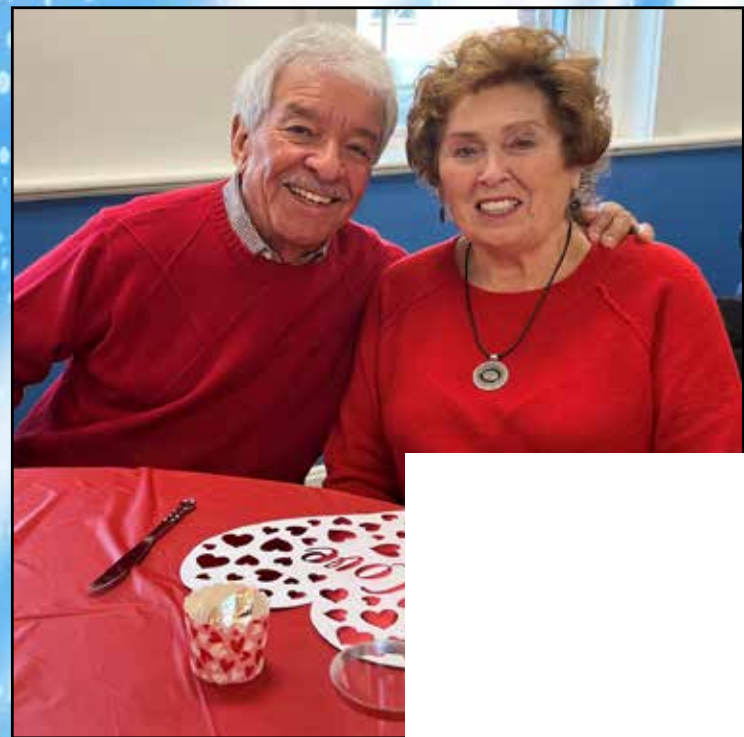


March 2025



Connecticut FREEMASONS



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The Call to the 236th Grand Lodge Session
CT Freemasons Foundation Call to Meeting
Call for Nomination for Masonicare Board Service
Masonicare Annual Report 2024

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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Most Worshipful Grand Master

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RW Deputy Grand Master

Bro. Shane Dufresne
RW Grand Senior Warden

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RW Grand Junior Warden

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Deputy Grand Secretary

Bro. Christopher T. Carrott
Assistant to the Grand Master



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Not just a man. A Mason.



Connecticut FREEMASONS

Volume 20 Number 7

Publisher

**THE GRAND LODGE
OF CONNECTICUT A.F. & A.M.**

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March—From Shamrocks to Togas to Master Mason Degrees...

by **Francis G. Way**

March is an interesting time of year here in New England. It is entirely possible that one day you can be wearing a parka, watching a “storm of the century” blizzard fall down around you, and a week later be deciding on a light jacket or maybe just shirt sleeves before rolling down the windows and blaring the Allman Brothers on the car radio while running Saturday afternoon errands.

Grand Master Edward C. Page talks about “In Like a Lion, Out Like A Lamb” in his message this month, and in a lot of years that is just the way March weather behaves, but I remember more than a few years when I was a kid where my younger brother and I would look at each other and say “Yeah, more like In Like A Lamb, Out Like a Lion.” That was especially true during the years we were playing Little League ball, and we were more than ready to get the gloves, ball, and bat outside to start shaking off the winter rust. We’d be playing ball in February if we were lucky enough to have a warm day (and Mom would let us) but waiting through a windy, cold end of March to get to the really warm April days was torture.

In the fraternity, March seems to be a time when degrees really start to pick up in frequency. The new officers have a stated or two under their belts and March seems to be a time when initiating new candidates or wrapping up the journey for those who came in during the previous autumn, takes center stage and degree availability around the state increases. And by this point the officer lines usually have hit the ground running and many lodges like to do a St. Patrick’s Day Table Lodge or some other type of celebration. It’s almost as if the Craft is starting to shake off the last of winter.

In Act 1, Scene 2 of *Julius Caesar*, the Soothsayer ominously warns Caesar “Beware the Ides of March,” and in sooth, Caesar did meet his end on March 15. So, if your lodge doesn’t have a St. Patrick’s Day Table Lodge, perhaps a toga themed party, optionally with a lion or a lamb might be a fine alternative....

But all levity aside, March just seems to be the month where the year really starts to get rolling, degrees start to increase, winter starts to decrease, and shirt sleeves are sometimes an option for a sunny, overly warm late March Saturday afternoon...perhaps when driving home from a Master Mason degree.



THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

JAMES M. ANDERSON
GRAND SECRETARY
69 Masonic Avenue
Wallingford, CT 06492



BUSINESS PHONE
(203) 679-5903
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grandsecretary@ctfreemasons.net

236th ANNUAL COMMUNICATION
OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M.
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

The 236th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A. M. of Connecticut will be held at the **Marriott Hartford/Windsor Airport, 28 Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT 06095** (I91, exit 38), on Saturday, **April 5, 2025**. The formal opening of the Grand Lodge will be at 9:30 A.M.

This is the "CALL" to that meeting.

Registration will start at 8:00 A.M. Please note: **All voting delegates must register at the registration table and present their 2025 Dues Card to the Grand Tiler upon entry to the session.** Registration will be by Home/Primary Lodge number as designated by posted signs in the area.

A proxy form will be sent directly to the Lodge Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden should they: 1) not be able to attend this Annual Communication in person [proxy must be executed in advance]; 2) be entitled to vote by virtue of holding one of these offices in more than one lodge; 3) be entitled to vote by virtue of being a Grand Lodge Officer or a permanent member of Grand Lodge. Please inform any brother who is attending as a proxy that he must present his 2025 dues card. All brothers entitled to vote should bring the apron and jewel of their office, whether as permanent member, lodge officer or serving as proxy.

Your attendance at this Annual Communication is important. We will consider available reports of Standing and Special Committees, Grand Lodge Officer reports, and any other business proper to be considered, all subject to the usual rules. **There may be certain changes to the Rules & Regulations which will be considered for adoption.**

Please note the following Sections of our Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations regarding lodge representation:

Section 2301. Penalty if Lodge Is Not Represented at Regular Grand Lodge Communication: (reads in part) "A Lodge neglecting to be represented at a Regular Grand Lodge Communication shall incur the penalty of two hundred and fifty (\$250) dollars ..."

The Grand Lodge Office cannot make hotel reservations. Lodges and brothers are responsible for making their own reservations with the **Marriott Hartford/Windsor Airport**. We encourage you to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. Room rate is \$140 per night plus tax. Last day to book is **Friday, March 14, 2025**. To reserve your room use this link: <https://bit.ly/4jjzz5h> or call 860-688-7500 (ask for Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut when making reservations by phone).

VOTING: Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, District Deputies, Past District Deputies, current Associate Grand Marshals, and current Grand Lodge Standing Committee members must register in order to vote.

Each voting delegate will register **only once, either by virtue of his highest attained Grand Lodge Masonic office or Committee Membership or, if he chooses, as an elector (proxy) on behalf of his lodge.** The use of proxies is encouraged where appropriate to ensure full representation of constituent lodges.

FRIDAY BANQUET: The Grand Master's Banquet for Grand Lodge Officers, Distinguished Guests, members of the Craft and their ladies will be held on Friday evening, April 4, 2025, at 7:00 pm with a social hour at 6:00 pm in the Windsor Ballroom. All brothers and their ladies are invited to attend. Reservations for this and all other meals will be made through the Grenadine Event Management website/app link qrto.org/44uGkN (best with Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge). **The deadline for reservation tickets is March 20, 2025.**

The entrée will be at a cost of \$60 with a choice of Flat Iron Steak, Chicken Marsala, Filet of Salmon, Vegetarian, and Vegan all by advance order. All prices are per person and include tax and gratuity. Banquet tickets will be mailed to those placing an order **prior to March 20, 2025.** For orders received after that date, tickets will be held at the door.

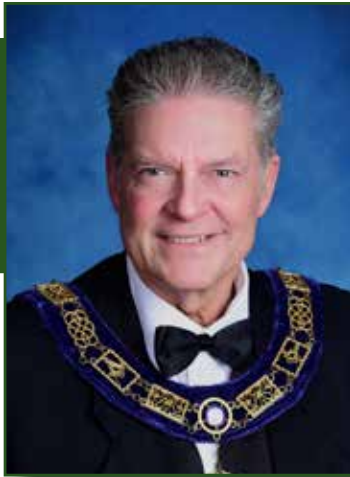
SATURDAY LUNCH: On Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 12:00 Noon, the Past District Deputies Association of Connecticut will host a luncheon. Lunch choices are Roast Beef Sandwich or Turkey BLT Sandwich for a cost of \$45. All prices are per person and include tax and gratuity. All brothers are invited to attend. **Reservation deadline is March 20, 2025.** Lunch will also be available at other venues in the surrounding areas.

Brother Lodge Secretary, please note that proxy forms will be mailed directly to the top three officers of your lodge. Please remind them of their responsibility to be present at Grand Lodge or to sign their proxy and give it to someone else.

With my fraternal best wishes

James M. Anderson

R.W. Grand Secretary
February 1, 2025



Grand Master's Message

by MWB Edward C. Page

In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb

It is said that March weather, "In Like A Lion, Out Like a

Lamb," is based on actual ancestral observation and prediction, a belief that if the beginning on the month starts roaring in, like a lion, with strong weather, it should end gently, like a lamb. There are cycles of life that echo that trend, however my term is not one of them, as I have tried to be consistent in my tenacious drive to be at as many events and support our gentle Craft from start to end.

