LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS

FROM THE VALLEYS OF BRIDGEPORT, NEW HAVEN, AND WATERBURY

OLDEST CONSISTORY IN THE NORTHERN MASONIC JURISDICTION

Issue No. 39 SPRING 2024

HIGHLIGHTING BROTHERS AT WORK

David Papp at Work as a Drawbridge Operator

Parsifal — A Fool by Pity Enlightened (Part 2)

John P. French's Masonic Powder Horn

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The Washington Bridge, also known as the Devon Bridge, carries U.S. Route 1 over the Housatonic River connecting the city of Milford to the town of Stratford, and is the longest drawbridge on the Boston Post Road.

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.

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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° Secretary Emeritus

———

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Parsifal — A Fool by Pity Enlightened (Part 2)

An Exposition of the Travails of a Developing Soul

by John A. Amarilios, MSA, 33°

We now pick up the narrative of the Opera as Gurnemanz relates the story of the uncurable injury that the King sustained to the four squires that accompany him. He finishes relating the history when cries are heard: "The Swan! The Swan!" A swan immediately falls from the heavens and lands dead at the feet of Gurnemanz and the assembled squires. Other squires drag in a youth who is armed with a bow and arrows and present him to Gurnemanz, who asks him sadly why he would kill a harmless creature. The youth Parsifal asks innocently, "What is wrong to do so?" The story of the suffering King is related to the youth and the swan's part in making the healing bath. Parsifal feels great remorse and breaks his bow.

The quickening spirit in many religions is symbolized by a bird. At the Baptism of the Nazarene, his spirit descended into him as a dove. In Norse mythology, swans move upon the fluidic medium of the lake beneath Yggdrasil, the tree of life. They are also seen in the legend of the Grail, where swans are seen upon the waters of the lake. The compassion we see engendered in Parsifal, with the volitional breaking of his bow, makes a definite step in the ***higher life***. **The lesson here is that the harmless life is an absolute essential prerequisite to the helpful life.**

Parsifal is then asked about who he is and from whence came he. He professes ignorance of questions related to his identity. Kundry then speaks and says that his father was a nobleman named Gamuret who died fighting in Arabia while Parsifal was still in gestation in the womb of his mother, Lady Herzleide. When he was

born, his mother kept him in a dense Forest of ignorance where weapons and warfare were wholly unknown. Parsifal then adds that "One day, I saw some men on shapely beasts, and I wanted to be like them, so I followed them for many days till I finally arrived here and had to fight many manlike monsters."

This exchange depicts the Soul's search for the realities of life. Parsifal and his father Gamuret represent different phases in the development of the life of a soul. Gamuret was a worldly man, but in time, he married Herzleide (German for hearts affliction). He meets sorrow and dies to the world, as do all who o enter into the higher life. While life is pleasant and easy, there typically is no incentive to turn to the higher life. A pleasant material life does not present an incentive to turn to the higher life. Most are content and happy with their existence, just as it is. When life doles out lemons and adversity cascades sheets of unhappy developments at us, men of sorrows and affliction begin to turn inward and begin to sense that they, too, want to be born as Parsifal, the pure fool or the soul that has forgotten the "Wisdom" of the material world and has begun to search for the higher life. While Man believes that Wisdom of the world entails partying or making money, you may say he is "wise with wisdom of the world." But if and when he sets his sights on the things of the spirit, he becomes a "poor misguided fool in the eyes of the world." The soul that enters unto this path forgets his past life and leaves his sorrows behind him. So, we see here that Parsifal left Herzleide, and we

Continued on page 4

Parsifal...(Part 2) continued from page 3

are told that she died when he never came back. The key point here is that sorrow dies when the soul molts from its materialistic prison, and it trods to the aspiration of service and the higher life. It may be in the world to perform a duty, but it no longer is of the world.

