



LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS

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

Issue No. 48

SUMMER 2026



***HIGHLIGHTING BROTHERS AT WORK:
AARON D. JANSEN, 32°, ACCOMPLISHED PLUMBER.***

An American Mason Visits a Lodge in Indonesia in 1801.

Sweetening the “Bread of Shame” Through Masonry.

Senior Brothers: “Big Brother” is Now Watching Your Bank Account.



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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

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

ILL.: Leo H. Lohrman,
II, 33° and his lady,
Vicky, on September
19, 2015 after the
unveiling of his
honorary portrait at
the Theater which
now bears his name
on Main Street in
Stratford.,



ILL.: Martin Ede, MSA, 33° - Chancellor
Colin C. Souney, MSA, 32° - Master of Ceremonies
Patrick J. Donnelly, 32° - Engineer and Seneschal

Dewitt Clinton Lodge of Perfection

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

Washington Council Princes of Jerusalem

R. Scott Nocerino, 32° - Sovereign Prince
Colin C. Souney, MSA, 32° - High Priest
Michael L. Todd, MSA, 32° - Senior Warden
William W. Roots, 32° - Junior Warden
Bermann Thelison, 32° - Orator
ILL.: Robert J. Furce, MSA, 33° - Master of Ceremonies
Silas Mante, 32° - Captain of the Guard
Gavin B. Forrester, III, 32° - Master of Entrances

Pequonnock Chapter Rose Croix

William E. Schueler, 32° - Most Wise Master
David C. Gianetti, 32° - Senior Warden
Aaron C. Dwyer, 32° - Junior Warden
Darrin D. Silhavy, 32° - Orator
John A. Radziunas, 32° - Master of Ceremonies
Colin C. Souney, MSA, 32° - Captain of the Guard
Gary Ecsedi, 32° - Master of Entrances
T. Woodford Hittle, 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

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ILL.: David B. Urban, MSA, 33° - Hospitaller
ILL.: Gary D. Shepard, MSA, 33° - Tyler & Class Marshal
Harvey J. Hartin, MSA, 32° - Assistant Tyler
ILL.: Carl H. Anderson, 33° - Director of Music & Organist
Donamd M. Wisman, 32° - Co-Director of Music & Organist
ILL.: Guy O. Whelchel, III, MSA, 33° - Choir Coordinator
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Andrew P. Kolaski, Jr., MSA, 32° - Lighting Manager
Michael S. Abrahamson, MSA, 32° - Sound Manager
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R. Scott Nocerino, 32° - Family Life Chairman
Gary Ecsedi, 32° - Family Life Assistant Chairman
ILL.: John A. Amarillos, MSA, 33° - Newsletter Editor
David V. Papa, MSA, 32°, = Building Operations Manager

Valley of New Haven

Cyril K. Embil, 32° - Thrice Potent Master
Scott Atkins, 32° - Sovereign Prince
David L. Cole, MSA, 32° - Most Wise Master
Salvatore R. Ferrigno, MSA, 32° - Treasurer
Jerry J. Gruenbaum, MSA, 32° - Secretary

Valley of Waterbury

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ILL.: Harold A. Elwell, MSA, 33° - Sovereign Prince
Patrick J. Donnelly, 32° - Most Wise Master
Douglas Barry, Jr., 32° - Treasurer
Donald M. Wisman, 32° - Secretary



BROTHER AARON D. JANSEN, 32°, PLUMBER EXTRAORDINAIRE!

This issue's cover brother is Aaron D. Jansen, 32°, who hails from King Solomon's Lodge No. 7 in Woodbury, and is currently a member of America St. John's Lodge No. 8 in Stratford. Aaron, who is an accomplished plumber, first learned about the Craft from his father and Uncle Nick Nikola. Growing up, he accompanied his father, a plumber, on all sorts of jobs, and despite his father's urging that he become an electrician, he decided to follow in his father's footsteps and went into plumbing instead.

He also followed his father into Freemasonry, first by joining Laurel Chapter Order of DeMolay in Bridgeport. Later, he met a firefighter who was also a brother. Aaron decided to join the fraternity, and was raised in 2017. He has been a member of the Consistory for some time and is often seen doing sundry plumbing jobs in the Leo H. Lohrman, II, Theatre in Stratford.