My travels have taken me to other jurisdictions where I bring Connecticut Freemasonry to them. In March, I will continue to bring Connecticut Freemasonry outside of our great state, as I travel to Florida where we will celebrate several brothers with 50 years of Masonic service along with other milestones. While in Florida I will also celebrate my birthday, and other than with my mom, there is nowhere I'd rather be on the anniversary of my birth than with my brothers and this wonderful Fraternity.

Also, in March I will be traveling to California to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of Union Tehama Lodge No. 3, which was

chartered by Connecticut on January 31, 1849. That was before California even had their Grand Lodge, which was chartered on April 17, 1850.

Wherever I can be of service, I have tried to make every effort to attend and lend my complete support.

This year's Annual Grand Lodge Banquet on Friday night will be very representative of your Grand Master, and God-Unity-Service GUS. I have overhauled as many aspects as possible; it will be a party to celebrate our wonderful Grand Jurisdiction and our gentle Craft. Fashioned after our Table Lodge and/or Festive Boards, there will be music, singing (my dad, Gus, loved to sing), keepsakes, toasts, presentations, several surprises and plenty of warm brotherly love. It is my gift to you. If it is well received and attendees have a great time, please tell your Grand Lodge Officer, if it is not well received, as I have said all year... Blame ME.

I have been so blessed and so very honored to be your Grand Master, it has truly been an opportunity of a lifetime, and I have not wanted to squander one single moment or experience. Wherever I am my Connecticut brothers are also always with me for this is not just my journey, but this is our journey together in unity.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

King Hiram Lodge No. 12

Paul Chan
John Mastrianni
Reisman Perez

Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14

Randy Thomas/Dieter Lorancaitis

Hiram Lodge No. 18

Jose Fuentes

Morning Star Lodge No. 47

Jonathan Tyler Mullins

St. Andrews Lodge No. 64

S. Fred Newman
Jeffrey B Steadman
Stephen Charles Welford

Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Scott Richard McVeigh
Lee Alan Warncke

Corinthian Lodge No. 104

Charles P. Coleman

Annawon Lodge No. 115

Naun A. Bran

Annawon Lodge No. 115

Arsenio Cruz
Erik Shane Diggs
Tyler James King
Daylon Earl London, Sr.
Martin Podsiad

Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge No. 142

Tomas Patrick Sacouto Curwen
Andrew Thomas Holms

Daytime Lodge No. 144

Charon Kent Belcher

236th Annual Communication Meal & Hotel Reservations

To reserve your room at the Marriott Hartford, the link is <https://bit.ly/4jjzz5h>
or make you reservations by phone by calling 860-688-7500
and ask for Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut.

For the Friday Night Dinner, the Past DD Lunch, or
the Saturday Ladies Lunch and Program, use this
QR code or you may make your reservations
through the Grenadine Event Management
website/app link qrto.org/44uGkN



If a links does not work, you may enter the URL to your browser.

Please refer to the Call on page 4 for ALL details.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 75-YEAR MEMBERS!

Frank W. Colton
Madison Lodge No. 87

Robert Matthew Erdin, Jr.
Columbia Lodge No. 25

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR MEMBERS!

Francis H. Best
Uriel Lodge No. 24

James C. Kleinkauf
St. Alban's Lodge No. 38

William F. Campbell
Fayette Lodge No. 69

Steven A. Ledewitz
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Carl Anthony Cassella, III
Harmony Lodge No. 42

Dean Eldon Phillips
Warren Lodge No. 51

Robert F. Daniele
Harmony Lodge No. 42

Jerry Shurteff Richter
Montgomery Lodge No. 13

Raymond Richardson Emmons
Fayette Lodge No. 69

William A. Stone
America St. Johns Lodge No. 8

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD SERVICE

February 2025

To Prospective Masonicare Board and Committee Members:

By this notice, the Board of Trustees of Masonicare Corporation hereby issues a Call for Nominations of candidates for election to the Board of Trustees of Masonicare Corporation, the Board of Directors of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut and/or Masonicare Board Committees. To be considered for service, nominees need not specify in which board/committee they are interested in serving. Individuals may request a Nomination Application by completing and returning the questionnaire below.

Applications are to be submitted to me and postmarked no later than April 16, 2025. Applicants will be contacted to schedule interviews.

Nominees should have qualifications in business, corporate leadership, finance, law or healthcare, which qualify them for board service. Candidates should be aware that board/committee members assume fiduciary duties with respect to their service, and that violation of these duties can entail personal liability. Service on our boards/committees requires a considerable time commitment, varying with the needs of each corporation. While Masonicare's boards/committees are primarily comprised of those who are specifically members of the Masonic fraternity or related appendant bodies, affiliate board and Masonicare committee membership may also contain qualified members of the local community.

MASONICARE is the Parent Corporation of our system, and all nominees must be members in good standing of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, with the exception of three who shall be members in good standing, and appointed one each from The Grand Chapter of Connecticut, Order of the Eastern Star; the Order of the Amaranth, State of Connecticut; and Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of Connecticut. The Board of Trustees is composed of no less than fourteen but no more than seventeen members. Three seats are filled annually by members in good standing of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, through the nomination and election process. Two seats are filled by the Board of Trustees as strategic members of the Board. The term of service on this board is three years, commencing in November 2025.

The term of service for The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut Board of Directors and for Masonicare Board Committees is one year commencing in November 2025.

Please feel free to address any questions you may have regarding this process to Jon-Paul Venoit, President and CEO, 203-679-6000 or jvenoit@masonicare.org. Thank you for your assistance and participation

Sincerely and fraternally,



Christopher Earle, Chair
 Nominating Committee

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION FOR BOARD SERVICE

Requests for a Nomination Application can be completed by returning the attached request. Once completed, the form should be sent to Christopher Earle, Chair of the Masonicare Nominating Committee, via U.S. Postal Service to the address listed below; by Facsimile to 203-679-3045; or you may send the information electronically to jvenoit@masonicare.org. A Nomination Application will be sent to all applicants for completion. Please indicate your preference on how to receive the form. The Nomination Application may be returned via U.S. Postal Service, Facsimile, or electronically.

Bruce Bellmore, Chair
 Masonicare Nominating Committee
 Masonicare Corporation
 22 Masonic Avenue, P.O. Box 70
 Wallingford, CT 06492

Name _____

Mailing address _____

Daytime phone number () _____ Evening phone number () _____

Mobile number () _____ Fax number () _____

Email address _____

I would prefer the application to be sent to me via (i.e., email, U.S. mail) _____

Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc. Call to Meeting

In accordance with its by-laws, the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc. will conduct a brief meeting and election of representation to its Board of Directors at the will and pleasure of the Most Worshipful Grand Master during the Annual Stated Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut on Saturday, April 5, 2025. All members of the Grand Lodge who are in good standing are invited to attend.

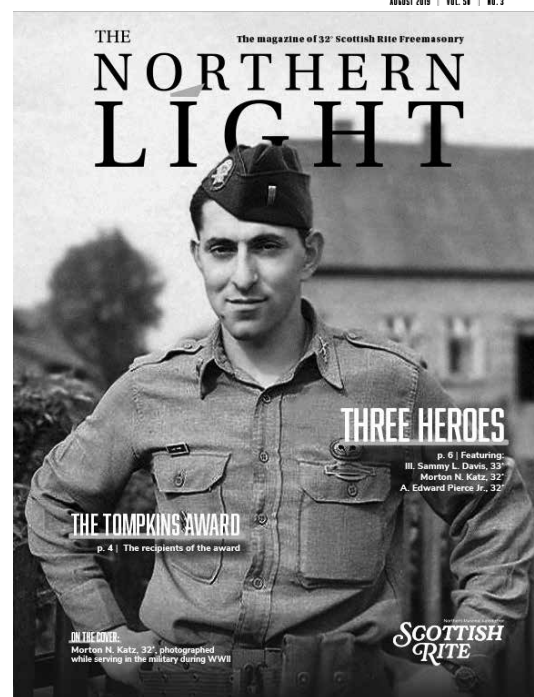
Fraternally,
Bro. Christopher J. Earle, Chairman

Morton N. Katz: Soldier, Lawyer, Brother

by Francis G. Way

In January 1996 I was raised a Master Mason. At the time I was also a member of the First Company, Governor's Foot Guard in Hartford, and the Master and officers of Level Lodge No. 137 arranged to have me raised by the state military degree team. Many of the officers in that degree team were familiar to me as they were members of either the Foot Guard or the First Company, Governor's Horse Guard. However, the Worshipful Master of that team was not. That evening, I met, for the first time, RWB Morton N. Katz.

Every Master Mason will tell you that their raising was unforgettable and mine certainly was. I was impressed by the team, impressed by RWB Mort and impressed that he let my father assist in raising me. The ritual that evening was flawless and RWB Mort was larger than life in the East.



About a year later I showed up at the Valley of Hartford, AASR, in Newington to begin my Scottish Rite journey, and when I walked into the lobby, Mort saw me and said, "I'd like you to be exemplar tonight for the 4th Degree." The 4th Degree in those days was very different than today, and it was really quite a lot of fun to do that. Mort directed the 4th and 14th degrees in those days, and I had many opportunities to work with him as I later progressed through the Lodge of Perfection officer line.

