

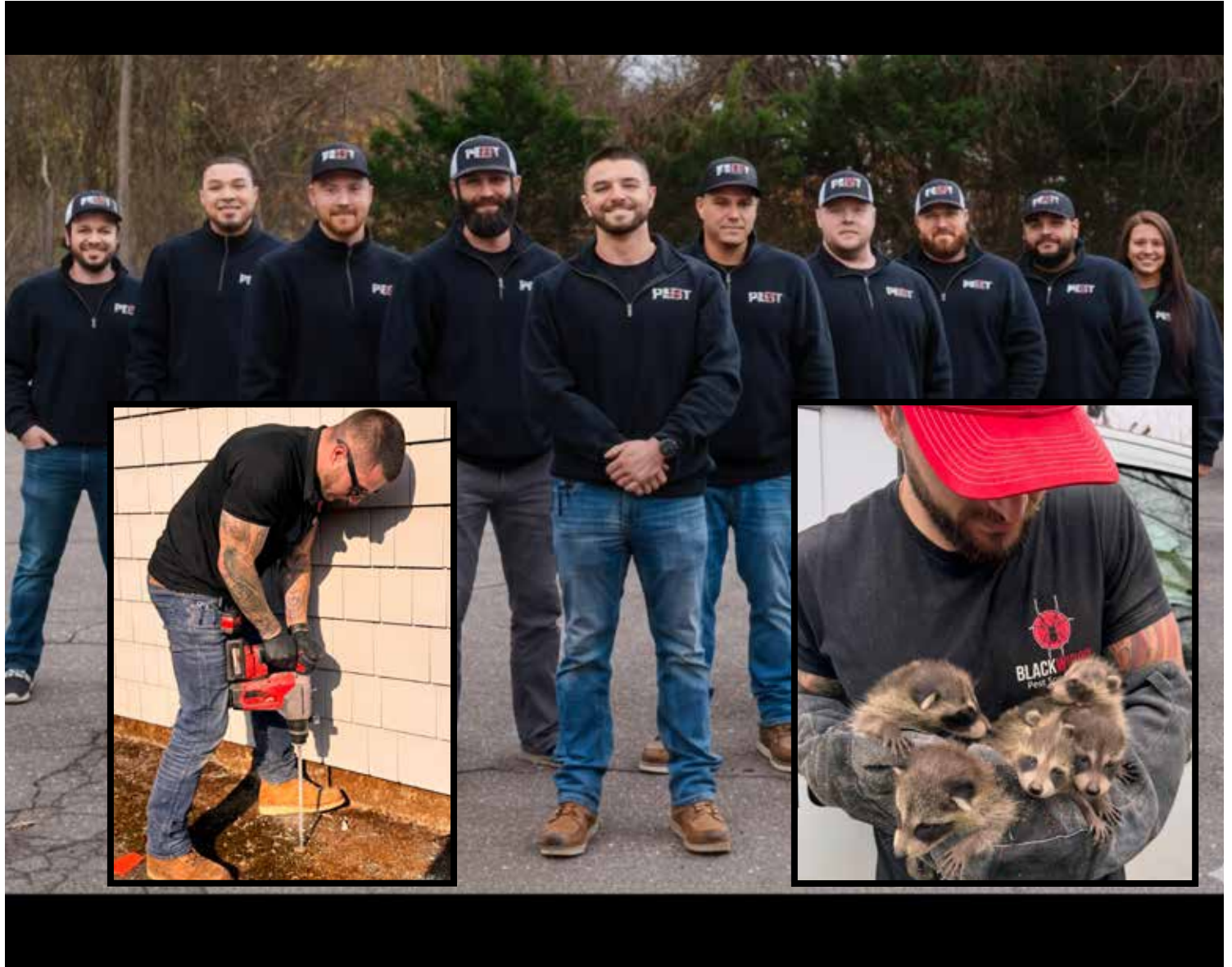


LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS

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

Issue No. 46

WINTER 2026



HIGHLIGHTING BROTHERS AT WORK

Blake Black and PEXT ~ Pest and Wildlife Professionals

**Guthrie Oklahoma: Where Masons Unite
The Memorable Engagement
Anchored in History**



LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS

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

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

ILL. - WALTER F. WHEELER, MSA, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

ILL. - KEVIN J. HECHT, 33°
Deputy for Connecticut

ILL. - BRUCE T. WORK, 33°
Active for Connecticut

ILL. - HOWARD D. TURNER, MSA, 33°
Active for Connecticut

ILL. - RICHARD V. TRAVIS, 33°
Active Emeritus for Connecticut

ILL. - JAMES R. SPENCER, JR., MSA, 33°
Active Emeritus for Connecticut

ILL. - DAVID L. SHARKIS, 33°
Active Emeritus for Connecticut

ILL. - GAIL N. SMITH, 33°
Active Emeritus for Connecticut

Attest: ILL. - BRUCE R. BELLMORE, MSA, 33°
Secretary for the Valley of Bridgeport
ILL. - JACK J. S. FARKAS, MSA, 33° Secretary Emeritus

Lafayette Consistory

ILL. - Harold A. Elwell, MSA, 33° - Commander-in-Chief
ILL. - Erik P. Meyer, MSA, 33° - 1st Lt. Commander
ILL. - Steven P. Schreck, MSA, 33° - 2nd Lt. Commander
ILL. - Guy O. Whelchel, III, MSA, 33° - Orator
Raymond J. Savoy, 32° - Chancellor



Cast and candidates of the 25th Degree on November 17, 2025 at the Leo H. Lohrman, II, Theatre in Stratford.