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SWEETENING THE “BREAD OF SHAME” THROUGH MASONRY BY ROLANDO RAMOS, 32°(AUGUST 2026)

Masonry and Kabbalah have been intertwined since the pillars of Jachin and Boaz were erected at Solomon's Temple. Kabbalah, ancient Hebrew mysticism, teaches that we can activate a profound feeling of joy and connectedness using a tool called the “bread of shame.” Applying this tool in the practice of Masonry can be transformative.

Take, for example, this story: A teacher was interrupted by a student running into the classroom who hurriedly exclaims, “I had an amazing thing happen! I was in a crazy accident on my way here, and I narrowly escaped death in order to make it to class today!” The teacher, without missing a beat, replied, “I too had an amazing thing happen to me on my way to the school. I did not get into an accident!”

The teacher knows how to tap into this feeling of abundant gratitude that exists in every mundane moment. Meanwhile, the student feels a rush of excitement because they appreciate their vitality and life after nearly losing it. Still, the student needs the teacher to understand that one can experience awe for life's common occurrences.

Masonry is very much like that teacher. As Masons, we made the choice to knock on the door of the lodge and request further light. Learning and refining the traditions and rituals of masonry, or the light, allows us to experience that awe outside of the lodge.

If we do not nurture this light, we risk losing our connection to this sense of awe, which comes directly from our ability to express gratitude.

Shame may seem like a strange way to access gratitude. The Kabbalistic tool we call “bread of shame” refers to the shame a person might feel from eating bread that they did not create. It asks us to contribute to the work that would lead to our fulfillment. The fruits of our labor become the bread we consume without shame, allowing for a more fulfilling time of work and refreshment, and leading to more gratitude.

Continued on page 4

~ IN MEMORIAM ~

*We mourn the passing of the following Scottish Rite Brethren
whose deaths were reported in 2025-26*

NAME	32° CONFERRED	LODGE	HOME VALLEY	DATE OF DEATH
Ameen-Storm Abo-Hamzy, 32°	11/14/2009	Housatonic Lodge No. 61	Waterbury	08/27/2025
Sherwin K. Baril, 32°	12/01/1972	Norwood Lodge No. 576	New Haven	07/27/2026
Donald J. Baumgarten, 32°	12/07/1998	Temple Lodge No. 166	New Haven	05/19/2026
Robert M. Blackman, 32°	12/01/1964	Temple Lodge No. 127	Bridgeport	06/10/2026
Burton E. Boardman, 32°	05/01/1973	Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125	New Haven	05/27/2026
Robert J. Cascone, MSA, 32°	04/29/2000	America St. John's Lodge No. 8	Bridgeport	07/14/2026
William R. Cooper, 32°	12/02/1989	Day Spring Lodge No. 30	New Haven	10/04/2024
Kenneth W. Dalling, 32°	12/01/1977	Fidelity St. John's Lodge No. 3	Bridgeport	02/09/2023
Roland D. Kamens, 32°	12/01/1982	Orange Lodge No. 143	New Haven	06/12/2026
William D. Maturo, 32°	12/05/1988	Temple Lodge No. 16	New Haven	06/27/2026
Robert D. Packham, 32°	05/06/1995	America St. John's Lodge No. 8	Bridgeport	05/27/2014
Robert E. Terry, 32°	12/01/1986	Corinthian Lodge No. 103	New Haven	03/20/2026
Bruce F. Young, 32°	12/01/1962	Western Star Lodge No. 37	Waterbury	06/11/2026

~ May they rest from their labors. ~

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SWEETENING THE “BREAD OF SHAME” THROUGH MASONRY

continued from page 3

Our lodge is key to activating the awe and mastery in life we so often seek. We do this in many ways, including studying the work, not just reading the lines, but making them part of us and bringing them to life.

If you're feeling disconnected from the awe and light the lodge brings, you can reconnect by mentoring a brother, reaching out to brothers who have been under hardship, or doing the quiet jobs like setting up the room or cleaning up after the meal. Once we begin looking for opportunities to be of service to our brothers, we find them, and the accompanying gratitude, everywhere.

*The concept of "bread of shame" was introduced by an Italian Kabbalist, Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto (1709-1746).