RWB Mort was WWII veteran and was one of three veterans profiled very nicely in an issue of the Scottish Rite's publication, *The Northern Light*. Obtaining permission from them to reprint, we ran the article in the December 2019 issue of this newspaper.

RWB Mort was also legendary in the Connecticut legal system, working as a public defender until the age of 100 and continuing to practice law until the age of 103.

RWB Morton N. Katz, who labored among us for 62 years, laid down his working tools last Monday, February 3, at the age of 105.

Those of us who had the privilege of laboring with him in the quarry will never forget him. Those who didn't have missed something, and someone, very special.

The advertisement is for the 'Third Annual MASONIC FAMILY DAY' at Dodd Stadium in Norwich, CT. It features the 'Sea Unicorns' logo and a cartoon unicorn. The event is on Friday, July 18, 2025, at 6:30 PM, with gates opening at 5:30 PM. The ticket price is \$10, and 50% of ticket sales go directly to Masonicare CT. There will be fireworks following the game. Contact Jeffrey Blayman for tickets at jblayman@gmail.com or (860)334-5277. The Dodd Stadium logo is at the bottom.

Sea Unicorns NORWICH
Third Annual MASONIC FAMILY DAY
JULY 18, 2025 @ 6:30PM
GATES OPEN @ 5:30PM
JOIN US! FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2025,
AT DODD STADIUM IN NORWICH, CT.
WE WILL BE RAISING MONEY FOR
MASONICARE CT!
\$10 50% OF TICKET SALES
GOES DIRECTLY TO MASONICARE!
THERE WILL BE FIREWORKS FOLLOWING THE GAME!
CONTACT JEFFREY BLAYMAN FOR TICKETS!
JBLAYMAN@GMAIL.COM (860)334-5277
DODD STADIUM

Friendly Reminder of Our Submission Guidelines And Why We Have Them

Over the past few months, we have received an inordinate amount of submissions that consist of an article written in the body of an email, with photos attached. This results in us sending an email reply to request that the text content of the submission be re-sent in a Word document. Why? What's the difference? The text is all there, can't we just copy and paste it into the paper?

The short answer? NO.

Email has advanced exponentially from the days any email you received was plain ASCII text. If you were an early email user, you might remember when email was almost always plain ASCII text that you could easily read on a terminal. If you grew up in the Unix world like I did, programs like Mail, Pine, and Elm are probably familiar to you and it was easy to save, edit, copy, and paste all or part of any email and put it into any other program without worrying about formatting characters embedded in the content.

Today, almost every email interface uses HTML, and emails invariably contain various non-printing (i.e., invisible) characters and escape sequences to aid in making a pretty format. If we were to just copy/paste that block of text from the mail program and were Pat to dump it into her layout for the newspaper, it would wreak absolute havoc on her end of this job.

So we ask for text content to be submitted as a Word doc (ideally with no fancy borders, boxes, lines,

dashes or other formatting) or even as a plain text txt file. Those formats make it easy to edit and then easy to send on to Pat. With 25-40 submissions a month, that's a lot of editing and sending on to Pat. And a lot less extra work finding, and stripping out, the non-printing format and control characters.

"What about PDFs, can I send you one of those?" you ask. The short answer? No. The longer answer? No, just NO.

And unless there are a lot of large photos, they do not have to be in a separate email from the Word doc, they can be in the same email, they should all just be "attached separately." In other words, don't embed the photos in the document. And if there are captions, adding those to the end of the text document (and not in the body of the email) is ideal. Oh, and jpg or png format should be used.

Our submission guidelines are there for us to receive all the great content we receive in a format that shortens the amount of time and manipulation we're required to do to get it into the newspaper.

So, if you do receive an email that says "please resubmit with the text content in a word doc" it's nothing personal. It's just trying to smooth the process.



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE IN MASONRY?

Why not attend the College of Freemasonry where the CORE Values of LIFE are portrayed in theatrical presentations of the Scottish Rite degrees:

- * Justice * Integrity * Tolerance * Service
- * Reverence to God * Devotion to Country

The Scottish Rite is a Masonic organization where you will find Inspiration – Convenience – and Enjoyment with fellow brethren. We are now accepting applications for our next class.

For more information about becoming a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, or to receive a copy of a Scottish Rite informational DVD . . .

Contact Tony Angelica, 33°, at the Valley of Hartford, AASR: (860) 6660712

Email: office@valleyofhartford.com www.valleyofhartford.org

THE MAGIC OF THE NUMBER 33

by John A. Amarillos, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

The Valley of Bridgeport is back in full swing this month, having begun the degree season in February. March will see the 8th Degree live and the 27th Degree on video on Monday March 10.

Looking ahead, in April we will present the 21st Degree (live) and the 20th Degree (video) on Monday, April 7, and the 24th Degree (live) and the 19th Degree (video) on Monday, April 14. As always, degree nights begin with dinner at 6 p.m. with degree work starting at 7:30 p.m. If you are starting the Rite, you must see the 4th Degree first, which will be presented at 7 p.m. for new candidates. Arrangements and sign up should be arranged with the Consistory office several days in advance.

Family Life events in March include a visit to the Klein Auditorium in Bridgeport on March 2, for the first Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestra Winter Concert. Tickets are free of charge to Consistory members. Spring concerts will be held there on May 26 as well. Call the office for reservation and ticket information.

One last quick note, the semi-annual fishing trip on the Lucky Lady out of Clinton will take place this year on Sunday, June 1. Tickets for Consistory members are selling fast. Reservations and deposits are being taken by the office at this time. This is a sell-out event and reservations with prepayment are a must if you do not wish to experience disappointment.

The Consistory Office number is (203) 375-0064.

The enigmatic number 33 has a special place within the Rite which is largely symbolic. Aside from its honorific connotations in the fraternity, within the western mystery tradition it denotes a completion of one's quest for personal perfection.

The number possesses certain unique properties that can also be found in numerous instances outside the confines of the fraternity. For example, the accompanying illustration shows the magic square of the number 33 on the Sagrada Família's Facade of Passion in Barcelona, Spain. The juxtaposition of this symbol of perfection next to a scene of the betrayal of Christ by a materialistic Judas alludes to the adoption of the number by other western traditions as well.

If you count every column or row, across or down, you will see the numbers arranged will total 33. Unlike other magic squares, the number 33 can also be derived by numerous other combinations of boxes with the square. The number transcends numerous cultures and appears in many places where one



would never expect it. Each one of us carries it around with us internally. It is the internal support of our physical vehicle and plays a monumental role in developing our personal consciousness, if we only would allow it to function.

Our spines consist of 33 vertebrae and in many traditions serve as the path to higher enlightenment. The number 33 is also the age at which Jesus was crucified and ascended. Clearly the number alludes to a theme of completion and transformation.

Interestingly, Sir Isaac Newton, on his scale of temperature, had 33 as the temperature at which water would transform from a liquid to a gas and was his assigned temperature of boiling.

In the Old Testament, in the Book of Genesis, the name Elohim appears 33 times thus alluding to a spiritual significance. In the Vedic pantheon there were 33 deities. Within the Great Pyramids of Egypt there is a resonant frequency of 33 hertz to be found in the Kings Chamber, which some attribute to the structure's ability to amplify energy and which some claim will assist the listener to higher levels of consciousness.

In human physiology, we find that our DNA features 33 twists in a complete sequence. One can see that the number spans numerous aspects of physical life. Perhaps the most relevant aspect of the number to those who seek the light and with it, higher consciousness is the spine, which serves as a channel for that subtle energy known as Jing in eastern traditions, Kundalini in the

Continued on page 10

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY



Attention All Master Masons!

SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES
Reservations required.
Call the Consistory Office at (203) 375-0064.

Mon. Mar. 10- 8th Degree live, 27th Degree (video)
Mon. Apr. 7 - 21st Degree live, 20th Degree (video)
Mon. Apr. 14 - 24th Degree live, 19th degree (video)

For the latest copy of the
Lafayette ConsistoryNews visit
[https://ctfreemasons.net/appendantbodies/
lafayetteconsistory/](https://ctfreemasons.net/appendantbodies/lafayetteconsistory/)

<p>Contact the Consistory Office to arrange for seating and meals for any of the degree events.</p> <p>Valley of Bridgeport 2422 Main Street Stratford, CT 06615 Office@LafayetteConsistory.com 203-375-0064</p>	<p>Valley of New Haven 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com 203-269-0336</p>	<p>Valley of Waterbury 529 Highland Avenue Waterbury, CT 06708 cdoneill@snet.net 203-754-8209</p>
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For more information, contact the Valley near you or email Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com.

Syria Grotto and New Britain Rainbow Attend the Hartford Wolfpack

by Charles Jewart

On January 24, Syria Grotto and members of New Britain Rainbow No. 6 enjoyed a night of hockey at the Hartford Wolfpack as the Wolfpack celebrated 50 years of hockey in Hartford. Grotto members wearing the black fezzes drew a lot of attention and questions regarding what the Grotto does as well as Connecticut Freemasonry in general.

Even though the Wolfpack lost, the \$2 hotdogs for the kids eased the sting.



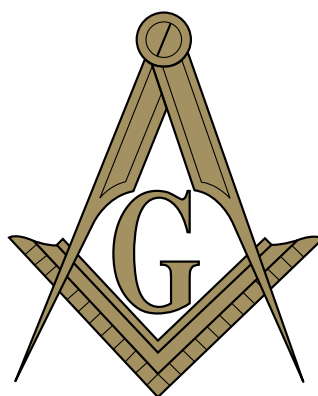
The Magic of the Number 33 continued from page 9

Vedic traditions, and the serpent energy in certain western ones. An unadulterated spine can serve as the channel for this energy to rise up and awaken the slumbering and mistakenly considered vestigial glands known as the pineal and pituitary.