ILL. - Martin Ede, MSA, 33° - Master of Ceremonies
Colin C. Souney, MSA, 32° - Engineer and Seneschal
ILL. - Carl H. Anderson, 33° - Organist

Dewitt Clinton Lodge of Perfection

Gary Ecsedi, 32° - Thrice Potent Master
John H. Kelley, 32° - Deputy Master
Michael S. Abrahamson, MSA, 32° - Senior Warden
Travis E. Gerald, 32° - Junior Warden
Alexander J. DeFranzo, 32° - Orator
Michael D. Sabia, Jr., 32° - Master of Ceremonies
David H. Cooper, MSA, 32° - Captain of the Guard
Henry T. Hittle, 32° - Master of Entrances

Washington Council Princes of Jerusalem

T. Woodford Hittle, 32° - Sovereign Prince
R. Scott Nocerino, 32° - High Priest
Colin C. Souney, MSA, 32° - Senior Warden
Michael L. Todd, MSA, 32° - Junior Warden
William W. Roots, 32° - Orator
Bermann Thelison, 32° - Master of Ceremonies
Isack Waseman, 32° - Captain of the Guard
ILL. - Robert J. Furce, MSA, 33° - Master of Entrances

Pequonnock Chapter Rose Croix

David V. Papp, MSA, 32° - Most Wise Master
William E. Schueler, 32° - Senior Warden
Pedro Garcia, II, 32° - Junior Warden
David C. Gianetti, 32° - Orator
Isack Waserman, 32° - Master of Ceremonies
Darrin D. Silhavy, 32° - Captain of the Guard
John A. Radziunas, 32° - Master of Entrances
Colin C. Souney, MSA, 32° - Standard Bearer

Valley Officers for all Bodies

ILL. - Robert J. Furce, MSA, 33° - Treasurer
Gavin Forrester, III, 32° - Assistant Treasurer
ILL. - Bruce R. Bellmore, MSA, 33° - Secretary
ILL. - Jack J.S. Farkas, MSA, 33° - Secretary Emeritus, Associate Secretary

Valley Officers cont.

