


January 2025





# Connecticut FREEMASONS

**Connecticut  
FREEMASONS**

**LIVING  
HIS DREAM ON  
TRAINS, CRANES  
& HIS**


Where Good  
Men Relate



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

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# Table of Contents

- We Hereby Resolve... 3
- Connecticut Freemasons Foundation Letter ..... 4
- Grand Master's Message Edward C. Page..... 5
- Welcome to Our New Brothers..... 5
- Grand Chaplain's Pulpit ..... 6
- Called by The Grand Architect..... 6
- Grand Historian's Corner ..... 7
- "There's Nothing Like Masonicare" ..... 8-9
- From the Desk of Jon-Paul Venoit..... 10
- WB Joseph Bonola (1956-2024) ..... 10
- Statewide Master Mason Degree ..... 11
- Friends... Soldiers... Brothers ..... 11
- Marcus Holcomb Chapter Performs DeMolay Degree for Friendship Lodge ..... 12
- District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 ..... 12-20
- Donate Life: Jump for Life!..... 21
- "The Rest of the Story..." ..... 22
- Seen in a Shrine Club..... 23
- New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade ..... 24
- Lafayette Consistory ..... 25
- Boosters ..... 26
- Nutmeg Forest No. 116 Tall Cedars of Lebanon ..... 27
- Craft At Refreshment ..... 27
- Masonicare 2025 Brings You More of What Matters Most ..... 28

Letters, articles, and advertisements may be sent to the Editor Frank Way at **submissions@ctfreemasons.net** and are due on the 10th of the month prior to the next issue.

**Not just a man. A Mason.**



# Connecticut FREEMASONS

Volume 20 Number 1

**Publisher**  
**THE GRAND LODGE  
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# We Hereby Resolve...

by Francis G. Way

January. A time for new beginnings.

According to tradition, Roman King Numa Pompilius revamped the Roman calendar around 700 BC and replaced March with January as the first month of the year. January was named after Janus, the Roman god of all beginnings.

For us, in America in 2025, January is a chance to reset and begin anew as well. We all make resolutions. If I had the proverbial nickel for every pound I have resolved to lose starting each January, Elon Musk would be jealous of my net worth. But, although it's January (again), I'm already down 40 from last June, so I won't be making any weight resolutions. However, I have made some achievable resolutions, and I feel good about that. Time will tell.

In our lodges, officers are sitting in new chairs. Masonry, being a progressive science, utilizes a progressive officer line (in most instances). In this space, we've often mentioned the awesome responsibility the new incoming Worshipful Master shoulders when he raps his gavel for the first time in his first stated communication. Even with his years of experience, he's more than likely just a bit nervous.

But there's another officer, sometimes overlooked, who is probably just as nervous. He's the new Junior Steward...or perhaps the Marshal. I've not known a lodge that starts their newest officer in the line at Tiler, but I suppose that happens, too. He was asked to take a chair in the line. Just as a candidate starts by knocking on the door to begin his Entered Apprentice degree, so the new line officer starts at the bottom, the beginning, and progresses each year to more and more responsibility until, one day, he too is rapping his gavel to congregate his lodge on his first night as Worshipful Master.

This brother was asked to serve, answered "yes," purchased his tux, and now sits in his first chair in the line while the new Worshipful Master is beginning to open his lodge.

Has the lodge prepared this new officer? Has any more senior officer taken him under instruction? If not, that's a poor recipe for building a strong line. This new officer may not have any words to say during opening or closing, or even during a degree – Junior Stewards learn floor work and perhaps conduct a candidate but say nothing unless asked to present a lecture or the working tools. But how well he will function and fulfill his role as Master of the lodge in eight or nine years may depend on how well he is mentored as Junior Steward...or Marshal or Tiler.

Every lodge officer knows there are a lot of nuances to each chair and being an officer in general. I wish someone had told me before the night of my first stated communication (which happened to be our annual inspection) that I shouldn't cross my legs while sitting in my chair. The District Deputy graciously pulled me aside after the degree, complimented my answers to the Steward's lecture, and then said that I shouldn't cross my legs, that as an officer, we set an example for the rest of the lodge. That point was well taken and a lesson well learned. I'm glad for that brotherly whispered counsel, but I indeed wish I had known. I've made it a point to try to help new officers ever since.

And so it's January (again). Every lodge brims with the promise of a great new year. Every new Worshipful Master is excited to begin working on his plan. Every new Junior Steward, Marshal (or maybe Tiler) may be wondering just what he got himself into. New beginnings... Let's resolve to make that first chair a great experience for that new brother, and he, in turn, will be more likely to pass along lessons learned to the next new officer in the line. And that's how great officer lines come to be.



# CONNECTICUT FREEMASONS FOUNDATION, INC.

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



PO Box 69  
Wallingford, CT 06492

**Edward C. Page**  
Grand Master

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.***

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- George Washington National Masonic Memorial
- Masonic Medical Research Institute
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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:

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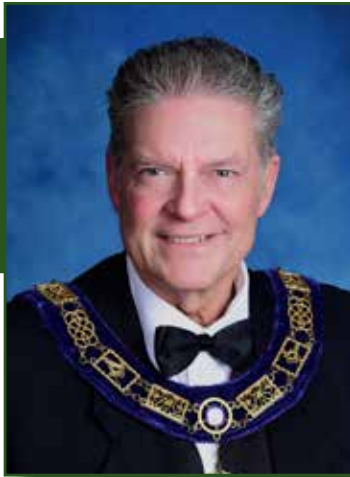
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Please have someone contact me about how to include the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation as a beneficiary in my will. \_\_\_\_\_



# Grand Master's Message

by MWB Edward C. Page

**J**anuary 1 starts the year anew. New Year's Eve allows us to celebrate the passing of the current year and all the trials and tribulations it brought, the lessons we learned, the obstacles we

overcame, and all the joys and the sorrows culminate in a grand crescendo at the stroke of midnight, with all reciting... "Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind? Should old acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne?"

In ringing in the new year at various New Year's Eve parties it behooves us to reflect upon the experiences of the past. We should not live in the past nor forget it but look back with fond loving memories and nostalgia, take lessons learned, and move into the future with wide-eyed optimism. This should be your approach with your fraternity. In many instances, what happens in our personal and social lives is reflected in our fraternity. In December, a lodge's 2024 officers are updated with the 2025 officers, and hopefully, they've learned from the previous year and are awaiting the challenges and successes of the year ahead.

On New Year's Day, we welcome "Baby New Year," representing hope and the year ahead, juxtaposed with Father Time, representing the year passed. As they say in sports, "Father Time is undefeated," which means that at some point, we must pass the authority onto those who

follow us, help and guide them to succeed, and pick them up if they fall—all the while supporting their efforts.