Wagner then reverts to a pre-Christian motif. Anciently, initiation into the mysteries was not free to anyone who merely chose to dabble... but was generally reserved for those Brahmins and Levites who made a special commitment to devoted Temple service. The scene shifts to the Castle of the Grail, where Amfortas is charged with performing a sacred rite of the Grail service, where he uncovers the holy chalice so that all the knighted present will become renewed with a reinvigorated ardor for spiritual service. While performing the rite, Amfortas is afflicted with excruciating pain, and Parsifal, standing in a corner while all this is going on, feels this same pain sympathetically but does not know why. After the rite is performed, Gurnemanz asks Parsifal what he thought of it, but Parsifal remains numb and unable to answer. Gurnemanz becomes disappointed and angry at Parsifal and throws him out of the castle. The feelings and emotions unchecked by knowledge are sources of temptation. The aspiring soul, usually, is harmless and without guile, which makes it an easy target for sin. It is necessary for soul growth that the soul be subjected to temptations in order to expose weaknesses. So, if we fall, we suffer as Amfortas, but the pain resolves itself to understanding and knowledge and will yield an abhorrence to sin and the pain it eventually yields. It fortifies us against temptation. Every new denizen of the material plane is innocent simply because he/she has not been tempted and has, by default, remained pure. Only when we have fallen, really repented, and reformed do we attain virtue. Therefore, Parsifal must be tempted, and these travails follow in this Opera's Second and Third scenes, which we will tackle the next time we meet.

Scottish Rite Core Values

Integrity

Justice

Tolerance

Service to Humanity

Devotion to Country

Reverence for God

Gold Passports Awarded in Stratford

~ February 5 ~

~ February 26 ~

~ March 25 ~

~ IN MEMORIAM ~

We mourn the passing of the following Scottish Rite Brethren whose deaths were reported in 2023-24

NAME	32° CONFERRED	LODGE	HOME VALLEY	DATE OF DEATH
Robert F. Avrutik, 32°	05/02/1977	Wynyah NY Lodge No. 866	Bridgeport	10/10/2020
David D. Alexander, 32°	05/04/1998	Federal Lodgr No. 17	Waterbury	01/06/2024
Robert F. Avrutik, 32°	05/02/1977	Winyah NYLodge No. 866	Bridgeport	10/10/2020
George C. Buckbee, 32°	12/01/1973	St Peter's Lodge No. 21	Bridgeport	12/30/2023
Harold C. Burkhardt, 32°	12/01/1954	Friendship Lodge No. 33	New Haven	10/29/2019
Harold R. Candee, 32°	05/01/1978	Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142	Bridgeport	09/21/2023
Willard R. Carter, 32°	05/02/2005	Jerusalem LodgeNo. 49	Bridgeport	09/04/2023
James V. Cesario, Jr., 32°	12/01/1978	George Washington Lodge No. 82	New Haven	05/06/2020
Philip C. Dennen, 32°	05/01/1961	King Solomon's Lodge No. 7	Waterbury	03/07/2024
Stephen S. Elliott, 32°	04/25/2015	Daytime Lodge No. 144	Bridgeport	02/27/2024
Howard D. Fink, MD, 32°	04/01/1962	Piatt Lodge No. 194 NY	Bridgeport	11/20/2023
Howard S. Franson, 32°	05/01/1979	Federal Lodge No. 17	Waterbury	12/29/2023
Howard Hankin, 32°	05/03/1993	Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125	New Haven	09/08/2020
Glen H. Hughes, 32°	05/01/1982	Wolcott Lodge No. 146	Waterbury	02/01/2024
William L. Moriarty, 32°	12/01/1978	MeridenLodge No. 77	Bridgeport	09/16/2023
Richard H. Nicol, 32°	05/01/1968	King Solomon's Lodge No. 7	Waterbury	07/31/2022
Thomas E. Reed, 32°	10/01/1984	TempleLodge No. 65	Bridgeport	07/20/2020
John P. Reynolds, 32°	05/03/1993	George Washington Lodge No. 82	Bridgeport	02/29/2024
James C. Robinson, 32°	12/01/1985	Old Well St John's Lodge No. 6	Bridgeport	12/09/2023
Daniel S. Sanchez, 32°	05/02/2011	Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142	New Haven	11/22/2023
Richard J. Sandulli, 32°	12/01/1969	Shepherd Salem Lodge No. 78	Waterbury	02/01/2024
William Schuck, 32°	12/01/1981	Trumbull Lodge No. 22	New Haven	02/17/2024
Ronald E. St. Pierre, 32°	05/04/1981	Franklin Lodge No. 56	Waterbury	02/02/2024
Kevin M. Sullivan, 32°	12/07/1987	King Solomon's Lodge No. 7	Waterbury	08/15/2023
Harold M. Whittier, 32°	05/01/1976	Daytime Lodge No. 144	Bridgeport	12/07/2023

