

MAY 2026



Connecticut FREEMASONS



In This Issue:

Installation of Shane Dufresne, the 180th Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut

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

2026- 2027 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

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RW Grand Senior Warden

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

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Deputy Grand Secretary

Bro. Mark Dzurnak
Assistant to the Grand Master



Table of Contents

The 237th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge.....3,4

Session and Installation Photos 1,2,6,7,12,15,16

Congratulations to Our 50-year Members! 4

Congratulations to Our New Brothers.....4

Grand Master's Message, Shane Dufresne. 5

Do You Know a Hero? 6

Congratulations to Our 75-year Member!..... 7

From the Desk of the Grand Chaplain..... 8

Called by The Grand Architect of the Universe 8

Grand Historian's Corner 9

From the Desk of Jon-Paul Venoit..... 10

The Concentric Circle Has Grown!..... 11

Important Notice: Publication Changes to *Connecticut Freemasons*..... 12

Lafayette Consistory..... 13

A Busy Month for the Stratford/Milford York Rite Bodies 14

CT DeMolay Golf 18th Annual Golf Tournament 17

CT DeMolay Golf Registration Form 18

4th Annual Masonic Family Day 19

District 8, 7, 6, 4, 3, 2, 1.....20-31

From the Quarry: Measuring Our Days 32

A Solemn Night to be Knighted..... 32

Craft at Refreshment/Craft at Labor 33

Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association - Project Hope..... 34

William A. Soderman Annual Golf Tournament & Registration 35

Step Right Up with the Pyramid Shrine Clown Unit..... 36

CT IORG Holds Annual Session and Kicks Off Centennial Celebration..... 36

Nursing Scholarship at Masonicare..... 37

Booster List..... 38

George Washington Masonic National Memorial Charity Dinner 39

Save the Date for Grand Masters Day 40

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

Not just a man. A Mason.



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The 237th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Connecticut by Bob Furce and Ted Nelson

Deputy Grand Master, RWB Shane Dufresne, congregated the 237th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge AF&AM of Connecticut, with all Grand Lodge officers in their places and stations at 9:32 a.m. on Saturday, April 11. He then received Most Worshipful Grand Master Rinaldo F. Magliano, Jr., rendering grand honors. RWB Dufresne presented MWB Magliano the gavel, who then opened the Grand Lodge.

Immediately after opening was the reading of the Necrology. Ten Past Grand Masters and Past District Deputies were remembered, and RWB Carl Anderson offered a prayer. Past Grand Masters Elkins, Hawkins, McWain, and Page have laid down their working tools after just and upright service to the Grand Lodge.

Dignitaries from the Appendant and Concordant bodies were received, namely, Ill. Bro. Kevin J. Hecht, 33°, Deputy for the State of Connecticut, AASR NMJ; Jason Rieger, Most Excellent High Priest of Royal Arch Masons; Michael Sabia, Most Puissant Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters of Connecticut; Sir Knight Steven J. Chiappalone, Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Connecticut; Bro. John "JR" Radziunas, Ill. Potentate Sphinx Shrine.

Visiting Grand Masters, or their representatives, who were recognized included the Grand Master of Massachusetts, Deputy Grand Master of New York, the Senior Grand Warden of Pennsylvania, Deputy Grand Master of New Jersey, Grand Master of New Hampshire, Grand Master of Rhode Island, Grand Master of Vermont, Grand Master of Maine, two Past Grand Masters from Delaware and the Grand Master of Nevada.

MWB Magliano received the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons of Connecticut, Bro. Daniel Blackmon and his Deputy Grand Master, Bro. Robert Farrow.

The Grand Masters were rendered grand honors, led by MWB Magliano.

MWB Magliano recognized all District Deputies, Associate Grand Marshals, Associate Grand Lecturers, and Associate Grand Almoners.

MWB Magliano brought the Grand Lodge from Labor to Refreshment at 10:30 a.m. The DeMolay officers presented the Colors and the Grand Master, then received the Daughters of the Nile, the Order of Eastern Star, the Order of Amaranth, the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and DeMolay.

The Grand Master introduced RWB Christopher Earle, Chairman of the Board of Masonicare. As WB JP Venoit was unable to attend, RWB Earle introduced the Masonicare board of trustees and committee representatives. He informed the Craft that Masonicare had a great year and announced enhancements to the Concentric Circle Program.

With the session running ahead of schedule, the Grand Master gave his annual report, broke for lunch at 11:40 a.m., and asked the Craft to return for 1:20 p.m.

The Grand Lodge returned to labor at 1:15 p.m., followed by the Deputy Grand Master presiding over a vote to accept the Grand Master's report.

The Grand Treasurer's report was read, and the budget was presented by RWB Thomas Gondek,

Continued on page 4

The 237th Annual Communication continued from page 3

Grand Treasurer. The budget was submitted for approval, voted on, and approved with no raise in the per capita assessment.

The Deputy for Scottish Rite, Ill. Bro. Kevin J. Hecht, 33°, spoke of Scottish Rite efforts to support the Grand Lodge. REGC Chiappalone thanked the Grand Master for his hospitality and invited the Craft to join the York Rite bodies and learn the actual word that was lost.

Grand Master Magliano spoke to the Craft on the position of Freemasonry, how it is built on unity, and there is no discussion of politics, religion, or race.

The Grand Master presented awards, among them 19 Perfect Ashlar awards, two Lodge awards (Fayette Lodge No. 69 and Washington Lodge No. 70), The Mentor Award to Bro. Eric Charette of Friendship Lodge No. 33, and the Master's Achievement Award to WB Shane Dawe of Valley Lodge No. 36.

Most Worshipful Brother Timothy McGavin, Grand Master of Massachusetts, delivered the greetings and response of the visiting Grand Masters, and MWB Gary Kauffman, Past Grand Master of Rhode Island and president of the Masonic Service Association, presented a plaque to MWB Magliano.

MWB Chip Stamm, chairman of Jurisdictional Recognition, moved for recognition of Belize & El Salvador, four Grand Lodges in Africa, Bulgaria, Albania, and Kurakistan. All were approved.

Most Worshipful Brother David Bechtel, Grand Master of Nevada, made a presentation to MWB Magliano and extended an open invitation to the Craft for his Grand Lodge session at the Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas on November 7. MWB Bechtel is visiting or sending representatives to all 50 annual sessions this year.

MWB Bruce R. Bellmore reviewed the reports of the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, and recommended they be accepted. They were.

The Grand Lodge was called to refreshment, and at 4 p.m., Bro. Shane Dufresne was installed as the 180th Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut by Installing Master, MWB Marshall K. Robinson, Installing Marshall MWB George Greytak, and Installing Chaplain, MWB Bruce R. Bellmore



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50-YEAR MEMBERS!

Thomas C. Bartiss
Clifford L. Bartiss, Jr.,
Annawon Lodge No. 115

Charles Joseph Bean
Montgomery Lodge No. 13

Joseph M. Cohen
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125

Michael A. Fazekas
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Robert G. Griffith
Somerset St. James Lodge No. 34

Russell F. Haugh, Jr.
Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

Gregory A. Martel
Moosup Lodge No. 113

Robert Walter Ritchie
King Solomons Lodge No. 7

Kevin S. Shaw
Putnam Lodge No. 46

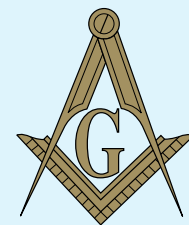
James P. Wilkinson
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

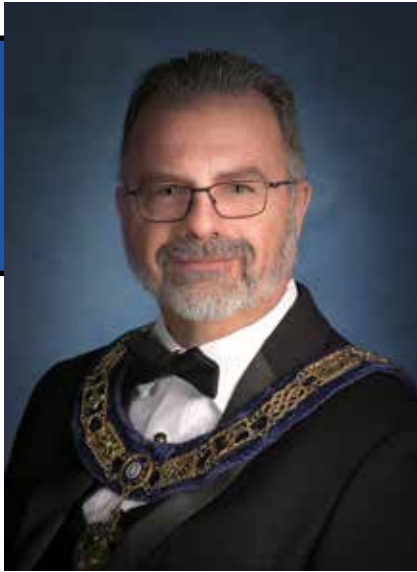
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14
Phil Tyler Carucci

Hospitality Lodge No. 128
John L. Fortin

Unity Lodge No. 148
Abner Antonio Rosario





Grand Master's Message

by MWB Shane Dufresne

Brothers all,

By the time you are seeing this, it will be approximately one month since our Annual Session. I would like to utilize this space to express my feelings, gratitude, plans, and goals

for the ensuing year. I know I will still be trying to grasp the idea that I am in this position. I have many feelings about being installed as the 180th Grand Master of our state. Shocked is the first thing that comes to mind. I am also humbled, excited, nervous, and honored.