*Detail of Moshe Chaim Luzzatto -
Wall painting in Acre, Israel*

AASR
Cruising
Past the
Manhattan
Skyline
on “Louisa of
the Seas”



Enjoying a Gourmet Dinner



Lady Liberty
Lights the Way



And Dancing, too!



July 18, 2026





HOSPITALER'S CORNER

Your gifts to the Hospitaller 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°

Hospitaller

P.O. Box 309

Stratford, CT 06615

The Valley of Bridgeport's Ban David V. Papp, MSA, 33°

This summer has been a time to pause and refresh the theater, as well as our hardworking casts that have been doing yeoman's duties these past several seasons. There was no summer degree this year, but restoration work on the physical plant proceeded at full speed. With the untimely transition of Ill. Raymond Dolyak, MSA, 33°, there has been a shuffling of positions here in the Valley. Brother Joe Lengyel, MSA, 32°, has replaced Brother Ray as Manager of Stage and Props, and Brother David Papp, MSA, 32°, has been named the Scottish Rite Building Corporation's Operations Manager. Upon his appointment, Bro. David began identifying, evaluating, and coordinating solutions to several matters affecting the building and its property.



The first issue was repairing a longstanding problem with leaks in the roof.



Two of the rooftop air conditioning units had to be rebuilt. One piece of good news: the sump pumps and mold filtration system were inspected and found to be in good operating condition.

g-Up Building Corporation's Operations Manager, 2°, Restores the Building to Tip-Top Shape.



The Twin Marquees on each side of the front entrance required extensive restoration by a Master Carpenter who carefully reproduced the original mill work. The project is ongoing as new poster boxes are being fashioned as this is being written. David reports that the new marquees, along with new stunning lighting, will be in place for the September degrees.

Exterior doors that had begun to rust were scraped and repainted.



The second set of problems was inside the theater, which required replacing the moldy floor carpeting and the carpet on the theater stage.

Lastly, the side of the building was repaired after a hit-and-run incident, and all the brick supporting columns were repainted. New bollards were installed to prevent a future recurrence of this type of incident.

As the Fall/Winter season approaches, the Theater is in tip-top shape. This year, there is much to appreciate as the physical theater has been restored to flawless operating condition!

