



LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS

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

Issue No. 40

SUMMER 2024



HIGHLIGHTING BROTHERS AT WORK Michael C. Jachimczyk, Attorney at Law



Parsifal — A Fool by Pity Enlightened (Part3)

Lafayette Consistory's Tom Thumb • Five Principles for Effective Leadership



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



Lucky Lady - the fishing boat that the Consistory goes out on,

Lafayette Consistory News is the official publication of the Valley of Bridgeport and Lafayette Consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, USA
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ALLEGIANCE

The Bodies of the Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Bridgeport, State of Connecticut, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts.

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CHARLES STRATTON — THE LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY'S TOM THUMB BY CLAUDIA FARKAS

Lafayette Consistory, Valley of Bridgeport has had many notable personalities among its members throughout its history, perhaps none more famous than Charles Sherwood Stratton, also known as Tom Thumb.

The consistory's archive in Stratford's Leo H. Lohrman II Theatre has the Masonic record card of Charles S. Stratton, also known as Tom Thumb (1838-1883), as well as a three-page letter handwritten by Charles Stratton in 1873 and addressed to William R. Higby who was a Commander-In-Chief of Lafayette Consistory.

According to the information on the record card, Charles S. Stratton, born in Bridgeport on January 4, 1838, was raised on October 3, 1862, at St. John's Lodge No. 3 in Bridgeport at the age of 24.

He was exalted in Jerusalem Chapter No. 13 on October 8, 1862; greeted in Jerusalem Council No. 16 R. & S.M. on July 21, 1863; and knighted in Hamilton Commandery No. 5 K.T. on July 28, 1863. He received 32° SPRS in Lafayette Consistory in 1866. On the card, his profession is described as "P.T. Barnum exhibited him all over the world".

Charles Stratton's parents were Bridgeport natives Sherwood E. and Cynthia Stratton. The autobiography of P.T. Barnum describes his 1842 discovery of the future Tom Thumb. He had heard of a 'remarkably small child' in Bridgeport and arranged to meet him. Charles Stratton was five years old and not more than 2 feet high, precocious and intelligent. Seeing potential in the boy's humor, charm and unusual size, the great showman persuaded Mrs. Stratton he be engaged and exhibited in his New York City museum as General Tom Thumb, 'a dwarf of just 11 years old, arrived from England'.

Mr. and Mrs. Stratton also had two daughters, one of whom, Francis Jane,



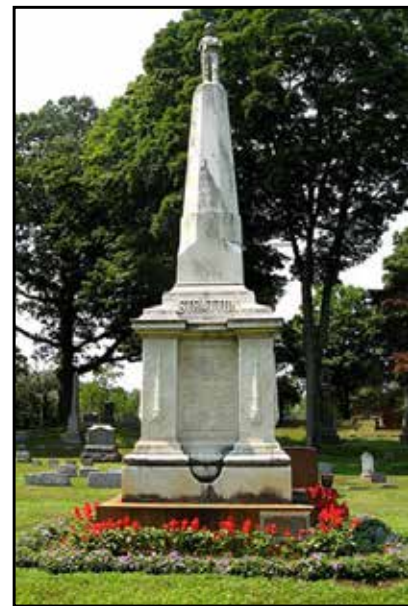
married Derby native Royal Basset in 1858. Mr. Bassett was a prominent Derby businessman, Freemason and member of King Hiram Lodge No. 12 of Derby. One can imagine the possibility that Charles' brother-in-law encouraged him to join the brotherhood in 1862. Charles Stratton married the diminutive Lavinia Warren, who was also a Barnum discovery, in February 1863 in a lavish NYC wedding of over 2,000 invited guests, hosted by P.T. Barnum.

The three-page handwritten letter in the archive is dated February 16, 1873, from Charles Stratton and is addressed to "Mr. Higby". This letter is in response to a letter that had been written to Stratton by William R. Higby, another prominent member of Lafayette Consistory (his portrait hangs in the auditorium of the Leo Lohrman II Scottish Rite Theatre). Stratton's letter gives instructions as to repairs that need to be done to his yacht 'so as to have the yacht in racing trim when I go on board about the first of July'. He includes a schedule of his exhibition route in Ohio and Indiana during the month of February, when the letter was written. Higby owned banking and fire insurance companies, and it can be presumed the yacht was insured by Higby's insurance company.

