

# F. Connecticut FREEMASONS



In This Issue:

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

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



Bro. Edward C. Page Most Worshipful Grand Master

Bro. Rinaldo F. Magliano, Jr. RW Deputy Grand Master

Bro. Shane Dufresne RW Grand Senior Warden

Bro. F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr. RW Grand Junior Warden

> Bro. Thomas Gondek RW Grand Treasurer

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Bro. Mark H. Hawkins RW Grand Senior Deacon

Bro. James Anthony Moran, Jr. RW Grand Junior Deacon

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Bro. James A. Saraceni RW Grand Junior Steward

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Rev. and Bro. Carl H. Anderson RW Grand Almoner

> Bro. David J. Stewart RW Grand Historian

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Bro. Charles A. Miller, III Associate Grand Tiler

Bro. Brian E. Beals Deputy Grand Treasurer

Bro. Gregory K. Whitehouse Deputy Grand Secretary

Bro. Christopher T. Carrott Assistant to the Grand Master

#### Not just a man. A Mason.









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Letters, articles, and advertisements may be sent to the Editor Frank Way at **submissions@ctfreemasons.net** and are due on the10th of the month prior to the next issue.



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

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# April Showers Bring May Flowers and a New Grand Master

by Francis G. Way

The United States has long been known for its ability to peacefully transfer power from administration to administration. My thought on that has always been, "Well of course, this country was founded by Freemasons." Putting aside any conversation on the loss of civility in today's society, it is worth noting that as diametrically opposed on some subjects as John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were, they still held each other in great esteem and respect – a great example that more people could follow today. One place in society where you can see that respect lived out today is in Masonry.

April for Connecticut Freemasons usually means the peaceful transfer of power from an outgoing Grand Master to his successor. April showers bring May flowers. Sometimes brothers are sad to see the outgoing Grand Master end his term, and perhaps some even wish that we had three-year terms like Massachusetts or some other jurisdictions. But the system in Connecticut works and despite a few challenges in recent years with an eye towards changing it up, the one-year terms and nine districts possess a certain symmetry that serves the jurisdiction well.

This month we will see Grand Master Edward C. Page host the Annual Communication, and become our junior Past Grand Master, hopefully with the words of a grateful Craft echoing in his ears, "Well done, good and faithful brother." Deputy Grand Master Rinaldo F. Migliano, Jr., will be installed, and begin his year, implementing his programs that emphasize education and membership and retention. It is what Connecticut Freemasonry does.

Along with a new Grand Master, a number of lodges will be welcoming new District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals. There have been several attempts over the years to try to make the Grand Lodge officer terms (along with DDs and AGMs) line up with the lodge years (January to January). But there is some good logic in having DDs and AGMs who may be in the final months of their terms be able to mentor new Worshipful Masters during those critical first two or three month of their tenure.

In Connecticut Freemasonry, as in nature, April is a time of change. The showers of April nurture the growth of May and beyond. A new Grand Master will be installed, with the promise of a new year of growth for the world's oldest fraternity.

So, it goes.



## 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



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#### 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: <a href="https://bit.ly/4jjzz5h">https://bit.ly/4jjzz5h</a> or call 860-688-7500 (ask for Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut when making reservations by phone).

<u>VOTING:</u> 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 <a href="mailto:qrto.org/44uGkN">qrto.org/44uGkN</a> (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 <u>Flat Iron Steak</u>, <u>Chicken Marsala</u>, <u>Filet of Salmon</u>, <u>Vegetarian</u>, <u>and Vegan</u> all by advance order. <u>All prices are per person and include tax and gratuity</u>. Banquet tickets will be mailed to those placing an order <u>prior to March 20, 2025</u>. 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 <u>Past District Deputies Association of Connecticut</u> will host a luncheon. Lunch choices are Roast Beef Sandwich or Turkey BLT Sandwich for a cost of \$45. <u>All prices are per person and include tax and gratuity</u>. All brothers are invited to attend. <u>Reservation deadline is March 20, 2025</u>. 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

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## Grand Master's Message

by MWB Edward C. Page

Alpha and Omega, from Beginning... to End

As it was in the beginning...there is love.

When I joined this wonderful fraternity, I felt welcomed and loved as a brother. All through my journey as a Grand Lodge officer I have projected love and received so much love in return. As I exit my office, I reflect on so many positive experiences and the phrase that fills my heart is, "I love this Craft." The countless relationships and experiences I have been so blessed to enjoy since being a Freemason has been nothing short of spectacular. To quote the country music legend, Ronnie Milsap, "I wouldn't have missed it for the world." This humble Maine boy is so grateful to have had the privilege to serve my brothers as your Grand Master.

Being your Grand Master has truly been a dream of a lifetime. I have not taken one single moment for granted. In fact, I've tried my absolute best to work tirelessly for our beloved Craft. I have tried to lead by example; to not rule over the ones placed in my charge, but to support them and guide when asked for my input and guidance. Managers manage tasks, but I believe that leaders take care of those in their charge. A dear brother once said, and I have taken it heart, that "good leaders foster future leaders, poor leaders make followers." Our Grand Lodge line and jurisdiction is full of wonderful leaders.

In my travels I have never traveled alone. First, I have had the Great Protector from above, a comment once used to describe how others saw the bulletproof president, brother George Washington. The Craft has always been with me, in my heart and constantly on my mind. With my Grand Masters pin always on my breast, God – Unity – Service, GUS, my dad has been my co-pilot during my every travel from Maine to Florida, from Washington, D.C. to Sacramento, California.

In Star Trek, Captain Kirk believed he would die alone, but in adventure after adventure he knew he wasn't going to die, because his friends were always with him, Bones and Spock. In that same sense, I was never alone, my brothers were always with me in my heart.

As I reluctantly count down my remaining days as your Grand Master, I look back with absolutely no regret or disappointment. To the contrary, my heart is full, from all the love my brothers have showered upon me. When I started my journey as a Grand Lodge officer, I had a very specific mindset with which I viewed the world; at every moment I saw myself as an ambassador for Connecticut Freemasonry. I chose to see the best in people, and to respect those of like and dissimilar opinions and viewpoints, as we can disagree without disliking anyone.

As I close my last Grand Masters Message, I'd like to quote from my mom's favorite country artist, living legend, George Strait:

"It's time to say goodbye to yesterday, this is where the cowboy rides away." "My heart is sinking like the setting sun," and finally "Oh the last goodbyes are the hardest ones to say, this is where the cowboy rides away."



#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR MEMBERS!**

**David J. Barth**Washington Lodge No. 70

James E. Ginch, Jr. Union Lodge No. 40

George R. Harran Union Lodge No. 31



Roger K. Peet St. Lukes Lodge No. 48

**David A. Renken** Washington Lodge No. 19

Ransom Allen Watson Friendship Lodge No. 33

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#### 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 <u>April 16, 2025.</u> 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 <a href="mailto:jvenoit@masonicare.org">jvenoit@masonicare.org</a>. Thank you for your assistance and participation

Sincerely and fraternally

Bruce Bellmore

Bruce Bellmore,

ChairNominating 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 Bruce Bellmore, 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	
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., en	nail. U.S. mail)

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## Grand Historian's Corner

Bro. David J. Stewart

Apologies to all who read my work.
My article for the March edition
(which follows) was submitted,
acknowledged and carried away into
cyberspace.

t is with a warm heart and much appreciation that I offer a great big thank you to MWB Edward C. Page for his guidance and support appointing me as your Grand Historian. I will now look forward to the new year under the leadership of RWB Rinaldo F. Magliano, Jr., soon to be installed as the 179th Most Worshipful Grand Master of Connecticut. With this article I bring an end to my work for the year now ending and very much look forward to the new year ahead.

