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Masonicare
Director Emeritus

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New Apartments Open at Masonicare

**Named to Honor**
**MW Kenneth B. Hawkins, Sr.**

On July 16 an enthusiastic crowd that included its namesake, new residents, staff, contractors, neighbors, and the town’s mayor witnessed the ribbon cutting for the Kenneth B. Hawkins Apartments in Wallingford. Under sunny skies, Bro. Ken and his wife, Elaine, did the honors. “I began volunteering at the old Masonic Home and Hospital in 1976, and am proud and humbled to be standing here today in front of this beautiful building,” Bro. Ken said.

The new 36-unit, three-floor Hawkins building seamlessly abuts the A. Norman Johnson Apartments on the Masonicare Health Center campus. It consists of spacious one- and two-bedroom apartments featuring beautiful cabinetry and walk-in showers. William C. Piper, president of Masonicare Health Center, said it was most fitting to name the new building the Center, said it was most fitting for its design and support of the Masonicare mission. He noted its many amenities, the most important being “a safe and attractive environment for seniors.”

Only three one-bedroom apartments remain vacant and many applications have been given to seniors considering moving in the future. Mr. Piper advised them to “get on the waiting list now.”

After a closing benediction by Rev. Anne Baltzell, Masonicare chaplain, the group enjoyed refreshments, including a large sheet cake on which was a picture of the Hawkins building.

Bro. Ken was a member of the Masonicare Board of Trustees from 2000 to 2008, serving as vice chairman from 2004 to 2008. He is now an emeritus member of the Masonicare Board of Trustees. In 1996, he joined the Masonic Healthcare Center board. He was chairman of the Masonic Healthcare Center from 2003 to 2008. Bro. Ken chaired the Healthcare Center’s needs task force and strategic planning committee.

Masonicare chairman Howard W. Orr commented, “Ken has been a pleasure to work with at Masonicare. He has served on many boards and committees throughout his dedicated years of service. His wise council and guidance has been much appreciated.”

A 33° Scottish Rite Mason, Bro. Ken has always been an active member of Connecticut Freemasonry. He is a Past Grand Master, serving in 1993. In 1996, he received the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service. He has been a member of Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford, since 1961 and was its Worshipful Master in 1973.

In addition to approaching his half-century in Masonry, Ken and Elaine are close to reaching their 52nd wedding anniversary. They are the parents of four sons and a daughter, grandparents of 10 and great-grandparents of two. In 1988, Ken participated in all three degrees when his sons joined Masonry together, his proudest Masonic experience. Ken says his efforts in 1989 which resulted in the mutual recognition between the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and the Connecticut Prince Hall Grand Lodge was his proudest accomplishment.

Daughter Susan Carpenter is a Rainbow Past Worthy Advisor and now the scribe advisor of the revitalized Milford Chapter, Order of DeMolay. Dad Ken attributes his Masonic membership to being in DeMolay as a young man, noting that he might never have known about Masonry had he not been a DeMolay. Ken is chairman of the Milford Chapter advisory council, where grandson Nick Carpenter was recently installed as Senior Deacon. The ‘new’ Milford Chapter took first place at the 2009 Conclave, a very proud moment for the man who led the effort to revive the chapter.

Ken Hawkins – a servant and now shelter for the elderly, and a role model for our youth. It’s hard to do much better than that!
Grand Master’s Message

Summer is slowly fading away and we are approaching the fall season of the year. With the change it brings the lodges back to labor after the summer recess for some and to a full schedule for others. Many have schedules filled with degree work and other special programs. It is also a time of the year when planning for the coming year should be started. Time has a way of creeping up and before you know it, there will be annual meetings, a changing of the guard, and installations. It is never too early to start planning ahead.

During the month of September your lodge will be receiving the call to the semi-annual communication of the Grand Lodge which will be held on Saturday October 17 at Ashlar Village in Wallingford. I urge that your lodge take the time to review any new legislation that might be forthcoming which will be voted upon at the session so that those who will be representing your lodge as voting members are aware of the will and pleasure of the lodge and vote accordingly.

Also included will be the call of the annual meeting of Masonicare. A copy of the profile will be included for those who will be elected to serve on the Masonicare Board for a 3 year term and the names of 2 others to fill an unexpired term. Take the time to review the names and select those who would be best qualified to assume these positions. The work of the board is necessary if Masonicare is to continue to provide the best services possible for our residents.