The methodology on how to accomplish this rigorous undertaking falls outside of the scope of this venue, however the work all starts with the words written on the second page of our Entered Apprentice ritual "to learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry." Every lodge owes its members an environment that supports and reinforces the subduing of the misapplied energy of passion, and that redirects it to the constructive and purposeful goal of personal regeneration and transformation.

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 membership@lafayetteconsistory.com, or call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064.



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NURSING SCHOLARSHIP



at **Masonicare**



 An Ageless Commitment to Caring

Application deadline: **Friday, May 23, 2025**

The late Bro. John Brandt established the Norma Brandt Nursing Scholarship at Masonicare in loving memory of his wife, Norma, a Registered Nurse who dedicated her life and career to helping others. Masonicare proudly awards this scholarship to qualified individuals enrolled in an accredited nursing program (Associate Degree, BSN, or RN) who are benefit-eligible Masonicare employees with at least one year of service **or** the children/grandchildren of Masonicare employees **or** affiliated with a Masonic organization, either as a member or child/grandchild of a member.

For more information or to receive an application please contact Lindsey Smith at **203-679-6166** or **lsmith@masonicare.org**

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

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

What does a 130-year-old legacy non-profit provider of senior care do to make sure it's around for at least another 130 years?

Well, in the case of Masonicare, you hold true to your mission and practice your core values of innovation, compassion, accountability, respect, and excellence.

You work day and night to provide quality, integrated healthcare, homecare, and community-based services.

You offer housing options for all income levels and tap your charitable foundation to help enhance the quality of life for residents and patients in need.

You never lose sight of the little things, because it's often those little things that mean so much to those you serve.

And ... you grow.

I had the pleasure of discussing these and other related topics last month at the annual Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America. I'm incredibly proud of all that we have accomplished and try never to pass up an opportunity to share our story with the greater Masonic family. Our secret sauce is no secret; if other providers in our industry can learn from Masonicare's experience, we all stand to benefit.

We recently celebrated the addition of Masonicare at Greenridge Place with a Masonic cornerstone dedication ceremony. We were honored to welcome officers of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut,

AF & AM, local and statewide elected officials, members of the Masonicare leadership team, staff, residents, and others to the event – our first since 2019, when Masonicare at Chester Village joined the fold. And there will be more to come. We're planning similar cornerstone ceremonies for our new locations in Shelton, Farmington and Newington which will honor both our Masonic roots and the storied history and legacy of United Methodist Homes (UMH).



I'm pleased to report that the post-merger process of integrating UMH into Masonicare is going very well. Succession planning – the practice of identifying and developing new, emerging leaders who can move into leadership roles – has aided and accelerated the process. New leaders are bringing lessons learned in one part of the continuum to another, sharing knowledge with their teams and building a stronger Masonicare.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon-Paul Venoit". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.



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

Charles L. Clapper
Columbia Lodge No. 25

Donald J. Hurd
Temple Lodge No. 65

Jay Franklin Miskimen
Brainard Lodge No. 102

Charles A. Seagrave, Jr.
Anchor Lodge No. 112

Gordon Mayo Cooper
Federal Lodge No. 17

Clinton C. Gouge
Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34

Kirk Avery Trieschmann
Corinthian Lodge No. 63

Jarran Shadow Walker
Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34



District 1

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



Washington Lodge No. 19 Community Support

Washington Lodge No. 19 in Monroe presented donations to Project Warmth of Monroe and Monroe Food Pantry. Kim Cassia, Eddie Lui, and First Selectman Terry Rooney were at the lodge to receive them. The lodge has supported the Monroe area for over 200 years.

(photo by Steve Ackley)



District 2

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



Hiram Lodge No. 18 Initiates First Entered Apprentice of 2025 by Fred Marotti

On Wednesday, January 31, WM Stephen DelGiudice and the brothers of Hiram Lodge No. 18 initiated their first Entered Apprentice of the year. Bro. Robert De Oliveira was treated to an exceptional degree and was brought into the craft in due form. MWB George Greytak also did a wonderful Protocol Lecture everyone enjoyed.



District 3

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



St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64 News

by Keith Dearden

St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64, in Winsted, held a special communication on Saturday, December 21, 2024, to raise three brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, Bros. Fred Newman, Jeffrey Steadman, and Stephen Welford. The brothers of St. Andrew's Lodge were by MWB Marshall Robinson, RWB Jack Baril, RWB Dan Reeves, WB Ken Tarwood, RWB Mark Dzurmack, and Bro. Trevor Martinelli.

Continued on page 15

District 3 continued from page 14

All the brothers did a fantastic job with their roles. The MM tragedy was masterfully performed by MWG Robinson, RWB Peter Keefe, and SD Larry Wilson. RWB Keefe's depiction of GMHA and instruction of the Working Tools was spectacular, as many brothers who have seen RWB Keefe perform can attest.

Ending the day, the brothers enjoyed a delicious lunch followed by fellowship until late in the afternoon.

The lodge also had the honor and pleasure of many visiting RWBs attending their annual installation of officers. RWB Shane Dufresne, RWB Jack Baril, RWB Dan Reeves, WB Neal White, RWB Mark Dzurnack, RWB Gary Ross, and WB Joe Zannino

all attended. A special thanks goes to RWBs Mark Dzurnack and Dan Reeves for installing the St. Andrew's Lodge officers. Congratulations to all the elected and appointed officers.

Additionally, the brothers took time to reflect on beloved brothers Peter and Jason Keefe, who were recently called home by the GAOTU. Many brothers gave heartfelt remembrance speeches, most memorably by RWB Shane. That night will not soon be forgotten.

The evening concluded with appetizers and fellowship. It was a great night to start 2025.

Harmony Lodge No. 42 Installation and Upcoming Events

In January, Harmony Lodge No. 42 installed their officers for 2025. RWB David L. Sharkis installed the line of officers assisted by RWB Joe Cyr. The lodge room was filled with approximately 70 brothers, family members, and friends. WB Jason Gadue was installed as Worshipful Master with his suite of officers, and it was an amazing time of fellowship. Thank you to all that showed up and helped perform this perfect installation.

Harmony Lodge will be having some more opportunities for fellowship coming up, including a table lodge with St. Patrick's Day food on March 6 and the bagpipers from the Police Pipes & Drums of Waterbury. Contact WM Jason Gadue to reserve a seat (\$20).

TABLE LODGE MARCH 6TH
BRO. ANGUS MACDONALD ON THE PIPES @ 7PM
TRADITIONAL FOOD-\$20 TICKET
ALL GUESTS WALK AWAY WITH
HARMONY 42 HISTORY BOOK AND 225 YEAR PIN
CONTACT: W.M. JASON GADUE 475-222-6532
pay at the door, call or text to be added on the list



District 4

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



Wooster Lodge No. 79 Installs Officers for 2025

by Alex Trasacco

On January 8, Wooster Lodge No. 79 in New Haven, installed their newly elected and appointed officers.

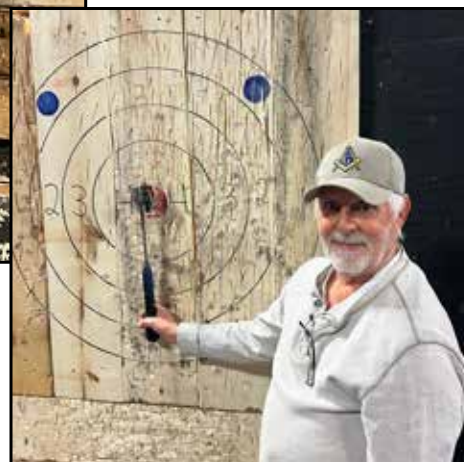
WM Matthew Erasmus, SW Bryan Laudano, JW Justin Quick, Treasurer WB Alan DePaulo, and Secretary WB Alex Trasacco. Also present for the officer installation were RWB Constantino Antinou and WB Chris Reilly, District Deputy and Associate Grand Marshall of Masonic District 4B respectively.



Compass Lodge No. 9 Has An Axe To Grind

Compass Lodge No. 9 in Wallingford enjoyed fun and fellowship at Blue Ox Axe Throwing in late January. Brothers sharpened their techniques learning the finer points of throwing.

It was time for some fun while enjoying food, refreshment, and camaraderie. The brothers, of course, stayed within due bounds, in their lanes, to throw many bullseyes!



Compass Lodge No. 9 Hosts a Red Cross Blood Drive

On Saturday February 8, Compass Lodge No. 9 in Wallingford held a blood drive at a local elementary school, setup and organized by SW Kyle Piper.

Bro. Kyle has been donating blood since 2008 and decided to host a drive. He arranged to have it at Pond Hill Elementary as the usual locations in the area were not available.

The American Red Cross says that blood donations are traditionally lower at this time of the year and have hit historic lows in the past few years due to the pandemic.

Kyle enlisted the help of the International Organization of Rainbow Girls, Rose Assembly #No. 11 in Cheshire to help assist at the rest and recovery area for the donors during the blood drive. Tiffany Cutler, Amelia Santillo, and Michaela Schweikert donated their time to make sandwiches, snacks, and provided juice and water.