Freemasonry has endured for centuries because of its ability to preserve timeless principles while adapting to the world around it. I think that today Masonic education must become one cornerstone of the Lodge of the Future. Freemasonry has always been a society of seekers – men in pursuit of light, truth, and knowledge.

However, a <u>future based lodge</u> must go beyond ritual practice and degree work. It must cultivate a space for intellectual growth that connects our ancient teachings with modern insights.

Imagine if you will, a lodge where brothers regularly engage in thought-provoking lectures and discussions on topics like philosophy, leadership, history, personal development, and other traditions. Picture workshops that explore the deeper symbolism of Masonic rituals or practical skills that empower brothers to lead meaningful lives both within and beyond the craft.

In this digital age, technology will allow us to extend education far beyond the lodge room. Online learning platforms are just one example; look at what the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Jurisdiction, has to offer. Virtual libraries and recorded lectures can connect brethren worldwide, ensuring access to knowledge regardless of location. Education is not a ritualistic afterthought; it must become the soul of the lodge, inspiring members to continue seeking light throughout their lives. Thus, the Worshipful Master has the task of providing "good and wholesome instruction"

New technologies have and will continue to transform nearly every aspect of our lives, and Freemasonry must evolve right alongside it. When embraced with purpose it can enhance the Masonic experience and strengthen our brotherhood.

While adaptation is necessary, the *future based lodge* must never lose sight of its roots. Our rituals, symbols, and teachings are the essence of Freemasonry. Yet, in the future (tomorrow will be fine) we must do more than preserve these traditions, we must articulate their relevance to modern everyday life. Why do we seek light in the East? What do the working tools' symbolism mean for today's challenges? How can the lessons of the

rough and perfect ashlars guide us in a digital age?

A <u>future based lodge</u> must look outward and develop plans to help its members connect these timeless lessons with the realities of their daily lives. Tradition is not static; it is a living guide that evolves with the times, while maintaining its integrity.

In a world of fleeting distractions, Freemasonry offers something rare, a lifelong journey of learning. It nurtures curiosity and sharpens intellect, inviting you to explore ideas, symbols, and philosophies that expand your understanding of the world of Freemasonry and yourself.

From the moment you knocked on that door, you were initiated, thus you had begun your journey. Freemasonry challenges all of us to seek answers beyond the surface. The Craft's rituals and symbols are rich with layered meanings, each designed to spark thought and encourage personal reflection. Whether you're studying the working tools or delving into the allegories of the degrees, there's always something more to uncover, a reminder that learning doesn't stop — it deepens.

I think Freemasonry is more than an intellectual pursuit; it's a refinement of the mind. The educational conversations shared in lodge meetings, the debates that are sparked by masonic teachings, and the wisdom of our history that has been passed down through the craft since the beginning, all aid in sharpening our thinking and broadening our perspectives. Initiatives aimed at boosting participation can transform the culture of your lodge. From mentorship programs to skill-building workshops, these efforts can engage both our newer brothers and seasoned Masons alike. When brothers feel their contributions matter, they will bring renewed enthusiasm to their work, creating a vibrant and dynamic Lodge experience.

With all that I have presented above, it will be and is just a reminder that knowledge (aka; education), like *good and wholesome instruction* is not a destination but a journey.



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## 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 fx 6000 22 Masonic Avenue. Wallingford, CT

## From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

#### **President & CEO of Masonicare**

asonicare is proud to participate in the LeadingAge Caring Hands Awards, an event recognizing outstanding nursing aides from across Connecticut. This year's program, held last month at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, was extra special because we got to honor 11 team members, including six from our new locations: Masonicare at Bishop Wicke Health Center, Masonicare at Crosby Commons, Masonicare at Wesley Heights, Masonicare at Middlewoods of Farmington, Masonicare at Middlewoods of Newington, and Masonicare at Greenridge Place.

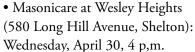
Our Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), Resident Care Assistants (RCAs), Home Health Aides, and other front-line caregivers do so much to help our residents and patients live in comfort and dignity. It was great to be able to thank them for the dedication and compassion they bring to their work every day ... like Manny Ayidana, a caregiver from Masonicare at Home who provided daily care to a client for nearly three years and was an ever-present source of comfort and companionship.

And Karen Hughes, a respected CNA in her 26th year at Crosby Commons who takes time out of her schedule every year at Halloween to bring giant pumpkins to the community so residents can guess their weight.

And Nicole Krofssik, who began her career at Masonicare as a housekeeper, enrolled in our CNA training program, and is now lead RCA at Ashlar Village.

Manny, Karen, Nicole, and all of this year's Caring Hands Award winners remind us why the work they do is so often described as more than a career, but a calling.

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM, did such an outstanding job with the Masonic cornerstone ceremony at Masonicare at Greenridge Place that I asked for a repeat performance ... actually, three more. We have scheduled cornerstone ceremonies for our new locations in Shelton, Farmington and Newington which will honor both our Masonic ties and the legacy of United Methodist Homes:

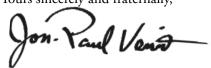




- Masonicare at Middlewoods of Newington (2125 Main Street, Newington): Thursday, May 8, 4 p.m.
- Masonicare at Middlewoods of Farmington (509 Middle Road, Farmington): Thursday, May 15, 2 p.m.

I hope you will join us!

Yours sincerely and fraternally,



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

Ross Allan Beaujon Montgomery Lodge No. 13

William R. Brackett Compass Lodge No. 9

**T. Raymond Brooks** Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Mark W. Buxton, Sr. Harmony Lodge No. 42

Philip Ginsburg Union Lodge No. 40

Charles Wilbur Jefferson, Jr. Annawon Lodge No. 115

Peter Benjamin Keefe St. Andrews Lodge No. 64

Earl F. Peterson Anchor Lodge No. 112 Donald D. Rowley, Jr. Coastal Lodge No. 57

Robert W. Sparks Widows Son Lodge No. 66

Carl Henry Zinn Washington Lodge No. 19

Arthur Edward Zollin, Jr. Wooster Lodge No. 79

# Masonicare at Greenridge Place Hosts Cornerstone Ceremony

Photos courtesy of Bro. Daniel Frechette, Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116

One of the Masonic fraternity's best-known public rituals - the cornerstone ceremony - took place on February 20 at Masonicare at Greenridge Place in Rocky Hill. The senior living community was acquired by Masonicare in December 2024.

"This is a day of celebration," said WB Jon-Paul Venoit, President and CEO of Masonicare. "We are so happy to be able to share this ceremony with so many residents and staff, and to be able to bring Masonicare's legacy of caring to this community. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you."

Bro. Edward C. Page, Most Worshipful Grand Master, presided over the ceremony, which dates back to the age when stonemason guilds constructed the cathedrals of Europe, and the laying of a cornerstone was an occasion to celebrate the effort that had been employed to make the new building possible.

Honoring the strength and durability of the cornerstone, officers of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut A.F. & A.M. utilized traditional tools to ensure the stone is level and square, then symbolically consecrated it with oil, wine, and corn, representing health, prosperity, and peace.

The Greenridge Place cornerstone, which features a Square and Compass, the Masonicare logo, and the year "2024," will be affixed to the exterior of the building this spring.