ILL. - David B. Urban, MSA, 33° - Hospitaler
ILL. - Gary D. Shepard, MSA, 33° - Tyler & Class Marshal
Harvey J. Hartin, MSA, 32° - Assistant Tyler
ILL. - Carl H. Anderson, 33° - Director of Music
ILL. - Guy O. Whelchel, III, MSA, 33° - Choir Coordinator
ILL. - Raymond J. Dolyak, MSA, 33° - Manager, Stage & Properties
Joseph S. Lengyel, MSA, 32° - Assistant Manager, Stage & Properties
Andrew P. Kolaski, Jr., MSA, 32° - Lighting Manager
Michael S. Abrahamson, MSA, 32° - Sound Manager
Gavin B. Forrester, III, 32° - Membership Chairman
R. Scott Nocerino, 32° - Family Life Chairman
Gary Ecsedi, 32° - Family Life Assistant Chairman
ILL. - John A. Amarillos, MSA, 33° - Newsletter Editor

Valley of New Haven

Albert R.R. Johnson, MSA, 32° - Thrice Potent Master
Gerardo Nero, 32° - Sovereign Prince
Charles G. Ehrentraut, Sr., 32° - Most Wise Master
Salvatore R. Ferrigno, MSA, 32° - Treasurer
Jerry J. Gruenbaum, MSA, 32° - Secretary

Valley of Waterbury

Patrick Donnelly, 32° - Thrice Potent Master
Alexander J. DeFranzo, 32° - Sovereign Prince
ILL. - Harold A. Elwell, MSA, 33° - Most Wise Master
Eric M. Bogert, 32° - Treasurer
Daniel D. Sharkis, MSA, 32° - Secretary



BLAKE BLACK AND PEXT ~ PEST AND WILDLIFE PROFESSIONALS

When asked what motivated him to become a Mason, Blake answered, “I joined Masonry as a struggling young man who needed guidance. When I needed it most, I was offered friendship, fellowship, and guidance. At 19 years old, I was the youngest man in my lodge [Daytime Lodge No. 144, in Stratford], rising ... to a Master Mason at the age of 20. Though I have been less involved in the last couple of years while my business has taken most of my time, I look forward to investing more time in the future as I continue to grow both as a person and a Mason.”

When asked about his Pest Control business, he says he started it out of necessity. At the age of 24, Blake took a leap of faith and, with little or no money and a dollop of integrity, began his first pest control and catch-and-release wildlife business. In half a decade, by garnering support from a solid base of positive word of mouth for going above and beyond for every customer he served, he built a list of 3,000 satisfied customers in his service area, including Fairfield, Litchfield, New Haven, and Hartford counties. After twelve years in the industry, he recently reorganized his operation, and PEXT was born. The acronym comes from the concept and execution on which his company is founded: Exclusion. Exclusion is a method of sealing that prevents pests and wildlife from entering a structure. The term PEXT simply stands for the PEST EXCLUSION TEAM.

Blake specializes in “Integrated Pest Management” by creating changes in the habitat of the pests that his customers wish to exclude, by changing the conditions of their habitat to make it more inhospitable to them. In any case, Blake has found much to be thankful for and credits Freemasonry for helping him establish a foundation for his professional endeavors.



From left: Aimee, Capri, Blake, Boomer

ANCHORED IN HISTORY

BY GARY F. ECSEDI, 32°

The year was 1783. The American Revolutionary War was over. The British had left the shores of America, and free trade could now resume with other nations without any confrontation. Well, not exactly. Sea trade would be vital to a new American economy. Without the means or the authority to field a naval force necessary to protect their ships, the United States maritime trade was fair game for piracy to any nation or monarch who had the power to seize U.S. ships, their cargos and crews. By the late 1700s, the United States had paid over \$1.25 million in tribute and ransom to the Barbary Pirates alone for protection against seizure. This constituted one-fifth of the government's annual budget. In 1793, when France declared war on England, the U.S. was put in a precarious position, proclaiming neutrality but still formally allied

with France under the Treaty of 1778. Both sides harassed and seized American vessels. In May of 1793, Secretary of State and Future President Thomas Jefferson wrote an opinion to President George Washington that stipulated in our treaties with the French, Dutch, and Prussians that should it happen that either party be at war, and the other neutral, the neutral shall give passports of a certain tenor to the vessels belonging to their subjects, to avoid dissension. It has been thought that the best passports, of such importance to the people and property of our citizens, should have the highest authorization. In the case of the United States, that is the signature of the President, the Secretary of State, and the seal of the United States. The first official United States Ship's Passport or Sea letter was

Continued on page 4

Anchored in History...continued from page 3

issued in 1794. Ironically, Benjamin Franklin had proposed the idea of a Ship's passport in 1783, which was like the British passport, but to no avail. One of the first Sea letters created for the United States is the one in this article. It is dated July 5, 1794, for the ship "James". The document is printed on vellum and is written in three languages: French, English, and Dutch.