There are several special events happening in the next couple of months with rededications, award nights, and Ladies at the Table for all to attend and enjoy. This information can be found in the newspaper or on my calendar on the web site. Why don’t you come out and join us on these special occasions and support your lodge? We will look forward to meeting and greeting you on our travels around the state.

Fraternally,

Arthur H. Carlstrom
Most Worshipful Grand Master

The Biggest Man in the Room

by Carl G. Ek

Bro. John Gonsalves, formerly of West Hartford, served as Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. in 1988-89, and was a hugely popular brother among the craft.

After retirement, John and wife Rosie began to winter in Florida, and eventually relocated permanently to Ocala – living near MWPGM Norm and Barbara Getchell, and RW Carl and Joyce Edgerton.

John has attended several Grand Lodge annual communications since his relocation, but now in his early 80’s, the trip is more of a strain. Thus, when Masonicare learned that John would be in Connecticut for a month beginning in July, it arranged a surprise luncheon in the auditorium to allow many of John’s friends a chance to see him and catch up on old days.

The surprise had been preserved – when John walked into the auditorium with RW Richard C. Memmott of Masonic Community Services, he was first met by senior PGM Gail L. Smith, and then by dozens of friends from his long Masonic career.

Rev. and RW Past Grand Chaplain Art Dunham offered the blessing, and John moved from table to table, greeting current and former Grand Lodge officers, members of his former Doric Lodge No. 94 (now Composite Lodge No. 28), and other members from the 6th Masonic District, Masonicare staff, and their families.

The day was low key and informal, with RW Grand Organist and Masonicare vice president for fraternal relations Carl Anderson acting as master of ceremonies. Remarks were kept at a minimum so that all could enjoy the excellent lunch and have a few moments of conversation, and pictures taken, with John. He said he’d be in Connecticut for a month and looked forward to seeing friends of long standing before returning south with his son. When will he be back? “When my son is ready to drive me again,” smiled John.

For those who know John Gonsalves, that won’t be soon enough!
Pierpont Edwards Medal Presented to Bill Jeanfavre

by Michael L. Castroll

William George Jeanfavre was born in Torrington, Connecticut, on September 29, 1933, the second son of Robert and Helen Jeanfavre. Bill and older brother Bob went to local schools. Bill enlisted in the United States Air Force after graduating from Torrington High School in 1950, serving his nation for better than 10 years. His last assignment was in Klamath, California.

Returning east, Bill met Jean Russell and they were married in 1962. Bill and Jean both have a Masonic heritage, so it was natural for each to seek their own path in the fraternity. Bill's father and uncle were both PM's of Seneca Lodge No. 55, Torrington, and brother Bob was a member of Ionic Chapter, Order of DeMolay. Jean was active in her Rainbow Assembly and then joined the Order of the Eastern Star, becoming a Past Matron of Frederica Chapter No. 101, Plainville. Jean would later go on to serve as Worthy Grand Matron of Connecticut. (Also, Jean's brother, RW Chet Russell, is a Past Master and secretary of Bill's Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville – a chorus of "All in the Family," please!).

Bill's new assignment as "head of the house" did not keep him from attending to his chosen profession. Bill was a mainstay at Torrington Manufacturing until the business closed, then, journeyman Bill applied his electrical expertise at Grosite Industries. Bill's final stop on the employment trail found him at Avon Old Farms School.

Since retiring, Bill has found time tend to gardening and master golf skills in the summer, ski in the winter, and spend time at his camp on Dog Pond in Goshen. Bill and Jean also travel throughout the United States, as well as exotic places such as South America and French Polynesia.

Bill naturally found his way to Masonry and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Frederick Lodge No. 14 (now Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14) on November 26, 1968. Brother Bill has served as the lodge's organist for the past 25 years. He is also an active member of Frederick-Franklin's degree team, and has been a valued member of the lodge's board of trustees.

Brother Bill loves to tickle the ivories wherever he goes. On a visit to Eastern Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville, three years ago, Bill started playing the organ. He has been their organist ever since. For his efforts, Bill was made an honorary member of the lodge.

Brother Bill was exalted in Columbia Chapter No. 31, RAM and served as ME High Priest; he was greeted in Lee Council No. 25, RSM, where he rose through the ranks to become Thrice Illustrious Master, serving both bodies in 2000. He continues in both bodies as secretary and recorder, respectively. Noble Bill joined the Sphinx Shriners Hospital van driver since 2002, holding a certificate for 25 trips to the Shrine Burns Center in Boston.