Top from left: WB Jon-Paul Venoit, Executive Director Ashley O'Brien, MWGM Edward C. Page, and Masonicare Board of Trustees Chairman Bro. Christopher J. Earle

Bottom: Bro. Rinaldo F. Magliano, RW Deputy Grand Master

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Clockwise from above: State Senator Matt Lesser, Deputy Majority Leader, delivers remarks; Grand Lodge Officers begin the ceremony; Bro. Matthew F. Griffin, RW Grand Marshal, in action; ceremonial essentials: mason's mallet, trowel, and vessels for corn, wine and oil





### — SAVE THE DATES! —

We hope you will join us at these upcoming cornerstone ceremonies celebrating more new additions to the Masonicare family:

April 30, 4:00 PM

Masonicare at Wesley Heights

580 Long Hill Avenue Shelton, CT

May 8, 4:00 PM

Masonicare at Middlewoods of Newington

2125 Main Street Newington, CT

May 15, 2:00 PM

Masonicare at Middlewoods of Farmington

509 Middle Road Farmington, CT

For more information, please contact Rev. and Bro. Carl Anderson, RW Grand Almoner and Director of Fraternal Relations at Masonicare, at 203-679-6917 or canderson@masonicare.org.



masonicare.org **f a b o o o o e** 22 Masonic Avenue . Wallingford, CT

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## WE ARE FAMILY

#### by John A. Amarilios, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

The degree work reaches a crescendo in the next 40 days with the following degrees scheduled for the balance of the degree season: On Monday, April 7, there will be a live presentation of the 21st Degree followed by a video rendition of the 20th Degree. A week later, on April 14, we will have a live presentation of the new NMJ 24th Degree followed by the 19th Degree on video, and we will wrap up the degree season on May 5 when the 32nd Degree, in all its pageantry, will be presented. Reservations for dinner are strongly recommended, and you should call the office 3-4 days in advance if you know you are coming for dinner on any of these nights. Due to overwhelming demand, there will be three seatings for the dinner on May 5, and reservations are a must for that event.

Family life affairs include another Greater Connecticut Youth Concert at the Klein Auditorium on May 18, marching in the Stratford Memorial Day Parade on May 26, the semi-annual fishing trip out of Clinton on June 1 and a Yankees Red Sox game on June 6.

Contact the Consistory Office for more details at (203) 375-0064.

The 2016 novel, *The Mandibles: A Family 1929-2047* written by Lionel Shriver, may deserve your attention and thought. This is not a Masonic novel, but purely an economic fiction, which has realistic and plausible elements of very unhappy possibility to it.

The premise is that a US debt default occurs a century after 1929, and that the event rips apart society unlike any previous economic event. The novel describes an endless war that the country has been embroiled in, and that as a result the nation becomes insolvent. A new international currency is promulgated by the international community, and as a result the dollar collapses. In return, the President declares a sovereign default and millions lose their savings overnight. Those who have anything left find the value of their savings collapsing daily in some form of hyperinflation. Penury spreads throughout the land, and we follow the travails of an upper middle-class family, the Mandibles, whose family fortune has been wiped out as a result.

The fiction is current, and the matter is unfortunately not that farfetched. As the nation slips into a period of complete dysfunction, the expectations of the family for their individual futures is completely obliterated, and the prevailing issue at hand is simple survival. Day to day survival is not an easy task in this type of societal breakdown. Ask any Russian émigré who survived the collapse of the Soviet Union. It's at times like this that a helping hand, or a warm meal, can be the utmost luxury when all the structure one has grown to rely upon no longer exists. It's a time like this when being able to get out of the cold and find shelter under the roof of a lodge building could be the difference between life and death.

In June 2022, I previously discussed the ability of certain authors to reach out and sense what destiny may befall humanity (*How the Titan Foresaw the Titanic*). While I hope this is not the case now, the story line

is realistically accurate enough to take pause and consider. The Fraternity has traversed many historic calamities and dark epochs. Never before has society built up a reliance on its institutions as it has today. We are no longer an agrarian nation nor a society of barterers. If ever, the average person today has a huge reliance on the "safety nets" that this prosperous nation has afforded its denizens. It is incumbent on us as builders to prepare for eventualities which may appear far beyond the norm in the plenitude of our times. It is also time to recognize that our search for Light unites us a special subset of the population as a whole, and that we should be the strength, not only of our members, but of their families as well.

The fraternity is a community, and we are thus family. Not a large one, but one that is bound by a common goal — Light Seeking. It is perhaps in a time of utter dysfunction and accompanying danger that lodge, and its family members should shine the brightest. It may be a time when our modes of recognition become of paramount importance as in any time of great lack there will be those who seek to take advantage. The seriousness of contingency preparation and knowing who your real brother is may become a very serious business indeed. It's time to tighten our easygoing ways and to start awakening to the need for a measured and steady preparation so that should Society's events ever actually take an unhappy turn that we can all survive the era intact.

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail" – Br. Benjamin Franklin

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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Valley of Bridgeport

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# Washington Commandery No. 1, KT Installs Officers for 2025 by Arnie Grot

n Tuesday, February 18, in York Masons Hall in East Hartford, Past Grand Commanders William L. Miller, II (Installing Officer), Charles B. Fowler, Jr. (Installing Marshall) and Michael E. Seamon (Installing Chaplain) installed the newly elected top five officers of Washington Commandery No. 1 in a semi-public ceremony. The other elected and appointed officers were continuing in their roles and were not required to be installed.



Other elected officers stand for installation.



REPGC Fowler, Jr. pins Eric H. Hoy with the Commander Jewel.



SK Hoy presented a legacy Past Commander Jewel (previously worn by Andrews 1945, Chagnon, Jr., 1995, Jacobson 2007) to PC Matthews, Jr. (2023, 2024).



SK Brian Beals, CT DeMolay Executive Officer, and Deputy State Master Councilor Aiden Nielsen present the 1972 DeMolay Charter Oak Chapter Jewel to EC Hoy as well as commemorative jewels to Hoy and Matthews, Jr.



Eminent Commander Hoy proudly wears the commemorative jewels presented each year: DeMolay, Bethlehem Crusaders, and Washington Commandery No. 1, KT, DC jewels.



SK Aram Adishian Recorder of Bethlehem-Crusaders Commandery No. 53 (NY) presented the Bethlehem Crusaders Jewel.



SKW. Stephen Matthews, Jr., Generalissimo; SK Eric H. Hoy, Eminent Commander; and SK William G. Zimmerman, Captain General

## York Rite Journey Creates a Special Bond for Brothers.

by Arnie Grot

n December 11, 2024, Companions Tad Bristor, Craig Buckley, Samuel Caligiuri, and Calvin Dodge from Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, Fred Purdue, Henry Syphers, and Kwong Nuey from Washington Chapter No. 30, and Seth Beebe, Jeff Blayman and James Kenney from Union Chapter No. 7 were exalted to the Most Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Mason. The officers of Pythagoras Chapter were assisted by officers from Washington Chapter and Union Chapter. Many more Companions came as witnesses. PGHP William Lindsey Miller II was director and orchestrated a fabulous degree.

Then on January 11, these Companions, with the exception of Seth Beebe, and the addition of David Larson from Pythagoras Chapter, were admitted the rights and honors of a Royal Master, and received and greeted as a Select Master.

Officers and Companions from Wolcott Council No.

1, Suffield Council No. 23 and Cushing Council No. 4 assisted in and witnessed these degrees.

The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross was conferred on Companions Tad Bristor, Craig Buckley, Samuel Caligiuri, Calvin Dodge, David LaFargue, Fred Purdue, Henry Syphers, Jeff Blayman and James Kenney by a full cast from Washington Commandery No. 1 on January 21. These Knights of the Red Cross will continue their journey in Commandery with the Orders of Malta and the Temple later this year.







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# Hamilton Council No. 9 Hosts 14th Annual Robert J. DiPasquale Memorial Surf and Turf Dinner

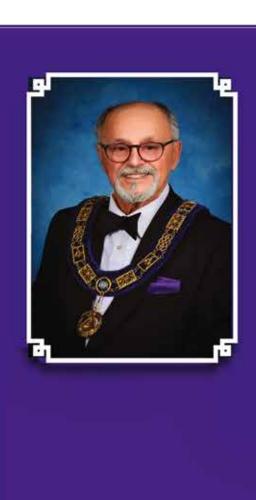
The tradition of gathering for an evening of fellowship and a delicious meal, hosted by Hamilton Council No. 9, continued with the 14th Annual Robert J. DiPasquale Memorial Surf and Turf Dinner on Saturday, March 8 at the Meriden Masonic Temple. Family and friends enjoyed New York strip, baked stuffed shrimp, lemon garlic parmesan green beans, and baked potato expertly prepared by Hamilton Council's Past Thrice Illustrious Masters Steven J. Chiappalone and Christian Schumann.

