

NOVEMBER 2024



# Connecticut FREEMASONS

October 19, 2024  
**Semi-Annual  
Communication**



Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM  
69 Masonic Avenue  
Wallingford, CT 06492

# 2024 2025 Officers of the Grand Lodge Af & AM of Connecticut



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Bro. Shane Dufresne  
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**Not just a man. A Mason.**



Volume 20 Number 1

**Publisher**  
**THE GRAND LODGE**  
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# Semi-Annual Communication of Grand Lodge Well Attended and Well Done

by Francis G. Way

The 2024 Semi-Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge AF&AM in Connecticut, on Saturday morning, October 19, was well attended with 300 voting members present. It was the first time in recent memory that so many voting members were at the semi-annual communication.

The communication was opened at 9 a.m. by MWB Edward C. Page, Grand Master, and was well-run and efficient. After opening, MWB Page recognized the Past Grand Masters—15 attended, which pleased the Grand Master greatly—and then thanked the current District Deputies, Associate Grand Marshals, and Grand Lecturers for their continuing service.

MWB Page then inquired of the Craft about whether any recent Master Masons attending the session would rise. By deft questioning, he found two Master Masons who'd been raised the evening before and then chose the older of the two. He invited that brother to sit in the East for the session, explaining that he had seen the Grand Master of Ohio do something similar at his session. This will undoubtedly be an indelible memory for this new Master Mason.

MWB Page then offered comments before beginning business. He explained his gavel had been made by WB Barry Kromer. As MWB Page had lived in all six New England states in his lifetime, he requested it be constructed with something from each one; among them are a maple handle (Connecticut), New Hampshire granite, and the body from a piece of the USS Constitution (Massachusetts). He highlighted items that might be purchased as part of his donation program, including T-shirts, cuff links in the likeness of his Grand Master's pin, and cigars.

He related the story of attending the Grand Lodge session in Maine, which took place in the Shrine where his late father, Gus, had been a member. MWB Page was chosen to speak for the visiting dignitaries and was able to do so wearing his father's fez—an indelible memory in his year as Grand Master.

Lastly, he told the story of attending a Masonicare function the day before and doing a Q&A after his presentation. One lady asked him how many selfies he had taken. His answer was "One more today," which he took with said lady. He then said, "And two more today," as he took a selfie with each side of the Hartog Auditorium.

Business commenced with the Grand Treasurer's report. The annual assessment has not been raised in seven years, while costs have gone up and may need to be raised in the future. The Grand Secretary took a preliminary roll call of lodges, and tellers were appointed for the elections. The credentials report indicated 300 voting members present, 151 for a simple majority and 201 for a two-thirds majority.

The election of Grand Lodge officers for 2025-2026 resulted in the election of RWB Rinaldo Magliano, Grand Master-elect; RWB Shane Dufresne, Deputy Grand Master-elect; RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Grand Senior Warden-elect; RWB Mark Hawkins, Grand Junior Warden-elect; RWB Thomas Gondek, Grand Treasurer-elect; and RWB James Anderson, Grand Secretary-elect. All accepted their elections with thanks.

The meeting was called to refreshment for the purpose of the Masonicare Annual Meeting. A significant part of this meeting was the vote to amend the certificate of incorporation and bylaws to approve the merger with United Methodist Homes. The measure passed unanimously, after which trustees were elected: Bro. Kevin J. Hecht (Friendship Lodge No. 33), Bro. Theodore J. Nelson (Brainard Lodge No. 102), Bro. Mark Winne (Composite Lodge No. 28) and Hon. Lady Laura S. Michnowski of Ashlar Chapter No. 116 OES. Strategic Trustees Jay S. Nickse and Matthew L. O'Connor were also elected.

Following the Masonicare meeting, the Grand Lodge was returned to labor, and committee reports were voted on and accepted.

Continued on page 7

# URGENT: Your Help Is Needed for the January 2025 Issue

by Francis G. Way

The deadline for submissions to the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper has always been the 10th of the month prior to publication. That's YOUR deadline to get the articles into us. We, in turn, have a hard deadline with the printer, and then they have a hard date to deliver their copies to the post office. That delivery day, for our area, is always on a Wednesday. A quick look at the calendar will show that this year in December, Christmas and New Years fall on Wednesday and that will wreak havoc with our schedule.

With that in mind, we are asking you to **submit your articles for the January 2025 issue as early as possible in December**. And to be blunt, before December 5 would not be considered too early.

In a regular month, in an ideal world, all of your submissions would be in and ready to be edited by the end of the day on the 10th (and submitted according to the submission guidelines!). In a regular month, that rarely happens, and folks are sending in articles as late as the 17th or 18th, and maybe following the guidelines, maybe not. Sometimes I can run those articles, sometimes I cannot.

For January 2025, however, we need your help – **please get the articles in early**.

Each year, we juggle our holiday time with the tasks we do to get the January issue out—that's never been a problem; it's just what we do. This year, however, if submissions come in late, there will not physically be enough time to do all that we need to do. And that's why we need your help.

*Connecticut Freemasons* always come through – we're hoping you can come through for the Connecticut Freemasons January 2025 issue.

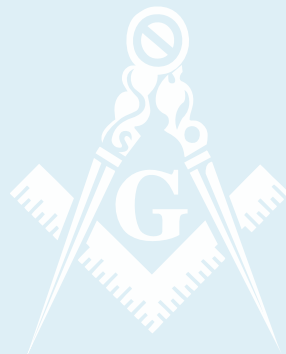
Thanks!!!

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

**Wooster Lodge No. 10**  
Jeffrey Jay Stober

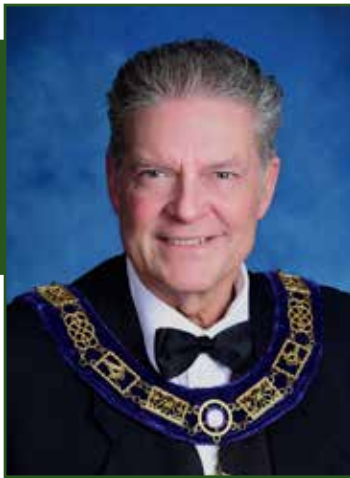
**Valley Lodge No. 36**  
Andrew David McMillan

**Madison Lodge Lodge No. 87**  
Chad Ellis



**Moosup Lodge No. 113**  
Jeremy Nelsom Bonoyer  
Christopher McDonald  
Emmanuel Omenge

**Purity Lodge No. 150**  
David Michael Anthony Smith



# Grand Master's Message

by MWB Edward C. Page

## “Thank(s) – Giving”

**M**y term as your Grand Master is more than half-

complete, and it has been an absolute pleasure to serve our Grand jurisdiction. Before looking ahead to the future, it behooves us to reflect upon the past with tremendous humility and gratitude. I am so thankful for the opportunity to share my travels with the fine brothers of this jurisdiction, breaking bread, sharing moments, and greeting and departing with a hug, smile, and a Grand Master selfie.

We can all be thankful for the friendships we have been so fortunate to establish and the new ones just budding through the love of the fraternity. We should be so very thankful for all the fond memories – so many we could never count. To have our friends and families in our lives, a roof over our heads, food on our tables, and clothes on our backs shows just how much we are all blessed. However, I remember that many around us, friends and brothers, may not share these simple pleasures.

It is then our duty as decent brothers to help those less fortunate in a time of need by giving.... There are many forms of giving – our time, words, purse, and essence. To care for another human being in their time of need is a noble and honorable act. We, as Freemasons, pride ourselves on just such principles and even seek out the opportunity. I have heard the phrase, “Practice random acts of kindness,” and I agree we all should do this, but more especially for a brother, Master Mason, and his family. The needs of the many outweigh those of the few or the one. Spock made this statement in *The Wrath of Khan*. He says, “Logic clearly dictates that the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.” Captain Kirk answers, “Or the one.” This sets up a pivotal scene near the end of the film.