When I was raised in Harmony Lodge No. 42 in Waterbury on June 20, 2002, I had no idea what my Masonic future held. I had no agenda nor goals to accomplish. I was just happy and proud to become a part of something that is steeped in history. Knowing that I had become part of something that so many honorable men have been part of before gave me a sense of purpose and a connection to the past. It was both overwhelming and humbling at the same time. I had no one in my family who was a Mason. I had no one to tell me what to expect or how things “work” in the fraternity. But I wasn't alone. I began my Masonic journey with a friend and co-worker, the late RWB Martin J. Macary. We took our degrees together. We learned from each other and helped each other. We entered the chairs of Harmony Lodge one year apart. He would later become my AGM. Even though we were friends before becoming Masons, our friendship was now cemented. I love and miss him every day. But I know he is smiling down, being the proud big brother that he was.

When I became a line officer in the lodge, I looked up to and admired many of the brothers there. There is a high bar to be an officer in Harmony Lodge, and I did not want to disappoint any of the brothers. All of the brothers of Harmony Lodge, past and present, helped me become the Mason that I am today. But to name a few, the late MWB Lou Vander Eyk, the late RWB John VanKirk, the late WB Bob Hurworth, RWB Dave Sharkis, RWB Joe Cyr, RWB Ernie Phillips, and WB Russ Griswold quickly come to mind as mentors.

After serving as Master of Harmony Lodge in 2009, I thought that was it. I thought my career as a grumpy Past Master was beginning. But the Grand Architect had other plans. At our lodge's Christmas party, the late MWB Art Carlstrom asked me, “If you were asked, would you accept a position as a District Deputy?” Being in

shock, I told him I would. The next month, I was appointed by MWB Charles Buck for 2010. I was later appointed for 2011 by the late MWB James McWain. The credit for my District Deputy appointment goes to the brothers and officers during my year as Master of Harmony Lodge. We had an outstanding year, and we nailed our degree on inspection night. RWB Al Rollinson gave the lodge a glowing review. I owe that to the lodge.

The support that I have received over the years also goes beyond my lodge. The lodges and brothers of District 3 made me look good during my two years as a District Deputy, plain and simple. I cannot say enough about how these lodges and brothers come together and support one another, both then and now. They are a huge part of any success I have attained.

After serving as District Deputy, I certainly thought that was it. I then served as the president of the Third District Blue Lodge Council for the next three years. Then, one day, I got a call from the incoming Grand Master, MWB Charles Yohe. He asked to meet with him in the Grand Lodge Office. I was racking my brain trying to figure out what this meeting was going to be about. When I met with MWB Yohe, MWB Roger Read was also there. MWB Yohe explained to me that he was bringing back a position called the Grand Almoner to the Grand Line. He explained to me what the position entailed and its requirements. He asked me if I would be interested. Needless to say, I was once again shocked. Something that a lot of people don't know about the position is that it's not new. It had been there at the formation of our Grand Lodge on July 8, 1789. MWB Read explained that the position disappeared at an unknown time, and Grand Lodge records do not state when or why. It's speculated that it most likely happened during the Morgan Affair years. To date, during the four years that I had that position, it was the most rewarding that I have ever had. To be able to live my obligation and to help brothers and widows in their time of need is a feeling I cannot fully express. I also had the opportunity to work with RWB Carl Anderson and Audrey Grove from Masonicare. The work they do is amazing. I learned a lot from both of them. RWB Carl, the current Grand Almoner, has taken the position to the next level with the work he does.

Then, in the fall of 2018, the permanent members of the Third District floored me with the honor of electing me as their representative of the district after MWB Marshall Robinson's year as

Continued on page 7

SESSION & INSTALLATION PHOTOS



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Do You Know A Hero?

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut is proud to re-introduce the Hometown Hero Award. If there is a Brother or member of your community you feel is a Hometown Hero, we encourage you to nominate him or her for this special award to service. Whether a first responder or someone who has made a difference in your hometown, we want to pay him or her, special recognition for their achievements.

The application can be found in the Resources section on GrandView. We look forward to recognizing YOUR Hometown Hero in the near future!

Grand Master's Message continued from page 5

Grand Master would end in 2019. Needless to say, like any other office or position that I held, this is something that I never thought about or tried to attain. I learned early on from my brothers in Harmony Lodge that you should never set out to achieve awards, offices, or positions. If you do, you will be disappointed, misguided, and doing Masonry wrong. As I worked my way through the progressive line, I was again fortunate to have the full support of the Third District. They always shine. My work was also lessened by the phenomenal work of the District Deputies and AGMs who worked with me during my run. Thank you, brothers.

With that all being said, I now set out to be Grand Master during the 250th anniversary year of our country. It's almost come full circle. A huge part of the reason I wanted to become a Mason was because of the founding fathers, many of whom were Masons. I am fortunate to have the two coincide. It also ties into my "theme" for the year. We were there at the birth of our country. We are still here today. I'd like us to get back to our roots and foundation of who we are. I'd like us to work on and improve our ritual. It separates us from the other fraternities. Not just memorizing the lines, but understanding them and living them. The country needs Masons more than

ever. The country is divided, but we have the mechanisms to help improve it, even just one person at a time.

I'd like to see more programs and outreach to our widows and the ladies in our lives. We owe much of what we do with the fraternity to them. We should also be reaching out to those brothers we don't see anymore, and not just for their lodge dues. It would be great if every lodge would do a call to each brother in their lodge, ideally twice a year. One phone call can go a long way. I welcome the yearly call from the Scottish Rite, asking me how I am and if I need anything. That's what we all should be doing. Our lodges should also be involved in the community. They should know we are an active part, trying to make a positive difference. If your lodge shut its doors tomorrow, forever, would your community notice?

In addition to everything mentioned above, I would be remiss in not mentioning two other brothers. First, RWB Charles "Chip" Schofield. Chip and I were close for many years. Our paths crossed, both as police officers and as Masons. A logical man who always seemed to come up with the right answer to a problem. He worked tirelessly at work, in his community, with the fraternity, and with his family. I never met a stronger

person. Next, MWB Edward C. Page. He became my biggest supporter and mentor over the last couple of years. He always had a word of encouragement or a kick in the pants when I needed it. I miss and love both of them. Thank you to all of you brothers who trusted me to lead our fraternity for the ensuing year. I am truly humbled. I will work hard not to disappoint you and to make you proud to be a Connecticut Mason.

In closing, I would not be here if not for the love and support of the woman in my life, Michelle Suttentberg. She watches me leave night after night for the various events that I attend. Although she has made friends with many of the men and women in the fraternity, it is difficult for her to be away for the amount of time that I am. Even if I'm home and "off" on an evening, I'm still answering phone calls, emails, and texts. She takes it in stride and is a huge supporter of what I do. A word of caution: do not refer to her as "Lady Michelle" or "The First Lady." I cannot vouch for your safety. Joking aside, she has been affectionately dubbed my "First Wingman."