Organized by current TIM Jason Rieger, the annual fundraiser is held in honor of SK Robert J. DiPasquale, a Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut, who was a mentor to many and a great influence in the Meriden Masonic community. Rev. William E. Weisert, II, Most Puissant Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters of Connecticut, spoke of the groundbreaking work done by the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF), conducting research in pursuit of curing and alleviating medical conditions stemming from vascular diseases. Proceeds from the event will benefit CMMRF.

Thank you to all who came out to support the cause, and we hope to see everyone again next year.



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## Annual Gala Dinner

to honor Brother

## Rinaldo F. Magliano, J

the incoming

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





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



## **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 Freemasonry is an establishment founded on the benevolent intention of extending and conferring mutual happiness upon the best and truest principles of moral life and social virtue.

- Andrew Jackson

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## District 1

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



### A Full Day at Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge No. 142

On March 8, Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 in Easton welcomed its newest Entered Apprentice, Brother Matthieu (Matt) Regney, in a unique and memorable degree. The degree was held on a Saturday morning, an uncommon departure from the lodge's usual schedule. This special arrangement was made to accommodate Brother Regney's commitment to a live performance of Terra Nova later that evening, demonstrating the lodge's support for its members' diverse talents and obligations.

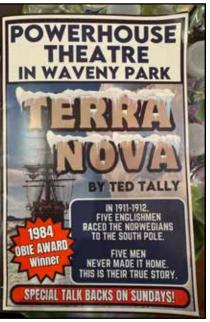
The day began with a breakfast, where brothers, friends, and potential candidates gathered in fellowship before the degree. This relaxed and welcoming start set the stage for a solemn and intimate degree ceremony to come.

Later that evening, the spirit of brotherhood continued as many lodge members attended a performance of Terra Nova at the Powerhouse Theater in New Canaan, where Brother Regney was a cast member. The evening was a fitting conclusion to a day that blended Masonic tradition with camaraderie beyond the lodge as brethren, family, and friends enjoyed dinner and an inspiring theatrical performance!

This occasion exemplified the core values of Freemasonry—brotherhood and the support of each member's journey, both within and outside the lodge. Ashlar Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 congratulates Brother Regney on beginning his Masonic journey and looks forward to seeing his continued growth in the fraternity.









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### Acacia Lodge No. 85 Returns to Mardi Gras Tradition

#### by Michael Sabia

On Tuesday, March 4, the brothers of Acacia Lodge No. 85 in Cos Cob, returned to their old custom of holding their famous Mardi Gras Table Lodge. The last time this event was held was a week or so before the initial COVID-19 shutdown of 2020, and with a renewed drive by the Worshipful Master and officers to hold events to encourage brothers to attend, what better way to start off than with fellowship and great food!

Brothers visited from several lodges in Connecticut and New York. With the theme being Mardi Gras, the food tasted right out of New Orleans, with a wonderful selection from Corbo's Deli in Greenwich.







## Union Lodge No. 5 Hosts Exciting Bowling Challenge

#### by Stephen Petri

On Saturday, March 8, Union Lodge No. 5 in Norwalk held a thrilling bowling challenge at Bowlero Lanes in Norwalk. The event was a fantastic opportunity for fellowship and friendly competition, bringing together brothers from Union Lodge No. 5, Temple Lodge No. 65, and Harmony Lodge No. 67.

The atmosphere was filled with camaraderie as participants showcased their bowling skills and cheered each other on. The lanes were alive with laughter, high-fives, and the sound of strikes and spares. It was a memorable day that strengthened the bonds between the lodges and highlighted the spirit of brotherhood.









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## Union Lodge No. 5 Welcomes Three New Master Masons

#### by Stephen Petri

On Wednesday, March 19, Union Lodge No. 5 in Norwalk proudly raised three new Master Masons: Bros. Luis Ramons-Cruz, Ayaj Payak, and William Tracey. The degree ceremony was conducted with the assistance of brothers from various lodges, including Fidelity St. John's Lodge No. 3, Old Well-St. Johns Lodge No. 6, Temple Lodge No. 65, Acacia Lodge No. 85, Corinthian Lodge No. 104, Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107, Daytime Lodge No. 144, and Masonic Lodge of Research No. 401. This collaboration showcased the unity and support within the Masonic community.

District Deputy RWB James Peters attended and provided invaluable guidance and support throughout the ceremony. The event was a testament to the dedication and commitment of all involved, as they welcomed the new Master Masons into the fold.



Union Lodge continues to uphold the values and traditions of Freemasonry, fostering a sense of brotherhood and community among its members. Congratulations to Luis Ramons-Cruz, Ayaj Payak, and William Tracey on their achievement

## District 2

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



## Hiram Lodge No. 18 Fellowcraft Degree

On February 19th, WM Steve DelGiudice and the brothers of Hiram Lodge No. 18 in Sandy Hook raised three Fellowcrafts to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

Brothers Phil Cruz, Brenton Vaughan, and Lucas Fritsche witnessed a flawlessly degree portrayed by MWB George Greytak with the assistance of the Craft and visiting brethren. RWBs Rinaldo F. Magliano, Jr., David McLain, James Saraceni, and Jeff Feinson also attended.





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## District 3

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



King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 Receives the Traveling Trowel of Morning Star Lodge No. 47

#### by Steve Lewis

On February 19, seven brothers from King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 in Woodbury traveled to Shelton to claim the Traveling Trowel from the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 47.

As Masons know, the trowel is a symbol of unity, brotherly love, and the importance of harmony within the Masonic fraternity. It also conveys moral and philosophical lessons. It is a symbolic tool that encourages fellowship and fraternal visits between Masonic lodges. The purpose is to strengthen bonds between lodges and increase friendships, to encourage less experienced Masons to visit other lodges, to support lodges with smaller memberships or fewer visitors, and to promote a spirit of mutual support and fraternity.

Historically, the Traveling Trowel of Masonry was held in high esteem.

On December 6, 1905, a Masonic traveling trowel began a 22-year globe-spanning journey representing the fraternal organization. It started its trip from Justice Lodge No. 753 in Manhattan, moving across the country by train, accompanied by Masons at every stop. It eventually made its way from California to Mexico, where a massive celebration was held for the trowel that was described by the San Francisco Call as the "one of the largest blue lodge meetings ever held in Mexico." The celebration included a "living trowel" ceremony that involved 16 past Grand Masters—supposedly the greatest number of Masonic top officials to ever greet the traveling trowel. Perhaps the most notable dignitary to handle the trowel, however, was Gen. Porfirio Diaz, the longest-serving president in the history of the Mexican republic.

In all, the trowel's journey took 22 years and covered more than 20,000 miles. In 1936, the item became part of the Chancellor Robert R. Livingston Masonic Library and Museum collection in New York, where it still resides.

The full story can be read here: https://californiafreemason.org/2022/06/27/grandtour/



The Trowel



l-r) WM Chad Mullins Morning Star Lodge and WM Stephen Saxton, King Solomon's Lodge.



Brethren of King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 and Morning Star Lodge No. 47.

The evening was a fraternal success, with the seven of King Solomon's brethren adding greatly to the fraternal conversation. Those brothers from King Solomon's were Douglas Barry III, Mitchell Goldburgh, Raffaele Fasulo, David Forber, Anthony Migliarese, Stephen Saxton, and Albin Weber.

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### Ladies Table at King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 by Steve Lewis

On February 15, the halls of King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 were graced by the presence of the outstanding women who support their successful men of Masonry.