Bros. Kishore Kapoor, Jack Beecher, RWB Nick Barnes, and WM Mike Santillo from Compass Lodge helped setup and run the event through the day, some even gave blood for the first time. Bro. Andre Finn said that he always wanted to donate but there was never an opportune time. Congratulations Andre!

There is always a need for blood, to find out more on how you can donate or host an event, go to Redcrossblood.org.



It is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that we present this year's annual report, People, Purpose & Promise. This theme reflects the enormous efforts of the dedicated individuals who form the heart and soul of Masonicare. Our people, united by a shared purpose of caring for one another, have worked through unprecedented challenges to ensure we deliver on our promise of a brighter tomorrow. This report is dedicated to them—the employees of Masonicare—whose steadfast dedication has made us a stronger, healthier and more agile organization.

This past year marked a period of remarkable progress and resilience. Thanks to our collective hard work and a stabilized financial position, Masonicare received a Fitch rating upgrade to A-. In an industry where downgrades are all too common, this recognition underscores our unwavering commitment to fiscal responsibility and operational excellence. This upgrade positioned us to pursue our expansion goals by searching for the perfect addition to the Masonicare family—one that would broaden access to our integrated services and allow us to serve new communities.

While our affiliate service lines diligently worked to improve STAR ratings, achieve CARF re-accreditation and advance programming to better serve our communities, the Masonic Charity Foundation reached a significant milestone by earning an impressive 97 from Charity Navigator. This outstanding 4-star rating, the company's highest ranking, highlights our commitment to fiscal responsibility, transparency and exceptional stewardship of resources. It reflects our unwavering dedication to ensuring that every dollar entrusted to us is used effectively to support our mission and create meaningful impact. Together, these achievements underscore our organization's drive for excellence and integrity across all facets of our work.

As we strengthened our organization and began sharing our story nationwide, opportunities for transformative partnerships emerged. Among these was the opportunity to collaborate with United Methodist Homes, a legacy

nonprofit in Connecticut with a mission and values closely aligned with our own. The potential benefits for both organizations, particularly for our residents and employees, were compelling. What began as exploratory discussions with their President and CEO evolved into a merger-integration process that promises to propel an expanded and re-imagined Masonicare to the forefront of the senior care industry.

While this historic merger was unfolding, another opportunity presented itself: the acquisition of a beautiful 108-unit assisted living community in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. This addition represents another significant step forward in expanding access to Masonicare's exceptional care and services. Undertaking this due diligence effort alongside the merger-integration process with United Methodist Homes required extraordinary commitment and collaboration across our teams, who navigated tight timelines with remarkable focus and determination.

In an era when many organizations pursued expansion through costly construction or large-scale acquisitions, we chose a different path—one rooted in the strength of two century-old institutions built to last. The process of exploring this merger and formalizing integration efforts was no small task. Yet, our teams rose to the challenge, working tirelessly to develop a seamless plan that ensures substantial benefits for all stakeholders. Thank you to our devoted team members for embracing the vision, embodying the mission and collaborating to bring this vision to life.

We also extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated Board of Trustees and Freemasons from across Connecticut, who embraced our proposal with enthusiasm and support. Your commitment to our mission and your willingness to champion this initiative have been invaluable in advancing Masonicare's goals.

The culmination of these efforts is a defining moment in Masonicare's history. Through partnerships, goodwill and strategic decision-making, we are forging a path of strength and long-term sustainability. These achievements are not just milestones; they are a testament to what is possible when people come together with a shared purpose and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

The future looks incredibly bright, filled with endless opportunities to enhance access to care, innovate our services, and create pathways for our employees to grow, thrive and achieve their fullest potential. As we embrace this next chapter, we do so with a steadfast commitment to the principles that have guided us for over a century—innovation, compassion, accountability, respect, excellence and integrity. We remain deeply grateful for the trust and confidence placed in us by our residents, families, friends, employee team members, Board members, donors and the broader community. Together, we will not only uphold our legacy of delivering exceptional senior care but also push the boundaries of what is possible, setting new standards for quality and service. With your continued support and collaboration, we are ready to write the next great chapter in Masonicare's proud history.



With gratitude and optimism,

Christopher J. Earle,
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Jon-Paul Venoit,
President & CEO

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Howard W. Orr
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Duane G. Roberts

2024

Masonicare
An Ageless Commitment to Caring

Financial Performance

Results of operations at Masonicare for fiscal 2024 reflect continued progress toward our long-term strategy to focus our business model on reducing reliance on unstable third-party payor sources. Our operating revenues of \$150.9 million are up 1% from the prior year, reflecting growth in our residential living communities, and higher skilled nursing Medicaid payor rates in the fourth quarter. Operating expenses are down 1% over the prior year, representing a reduction in agency usage and sound cost control. Contribution and investment income of \$9.3 million represents an increase of 12.5% largely due to market returns. Our fiscal 2024 holding gains on equity securities increased by \$5 million due to favorable market conditions. Once again, our ability to adhere to our investment policy has allowed us to avoid realizing unnecessary losses.

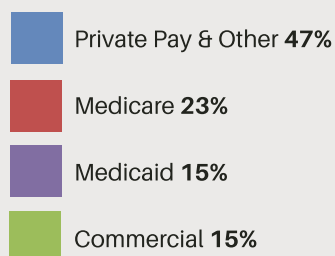
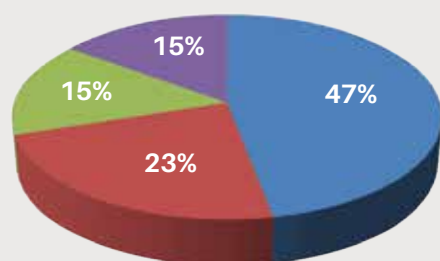
Fiscal 2024 Obligated Group: Our Contribution Margin of \$9.5 million improved by 29% over the prior year led by improvements at MHC relating to improved census, payor mix and skilled nursing Medicaid rate increase along with cost control.

Fiscal 2024 Non-Obligated Group: Our Contribution Margin of \$4.8 million improved by 21% over the prior year due to positive results claims experience for Keystone and continued positive performance at SLM and MAM.

Subsequent Events: Fiscal 2024 results do not reflect the subsequent events involving the merger with United Methodist Homes, Inc. or the acquisition of Masonicare at Greenridge Place.

Change in Financial Position: Changes in the financial position of Masonicare at year end 2024 from the prior year include: an increase in the levels of unrestricted cash and investments (to 391 days of operating costs on hand from 324 days); reduction in net property and equipment as depreciation expense exceeded additions; an increase in current liabilities due to balance sheet timing; reduction in other long term liabilities as accrued pension and post-retirement obligations declined; an increase in net assets due to the excess of revenues over expenses as well as the fair value change of alternative investments.

2024 Revenue by Payer



COMPARATIVE INCOME STATEMENT (000's Omitted)	2024	2023*	% Change
Total Operating Revenue	\$150,856	\$149,221	1%
Operating Expenses	136,475	137,796	-1%
EBITDA (Contribution margin)	14,381	11,425	
Depreciation	(12,546)	(12,718)	
Interest and Other Fees	(7,043)	(7,037)	
Total Gain (Loss) from Operation	(5,208)	(8,330)	
Non-Operating Income	29,218	23,397	
Revenue (Under) Over Expenses	24,010	15,067	
EBITDA (Contribution Margin)			
Obligated Group	\$9,512	\$7,399	
Non-Obligated Group	4,869	4,026	
TOTAL	\$14,381	\$11,425	26%

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEETS (000's Omitted)	2024	2023*	% Change
Current Assets	\$33,212	\$29,533	
Investments-Unrestricted	136,929	116,465	
Investments-Restricted	74,792	67,209	
Property, Plant and Equipment	162,158	165,104	
Other Assets	2,651	5,613	
Total Assets	\$409,742	\$383,924	7%
Current Liabilities	\$37,499	\$33,301	
Long-Term Debt	135,743	140,020	
Other Long-Term liabilities	66,174	68,410	
Net Assets**	170,326	142,193	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$409,742	\$383,924	7%
Days Unrestricted Cash/Investments	391	324	21%

* Fiscal 2023 Financial Statements were restated to reflect the fair value change of certain alternative investments. As part of the restatement, net assets were increased by approximately \$9.5 million.

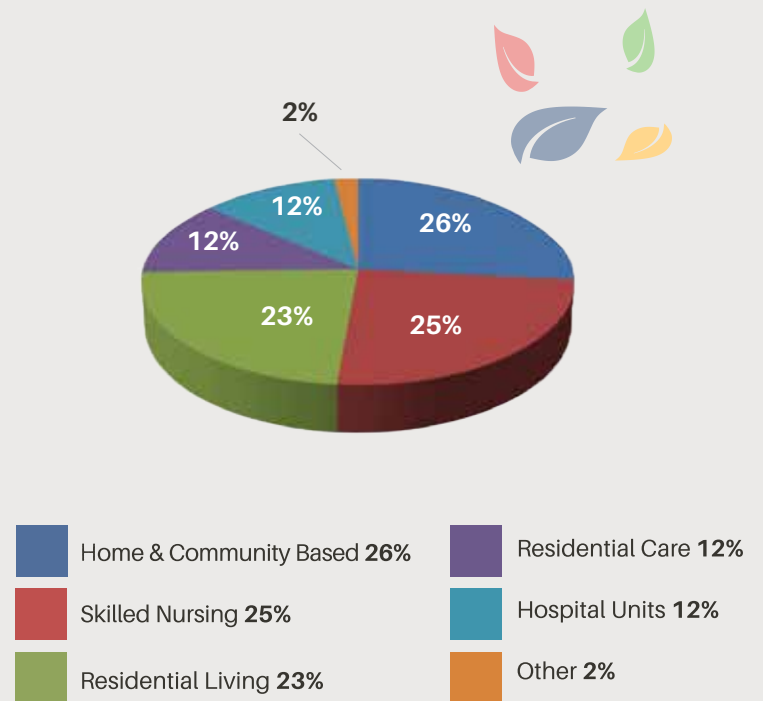
** Excludes net post-retirement costs (other than service costs), holding gains (losses) on equity securities, changes in fair value of interest rate swap and non-controlling interest in consolidated subsidiaries and other changes in net assets without donor reflection.