Valley of Bridgeport Organi



August 8, 2026



ational Dinner ~ Stratford



Riverview
Bistro



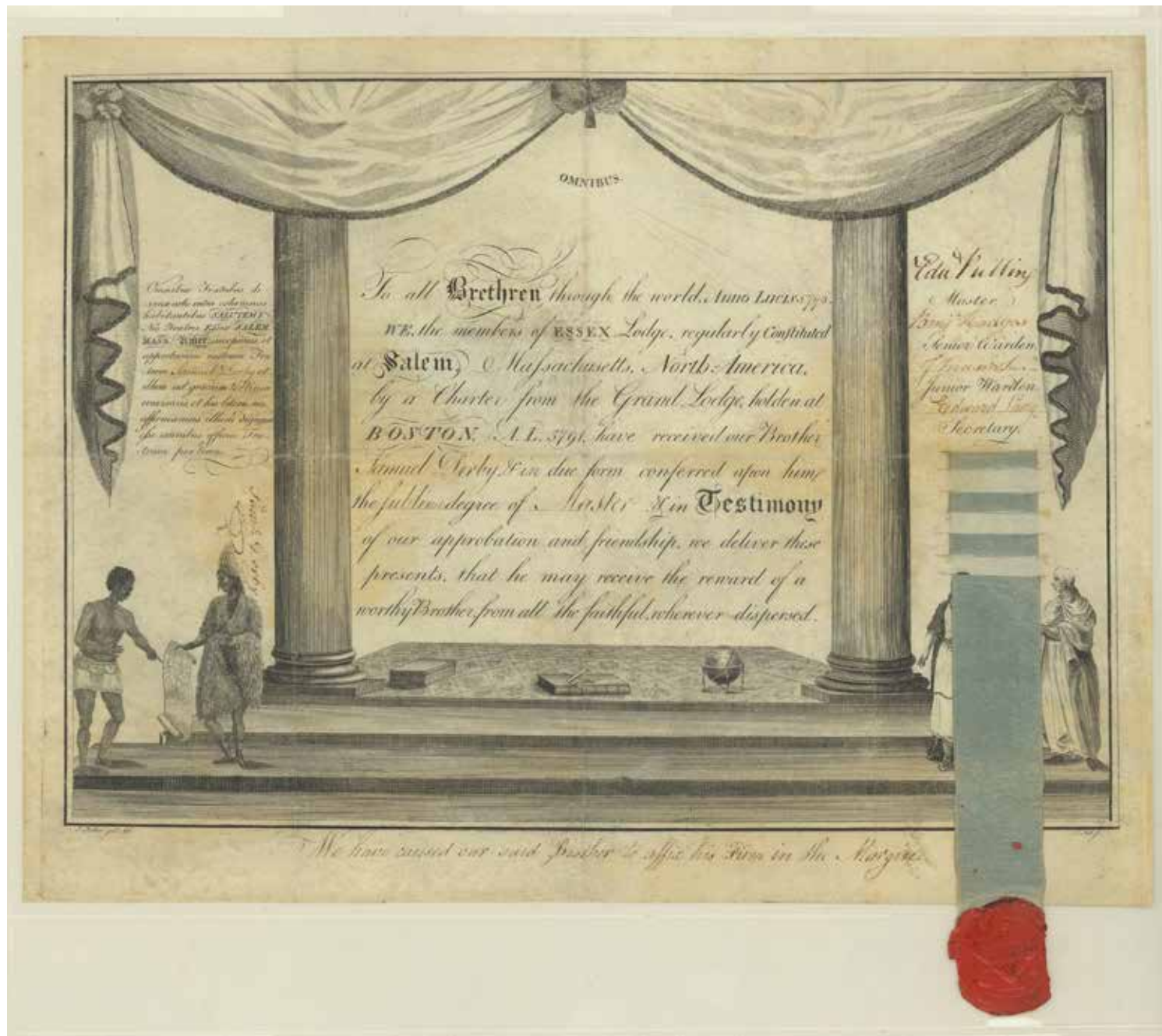
AN AMERICAN MASON VISITS A LODGE IN INDONESIA IN 1801

BY JEFFREY CROTEAU, DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY & ARCHIVES,
SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC MUSEUM & LIBRARY^o

This 1796 certificate proclaimed “To all Brethren through the world” that Samuel Derby had received the Master Mason degree at Essex Lodge in Salem, Massachusetts. This certificate’s design reflected Essex Lodge’s many seafaring members’ interest in the world; the four allegorical figures at the bottom are common eighteenth-century Western art representations of the continents of

Africa, America, Asia, and Europe. But what makes this certificate particularly interesting is not so much the front of the certificate, but, instead, a note on the back, which provides a glimpse into a journey that this certificate made as it traveled around the world with Derby.

The note on the reverse is written in Dutch and reads:



Master Mason Certificate Issued to Samuel G. Derby, 1796, Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, Lexington, Massachusetts, Museum Purchase, A1984/021/001.

Continued on page 17

[Br. Samuel Derby heeft dit certificaat] Gepresenteerd aan de [Loge] La Vertueuse te Batavia op de 15. Dag van de 4. Maand In 't Jaar des Lichts 5801 En de Werken in de 3e graad bijgewoond. [C J ?] Gerts [Geris?] Sec.:

The note can be translated as:

[Bro. Samuel Derby has] presented [this certificate] to the [Lodge] “La Vertueuse” at Batavia on the 15th day of the 4th month in the year of the Light 5801 [i.e., 1801] and [he has] been present at the Works [of the Lodge] in the 3rd degree. CJ [?]Gerts[?], Sec[retary]

Samuel Gardner Derby (1767–1843) was a Massachusetts merchant and a sea captain who co-owned a ship named *Margaret*. This certificate appears to have accompanied him when he set sail from Salem in 1800 headed for Sumatra in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). While in Jakarta—called “Batavia” by Dutch colonists—the East India Company commissioned Derby to carry their cargo to and from Japan. Derby’s clerk kept a logbook of the entire voyage, which gives further context to the note on the back of his Master Mason certificate and how it fit in with the ship’s voyage.