A traditional Ladies at Table began with the women in attendance receiving a red rose, symbolizing love, fidelity, respect, courage, and sacrifice. After socializing, the dinner was served and consisted of the traditional five courses and seven toasts.

In addition to honoring the women at the table who support their Masons, the women commemorated historical figures who had impacted their lives. Among those mentioned were Mother Theresa, Florence Nightingale, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Amelia Earhart.



WB Richard Miska and wife Heather.



Bro. Steven Morrone and wife Melody.

There are few better ways to say, "I love you!", than by spending an enjoyable evening out with your most cherished life partner.



(l-r) RWB Daniel Reeve and wife Amy (Seneca Lodge), RWB Jack Baril (Sheperd Salem Lodge), Giulia and WM Stephen Saxton, MWB Edward C. Page, RWB Rinaldo Magliano, MWB Marshall K. Robinson and his significant other Linda Vernik.



Bro. Michael Nelson, Jr, and wife Shana (Seneca Lodge).



Bro. Mitchell Goldburgh and wife Joyce.



WM Stephen Saxton and wife Giulia.

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## Garibaldi Masonic Club Performs EA Degree at Morning Star Lodge No. 47

On Saturday, March 1, Morning Star Lodge No. 47 in Seymour, hosted an Entered Apprentice degree led by the Garibaldi Masonic Club of Connecticut EA Degree Team. This special event marked the initiation of two new brothers, Wilmar Valverde of Morning Star Lodge and Nathaniel VanStone of Harmony Lodge No. 42.

The evening began with a time of fellowship and a well-prepared dinner featuring slow-roasted ossobuco from Jimmies Place restaurant in Seymour, complemented by penne Alfredo, homemade bread, and salad provided by WB Joe Zannino. The ceremony itself was executed flawlessly, demonstrating the precision and dedication of the degree team.



In addition to members of Morning Star and Harmony Lodges, brethren from lodges across the state also attended, further exemplifying the strong fraternal bonds within Connecticut Freemasonry. Following the degree, a reception provided an opportunity for camaraderie and strengthened the connections between all in attendance.

This event showcased the enduring relevance of Freemasonry and the unity that exists among the brethren.

### Harmony Lodge No. 42 News

Harmony Lodge No. 42 has had an amazing start to 2025! Thank you to all the brethren that have helped out.

A special thank you to Bro. Mike Kenausis for organizing winter snow removal for the lodge's brothers in need. He and Secretary Gary Byram, SW Kevin Kazlauskas, WM Jason Gadue, and RWB Shane Dufresne were hugely helpful during the snowy season.

Harmony Lodge brothers also attended the Morning Star Lodge No. 47 Entered Apprentice degree performed by the flawless esoteric efforts of the Garibaldi Degree Team. Bringing another brother into the lodge under this special degree effort can only be appreciated by attending. If anyone would the Garibaldi Degree Team EA degree contact WB Patrick Donnelly or WB Joe Pisani.

The lodge gathered in the Harmony Temple for an amazing George Washington Dinner with 50 brothers and friends in attendance, including Grand Master Edward C. Page. This was organized by SW Kazlauskas and the dinner was cooked by chef Bro. Frank Bombardier. The evening ended with two petitions being filled out by two great friends interested in becoming brothers! These are the reasons for these dinners.

There will be a Ben Franklin BBQ Pig Roast on June 14, at 2 p.m. Friends and brothers are invited. This event is men only and specifically to show friends how the spreads the cement of brotherly love. Please contact Bro. Gerry Matthews for tickets. Call or Text: (203) 509-9512 or email: matthewscre@gmail.com

Harmony Lodge hosted a flawless Table Lodge on March 6, with 60 brethren present. MWB Ed Page was there alongside his Grand Senior Warden RWB Shane Dufresne, RWB Dan Reeve, and MWB Marshall Robinson. Before dinner Bro. Angus MacDonald







Continued on page 24

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## Harmony Lodge continued from page 23

played the bagpipes. Dinner was cooked again by Bro. Frank Bombardier who did an amazing job as always and the lodge is very thankful for his help. Harmony Lodge also has a special set of brothers who attend meetings regularly and these brothers had no issue with helping charge cannons and serve food during the table lodge. A special thank you to WB Joe Pisani and WB Patrick Donnelly and all those that participated.

During the evening, it was WM Gadue's honor to present a 35-year service pin to Brother Brigadier General John Lawlor.

There will be a Fellowcraft
Degree on April 17, with RWB
Guy Whelchel performing the
Middle Chamber Lecture. There
will be a Master Mason Degree
on June 19. The lodge is also
planning an outdoor Civil War
Entered Apprentice Degree at
the Wolcott Landowners Club,









tentative date is September Sept 28. There will also likely be another Table Lodge in the second half of the year.

## District 4

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



### Madison Lodge No. 87 Raises Three Brothers

On Tuesday, February 25, the brothers of Madison Lodge No. 87, joined by brothers from Widow's Son Lodge No. 66, St. John's Lodge No. 2,

Annawon Lodge No. 115, and Compass Lodge No. 9, raised three brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

Brothers Henry Mac Abbott, Michael Donohue, and Jonathan Cahoon were raised in a wonderful degree program! WM Fred Muzer opened the lodge and WB Craig Sattler and WB Timothy Brockett presided over the degree with various brothers from the visiting lodges taking part.

Special thanks to RWB Konstantinos Antoniou, RWB Rich Memmott, RWB Kyle Podpolucha, WB Jerry Nero, WB Doug Turcotte, WB Charles Miller, and Brother Tony Vlahos for their involvement with the degree. District AGM WB Chris Reilly presented to working tools, Madison Lodge's WM Fred Muzer and Bro. Chad Ellis presented the First Section Lecture. Outgoing District Deputy RWB Konstantinos Antoniou delivered parting remarks to a warm sendoff of brothers grateful for his service to the district.



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## Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 Celebrates Robert Burns Night by David Cole

On Saturday February 22, more than a 100 brothers, family members and friends came out to Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 in Brandford to enjoy the 34th annual Robert Burns Night. Pipes, drums, haggis and more.

The haggis, presented by WB Scott Atkins, was piped in by Bro. Gary Jenson. RWB Brad Cooney gave The Address to the haggis from memory. Many toasts, and much food and drink followed.

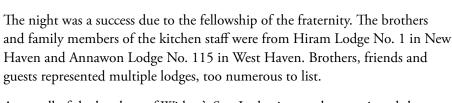
The main meal of roast pork, mashed potatoes, turnips and green beans was prepared by the volunteer kitchen staff of WB Al Johnson, Cindy Sorrentino, Jerry Nero,

and WB Scott Atkins. Rotisserie chicken was provided for those who do not eat pork. The Cock-a-Leekie soup was made by Lorraine Cole. As a special surprise, WB Jeff Knapp prepared roasted garlic sourdough for the meal. This was a 3-day process using an estimated 900-year-old sourdough starter from Dutch/Wales. The haggis was prepared by Cindy Sorrentino and was excellent. Music was provided by the combined band of the Sphinx Highland Pipers and the Pyramid Shriners Pipe and Drums.









Aas to all of the brothers of Widow's Son Lodge it must be mentioned that when the request for brothers to volunteer for toasts went out one of the first to volunteer was EA Bro. Joseph Capozzo, who was just initiated on November 20, 2024. The future looks bright.

That so many brothers from other lodges came to join in Widow's Son Lodge's Robert Burns Night speaks to the strength of our fraternity and the joy of fellowship. The evening closed with all holding hands and the singing Auld Lang Syne.

And you, farewell! whose merits claim Justly that highest badge to wear: Heav'n bless your honour'd noble name, To Masonry and Scotia dear! A last request permit me here, -- When yearly ye assemble a', One round, I ask it with a tear, To him, the Bard that's far awa.