The document reads

George Washington, President of the United States of America To all who shall see these presents,

GREETING

BE IT KNOWN, That leave and permission, are hereby given to WILLIAM WELLS master or commander of the SHIP called the "JAMES" of the burthen of TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE tons or thereabouts, lying at present in the port of NEW YORK bound for OSTEND and laden with PORK, BEEF and BARREL STAVES to depart and proceed with his said ship on his said voyage having been fitted and the said WILLIAM WELLS having made oath before the proper officer, that the said ship belongs to one or more of the citizens of the United States of America, and to him and them only.

In Witness whereof, I have subscribed my name to these presents, and affixed the SEAL of THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA thereto, and caused the same to be countersigned by JOHN LAMB, COLLECTOR OF THE CUSTOMS at NEW YORK the SEVENTH day of JULY in the year of our LORD CHRIST, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four

G. Washington

By The President

Sworn to at the City of New York this Fifth day of July 1794 Before

RICHARD VARICK MAYOR

EDM. RANDOPH

countersigned by JOHN LAMB, MOST Serene, Serene, most Puissant, Puissant, High, Illustrious, Noble, Honorable, Venerable, wife and prudent, Lords, Emperors,

Kings, Republics, Princes, Dukes, Earls, Barons, Lords, Burgomasters, Schepens, Counsellors, and also Judges, Officers, Judiciaries and Regents of all good cities and Places, Whether Ecclesiastical or Secular who shall see these patents, or hear them read. We Richard Varick Mayor in the City of New York Make it known that the Master of the Ship "JAMES" appearing before us, he has declared upon

oath, that the vessel called the "JAMES" of the burthen of about Two Hundred Seventy-Five Tons, which he at present navigates, is of THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and that no subjects of the present or belligerent powers have any part or portion therein, directly nor indirectly, so may GOD ALMIGHTY HELP HIM, and as we wish to see the said master prosper in his lawful affairs, our prayer is, to all before-mentioned, and to each of them separately, where the said master shall arrive, with his vessel and cargo, that they may treat him in a becoming manner, permitting him, upon usual tolls and expenses, in passing and repassing, to pass, navigate, and frequent the ports, passes and territories, to the end to transact his business, where in what manner he shall judge proper: whereof we shall willingly indebted.

In Witness and cause whereof, we affix hereto the seal of Mayoralty of the said City this Fifth Day of July 1794, Richard Varick

The Masonic connection of the men who created and signed this rare document cannot be understated — George Washington, Founding Father, First President of the United States and Freemason; Edmund Randolph, Founding Father, First Attorney General, Grand Master of Freemasons for the State of Virginia from 1786-1789; Richard Varick, Founding Father, Founding member of the Society of Cincinnati, Private Secretary to George Washington, and Mayor of New York. Many of his closest friends were Freemasons. Other men who helped draft earlier versions of this document were Benjamin Franklin, Founding Father, Grand Master of Freemasons in Pennsylvania in 1734, Provincial Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England in 1760; and John Jay, Founding Father, First U.S. Chief Justice, and Freemason. These were truly great men. Just six years before this document was created in 1788, our Constitution was adopted. Four months before the signing of this document, George Washington passed the Naval Act, creating what we now call the "United States Navy." The United States Navy did not have any ships in service until 1797, and then, only three were in service: the USS United States, the USS Constellation, and the USS Constitution. These ships constituted the bulk of the U.S. Navy. As we celebrate our 250th Year of Independence, I marvel at what the future might hold and what role the Freemasons will play in our nation for the next 250 years.