Derby’s ship, the *Margaret*, departed Salem, Massachusetts, on November 19, 1800, bound for Sumatra. On February 4, 1801, he and his crew rounded the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of the continent of Africa and arrived in Sumatra (then under colonial rule as part of the Dutch East Indies) on April 9, 1801. They departed for Jakarta the following day and arrived there on April 24, 1801. The ship and its crew remained anchored at Jakarta from April 24 through June 20, 1801. It was during these two months, while in port, that Derby visited a Masonic lodge.

The Secretary (whose name is difficult to discern at the bottom of the note) of the lodge “La Vertueuse” wrote on the back of the certificate that Derby had visited the lodge and witnessed the third – that is, Master Mason – degree while at the lodge. He also notes that this took place “de 15. Dag van de / 4. Maand In 't Jaar des Lichts 5801,” or, “the 15th day of the 4th month in the year of Light 5801.” Dating conventions used in Masonic documents can be tricky, and this case is no exception. The year 5801 was created using a +4,000 system, which simply adds four thousand years to the current date. This



is a very common convention in Masonic documents. So, in this case, 5801 simply reads as 1801. The month is less straightforward, since one might assume that the fourth month would be April. However, many Masonic documents during this time period – especially those from France and other European countries – start counting the year from March. So, in this case, the fourth month is June, which lets us date this note to June 15, 1801. This matches up with the journal, which makes it clear that Derby and his crew were in Jakarta through June 20, at which point they began their journey to their final destination, arriving in Nagasaki, Japan, on July 19, 1801. Derby would eventually return home to Salem, Massachusetts, from this journey a year later, during the summer of 1802.

Derby’s certificate not only helps document his remarkable journey, but also reminds us that Freemasonry’s presence around the world is the result of colonialism. English colonists first brought Freemasonry to North America in the 1730s, and colonists from England and other European countries introduced Freemasonry to places far from its origins. It is because of colonialism, after all, that circumstances were created that allowed Derby, an American Mason, to visit a Dutch-speaking Masonic lodge with a French name in Indonesia in 1801.

This story was originally published on the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library’s blog. To read more stories about objects from the museum’s collection, visit <https://www.srmml.org/blog>.

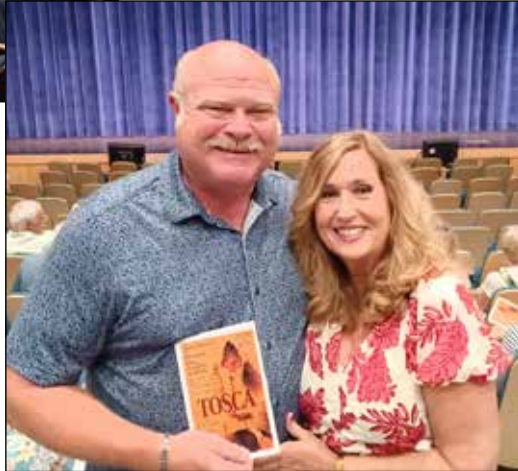
The Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives is located in Lexington, Massachusetts, at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, and is open to the public. Have questions? Drop us a line at library@srmml.org or give us a call at 781-457-4109

AASR and Families Enjoy a Night



Puccini's "Tosca" Performed by the Opera Theater of Connecticut

At the
Morgan
School,
Clinton, Ct.



August 9, 2026

Night at the Opera and Dinner

&



Dinner at the Café Allegre



Madison, Ct.



SENIOR BROTHERS: “BIG BROTHER” IS NOW WATCHING YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

BY JOHN A. AMARILIOS, MSA, 33°

Enabled a couple of years ago, Connecticut Public Act 23-161 allows banks to trigger 17-day freezes on bank accounts owned by seniors (defined as individuals over the age of 65). Similar legislation applies in many other states as well. This was implemented as a result of the nationwide epidemic of elder fraud, which has deprived many seniors of millions of dollars of hard-earned money. The law provides safe harbor to banks for doing this and prohibits depositors from suing them for consequential damages as a result of the implementation of this law.

The cost of implementing these systems requires banks to rely on automated systems using AI and often avoid human review. The variables banks program into these systems vary but may include tracking your spending habits, login behavior, your device's electronic signature, your location behavior, and your typical transfer activity. The system looks at patterns, and unfortunately, legitimate activity can be ensnared by these algorithms as they automatically respond to changes in behavioral patterns.