In this holiday season (as well as year-round), start, if you are able, with family members, your brothers at the lodge, your community, and all our brothers in weather-ravaged areas. Give and bring that warmth of fraternal philanthropy to others who desperately need.



# Historic Cannon Gets a Much-Needed Facelift

by Adam Raider

A 19th-century cannon that sits beside a statue of George Washington on the Wallingford campus of Masonicare has been meticulously (and generously) refurbished by a Brother Mason with an interest in artillery.

Bro. Greg Webster of Historic Artillery Restoration Projects, or H.A.R.P., restores historic artillery pieces often found on town greens, historical societies, or cemeteries. When he finds a cannon in need of some TLC, he volunteers his time and talents to make the piece shine again.

According to Rev. and Bro. Carl Anderson, Right Worshipful Grand Almoner and Vice President of Fraternal Relations, Masonicare's cannon was found in the Willimantic area and brought to its current spot on the lawn in front of Masonicare Health Center in the 1980s. Since then, time and the elements have taken their toll on the black antique gun.

"I love doing this and making these pieces feel loved again," said the Scottish Rite Mason and member of Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34, Preston, where he is lodge historian. "Artillery is near and dear to my heart, although I was a combat engineer in the Army, so go figure."

Greg's fondness for things that go "boom!" dates back to his childhood. At age 14 and fresh out of Cub Scouts, he slipped into an Army uniform so he could accompany his dad, a Master Sergeant in the Connecticut Army National Guard, to a demolition range to help train other soldiers in the use of explosives.

"You could get away with that back then," he said of the regulations-breaking stunt. "I probably looked pretty young, but nobody questioned it."

In addition to stripping away flaking paint and many years' worth of dirt and debris before repainting, Greg also lifted the cannon and its wooden carriage discreetly onto paving stones to reduce the stress that the weight was putting on the carriage's axles. The fix is barely noticeable since the four wooden wheels still touch the ground.

But the artillery expert had some "bad news" for Masonicare. While refurbishing the cannon, long believed to date back to the War of 1812, Greg deduced from markings on the nine-pounder that it was actually manufactured in Sweden at the Akers Foundry circa 1840, 25 years after the second conflict with Britain ended. None of that detracts from the cannon's appeal, however, or the flair it adds to the tract known as Washington Square.

"It really looks beautiful now," Bro. Carl said, "The way it should be. What a difference. We are so grateful for the time, effort, and care Greg put into restoring this historical artifact that helps enrich our Masonicare campus."

You can see more of Bro. Greg Webster's handiwork on his Facebook page, [facebook.com/H.A.R.P.byGreg](https://facebook.com/H.A.R.P.byGreg)



*Bro. Greg Webster with the cannon he restored on the Wallingford campus of Masonicare*

# Semi-Annual Communication continued from page 3

MWB Page called MWB Joseph Porco, RWB Nick Ives, and WB Martin Ede, Worshipful Master of Day Spring Lodge No. 30, west of the altar. WB Ede had volunteered to serve as Worshipful Master of Dayspring Lodge while the lodge worked through its plan to get back on track. The Grand Master then presented the charter to MWB Porco to return it to WB Ede. RWB Ives, WB Ede, and MWB Porco all worked with Dayspring Lodge to bring it to this point.

MWB Page turned the floor over to RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr. to present awards. There were 26 Perfect Ashlar Awards presented, the most in recent memory. Three lodges, America St. John's Lodge No. 8, Temple Lodge No. 65, and Fayette Lodge No. 69, all had three Perfect Ashlar recipients, and those lodges earned an award for that in their own right. Worshipful Masters Nathaniel Gilette (Valley Lodge No. 36) and Alyan Lopes (Friendship Lodge No. 33) received the Masters Achievement Award. The Lodge Fix-Up Award was presented to Annawon Lodge No. 115 for its recent renovation. Finally, the Mentor Award was presented to Bro. Duane Mason of Fayette Lodge No. 69 and Bro. Dominic Piccirillo of America St. John's Lodge No. 8.

Grand Master-elect Magliano addressed the session and announced his programs for 2025-2026. The emphasis will be on membership/retention and education/engagement. As his proposed budget was approved by the Craft, there will be no increase in Grand Lodge assessment for next year.

To wrap up the session, MWB Page received a \$1,000 donation from the Widows Sons for the Grand Lodge Almoner's Fund, and RWB Brian Beals, State Executive Office for the Order of DeMolay announced to the session that Letters Temporary had been received from DeMolay International to allow the new chapter in Torrington, Oliver Wolcott Chapter, sponsored by Seneca Lodge No. 55, to begin operation.

MWB Page closed the Grand Lodge in ample form at 12 p.m. It was a well-attended, well-run session, with much business accomplished and great fraternal brotherhood.




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Daylight Savings Time Ends

*Fall Back 1 Hour*

Sunday, November 3



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR BROTHERS!

**Gil Ames**  
Day Spring Lodge No. 30

**George H. Andrews, Jr.**  
Day Spring Lodge No. 30

**Steven Antoniou**  
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

**Kent E. Carlson**  
Unity Lodge No. 148

**Raymond O. Church**  
Brainard Lodge No. 102

**Edward S. Clark**  
St. Pauls Lodge No. 11

**J. Dexter Forbes**  
King Solomons Lodge No. 7

**Keith Franson**  
**Stephen Frederick Franson**  
Federal Lodge No. 17

**Harry Tadao Imoto**  
Brainard Lodge No. 102

**Gregory G. Kozlowski**  
Jerusalem Lodge No. 49

**Timothy Bristol LeGeyst**  
Village Lodge No. 29

**Frederick M. Leue, Jr.**  
St. Johns Lodge No. 2

**Ralph S. Lewis**  
Brainard Lodge No. 102

**Stephen Louis Niemitz**  
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

**James E. O'Keefe**  
Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34

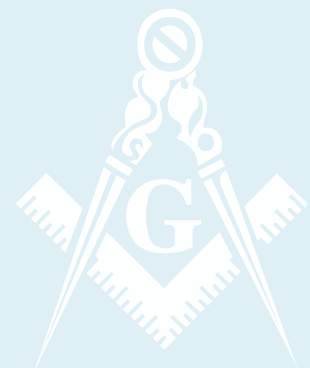
**Walter E. Pearl**  
Moosup Lodge No. 113

**Edward B. Pratt**  
Anchor Lodge No. 112

**Howard B. Schiller**  
**Kenneth W. Smith**  
Uriel Lodge No. 24

**Roger B. Thorin**  
Unity Lodge No. 148

**Donald Stephen Uphold**  
Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge No. 142







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A 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization

of the GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS  
of the STATE OF CONNECTICUT



**Edward C. Page**  
Grand Master

PO Box 69  
Wallingford, CT 06492

July 1, 2024

Dear Brothers, Friends, and Family,

The Grand Master Appeal is a wonderful opportunity to support all the ongoing efforts of so many across the state to **Help, Aide and Assist** so many in need. As many of you know, the Theme of my year is:

**“God – Unity – Service” GUS** - God, as we are all God’s children.

By uniting together, we can continue to make a difference and reach so many throughout our beloved Fraternity and all its families. As a Servant Leader, it is my honor this year to appeal to you to join with me in support of our Foundation by making a tax-deductible contribution.

The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc. a (501 (c) 3) is the charitable portion of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut. Your generous contributions will continue to help those both everywhere, from local need to that of brother across the globe through the Masonic Services Association. Please give what you can without injury to yourself or your family. Like so many of us, I would much rather give help, than ask for help; but I am asking for your help and support so that so many can obtain your assistance through your generosity.