NOTE: Certain reclassifications have been made to the amounts reported for fiscal year 2023 to conform to the presentation of fiscal 2024. These reclassifications have no effect on total net assets or the change in net assets.

Summary of Activity

OCCUPANCY	2024	2023
Masonicare Health Center (Beds-Units)		
Skilled nursing beds (260/260)	88.0%	88.3%
Acute psychiatric beds (50/43)*	86.0%	96.5%
Residential care units (86/86)	86.5%	79.1%
Independent living units (93/93)	96.0%	91.9%
<i>*Received State approval to increase Acute Psychiatric beds to 50.</i>		
Masonicare at Ashlar Village (Units)		
Independent living (355/355)	89.4%	90.5%
Assisted living (134/134)	91.1%	86.0%
Masonicare at Mystic (Units)		
Independent living (96/99)	97.9%	97.0%
Assisted living (83/80)	86.7%	83.6%
Masonicare at Chester Village (Units)		
Independent living (105/105)	97.7%	98.1%

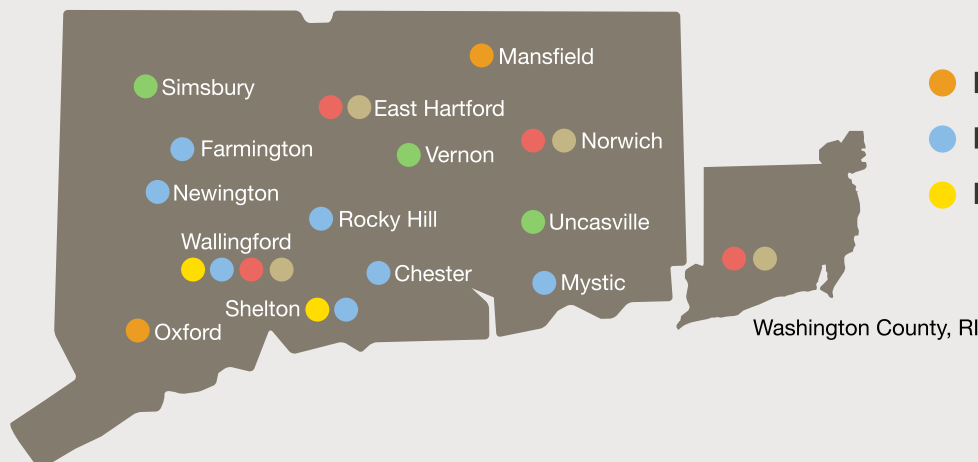
2024 Revenue by Type of Service



VISITS / Days		
Masonicare Home Health & Hospice		
Total Care of the Sick Visits	109,182	118,825
Hospice and Palliative Care Days	72,019	81,958
Masonicare at Home		
PCA / Homemaker Visits	13,828	15,202
Live-In Days	6,846	5,463



2025 Service Area



- Property Owned
- Residential
- Healthcare
- Hospice
- Homecare
- ALSA's





MCF Year in Review Fiscal Year 2024

During fiscal year 2024, the fundraising efforts of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut secured **\$2,940,680** in support of the programs and services of Masonicare and its affiliates. These gifts came in many forms, including bequests, trust distributions, beneficiary designations, charitable gift annuities and outright major gifts, as well as donations to the Masonicare Annual Appeal and to The Foundation's special events. Between October 1, 2023 and September 30, 2024, unrestricted contributions totaling **2,161,892** were received, as well as **\$528,281** in funds given by perpetual trusts and **\$250,506** in restricted donations. Of particular significance was the very generous gift of **\$385,000** from The Eastern Star Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 CONTRIBUTIONS:

Bequests and Trusts	\$1,075,471
Major Gifts (Outright gifts of \$10,000 or above)	561,521
Perpetual Trusts	528,281
Gift Annuity Residuals	71,725
Masonicare Annual Appeal	324,910
Holiday, Community and Colleague Appeal	7,005
Masonicare Golf Classic	218,298
Masonicare Wine & Beer Tasting	153,469
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS:	\$2,940,680

THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024

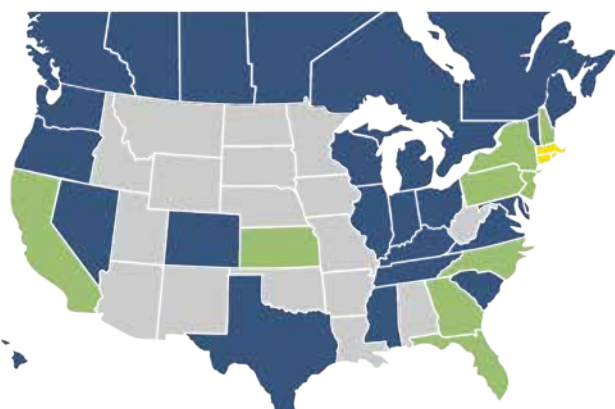
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Fiscal Year 2024 / Donation by State



Connecticut	\$2,158,188	Virginia	\$4,911	Vermont	\$350
Rhode Island	\$250,431	Texas	\$3,850	District of Columbia	\$300
Massachusetts	\$163,155	Wisconsin	\$1,550	South Carolina	\$300
New Jersey	\$82,702	Ontario	\$1,500	Canada	\$200
Pennsylvania	\$80,615	Ohio	\$1,300	Nevada	\$200
Florida	\$76,173	Washington	\$1,100	Illinois	\$188
North Carolina	\$41,960	Colorado	\$718	Delaware	\$100
New York	\$23,643	Indiana	\$640	Kentucky	\$100
California	\$13,364	Maine	\$575	Minnesota	\$100
New Hampshire	\$10,515	Maryland	\$525	Michigan	\$75
Georgia	\$10,225	Hawaii	\$474	Mississippi	\$50
Kansas	\$10,100	Tennessee	\$450	Oregon	\$50

Annual Gala Dinner

to honor Brother

Rinaldo F. Magliano, Jr.

the incoming

Most Worshipful Grand Master
Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of the State of Connecticut

Please join us to congratulate, support,
and celebrate!

May 4, 2025, 6 to 10 p.m.

The Woodwinds
29 School Ground Road
Branford, CT 06405

\$55 per person or \$550 for table of 10
Includes buffet dinner, music, dancing
hand rolled cigars
Charge Bar
(cards only)



For reservations please
scan the QR code

You may also mail reservations
& payment to

Anchor Lodge No. 112
PO Box 112
East Hampton, CT 06424-0112
(Please make checks payable to
Anchor Lodge 112)



District 6

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



The Blitz is on in 2025 for Washington Lodge No. 70

by Patrick J.W. Chagnon

On January 20, seven members of Washington Lodge No. 70, blitzed Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 in South Windsor, Washington Lodge's first blitz target of the year. Hartford Evergreen Lodge's WM Khamp Phimvongsa had never seen a blitz and was quite pleased to have a few brothers visiting his lodge. Washington Lodge's WM Ken Roach took the opportunity to present Hartford Evergreen Lodge officers with Washington's bicentennial anniversary pin. Washington Lodge has a goal to present these pins in all future blitz activities.

A blitz in Freemasonry refers to members from one lodge visiting another lodge unexpectedly in large numbers, to participate in a meeting or to support a specific event. The intent of this practice is to show solidarity, camaraderie, and mutual support among Masons. Overall, a blitz embodies the Masonic principles of brotherhood and support, reflecting the organization's values of unity and mutual aid.

Then, on February 3, the lodge blitzed Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4 in West Hartford. The lodge was duly titled at 7:40 p.m. when nine brothers requested permission from Wyllys-St. John's WM Gregory Matthaey to join their meeting. Entry was granted and Washington Lodge was well received. It was a great night to blitz as Wyllys-St. John's Bro. Jesse Mejia provided a presentation on the Masonic history in Hartford.

In keeping tradition, WM Ken Roach presented Wyllys-St. John's Lodge officers the bicentennial pin.

As Washington Lodge No.70 celebrates its bicentennial this year, its brothers want to visit as many lodges as possible in 2025 and extend their fraternal greetings around the state.



“I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.”

*— Bro. Winston S. Churchill, Former Prime Minister of Great Britain,
Rosemary Lodge No. 2851 and Studholme Lodge No. 1591, UK*

Washington Lodge No. 70 Entered Apprentice Degree

by Patrick J.W. Chagnon

On January 27, Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor initiated two brothers with 25 brothers attending.

Bro. Mark Markewicz, of Windsor and Bro. Hakan Yula, of Bloomfield were initiated by a flawless degree team, led by WM Kenneth D. Roach III. The Custodian of the Works was presented by WB Paul Hendricks, the Long Form Apron presentation by SS Patrick Chagnon, Working Tools by Bro. Bubba Kelley, the Lecture by WB Steve Mathews, and the Charge by WM Roach. The newly initiated brothers were presented with forget-me-not pins along with some light study material.