The account freezes are often implemented by the bank when a large withdrawal occurs, which breaks the normal pattern of transactions in your account. My institution prefers that you contact them 5 business days in advance and warn them of the upcoming transfer so that they can override the automated freeze in such a circumstance. Advanced notice is a way to prevent a large transfer from appearing suspicious to the algorithm monitoring your account.

Freezes can also be implemented by the algorithm when it detects changes in behavior. New cell phones, new devices, late-night logins to your accounts, or transferring funds to a new recipient can all serve as a red flag to the AI now monitoring you. A call to your institution prior

to making any such change might alleviate the chance of a freeze. Try to document the impending change before it happens.

The system also monitors your deposits and withdrawals to identify attempts to structure them. Splitting large deposits and withdrawals into several smaller ones in order to avoid internal bank reporting is a federal crime. The “man” is now monitoring these patterns automatically. One large clean withdrawal or deposit is much less likely to trigger a freeze.



Removing a joint owner can also be flagged by AI as a possible exploitation risk. Removing the name of a deceased family member, an ex-spouse, or a family member after a dispute or estate settlement can flag this. You or your representative should contact the bank and provide documentation showing the change is intentional.

When the AI triggers a freeze, your institution may move it to a compliance department that will actually place the hold on the account. Your local branch manager or customer service can do nothing to remove the freeze. If you become a victim of an unwarranted freeze you should attempt to find out who in the institution has placed the freeze, the reason for it, the expected release date and a request a manual review. Do this in writing and establish a record of your attempts to release the freeze.

So, what can you do to hold the AI overlord at bay?

Experts suggest the following:

1. Add a so-called “Trusted Contact” to your account. This person should not be a joint owner and have no access to the money. The bank can contact this person

Continued on page 11

if it suspects exploitation or if the AI-inspired freeze is triggered. Do this at once if you are over 65 to avoid the fallout from an immediate freeze. You should do this at once.

2. Give 5 business days of advance notice of any intended unusual banking activity to your local branch contact;
3. Keep a second (or third) account at different banks in case an AI-inspired freeze knocks your account out of commission for whatever reason.

The law is intended to help seniors with the increasing number of frauds and scams targeting them. You will have to implement the above protections from an unwarranted freeze because the bank will not suggest or do it for you. As our membership ages, more and more of our members may unwittingly fall under the purview of this “Protective Regime.”

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A MASTER’S GAVEL RETURNS TO SERVICE

BY JAMES W. D’ACOSTA, 32°

Leadership is the Worshipful Master’s challenge, responsibility, and burden. He wields a gavel to regulate meetings. The sound of a single rap ends discussions and commands brothers to stand or sit.

At installation on December 14 of Fidelity-St. John’s No. 3’s officers for 2026, Bro. James W. D’Acosta, PM, presented the lodge with the pictured gavel for perpetual use.

The design, properly that of a setting maul used by operative stone masons, is sturdier than a gavel, which has a vulnerable neck. The maul’s dense mass recalls the implement’s intended use in building King Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem, as depicted in the Scottish Rite’s 4th Degree, Master Builder, as well as its perversion when wielded as a weapon in assaulting Grand Master Hiram Abiff in our 3rd Degree. It is a tool whose use for good or ill depends on the character and wisdom of the man using it.

Simultaneously, the Worshipful Master directs and participates

in the work of building spiritual temples reflecting divine goodness, charity, and purity of thought and actions toward all, more especially fraternal brothers, their widows, and orphans.

This maul was fashioned by Wade Manning, a gifted woodworking hobbyist, from a block of rare Cocobolo, a variety of tropical rosewood so dense it sinks rather than floats in water. Its dominant reddish-brown color is interspersed with irregular darker hues, the whole polished to a lustrous finish.

The weight of the maul takes its handler by surprise, much as the variety of tasks demanding a WM’s attention. Its heft denotes its uncommon durability, but even Cocobolo deteriorates and has its own numbered days, as does his tenure. There are just so many meetings and activities encompassing his elected term.