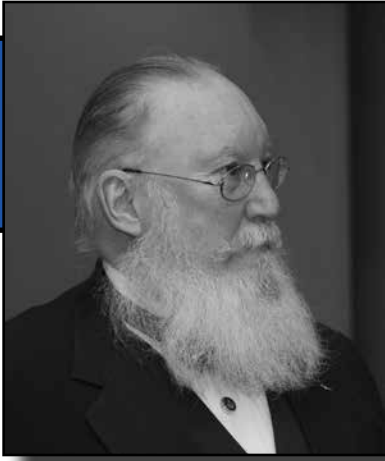
I look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting many new brothers over the next year.

SESSION & INSTALLATION PHOTOS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 75-YEAR MEMBER!

Morton J. Chorney
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125





The Grand Chaplain's Message

by WB Harold A. (Hal) Elwell

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims of course, according to the classic Dad joke. And we, brothers, are today's Pilgrims.

The Pilgrims who crossed the Atlantic aboard the Mayflower in 1620 were, in many ways, travelers in both the physical and spiritual sense. Their actual journey is much like the symbolic journey every Mason undertakes in pursuit of light, truth, and self-improvement. In Freemasonry, we progress from darkness to light, seeking greater understanding and moral refinement. The Pilgrims' voyage, filled with uncertainty and hardship, mirrors this inward journey. Both require courage, faith, and perseverance.

While the Pilgrims' ultimate purpose was to establish a religious society, Freemasonry focuses instead on building the individual. A Mason works to shape his own character as a builder shapes stone, striving to instill virtue, discipline, and wisdom. The Pilgrims built their society as an extension of a shared belief system, whereas Freemasonry represents an internal and ongoing construction of the self.

Both the Pilgrims and the Freemasons emphasize brotherhood and mutual support. The Pilgrims depended on one another for survival in an unfamiliar land, forming a tightly bound community of shared responsibility. Likewise, we are a fraternity built upon the belief in the Brotherhood of Man, encouraging members to support one another in our personal and moral development and in times of need. However, where the Pilgrims' unity was grounded in a single religious doctrine, Freemasonry embraces men of diverse faiths and cultures, united not by specific religious beliefs but by a common commitment to ethical living and the acknowledgment of a higher power.

The Pilgrims, as travelers, sought a destination, a place where they could establish their ideals. For a Freemason, the idea of travel is less about reaching a final place and more about continual progress. The Masonic journey has no true endpoint; it is a lifelong pursuit of knowledge and self-improvement. It is never truly complete. The Pilgrims traveled outward, across oceans, to shape a new society. Freemasons travel inward, shaping their own character and, through that process, contributing quietly to the betterment of the world around us.

Journey on, my brothers, and may the Grand Architect of the Universe always be with us, guiding us and protecting us.



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

John S. Fleming
Washington Lodge No. 19

John E. Richardson
Ansantawae Lodge No. 89

Kenneth R. Thomas
Annawon Lodge No. 115

Alan B. Goodrich
Warren Lodge No. 51

Frank G. Smith
Brainard Lodge No. 102

George Ferguson Wales, Sr
Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145



Grand Historian's Corner

Bro. David J. Stewart

Medical Men of the American Revolution: 1775 – 1783

In every age of conflict, there arise men whose contributions, though less celebrated than those of generals and statesmen, are no less essential to the triumph of a cause. During the American Revolution, medical men stood among those quiet pillars of strength. They were not only healers of the body but guardians of morale, preservers of life, and exemplars of sacrifice.

They labored in primitive conditions, without adequate supplies, proper shelter, or assurance of safety. They worked amidst the thunder of cannon, the groans and cries of the wounded, and the ever-present specter of disease. Yet their devotion never wavered. Their service was not merely professional; it was profoundly moral and, in many cases, deeply philosophical.

Revolutionary medicine in the 18th century was still in its formative years. Lacking modern anesthesia, antiseptics, and advanced surgical knowledge, surgeons relied upon experience, observation, and fortitude. Battlefield surgeons faced unimaginable challenges: amputations performed in haste, infections that spread unchecked, and epidemics that claimed more lives than musket fire. Smallpox, dysentery, and typhus all proved to be the greatest enemies. It is estimated that for every soldier who fell in battle, ten more succumbed to illness.

One of the most distinguished of these

men was Dr. Joseph Warren, a physician of Boston and a passionate advocate for liberty. He not only treated the wounded but also took an active role in leadership. His ultimate sacrifice at the Battle of Bunker Hill stands as a testament to his commitment, not only to his patients but to the cause of freedom itself.

Dr. Benjamin Rush served as Surgeon General of the Continental Army's Middle Department. A man of both intellect and conviction, Rush championed reforms in military medicine and spoke openly against injustices within the army. His writings reflect a deep concern for both the physical and moral well-being of our soldiers.

Equally important, though less widely remembered, were the regimental surgeons and their surgeon mates, who served without distinction and fame. These men traveled with the troops, endured the hardships, and remained steadfast in their duties:

"The physician in camp is not merely a practitioner of the healing arts, but a sentinel of humanity. Amidst the clash of arms, where passions are inflamed and destruction abounds, he stands as a minister of mercy. He binds the wounds of friend and foe alike, recognizing no distinction but that of suffering. His duty calls him into scenes of horror, yet he must retain composure; it demands endurance yet offers little reward beyond the quiet satisfaction of service. In preserving life where others are tasked to take it, he embodies a higher principle, one that reminds us that even in war, the better angels of our nature must not be forgotten."

To the thoughtful observer, the labors of these medical men reflect principles long cherished within their Craft, along with those of Freemasonry. They exemplified relief, not as a mere charitable act, but as

a sacred duty. They practiced brotherly love, not only toward their countrymen, but toward all who suffered, regardless of allegiance. And they upheld truth, in their dedication to knowledge, skill, and the betterment of mankind. In the surgeon's tent, distinctions of rank and station faded. The wounded soldier, whether officer or private, stood equally in his need. Thus, the physician became a living embodiment of that great leveling principle upon which our fraternity is founded.

Brethren, as we reflect upon the service of these medical men, let us not view their work as confined to the past. Rather, let it serve as an enduring lesson. They labored without recognition, yet their contributions were indispensable. Enduring hardships without support, yet their resolve never faltered. They gave of themselves fully, guided not by reward, but by duty.

So too are we called. Not to the fields of battle, but to the quieter, yet no less important, labor of improving ourselves and serving others. We are reminded that true greatness lies not in acclaim, but in faithful service, not in outward display, but in inward virtue. Let us therefore go forth with renewed purpose, binding up the wounds of those around us, offering relief where it is needed, and standing as examples of that moral and upright conduct which defines our Fraternity.

This has been but a small part of what these men endured. If you would like to learn more, I would be pleased to visit and provide a more detailed program.

From the Desk of Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit

President & CEO of Masonicare

I was in California recently for a meeting of the board of the Masonic Communities & Services Association (MCSA), an alliance of Masonic-sponsored human service organizations and charities around the country. There continues to be great interest from industry peers in how Masonicare's strategy for growth has helped us achieve greater sustainability in a highly competitive marketplace, while other nonprofits have struggled. It's a topic we'll cover in greater detail when Masonicare presents at MCSA's annual conference in June.

You may or may not be aware that the community we know as Masonicare at Mystic, which welcomed its first residents in 2017, was (until recently) jointly owned with Mystic Senior Living Associates (MSLA), a for-profit, limited liability company. In March, we finalized a purchase of MSLA's minority stake in Masonicare at Mystic, making Masonicare the sole owner-operator of that community.

Over the last nine years, Masonicare at Mystic has emerged as a shining star in our residential living portfolio. Much of the credit for that success goes to Executive Director Lauren Dubuque and her amazing staff, who exemplify compassion, dedication, and teamwork in delivering exceptional senior living experiences every day.

This transaction gives Masonicare greater strategic clarity and creates new opportunities for growth at Masonicare at Mystic. I'm excited about what we will accomplish there together. In fact, last month, we broke ground on a huge new gazebo on the property that will create a versatile outdoor space for residents, staff, and visitors to enjoy.