Charles Stratton died July 15, 1883, at the age of 45 from the effects of a stroke. Newspaper accounts of the time reported how his body lay in state at St.

John's Episcopal Church on Fairfield Avenue, his oak coffin decorated with Masonic emblems in silver. Hundreds of people attended the funeral services and thousands more lined the streets along the 2-mile procession of family, friends, members of St. John's No. 3 and Hamilton Commandery No. 5 K.T. headed by the Howe Band playing the 'Dead March'. He was buried at Mountain Grove cemetery in Bridgeport with full Masonic honors. In the newspaper reports of the day, it was estimated that over 10,000 people attended the ceremonies. His grave is topped by a life-sized statue of himself that he posed for in Italy when he was 19 and at the height of his fame. In 1959 vandals smashed the statue. It was restored in 1961 by the Barnum Festival Society and public funds, including several bodies of the Masonic Order.

Charles Stratton's black wool uniform coat, baldric (crossbody sash), gauntlets and a hat, which had been the property of Hamilton Commandery No. 5 and were on exhibit at the old Masonic Temple on Broad Street Bridgeport, are now in the collection of Bridgeport's Barnum Museum.



PARSIFAL — A FOOL BY PITY ENLIGHTENED (PART 3)

AN EXPOSITION OF THE TRAVAILS OF A DEVELOPING SOUL

BY JOHN A. AMARILIOS, MSA, 33°

The second scene of Parsifal takes place sometime shortly after the conclusion of the first. A significant teaching or tool is imparted in this scene if you wish. Emotions unchecked by knowledge are substantial sources of temptation to all of humanity. Our soul growth must bring these Passions under control “to learn to subdue our passions and improve ourselves in masonry,” as we are taught in the first few minutes of our entered apprentice degrees. If we fail to do so, we fall as did Amfortas; the pain we accrue initiates the evolution of our consciousness and, over time, gives us an abhorrence of sin (error). It strengthens our intuitive resolve to avoid temptation as we mature our souls. For example, every child is not innocent because it has not been tempted, but only when it has been tempted and has volitionally remained pure, or, in our case, when we have fallen, repented, and reformed, are we then virtuous? Thus, to become genuinely virtuous, Parsifal must be tempted.

Klingsore has detected Parsifal and sees him approaching his castle. He immediately evokes Kunry as he needs her skills to beguile Parsifal. He is worried because Parsifal is a fool and not a worldly, sophisticated man who is quickly entrapped by the pretty flower girls who reside in his castle. Parsifal is friendly with these girls, but his intentions are without a lusty desire but amount to friendly banter. Parsifal’s apparent guilelessness protects him. Against one as simple as Parsifal, Klingsore determines he needs the superior

wiles of Kundry to tempt and bring him his fall. Kundry is unwilling, and as she protests and pleads not to be involved in this dastardly attempt, the evil magician forces her to tempt Parsifal, and to that end, she appears before him as an ecstatic beauty calling Parsifal by his name in his mother’s voice. That voice calling stirs within him memories of his childhood and reminds him of his mother’s name. She beckons him to come close by and begins to subtly work upon his feelings by having him recall the warm visions of his mother’s love and the sorrow that she felt when he left and she ended her life. She then tells him that there is additional greater love which may compensate him, that of the love of man for woman, and at last imprints upon his lips a long tender and passionate kiss.

What follows is a silent and deep shudder of the whole world, which hangs in the balance when the fervent kiss comes to an end. She holds him in her arms, and his face undergoes a gradual change and becomes drawn with pain. Suddenly, he leaps up as if the kiss had stung him internally with the new pain and a sudden realization, and he clasps his throbbing heart to stifle some awful agony. The Grail cup appears before him in his vision. Then he sees in the vision Amfortas in the same dreadful agony, and then, at long last, Parsifal cries out, “Amfortas, I now know how that spear wound in thy side, it burns my heart and sears my very soul... anguish beyond words the wound is bleeding here in my own side...