### Quinta Essentia Lodge No. 500 News by Jonathan Glassman

A wonderful time as the brothers of Quinta Essentia Lodge gathered together at The Elm City Club for their January Festive Board and Annual Installation of Officers. The brethren were honored to be joined by MWB Edward C Page, RWB Nick Ives, WB Michael Abrahamson, and WB Chris Reilly.

Congratulations to all officers elected or appointed to serve Quinta Essentia Lodge in 2025: WM Jonathan Glassman, SW Brad Cooney, JW Tom Brewer, Treas. Kristian Maiorino, Sec. Charles Tirrell, SD Cyril Embil, JD Joseph Ushchak, SS Luis Vega, JS Chandler Lynch, Marshal Ted Doolittle, Chaplain Jason

Morse, and Tiler David Stern.

On January 25, the brothers joined together for song, poetry, haggis, neeps and tatties, and more, all in celebration of Scotland's Bard, Bro. Robert Burns, on the 266th anniversary of his birth!

















## District 5

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

## Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 Hosts Valentines Day Dinner

#### by Brian Sprouse

On February 22, Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 hosted their annual Valentines dinner. The event is open to brothers and their significant other as well as the public. Over the years this has become an event the members of the lodge and the town of Newington look forward to each year. The lodge was happy to welcome 50 guests. The meal, enjoyed by all, started with baked potato soup and ended with cheesecake.



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## Friendship Lodge No. 33 Initiates Five Brothers

#### by Michael Leser

On Monday, February 17, in front of a packed, Friendship Lodge No. 33 in Southington initiated five brothers. In addition to the usual 20-25 brothers from Friendship on the sidelines, the lodge was blitzed by Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140 brothers from Newington.



(l-r front row) Aiden Neilsen, Thomas Zakrewski, Joel Nunes, Carlos Marques, and Jared Pistoia.

## A True Guide in Light and Labor by Norhaniel Jillette

The unexpected passing of WB Donald Richard "Don" Skinner on February 4, left an extraordinary void in the hearts of the brothers at Valley Lodge No. 36 in Simsbury. The draped alter, an empty seat covered with a white apron, and moments of remembrances help to keep his memory alive – yet his voice is no longer heard.

That voice, recognized by many as being the first heard on their Masonic journey when they picked up the phone asking what is Freemasonry? How can I join?"

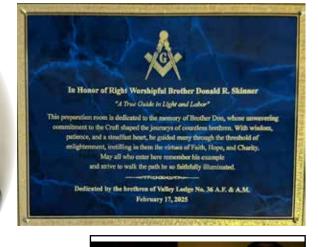
That voice, instructing each candidate or brother how to prepare for the degree they are about to take.

That voice, inviting you to a Table Lodge – always encouraging Masonic travel.

That voice, asking "how is the family?"

For me personally it was that voice in which I put my trust – through literal blindness blindness when he drove me to and from my LASIK surgery.

Don's voice has been a beacon of light, guiding prospectives, candidates, brothers, officers, and Past Masters alike along a path of enlightenment; always a pillar of





support and knowledge. He was a true guide in light and labor.

On February 17, the brethren of Valley Lodge dedicated the preparation room to the memory of Brother Don. A plaque now hangs at its entrance for all those who pass the threshold to see and be guided by his light evermore.

The Masonic journey of three Entered Apprentices, who had the pleasure of knowing Brother Don, continued this same night when they were passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. Orchestrated by Brother James Tsaptsinos, it was a memorable night, one we know Don would be proud of. Congratulations to our newest Fellowcrafts: Brothers David, Christian, and Gordon.

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## District 6

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



## Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 Welcomes New Brothers in The Early Days Of 2025 by Pat Jones

Seven was more than a lucky number for Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 in South Windsor as 2025 began. The first two months of the year saw three Petitions for Affiliation as well as four brothers who were initiated.

Brothers Joshua Bradford Pierce, Wayne Robert Hare, and Randall Mark Cote were welcomed as their Petitions for Affiliation were approved.

During a February Entered Apprentice Degree the lodge initiated four brothers Fredrick Craig, Chad Pelletier, Daniel Jacques, and Nicholas Guillette. Bros. Duane Mason and Jonathan Hood presented the 1st Section Lecture while Bro. Jonathan Hayes explained the Working Tools. Brother Mario Graham gave an explanation of Masonic Light and WB Brian Warren presented the Charge.

WM Khamp Phimvongsa assigned mentors to each of the new brothers, and he was most pleased that some of the newest brothers took key roles in the ceremonies. Brothers Jonathan Hayes, Mario Graham, and Jonathan Hood have been Master Masons for less than a year, but they have exhibited attitudes and skills of far more experienced brothers.



At the March Stated Communication Bro. Hood did an excellent presentation of the Entered Apprentice Degree 2nd Section Lecture. RWB Greg Stump followed that with a flawless presentation of the Entered Apprentice Degree 3rd Section Lecture.

The brothers are currently looking forward to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication.

## Two Lodges Celebrate George Washington's Birthday

#### by Arnie Grot

WB Deepak Saluru of Columbia Lodge No. 25 in South Glastonbury was Senior Deacon when Connecticut Freemasons marched in Alexandria, VA, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 1923 cornerstone laying of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial (GWMNM). Inspired by that grand event, WB Saluru partnered with namesake lodge Washington Lodge No. 70 on February 24, to celebrate the birth of Brother George Washington using a ritual from GWMNM and adapting it to a feast format. The celebration feast had more than 50 brothers including Grand Lodge officers, Past Grand Masters, and the current Grand Master. This event was a true demonstration of undying patriotism and brotherly love.

At the joint lodge Washington Birthday Celebration, MWB Chip Stamm, a past board member of the George Washington Masonic Nation Memorial Association (GWMNMA), presented Washington



(l-r) WM Deepak Saluru, MWB Chip Stamm, WM Ken Roach, and RWB Arnie Grot.

Continued on page 29

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#### **Communication** continued from page 28

Lodge (WM Ken Roach) and Columbia Lodge (WM Deepak Saluru), as Society of Washington Lodges members, and RWB Arnie Grot as a member of The George Washington Memorial Society, with 2023 Cornerstone Medallion and a George Washington Master Mason Medal.

Ambassador Brother Stamm stated the mission of the GWMNM Association is "To inspire humanity through education to eliminate and promote the values, character and vision of George Washington the man, the Mason and Father of our Country." He encourages all lodges and Masons to become Society members. (Visit https://gwmemorial. org to learn how and give your support. Remember that GWMNM is Freemasons gift to our country and is fully supported by donations.)



George Washington Master Mason Medal



The 2023 Cornerstone Medallion

## Washington Lodge No. 70 News by Patrick J.W. Chagnon

On February 20, Washington Lodge No. 70 organized its largest blitz to date, visiting Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 in Manchester. Thirteen brothers from Washington Lodge marked an exceptional turnout for this event.

The lodge was privileged to hear three remarkable lectures during their visit. RWB Rich Beebe of Columbia Lodge No. 25, RWB Greg Stump of Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 and RWB John DiCioccio delivered these lectures, impressing everyone with their expertise and eloquence. Those familiar with these brothers were not surprised by the high quality of their presentations. Their insightful and well-prepared talks were both educational and inspiring, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

On February 24, the brothers of Washington Lodge No. 70 gathered for a grand celebration in honor of George Washington's birthday. The evening was marked by a delightful dinner, co-hosted by Columbia Lodge No. 25, ensuring a memorable experience for the more than 50 brothers who attended.

The celebration was further distinguished by the presence of several esteemed guests, including MWB Edward C. Page, Grand Master; RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Grand Junior Warden; and RWB John DiCioccio, District Deputy 6A.