Fraternally,

Brother Edward C. Page  
M.W. Grand Master 2024

*The CT Freemasons Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation organized to accept tax deductible contributions. **Your gift may be restricted by designating your specific charitable choice from the above list in the memo section of your check.***

Your Support for 2023 totaling \$152,585 includes donations to:

- Grand Almoner’s Fund
- Grand Lodge Matching Grant Program
- CT DeMolay
- International Order of Rainbow for Girls
- CIP (Child Identification Program)
- The Masonic Charity Foundation/ Quality of Life
- CT Freemasons Foundation General Endowment
- 32nd Degree Children’s Dyslexia Center of CT
- George Washington National Masonic Memorial
- Masonic Medical Research Institute
- Masonic Model Student Assist Program
- Masonic Service Association
- Masonic Organ Donor Program "Donate Life"
- Shriners Hospital: Boston Burns Unit/Hospital for Children, Springfield

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**NOTE: Donations can be made via PayPal on the Grand Lodge website [www.CTFreemasons.net](http://www.CTFreemasons.net)**  
Located under “About Us” “The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation”

XXX-----XXX

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To assist the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation in their ongoing work, I / we donate to the Grand Master’s Appeal as follows:

- \_\_\_\_\_ CT International Order of Rainbow  
for Girls
- \_\_\_\_\_ CT DeMolay
- \_\_\_\_\_ General Endowment (unrestricted)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other-please note in the mem  
section of your check

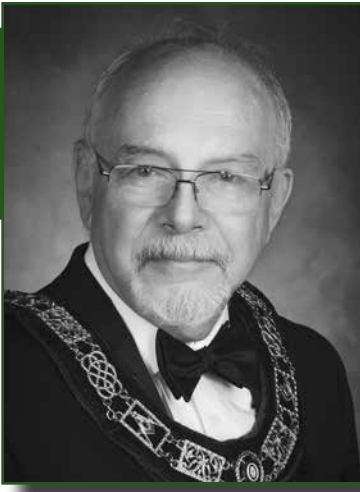
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\_\_\_\_\_

Please have someone contact me about how to include the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation as a beneficiary in my will. \_\_\_\_\_



# Grand Chaplain's Pulpit

by The Rev. Bruce R. Bellmore, PGM

## My dear brothers,

I'm sure that many of you join me in being disturbed by the news from around the world.

It appears that nowhere in the world is not experiencing unrest, intolerance, or even war.

It is easy to become disillusioned and despair over the current state of the world. So many people are being displaced, their homes destroyed, and peace seems impossible to achieve. Just this morning, I read that Serbia and Croatia are preparing their armies for war, for world war. It is a time of grave concern for us all.

(If you feel overwhelmed by the state of current events, reach out for help. You do not need to feel alone. Clergy, brothers, and health professionals are all available to help in times of confusion and depression.)

As Freemasons, we are taught to live in "hope, not despair." While it can be difficult to have hope in times such as these, we are reminded of words in scripture. The most repeated phrase in the Bible is, "Do not be afraid." These words, or similar phraseology, appear 117 times

throughout the Bible (not the 365 times reported on some websites). The Supreme Architect of the Universe tells us to remember that there is another world to which we are traveling. This world is but a temporary stop on our journey, and we are indeed traveling to that Celestial Lodge above, which will be open throughout eternity where there is no suffering, no tribulation.

So, how do we deal with all the tension and evil in the world? We live out our Masonic teachings. We practice charity and hospitality towards all men. We return good for evil. We clothe the naked, shield the oppressed, be open to the concerns of others, and practice toleration. Maybe we should practice the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would they do unto you."

Each of us, individually, has the opportunity to make a difference in this world. Let us begin today by renewing our obligations in our hearts and making a concerted effort to change the world around us. Let us constantly endeavor to "walk uprightly in our several stations before God and man, squaring our actions by the square of virtue, ever remembering that we are traveling upon the level of time towards that undiscovered country, from whose borne, no traveler returns."

God bless!



## We offer our condolences to the family and friends of those brothers who have been called by The Grand Architect of the Universe.

**George N. Barron**  
Widows Son Lodge No. 66

**Charles J. Brennan**  
Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14

**Paul G. Chipko**  
Harmony Lodge No. 42

**John Robert Essenberg**  
Wolcott Lodge No. 146

**Hans Howard Frohlich**  
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**Everett W. Spencer, Jr.**  
Granite Lodge No. 119

**John R. Whitbeck, Jr.**  
St. Pauls Lodge No. 11



## Grand Historian's Corner

Bro. David J. Stewart

Fall is here, nature's harvest has been bountiful, the leaves are changing colors, and days are warm and nights cool. November recognizes those who went forth and entered the conflicts of war in defense of our great country. To our veterans who have gone to that lodge on high and those still among us, we thank you for your service.

I was sorting through some old family papers when I came across some of my father's papers, one of which he sent home in the summer of 1942 from somewhere in the Pacific to his love, who would ultimately become his bride and my mother.

### "A HITCH IN HELL"

I am sitting here and thinking of the things I left behind, and I would hate to put on paper that which is running through my mind. We have dug many ditches and cleaned a hundred miles of ground, a neater place this side of "HELL" has yet to be found. There's one consolation, though, so gather round as I tell, when we die, we'll go to heaven 'cause we've spent our hitch in "HELL."

We have built so many kitchens, where the cook can stew the beans. We have stood a million guard mounts and cleaned the camp latrines. We have washed a million mess kits and peeled a million spuds. We've rolled many a blanket pack and washed the CO's duds. The number of reveille's

we've stood is hard to tell, but there'll be no reveille in heaven when we do our hitch in "HELL."

We've killed a million ants and bugs that cry out for our eats and shook a million centipedes and snakes from our dirty sheets. We've marched a thousand miles and pitched a hundred camps; we've picked the Reido Regan Cactus from the seats of our khaki pants. When our work on earth is finished, our friends left behind will tell us that those men went to heaven because they spent their hitch in "HELL."

We've taken quinine daily, those bitter little pills, to elevate our systems against the fever and the chills. We've seen a million ack-ack bursts above us in the sky as we run for dingy shelters when the "Daisy Cutters" fly. Put out those lights and cigarettes; we hear the CO yell; this isn't any picnic; it's just another phase of "HELL."

When the final taps are sounded, and we shed our earthly cares, we'll pull our greatest parade of all upon the Golden Stairs. The angels will be there to greet us, and their harps will gladly play. We'll draw a million canteen checks and spend them in a day. We'll hear Gabriel blow his horn and St. Peter proudly yell, take a front seat, you guys from New Guinea, you've done your hitch in "HELL."

I say again to all our veterans, thank you for your service!



# The Forgotten Member

by Charles W. Yohe

Most, if not all, lodges take pride in doing excellent ritual work, both in the degrees and in the normal operation of the lodge from month to month. To strive for an excellent ritual is admirable, but in the repetition of our work, have we forgotten to act on the principles that our ritual is designed to impart and emphasize?

Many years ago, the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, embarked on a mission to bring our Masonic ideals to life by fulfilling the statement, "We will strive to be a fraternity that cares for its members." This ultimately resulted in the creation of the Grand Almoner's Fund, which has disbursed millions of dollars to Masons and their widows/orphans over the years. The idea was so striking that the Grand Lodge of Connecticut adopted the concept and created its own Grand Almoner and District Almoners to assist lodges in the mission of putting into action the precepts that our ritual teaches.

As a Mason who no longer lives in Connecticut but who remains active in the place where I reside, the recent tragic weather events that have caused widespread destruction, loss of life, and loss of livelihoods throughout Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Virginia cause me to reflect on how well our lodges might be fulfilling their responsibilities to care for all of their members. I and other fellow Connecticut Masons received inquiries from several of our Masonic leaders before, during, and after the recent havoc caused by Helene and Milton. Those contacts and expressions of concern were uplifting and appreciated! But what of my lodge? Has any member of my lodge reached out to ascertain how we fared? Sadly, none have done so.