So, too, with our fraternity. Our officers advance at the start of each year, and we usher in new leadership. Those with experience are there to help, aid, and assist with the new leaders' goals, provide input and guidance, and work to help them achieve their plans. We all want what is best for our lodges, our district, and our jurisdiction. We may have a different focus and perspective, but we all want the same outcome – success. As new leadership ascends in our lodges, I liken it to a New Year's resolution for us as individuals: the overall feeling of rejuvenation, of eating healthier, taking better care of our human body, exercising, improving our spirituality and our relationship with our Supreme Being, improving our finances, and improving our personal relationships. All aspects of our individual lives are examined and evaluated, and a plan is established to make improvements. So, too, with our Craft and lodges, we assess our membership, officers, finances, ritual, and community interaction, put a plan together, execute, adjust, and observe the growth and improvement.

As Grand Master, but more importantly, as your Brother, I wish each and every Freemason the Happiest of New Year's and a brighter future for us all.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

### **King Solomons Lodge No. 7**

Arthur Scott McClure  
Spencer Lawrence Rouen

### **St. Pauls Lodge No. 11**

Brett Michael Wald

### **Washington Lodge No. 19**

Diego Consolin Lopes  
Colin Peter Redwood

### **Trumbull Lodge No. 22**

Fredrick Addai  
Thomas Okyere

### **Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34**

Marc Dubois

### **Coastal Lodge No. 57**

Gregory Peterson Bromley

### **Corinthian Lodge No. 63**

David Michael Mancini  
David Wayne Shultis

### **Widows Son Lodge No. 66**

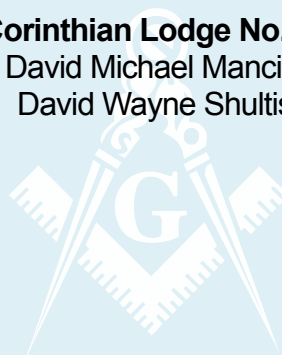
Leo Michael Calonico, Jr.  
Isaiah Simmons  
George Zinycz

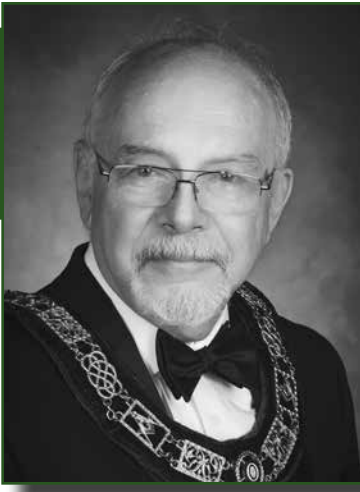
### **Acacia Lodge No. 85**

Pedro Jose Falcón-Martinez

### **Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107**

William Mann  
Adrian S. Ramirez  
Curtis Antonio Rodriguez





## *Grand Chaplain's Pulpit*

*by The Rev. Bruce R. Bellmore, PGM*

It is not uncommon to make New Year's resolutions that are forgotten by the end of January. We have all made resolutions to lose weight, exercise more, spend less time surfing the internet, etc., and then fall short of our goals.

Setting goals is important in our lives. Goals and dreams are what sustain us through difficult times and give us the motivation to move forward. All things must either grow and move forward or run the possibility of stagnation and death. But why is it so hard to reach our goals and dreams? Why do we so often fall short?

If you are like me, many of our resolutions are either unreasonable or we are not truly committed to reaching our goals. Our resolutions are vague and unspecific. In business, we are taught that goals must be reasonable, attainable, and specific. For example, instead of saying, I'm going to lose weight this year, we should say, I will lose 20 pounds by March 1 following a specific diet and exercise regimen. People who set specific goals are much more likely to achieve them.

It is the same with our spiritual lives. We must approach our spiritual resolutions in the same manner—reasonable, attainable,

and specific. This year, my parish has been studying the Psalms. Every week in the bulletin, I print the Psalms to be studied that week and then review them with guidance. I also encourage daily morning and evening prayers to help them grow.

Freemasons can also be specific in our goals. We can make resolutions to form a committee in our lodge to contact each of our brothers at least twice a year. We promise to help, aid, and assist our brothers, but how can we fulfill our obligations if we do not reach out to them and find out how they are doing? One of the Masonic organizations I belong to started to do just this, and some of the responses have been totally unexpected. We reached out to one brother only to find out he had died five years previously, and his wife continued to pay his dues because she thought she had to fulfill his obligation to the lodge! We also found several brothers who were indeed in distress and needed assistance and others who were so happy to receive a call and discover that Masons truly care about their brothers.

Let each of us resolve to contact at least one of our brothers each week to tell them that we care, that we miss them, and that we are here to help them. I promise the spiritual reward you will receive will be far greater than you can imagine.

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.*

**Stephen Aquilino**  
Corinthian Lodge No. 63

**Donald Francis Byrnes**  
St. Pauls Lodge No. 11

**Richard Theodore Mattson**  
Temple Lodge No. 16

**John Bernard McGuire**  
Purity Lodge No. 150



**Harold T. Peterson**  
Shepherd Salem Lodge No. 78

**Allen J. Schott**  
Meridian Lodge No. 77

**Salvatore Frank Tarantino**  
Wooster Lodge No. 10

**Andrew G. Weimann, II**  
Seneca Lodge No. 55



## Grand Historian's Corner

Bro. David J. Stewart

I'll start this edition of the Connecticut Freemasons with a wish for a very happy New Year. May peace and harmony surround you and your families. May the Grand Architect watch over you, keep you safe from harm, and bring a healthy new year to all.

I am often asked questions regarding our history in Connecticut. I certainly do not know all the answers, but I usually know where to look and find them. Here is a question that has been asked in prior years, and I thought it worth exploring: How did the names of our various lodges come about?

In Connecticut, as in most jurisdictions, the lodge name has a number attached that was usually assigned in order of progression or institution. Let's look at some of the names and find their origins. Many are interesting, while others are common in the Masonic World guides. The Native American (Indian) names are obviously unique.

Many variations and origins of lodge names appear in the annals of our Grand Lodge. The traditional "Masonic" names start with the first lodge in New Haven, which became known as Hiram Lodge. Years later, another Hiram Lodge was founded at Sandy Hook. There is Widow's Son Lodge in Branford, King Solomon's Lodge in Woodbury, and King Hiram Lodge. We can find many lodges with these names throughout the world of Masonry.

There are lodges named for famous Masons. Some were heroes of the American Revolution. Two Warren lodges were established, one in Portland and another in Andover. There are Montgomery, Putnam, Franklin, Lafayette, Hart, Trumbull, Hamilton, Roosevelt, Frederick, Somerset and Lyon Lodge. The latter was established in Columbia. The father of Connecticut Freemasonry, David Wooster, was honored by having lodges in Colchester and New Haven named in his honor. Four lodges were named after George Washington: Monroe, Windsor, Cromwell, and Ansonia. We can recall on another occasion the exploits of Joseph Warren, Jonathan Heart, David Wooster, Jonathan Trumbull and Israel Putnam.