Their attendance added a layer of significance to the event, reflecting the respect and admiration held for Washington Lodge. The presence of various lodges at the celebration underscored the unity and fellowship that are the cornerstones of Freemasonry. The George Washington Birthday celebration was not just an event to honor the first President of the United States and a former brother, but also a testament to the enduring values of brotherhood, service, and community that Washington Lodge upholds.

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### Columbia Lodge No. 25 Passes Three by Arnie Grot

On Wednesday, February 19, Columbia Lodge No. 25 passed Bros. Julio Florez, Raul Sanchez III, and Jesse Gay, to the degree of Fellowcraft with SW Chris Gness presiding in the East.

Bro. Brian Berk gave the Approach Lecture, RWB Earl Evans delivered the Coming to Light Lecture and the Charge, WB Jack Ranney presented the Working Tools, WB Walt Grube delivered the Staircase Lecture, RWB Dave LaFargue presented the Letter G, and Bros. Phillip Crump and Michael Lombardi gave the First Section Lecture. The new Fellowcrafts were given their lecture books, and Bro. Gness congratulated them on their advancement.

Historian Dave Lockard explained the passage from Amos recited by the Chaplain during the circumambulation and gave the new Fellowcrafts a document with more detail.



From the left: Phillip Crump, JD Brian Dukin, Historian Dave Lockard, FC Julio Florez, WM Deepak Saluru, SW Chris Gness, FC Raul Sanchez III, SD Michael Lombardi, Tiler Keith Carlough, Chaplain Juan Diaz, FC Jesse Gay, Secretary Walt Grube, JS Tushar Meshram, District 6 Grand Lecturer WB Don Wills, DD6B RWB John DiCioccio, and DD6A RWB Thomas Duclos.

## District 8

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

## **A "Well-Worn" Apron**

While working with RWB Dave Stewart, inventorying the various old and ornate aprons in the Grand Lodge Archives, we found a plain, well-worn apron, worn by Brother Francis Ingersoll Champlin, of Somerset Lodge No. 34.

Brother Francis took his Entered Apprentice on April 20, Fellowcraft on April 22, and was raised as a Master Mason on April 27, 1864. That would presumably make his well-worn apron, about 160 years old!

While the apron is not in the best of shape, I would like to believe it was well-worn and well loved.

Bro. Francis was born on Feb. 24, 1826, in Norwich, and resided there all his life. He was one of seven children; he had three brothers and three sisters. He married on Nov. 22, 1850, to Sarah Rogers, and they had eight children. Over his lifetime he worked as a clerk, a life and fire insurance agent, and a "Tree (or Nursery) Agent", buying trees to place around the growing City of Norwich to beautify its streets and parks.

Bro. Francis passed away on April 2, 1902, and was buried in the Old Norwich Cemetery, on Oak St., in Norwich. His



family's grave monument is located there, complete with Square and Compasses and numerous names of family members. Research on the names on the marker shows that Bro. Francis' father, Nathan Champlin, was also a Mason, raised July 26, 1809.

Ultimately, from finding a simple, plain, unadorned, but well-worn apron from a brother of our lodge, I have found that eight members of the Champlin family over the generations were brothers from Somerset-St. James Lodge.

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## District 7

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



## The Symbolic Synergy of Light and Truth by Jeffrey A. Blayman

Warren Lodge No. 51 in Portland takes great pride in the quality of their 3rd Thursday stated communications. The brethren dine downtown at the Portland Ale House, a convenient three-minute walk from the lodge. Brothers from around Connecticut gather there for a festive board of delicious food and engaging conversation.

After a brisk walk back to lodge, the lodge was opened on the Entered Apprentice degree and moved swiftly toward the work of the evening. The discussion subject was the Light and Truth lithograph presented by RWB Craig E Pedro. He had a Dry-Erase version of the lithograph, and he had the newly made Entered Apprentices participate right along with his overview of the symbols and their meanings. This was educational for all the brothers as the nuances of the Light and Truth lithograph encompasses so many points of discussion.

Following a Q&A session the lodge returned to labor, but not before presenting RWB Pedro with his Warren Lodge dues card making him the newest member of the lodge.

If you'd like to join us on a third Thursday evening, please don't hesitate to reach out and RSVP to Warrenlodge51@gmail.com.











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## District 9

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



## Fayette Lodge 200th Anniversary Dinner

On May 10, Fayette Lodge No. 69 will celebrate the 200th year of Masonic Heritage. Join us at Fayette Lodge for dinner (141 Orchard Street, Ellington).

There will be a public rededication ceremony at 6 p.m. with dinner to follow at 7:30 p.m. The meal choices are the same as were served at the 100th Anniversary Celebration with a choice of chicken or eggplant rollatini.

Please RSVP by April 15, to be assured of securing one of the 100 seats available for this dinner. Send your request to Secretary Randy M. Cote, 6

Flicker Lane, Enfield, CT, 06082-2658, email secretaryfayette69@gmail.com, or call (860) 424-0132. The cost is \$55 per person, seating is limited to 100, advance ticket sales only. Make checks payable to "Fayette Lodge No. 69".

Every brother who has paid a minimum donation of \$25 at this event will receive the Fayette keep sake 200th celebration coin. This donation will benefit the Almoner's fund, used to help those brothers that need some Brotherly Love and Friendship.

On Sunday, May 11, the lodge will attend the 10 a.m. service at the Ellington United Congregational Church.

## Fayette Lodge No. 69, Congratulations for the Past 200 Years of Masonry

At the 2025 installation of officers, there were 60 attendees who came to support the new officers! Those efforts made such a fantastic start to this historic year at Fayette Lodge No. 69, as the lodge looks back 200 years to celebrate this momentous endeavor that began in 1825. Two hundred years is definitely cause to celebrate, but as the lodge embarks on the next 200 years WM D. Raymond Chouinard requests that the lodge takes this moment to consider that all brothers need to participate in their lodge and government to preserve what the Founding Fathers created and to make Fayette Lodge as resilient as possible for the foreseeable future. If attending Lodge is not possible, please contact the Master to find out how to help in any form or fashion as the lodge moves forward into the future.

It was a small but dedicated collective body of passionate Freemasons who met at Brother William Morgan's Tavern in Ellington, in 1825 to formally establish the lodge's new Charter. At that moment in history the United States of America had a new Constitution and was a young Country, when this collection of brothers came together with a shared desire to be enlightened and support one another and the new community that was established in Ellington.

The following article by Sr. Warden Cody Francis Baumgarter, procured from the Ellington Historical Society, proves the lodges assembly as a new local Masonic body in Ellington in 1825.

When spring returned to New England in 1825 a group of Masons residing in Ellington, Somers and Vernon, believing that there should be a Lodge in the western part of Tolland County, agreed to apply for a charter. Inspired by the recent visit of Revolutionary War general and Mason the Marquis de LaFayette, while on his way from Boston to Hartford, they forthwith resolved to call the new Lodge Fayette. Their petition was acted upon favorably, from the Grand Lodge Report of 1825 we read:

"A Charter was also granted to Sundry petitioners in the towns of Somers, Ellington and Vernon for a Lodge to be located in Ellington, To be Called Fayette Lodge No. 69" Under a Dispensation granted to William L. Brewer, Grand Master, Fayette Lodge was instituted at William Morgan's Tavern situated on Main Street in Ellington nearly opposite the present Town Hall. Brother Horatio A. Hamilton was installed Master, Brother Lebbeus P. Tinker as Senior Warden, and Brother Ebenezer Smith as Junior Warden. The charter members were twenty-eight in number. Most of these had demitted from Morning Star Lodge No. 28 in Warehouse Point while others came from Uriel No. 24 in Mansfield and Wolcott No. 60 in Stafford. One June 1st, 1857, the Lodge moved to Hall of King's Tavern in Rockville. In 1887 they moved into the Fitch Block on Union Street. The present home of Fayette Lodge was purchased from the Apostolic Christian Church, just across the Rockville line, within Ellington in 1955. In addition to the 200th Anniversary of the Lodge as a whole, this year marks our 70th year at this location.