As it turns out, our property was spared, and my wife and I weathered the storm with little damage. Also, I am heartened by the fact that my adopted lodge here in Florida has reached out to all of its members to determine if there is a need. But the sad fact remains that in the four years since I moved out of Connecticut, I have had almost no personal contact from my lodge – nothing to inquire as to my health and well-being, nothing to update me on my lodge's health and well-being. The attitude seems to be, 'You moved away and can't help your lodge anymore, so your lodge doesn't have any interest in you.'

Perhaps my experience is an outlier, and I hope that is the case. Still, I wonder how many Connecticut lodges have lived up to their obligations of caring for their members by reaching out to those who no longer live in Connecticut but reside in areas affected by these devastating catastrophes. In 2024, the resources are readily available to enable each lodge to plot their member's locations on a map and determine if they are in an area affected by these events. Additionally, very few of us have telephone service, which makes it cost-prohibitive to call anywhere in the U.S.

It is wonderful to have a Grand Almoner and District Almoners. Still, it would be so much more meaningful if each lodge regularly reached out to its members wherever they currently reside to say hello and to determine if they are well or if they are in distress. Don't just repeat the ritual; act on it! Live it by making regular, personal contact with every one of your members. In doing so, you will not only live up to your obligations but also make your lodge and masonry stronger. So, mote it be.



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# From the Desk of Bro. JonPaul Venoit

## President & CEO of Masonicare

At last month's semiannual meeting of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut, the voting membership took the historic step of approving a series of changes to Masonicare's bylaws that move our planned merger with United Methodist Homes (UMH) into the final phase.

I am eternally grateful to the entire Masonic Family for your continued support—not just over the last six months since the merger was first announced, but always. Your friendship and advocacy have helped get Masonicare to this point and boost our confidence about the journey ahead.

Masonicare and UMH have been collaborating on communications tailored to our respective workforces. Most recently, this took the form of internal newsletters highlighting the people, places, traditions, and cultures that have helped shape our organizations. I'm sure some of that material will find its way onto the pages of future issues of *Connecticut Freemasons*.

We received the great news that Masonicare at Ashlar Village has been named Best Assisted Living Community in the *Record Journal's* 2024 Readers' Choice Awards. I want to thank our amazing residents, families, and employee team members who make Ashlar Village a special place to live and work. And, of course, THANK YOU to everyone who voted!

I want to congratulate Rachael Laudano, Executive Director of Assisted Living at Ashlar Village, and Lauren Dubuque, Executive Director of Masonicare at Mystic, on their communities' reaccreditation for the Purple Flag for Dementia Care. Purple Flag for Dementia Care is an accreditation program that recognizes excellence and drives continuous improvement in the field of caring for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. The flag symbolizes Rachael, Lauren, and their respective teams' commitment to delivering outstanding memory care services.

I also want to congratulate Kimberly Magalhaes, Executive Director of Independent Living at Ashlar Village, on being named Woman of the Year by the Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce. The award recognizes a remarkable woman "whose extraordinary achievements have made a lasting impact on her industry and community." Kim has certainly been that for us. We are so proud of Kim and

appreciate everything she's done to create positive living experiences for our residents.

Annie Hoefflerle, Executive Director of Masonicare at Chester Village, was among this year's graduates of LeadingAge Connecticut Leadership Academy. Annie is a regular facilitator at our in-house version of Leadership Academy who really takes the program's central themes to heart, enabling her to become the empathic and authentic leader she is today.

Once again, our teams at both the New London and New Haven Walks to End Alzheimer's far exceeded their fundraising goals for the year. I want to thank everyone from the Masonic Family who supported us as a walker or donor. One day, a cure will be found for Alzheimer's. Until then, Masonicare will continue to lead by example by raising awareness and increasing the amount of money needed for care, support, and research.

I often tell our employees to pay attention to the little things because those little things mean a lot to those we're entrusted to serve. In that spirit, I hope you'll take time during this season of Thanksgiving to appreciate all our blessings and be grateful for all the big and little things we have.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,



Masonicare   
An Ageless Commitment to Caring

# Summer Baseball Fun With The Fraternity Revisited

by Jeffrey Blayman

Recently, MWB Edward C Page mentioned how exciting he found the entire idea of the Masonic Family Day Baseball outing. One moment that especially stood out to him was when a man saw his jacket sitting on the ground (where he had placed it while shaking hands and taking selfies). The man asked if it was his or if it should be brought to the lost and found. Brother Page enjoyed a brief conversation with this gentleman. It was his care and concern for another's property that displayed the inner kindness and thoughtfulness of Freemasonry. A new potential candidate was created as they spoke about the fraternity and the fundraising objective of the day's game.

If anything can be yielded from this year's game, it was a sense of brotherhood as lodge brothers from around Connecticut joined together to raise money for Masonicare. With the help of friends and brothers, 500 tickets were pre-sold, and an additional \$2,500 was raised at the gate. Thanks to The Masonic Charity Foundation Trustees and their Matching Funds Program, an additional \$750 in matching funds made a grand total of \$3,250.

Considering that less than 10 percent of brothers in the jurisdiction have 500 tickets, the donation could easily be doubled if brothers attend next summer as they do for the Semi-Annual Communications at Ashlar Village. This event has a fun twist...baseball, beverages, and fireworks with family and friends!

Won't YOU and your lodges consider making the trip to support Masonicare and enjoy the national pastime in the comfort of Dodd Stadium in Norwich, watching the Futures League here next July?

Special thanks to Dodd Stadium GM Lee Walter Jr. and Marketing & Promotions Manager KC Collins III for the hospitality and opportunity, to WB Mark Orsini in the Grand Lodge office, and to MWB Edward C. Page for all of their support!

To reserve tickets for next season, feel free to call Jeff Blayman at 860-334-5277 / jblayman@gmail.com.





# District 1

Lodges 3, 5, 6, 8, 19, 65, 67, 85, 104, 107, 142, 144, 149



## Temple Lodge No. 65 200th Anniversary Celebrations

Temple Lodge No. 65 proudly celebrated its 200th Anniversary in 2024 with events and activities. Chartered on May 12, 1824, the lodge predates the Town of Westport, making it one of the town's oldest, if not the oldest, institutions. To honor the lodge and the community it has served, the brothers arranged for one of the most revered relics in Masonry, the George Washington Inaugural Bible, to be displayed upon their altar for all to see. It was a truly momentous and historic event for the lodge.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Edward C. Page, honored Temple Lodge with two visitations this year. The first visit was on the lodge's Pin Night when he bestowed WB Dennis Corsalini with his 50-year pin.

He visited again, with his Grand Lodge officers, to perform a rededication ceremony and attend the 200th Anniversary Banquet. This was the pinnacle of the anniversary celebration and proved to be an event like no other.

The brothers, officers, and trustees of Temple Lodge thank all who participated and supported the lodge. By all accounts, it has been a year to remember, and the memories will last forever.







## Fellowship Under the Harvest Moon by Christian Alvarez

On September 21, the day of the fall equinox when light and dark are in perfect balance, under the celestial stars and the watchful eye of the Grand Architect of the Universe, the brothers of Fidelity Saint John's Lodge No. 3 and Corinthian Lodge No. 104 came together to raise seven Fellowcrafts to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

The second annual Fidelity St. John's Farm degree drew a large crowd from the northeast and as far away as Indiana to Orange for the event. The combination of peaceful and warm weather, an almost full moon, and an equinox set the background for a powerful Masonic energy that permeated the degree.

The weeks leading up to this occasion were filled with routine practices and preparations of the grounds. The regalia, traditions, and specifications of a well-governed lodge room were replicated in an open field on a farm owned by one of Fidelity St. John's Lodge brothers. Tractors, chainsaws, shovels, and axes were employed to level the field. Stumps were carved into seats, logs were transformed into an altar, and dirt was cleared to allow the Craft to come together and bear witness. The work was completed after dozens of hours of labor, but the ritual was beginning.