Some believe Freemasonry got its start from the ancient Stonemasons' guilds. With that in mind, the terms of architecture naturally formulated some names. Doric, Ionic, Tuscan, Corinthian, and Composite dominate the scene and round out the five orders. There is a Compass Lodge in Wallingford, a Cornerstone in Thompson, an Ashlar, and a Granite.

The most interesting are the "Indian" names, and Connecticut has the most significant number of any jurisdiction in the US.

Housatonic, Annawon, Ansantawae, Pawcatuck, Quinebaug, Moosup, Oxoboxo, Aspetuck, Sequin, Seneca, and Momauguin. Oxoboxo is one of two lodges that can be spelled backward or forward. The other is Level. Oxoboxo is the Mohegan name for "small pond." Quinebaug is Nipmuck for "long pond."

Six lodges were named for Grand Masters, or at least, Grand officers. Wolcott, Shepherd, Daskam, Wyllys, Amos Beecher and Brainard.

Heroes and patrons occupy some of our "historical" lodges. Pythagoras, Euclid, and Eureka lodges, one could have a great math contest with those. With the Greek heroes of Ivanhoe, Apollo, Jephtha, and Uriel, we have heroes in folklore as well.

The final unit contains the "Saints" lodges. While we have no St. Matthew, we have five St. John's, St. Mark's, St. Luke's, St. Albans, St. James, St. Peter's, St. Andrew's, and St. Paul's. One-half of our first ten lodges carry the St. John's moniker.

The Masonic lodges that I have mentioned here are but a portion of those that are or have been part of our great Grand Lodge's 235 years; they are by no means all. Indeed, much more can be written, maybe another time. I apologize if your lodge was not mentioned; time and space govern everything.

Once again, I wish you all a Happy New Year.



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# “There’s Nothing Like Masonicare”

Providing compassionate care and exceptional support is just part of Masonicare’s promise to everyone we serve. We’re also committed to making it as easy as possible for those in our care to move from one part of our continuum to another, depending on the unique needs of the individual.

Masonicare Health Center resident Jean Ventriglia (at right with longtime friend and Masonicare Board of Trustees member Bonnie McWain) recalled how she and her late husband, the world-renowned opera singer Franco Ventriglia (1922-2012), first came to settle at Ashlar Village and why, as she approaches her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, she still entrusts her care to us.

Jean and Franco were visiting from their then-current home in Florida when Jean mentioned that it was probably time for the couple to consider moving back to Connecticut so they could be



closer to family.

“I’d been looking around at different retirement communities,” Jean said, “but there wasn’t any place in the area that seemed right.”

Then Bonnie’s husband, MWPGM Jim McWain, suggested the Ventriglias pay a visit to Masonicare at Ashlar Village. Jean’s father, William Armstrong, had been a Scottish Rite Mason belonging to Valley of Bridgeport, so Jean was at least familiar with the

fraternity and its ties to the organization many locals still refer to simply as “Masonic.”

“We drove up Cheshire Road in Wallingford,” she recalled, “and as we entered the campus, I saw those little cottages. Without another thought, I said, ‘This is where we belong.’”

A short time later, the Ventriglias sold their condo in Florida and, with help from Bonnie and Jim, moved into one of those cottages. Some of Jean’s favorite memories



from their years at Ashlar Village are of dinners and cocktail parties with friends and neighbors.

Eventually, when his health declined, Franco transitioned to the Health Center to receive skilled nursing care. Jean downsized to an apartment and visited Franco almost every day, initially driving herself and then using our Transportation Services.



She remembers how fond Franco (above, with Jean in 2007) was of his caregivers, some of whom still work at Masonicare. On one visit, he asked Jean to bring him

downstairs so that he could get a cake from the kitchen – they settled for cupcakes – and candles from the Gift Shop to surprise a nurse on her birthday.

“We came back upstairs,” Jean said, “and right before we got to the nurses’ station, he lit the candle on the cupcake and sang happy birthday to this nurse. She actually cried and said, ‘No one has ever done that for me before!’ I still see her sometimes and she stops by to say hello.”

In 2020, when Jean needed a little more help with daily living, she decided to move to Pond Ridge Assisted Living. Safety concerns around the COVID pandemic delayed those plans until the following year, but she loved her apartment at Pond Ridge, which offered a clear view of the pond.

At the Health Center, Jean enjoys playing Bingo (traditional rules only, please) and attending the various spiritual services in the Chapel. She also tried her hand at painting but confesses, laughing, “that wasn’t so hot.”

Masonicare’s wide continuum of care includes independent living, assisted living, memory care services, in-home medical and non-medical services, and more. We stand on a legacy of caring and our team is here for you. Call us today at **888-332-0033** or visit **masonicare.org** to understand your options and get answers to your questions.

“There really is nothing like Masonicare anyplace else in Connecticut,” Jean said. “My dad would be really proud.”

# We are *your* Masonicare.



| masonicare.org |  | 22 Masonic Avenue . Wallingford, CT

# From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

**President & CEO of Masonicare**

Innovation is essential for non-profit healthcare providers. And when I refer to innovation – a Masonicare Core Value – I’m not just referring to new or evolving technologies. I’m talking about a company-wide commitment to looking at every process and every system to see how we can better meet the changing needs of older adults.

Rising costs, staffing shortages, and evolving reimbursement models represent a handful of major challenges plaguing providers. Organizations that can’t or won’t adapt are struggling. I see it all the time, most recently at the LeadingAge Annual Meeting, an event that draws aging services professionals from across the nation. Compared to some other providers in our industry that are facing the very real and scary prospect of having to close their doors, Masonicare has achieved relative health and stability. But we still have work to do.

By the time you read this, we will have completed our acquisition of Greenridge Place, a 108-unit senior care community in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, and will be finalizing the merger with United Methodist Homes.

I’ll continue to stress that Masonicare is committed to growing in a way that ensures our long-term sustainability without stretching our resources or deviating an inch from the mission that our residents and patients and their loved ones have come to depend on.

I’d like to give a much-deserved shout-out to Masonicare’s Social Accountability Committee, a group of employee volunteers led by Audrey Grove, Director of the CareConnect Navigator Program. The committee, alongside our generous employees in Wallingford, joined forces to spread holiday cheer through our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Thanks to support from the Eastern Star Charity Foundation, we were able to provide local families with complete meal baskets, including a Stop & Shop gift card to make the season even brighter.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,



## WB Joseph Bonola (1956-2024)

**by Francis G. Way**

In the April 2015 issue of the Connecticut Freemasons, my fourth issue as Editor, at the suggestion of RWB Jean Maheu, our cover story profiled WB Joseph Bonola, a Mason from Anchor Lodge No. 112, who was a very interesting brother. He was diagnosed with cancer in 2007, and while working at his job in 2010, he was crushed by a crane he was disassembling. His story was one of perseverance, love for this family, and love for the Craft. For me, it was a wonderful experience helping to tell his story and bring it to the brethren.