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## BOOSTERS Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: March 12, 2025.

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

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Newton & Bobbi Buckner	William H. Flagg	Gerald Jean-Louis	Daniel Reeve
Lawrence L. Brandolini	Steve & Keith Franson	Pete Kenyon*	Marshall Robinson
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#### Lodges & Organizations

Master Mason Level \$250 +	Fellowcraft Level \$150 \$249	Entered Apprentice Level \$75 \$149

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88

Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107 King Hiram Lodge No. 12 Columbia Lodge No. 25 CT Widows Sons Masonic Riders Assn.

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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 instrictions indicated \*\* above. The funds are used to help cover the printing and mailing expenses of the paper.



#### Join The Celebration

## Union Lodge No. 31, A.F. & A.M. Celebrates 230 Years

**May1795 - May 2025** 

at the

Bayview Masonic Temple 32 Society Road – Niantic, CT

#### Thursday Evening, May 22, 2025

Social Gathering 6:00 p.m.

Buffet Style Dinner Served @ 6:30 p.m.

Reception of Dignitaries 7:30 p.m.

Celebration Program to Follow

#### **Dinner Tickets \$15 per Person**

(Open to Masons and Guests)

Tickets Available from all 8<sup>th</sup> District Lodges RSVP – NCTDistrictOne@gmail.com

#### **Evening Dress:**

Business Attire Lodge Officers – Lodge Attire (Please - No Blue Jeans)

#### Please RSVP

for more information contact

Ray Geer: t) 860-608-5265 | e: NCTDistrictOne@gmail.com

Motto: Let's Do it for Bill

Wooster Lodge No. 10 A.F. & A.M.

~ Since 1781 ~ Serving the Community for more than 240 years

## 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**

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

#### **Fellowcraft Degrees**

**Wed., April 2**, 7:30 p.m., Union Lodge No. 5, Darien

Wed., April 16, 6:30 p.m., St. Paul's Lodge No. 11, Litchfield, Dinner

**Mon.,** April 21, 6 p.m., Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Dinner

#### Master Mason Degrees

**Tue., April 29**, 6:30 p.m., Seneca Lodge No. 55, Torrington, Dinner

Passover begins evening of Saturday, April 12, and ends at nightfall on Sunday, April 20.

Easter Sunday - April 20

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# Third Annual MASONIC FAMILY DAY







JULY 18, 2025 @

GATES OPEN @ 5:30PM

JOIN US! FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2025, AT DODD STADIUM IN NORWICH, CT. WE WILL BE RAISING MONEY FOR MASONICARE CT!



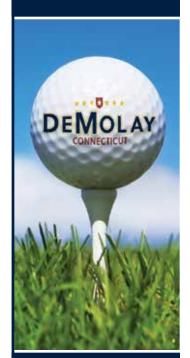
**50% OF TICKET SALES** GOES DIRECTLY TO MASONICARE!

THERE WILL BE FIREWORKS FOLLOWING THE GAME!

CONTACT JEFFREY BLAYMAN FOR TICKETS! JBLAYMAN@GMAIL.COM (860)334-527







## MANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

## Tuesday, June 3, 2025

## The Geoffrey Cornish-designed The Farms Country Club

180 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

Registration and Raffle Ticket Sales starting at 10:30 a.m.; Noon Lunch; Shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. in a 4-player scramble. Dinner, silent auction, and raffle prize awards following tournament. Prizes for 1st and 2nd low gross and low net, longest drive and closest to the pin, men and women.

#### **Sponsorship levels:**

\$3,000 - Tournament Sponsor (includes 8 golfers) \$2,000 - Cart Sponsor \$1,700 - Gold Sponsor (includes 4 golfers) \$1,000 - Lunch Sponsor \$1,400 - Silver Sponsor (includes 4 golfers) \$750 - Golf Ball Sponsor \$850 - Bronze Sponsor (includes 2 golfers) \$250 - Closest to the pin sponsor

\$500 - Beverage Sponsor \$250 - Longest drive sponsor

\$1,000 - Foursome and tee sponsor \$225 - Individual player \$500 - Twosome and tee sponsor \$60 - Non-golfing social

All sponsorships include acknowledgement in the Connecticut DeMolay Journal.

\$175 - Tee sponsor



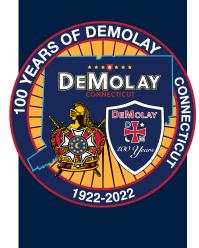
#### Chris Earle, The Campaign for **Connecticut DeMolay**

P.O. Box 8832, New Haven, CT 06532 (203) 915-1229 or cearle@comcast.net

David O. Stern

(203) 444-2077 or dsternct@gmail.com

**REGISTRATION WITH PAYMENT DUE BY MAY 26, 2025** 



#### **REGISTRATION FORM**

#### 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut DeMolay Golf Tournament – Tuesday, June 5, 2025 The Farms Country Club, 180 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

To benefit Connecticut DeMolay and The Connecticut DeMolay Foundation, Inc. (a 501(c)3 charitable organization)

Please <b>PRINT</b> all information on all lines.		Please <b>PRINT</b> all information on all lines.		
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☐ \$1,000 Lunch Sponso			\$500 Twosome & Tee Sponsor	
☐ \$500 Beverage Spon			\$60 Non-golfing Social	
•	The Farms Country Club requir	es collared shirts and		
Player/Guest 1			Cell phone:	
Address:			Handicap:	
Email:				
Player/Guest 2			Cell phone:	
Address:			Handicap:	
Email:				
Player/Guest 3			Cell phone:	
Address:			Handicap:	
Email:				
Player/Guest 4			Cell phone:	
Address:			Handicap:	
Email:				

#### Please complete and return with payment by May 26, 2025

Make check payable to "The Connecticut DeMolay Foundation, Inc." — P.O. Box 8832, New Haven, CT 06532 • 203-915-1229 For additional information contact: Chris Earle, (203) 915-1229 or cearle@comcast.net • David O. Stern, (203) 444-2077 or dsternct@gmail.com

## Save the date

27 SEPTEMBER 2025



Washington Lodge No. 70 Bicentennial

## Gala Gelebration

Dinner, Music, Dancing & More Details to Follow



## 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







Event proceeds will allow us to enhance spaces within Masonicare Health Center to better serve our patients, residents, staff and visitors.



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# Save the Date!

**★ Grand Masters Day Family Festival ★** 

Saturday, June 14

A day to honor individuals, past and present. Masonicare Health Center, 22 Masonic Ave., Wallingford 10:00AM - 3:00PM

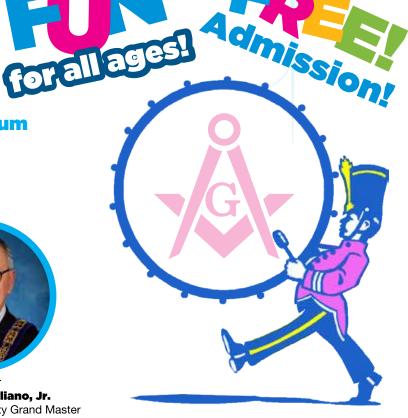
- The Grand Masters, Daniel L. Blackmon and Rinaldo F. Magliano, Jr.
- 10:30am: Parade featuring motorcycles, antique cars, and marching bands from across the state
- Festive food by Masonicare
- Music under the big tent
- Community Health Fair
- Enhanced Free Youth Activities
- Carnival Games
- Petting Zoo
- **Model Railroad & Masonicare Museum**
- Magician



The Honorable Most Worshipful Brother **Daniel L. Blackmon** Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Connecticut



Brother Rinaldo F. Magliano, Jr. Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master





**Questions?** Call 800.982.3919