Now do I know how all the world is stirred and convulsed and often lost in shame by the terrific passions of the heart!”

Kundry attempts to tempt him again, telling him, “If this one kiss has brought you so much knowledge, how much more will be yours if you yield to me if for only an hour?”

Parsifal has now awakened without hesitation, for he now knows right from wrong. He replies, “Eternity would be lost to both of us if I yielded to you even for one short hour, but I will save you and deliver you from the curse of passion. For the love that burns within you is only sensual, and between that and the true love of pure hearts, there yawns an abyss like that between heaven and hell.”

She gets up and bursts out in great anger, so she calls upon Klingsore to help. He immediately appears with the Holy Spear, which he hurls against Parsifal. But Parsifal is pure and harmless, so nothing can hurt him, so the spear floats harmlessly above his head. He grasps it and makes the sign of the cross with it, and Klingsore’s castle and magic garden sink into ruins, thus concluding the second scene.

The Great Light posits an immensely important law in Matthew 18:3
Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

AN OPERA AND DINNER



AUGUST 11



CAFE-ALLEGRO IN MADISON

VALLEY OF NEW HAVEN



JULY 13, 2024



PICNIC



MAY 6, 2024

CAST &



VALLEY OF BRIDGEPORT, SCOTTISH RITE

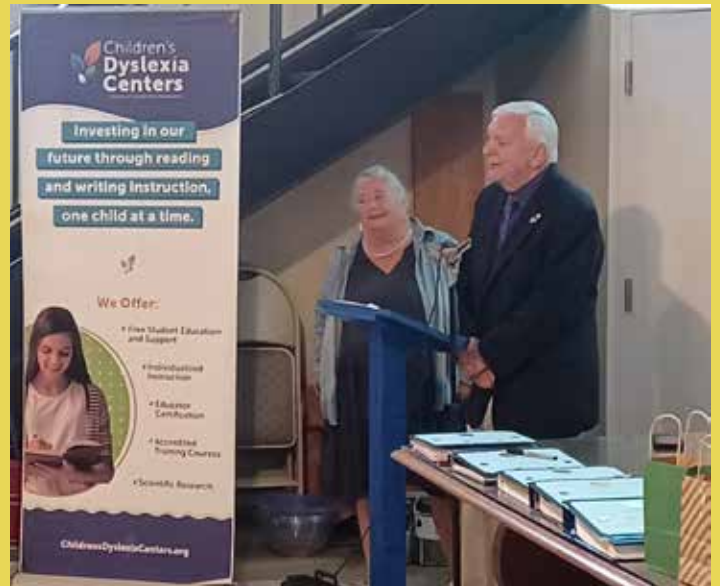


CANDIDATES ~ 32ND DEGREE



GRAND MASTERS DAY, JUNE 8, 2024





**June 7,
2024**



Celebration of Achievement



BLACK CAPS AND AMBAS



AUGUST 8



ORGANIZATIONAL
DINNER

RIVERVIEW BISTRO



SADOR MEDALS AWARDED



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



You will love this beautiful knife with a wooden and metal handle that has the 32° Double-Headed Eagle engraved on one side and the Square and Compasses on the other. For your donation of \$90, \$25 of which is a tax deductible contribution to the Children's Dyslexia Center's of Connecticut plus \$6.95 shipping & handling.

Please use the coupon below,

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I would like the **32° Double-Headed Eagle/Masonic emblem knife** for a donation of **\$90 each plus \$6.95 s/h each** and please mail to:.

NAME _____ PHONE _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I would like (quantity) _____ knives at \$90 each plus \$6.95 s/h My check or credit card info is enclosed for \$ _____

Send your check or credit card information with this coupon to **Lafayette Consistory, PO Box 309, Stratford, CT 06615-0309**