Closing out the evening MWB Charles B. Fowler welcomed the new brothers by highlighting his 60-plus years in the fraternity. MWB Chuck told them, "Participation, the more you do the more you will get out of it. You just never know what's ahead of you, I love coming to my lodge."

Washington Lodge meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, and all brothers are invited to attend. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. with opening at 7:30 p.m. Reach out to the lodge Junior Warden Michael Lawler Jr. at reserveWL70@gmail.com.



Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 News by Pat Jones

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 held the annual meeting of the Oriental Evergreen Masonic Building Corporation in January. The OEMBC is responsible for managing the activities, property, and affairs of the lodge building corporation. Maintenance and upkeep of the lodge building is a primary responsibility.

The corporation officers for 2025 were elected: President Dave Larsen, Vice President Dave Prior, Treasurer Charles Weiss, Secretary Pat Jones, and Assistant Secretary Kirk Montstream.

The Hartford Evergreen Lodge Philanthropic Committee appointed WB Dave Prior, WB Brian Warren, and Bro. Jonathan Hayes as committee members for 2025. The mission of the committee is to make grants available to organizations that empower and improve the community through humanitarian and educational programs.

A "Baked Potato Buffet" was held at the lodge and proved to be very popular with brothers and their significant others. More than 50 attended this delicious dinner complete with all the fixings. Dessert was planned to be served after the lodge meeting, giving spouses and significant others an excellent opportunity to get to know one another while the brothers met. WM Khamp Phimvongsa continued an effort by previous Masters to hold lodge events that include family members. It was widely agreed that everyone enjoyed the time together and wanted to see more activities of this type.

February began with preparations for an entered Apprentice Degree planned for the middle of the month with the anticipation of initiating four new brothers.



Mr. and Mrs. Roland Mason



Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Schinkoeth



Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Alder

Ladies and Widows Valentines Luncheon at Washington Lodge No. 70

Love and fellowship were in the air at Washington Lodge No. 70 in Windsor on Saturday February 8. It was the annual Valentines Ladies & Widow's Appreciation Luncheon, hosted by WB Bob Dodge and his wife Stephanie, who have put on this special event for the past five years.

The dining hall was filled with nearly 50 guests, but the focus was on the ladies. "We were very grateful at the number of ladies who turned out for the luncheon, especially our lodge widows," said WB Bob Dodge. "This is just one of several events the lodge holds throughout the year in honor of our ladies, but it is certainly one of the more popular."

Special thanks to Stephanie Dodge for preparing a wonderful meal and all the homemade desserts, and to Senior Steward Patrick Chagnon for all his assistance throughout the event., and to WM Kenneth Roach III, who is leading the lodge during its 200th anniversary year.



Continued on page 27



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District 7

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



Funeral for a Friend by Dan Alexander

The Masonic funeral service is one of Freemasonry's most important, public and powerful events. Important because it is the final opportunity to demonstrate honor, respect, and brotherly love for a fallen worthy brother, a man whom all brothers have each taken an oath to help, aid and assist. It's also the first opportunity to live up to the obligation to care for that brother's widow and children. Since the loss of a loved one is a very difficult and painful time in a person's life, can there possibly be a more important time on which to step up?

Many brothers feel awkward. They aren't sure what to say and feel their words are inadequate to relieve the anguish of grieving family members. Perhaps thinking "it's really just about me genuinely caring enough to just show up and be with them in their time of need."

The Masonic funeral service is the fraternity's most public event because there is no idea how many people, from every conceivable background, will be there. Stated communications are private. Other events such as installations, awards nights, or ladies appreciation dinners are semi-public, only bringing in guests who are familiar with the lodge and fraternity. Fundraisers and other events may be open to the public but by their very nature, tend to be transactional with brief interactions.

When brothers stand next to the remains of the deceased brother, in front of all assembled, they are Masonry in the minds of those gathered. How brothers behave and treat each other, the memory



RWB Swanson performed the funeral service from memory, helping mourners heal.

of the departed, and his family, creates an indelible vision of Freemasonry. That service is Masonry's most powerful event because of its emotional impact. American author and poet Maya Angelou said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

That power was never stronger than on Friday evening, January 10, at the Masonic service for my long-time friend and brother Charles Amos Seagrave, Jr., WB Charlie was Master of Anchor Lodge No. 112 in 1988 and 2014.

RWB Howard Swanson, from Warren Lodge No. 51 lead the service with dignity and grace, all from memory, allowing for a greater connection with those present. It had the sound that comes from the heart and not the sound of something read from a book.

There was a growing, muffled chorus of sniffles during RWB Howard's eloquent presentation, as I stood at attention by Charlie, next to his son, Bro. Chip, and his wife, Jane. My wife, Nan, ran out of Kleenex as she passed them out to the people around her to catch their falling tears.

Those tears were like gentle drops of rain on parched and barren soil. As they fell, broken hearts could begin to mend, a necessity for life to carry on and flourish once again.

All present will never forget the beautiful, strong and cathartic emotions created by the power of RWB Howard and the Masonic funeral service.



I've always believed that you can think positive just as well as you can think negative.

—Bro. Sugar Ray Robinson, Boxing Champion, Joppa Lodge No. 55 PHA, New York, NY

An Interactive Recollection of the Entered Apprentice Degree by Jeffrey A. Blayman

The brothers of Warren Lodge No. 51 in Portland and numerous visitors packed the back room of the Portland Ale house for a tremendous festive board. Everyone left with a full belly and a happy heart as they headed back to the lodge for an educational discussion meant to illuminate the minds of the lodge's newest brothers.

District Grand Lecturer WB Andrew J. Pedro II engaged the brethren with a thoughtful presentation about the Entered Apprentice degree. With assistance from WB Daniel P Alexander, the Senior Deacon, the Entered Apprentices were conducted throughout the lodge room, to illustrate WB Pedro's lecture and refresh their memory. After explaining the finer points of the degree, a thoughtful discussion was held and the brothers about the lodge offered their own memories of their initiation.

It was indeed a fine stated communication as the energy was very high, from the boisterous tone at the restaurant, to the attentive and positive interactions throughout the lecture, everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. Last but not least, live organ music made the evening complete thanks to brother Josh Ziemski.

All are invited to join Warren Lodge on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Reach out at Warrenlodge51@gmail.com.



District 8

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



Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 Installs Officers in 150th Year

The newly installed officers of Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116 are excited to celebrate their lodge's 150th anniversary. Oxoboxo Lodge was chartered on March 30, 1875.



District 9

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



9th District Blue Lodge Council Has Full House

Over the past few years, the attendance for the 9th Masonic District Blue Lodge Council has been sparse at best. But at the most recent meeting at Uriel Lodge No. 24, no empty seats remained for dinner. All of the seats were occupied when everyone went upstairs. MWB Edward C. Page presided over this gathering as his last official duty as the 9th District's Grand Master, and he had much positive news to share.

Grand Master Edward C. Page thanked everyone for attending and began the work of the evening. He announced the selection for the incoming District Deputy for District 9B and the Associate Grand Marshal. WB David Raymond Chouinard would be the next District Deputy, and he chose WB David L. Boland as his AGM. MWB Page presented the Pierpont Edwards Metal in Bronze to RWB Christopher Thomas Carrott, Assoc. Grand Almoner and Assistant to the Grand Master Edward C. Page.



The Gavel of leadership passes to a new Master in 2024

As the night wore on, one could only hope and realize that the craft was back and that Masons should again provide the torch to shed the bright light on our society, as our brothers once did 248 years ago.



The History of Fayette Lodge No. 69 Continued...

by Perne R. Maynard

This month we share photographs of all the founding brothers of Fayette Lodge No. 69 and stories that shed light on what life was like in 1825, the year the lodge was chartered. The charter members were instrumental in starting the lodge and remained active until the Morgan Affair of 1840, which caused Masonry to go dark throughout the United States until 1856.

The Morgan Affair involves the disappearance of an unreliable and often out of work stonemason in Batavia, New York. This was the darkest period in American Freemasonry. William Morgan, who called himself Captain Morgan, served in the War of 1812, gained admission and acceptance in several blue lodges in upstate New York. Research shows that he used exposés, bluff, and bluster, to gain admission. There is no documentation that he ever was a Freemason.

Apparently, due to a snub when trying to join the organization, Morgan published a Masonic exposé in the spring of 1826. He made a deal with a local newspaper publisher to reveal the secrets of Freemasonry. It was rumored that he may have made as much as \$500,000 promoting this manuscript. Soon after, there was a fire at the printing press office, and Masons were blamed for destroying the building. The Masonic lodge replied that it was a publicity stunt by the owner of the printing office to sell more copies of the book.

Morgan was then arrested for stealing a shirt and tie, and a few days later somebody paid his debt. He was escorted from the jail into a waiting carriage by several men, including the local sheriff. It is claimed that, as the coach drove away, Morgan's last words were "Help! Murder!" The Masonic lodge claimed that Morgan had been turned over to some Canadian Masons. They gave him money and a horse and told him to ride north and that he would be reunited with his family later on.



HORATIO ARNOLD HAMILTON
First Master 1825



HORATIO DOW (M.D.)
Treasurer 1825

He was never seen again by the outside world.