Brothers checked into the farm, surrounded by a multitude of tilers to ensure the sanctity of their secrets. Looking down the hill into the valley where Masons had carved their meeting space, most brothers stood in awe of the scale of the event before them. To the left wafted the intoxicating scent of the Brazilian BBQ dinner with well-prepared meats sizzling on scalding hot grills. To the right, scores of brothers arrived, greeting one another in animated and customary ways. Behind them, herds of farm animals grazed and stirred due to the unusual activity in what was usually their home. In the center stood the lodge beneath the stars and harvest moon—a Temple of King Solomon, perfectly carved into the base of a hill in a measured square, complete with the appropriate designations for the East, West, South, and North, and adorned with all the necessary regalia to open a just and lawful lodge of Master Masons.



Weeks of preparation yielded the fruits of a perfectly executed Master Mason degree. Seven men crossed the threshold and were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in a manner they would remember for the rest of their lives.

# Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 Cares For Their Lodge Building.

Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 brothers in Easton tackled vital projects to maintain the lodge's aging building. The Grand Architect of the Universe blessed the day with ideal weather for a work party.

Bro. Bob Curwen, skillfully leading the effort like a modern-day Hiram Abiff, oversaw the operation and motivated the workmen. It was incredibly heartening to see several brothers absent from the lodge return to lend a hand when needed. With a spirit of teamwork reminiscent of industrious bees, the brothers accomplished three major tasks to preserve the lodge.

The primary focus was digging a trench for the septic system, a task completed by brothers working in shifts from morning through the afternoon to ensure no one overtaxed themselves. Bro. Aaron Jensen of America St. John's Lodge No. 8 and his assistant lent their professional plumbing expertise, which, combined with the brethren's efforts, saved the lodge several thousand dollars in just a few hours.

In addition to the trench work, the brothers cleaned all the gutters. They reorganized a pile of firewood into a newly donated log rack, ensuring the lodge was prepared for their monthly Fireside Fellowship nights this autumn. The Junior Warden ensured all were well-fed to maintain their strength and stamina!

Great company and an atmosphere of collaboration made the work enjoyable. This collective effort embodies Masonic harmony's spirit—well done, brethren!





**2024  
Semi-Annual  
Communications  
October 19**



**2024  
Semi-Annual  
Communications  
October 19**



# District 3

Lodges 7, 11, 12, 17, 42, 47, 55, 64, 78



## Third District Confers the Perfect Craftsman Degree

by **Shane Dufresne**

For the first time in over 25 years, the Third District conducted a Perfect Craftsman Degree at Shepherd Salem Lodge No. 78 after the Blue Lodge Council meeting on September 26. The Perfect Craftsman Degree is a fun degree with a lifetime membership, and historically, it originated in Connecticut. Twenty-five brothers took the degree and had a great time doing so.



## Stepping Into the Future Through Colonial Times by **Steve Lewis**

At King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 in Woodbury, WM Lorenzo Gaudiose likes to keep activities lively, different, and engaging. On October 2, little did Fellowcraft candidate Bro. Anthony Migliarese know he would meet George Washington of Virginia, who would take charge of the evening's proceedings.

MWB Bruce Bellmore of Hiram Lodge No.1, General Washington, led the charge with a complete and competent team of fellow colonials who had an absolute command of the Fellowcraft degree ritual.

The degree was performed by the Lafayette Consistory Colonial Degree Team, who are practicing Scottish Rite brethren. Lafayette Consistory is the oldest in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, representing the Valleys of Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury. While the assembled team varies by event, the performance of the ritual is always at one hundred percent.

In addition to the dedicated brothers of King Solomon's Lodge and the entire Colonial Degree Team, several special guests attended the evening's festivities: RWB Carl Anderson of Grand Lodge, Bro. Aaron Dwyer and WB. Mark Dzurnak of St. Paul's Lodge No. 11 and Bro. Daniel Renzoni of America St. John's Lodge No. 8.

On this historic evening, the newly passed Fellowcraft Bro. Migliarese took one more step into his future. The sitting officers from the degree team closed the lodge at 9:50 p.m., and peace and harmony prevailed.



For more information on becoming a Scottish Rite Mason, contact Bro. Thomas E. Beck, 32°, MSA, (Thom@LafayetteConsistory.com) or about the degree team, Ill. Bro. Robert J. Furce 33°, MSA, (RJFurce@LafayetteConsistory.com).

# District 4

Lodges 1, 9, 16, 22, 30, 38, 63, 66, 77, 79, 87, 89, 97, 115, 125, 332, 401, 500



## Annawon Lodge No. 115 Golf Tournament Raises \$8,500 for House of Heroes by Jerry Nero

On August 26, the Annawon Lodge Fellowcraft Club hosted the annual William A. Soderman Golf Tournament at Wheeler Family Traditions Golf Course in Wallingford. The tournament was a great success, raising \$8,500 to benefit House of Heroes, a nonprofit dedicated to providing essential home repairs to veterans, particularly those who are elderly or disabled.

House of Heroes is crucial in improving veterans' living conditions and ensuring they can live safely and with dignity. On September 23, brothers of Annawon Lodge presented a check for \$8,500 to the organization, supporting its efforts to assist veterans in need.

The generosity of several key sponsors made the event successful. The lodge extends heartfelt thanks to platinum sponsors Torrco Supply and the Scottish Rite Valley of New Haven, banquet sponsor Star Supply Company, and cart sponsor Masonicare. They also thank all of the tee sponsors whose contributions were instrumental in reaching the event's fundraising goals.



A special acknowledgment goes to Landino Signs for donating the event signage and to Cindy Sorrentino and Leigh Cassidy for organizing the cornhole fundraiser at hole 1, which significantly contributed to the total raised. Thanks also to Wheeler Family Traditions Golf Course for hosting the event, and A1 Toyota is sponsoring the hole-in-one contest.

This tournament demonstrates the power of community action and generosity in supporting our veterans, and we look forward to continuing this tradition in the future.



# Annawon Lodge No. 115 Complete Major Renovations

by Jerry Nero

Annawon Lodge No. 115 in West Haven recently completed a major renovation project, investing over \$125,000 in substantial building improvements. These enhancements have dramatically improved the lodge's appearance and functionality, creating a more inviting and comfortable space for members and visitors.

The exterior of the building now features a polished look, thanks to the repointing of the brickwork and fresh coat of paint that gives the lodge a revitalized and modernized appearance. Inside, the lodge hall also received a complete repainting, transforming the space into a brighter and more welcoming environment for gatherings and events.

The parking lot was also completely repaved, offering enhanced accessibility and convenience for members and guests. This crucial upgrade ensures smoother access to the lodge, making it easier for everyone to attend meetings and special events.

This was a long-awaited project for TBA chairman Jerry Calabritto, who has been running the building committee for many years. It gives the building association an additional income resource. WM Joseph McVety is very pleased with the work completed and very happy with the collaboration and accomplishments of the TBA board and all who made this happen.

With these significant improvements, Annawon Lodge proudly presents a refreshed, functional, and inviting space for its members and the West Haven community. These renovations mark a new chapter in the lodge's history, ensuring it remains a place of fellowship and community for years to come.