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION Charge my credit card

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____ / _____

SECURITY CODE _____

SIGNATURE _____

~ IN MEMORIAM ~

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

<i>NAME</i>	<i>32° CONFERRED</i>	<i>LODGE</i>	<i>HOME VALLEY</i>	<i>DATE OF DEATH</i>
Antonia Bento, 32°	12/07/2002	Wolcott No. 146	Waterbury	09/21/2023
Paul G. Chipko, 32°	05/01/1970	Liberty-Continental No.76	Waterbury	08/05/2024
Kenneth E. Fears, 32°, MSA	05/01/1982	Ansantawae No. 89	Bridgeport	04/14/2024
Thomas W. Hawkins, 32°	12/12/2015	Washington No. 15	Bridgeport	03/13/2024
John Mellor, 32°	05/05/2003	America St John's No. 8	Bridgeport	04/03/2024
David C. Gould, 32°	12/04/2006	Corinthian No. 63	New Naven	06/18/2024
E. Parker Lilya, 32°	12/01/1981	Center No. 97	New Haven	04/21/2023
Charles L. Schofield III, 32°	12/13/2014	Shepherd Salem No. 78	Waterbury	04/11/2024
George Suchyak, Jr., 32°	12/01/1969	America St John's No. 8	Bridgeport	05/16/2024
Robert D. Trussell, 32°	12/07/1998	Temple No. 16	New Haven	03/15/2024

~ May they rest from their labors. ~



6.15.2024
RUBY
THEATRE, NYC

FIVE PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

BY LUIS J. GONZALEZ, JR., 32° - PAST MASTER, ODENTON LODGE #209

*Reprinted with permission of the Valley of Baltimore,
as it appeared in the 2024 Fall issue of the Rite News of Maryland.*

Leading a Masonic Lodge involves embodying timeless principles that guide effective leadership within the fraternity. Here are the Five Principles for the effective leadership of a Masonic Lodge:

1. Inspire with Vision and Purpose:

At the core of Masonic leadership lies the ability to inspire brothers through a compelling vision and purpose. A true leader articulates a clear vision that resonates with the aspirations and values of the brethren. They ignite fervor and dedication, rallying the Lodge around a shared mission that transcends individual ambitions. Here's how to inspire your brothers:

- **Define Your Vision:** Clearly articulate your vision and its significance. What do you aim to achieve? Why does it matter? Ensure your vision aligns with Masonic values.
- **Express Your Vision:** Master the art of conveying your vision with clarity and passion. Use language that stirs emotion and conveys a vivid picture of the future you envision.
- **Lead by Example:** Exemplify the principles you uphold. Let your actions speak volumes, showcasing your unwavering commitment to the Lodge's vision and purpose.

2. Empower through Trust and Collaboration:

Effective leadership within a Lodge hinges on empowering the brethren through trust and collaboration. A true leader empowers others to unleash their full potential by providing support, guidance, and autonomy. Here's how to empower your brothers:

- **Foster Trust:** Build trust through transparency, honesty, and reliability. Respect differing opinions and demonstrate integrity in all interactions.
- **Delegate Authority:** Grant brethren the autonomy to make decisions and take ownership of Lodge matters. Encourage innovative solutions and problem-solving.
- **Provide Support:** Ensure brethren have the resources and mentorship needed for success. Foster a culture of learning and growth.

3. Lead through Service and Humility:

In Masonic leadership, service and humility are paramount. True leaders prioritize the well-being of others over personal gain, embodying humility and empathy. Here's how to lead through service and humility:

- **Prioritize Others:** Center leadership on serving the needs of the brethren. Listen actively, show empathy, and support their growth.
- **Lead by Example:** Demonstrate humility in decision-making and acknowledge the expertise of others. Serve as a mentor and advocate for the development of the brothers.
- **Show Gratitude:** Express appreciation for the contributions made by the brothers. Celebrate successes collectively and recognize individual efforts.

4. Treat Others with Respect and Dignity:

Respect and dignity form the bedrock of Masonic leadership. Leaders value each brother's unique perspective and contributions, fostering inclusivity and unity. Here's how to uphold respect and dignity:

- **Lead with Empathy:** Understand the perspectives of the brethren and show compassion for their experiences. Foster open communication and transparency.
- **Value Diversity:** Celebrate the diversity of Lodge members and create an inclusive environment where all feel welcomed and valued.
- **Lead by Example:** Set a standard of respect and professionalism in all interactions. Treat others with kindness and uphold ethical standards.