This project, along with smaller gazebos scheduled to be installed this spring at Masonicare Health Center, Masonicare at Bishop Wicke Health Center, and Masonicare at Middlewoods of Newington, is all made possible by The Masonic Charity

Foundation of Connecticut. If you have ever made a gift to the Foundation or attended one of their fundraisers – like this month's Wine, Beer & Bourbon Tasting – please know that your generous support is enhancing the lives of residents and patients across our continuum.

For over 135 years, Masonicare has remained grounded in our Freemasonry roots, honoring the Masonic Family whose steadfast support has shaped and sustained our mission. That's why, at the Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A. M. of Connecticut last month, Masonicare Board of Trustees Chairman RW Bro. Christopher J. Earle announced the expansion of our Concentric Circle of Benefits for the Masonic Family. Along with priority admission, access and other perks, we're now offering an extended discount on base monthly fees (excluding healthcare charges) in our residential communities. So if you've been thinking about making the move to senior living, I promise you, there's never been a better time to check out Masonicare!

For more about our updated Concentric Circle benefits, please see our ad in this month's edition of *Connecticut Freemasons*.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,



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Serving Community & Family Respectfully for Over 50 Years
Call Thomas Spratta at 203.235.8431
600 West Main St., Meriden, CT 06451
TJS600@cox.net



The Concentric Circle has Grown!

New move-ins:

Masonicare is offering a 24-month, 5% discount on base monthly fees (excluding healthcare charges) in our Residential Living communities!

Eligibility requirements:

You must be a Mason for 5 years; applies to Masons, widows of Masons and OES

Additional Concentric Circle Benefits include:

- **PRIORITY ADMISSION / ACCESS** to Masonicare following the "Concentric Circle" guidelines for Connecticut Freemasons, relatives, and appendant bodies
- **REDUCED PRICING** on applications for our residential communities - 5% off base rental rate for 24 months
- **FREE HEARING SCREENINGS** in the Masonicare Hearing Center
- **FREE BALANCE ASSESSMENTS** in the Masonicare Health Center Outpatient Rehabilitation Department
- **WAIVED ADVANCE PAYMENTS** on Masonicare at Home (in-home, non-medical homemaker-companion services) and 5% off base service fee for first three months
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IMPORTANT NOTICE: Publication Changes to Connecticut Freemasons

On April 11, the 2026-2027 budget for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Connecticut was approved at the Annual Communication. This budget included some changes to the way in which the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper will be published.

The newspaper will still publish 11 issues a year (we do not publish an August issue). However, beginning immediately, the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper will publish only six issues a year in hard copy format, sent by U.S. Mail. The hard copy issues will be **January, March, May, June, September, and November**. These will be printed and will arrive in mailboxes as they always have. Some extra copies will be available at Grand Lodge as always.

Five issues per year will be digital-only, available on the Grand Lodge website in PDF format. These issues are **February, April, July, October, and December**. No hard copies will be available. If brothers have an email address on file with Grand Lodge, in Grand View, they should receive a notification email when the issue is available on the website.

PLEASE NOTE: Submission deadlines have not changed. The deadline is still the 10th of the month prior to publication (i.e., June 10 for the July edition, etc.). Submission formats have not changed. We still want Word documents or plain text files attached to an email, and photos in JPG or PNG format attached to an email.

PLEASE DO NOT submit written content in the body of the email.



SESSION & INSTALLATION PHOTOS



THINGS REPEAT – ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?

by John A. Amarilios, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

The Valley of Bridgeport degree season ends on May 4, when the 32nd Degree will be presented live at the theater in Stratford. If you plan to attend its highly recommended that you make reservations for dinner. Due to the high demand for the 32nd Degree, there will be three seatings for dinner: 5 p.m., 5:45 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. Call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064 for information, further details, and reservations!

As the weather warms, the emphasis now shifts to Family Life events. There will be a two-day bus trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to examine Masonic aspects of the events that transpired there during the Civil War. Reservations are limited and are on a first-come, first-served basis. On May 17, the Valley is sponsoring the Connecticut Youth Orchestra Spring Concert at the Klein Auditorium. Tickets may be obtained from the Consistory office and are free to Consistory members. On May 25, the Consistory and the Valley of Bridgeport will march in the annual Memorial Day Parade in Stratford. On June 7, there will be a semi-annual fishing trip on Long Island Sound, and on July 18, there will be a dinner cruise around Manhattan. For details and costs, please call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064.

On April 7, Bro. Patrick Atkinson, 32° of the Valley of Wilmington, passed the midpoint of his 333-mile running challenge when he stopped briefly in Darien, where he was met by six brothers of the Valley of Bridgeport who cheered him on and wished him well. Patrick seemed unfazed by the first half of his epic adventure and was anticipating working his way up to Bridgeport later that evening, despite the fact that freezing temperatures were predicted. By the time you read this, his challenge should have been completed! Pictures of his epic undertaking are available at: <https://www.srmml.org/celebrate50/revolutionary-run/>



One runs into coincidences in life that make one pause and notice the recurring patterns that occur. Many times, they go unnoticed or are seemingly separated by time so as to obscure their operation. Fractals naturally occur in almost every aspect of life on the planet, in nature, in botany, in experiences in our individual life paths, and even in financial markets.

As we ponder the existence of this phenomenon, let's examine the well-known and remarkable parallel coincidences that affected the lives of two of our American Presidents: Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy. Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846, while Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946. Lincoln was elected president in 1860, while Kennedy was elected president in 1960. Both presidents found themselves preoccupied with agendas that addressed civil rights issues. Both their wives lost a child while living in the White House. Both were shot on a Friday and in the head.

President Lincoln's secretary had the surname Kennedy. President Kennedy's secretary had the surname Lincoln. Both presidents were

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Mon. May 4, 32nd Degree (live)

Mon. Sept. 6, 6th Degree (live) 7th degree (video)

Mon. Oct. 26, 11th Degree (live) 8th Degree (video)

For the latest copy of the
Lafayette Consistory News visit
<https://ctfreemasons.net/appendantbodies/lafayetteconsistory/>

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

Valley of Bridgeport 2422 Main Street Stratford, CT 06615 Office@LafayetteConsistory.com 203-375-0064	Valley of New Haven 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 Kirk_Trofatter_Jr@yahoo.com 203-269-0336	Valley of Waterbury 529 Highland Avenue Waterbury, CT 06708 sharky53@snet.net 203-565-3024
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For more information, contact the Valley near you or email Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com.

assassinated by southerners. Both were succeeded in office by men whose surname was Johnson -- Lincoln by Andrew Johnson and Kennedy by Lyndon Johnson. Andrew Johnson was born in 1808, while Lyndon Johnson was born in 1908.

John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Lincoln, was born in 1839. Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy, was born in 1939. Both men were known by three names. Both sets of names are composed of 15 letters.

Lincoln was shot in a theater named Ford, while Kennedy was shot in a car named Lincoln (made by Ford). Both Booth and Oswald were assassinated before their trials. A week before Lincoln was shot, he was in Monroe, Maryland. A week before Kennedy was shot, he was in the company of actress Marilyn Monroe. Lincoln was shot in a theater, and the assassin ran to a warehouse. Kennedy was shot from a warehouse, and the assassin ran to a theater.

These are truly epic coincidences that cannot be dismissed due to their remarkable nature and frequency. and due to the similarity of the nature of the societal agendas that each of these men promulgated during their time in office. Perhaps there are subtle currents in life events that repeat. Is your mind quiet and still enough to seek these out and fathom their significance in your life?

The first step is to "Subdue the Passions," so you can begin to listen to the quiet within, without being distracted by the noise and waste that an unthinking life is drawn to. Our ritual makes this abundantly clear!

FIAT LUX!

A Busy Month for the Stratford/Milford York Rite Bodies

by Fritzner Erauda

Mid-March was a whirlwind of ritual work and fraternal growth for both Housatonic Chapter No. 13 RAM and Hamilton Commandery No. 5 KT. From the symbolic degrees of the Capitular Rite to the chivalric orders of the Commandery, the dedication of the Craft was on full display.