32° OR FULL PASSPORT CERTIFICATES NOVEMBER 17, 2025



LEO H. LOHRMAN, II, THEATRE, STRATFORD



HOSPITALER'S CORNER

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

Please make your contribution
payable to

Lafayette Consistory

and mail to

ILL.: David B. Urban MSA, 33°,

Hospitaler

P.O. Box 309

Stratford, CT 06615

THE MEMORABLE ENGAGEMENT BY STACEY FRASER, ASSISTANT CURATOR, SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC MUSEUM & LIBRARY

In this 1780 print in the collection of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, engravers Daniel Lepinière (ca. 1740–1785) and James Fittler (1758–1835) portrayed an American victory during the Revolutionary War, based on a work by painter Richard Paton (1717–1791). The print presents a moonlit ocean scene off the coast of England, with multiple warships entangled in fiery conflict. Published just over a year after the depicted conflict occurred, this engraving illustrates the Battle of Flamborough Head in vivid detail. The inscription on the bottom edge of the print conveys the English perspective on this historic event.

The two ships at the left of the engraving are the American Bonhomme Richard, commanded by Captain John Paul Jones (1747-1792), and the English Serapis, commanded by Captain Richard Pearson (1731–1806). Jones' 1776 and 1777 privateering successes along the British coast, combined with the 1778 Franco-American Alliance, led to Jones' appointment as captain of the French vessel Duc de Duras in 1779. Jones renamed the ship the Bonhomme Richard to show his respect for Benjamin Franklin, whose Maxims of Poor Richard was wildly popular in Paris at the time.

In August 1779, Jones and the crew of the Bonhomme Richard left Lorient, France, and headed towards England, intending to harass English warships and to capture them as prizes if possible. As his squadron, consisting of the flagship and six other vessels, neared the English coast, local citizens prepared for the arrival of the man they considered a swashbuckling pirate. The Northumberland militia was called out, and the whole coastline was alarmed.

By September, Jones' squadron was off the coast of Yorkshire. On September 23, 1779, a battle was engaged between Jones' group and a forty-one-ship squadron of English warships known as the Baltic fleet, led by the Serapis. Off Flamborough Head, a peninsula near Scarborough, the vastly outnumbered Americans struck first. As it was a clear night, thousands of onlookers observed the battle from the shore. The majority of the Baltic fleet intentionally steered clear of the conflict, but the Countess of Scarborough was taken as a prize by the American ship Pallas. Eventually, the most bitter and drawn-out fight was between the Bonhomme Richard and the Serapis, the two flagships.

Jones maneuvered his vessel alongside the Serapis and lashed the ships together, rendering their larger guns useless and forcing close combat using smaller arms. When Captain Pearson asked Captain Jones to surrender, the latter uttered his famous retort, "I have not yet begun to fight." Despite his adrenaline-fueled bravado, Jones later reported that "the scene was dreadful beyond the range of language."

After more than three hours of vicious fighting, Captain Pearson eventually yielded, striking his flag and sending his sword to Captain Jones. With the Bonhomme Richard sinking beneath them, Jones and his crew boarded Serapis and took her as a

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The Memorable Engagement continued from page 4

prize. On December 27, Jones gave the Serapis to the French Navy as a prize ship. The naval victory was a boost to American morale and a victory for the Franco-American Alliance.

For the British public, the loss was significant. Jones and his squadron had brought the war to their doorstep. The dedication at the bottom of the print, from painter Richard Paton, may have been an attempt to downplay the American victory: "To Sir Richard Pearson, whose bravery & conduct saved the Baltic Fleet under his Convoy though obliged to submit to a much superior force . . ." While the chaos of combat helped the other ships in the Baltic fleet escape, the loss of many sailors and two large warships was hardly anything to celebrate.

Despite the defeat, Pearson was hailed as a hero in England and received a knighthood. The Scottish-born Jones continued to be reviled in England and celebrated in the American colonies.



The Memorable Engagement of Capt. Pearson of the Serapis, December 12, 1780. Daniel Lepinière & James Fittler; John Boydell; Richard Paton, London, England. Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, 78.74.12.



Scottish Rite Brass Choir Rehearses & Entertains



York Rite Sing-along December 15, 2025



Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford

32° DEGREE CERTI DECEMBER



CERTIFICATES AWARDED

MARCH 1, 2025



LEO H. LOHRMAN, II,
THEATRE, STRATFORD

Annual Black-tie H

December 19, 2025



Woodwinds Banquet Facility



oliday Party

Let the Fun Begin!



Branford



More Fun!