5. Acknowledge Others' Achievements:

Recognizing achievements of brethren is essential for fostering a supportive Lodge community. It inspires motivation, strengthens relationships, and promotes a culture of appreciation. Here's why acknowledgment matters:

- **Motivate Excellence:** Validate the efforts of brethren and inspire continued dedication to Lodge values and goals.

Continued on page 16

Five Principles for Effective Leadership continued from page 17

- Foster Appreciation: Cultivate a culture of gratitude and camaraderie within the Lodge, enhancing cohesion and morale.
- Build Trust: Strengthen bonds among brethren through acknowledgment, fostering trust and collaboration.
- Promote Inclusion: Recognize achievements across diverse backgrounds, promoting a sense of belonging for all members.
- Inspire Growth: Set a benchmark for excellence and encourage brethren to strive for continuous improvement.

In conclusion, leading a Lodge is not just about administrative tasks; it's about embodying timeless principles that resonate with the core values of the

fraternity. The five principles outlined: inspiring with vision and purpose, empowering through trust and collaboration, leading through service and humility, treating others with respect and dignity, and acknowledging others' achievements, serve as a roadmap for effective leadership within any organization. By adhering to these principles, leaders can create an environment where brothers feel inspired, empowered, and valued. Through servant leadership, transparency, and inclusivity, leaders can nurture a strong sense of community and foster personal and collective growth. Ultimately, by embracing these principles, Masonic leaders can uphold the traditions of the fraternity while guiding it towards a future of continued excellence and unity.



**SCOTCH &
CIGAR
NITE
AUGUST 9**



Lafayette Consistory at Rhinebeck



HOSPITALER'S CORNER

Your gifts to the Hospitaler Fund assist David in helping out local brothers who are members of the Consistory. Unfortunately, there never has been a greater need. If you have experienced good fortune in the past year, why not pass a portion of it forward to help a brother in need. Many are struggling with age-related debilities, as well as misfortunes of every kind.

Please make your contribution

payable to

Lafayette Consistory

and mail to

David B. Urban, Hospitaler

P.O. Box 309

Stratford, CT 06615



July 6



DIPLOMAS AWARDED AT



MAY 6, 2024



LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



MAY 6, 2024





FAMILY LIFE EVENTS ~ 2024

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
9/13/24	Friday	6:30 pm	Red Sox at Yankees. Yankee Stadium, Bronx, NY, 7:05 pm First pitch, take the Yankee Clipper down from your local Metro North station to meet at the game. Our tickets are in the Jim Beam Suite w/ cushioned seats behind home plate on the 300 level. The package includes all-inclusive “elevated” ballpark food and draft beer (full menu with the exception of Lobel’s Steak Sandwich); it starts from doors opening until the middle of the 5th inning or 90 mins. After the originally scheduled first pitch, whichever comes first, it also includes complimentary popcorn, peanuts, and soft drink refills; the Suite contains private concession stands, bathrooms, and a full-service wrap-around bar (a la carte). \$150/Person
9/14/24	Saturday	6:00 pm	Valley of Bridgeport Installation Dinner, Riverview Bistro, Stratford, CT, \$20/Person.
9/15/24	Sunday	12:30 pm	Fishing Trip on the L.I. Sound, “Lucky Lady” Clinton, CT, Limit of 35, plus \$5 for pool, no glass bottles or bananas per order of Captain. \$20/Person in advance.
9/18/24	Wednesday	8:00 am	The Big E, a Day trip to the Big E on “Connecticut Day”, West Springfield, MA. Leaving the Leo H. Lohrman, II, Theatre in Stratford at 8:00 am. \$25/Person
9/29/24	Sunday	12:00 pm	Annual Clambake, Orange Fairgrounds 525 Orange Center Rd. Orange, CT 06477
10/5/24	Saturday	5:00 pm	Essex Clipper Dinner Train, Essex, CT - ride for 2 -2 1/2 scenic journey while served a 4-course meal in beautifully restored 1920’s Pullman diners, pulled by a vintage diesel locomotive. Leaving the Leo H. Lohrman, II, Theatre in Stratford at 3:30 pm. \$75/Person.
10/20/24	Sunday	8:00 am	Rhode Island Trip – A tour of The Breakers and Elms Mansions in Newport, lunch and shop on your own, Dinner at the Windham Hotel. Limit of 50 spots. Leaving the Leo H. Lohrman, II, Theatre in Stratford at 8:00 am. \$95/Person.
11/28/24	Thursday	7:30 am	Annual Turkey Trot 5K Road Race, Thanksgiving morning, supports the Connecticut Children’s Dyslexia Centers and other local Charities.
12/14/24	Saturday	3:00 pm	Boston Pops Holiday Concert at Symphony Hall, a performance filled with Holiday music favorites, the traditional sing-along, and a visit from Santa Claus himself. Shopping or dinner on your own at Faneuil Hall Market Place afterward. The bus leaves The Leo H. Lohrman, II, Theatre in Stratford at 10:00 AM. Limit 40 people. \$95/person.
12/20/24	Friday	6:00 pm	Annual Holiday Party and fundraiser for CT Children’s Dyslexia Centers, Woodwinds Banquet Facility, Branford, CT to include Cigar Rolling and Silent Auction. Formal Black Tie or Formal Holiday Dress. \$40/Person.