On Friday evening, March 13, the companions of Housatonic Chapter conferred back-to-back degrees—Virtual Past Master and Most Excellent Master—on three deserving companions. The night also served as the chapter's official evaluation. Despite the pressure of being evaluated, the officers and the degree cast rose to the occasion.

The momentum continued into the following week. On Thursday, March 19, the Asylum of Hamilton Commandery was filled with Sir Knights for the conferral of the Order of Malta.

In a testament to the growing interest in the Chivalric Orders, eight brothers were created as Knights of Malta. The evening was notably well attended, with visiting Sir Knights adding to the robust atmosphere of the Conclave.

The Sir Knights of Hamilton Commandery are to be commended for their execution of the ritual. The Order of Malta is known for its complex history and Mediterranean origins; the cast delivered the lines and the floorwork with a level of professionalism that left a lasting impression on the new Knights of Malta.



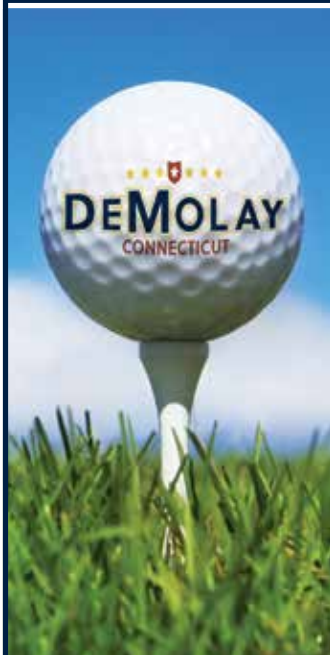
Happy Mothers Day
May 10, 2026

SESSION & INSTALLATION PHOTOS



SESSION & INSTALLATION PHOTOS





18TH ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tuesday, June 2, 2026
The Geoffrey Cornish-designed
The Farms Country Club
180 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

Registration and Raffle Ticket Sales starting at 10:30am. Noon Lunch; Shotgun start at 1:00pm 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)
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- \$1,700 - Gold Sponsor (includes 4 golfers)
- \$1,000 - Lunch Sponsor
- \$1,400 - Silver Sponsor (includes 4 golfers)
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- \$850 - Bronze Sponsor (includes 2 golfers)
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- \$175 - Tee 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.

For registration flyer, please contact:

Chris Earle, The Campaign for Connecticut DeMolay

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

or

David O. Stern

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



REGISTRATION WITH PAYMENT DUE BY MAY 25, 2026

Registration Form on Next Page

REGISTRATION FORM

18th Annual Connecticut DeMolay Golf Tournament – Tuesday, June 2, 2026 The Farms Country Club, 180 Cheshire Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$850 Bronze Sponsor - includes 2 players | Players/Guest |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Beverage Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Non-golfing Social |

Note: The dress code at The Farms Country Club requires collared shirts and no cut-off shorts.

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Email:	
Player/Guest 2	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	
Player/Guest 3	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
Email:	
Player/Guest 4	Cell phone:
Address:	Handicap:
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Please complete and return with payment by May 25, 2026

Make check payable to **"The Connecticut DeMolay Foundation, Inc."** — P.O. Box 8832, New Haven, CT 06532 • 203-915-1229
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District 8

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



Union Lodge No. 31 Holds Piggy Bank Fundraiser **by Ray Geer**

On Thursday, March 19, in Niantic, Union Lodge No. 31 held a Piggy Bank Fundraiser organized by Bro. Ray Geer. The effort was to support a lodge brother in keeping with Freemasonry's tenet of Relief, and raised approximately \$1285.

After a delicious pork roast dinner and a dessert of chocolate cake provided by JoAnne Richards, it was time to weigh the piggy banks. Bro. Geer was the official weigh master, assisted by WB Bill Morse and WB Gerry Swope.

Bro. Danny Hubbard and his wife took 1st place with their piggy bank, which weighed in at well over 10 pounds. Bro. Santos Cordero and his wife placed second as their piggy bank weighed exactly 10 pounds. There was a tie for 3rd place between WM Wayne Ford and WB Lee Kusterer with his wife Marilyn, whose piggy banks weighed in at 5.9 pounds.



(l-r) WM Wayne Ford, Bro. Danny Hubbard, WB Fred Driscoll, Bro. Santos Cordero, Bro. Ray Geer, WB Gerry Swope.

Brainard Lodge No. 102 Hosts Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner **by Jonathan Lamas**

On Saturday, March 14, Brainard Lodge No. 102 in Niantic hosted its annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner at the Bay View Masonic Temple. Brothers, friends, and family were welcomed for an afternoon of fellowship. Guests dined on a traditional corned beef and cabbage meal, bringing a classic and familiar favorite to the table. The annual event drew attendees from across the 8th District

Behind the scenes, the lodge's kitchen was the center of activity throughout the day. From early preparation to final plating, brothers worked side by side to prepare the meal, coordinate service, and ensure everything ran smoothly. From the kitchen to the dining room, Brainard Lodge brothers contributed their time and effort to create an enjoyable experience for everyone. This coordinated effort reflected not only strong organization but also the shared commitment and teamwork that define the lodge.

The dinner also offered an opportunity to strengthen connections both within the lodge and the surrounding district. Traditions such as this continue to highlight Freemasonry's role in bringing people together through service, cooperation, and fellowship.



(l-r) WM Jonathan Lamas, JD Michael Cantwell, RWB Glenn Studwell, RWB John Wadsworth III, Emily Dove Manning, Bro. Jordan Vojick

District 7

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



7th Masonic District Toasts and Trophies by Dan Alexander

On Tuesday, March 31, the brethren of the 7th Masonic District and distinguished guests from Grand Lodge and from other districts gathered for a table lodge at Jephtha Lodge No. 95 in Clinton. They enjoyed an evening of feasting, fellowship, toasts, and trophies.

WB Jerry Nero, Blue Lodge Council President, welcomed everyone and then turned the floor over to RWB Richard Boardman, Worshipful Master of Jephtha Lodge.



After opening the table lodge, the brethren presented grand honors to MWB Rinaldo F. Magliano, Jr., who thanked everyone for their support and declared his year serving in the Grand East “has been the best Masonic year of my life.” His remarks were received with many smiles and a hearty round of applause.

As Jephtha Lodge is located in the Clinton Town Hall, there was no alcohol served. Yet this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the “Vivat! Vivat! Vivat!” which resounded throughout the hall.



After table lodge concluded, council business was taken up. First, St. John's Lodge No. 2 was awarded the Traveling Man Trophy for earning the most visitation points for traveling to support other lodges in the district in 2025. WB Dan Alexander, immediate past president of the council, presented the trophy to SW Andy Garcia of St. John's Lodge.



The Traveling Gavel, awarded to the lodge with the most brothers attending council meetings, was presented to Anchor Lodge No. 112, SW Frederick Huhn accepting on behalf of the lodge.

The 7th Masonic District Blue Lodge Council will be presenting the Past Master's Fellowcraft Degree on Friday, May 29, at Granite Lodge No. 118 in Haddam. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m., and the degree begins at 7:30 p.m. Without giving away any secrets to Entered Apprentice brothers, Granite Lodge has a unique construction for the Fellowcraft Degree, and the hope is for good weather that evening. All Fellowcrafts and Master Masons are welcome.

Contact President Jerry Nero (203) 415-6443 or Granite Lodge WM Dale McLeod (860) 310-9371 to RSVP for dinner.

Warren Lodge No. 51 Hosts Annual Shrine Easter Breakfast

by David Rutter

Warren Lodge No. 51 of Portland recently hosted the Sphinx Shrine Annual Easter Breakfast, drawing a strong turnout for a morning of food, fellowship, and community celebration. Families and community members of all ages enjoyed a festive atmosphere, highlighted by a special appearance from “Razzi,” the clown, and a visit from the Easter Bunny, bringing smiles and excitement to all the children.