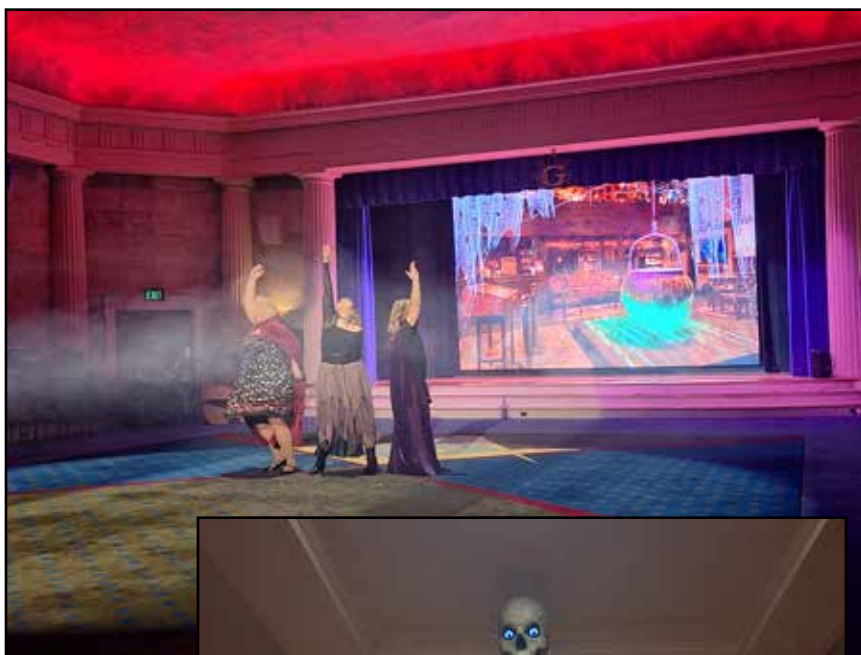
# Hiram Lodge No. 1 Halloween Gala for Life Haven

by Michael Calderone

On Saturday, October 12, the New Haven Masonic Temple rang out with ghoulish Broadway music, goodwill, and hearty applause. Tullio Milani, Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge No. 1, hosted, produced, and sang along with a bevy of Connecticut community theater performers to raise funds for the Life Haven Women's Shelter and New Reach Crisis Services. Performers from The Movement Center, a new youth performing arts program, also participated, and the performance was supported backstage by brothers of Scottish Rite.

Guests were greeted downstairs by a cauldron full of treats and a 12-foot skeleton decked out in a Hiram Lodge Past Master apron. The Valley of New Haven Scottish Rite provided a wonderful pre-show dinner in the temple's Halloween-themed banquet facility.

The show, presented with a live three-piece band and performed in the state-of-the-art Roman Lodge Room on the second floor, contained a practical "who's who" of Connecticut community theater talent. The crowd of over 100 guests was amazed by the voices, the staging, and the facility. Not only was this an enjoyable way to bring the local community into the temple, but more importantly, it raised over \$4,500 for a worthy cause!





# District 5

Lodges 14, 29, 33, 36, 101, 128, 140, 146, 148



## Brothers from Unity Lodge No. 148 Take On Spartan Sprint at Mt. Killington by Hiram Morales

It would be an absolutely fantastic experience to take on the challenge of a Spartan Sprint with two lodge brothers by my side. It began with an idea inspired by MWB Edward Page, who promoted more physical events in the Craft. When chipping away the corners of Rough Ashlars, many forget their physical health. I persuaded two brothers from the Unity Lodge, Junior Steward Jeremy Bradbury and WM Brian Tardif. For two months, we trained individually, encouraging one another to keep going strong and discuss tactics and techniques.

We woke up in the early morning, hours before the sun rose in the east. The drive along the mountains and through the valley was obscured with fog. Rays of light pierced through it, revealing a glimpse of grandeur. Reaching the mountain's base, the sun was still trying to climb above the tree line. Stepping out of the car, the cool mountain air brushed across our faces as if welcoming us to its heights. We prepared ourselves for what was about to be a daunting experience, both physically and mentally.

It all led to a very long two hours of trudging through adversity, discomfort, pain, and mental anguish. No brother was left behind. They stayed together, pushing each other to keep moving forward and to keep striving for that medal.

All three of us crossed that finish line together. "There was strength in the lion's paw in the tribe of Judah," and that was Dour's team name, Lion's Paw! A true symbol of unity and Masonry.



# District 2

Lodges 13, 18, 21, 39, 40, 48, 49



## Hiram Lodge No. 18 Initiates Two by Fred Marotti

On October 2, the brothers of Hiram Lodge No. 18 initiated two candidates into Freemasonry: Lucas Fritsche and Brenton Vaughan. The degree was held under inspection by RWB David McClain, District Deputy of Masonic District 2B. WM Tony Neri presided in the East, and MWB Joseph Porco also attended.



# District 6

Lodges 4, 25, 28, 70, 73, 88, 145, 400



## Ladies and Widows Appreciation Luncheon at Washington Lodge No. 70 **by Robert Dodge**

A Ladies and Widows Appreciation Luncheon was held at Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor on Saturday, October 5. The theme was Fall in New England. The luncheon was hosted by WB Bob Dodge and his wife Stephanie, who have organized this special event twice a year for the past four years.

The recognition of lodge ladies and widows at these luncheons is a tradition started by lodge Almoner Bro. Bob McKay was continued by Bob and Stephanie Dodge. Masons promise to aid and assist all poor, distressed brothers, Master Masons, their widows, and orphans. Bob and Stephanie take this very seriously, trying to stay in contact with the widows and addressing their needs as they arise.

In addition to the spring and fall luncheons, widows are invited to the annual summer lodge family picnic and receive Christmas poinsettias, delivered by the brothers in December. This is just a tiny part of the outreach done by the lodge brothers. Thanks to everyone who helped keep this tradition alive and make this annual event possible for the ladies and widows.



## Washington Lodge No.70 Portrays Master Mason Degree on Step Up Night

**by Kenneth D. Roach**

Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor portrayed Master Mason Degree on September 23, a step-up night. Congratulations to Bro. Michael Champlin, a high school classmate of Senior Warden Kenneth D. Roach, III, who raised Bro. Michael.

The entire officer line stepped up and performed magnificently, making it a very special evening and a great start to returning to labor.



# Washington Lodge No. 70 Visit La Guardia Lodge No. 1130 in New York by Kenneth D. Roach

Brothers from Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor recently traveled to La Guardia Lodge #1130 on Staten Island, NY. They enjoyed brotherly love and great fellowship with the brothers of the lodge who performed an Entered Apprentice Degree on a step-up night.



*Brothers gather for a group photo after the evening.*



*(l-r) Bro. Patrick Chagnon (JS),  
WB Robert Dodge, Bro. Jeremy Gaffney (JD),  
and Bro. Kenneth Roach, III (SW).*

## Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 Spotlights WB Dave Larsen by Pat Jones

It is not unusual for me, as lodge secretary, to receive a variety of calls and messages at odd times. When messages come in from all around the globe at unusual hours, it's obvious that a brother is interested in talking. Whether by text, email, or cell phone, I look forward to these discussions with WB David Larsen, a pilot for Delta Airlines.

Well-known in the Masonic world, WB Dave Larsen has been Master of two lodges, Fayette Lodge No. 69 and Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88, and has experienced virtually every Masonic office in approximately 13 years of Masonic membership. He recently completed a two-year term as Associate Grand Marshal of Masonic District 6A.

A hard worker known for his willingness to step up and take on difficult challenges, WB Dave is a leader of men and is well-liked by his Masonic brothers. As president of the Evergreen Lodge Building Corporation, he regularly volunteers his time and expertise to help improve the lodge. "I love taking care of our lodge. It gives me such joy."

Several years ago, on a trip to Cape Cod to visit one of his friends, who was a Mason, he was influenced to join the brotherhood. His friend said that Masonry would be "right up his alley." Dave says, "he was 100% right." He wishes more brothers would affiliate with other lodges because "you get to help so many people." As Master of Hartford Evergreen Lodge, he raised 12 Masons in one year. "It is one of my greatest achievements as a Mason. What a thrill that was."

Dave was born in Manchester and grew up in Tolland. His first job was as a pot washer at Cavey's Restaurant in Manchester. He attended Rockville High School, played football in his junior year, and graduated from Daniel Webster College with a degree in aviation management and flight operations. He finished in 3½ years and soon thereafter began a long and distinguished career in aviation.