Black-tie Ho



Woodwinds Banquet

Holiday Party

December 19, 2025



Facility

GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA: WHERE MASONS UNITE, PART 1

BY JAMES WADE D'ACOSTA, 32°

Having slept fitfully in anticipation of my first degrees in the Southern Jurisdiction, I am now ascending the steps of the Scottish Rite Temple in Guthrie at dawn. With registration at 7:00 a.m. and the portrayal of degrees not until 8:00 a.m., there is plenty of parking and few men in sight.

Rain and fog do little to obscure the majestic temple's hilltop command of this ten-acre site overlooking the city. The Scottish Rite took over these grounds following the move of the state capital to Oklahoma City in 1910. Erecting a new temple in 1919, attached to the old state house, resulted in more than 400,000 sq. ft. of floor space around a central auditorium with over 1,700 seats.

At the main entrance, I meet Brian Ragain, KCCH, from the local valley, on the lookout for fellow cast members of this morning's 15th and 16th Degrees. Bro. Ragain walks me from the Greek exterior into the equally stunning Roman atrium measuring 52' wide, 190' long, and 45' tall. He points out where to submit my credentials and display tables for the Lodge of Research and Knights of St. Andrews as we head downstairs for breakfast, for which he insists on paying.

It's Saturday, April 5, 2025, the second of three days in which all Southern Jurisdiction degrees, 4th-32nd, are portrayed. I've missed the 4th-14th Degrees, having traveled the previous day from Connecticut to Oklahoma.



Scottish Rite, Guthrie, Oklahoma.



Main Roman-style auditorium..



Roman atrium.

Nonetheless, I experience three wonders that have me proclaiming Guthrie as an

essential pilgrimage destination for all Masons. The first blasts its way into my mind within hours: today's 15th through 25th Degrees reveal that I am separated from my southern brethren by our common language of allegories.

Billy Yank and Johnny Reb face each other across a sea of varying symbols. Northern members are not made Knights Kadosh. Southerners are not taught Union Capt. Bingham's attentive care of mortally wounded Confederate Gen. Armistead at Gettysburg. The Council of Kadosh does not exist in the Northern Jurisdiction. No American settings are used in Southern portrayals.

Conversations with my cousin Wesley Farabough, a lifelong Sooner and member of the Valley of Tulsa, alerted us to differences in the settings of some Scottish Rite degrees. He was the only member of my family with whom I could share my experiences, and I was the first Northern member with whom he had fallen into detailed conversations.

Beginning my Scottish Rite education in 2006, the 20th Degree happened to be one of the first I discussed with him. Bursting with enthusiasm, I struggled to express the impact of experiencing this "George Washington Degree" by candlelight while sitting in Perry House in Stratford, Connecticut.

Washington dined directly across the green at Benjamin's Tavern on

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Guthrie Oklahoma: Where Masons Unite, Part 1 continued from page 8

September 19, 1780. Although the tavern no longer stands, Perry House is preserved as a historic landmark. Washington crossed the nearby Housatonic River by ferry on seven different occasions when traveling between Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. He was here!

The setting of Master Ad Vitam imagines Washington presiding at a lodge meeting shortly after Independence. Some pretext informs us that the brothers in attendance include veterans of the late war who, like Washington, are members of our fraternity: Generals Mordecai Gist, John Sullivan, Henry Knox, and Israel Putnam. The foreigners Marquis de Lafayette and Sir Francis Cranston are acknowledged without the slightest ripple of disapproval. *What?* No problem with Lafayette, but Cranston was British!

The implications of Cranston sitting in fellowship with our heroes are barely digested when Washington is informed of an alarm at the door. Arriving late, Benedict Arnold seeks admission. Affiliate of Hiram Lodge No. 1, Connecticut's founding lodge, this traitorous wretch has a just claim. Will Washington admit him? I gush on and on.

Wesley, a 33rd Degree Mason since 1991 and member of the Shrine, York Rite, and Red Cross of Constantine, doesn't know what I am talking about. My ambition to explore these differences is kindled.