Chief Rabban Joseph Piatti, Jr., and Assistant Rabban David Rutter, Jr., led the event, with Ill. Sir John J. Radziunus, Potentate for 2026; Santos Cordero, Oriental Guide; Marvin Troelsen, High Priest & Prophet; and Alvah Abbott. WB Rutter is Worshipful Master of Warren Lodge, and Joseph Piatti Jr. and Alvah Abbott are lodge members.

The event reflected the strong partnership between the Shrine and local Masonic community, while celebrating the spirit of the Easter season in a warm and welcoming setting.



District 6

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



Hartford Lodge No. 88 News by Pat Jones

A variety of activities highlighted a busy and productive March at Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88. WM Duane Mason formed numerous committees to give brothers various ways to participate in planning and overseeing events. The month began with a Murder Mystery Dinner at the lodge attended by 50 brothers and significant others. Led by a group of thespians, the audience was challenged to see if they could solve the mystery. Few did, but it didn't keep anyone from having a fun night of food and fellowship. Bros. Roland Mason, Joe Notti, and Jonathan Hayes cooked a delicious meal for the evening.



Bro. Randy Cote and a small group of brothers ran a fundraiser at a local restaurant, the lodge receiving a percentage of all purchases made on the day of the event. WM Duane Mason, Bro. Bart Blonstein and his wife Jane, Bro. Wayne Hare, and Bro. Joe Noti joined him.



Bro. Randy has also been instrumental in carrying out WM Duane's plan to sponsor Little League teams in East Hartford, South Windsor, Manchester, East Windsor/Ellington, and Somers.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade in New Haven is always a popular event for the brethren, especially as it draws Masons from all over the state. Hartford Evergreen Lodge was not left out as Bros. Chad Pelletier and Joe Noti marched. Despite the chilly weather, Bro. Chad said they enjoyed marching and would do it again.

The lodge sponsored the Easter Egg Hunt for kids at the South Windsor High School field on Easter weekend. Hundreds of children enjoyed receiving chocolate eggs from WM Mason and Bro. Pat Jones as they entered the field. The lodge also collected nonperishable food for the local food pantry. Although it's been said that our brothers possibly set a new record for eating more chocolate eggs than the children who attended, there was no evidence of it.



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District 4

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



Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125 Celebrates Annual Pre-Passover Seder *by Jonathan Glassman*

Brothers and guests of Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125 got together at the New Haven Masonic Temple on Sunday, March 22, to celebrate the lodge's annual Pre-Passover Seder. WM Joe Fried led all in the retelling of the Passover story and Exodus from Egypt. Good food, great fellowship, and remembrance of all who suffer oppression and affliction, and the constant work for justice.





Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 News

by **Bill Roots**

March was a busy month for Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 in Milford. On Saturday, March 14, a large contingent of brothers from the lodge marched in the Milford St. Patrick's Day parade.

Six days later, on Friday, March 20, the WM Jeffrey Scepanski and the lodge raised two new Master Masons, Bros. Nicholas Dascola and Douglas Holland.



Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 Keeps Annual Burns Night Tradition in Spite of Blizzard *by David Cole*



On Saturday, March 21, friends, families, and brothers came out to enjoy the 35th Annual Robert Burns Night at Widow's Son Lodge No. 66 in Branford. Pipes, drums, haggis, and more were in store.

The annual night was originally scheduled for Sunday, February 22, but the 2026 Blizzard led to a change in plans. Many phone calls went back and forth, but ultimately, with safety being the utmost concern, the brothers chose a new date that fit most schedules, and the annual tradition was saved to continue for another year.



The haggis was presented by WB Al Johnson, and was piped in by Ray Collette, Kyle Dougherty, and Cindy Sorrentino of the Pyramid Shriners. WB Jonathan Collingwood gave the Address to the Haggis from memory. These were followed by much food and drink and many toasts. The volunteer kitchen staff (WB Al Johnson, Cindy Sorrentino, and Jerry Nero) had prepared a meal of roast pork, mashed potatoes, turnips, and green beans, and the Cock-a-Leekie soup was made by Lorraine Cole. As a special surprise, WB Jeff Knapp prepared roasted garlic sourdough for the meal, the result of a three-day process using a 900-year-old sourdough starter from the Netherlands and Wales. The haggis was prepared by Cindy Sorrentino and was excellent.



That the event was well attended by brothers from other lodges speaks to the strength of the fraternity and the joy of fellowship. To close the evening, all joined hands and sang *Auld Lang Syne*.

In the words of the immortal Robert Burns:



Ray Collette, Jill Massimino (Collingwood), WB John Kelley, WB David Cole, WB Jonathan Collingwood, Past Potentate Kyle Dougherty, Chad Ellis, Leo Colonico, WM Ray Lafarier, Jonathan Cahoon, RWB Len Bucher, and Cindy Sorrentino.

*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 Festive Board

by Jonathan Glassman

Brothers of Quinta Essentia Lodge gathered at The Elm City Club for their March Stated Communication and Festive Board! Joining the brethren at the Festive Board, Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus led the discussion “How do we pronounce God’s name, and should we?”, sparking lively conversation. Great discourse and fellowship with brothers and guests!



District 3

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



Shepard-Salem Lodge No. 78 Supports the Community at Easter by Miguel Thompson

On Thursday, April 2, SW Miguel Thompson, RWB Al Rollinson, and RWB Steven Nevins of Shepard-Salem Lodge No. 78 in Naugatuck once again lifted the spirit of hope during the Easter holidays. They donated three food baskets to three families from Hop Brook Elementary School. This generous gesture is a small token of the lodge’s brotherly love and friendship, and philanthropy in the community, bringing smiles and hope during the Easter celebration.



(l-r) Bros. Thompson, Rollinson, and Nevins presenting the baskets.

District 2

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



Ark Lodge No. 39 Passes Four Brothers

by **Chuck Ruiz**

On Wednesday, April 8, Ark Lodge No. 39 in Danbury conferred the Fellowcraft Degree upon four Entered Apprentices, while MWB Rinaldo F. Magliano Jr., looked on. SW Scott Bruce presided in the East and delivered an exceptional degree for Bros. Austin Hurley, Connor Stackpole, Gene Morrell, and Yvan Sekiguchi. WB Myk Scribner presented the Middle Chamber lecture, while Bro. Neil Tomasetti and WB Chris Taylor delivered the Steward's Lecture.

The evening concluded with Bro. Walter Holder's homemade lasagna, followed by fellowship among many brothers from across District 2.



Montgomery Lodge No. 13 Rescues Time Capsule

by **Tom McGlone**

On Tuesday, March 24, a group of brothers from Montgomery Lodge No. 13 in Lakeville removed a time capsule from a rock wall near Route 44, the main road in town. The grassy location was once called Bicentennial Park and is about a five-minute walk from the lodge.

The capsule was placed in the wall in 1983 to commemorate 200 years of the lodge's charter. It was intended to be removed in 100 years, but due to the construction of new affordable housing on the property, there was no other choice but to remove it now.

Bro. Gil Ditkoff, Junior Deacon, knew about the housing project and noticed the plaque in the stone wall surrounding the tiny park. He quickly brought the matter to the attention of the lodge, then began the legwork required to preserve this important piece of local history. He contacted all the planners and organizers, including the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity, the Selectman's Office for Salisbury-Lakeville, the local Historical Society, and the contractors on site.

As a result, several brothers were present at the groundbreaking ceremony, and the time capsule and accompanying plaque were removed and brought to the lodge for safekeeping. The current plan is for the time capsule to be returned to the corner of the new building, very near its former resting place, once the housing project is completed, with the plaque reinstalled to mark its location. It will remain in this spot until the full period stipulated has passed: July 4, 2083.



(l-r) Bros. Brian Lorch, Gil Ditkoff, Gary Waldron, Thomas McGlone, Fred Bushnell, and Gary Ross.