Brother Bill is well noted for his activity in the Order of the Eastern Star. (Some might say Bill was prodded by wife Jean.) Bill joined the Star in 1976, and has been an officer in Frederica Chapter ever since. He came up the ranks and served the chapter as Worthy Patron five times! He serves Frederica Chapter as organist, and has done so for 21 years. Appointed Grand Representative to Saskatchewan, Bill served as organist for the Grand Chapter in 2003, and has served the Grand Chapter as General Chairman of the 1990 Grand Chapter, as well as being registration chairman of several Grand Chapter sessions. Bill has always displayed a quiet and amiable disposition. Unassuming and unpretentious, he is hardly shy about lending a helping hand. He is as congenial and mild-mannered, as his citation has proclaimed. "Music is the soother of the soul," Bill said. Bill's attraction to Masonry and music has reaped its benefits.

The move to honor Bill was unanimously supported as he is a brother who has dedicated himself to bring harmony into our teachings. It is no wonder that Brother William George Jeanfavre was the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.

Consistory Day Set for November 14

Hear Ye, Hear Ye…. Ill. John Wm. McNaughton, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, has declared November 14, 2009 as Scottish Rite Day for all Consistories. Nathan Hale Consistory will join Lafayette Consistory and Connecticut Consistory for a statewide Consistory Day at 285 Whitney Avenue, New Haven.

The best ritualists from all five Valleys in Connecticut will take part on that day. The rendezvous will also include in the degree work brothers from AASR, Prince Hall, making this a truly statewide rendezvous of all Scottish Rite Masons.

The ultimate goal, as SGC McNaughton has said, is to make our part of the Masonic fraternity the premier Masonic organization for Masons to belong to and to make our members proud of their association with the Scottish Rite.

The rendezvous will start at 10:00 a.m. with recognition of our military brothers and both Most Worshipful Grand Masters: Arthur H. Carlstrom, 33°, Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF&AM, and Michael L. Ferguson, 33°, Grand Lodge of Connecticut, F&A, PHA.

Between the portrayals of the 31° and the 32° we will hear from SGC McNaughton and his Prince Hall counterpart, Ill. Sovereign Grand Commander Solomon Wallace, 33°. The activities will conclude with a luncheon and fellowship.

Details will appear on the Valley of Hartford website: www=valleyofhartford.org.
When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrow like a sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Many of you, I’m sure, are familiar with this great hymn and some of you are familiar with the circumstances under which it was written. Please indulge me while I tell the story to those who have not heard the history of this beautiful hymn.

Horatio Spafford was a wealthy Chicago businessman, community leader, and a man of faith. He was prosperous, had a lovely family, and was well respected. Then the Great Chicago Fire of October, 1871 wiped out his investments and he was financially ruined. Shortly thereafter, his wife and four daughters were sailing to Europe upon the Ville du Havre when it collided with another vessel. His wife sent him a horrifying telegram – “Survived alone.” All four of his beloved daughters had perished. In a few brief months, everything he had was destroyed and taken from him.

In 1873, while sailing to Europe, he passed the spot where his daughters had lost their lives. He returned to his stateroom where he says the spirit of God inspired him to write this poem.

I hope that none of us will have to endure the sorrows that Horatio Spafford suffered. Many have suffered financially in the recession and we all lose loved ones. But to be financially ruined and to lose our families all at the same time would devastate anyone. And yet, this man of faith knew that God was there with him, that God endures when all else passes away, and that God – and God alone – is the light and life of men.

Too often in our modern world, we are told that everything depends on us. Our children are taught in school that they themselves are the only thing that matters. Modern life doesn’t allow for the Grace of God. I often find that I forget about the Grace of God. It isn’t hard to do. I think about injustice, political unrest, and the unravelling of the social fabric of our world. Then I think about my own challenges, my own fears, and concerns, and I wonder how I will get through it and how I will survive.

My brothers, the “good news” is that we don’t have to try to solve these problems alone. We are not alone. Everything doesn’t depend on us alone. We cannot overcome these obstacles and misfortunes if we rely solely on ourselves. We need to open our hearts and minds to the Grace and love of Almighty God in whom we live.

Job, when all had been taken from him and his life ruined responded by saying “For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.” Job 19:25-26

I pray that when life becomes too demanding, when “sorrows like sea billows roll,” that you will remember that our Redeemer lives and that God is always there. God will help in your times of trouble and grief. It is well with your soul!
What Does It Take To Make A Trestleboard?

by Jim McWain
Grand Senior Warden

In previous articles I have discussed Masons and lodges, the need for mentors and lodges to make Masons competent in the craft, and the need for lodges to be in touch with all their members.