Reading about Albert Pike (1809-1891) and sampling *Morals and Dogma*, his founding commentary on our degrees as they stood in 1871, I don't recognize many of his scholarly references. My edition includes a Digest-Index by T. W. Hugo, who forcefully proclaims, "In the opinion of the writer no one who has not carefully studied *Morals and Dogma*, or the several subjects of which it is the epitome, is or can be a Master of the Royal Secret in the true meaning of the term" (Hugo, iii-iv in 1944 reprint).

Symbols and allegories offer rich rewards for study as Pike himself states in his commentary on the 8th Degree, "The Degrees of this Rite are not for those who are content with the mere work and ceremonies, and do not seek to explore the mines of wisdom that lie buried beneath the surface" (M&D 8:1). He concludes, "These Degrees are also intended to teach more than morals ... their varied meanings are only to be discovered by reflection and study" (M&D 8:41). I determine to journey slowly.

Exploring Scottish Rite, Masonry's "university," deepens and broadens my understanding of our ethics and philosophy as I concentrate on traveling the progressive line and sitting in the East.

Over the next nine years, I take notes while observing a degree, then read Pike's corresponding chapter and highlight striking ideas before moving on.

By the end of my odyssey through *Morals and Dogma* and two more rounds through our degrees, I am perplexed by the discrepancy between many of my experiences and Pike's explanations. Taking degrees out of order, as is common, frustrates efforts to detect a logical sequence in moral development and enlightenment from one degree to the next.

Surely the order of degrees is deliberate, has meaning, and facilitates a man's growth and development? Tellingly, a past district deputy in Connecticut, nearing the completion of his passport, questions whether a formative progression is even intended.

Guthrie emerges as the answer to whether the sequence of degrees is deliberate and whether the teaching objective of the altered degrees is different. As much as I am energized by the northern degrees with American settings, they do replace lessons stamped with Pike's approval. What am I missing?

Guthrie's annual spring portrayal of Scottish Rite's 4th-32nd Degrees in a single three-day extravaganza is unique. Nowhere else, north or south, are all degrees portrayed in a single reunion. A Mason's quest for knowledge leads to Guthrie.

Hugo, T. W. "Digest of 'Morals and Dogma.'" Richmond: L. H. Jenkins, Inc., 1909. In *Morals and Dogma* of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, by Albert Pike. Charleston: Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, 1871; reprint, Richmond: L. H. Jenkins, Inc., 1944.

Loy, David. President of Guthrie's Spring 2025 Reunion Class.
Email correspondence with James W. D'Acosta, May-June 2025.

Newton, Joseph Fort. *The Builders: A Story and Study of Freemasonry* Revised and enlarged edition. Richmond: Macoy Publishing, 1951.
"spiritual descendant" p. 47, "What other order" p. 223.

Newton, Joseph Fort. *The Men's House: Masonic Papers and Addresses*. 1923 reprinted 1990 Richmond: Macoy Publishing, 1923. "Time is a river" p. 68.

Pike, Albert. *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*. Annotated edition by Arturo de Hoyos. Washington, D.C. Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., 2011.

AASR FAMILY & FRIENDS ENJOY THE B



December 13,
2025



Symphony Hall



Boston,
Massachusetts



It's Santa!