VALLEY OF BRIDGEPORT

2024 DEGREE SCHEDULE

DATE	DEGREE(S) in Stratford Unless Otherwise Noted.
Mon. Sep. 23	4th Degree (live), 28th Degree (live), & 21st Degree (video)
Mon, Oct. 7	7th Degree (live), 23rd Degree (live) & 13th Degree (video)
Mon. Oct. 28	17th Degree (live) & 22nd Degree (video)
	AT NEW HAVEN TEMPLE
Mon. Nov. 18	5th Degree (live), 30th Degree (live) & 19th Degree (video)
Mon. Dec. 2	32nd Degree (live)

Dinners are at 6 p.m., Degrees at 7:30 p.m. in Stratford unless otherwise noted. The 4th Degree video is offered as needed to new candidates prior to degree portrayals, so they can start their Scottish Rite journey on any date. New candidates must register 45 min before degree. Dinners before the Bridgeport degrees on Mondays are at 6 p.m. in the Shrine building, unless otherwise noted,

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

Saturday degrees are at 11 a.m., followed by lunch in the Shrine building. \$10/ per brother.

RSVP required for dinner or lunch.

Email: Office@LafayetteConsistory.com or call 203-375-0064.





SAVE THE DATE TO
PLAY IT AGAIN AT THE

HOLIDAY PARTY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024
6 -10 P.M.

WOODWINDS, SPECIAL EVENTS VENUE

A Holiday Buffet Dinner
At the Woodwinds by Chef Silvío
And Dancing with a DJ

Four Hour Premium Open Bar
Cocktail Hour, Hot and Cold Hors d'Oeuvres

Salad Station

Pasta Station

Farfalle with Sunday Sauce, Tortellini Alfredo

Entrée Station

Chicken Marsala, Chicken Florentine, Salmon Champagne

Carving Station

Prime Rib & Stuffed Roast Pork

Complements Station ~ Herb Roasted Potatoes,

Seasonal Vegetables Medley, Rice Pilaf

Desserts ~ Assortment of Cookies and Pastries

Served with Coffee, Tea, or Espresso

DRESS IS FORMAL OR ROARING 20'S STYLE

ONLY \$40.00 a person (cost the same as last year)

Reserve your place today.

Silent Auction and a Cigar Roller after dinner to
benefit the Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut.

CALL the Scottish Rite Office today to

RSVP: 203-375-0064

Limited Space so RSVP Early
by Friday, December 13.



Lafayette Consistory
P.O. Box 309
Stratford, CT 06615-0309

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS

From the Valleys of Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury

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BROTHERS REMEMBER

Whether traveling from in or out of the state it is easy to get to the Stratford Leo H. Lohrman, II, Scottish Rite Theatre via Metro North. Our Theatre is located right next door to the Stratford Station. Avoid I-95 traffic and parking concerns. Consult the Metro North Train Schedule at: <http://www.mta.info/schedules>.

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