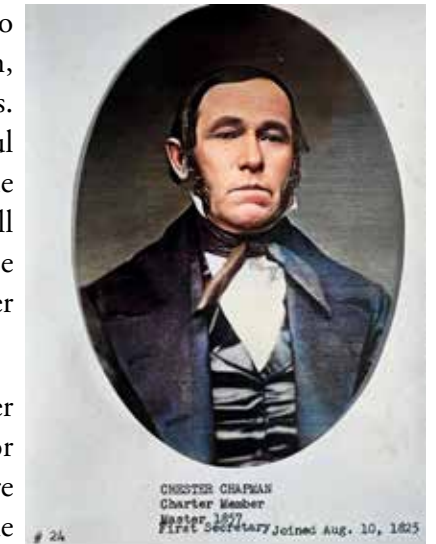
The first meeting place of Fayette Lodge was the William Morgan Tavern, from October 1, 1825, to May 1, 1828. During this period, the following officers organized Fayette Lodge in a new Masonic territory. The first officers were Horatio Arnold Hamilton, Worshipful Master; Lebbeus P. Tinker, Senior Warden; Ebenezer Smith, Junior Warden; Horatio Dow, MD, Treasurer; and Chester Chapman, Secretary.

In May 1828, the lodge moved to a second home, the Holton Tavern, where they stayed for 15 months. Ebenezer Smith was Worshipful Master. Fayette Lodge's third home was the Beasley House at Sadds Mill Road. From May 1833 until June 1857, the lodge met at the Chester Chapman House in Ellington.

Ebenezer Smith remained Master from 1828 until 1840, and for the next 16 years, meetings were sporadic as Masonry endured the Morgan Affair.



Ebenezer Smith, WM 1828-1840.



CHESTER CHAPMAN
Charter Member
Master 1827
First Secretary joined Aug. 10, 1825
24

Worshipful Master, a charter member of Fayette Lodge since 1825. He was its first secretary in 1825.

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The Somerset Gavels

On November 2 or November 3, 1778, the man of war, HMS Somerset, a third-rate, 64-gun ship of the line, wrecked in a gale near Race Point, near Provincetown, on Cape Cod. Sixty to seventy of her crew drowned and the remainder were taken as prisoners of war by the newly formed United States of America.



The HMS Somerset was launched in 1748 at the Chatham Dockyard and was the third British ship to bear the name. It was rated just over 1,400 tons, was 160 feet in length and carried a crew of some 400 sailors.

On the night of April 18, 1775, the Somerset was anchored off the mouth of the Charles River in Boston Harbor, as Bro. Paul Revere started his fabled ride. As the Regulars retreated back into Boston the next day, the Somerset afforded the troops protection under the cover of her cannon. While she did not fire a shot, her intimidating presence stopped the local patriot militias from pursuing the British to their boats as they crossed back over Back Bay.

Since 1778 the remains of the wreck have resurfaced from its sandy grave in 1885-86, 1973 and 2010.

The two gavels pictured here are made of the wood salvaged from the Somerset and were presented to Somerset Lodge No. 34: One by RWB Arthur H. Brewer in 1895 and the second by Bro. Elmer D. Kinsman of Warren Lodge (MA) in 1897.

Worshipful Brother Alphonse Wright Recognized

On Friday, February 7, WB Alphonse Wright of Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4 was recognized for leadership and making a difference in his community by the State of Connecticut, the City of New Britain, and the New Britain Common Council.



Expand Your Horizons with International Order of Rainbow for Girls by Taylor Batterton

Do you want to expand your horizon and learn more about things that affect people daily? Well, look no further! Connecticut International Order of Rainbow for Girls is doing just that. For the past three years IORG has been creating initiatives to bring our organization to its roots of service. In 2023, we held a “Year of Service” where we focused on six different charities. In 2024, we “Changed the World” through different topics like supporting our first responders and veterans. However, this year is different. Instead of supporting different charities, we are going to focus on educating our community on bettering ourselves and understanding others.

For January to March, we’re focusing on eating healthy and stressing less. Increased levels of stress can impact someone’s physical and mental health. Eating healthy can improve overall health. These work hand in hand to help our physical and mental health by creating better moods, relationships, and an overall well-being. At our January State Initiation, we made essential oil rollers. These included the scents of lavender, eucalyptus, peppermint, and rosemary. Essential oils help reduce stress by elevating your mind, reducing anxiety, and sharpening your focus.

At Grand Representatives Night we decided to make a healthy snack that included apples, SunButter, and chocolate chips. Eating apples provides high fiber and adding SunButter (sunflower seed butter) provides protein and healthy fats. While chocolate is always a nice touch, it also provides antioxidants. This combination allows for a balanced combination of nutrients.



At our February State Initiation, we wrote our main reason for stress on karate boards and then chopped the board in half. This provides a safe way to attack our stress. While this method doesn’t provide a solution to the stress, it does provide a visualization of externalizing anxieties, and physically breaking the board provides a release.

When planning the focus for these months we made sure to keep Grand Assembly in mind. For CT IORG, March is our Grand Assembly season. While it is fun and exciting, it does get stressful, and we have exciting surprises in store to destress at Grand Assembly!

As we move into April we will be focusing on learning about allergies and cross contamination. Allergies have become incredibly common within the past 10 years and our goal for these three months is to learn how to prevent, understand, and teach others the significant impact of cross contamination.

Moving into July we are going to focus on learning how people with learning disabilities take on everyday struggles. We recognize the unique strengths of their cognitive processes, and we are committed to advancing our understanding.

As we make our way into October, our final segment, we will learn about diabetes. Our goal by the end of the three months is to learn how a diabetes system functions, the responsibility of insulin, and how to help someone if a sugar issue presents itself.

Come join CT IORG on our journey throughout the year for some informative and educational experiments that will expand your horizons! Email Mom Anne Needham at ank050@gmail.com

Monday, March 17
St. Patrick's Day



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***Hot breakfast served from 9 to 11 a.m.
Barbecue picnic lunch to follow parade!***

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 1:30 p.m. 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:
fred@absct.com or 203-641-3932 or
to let us know you're coming before **March 5, 2025**.
Additional parking accross the street in Yale lot.

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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.



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 Freemason Newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the lodge's secretary to verify all times and events and inquire about dinner reservations.

Grand Lodge Annual Session

Saturday, April 5, 8 a.m., Marriott, Hartford/Windsor Airport

Entered Apprentice Degrees

Sat., Mar. 1, 6:30 p.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury, Dinner, EA Degree performed by the *Garibaldi Degree Team*.

Mon., Apr. 7, 6:30 p.m., Valley Lodge No. 36, Simsbury, Dinner

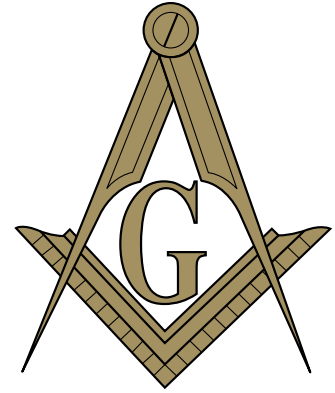
Fellowcraft Degrees

Tues., Mar 4, 6:30 p.m., Coastal Lodge No. 57, Stonington, Dinner

Mon., Mar. 17, 6 p.m., Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Dinner

Master Mason Degrees

Thurs., Mar. 27, 6:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Dinner



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

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.*

Recurring Breakfasts

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

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., Mar. 16, St. Patrick's Day Parade, New Haven



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Blue Flowers and Red Triangles

by David A. McClain

Perhaps you have seen a brother in lodge with a small flower lapel pin, with blue petals and a yellow center. It is the forget-me-not and represents brotherhood, sacrifice and remembrance, dedication, courage and perseverance. It originated in Germany in 1934, soon after Hitler's rise to power. The Nazis banned Freemasonry and seized all property belonging to Masonic lodges, so the forget-me-not was adopted by Freemasons to identify each other in public as well as in the concentration camps.

It is estimated that up to 200,000 Freemasons were sent to concentration camps by the Nazi regime, political prisoners and victims of anti-Masonic propaganda. Freemasons were identified in the camps by an inverted red triangle patch on their Anstaltskleidung, their "institutional clothing." The exact number of brothers that died in the camps is unknown, but at least one lodge was formed by seven brothers; the Liberte Cherie (French for "Cherished Liberty") Masonic Lodge was founded by Belgian Resistance fighters at the Esterwegen concentration camp.

Monday, January 27, was not just International Holocaust Remembrance Day but also a National Day of Remembrance of the 80th Anniversary of Liberation of Auschwitz, one of the most notorious concentration camps. In solemn commemoration of this, on January 21, the brothers of St. Peter's Lodge No. 21 held a showing of *Nazis vs Freemasons – Looting of the Lodges*. The film, directed by Emmy-award winner Jean-Pierre Devillers, details some of the crimes committed against Masonic Lodges in occupied Europe during World War II. It then follows the trail of the stolen archives of these lodges to Soviet-era Moscow, and the quest to have them returned to their rightful owners.

Afterward the brothers had a sincere discussion about the film, and all came away with a deeper understanding of just what the Masonic brothers sacrificed to keep lit the light of Freemasonry. Brothers are encouraged to view the film free of charge on YouTube as well as on Amazon Prime.

So, if you see a brother in a lodge with a small flower lapel pin, with blue petals and a yellow center, know that is a forget-me-not, and remember our brothers and their sacrifice.



We're circling back in 2025!



Wine, Beer & Bourbon

Friday, May 16, 2025

Knapp Auditorium at Ashlar Village

Golf & Pickleball Outing

Monday, August 4, 2025

The Farms Country Club, Wallingford



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