During his college orientation, he was advised to get a fueling job at an airport. He got one while still in school. His first job, maintaining a corporate flight department, was one of the best jobs at the airport. This enabled him to get valuable turbine multi-engine time while still in school. He has been a pilot at numerous airlines. Currently, he is a captain with Delta Airlines. He was a captain of the Boeing 757, 767, and A350.

He met the love of his life, Shari, at a high school party in South Windsor and has been married to her for 33 years. They have been inseparable ever since. He has two children: his daughter Ashlyn and his son Cameron. Cameron is a Master Mason.



# South Carolina Lodge Presents 50-year Pin to Connecticut Mason **by Steven Aldi**

On Thursday, September 5, RWB Wayne Blackburn, DDGM from the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina, on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, presented Brother Ernest "Ernie" Converse with his 50-year pin and certificate.

Brother Ernie is a member of Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 in Manchester and now lives with Lady Linda in Hodges, South Carolina.

Special thanks go to the efforts of Grand Lodge Administrative Assistant WB Mark Orsini and RWB F. Matthew Heinrich Jr. for their assistance in making this happen.



*Greenwood Lodge No. 91 brethren, Ernie and Linda.*



*(l-r) RWB Wayne Blackburn, Bro. Ernest Converse and Lady Linda.*

## District 8

Lodges 10, 31, 34, 57, 102, 116, 120, 150



## Wanted! Union Lodge No. 31 Safecrackers! **by Ray Geer**

On Thursday, September 19, at Union Lodge No. 31 in Niantic, two suspects entered the Bayview Masonic Temple at approximately 9 p.m. It would seem that they had previously cased the lodge building as they headed directly to the large safe on the lower level, which holds Union Lodge's valuables.

One suspect sat in a chair in front of the safe while the other held a flashlight on the dial. After a few attempts, the safe's doors opened.

What valuables were inside the safe still remains a mystery!



*WB Bill Perkins turns the dial as Bro. Mike Tranchida holds the flashlight.  
(photo by WB Ray Geer)*



# District 7

Lodges 2, 43, 51, 81, 95, 112, 119, 131, 151



## Dad Beals and DeMolay Visit Warren Lodge No. 51

by Jeffrey Blayman

On September 19, RWB Brian Beals, executive officer of the Order of DeMolay, the Masonic organization for young men ages 12 to 21, visited Warren Lodge No. 51 in Portland. The Order of DeMolay was founded in 1919 in Kansas City, Missouri, and named for Jacques de Molay, the last Grand Master of the Knights Templar.

The Order of DeMolay has seven Cardinal Virtues taught as its fundamental ideals. It calls for every member to live according to these virtues, distinguishing a good leader from a good man.

Accompanying RWB Beals were Aiden Nielsen, Deputy State Master Councilor, Owen Plourde, State Senior Councilor, and Caleb Nielsen-State Marshal. All three young gentlemen spoke eloquently and passionately about the influence and growth they've shared by being members of DeMolay.

It was an educational evening, learning about the future of this great organization and, better yet, of the country.

To learn more about DeMolay, please contact RWB Beals to arrange a visit or join a chapter ([bebeals@ctfreemasons.net](mailto:bebeals@ctfreemasons.net)).



# Warren Lodge No. 51 Ladies Appreciation and Awards Banquet by Jeffrey Blayman

On September 29, Warren Lodge No. 51 hosted its 3rd Annual Ladies Appreciation and Awards Night banquet at Campagna restaurant in Portland. With over 50 people in attendance the room was boisterous as brothers and their ladies mingled while RWB Rob Krawic serenaded everyone with his guitar. After a festive cocktail hour, the meal was served by Campagna owners Demir and Alma, who always ensure everyone is happy and full.

The awards portion of the evening will include service pin presentations. Many brothers were not able to be present, Bro. Piatti received his 30-year pin, and Bro. Jack Sterry, Sr., received a 45-year pin for his son, who could not attend.

Certificates of appreciation for service to others were awarded to Bro. Anzellotti, WB Braccidiferro, WB Masselli, and RWB Swanson for his outstanding contribution to providing Masonic Funeral Rites for recently fallen brothers.

Additionally, a contribution was made to guest Sarah Sleeter for her work with Cub Scout Pack 19 of Baltic. Scouting has a strong legacy within Freemasonry, so it was indeed a worthy opportunity to share in the support of a fine organization like the BSA.

Although there were other notable recipients and awards given, the final award of the evening was given to a brother whose outstanding contributions to his lodge, his district, and his community are second to none. Congratulations to Bro. David L Rutter Jr on being named Mason of the Year 2024!

As is tradition and as a token of esteem, roses were given to all the ladies present as a symbol of affection and gratitude.



# WHAT APRON FLAPS ARE REALLY SAYING

by John A. Amarilios, [membership@lafayetteconsistory.com](mailto:membership@lafayetteconsistory.com)

The year has flown by, and we are approaching the end of the degree season. On November 18, live renditions of the 5th and 30th Degrees will be presented, followed by a video presentation of the 19th Degree. The season will culminate on Monday, December 2, when the ultimate degree of the Rite (the 32nd) is presented live at the theater in Stratford. A reminder that dinners precede the degrees and that reservations are highly recommended – especially for the 32nd Degree, which is heavily attended and has three separate dinner seatings. Please call the office at (203) 375-0064 several days in advance of the degree in question to reserve your place.

Family life events continue through the holiday season – with limited availability remaining on the following trips.

On Thanksgiving Day, November 28, the Valley will be participating in the route management of the Stratford Annual Turkey Trot 5K, which begins and ends next to the theater.

Volunteers are always needed for this early (7 a.m.) event that typically wraps up by 10 a.m. On Saturday, December 14, there will be a bus trip to the Boston Pops Holiday Concert at Symphony Hall in Boston. On Friday, December 20, there will be the Annual Holiday Party and Dyslexia Center Fundraiser at the Woodwinds in Branford. Details and tickets for all these events can be arranged over the phone at (203) 375-0064.

\*\*\*\*\*

If one delves into the various doctrines that are covered by the symbolism of the Masonic apron, one will find gleanings of Zoroaster, Pythagoras, and Plato, amongst others; according to Dr. Buck in his *Mystic Masonry*, the apron has adopted them all. All three of these ancient teachers were real initiates of the mysteries. And fundamentally, their doctrines were similar. All taught the existence of the GAOTU, the soul's immortality, and the unqualified Brotherhood of Man. To this date, Freemasonry is in agreement with these doctrines.

The Entered Apprentice symbolically starts his journey with the square atop of the compasses, atop of the Bible, alluding to the condition inherent in most all humanity in which matter has not become spiritualized. As the brother passes and his spiritual awakening quickens, we have the compasses intertwined with the Square, and finally, when he is raised as a Master Mason, we see this symbolized by the ascent of the compasses atop the Square, as the material is transformed into the spiritual. Masonry is said to be a “progressive science,” so the candidate experiences a process of development and the descent of spirit into matter. Thus, the transmutation of the gross into the soul fire (or light) is symbolically indicated.

## LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



### Attention All Master Masons!

SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES  
Reservations required.  
Call the Consistory Office at (203) 375-0064.  
**Mon., Nov. 18** - 5th Degree & 30th Degree (live), 19th Degree (video)  
**Mon., Dec. 2** - 32nd Degree  
32nd Degree Dinner Seatings at 5 pm, 5:45 and 6:30 pm.  
For the latest copy of the  
Lafayette Consistory News visit  
<https://ctfreemasons.net/appendantbodies/lafayetteconsistory/>

**Contact the Consistory Office to arrange for seating and meals for any of the degree events.**

<b>Valley of Bridgeport</b> 2422 Main Street Stratford, CT 06615 <a href="mailto:Office@LafayetteConsistory.com">Office@LafayetteConsistory.com</a> 203-375-0064	<b>Valley of New Haven</b> 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 <a href="mailto:Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com">Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com</a> 203-269-0336	<b>Valley of Waterbury</b> 529 Highland Avenue Waterbury, CT 06708 <a href="mailto:cdoneill@snet.net">cdoneill@snet.net</a> 203-754-8209
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**For more information, contact the Valley near you or email [Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com](mailto:Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com).**

Further symbolism of this process can be seen in how the candidate wears his apron. This process of the spirit's descent into matter is alluded to by the way the flap is worn, initially, as an EA, above the square, passing to the point where it is folded partially within and without the square and progressing when raised to the point where it lies inside the square. The flap of the apron and the relative positions of the Square and Compasses on the Bible have identical allusions. Thus, the Entered Apprentice is not only a “hewer of wood and a drawer of water” but an aspirant toward spiritual attainment, taking his first instruction. Now you have the meaning behind the apron's flap and what its position actually symbolizes, beyond simply the degree attained.

Symbolism and allegory abound in our progressive science, and nothing is random or without more profound significance in our lodges and their accouterments.

*As always, the Valley of Bridgeport, stands ready to help further your understanding of the three degrees of Freemasonry. Should you have questions about the Scottish Rite, please feel free to contact me at the email address above, or call the Consistory office a (203) 375-0064.*



# District 9

Lodges 15, 24, 46, 60, 69, 110, 113, 122



## Thanksgiving Is Great For Giving – Fayette Lodge No. 69 News by D. Raymond Chouinard

Fayette Lodge No. 69 officers were happy to help a “new brother” join the lodge when they “raised” him at the Ellington Town Green Scarecrow Competition hosted by the Ellington Parks & Rec! The Craft was also proud to partner with the Ellington Centennial Lion's Club to host a booth and hand out candy at the Ellington “Trail of Treats” at Robert Tedford Memorial Park. Many costumes were beyond impressive!

In January, Fayette Lodge committed to having Fayette FUN this year! Drawing inspiration from MWB Edward C. Page and honoring the spirit of GUS, the goal for this year was to emphasize fellowship, understanding ritual, and new brothers.

Fellowship: The lodge held another successful American Red Cross Blood Drive on September 28 and successfully implemented a new Book Club for Fellowship this year.

Understanding the ritual: the lodge held monthly officer presentations on Freemasonry and was proud to have hosted all three degrees in 2024, with the officers performing them impressively! Degree collaboration within Masonic District 9 was instrumental this year in ensuring brothers advanced in their journey and witnessed only beautiful ceremonies.

New Brothers: New brothers Thomas Vaughn and Cody Linnell have been contributing at every corner! The lodge was thrilled to have three brothers accept their Perfect Ashlar awards at the Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication at Masonicare in Wallingford. Congratulations to Bros. Randy Cote, Wayne Hare, and Roland Mason for exemplifying steadfast dedication to Freemasonry!

Sincere and fraternal thanks to all who donated and/or volunteered this year! Fayette Lodge was determined to donate to the Grand Lodge of North Carolina's 2024 Hurricane Relief Fund, and they send prayers to all those impacted.

The spirit of Thanksgiving is for giving thanks, and Fayette wishes to keep on giving!





# Craft At Labor

To have your lodge events appear in the newspaper, please update your lodge event in Grand View prior to the 10th of the previous month. If your lodge needs assistance accessing Grand View events, please have the Master or Secretary or Calendar Admin contact the Grand Lodge office.

All times are supplied by the lodges. If there is a dinner, the time in the heading reflects that. The "Connecticut Freemasons" newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the lodge secretary to verify all times and events and to inquire about dinner reservations.

## Entered Apprentice Degrees

## Fellowcraft Degrees

## Master Mason Degrees

**Mon., Nov. 18,** 7:30 p.m., Meridian Lodge No. 77, Meriden

**Thu., Nov. 21,** 6:30 p.m., Harmony Loege No. 42, Waterbury, Dinner

**Sat., Nov. 30,** 8 a.m., Statewide Master Mason Degree, Hartog Auditorium, Masonicare, Wallingford.



# Craft At Refreshment

For more details about any of these events, please contact the lodge directly. In many cases, reservations are required, and they may or may not be open to the public.

All times are supplied by the lodges. The "Connecticut Freemasons" newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the lodge secretary to verify all times and events.

Recurring events and breakfasts may not occur during the summer months – call to check.

## Recurring Events

### **Second Monday of the Month,**

WyllysSt. John's Lodge No. 4, West Hartford, Discussions of Masonic Interest. Open to all brothers (EA, FC incl), short lecture and discussions on Masonic subjects.

**Every Thursday,** Putnam Lodge No. 46, Putnam, 7 p.m., Thursday Night Meeting Socializing, Rehearsing, Prepping.

### **First Sunday of the Month,**

WyllysSt. John's Lodge No. 4, West Hartford, 3 p.m., Noshes & Knowledge, Conversatoin on subject of Masonic interest, light refreshments. ALL are welcome

### **Second, Fourth Wednesday of the Month,**

Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, 7 p.m., Fellowship Night at the Lodge. Open to all brothers, friends. Refreshments and discussion. Please call to verify.

## Recurring Breakfasts

**First Sunday of the Month,** SequinLevel Lodge No. 140, Newington, 7 a.m., SBA Breakfast Fundraiser

**Second Sunday of the Month,** Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, 8 a.m., Fellowship Breakfast (8 a.m. to 10 a.m.)

**Third Sunday of the Month,** Washington Lodge No. 19, Monroe, 8 a.m., Country breakfast

**First Thursday of the Month,** 8th Masonic District, Groton, 9 a.m., Groton Townhouse Restaurant

**Third Saturday of the Month,** Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, 8 a.m., Uncle Bob's Ham & Eggers, 2 Linden Street, Plainville

## Events

**Sun., Nov. 3,** Moosup Lodge No. 113, Moosup, Mission Moosup Benefit Breakfast

**Sat., Nov. 9,** Washington Lodge No. 19, Monroe, Annual Venison Table Lodge

**Sat., Nov. 9,** Seneca Lodge No. 55, Torrington, Ladies At Table

**Tue., Nov. 12,** Moosup Lodge No. 113, Moosup, PHS Basketball Steak Dinner, 66 Prospect St, Moosup (across the street from the lodge)

**Sun., Nov. 17,** Moosup Lodge No. 113, Moosup, PAWS Benefit Breakfast

**Sun., Dec. 1,** Moosup Lodge No. 113, Moosup, Ellis Tech Class of 2025 Benefit Breakfast

**Sun., Dec. 15,** Moosup Lodge No. 113, Moosup, Breakfast with Santa

# BOOSTERS

Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: .October 13.

An asterisk next to your name indicates that your support in the Booster list expires in one month. Please consider renewing your support of the Connecticut Freemasons newspaper at your current rate or at the next level up. *After reviewing all of the receipts for Boosters, the lists are the Boosters who are current (i.e., within the 11 issue window). If your name does not appear and you feel that you should be on the list, please contact us.* Note: Booster support is not deductible as a charitable contribution under IRC Section 170(c).

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Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107

King Hiram Lodge No. 12

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Or, scan the QR Code on the right with your smartphone to go directly to the Connecticut Freemasons page on the website. Scroll down and follow the instructions indicated \*\* above. The funds are used to help cover the printing and mailing expenses of the paper.



**Scottish Rite  
Valley of New  
Haven Presents**

**2025**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST**

STARTS 6 PM. TICKETS \$40 P.P. SEMI FORMAL DRESS

**DJ DAVE WITH THE MUSIC**

HORS D'OEUVRES - FULL BUFFET DINNER  
DESERT - DANCING - CASH BAR

**COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT**

136 Marsh Hill Rd. Orange. CT 06477

Overnight stay at \$137.00 per night plus fees

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