Many lodge members do not attend their own or other lodge’s meetings. There are many reasons for their absence, ranging from work schedules, lack of interest, the boredom of incessant business meetings, and a shortage of meaningful, interesting programs. Most lodge members who regularly attend assume the missing members are, in some way, lacking in dedication for not attending meetings.

Most Masters urge their members to attend meetings. Many also provide information in the Master’s Message in the lodge trestleboard concerning lodge activities for the near future and inform long absent members of what they are missing by not attending lodge.

Often, the general thrust is to urge them to attend lodge meetings by “making them feel guilty.” Guilt is not a good motivator and usually turns people sour toward the organization that is projecting the guilt message. This is especially true if that person feels that he has good reasons for his actions, the organization does not understand his specific situation, and no one from the organization has bothered to contact him. In short, he does not feel “connected.” Additionally, if our absent member has been living according to the precepts inculcated in the lodge when he was raised, he may resent being told to attend lodge as proof of his dedication.

The dilemma, then, is how to maintain contact with all lodge members, keep them informed about members and lodge activities, provide educational information, and offer opportunities to maintain contact with the lodge and members.

Communication is a wonderful thing today—way ahead of the letter and telephone used when I was raised. Lodges have web sites, everyone seems to have access to various telephones, most have some form of e-mail, and some lodges are now using “Facebook.” Means of communication is not the problem. The difficulty is to establish a program, a means, of maintaining contact with all members.

It is the responsibility of the lodge officers to keep in touch with all members and keep them informed. A committee of new members can assist with phone and/or personal contact. The lodge trestleboard can be organized into an excellent, informative resource that the officers can use to establish a bond with all members.

Trestleboards typically inform members who normally come to lodge of what is happening next month or next quarter. If we assume that our absent members are living by the Masonic precepts and they have a good reason for not attending, then the trestleboard becomes a means of keeping them “connected.” The mission of the officers and editor of the trestleboard then becomes much more comprehensive than simply informing regular attendees of next month’s meetings. Now they are producing a pamphlet, directed to all members, which makes them feel an informed brother, a part of the lodge, proud of the “good work” being accomplished, and, most importantly, proud to be a Mason.

The guide for this “new look” trestleboard is that it be interesting, educational, and informative. The goal is to have each member look forward to the next issue so he can find out what is happening in his lodge.

What should this new, comprehensive trestleboard contain? The Master’s Message should concentrate on the goals of the lodge and how the year is progressing. The Senior and Junior Wardens should have short messages concerning the lodge at labor and refreshment. The secretary and editor should include information for the members regarding dues, membership, new members, service awards, and other administrative items such as member’s Masonic birthdays. Other articles should include: future schedules; important lodge events; opportunities to visit other lodges; educational information (the Masonic Service Association has monthly pamphlets with informative articles as well as a great web site and there are numerous web sites to be explored for educational items); pictures of the members at work and refreshment; and contact information (phone, website, and e-mail address) so members can communicate with the lodge and provide info to the trestleboard.

Remember, it must be interesting, informative, and educational. Its purpose is to make everyone feel “connected” to his lodge and proud to be a Mason.

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There was only one year during the battle for America’s Independence in which there was not a significant campaign or critical battle. It could be accepted that there was more happening within the fraternity in Connecticut than on the battlefield. Jonathan Heart was secretary of American Union Lodge and 230 years ago, in February 1779, they met in Redding at Widow Sanford’s Tavern. The attendance showed nine present (three members, five visitors, and the tiler). It happened to be the third anniversary of the commissioning of the lodge by Joel Clark.

During the summer and fall of 1776 the Master died as a prisoner of war after being wounded in the Battle of Long Island. At the February meeting, Samuel Holden Parsons, then a Brigadier General, was elected Master, Heart was elected Senior Warden, and the other elected officers were Elihu Marshall as Junior Warden, Isaac Sherman as Treasurer, and William Judd as Secretary. The elected Master was not present; he was on duty defending New London. Three days later there were three candidates who were made Masons and others were proposed for membership.

During the next ten weeks, at least fifteen meetings were held with nineteen officers of the Connecticut regiment becoming Masons.

Reviewing proceedings of our Grand Lodge is always interesting as we see some of the decisions of Grand Masters. The understanding of our landmarks and our constitution has varied through the ages and decisions are been rendered by a presiding Grand Master based on his understanding of the law as it pertains to the question put before him. These are some examples.