Jerusalem Lodge No. 49 Holds Successful Blood Drive

by Marco Bechelli

Thank you to all who contributed to the Blood Drive on March 26, at Jerusalem Lodge No. 49, in Ridgefield. It was a wonderful event, and the American Red Cross reported that it had achieved its goal and was very pleased with the turnout. The generosity truly reflects the light the lodge strives to spread in our community.

Special thanks to Bro. Chris Scholl, who organized the event and supported it from start to finish, to Melissa Leavy, who greeted and assisted donors at the entrance, and to Bro.

Rob Gorman III, who handled the logistics during setup. Their dedication embodies the tenets of the working tools as taught in lodge.

Many brothers and wives donated blood in the Masonic spirit of service, charity, and brotherly love. Everyone should be proud of what Jerusalem Lodge accomplished.



Hiram Lodge No. 18 and Ark Lodge No. 39 Initiate Three Brothers

by Fred Marotti

On March 18, Hiram Lodge No. 18 in Sandy Hook and Ark Lodge No. 39 of Danbury held a joint Entered Apprentice degree in Sandy Hook, initiating three brothers, two from Hiram Lodge and one from Ark Lodge. It was an auspicious evening for the brother from Ark Lodge as he was initiated in the presence of his father.

Dignitaries attending included RWB James Saracini, RWB Rob Gorman (District Deputy Masonic District 2B), WB Charles Ruiz (AGM), RWB Dan Nichols, and MWB George S. Greytak.

WM Jerry Nero and his officers performed an impressive degree in front of a full house.



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District 1

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



Brotherhood in Action: Fellowship and Charity at Corinthian Lodge No. 104 by Kraig Gray and Milton Johnson

A chilly spring evening provided the perfect setting for hot chili and warm fellowship when Corinthian Lodge No. 104 gathered for its First Annual Chili Cook-off. Wives, family, and even babies attended the event. Brothers traveled from many lodges, including America St. John's Lodge No. 8, Universal Fraternity Lodge No. 149, Washington Lodge No. 19, Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142, Temple Lodge No. 65, and others from across the district. New friends and prospects got their first look at what Masonic fellowship is all about.

Two of the competing chillis were prepared by Bro. Jon Redwood of Washington Lodge and Bro. Kraig Gray of Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge. Each brought his own recipe, offering distinct flavors to be judged. In the end, however, the honors went to the home lodge.

SW Milton Johnson of Corinthian Lodge won the competition. His chili earned the People's Choice, and he was presented with the coveted "Golden Ladle." RWB Adam Plotnik, who crafted the golden ladle, joked with Brother Milton, "Careful, the paint's not quite dry!" Accepting his award, Brother Johnson remarked, "Words matter, and I was very intentional when I said the 1st 'annual' chili cook-off. We are inviting everyone back for next year's 2nd Annual Chili Cook-off!"

The event was a fundraiser that successfully raised more than \$700 for the lodge's "Master's Choice" charity. WM Sharief Bines shared that all funds raised this year will support needy youth in Bridgeport, beginning with the Wakeman Boys & Girls Club.

Nights such as these generate a positive energy that reverberates for days afterward, as each brother recounts the wonderful evening's events to his friends and family outside of the lodge, bringing some of the light of the lodge into the world beyond its doors. The evening was a fine example of the Craft in action.



(l-r) WB Jon Redwood, Bro. Milton Johnson, Bro. Kraig Gray, and WM Sharief Bines,



Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 Initiates Four Brothers

by **Kraig Gray**

On Saturday, March 14, Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 in Easton gathered on a beautiful spring-like morning to confer the Entered Apprentice Degree and welcome Brothers Jeffrey Jones, Jason Li, and Jeffrey Andrew Smith. Bro. Tony Raissian joined the class as a guest from Wyllys-St. John's Lodge No. 4. The new brothers came to the Craft through both the Blue Wave initiative and more traditional introductions.

Lecture work during the degree was excellent. Particularly noteworthy was the Steward's Lecture, delivered by two of the lodge's most junior brothers, Bro. Matt Regney, a Fellowcraft and Bro. Tom Pitera, an Entered Apprentice. RWB Mark Agnew, visiting from Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3 graciously stepped in at the last minute to deliver the Second Lecture.



The lodge also welcomed back their organist, WB John Deere, after some time away, whose music once again brought harmony to the Craft.

The brethren were further honored by the presence of MWB Mel Johnson, and RWB Mark Hawkins, Grand Junor Warden.

Washington Lodge No. 19 Awards Service Pins

Washington Lodge No. 19 in Monroe awarded their annual service pins at their St. Patrick's Day dinner. Congratulations to Brother Tom Keagan (15 years) and Brother Daniel Block (40 years). Family and friends enjoyed the evening of celebration.



Mardi Gras (A Month Late)

by **Michael Sabia**

After February's inclement weather prevented Acacia Lodge No. 85 in Greenwich from gathering on the original date, the Annual Mardi Gras Table Lodge took place on March 24 at the lodge's Stated Communication.

A feast of Cajun food was enjoyed by the brothers, made even more special by guests from White Plains Lodge No. 473 who joined in the festivities. This event will return to its usual February date next year.

From the Quarry: Measuring Our Days

by Paul Ladd

Every man believes he understands time until he realizes how little of it he truly controls. When we are young, the years feel wide and open. There is always another opportunity ahead, another season to begin the work we have postponed, another chance to become the man we intend to be. Then life begins to move faster.

Responsibilities grow. Families depend on us. Work demands more attention. The years that once felt endless begin to pass with surprising speed. Many men reach a point where they quietly wonder where the time went.

The Craft gives us a symbol that speaks directly to that question: The Twenty-Four Inch Gauge.

In the hands of an operative Mason, this tool measured stone and ensured that every piece fit precisely where it belonged. In speculative Masonry, it reminds us that each day contains 24 hours, and that a wise man learns to divide those hours carefully.

The lesson seems simple. In practice, it takes intention.

Much of life pulls at our attention. Work,

obligations, and daily responsibilities can easily fill every available hour. Weeks pass, then months, and sometimes we realize that much of our time has been spent answering what was urgent rather than investing in what was truly important. It is easy to fall into that pattern.

Yet the quiet truth is that how a man spends his hours eventually shapes the course of his life. Time is one of the few resources that cannot be recovered. Money can be earned again. Opportunities may return. Even mistakes can sometimes be repaired.

Time moves only in one direction. That realization tends to change the way a man thinks about his days. The Twenty-Four Inch Gauge reminds us that our hours were never meant to be consumed entirely by labor or obligation. A balanced life requires attention to work, to rest, and to the care of others. More importantly, it invites us to be intentional about the life we are building.

A thoughtful man eventually begins to notice how easily time can slip away through distraction, habit, or simple inattention. Even small choices made repeatedly can shape the direction of a life. A few minutes spent in reflection instead of irritation. A conversation with someone who needs encouragement. A quiet moment to consider the kind of man we intend to become.

These may seem like small things. Over time, they become the building blocks of character. If we are honest with ourselves, most of us can recall a day when we looked back and realized our time had been consumed by things that mattered far less than we thought at the moment. Those realizations are not reasons for regret. They are reminders that tomorrow offers another opportunity to measure our hours more carefully. The gauge does not judge the stone it measures. It simply reveals the truth of its dimensions.

Time works in much the same way. The way we spend our days quietly reveals our priorities, whether we intend it to or not. Years from now, none of us will wish we had given more attention to minor frustrations or trivial distractions. What will matter far more are the moments we invest in becoming better men, supporting the people we care about, and living according to the principles we claim to value.

The temple of a man's life is not built in grand gestures. It rises through the steady use of ordinary hours.

Reflection

When you consider how you spent your time this past week, what does it reveal about the life you are building?



A Solemn Night to be Knighted

by Michael Sabia

The Sir Knights of Hamilton Commandery No. 5 KT in Stratford came together on Good Friday to confer the Order of the Temple upon four Knights of Malta. On one of the most holy days in Christendom, it is quite the experience for those Knighted to experience.

For large classes (this year, there are eight candidates), lots are drawn to determine who will be so lucky as to receive the Order on this day. The four remaining candidates will take their Order later in April at the next Stated Conclave of Hamilton Commandery.