The circular inscription was produced by Fairfield Warde High School’s Wood Manufacturing teacher Luke Allen, using X Tool’s

model D-1 computer-operated laser engraver. Allen then filled the laser-cut letters and numbers with gold leaf pigment mixed with clear adhesive to withstand a century or more of use.

The inscription reads, “The journey east requires support, demands endurance, and leads to pride and humility.”

Used during Bro. D’Acosta’s 2014-2015 term of office, it reenters service to regulate the work of Fairfield’s historic lodge, founded in 1762.



Time for the Annual



Orange Fairgrounds



al AASR Clambake!



"...a bright, bright, bright,
sunshiny day!"



August 15



Fun Continues at the A



32ND DEGREE CAS MAY 4, 2026 - LEO H. LOHRM



Annual AASR Clambake!



ST & CANDIDATES AN II, THEATRE, STRATFORD



FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY LIFE ACTIVITIES ~ THROUGH DECEMBER 2026



<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
09/12/26	Sat.	6 p.m.	Valley of Bridgeport Installation Dinner , Riverview Bistro, Stratford, CT, \$20/person.
09/20/26	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/person.
10/03/26	Sat.	5 p.m.	Essex Clipper Dinner Train , Essex, CT - ride for 2-2 1/2 scenic journey while served a 4-course meal in beautifully restored 1920's Pullman diners, pulled by a vintage diesel locomotive. Leaving the Leo H. Lohrman, II, Theatre in Stratford at 3:30 p.m. \$80/person. SOLD OUT .
11/26/26	Thu.	7:30 a.m.	Annual Turkey Trot 5K Road Race , Thanksgiving morning, supports the Connecticut Children's Dyslexia Centers and other charities.
12/05/26	Sat.	12 p.m.	Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular , A 90-minute Christmas spectacular at the Rockefeller Center 1260 6th Avenue, New York, NY 10020. Leaving the Leo H. Lohrman, II, Scottish Rite Theatre at 12 p.m. Dinner after the show. More details to follow as they become available. \$200/person.
12/18/26	Fri.	6 p.m.	Annual Holiday Party and fundraiser for CT Children's Dyslexia Centers at Woodwinds Banquet Facility, Branford, CT, to include Cigar rolling and silent auction. Formal black tie or formal holiday dress. \$50/person.

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VALLEY OF BRIDGEPORT FALL 2026 DEGREE SCHEDULE



DATE

Mon.	Sept. 28	Stratford	6th Degree (live), 7th Degree (video)
Mon.	Oct. 26	Stratford	11th Degree (live), 8th Degree (video)
Mon.	Nov. 16	Stratford	23rd Degree (live), 27th Degree (video)
Mon.	Dec. 7	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.**



**SCOTCH &
CIGAR NITE**



**Stamford
Cigar Bar**



**AUGUST 8,
2026**



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



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

Please use the coupon below,

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

NAME _____ PHONE _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

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

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION Charge my credit card ☐

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____ / _____

SECURITY CODE _____

SIGNATURE _____

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.*



SAVE THE DATE TO PLAY IT AGAIN AT THE

HOLIDAY PARTY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2026

6 -10 P.M.

WOODWINDS, SPECIAL EVENTS VENUE

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

Four Hour Premium Open Bar
Cocktail Hour, Hot and Cold Hors d'Oeuvres
Salad Station & Pasta Station
Farfalle with Sunday Sauce, Tortellini Alfredo
Entrée Station

Chicken Marsala, Chicken Florentine, Salmon Champagne
Carving Station

Prime Rib & Stuffed Roast Pork
Complements Station ~ Herb Roasted Potatoes,
Seasonal Vegetables Medley, Rice Pilaf
Desserts ~ Assortment of Cookies and Pastries
Served with Coffee, Tea, or Espresso

DRESS IS FORMAL -Black tie or holiday dress

ONLY \$50.00 a person Reserve your place today.
Silent Auction and a Cigar Roller after dinner to
benefit the Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut.

CALL the Scottish Rite Office today to

RSVP: 203-375-0064

Limited Space so RSVP Early by Friday, December 11.



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS

From the Valleys of Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury

CONSISTORY SECRETARY

Ill.: Bruce R. Bellmore, MSA, 33°

EDITOR

Ill.: John A. Amarilios, MSA, 33°

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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.