I knew WB Joe a little from Scottish Rite, and we became Facebook friends (as many brothers are). It was, then, a shock when I saw a post from his wife informing us that he had passed to the Celestial Lodge above on November 15.

Our Craft is always diminished when a good brother passes from this life, especially one with a story as interesting as WB Joe’s. His story was one of my first really enjoyable memories associated with this job. It saddens me that he has passed. But, as we say in our funeral ritual, “one more to greet me...”

If you’d like to read that story, the link to the issue is <https://ctfreemasons.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/CTFreemason2015-04.pdf> (short URL: <https://bit.ly/4BFqAx>).

Please remember our brother and his family in your prayers.



# Statewide Master Mason Degree **by Shane Dufresne**

**O**n Saturday, November 30, 2024, at the Hartog Auditorium in Ashlar Village, Wallingford, 32 brothers from 14 lodges across eight districts were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The event was in the making for three months. Numerous brothers from all nine districts came together and performed an impeccable degree. Most of these brothers had never worked together before, nor was there a rehearsal for this degree. But it would never have shown as it appeared as if they had performed together for years because of how smoothly it was portrayed.

After the first half of the degree was completed, the 32 Fellowcrafts were divided and sent into three separate rooms. There, they were raised in short form. After this, RWB Shane Dufresne informed them to take a quick break for lunch, starting with, "Take your time, but hurry up."



After a bite to eat, everyone came back together in the main room and watched RW Grant Gould perform the part of King Hiram Abiff in the long form of the Tragedy. The Ruffians and the other nine craftsmen performed flawlessly.

WB Chuck Harrell and Bro. Aaron Dwyer, who was raised less than three months ago, superbly performed the First Section Lecture.

The brothers in attendance were then treated to the rarely performed Second Section Lecture, sometimes called the Beehive Lecture. It was performed to perfection by WB John Novack. RWB Christopher Earle performed the charge

and was very inspirational and profound.

Also making this day a smooth and successful event were RWB Carl Anderson and RWB Dan Nichols for the setup of all the rooms, RWB Jim Anderson and WB Mark Orsini for the registration process, and WB Mike Abrahamson and WB Dan DeVoe for taking care of the soundboard and microphones.

Before closing, MWB Edward C. Page brought his final word, along with well-deserved comments for all those who made the degree a success and encouraging words to the newly raised Masons.

It is hoped that the new brothers' degree was memorable and that they will become vital members of the lodges, districts, and communities.



## Friends.... Soldiers.... Brothers **by Greg Webster**

**M**ortally wounded during Pickett's Charge, Confederate General Lewis Armistead, a Freemason, received aid and comfort from Union Captain Henry Bingham, a fellow Freemason. Their Masonic bond of brotherhood transcended battle lines and symbolized their unbreakable ties. This brotherhood laid the cornerstone of the Soldier's National Monument in 1865. Enhancements to this cemetery annex included a central plaza honoring fallen American soldiers and the "Friend to Friend" Memorial depicting the above encounter.

I love history and have been a Civil War reenactor for over 15 years. One event we enjoy being a small part of is the Remembrance Day ceremonies in mid-November in Gettysburg every year. We travel from New England and conduct small ceremonies at various monuments to men and units that are special to us. We place flowers, read a Civil War-era poem, and place an American flag on these markers.

The most special and meaningful ceremony that I have been able to participate in for the past five years is the Masonic ceremony at the "Friend to Friend" Masonic monument in downtown Gettysburg.

As many brother Masons and sisters from Eastern Star as possible are welcome to this short ceremony. Representatives from lodges and chapters from many states, north and south, Union and Confederate. It is open to the public to observe as well.



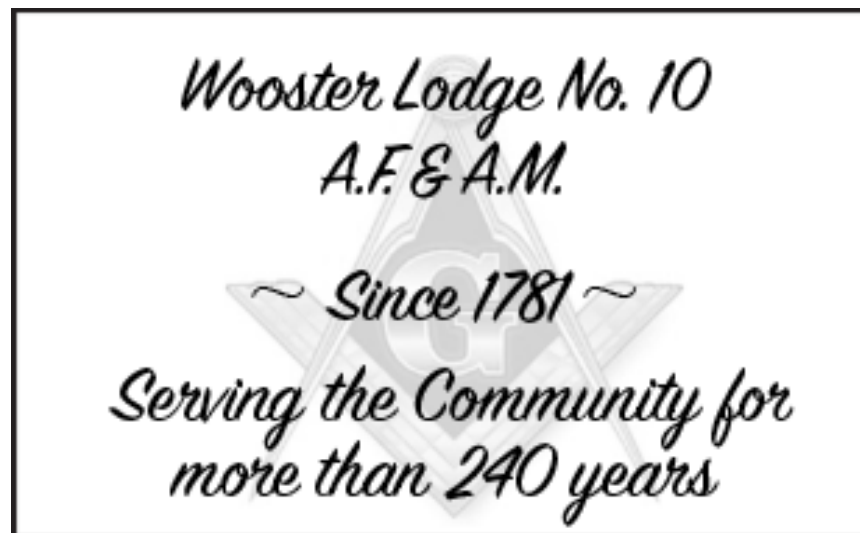
I'm sure many have heard about this fraternal monument. If you have not seen it in person, it is a very special place, and I highly recommend a visit.

# Marcus Holcomb Chapter Performs DeMolay Degree For Friendship Lodge No. 33 by Matt Sprouse

On November 19, 2024, Worshipful Master Mike Leser welcomed Marcus Holcomb Chapter, Order of DeMolay, to Friendship Lodge No. 33, in Southington, the sponsoring body of the Chapter, where they portrayed the dramatic portion of the DeMolay Degree.

With a fantastic turnout of lodge members, the young men provided an excellent program. Several lodge members expressed their enjoyment of the performance and the job well done by the members. After the degree, each of the members spoke about their time in DeMolay and the skills they have developed.

Master Councilor Johnathin Wilcox spoke to Friendship Lodge, thanking them for the tremendous support they have given the Chapter. He also informed them of two upcoming events: a Chevalier Investiture for Aiden Nielsen on December 7, 2024, at 5 p.m. at Unity Lodge No. 148 in New Britain and their installation of officers on December 15, 2024, at 1 p.m. at Friendship Lodge No. 33. Brother Andre Pion will be installed as the next Master Councilor.



## District 1

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



## Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107 Hosts Brothers from New York

**by John Amarilios**

On November 13, 2024, Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107 held a joint dinner with brothers from George Washington Lodge No. 285 of Manhattan, NY.

Also, on that evening the lodge awarded a jewel to outgoing WM Arthur Golnik.



# Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 and TransitionCT Easton Support Food Drive

Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142, in partnership with TransitionCT, took part in the Easton Senior Center's 47th Annual Food Drive. They collected non-perishable items, donated \$400 in matching funds, and even contributed a frozen turkey!

Bro. Chris Kowalski, an Easton native, led this charitable effort, exemplifying the Masonic tenet of charity. Reflecting on the experience, JW Kraig W. Gray shared, "We were pleasantly surprised to see how many donations were already present and that our small contribution would be included in a well-run food drive doing good work for people in difficult times."

Valerie Buckley, director of the Senior Center, expressed heartfelt gratitude, noting that their donation, combined with others, will significantly impact Easton and surrounding communities.

The collected items and funds were delivered on November 14, 2024, making a timely contribution as the holiday season approaches.

This small act of kindness highlights what anyone with a little bit of effort and the right mindset can do to make a positive difference in people's lives.



# Washington Lodge No. 19 News

Washington Lodge No. 19 in Monroe recently raised two brothers. Congratulations, Brother Collin Redwood and Brother Diego Lopes!

The lodge also held its annual Venison Table Lodge, and everyone had a great time, with a great meal and, of course, pies.



*Photo by MWB Edward C. Page*



*Photo by David Gianetti*

# Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 Enjoys November Full Moon Fellowship


With respect for area firefighters, Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 did not hold a bonfire for their November Full Moon Fellowship. Instead, they traveled to Mesmerica at Sacred Heart University's Discovery Science Center & Planetarium in Bridgeport.

The evening began with an unexpected delay: the Bridgeport Fire Department temporarily shut down the building upon the lodge's arrival. Although the staff was uncertain when the situation would be resolved, brothers and ladies waited patiently by the door, trusting the Grand Architect of the Universe to decide if the show would go on. Good fortune smiled on them, and the GAOTU allowed our entry. None knew what to expect, but the show was "trippy and relaxing"—so much so that one audience member started snoring!

After the show, the evening continued at the Sitting Duck Tavern in Trumbull. Over dinner and drinks, brothers, friends, and wives enjoyed good food, laughter, and conversation. The laid-back setting provided a refreshing opportunity to connect outside the lodge.

It was a memorable night, blending fun and relaxation, and reminded all of the value of fellowship beyond the walls of the lodge.





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# District 2

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



## Ark Lodge No. 39 Makes Thanksgiving Donation to Local Food Pantry

On November 20, 2024, WM Carlos Gavilano of Ark Lodge No. 39 in Danbury presented Mr. Peter King, president of The Daily Bread Food Pantry, with a \$1,000 donation. The donation was much appreciated and timely in the week before Thanksgiving.



## Union Lodge No. 40 Kicks Off a Year of Celebration

Union Lodge No. 40 in Danbury is installing its 245th line of officers with WM-Elect Robert B. MacDonald set to take the East. The lodge was chartered in 1780 under the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, nine years before the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. It was founded by a group of revolutionaries, several of whom were most likely members of the 2nd Connecticut Brigade.

In Danbury, Zadoc Benedict opened the first hat factory on Main Street, kicking off an industry that led to Danbury becoming known as the hat capital of the world. That industry would be further boosted when the rail lines into New York City were electrified, increasing the shipment speed. White Hall, now part of the downtown campus of Western Connecticut State University, was constructed as Danbury High School. Industry and retail were booming, and a group of brothers got together. For a cost of what would be close to \$2 million today, they laid the cornerstone of the lodge building 100 years ago. In 2025, Union Lodge will celebrate both the 245th anniversary of the lodge and the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the building.

Celebrations begin on January 21, with a special guest presentation by the Executive Director of the Danbury Museum, who will give a talk on the happenings in 1780 during the formation of the lodge with some specific ties to the founding brethren. With a few special meetings through the years, celebrations will culminate on September 13 with the opening of a time capsule placed in the lodge 100 years ago, followed by a gala dinner event at the Amber Room Colonnade in Danbury.

For ticket information, visit <https://bit.ly/4f8IUtg> or contact WB John Arizzi at [jjarizzi@yahoo.com](mailto:jjarizzi@yahoo.com).



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

On November 20, 2024, WM Tony Neri and the brothers of Hiram Lodge No. 18 of Sandy Hook raised two Fellowcrafts to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, Bros. Thomas Nolan IV and Rabbi Ryan Silveira. Brother Silveira is the first blind Master Mason raised in Connecticut.

MWB George Greytak, MWB Joseph Porco, and visiting Bro. Ashante McPherson, from Corinthian Lodge No. 104 in Stratford, also joined the festivities. Everyone had a great time, and dinner was provided by Bro. Claudio Lia of Pronto 123 in Trumbull.



## District 3

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



## Shepherd-Salem Lodge No. 78 Provides Assistance to Need Families for Thanksgiving by Miguel Thompson

In 2022, Shepherd-Salem Lodge No. 78 in Naugatuck launched a humanitarian campaign to provide Thanksgiving food baskets to needy families from Hop Brook Elementary School. For the past three years, this initiative has provided a sense of hope, harmony, and love to families who otherwise would not have the opportunity to express their gratitude and thanks over a big meal with their families.

On Nov 26, 2024, RWB Al Rollinson and SD Miguel Thompson presented Thanksgiving food baskets to three families from Naugatuck.

This ongoing effort has also been extended to provide food baskets for Easter.



## Celebrating 220 Years: Morning Star Lodge No. 47 Anniversary

On November 23, 2024, Morning Star Lodge No. 47 celebrated its 220th anniversary. Chartered on November 23, 1804, the lodge has a rich history that was highlighted during the celebration. Brothers, families, and special guests, including RWB Shane Dufresne and RWB Dan Reeves, attended the event. Their presence highlighted the importance of this milestone in the Masonic community.

Brother Mike Messner presented the lodge's history, detailing its origins, significant events, and notable members and offering insights into its growth and pivotal moments.

WM Scott Tomlinson briefly discussed honoring the lodge's long history and carrying forward the principles and duties that have been entrusted to the brothers by their forebearers. He also recognized the vital role of family, always the foundation and source of strength. Without their encouragement and support, the brothers could not serve.



# District 4

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



## Widows Son Lodge No. 66 Initiates Two Brothers by David Cole

Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 initiated Bros. Joseph Capozzo and Daniel Lafarier on November 21 in Branford. The degree saw multiple Past Masters sit in the officer chairs.

RWB Rich Memmott was Worshipful Master, WB Hans-Eric Seiwertson sat as Senior Warden, WB Richard Biela was Junior Warden, WB Ed Anyafulu sat as Senior Deacon, WB David Cole was Secretary and performed the Apron lecture, RWB Brad Cooney sat as Marshal and performed the obligation, and WB Jonathan Collingwood was Tyler and presented the charge.

Newly raised, Bro. Isaiah Simmons, gave the Working Tools lecture and Bros. Will Stokes and Leo Calonico gave the First Section lecture.