~ May they rest from their labors. ~

4th, 5th, 12th, 18th, & 26th Degrees

4th and 5th Degrees
February 5, Stratford

18th Degree
February 28, Waterbury

12th Degree
February 26, Stratford

26th Degree
April 15, Waterbury

John P. French's Masonic Powder Horn

by Stacey Fraser, Assistant Curator, Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library

Masonic Powder Horn, 1750-1830. John P. French. Special Acquisitions Fund, Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, 76.10.

The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library holds nearly two dozen powder horns in its collection. Some are from the era of the American Revolutionary War and bear carvings that reflect that use; some feature carvings of Masonic symbols. This unusual double powder horn is particularly intriguing because it exhibits both types of carvings.

Powder horns, made from animal horn (often cow or oxen), were used by soldiers in the field to keep gunpowder dry and secure. The holes at the tips of the horns were used to pour powder into a paper cartridge or directly into the barrel of a musket. Many were carved with designs that were meaningful specifically to the owner. The words "John P. French His Horn" are carved into the surface, identifying the horn's owner. On this fascinating object, French showcased his Masonic affiliation, his interest in slogans, and possibly his personal hobbies.

One of the slogans that appears on the horn is "Don't Tread On Me" above a snake. This phrase was first used in South Carolina in 1775 by Christopher Gadsden, then-Lieutenant Governor of the state. It was inspired by Benjamin Franklin's 1754 "Join or Die" political cartoon showing the colonies as pieces of a snake, indicating that union between the British colonies was necessary for survival. The slogan became well-known after it was used on naval flags during the Revolutionary War. Another phrase that adorns French's horn is "Freedom and Victory." While there is no one known usage of this slogan, the ideals align with the goals of the American Revolutionary War.

Continued on page 9

John P. French's Masonic Powder Horn continued from page 8

The majority of the carvings on this double powder horn are connected to Freemasonry, perhaps a sign that the fraternity and its teachings held special meaning to French. The slogan "Cemented with Love" appears, which refers to the tight bonds that Masons encourage and enjoy with their brethren. This phrase also appears on aprons, badges, certificates, and other items in the museum and library's collections.

Along with this Masonic slogan, French applied around two dozen symbols from the teachings of Freemasonry to his horn. Some symbols are common to all forms of Freemasonry, such as a trowel, a gavel, a coffin, a beehive, and two pillars called Boaz and Jachin. One is a stone archway often represented in Royal Arch Freemasonry, the first four degrees of the York Rite. This arch is topped by a figure identified as "Hiram." Hiram Abiff is a significant character in Freemasonry's third degree.

In addition to symbols representing his political and Masonic interests, French also carved what appears to be a hunting scene, featuring a man holding a rifle, a dog, a mountain lion, a bird, and a deer. Perhaps these symbols reflect a pre-war activity.