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 event information is supplied by the lodges and pulled from various calendars. The Connecticut Freemasons newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events.

Recurring Events

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

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

Sat, May 2, 5:30 p.m., Columbia Lodge No. 25,
South Glastonbury, Derby Night – Dinner & Bluegrass Music
Contact the lodge, reservations are required

Sat, May 9, 9 a.m., America St. John's Lodge No. 8,
Stratford, 2nd Annual Masonic Flea Market
Free entry, \$20 for a table – call (203) 910-3521

Fri, May 29, 7 p.m., America St. John's Lodge No. 8,
Stratford, 260th Anniversary Dinner, *960 Ferry Blvd*

Tue, Jun 2, 10:30 a.m., DeMolay Golf Tournament
Cheshire, *The Farms Country Club, 180 Cheshire Rd. Wallingford*

Sat, Jun 13, 10 a.m., Grand Masters Day
Wallingford,

Fri, Jul 31, 6:30 p.m., 4th Annual Masonic Family Day Ball
Game,
Norwich, Dodd Stadium
Contact Jeffrey Blayman for tickets, (860) 334-5277

Craft at Labor

*All dates, times, and locations, 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 Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events and to inquire about dinner reservations.***

Entered Apprentice Degrees

Sat May 9, 5 p.m., Seneca Lodge No 55, Torrington

Thur, May 28, 6:30 p.m., Hiram Loge No. 1, New Haven, Dinner

Fellowcraft Degrees

Master Mason Degrees

Mon, May 18, 6 p.m., Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Dinner

Tue, May 26, 6:30 p.m., Shepard-Salem Lodge No. 78,
Naugatuck, Dinner

Fri, Sep 25, 4 p.m., Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3,
Stratford, *Degree Location: 528 Wheelers Farm Road, Orange*



National Holiday - May 25, 2026

Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association – Project Hope

by Jonathan Glassman

Brothers of Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125 and Scouts from Troop 41, chartered by Congregation B'nai Jacob in Woodbridge, spent the morning of Sunday, March 29, at the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven putting together bags of Kosher for Passover foods so those in need across Connecticut would be able to keep the holiday. Freemasons and Scouts working together to better the community!





REGISTRATION

Support

House of Heroes CT

Date

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Time

Check-in: 8:00am

Shotgun Start: 9:00am

Place



37 Harrison Road
Wallingford, CT 06492

Questions

Phone: 1-203-415-6443

Email: jnero@neroac.com

Sponsorships

Check the sponsorship(s) of your choice:

- Tee Sponsor **\$100**
- Cart Sponsor **\$1,500**
- Lunch Sponsor **\$1,500**
- Banquet Sponsor **\$2,000**
- Cigar Sponsor **\$2000**
- Platinum Sponsor **\$3,000**

- All sponsorships include
- Foursome (except Tee Sponsors)
- Platinum sponsor includes 2 foursomes

Contest

- Hole in 1 sponsored by



- 1st place
- 2nd place
- 3rd place
- Closest to the Pin
- Longest Drive



Individual

Your Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Team

Team Name: _____

Player 2 Name: _____

Email: _____

Player 3 Name: _____

Email: _____

Player 4 Name: _____

Email: _____

Please provide an email address for each player.
This will be the main contact method used.

Fees

- Individual **\$175**
- Team **\$700**
- Banquet Only **\$60**

Send tee sponsor information and logo to jnero@neroac.com

Make checks payable to Annawon Fellowcraft Club
Mail checks to P.O. Box #9, West Haven, CT 06516

Contact Jerry Nero (203)-415-6443 with any questions

Use QR Code
for purchases



Step Right Up wth the Pyramid Shrine KlowN Unit

The Pyramid Shrine KlowN unit is going into its second year, continuing a long tradition of combining fellowship, philanthropy, good humor, and service to the community. They are known for their colorful appearance and lighthearted performances. The clowns represent the very spirit of Shrinedom: fun with a purpose.

Are you looking to bring laughter, color, and unforgettable fun to your next event?

The Pyramid Shrine KlowN unit is ready to roll in with big smiles, bigger shoes, and a whole lot of heart.

What the unit offers:

- Classic surface style clown entertainment,
- balloon twisting and interactive fun,
- parades, community events,
- family-friendly humor for all ages

The unit welcomes interest from fellow Nobles who wish to join in this rewarding activity. Participation offers an opportunity to build camaraderie, develop performance skills, and most importantly, contribute to a cause that changes lives.

For upcoming appearances or information on booking us for your next event, and or information on joining the Pyramid KlowN Unit, please contact us at pyramidklowns@gmail.com

Boss KlowN: Scott Adelman (Noodles) (203) 690-6111

Secretary: Josh Dummitt (Meatball) (203) 715-0038



Connecticut IORG Holds Annual Session and Kicks Off Centennial Celebration *by Anne Needham*

Connecticut International Order of Rainbow for Girls held its annual Grand Assembly on March 13-15 in Trumbull. Congratulations to outgoing Grand Worthy Advisor, Emily Madeley, who presided over the session.

In addition to wrapping up a productive year, CT IORG kicked off an amazing celebration of 100 years of Rainbow in Connecticut. With help from Mrs. Lula Gobrect, Supreme Inspector in Massachusetts, Connecticut's first assembly was established in 1926. While CT IORG was officially established that year, the first Grand Assembly was not held until 12 years later, in 1938, with Harriet Yates serving as the first Grand Worthy Advisor.

At this year's Grand Assembly, there was a party to kick off the celebration. Since the beginning, CT IORG has empowered thousands of girls to develop leadership skills, confidence, and strong moral character, while upholding the core principles of Faith, Hope and Charity.

Congratulations to Taylor Batterton, new Grand Worthy Advisor and her Grand Officers as they start the new Grand Year and celebrate this year's theme of Roaring as One with CT IORG, where "every being has a place in the Circle of Life."

Please look for further information on our 100th year and we invite you to attend our celebratory gala on October 10.



NURSING SCHOLARSHIP



at **Masonicare** 
An Ageless Commitment to Caring

Application deadline: **Friday, May 22, 2026**

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

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Thank you for your generous contribution! Update: April 13, 2026.

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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Bud & Bobbi Buckner	William H. Flagg	Joseph O. Hoefflinger	Marshall Robinson	In Memory of RWB Donald Maehlenbrock
Gary Byram	John W. Ford	Dana W. Ivey	William H. Schoeck	
Lowell H. Cantor	Steve & Keith Franson	Vin & Pat Kalinauskas	Michael Shear	
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Now you can support **Connecticut Freemasons** newspaper online! There is a PayPal dropdown *Connecticut Freemasons* Booster form on the Grand Lodge home page (ctfreemasons.net) just below the PDF version of the paper. **Use the dropdown to select your level, click the "Pay Now" button and then follow the directions. You can pay with credit or debit cards or a PayPal account.

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.



Trumbull Lodge #22, A.F.&A.M
presents

A Charity Dinner & Program to benefit

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial

Library Restoration & Washington Family Bible Exhibit



*Featuring R:W. Brother Timothy Strawn,
Director of Development at GWMNM*

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Dinner at 6:30pm / Program at 7:30pm

- *Cost is \$25.00 per person with all proceeds collected to be donated to the Memorial's restoration and exhibit.*



New Haven Masonic Temple
285 Whitney Ave.
New Haven, CT 06511

For more information, contact R:W. Brother Chris Earle at 203-915-1229

Save the Date!

Grand Masters Day
Saturday, June 13, 2026
10:00AM - 3:00PM

Masonicare Health Center | 22 Masonic Avenue, Wallingford, CT



*This Year's
Grand Masters*



MW Brother Shane Dufresne
Most Worshipful Grand Master
Grand Lodge of CT



MW Brother Daniel L. Blackmon
Most Worshipful Grand Master
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of CT



A day to honor individuals, past and present.

It's About **Family, Friends, & Fun!**

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