An added treat for that evening was that Daniel Lafarier, the son of JW Ray Lafarier, was able to keep his joining Masonry, which was a complete surprise from his Dad. Bro. Ray had no idea until Daniel was brought into the lodge. Bro. Ray could not have been more pleased.

Thank you for visiting brethren from Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Meridien Lodge No. 77, and Annawon Lodge No. 115 for attending the degree.



## Meridian Lodge No. 77 Donates Food For Families in Need by Tim Vendetti



For the third year in a row, Meridian Lodge No. 77 partnered with the United Way of Meriden and Wallingford to put together food baskets for families in need. With the need for food growing each year, it is critical that Masons give and heed the call, and Meridian Lodge No. 77 answered.

This year, the lodge greatly surpassed the goal of donating two food baskets by donating enough for nearly ten baskets, which will all be used during the holiday season. Over the last several years, this partnership has helped many families in the Meriden and Wallingford areas who are struggling to afford the basic necessities ahead of the holidays.



# District 5

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



## Friendship Lodge No. 33 Raises Four

Friendship Lodge No. 33 in Southington held a special communication on Saturday, November 23, 2024. Four brothers were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason – Bros. Juan Arana, Brian Nebiolo, Jason LaPorte, and Howard Cadrain.

WM Mike Leser rapped the gravel at 10 a.m., and the degree was conferred. Working tools were presented, after which the brothers enjoyed a lunch featuring 30 pounds of smoked beef brisket made by JW Jake Manke.

The Friendship Lodge degree team presented a portrayal of the MM Tragedy led by WB Allyan Lopes, featuring Grand Master Hiram played by MWB Gary Arseneau.



# District 6

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



## Washington Lodge No. 70 Salutes Veterans by Ken Roach

Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor hosted a luncheon for its veterans and veterans from greater Windsor and the entire Masonic community on November 9, 2024, at the Washington Lodge Dining Hall. Over 40 veterans and spouses attended the luncheon.

Veterans were asked to submit a picture of themselves when they entered the service and a current photograph. The gathering had much fun trying to match the pictures.

RWB Don Scroggs, the senior veteran present, had the honor of cutting the cake, and he was also celebrating his birthday that day. WB Ken Roach gave a presentation on helicopter operations during the Vietnam War. Bro. Pat Chagnon presented commemorative sweatshirts to the veterans who attended.

This was the second Veterans Luncheon hosted by Washington Lodge No. 70.



*Brothers, veterans, and spouses enjoying the afternoon.*



*Bro. Pat Chagnon watches RWB Don Scroggs cut the cake.*



*The first piece of cake went to the junior veteran attending.*

# Composite Lodge No. 28 Awards Two 65-Year Pins

by Charles Jewart

On November 12, 2024, Composite Lodge No. 28 in Suffield held its annual awards night and banquet. After a plated meal served to a full dining room of brethren and their families, the WM Derek Bensley presented the following awards:

Bro. Billy Nuey (5 years), WB John Ledoux, WB Corey Rice (10 years), WB Rex Mark, WB Chuck Jewart (20 years), and WB Jerrold Star (40 years).

The night's highlight was the presentation of 65-year service pins to WB Eugene (Hugh) Jones and WB John Biggerstaff.

The recipients all expressed gratitude for their service awards and the warm welcome they and their families received that evening.



# District 7

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



## Washington Lodge No. 81 Service Awards by Stanley Mackiewicz

On November 14, 2024, Washington Lodge No. 81 in Cromwell presented three long-time brothers with their service pins.

Bro. Sokol Selemaj received his 15-year award, Bro. Michael McDermott received his 30-year award and Bro. Michael Moody received his 40-year award.

The brothers at Washington Lodge congratulate and thank these brothers for their dedication to the lodge and Masonry.



(l-r) Bro. Michael Moody, WM Stan Mackiewicz, Bro. Mike McDermott, and Bro. Sokol Selemaj



Public Holiday in DC, Maryland and Virginia.



# District 9

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



## Moosup Lodge No. 113 Cooks Their Way to \$20,000 In Donations in 2024

WB John Richmond plays the role of the Egg Man in the Moosup Lodge kitchen, and servers deliver his freshly cooked eggs to the buffet line at a recent breakfast at the lodge. “We put on over 20 breakfasts and 6 steak dinners in 2024,” recounts WM Chad Dufault. “The breakfasts earned local non-profits around \$14,000, and steak nights earned another \$6,000. So, we donated about \$20,000 to the community this past year from our meals.”

After establishing the very successful breakfasts, the lodge recently branched out into steak dinners and is now fine tuning that endeavor. “The high school basketball team needed money for a trip, so we partnered with them and raised almost \$3,500 for them. Now we’ve included other groups, and our last two steak nights were sell-outs,” says Chad. “And it’s a great way to attract new members. As people see how we serve the community, it sparks their interest in joining us,” says Chad. With seven new brothers raised in 2024, it appears Moosup Lodge’s work in the kitchen may turn out to be not only good for the community, but a recipe for success for the lodge.



# Fayette Lodge No. 69 Celebrates Bicentennial Year in 2025 by D. Raymond Chouinard

Fayette Lodge No. 69 in Ellington, Connecticut, embarks on its bicentennial year in 2025, and members are incredibly proud to see the lodge reach such a noteworthy milestone.

Fayette Lodge was chartered on May 30, 1825, by 28 charter members led in the East by WB Horatio Arnold Hamilton. The lodge was primarily formed by Morning Star Lodge No. 28 brothers in Warehouse Point and other contributing brothers from Uriel Lodge No. 24 in Merrow and Wolcott Lodge No. 60 in Stafford Hollow.

Fayette Lodge has had one Past Grand Master, MWB Edward Eugene Fuller, who presided in 1908. MWB Fuller was the Worshipful Master of the lodge in 1895 and 1896.

The first lodge meeting was held at William Morgan's Tavern on Main Street in Ellington, across from the present-day Town Hall building. It

currently resides at 141 Orchard Street, previously the Apostolic Christian Church, beginning in 1955. The property is a two-story building with two large, paved parking lots on each side of Orchard Street. It has a split-level entrance with a social room and a small anteroom, a dining room with a seating capacity of 100, and a kitchen on the ground level. A robust and large lodge room with two anterooms and storage space is on the second floor, and there is wall-to-wall carpeting and a finely tuned Hammond electric organ.

Fayette Lodge No. 69 welcomes all brothers at their Stated Communications held on the second Tuesday of every month (except July and August) at 7:30 p.m. They hope to see you while they celebrate 200 years, and hope that with the guidance of the Grand Architect of the Universe, they celebrate 200 more!



## Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to *DONATE LIFE*<sup>SM</sup>



## Jump for Life! by Kyle Podpolucha



**W**ho would want to jump out of a perfectly good airplane? As it turns out, there are a lot of people! Several years ago, Bro. Richard Denno saw an excellent opportunity to raise money for Donate Life. His brother and friend Bruce Fagan was running an event called Skydive for Veterans, and the idea was born. It ran for two years under Richard, and this third year is my first as the chairman.

It was questionable whether we were going to be able to do the event at all. With some last-minute encouragement from Bro. Bruce, we took a leap. Over the summer, on a beautiful day, we gathered to jump out of an airplane to raise money for Donate Life. Even though their big plane was out for repairs, we enjoyed a day of fun, heights, and fellowship. Even the Rainbow Girls from Hope Assembly came down to make sure that everyone was well-fed and hydrated; a special thanks to them.

The event ran all day and only stopped when it rained around 7 p.m. Those who had not yet jumped received a raincheck and returned for an additional jump date in November.

I am happy to announce that with the help of the CT Freemasons Foundation, we raised \$7,000 to donate. I want to thank everyone who participated in this event; there are too many to name individually. I have also been assured that they will have the big plane next year so it will go much smoother. I appreciate everyone's patience and for rolling with the punches. I can only hope there will be enough people who want to jump next year so we can do it again. Thank you again to all who attended.

# “The Rest of the Story...”

by Charles W. Yohe

Many years ago, there was a gentleman named Paul Harvey who had a syndicated radio show that aired daily across the country. In each episode, Mr. Harvey would relate some historical fact and then give its “back story.” His famous tagline was, “Now you know the rest of the story.”

Fifty-one years ago, I petitioned Hamilton Lodge No. 54 in Sharon. I received my Entered Apprentice degree on a Friday night in October 1973, along with two other candidates. I am fortunate that my top-line signer, who was also my landlord at the time, took a personal interest in mentoring me and helping me learn the EA lecture. The following month, we were all to appear for our Fellowcraft degree. In those days, Connecticut lodges were required to open and conduct all business on the Master Mason degree. Following the custom of the time, lodge opened on the MM, called off to the EA, and invited us into the lodge to prove our proficiency. We were then excused, and the lodge was opened on the Fellowcraft degree, which was then conducted for the three of us.

When we arrived at a later date to once again prove proficiency, I was met in the lodge dining room by the Senior Deacon who informed me that based on my performance of the EA lecture, there was little doubt as to my proficiency, and I could skip doing the FC proficiency if I would like. I replied that since I had taken the time to learn it, the lodge could take the time to hear it repeated.

In the interim, the degree work was suspended due to the annual election of officers and the need to plan for the MM degree. My landlord, a Past Master from a lodge in New York City, was elected to the Master’s chair. Having spent much of his Masonic career in New York, he agreed to fulfill the duties of master with the caveat that the New York Masonic ritual was firmly ingrained in his memory and, from time to time, there may be slight differences in wording versus Connecticut ritual.

He made phone calls and put together a “purple” MM degree team. All the officer stations and places were occupied by past and present Grand Lodge officers and District Deputies. It was a memorable evening preceded by a dinner, and the lodge room was filled to capacity, with close to 90 brothers present in the modest space. My other two ‘classmates’ were raised first in what was termed ‘short form,’ and then I was raised in full form.

The Masonic ritual really impressed me, and I was anxious to become active in the lodge. As I attended the meetings, several incidents particularly affected me. The first was the annual District Deputy’s inspection of the lodge. My landlord was required to sit in the East for the EA degree. As I mentioned, there are subtle differences between New York and Connecticut rituals – but not enough to make a significant difference. Nonetheless, at the conclusion of the

evening, the DD proclaimed in open lodge that “had there been an actual candidate, he would not be a Mason because strict Connecticut verbiage was not used.”

You can draw your own conclusion, but having recently received the degree and acting as a ‘dummy’ candidate that night, I was flabbergasted by the DD’s attitude and felt it improper to dress down the master in front of the entire lodge.

As I continued to attend lodge, it struck me that some members were loud and obstreperous, yelling at other members during meetings and using coarse language. This was not behavior that was in the ritual! I wondered exactly what sort of organization I had joined. It bothered me to the point that I told my landlord that I was going to stop attending lodge. He told me that he understood my rightful displeasure with what had transpired in the lodge. And then he said, “You can’t fix the problem if you walk away.” I stayed active, progressed through the chairs, and was elected Master in 1979. The following year, I was appointed District Deputy – and I vowed to praise in public and critique in private.

You see, the ritual is just a bunch of meaningless words – unless each of us, as Masons, echoes its meaning in our actions.

Oh, by the way, the altar at which I knelt to take my obligations was the same altar that now resides in Ashlar Lodge No. 332 and used for this year’s semi-annual Grand Lodge meeting.

And now you know the rest of the story...



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## Seen in a Shrine Club

### *A Little Scrap of Paper*

*I hold in my hand a little scrap of paper, approximately 2 X 3 inches in size. It is of no intrinsic value, not a bond, not a check, yet it is my most priceless possession. It is my membership card in a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.*

*It tells me that I have entered into a spiritual and material kinship with my fellow Masons, to practice charity in Word and Deed; to forgive and forget the faults of my brethren; to hush the tongues of scandal and inuendo; to care for the crippled and hungry, and the sick, and to be just to all mankind.*

*It tells me that no matter where I may travel in the world, I am welcome to visit a place where good fellowship prevails among brothers and friends.*

*It tells me that my loved ones, my home, and my household are under the protection of every member of this great fraternity, who have sworn to protect and defend mine, as I have sworn to protect and defend theirs.*

*It tells me that should I ever be overtaken by adversity or misfortune, the hands of every Mason on the face of the earth will be stretched forth to assist me in my necessities.*

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***Hot breakfast served from 9 to 11 A.M.  
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**Come and represent Connecticut Masonry and our extended family.**  
Bus transportation is provided for marchers from the lodge to the staging area beginning at **NOON**. The parade steps off at 1:30pm. You can walk the parade route or sign up to ride the 45' float. (limited seating)

Lodge officers wear formal attire, tuxes/dark suits, jewels, aprons, and top hat. Lodge members wear dark suits and aprons. Your family is very welcome to march with us and enjoy the fun. The more, the merrier! After the parade its back to the lodge for a barbecue lunch and fellowship.

Please contact WB Fred Marotti with questions at:  
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# CONSCIOUSNESS: THE ENTERED APPRENTICE'S FRONTIER

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

January is a time for rest and regrouping at the Consistory, so that the first-degree opportunity will coincide with the Stated Communication on Monday, February 3. After the meeting, a video rendition of the 26th Degree will be shown—further live degree opportunities for the upcoming winter. Spring season will include the 4th Degree on February 24, the 8th Degree on March 10, the 21st Degree on April 7, a wholly revised 24th Degree on April 24, and the 32nd Degree on May 5. There will be video rendition degrees following these live degrees, and the video 4th Degree will be presented before any live degree for any brother embarking on his Scottish Rite adventure for the first time. Typically, dinner precedes the degrees at 6 p.m., and degrees start at 7:30 p.m. Questions and dinner reservations are fielded by the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064.