Unfortunately, even with the helpful addition of a middle initial, the name "John French" was so common at the time of the Revolutionary War that we cannot establish the owner's identity from military records. French appears to have been a member of the fraternity, but we cannot ascertain to which Masonic lodge he belonged. While we do not know where John P. French lived or very much about him, the symbols he chose to carve on his powder horn give us a sense of what he valued.

Own This Beautiful Knife and Donate to the Scottish Rite Charity!

You will love this beautiful knife with a wood and metal handle that has the 32° Double-Headed Eagle engraved on one side and the Square and Compasses on the other. For your donation of $90, the Valley of Bridgeport will send the full donation to the Children's Dyslexia Center's of Connecticut. Please use the coupon below,

I would like the **32° Double-Headed Eagle/Masonic emblem knife** for a donation of **$90 each** and please mail to:.

NAME _____ PHONE _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I would like (quantity) _____ knives at $90 each. My check or credit card info is enclosed for $ _____

Send your check or credit card information with this coupon to **Lafayette Consistory, PO Box 807, Stratford, CT 96615-0807**

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION **Charge my credit card** ☐

CARD NUMBER __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ EXP. DATE ___ ___ /___ ___

SIGNATURE _____

The Paschal Lamb

Leo H. Lohrman, II
Scottish Rite Theatre, Stratford, CT

April 8, 2024

Brothers All, Thanks for Helping the Kids at the Annual Holiday Party!

Children's Dyslexia Centers

David L. Sharkis
Director of Operations

33 Marrett Road
Lexington, MA 02421
781-465-3339

March 12, 2024

Lafayette Consistory AASR
PO Box 309
Stratford, Connecticut 06615-0309

Dear Brothers:

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your support of the Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut on February 29, 2024 in the amount of $18,220.53. These funds were raised at your 3rd Annual Holiday Gala, which has become one of our most successful fundraising events. Not only does the Gala raise awareness for our charitable works, but it is also a tremendous opportunity for our members and their guests to enjoy a wonderful evening of fellowship and entertainment.

Please extend my gratitude to all who make this event possible. Cheryl and I look forward to attending next year's Gala and will support it in any way we can.

Sincerely,

David L. Sharkis
Director of Operations

Celebrating Mardi Gras with a Winter Picnic!

February 24

Valley of New Haven

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

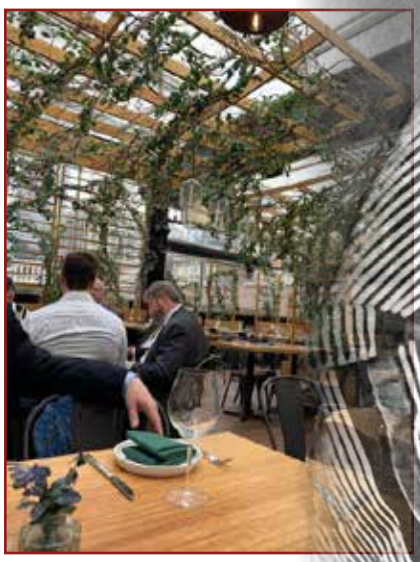
P.O. Box 309

Stratford, CT 06615

GRAND LODGE OF NY IN MANHATTAN

GREAT TRIP, EA DEGREE & DINNER

THE GARIBALDI EA DEGREE



APRIL 19, 2024

FAMILY LIFE EVENTS ~ 2024

5/19/24 - GREATER CONNECTICUT YOUTH ORCHESTRAS CONCERT. Spring concert, Klein Auditorium, Bridgeport. Free concert.

5/27/24 - MEMORIAL DAY PARADE STRATFORD, CT. Meet at the Leo H. Lohrman, II, Scottish Rite Theatre at **12 p.m.** Contact Dave Urban.

6/02/24 - FISHING TRIP. Fishing on the Long Island Sound, "Lucky Lady," Clinton, CT, is limited to 35. Per the captain's order, no glass bottles or bananas are allowed. You must be at the Lucky Lady by **12:30 p.m**. The cost is $20 per person, plus $5 for the pool.