Gingerbread Model
of Symphony Hall

BOSTON POPS HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT



Scotch & Cigar Night

Stamford Cigar Bar



January 9, 2026



FAMILY LIFE EVENTS ~ 2026



Please note that details are not yet available for some of these activities.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
03/01/26	Sun.	1 p.m.	Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestra Concerts , Winter concerts at Klein Auditorium, Bridgeport. Free of charge.
May 13-15	W-F	8: a.m.	Gettysburg Trip - details to follow. Call the office 203-375-0064.
05/17/26	Sun.	1 p.m.	Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestra Concerts , Spring concerts at Klein Auditorium, Bridgeport. Free of charge.
05/25/26	Mon.	11 a.m.	Memorial Day Parade, Stratford, CT , meet at the Theatre. Contact Dave Urban.
06/06/26	Sat.	4:30 p.m.	Les Misérables at Shubert Theatre , 247 College Street, New Haven. Dinner at 4:30 p.m. before the show at Brazi's New Haven. The show starts at 7 p.m. Leaving the Leo H. Lohrman, II, Scottish Rite Theatre at 3:45 p.m. \$95/person.
06/07/26	Sun.	TBD	Fishing on the Long Island Sound, "Lucky Lady" , 45 Riverside Dr, Clinton, CT, Limit of 35, plus \$5 for pool, no glass bottles or bananas per order of Captain. Departure time will be decided by the captain. \$20 per person.
07/18/26	Sat.	4:30 p.m.	Dinner Cruise around Manhattan . An elegant evening aboard Louisa of the Seas, a two-level luxury yacht offering impeccable white-glove service, a five-course gourmet dinner, premium window-side seating, live musical entertainment, and breathtaking panoramic views of New York City's iconic skyline and landmarks. Leaving the Leo H. Lohrman, II Scottish Rite Theatre at 4:30 p.m.. \$125 per person. 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
08/07/26	Fri.	7 p.m.	Scotch and Cigar Night , at the Stamford Cigar Bar, 75 Research Dr, Stamford, CT, from 7 to 10 p.m., \$15/Person.
08/09/26	Sun.	3 p.m.	Opera Theatre of CT followed by dinner at Café Allegre, Madison CT. \$95/person. Show details to follow.
08/15/26	Sat.	12 p.m.	Annual Clambake Picnic , Orange Fairgrounds, 525 Orange Center Road, Orange CT. Starts at 12 p.m., \$10/person



VALLEY OF BRIDGEPORT 2026 DEGREE SCHEDULE



DATE

Mon.	Feb. 16	Stratford	26th Degree (live), 27th Degree (video)
Mon.	Mar. 9	Stratford	18th Degree (live), 21st Degree (video)
Mon.	Mar. 23	Stratford	10th Degree (live), 23rd Degree (video)
Mon.	Mar. 30	Stratford	Feast of the Paschal Lamb
Mon.	Apr. 13	Stratford	19th Degree (live), 28th Degree (video)
Mon.	May. 4	Stratford	32nd Degree (live)

Degrees at 7:30 p.m. in Stratford unless otherwise noted.

Dinners before the Bridgeport degrees on Mondays are at 6 p.m. in the Shrine building, unless otherwise noted.

- 4th Degree video as needed for new candidates.
- New candidates must register 45 minutes before degree. \$10/per brother.
- Monday candidates must fill out the application by Noon on Friday.

RSVP required for meals. Email: Office@LafayetteConsistory.com or call 203-375-0064.

Wear Your Scottish Rite Pride!

Whether you're heading to an official gathering, a casual outing, or just relaxing, these Scottish Rite logo shirts let you represent the Rite comfortably and confidently. Soft, durable, and made for everyday life—because the Rite is part of who you are.

**Shirt sizes are L, XL and 2XL are available at the Consistory Office. Colors are not exact.
Size M and 3XL available on special order.**

32° GOLD-TONE PRINT ON SWEATSHIRT AND POLO SHIRT



Heather Gray Sweatshirt with 32° on the front, Square & Compasses on the back. \$92.



True Royal Blue Polo Shirt with 32°. \$45.

32° or 33° BLUE PRINT ON WHITE POLO SHIRT AND WHITE DRESS SHIRT



32° or 33° Blue Print on White Polo Shirt. \$47.



32° or 33° Blue Print on White Dress Shirt. \$60.

**Send written request for shirts with a check or money order to the Consistory Office,
P.O. Box 309, Stratford, CT 06615-0309,
For electronic payment, call the Consistory Office at 203-375-0064**

Contact the Consistory Office to arrange for shirt pick-up, delivery. or with questions.

*\$5 of each shirt sold goes to support the Connecticut Children's Dyslexia Centers,
proudly supported by the Valley of Bridgeport, Lafayette Consistory.*



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Stratford, CT 06615-0309

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS

From the Valleys of Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury

CONSISTORY SECRETARY

Ill.: Bruce R. Bellmore, MSA, 33°

EDITOR

Ill.: John A. Amarillos, MSA, 33°

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Pat Kalinauskas

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/MAIL CORRESPONDENCE

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

E-MAIL

Office@LafayetteConsistory.com

CONSISTORY TELEPHONE

203-375-0064



BROTHERS REMEMBER

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

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