\*\*\*\*\*

The second page of the Connecticut Entered Apprentice degree ritual reminds us that we are here to learn to subdue our passions. Only through the cessation of the noise that our passions generate does the opportunity to develop our consciousness exist. It's an exciting time in the history of humanity that technology has reached a point where it can confirm the existence and ability of consciousness actually to manifest change in physical things and in the circumstances. Every brother has the ability to harness these abilities if they will first learn to still the mind.

Our passions and the stirrings they generate within us are the gatekeepers that keep us from realizing these abilities. By doing this, we can manifest real, quantifiable change in our health and prosperity and attract situations and people into our lives.

In the past few years, quantum physics has proven that our thoughts guided by our consciousness can have a real measurable and visible effect on microscopic particles. Due to the limitations of our physical eyesight, we view as solids as porous and gapped molecular structures. Matter is actually an empty space and an energy that holds the molecules together. All matter exists by virtue of a vital force that keeps it together. The famous double slit experiment observed that particles could behave in a wavelike pattern spreading out in an endless amorphous pattern or that they can behave as individual particles fixed in place when an external consciousness is observing them.

You, my brother, thus have the ability to affect reality by exerting your conscious will on what you observe either through your physical or your mind's eye. You are a creator, not only a passive observer, of everything around you. You are ever effecting change on your environment and circumstances through your desire, will, and power over your surroundings. Your consciousness, in other words, can shape your reality.

Your passions impede, block, and overwhelm your consciousness as they obscure it with powerful, usually discordant emotions that hide your ability to access it. Emotions block you from attaining the peace required to

concentrate. Harnessing your will in a concentrated manner enables your

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**For more information, contact the Valley near you or email [Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com](mailto:Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com).**

consciousness to exert the requisite power and influence on the matter or situation you seek to change or modify. Attention is one of the most powerful forces Deity has endowed you with. That on which you concentrate your attention will be something (someone?) you will manifest in your existence.

I will leave you with an interesting exercise allegedly attributed to the savant Nikola Tesla. The 3, 6, and 9 method is simple but requires assiduous and constant employment. Commit to memory three affirmations that you desire to manifest. Six times a day, repeat these affirmations, quietly but powered by an honest will and desire, to yourself for nine minutes at a time. Cumulatively, you spend 54 minutes daily to accomplish or manifest the conditions you have set down in your affirmations. Surely, this is a small price to pay to achieve these very valuable goals. Try this for a month and see what opportunities or conditions your consciousness can manifest in your life.

Masonry is a progressive science. What was known for millennia is now quantifiable. Almost immediately upon taking your first degree, you are given the first key to a fantastic existence if you were made aware of this. What other keys to a Master Builder's life can you find in our three rituals?

Fiat Lux!

*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 at (203) 375-0064.*



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Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: December 5, 2024.

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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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.



# Nutmeg Forest No. 116 Tall Cedars of Lebanon

by Eric Pogg

**N**utmeg Forest No. 116 Tall Cedars of Lebanon installed the officers for 2025 at Columbia Lodge No. 25 in South Glastonbury on Monday, November 25, 2024. New officers installed include Grand Tall Cedar, Eric J. Pogg, SDGTC Charles M. Jewart, JDGTC Gregory J. Stump, Treasurer James P. Loersch, Scribe David S. LaFargue, TFC Representative Joseph P. Grieco, Trustees Joseph P. Grieco, James Bradford Young, Dennis W. Bellamy, Jr., Chaplin Eric H. Hoy, Guide Donald A. Wills, and Sentinel Robert F. LaMange. Supreme Director William Greene, PGM, installed the officers.

The Tall Cedars of Lebanon International is an appendant Masonic organization devoted to foresting friendship and fellowship among Freemasons to all mankind. The Tall Cedar Foundation supports children and their families with neuromuscular diseases. Nutmeg Forest is one of two remaining Forests in the state of Connecticut. Laurel Forest is located at Masonicare in Wallingford. Nutmeg Forest meets on the fourth Monday of most months, dining with ladies and friends at different locations across northern Connecticut. Nutmeg Forest started the Manchester Road Race, collecting money for children with muscular dystrophy.

The next meeting of Nutmeg Forest will be held on Monday, January 27, at 6:30 p.m. at La Figata, 9 Bank Street, Granby. All Master Masons in good standing are welcome to join us. The Forest is planning a degree, which has not been performed live in many years, to be held in the fall of 2025. Masons looking for more light will certainly enjoy the rendition of this unique degree.

To join Nutmeg Forest No. 116, please contact Grand Tall Cedar Eric Pogg at [ejpogg@gmail.com](mailto:ejpogg@gmail.com) or at (860) 803-0784.

## 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,**

Wyllys-St. 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,  
*Conversations 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,** Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, 7 a.m., *SBA Breakfast Fundraiser*

**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

**Wed., Jan. 1, New Year's Day**

**Sun., Jan. 5, 2025,** 6:30 p.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, *Esoteric Club*

**Sun., Jan. 12,** 8 a.m., Moosup Lodge No. 113 Moosup Elementary School PTO Benefit Breakfasts

**Tue., Jan. 14,** 7 p.m., Moosup Lodge No. 113 Sterling Fire Department Steak Dinner

**Sun., Jan. 24,** 8 a.m., Moosup Lodge No. 113 Civil Air Patrol Benefit Breakfasts

**Sun., Feb. 9,** 8 a.m., Moosup Lodge No. 113 Sterling Community School 8th Grade Benefit Breakfast



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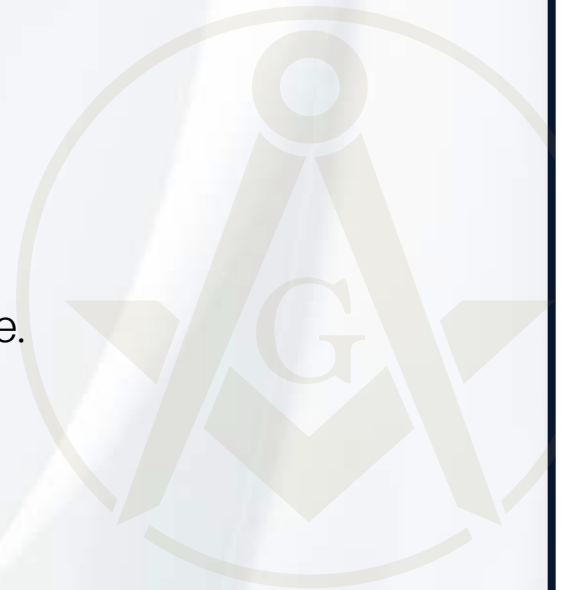
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