALLATION DINNER



RIVERVIEW BISTRO, STRATFORD, SEPT. 9, 2023



SCOTCH AND CIGAR NIGHT



**STAMFORD
CIGAR BAR
AUG. 11, 2023**



GREAT CATCHES ON THE JUNE 4 FISHING TRIP



IN SPITE OF CLOUDY SKIES

FELLOWSHIP AND FAMILY LIFE ACTIVITIES THROUGH DEC.

Date	Day	Time	Event
OCT. 7	Sat.	3:30 p.m.	Essex Clipper Dinner Train, Essex, CT. Ride for 2-2 1/2 scenic journey while served a 4-course meal in the beautifully restored 1920's Pullman diners, pulled by a vintage diesel locomotive. Fourty spots available at \$70/Person.
OCT. 14	Sat.	4:30 p.m.	Guys & Dolls Downtown Cabaret, Bridgeport. Dinner beforehand at Riverview Bistro. Fourty-two tickets available at \$70/Person. Cash bar.
NOV. 23	Thu.	7:30 a.m.	Annual Turkey Trot 5K Road Race, Thanksgiving morning. Supports the Connecticut Children's Dyslexia Centers.
DEC. 3	Sun.	2:30 p.m.	Nutcracker at Palace Theatre, Waterbury, followed by dinner at Brass City Bistro. Fourty-two tickets available at \$70/Person. Cash bar.
DEC. 15	Fri.	6:00 p.m.	Annual Holiday Party and fundraiser for CT Children's Dyslexia Centers, Woodwinds Banquet Facility, Branford, CT to include Cigar rolling and silent auction. \$40/Person.

CONTACT US IF YOU'D LIKE TO SUGGEST AN EVENT.



SAVE THE DATE TO
PLAY IT AGAIN AT THE
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PARTY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023
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 Espresso

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 11.



Lafayette Consistory
P.O. Box 309
Stratford, CT 06015-0309

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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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>.

For those who drive to the Theatre, the street address is 2422 Main Street, Stratford, CT. The building is clearly marked with the name at the top of the building. There is limited handicap parking in front and there is parking behind the Theatre.