7/21/24 - PORT JEFFERSON FERRY RIDE FROM BRIDGEPORT TO LONG ISLAND. A trip across the Long Island Sound, for a day of leisure in Port Jefferson, NY. Be at the port at **8 a.m.** $25 per person.

8/09/24 - SCOTCH AND CIGAR NIGHT. Scotch and Cigar night from **7 to 10 p.m**, $15 per person at the Stamford Cigar Bar, 75 Research Dr., Stamford, CT 06906.

8/10/24 - ANNUAL CLAMBAKE PICNIC. Clambake Picnic at Boothe Memorial Park, 5800 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06614. Starting at **12 p.m**., it costs $10 per person.

8/11/24 - DON GIOVANNI. Mozart's masterpiece of seduction, deception and divine justice. Opera at the Andrews Memorial Theater, Clinton, at **3 p.m.**, followed by dinner (details to follow), $95 per person.

9/13/24 - RED SOX AT YANKEES. Red Sox at Yankee Stadium, Bronx, NY, **7:05 pm** first pitch. Take the Yankee Clipper down from your local Metro North station to meet at the game. Our tickets are in the Jim Beam Suite with cushioned seats behind home plate on the 300 level. The package includes all-inclusive "elevated" ballpark food and draft beer (full menu with the exception of Lobel's Steak Sandwich); it starts from doors opening until the middle of the 5th inning or 90 minutes after the originally scheduled first pitch, whichever comes first. It also includes complimentary popcorn, peanuts, and soft drink refills; the Suite contains private concession stands, bathrooms, and a full-service wrap-around bar (a la carte). $150 per person..

9/14/24 - VALLEY OF BRIDGEPORT INSTALLATION DINNER. Dinner at the Riverview Bistro, Stratford, CT at **6 p.m.** $20 per person.

9/18/24 - THE BIG E. A Day trip to the Big E on "Connecticut Day", West Springfield MA. Leaving the at **8 a.m**. $25 per person.

10/20/24 - RHODE ISLAND TRIP. A tour of The Breakers and Elms Mansions in Newport, lunch and shop on your own, Dinner at the Windham Hotel. Leaving the Leo H. Lohrman, II at **8 a.m.** $95 per person. Limit of 50 spots.

Valley of Bridgeport
2024 Degree Schedule

DATE		DEGREE(S) in Stratford Unless Otherwise Noted.
Mon.	**May 6**	**32nd Degree (live)**
Mon.	**July 27**	**8th Degree (live) & 25th Degree (video)**
Mon.	**Sep. 23**	**4th Degree (live) & 28th Degree (video)**
Mon,	**Oct. 7**	**7th Degree (live) & 13th Degree (video)**
Mon.	**Oct. 28**	**New Haven - 17th Degree (live) & 22nd Degree (video)**
Mon.	**Nov. 18**	**30th Degree (live) & 5th Degree (video)**
Mon.	**Dec. 2**	**32nd Degree (live)**

Dinners are at 6 p.m., Degrees at 7:30 p.m. in Stratford 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,

- 4th Degree video as needed for new candidates available on March 25, April 15, July 27, October 7, October 28, or November 18.
- Monday candidates must fill out the application by Noon on Friday.
- Saturday candidates must fill out the application by Noon on Thursday.
- New candidates must register 45 min before Degree.

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.

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 per person for two cigars and one drink. Additional available.

"Masonry, like all the Religions, all the Mysteries, Hermeticism and Alchemy, conceals its secrets from all except the Adepts and Sages, or the Elect, and uses false explanations and misinterpretations of its symbols to mislead those who deserve only to be misled; to conceal the Truth, which it calls Light from them and to draw them away from it. p.104-5"

— Pike, Albert, Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

SAVE THE DATE TO

PLAY IT AGAIN AT THE

HOLIDAY PARTY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024

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 13.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS
From the Valleys of Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury

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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.