1872 – GM Gould ruled that to make a Mason at sight is the highest and most responsible prerogative of a Grand Master. The candidate must be investigated and degree worked in full form and a record made and reported to the Grand Lodge for action.

1873 – GM Lockwood ruled that the Grand Secretary cannot certify to anything that is not a matter of record in the archives of the Grand Lodge. He cannot certify to any fact within his personal knowledge. Hence he cannot certify that a woman is the widow of a Mason.

1885 – GM Waugh stated that officers of a lodge UD (under dispensation) cannot be installed. Just one year earlier GM Waldron made a declaration that a Master-elect cannot be installed by proxy.

1887 – GM Green stated that temperance is one of the cardinal virtues of Masonry. Intemperance is one of the worst offenses in Masonry.

1918 – GM Nickerson ruled that there is no such thing as a vote to rescind a ballot rejecting a candidate.

Sixty years ago (1949), Grand Master’s Day in Wallingford was held on September 24 as was then traditional. MW Phillip J. Jones invited the craft to Wallingford. An interesting article appeared in the September 1949 issue of the Connecticut Square and Compasses.

The summer recess provided brothers and their lodges with a period of refreshment that hopefully provided encouragement for active labors in September and beyond. We look forward to an active fall season.

Freedom Flag Presentation

by Jacqueline P. Atwell

The “Freedom Flag” was presented to of the Eastern Star Grand Chapter in honor of Worthy Grand Matron Ellen L. Hendrick, Worthy Grand Patron Carl P. Larson, and the Eastern Star family on July 19. The flag was carried into the room by Sergeant Shawn Piercey, U.S. Army Reserve.

The Freedom Flag, designed by Richard Melito of Richmond, Virginia, was developed by the Commonwealth of Virginia to pay tribute to the casualties and the survivors of the September 11 terrorist attack.

The symbols of the flag are:
Blue Background – all Americans united together for freedom.
White Star - all who lived and died for freedom.
Five White Bars – the Pentagon and the organized protection of our freedom.
Two Broad Red Stripes – the Twin Towers and the people who died in the towers and crew and passengers on American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175.
Top Red Stripe – the people who perished at the Pentagon and the crew and passengers on American Airlines Flight 77.
Bottom Red Stripe – the crew and passengers who perished on American Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania.
The 3 White Stripes – the rescue workers, firefighters, police, Port Authority employees, and others who worked tirelessly during and after the attack.
This Freedom Flag honors the heroes of September 11.

Worthy Grand Patron Carl P. Larson holds up the Freedom Flag as Grand Adah Jacqueline P. Atwell explains the symbolism of the design.
Conclave 2009 A Huge Event

by Carl G. Ek

When State Master Councilor Bro. Josh Tenner sounded the gavel to open the 2009 Connecticut DeMolay State Conclave at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, he looked out on the largest Conclave attendance in perhaps 15 years. Over 160 DeMolays, advisors, and special guests were present, and awaiting initiation were another 11 young men whose membership gave Connecticut DeMolay net membership growth for the ninth consecutive year.

SMC Tenner welcomed leaders from various parts of the Masonic family, but the most special ‘special guest’ was one of Senior DeMolay and Most Worshipful Grand Master Arthur H. Carlstrom. Bro. Carlstrom is the first Connecticut PSMC – serving in 1956-57 – to be Grand Master in Connecticut, and his welcome befitted his past service.

Both degrees of DeMolay were conferred and nominations held for the Saturday election of new state officers. Executive Officer Harry E. Needham, III presented several awards and announced those who had been elected by DeMolay International to receive the Legion of Honor, Cross of Honor, and Chevalier – all were at Conclave and escorted to the Grand East.

Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar and Senior DeMolay Bruce R. Bellmore changed chapeaux for a moment to make a presentation on behalf of Lafayette Consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Bridgeport. Dad Bellmore presented a Conclave sponsorship check in the amount of $7,500.00 to help reduce Conclave costs for DeMolays attending. It was also announced that Wooster Lodge No. 79 of New Haven had donated the Conclave shirts for the first time this year.

Bro. Tenner recessed the meeting and the DeMolays scurried to the pool to cool off and to take part in swimming competitions.

The next morning saw Conclave participants – some of whom had not slept – attend a breakfast that was followed by Americanism observances. Bro. and Lt. Michael Vaughan of Unity Lodge No. 148, New Britain, brought a military ambulance, made a presentation about life in a combat zone, and then answered questions from the brethren.

The second half of the observance saw state officers reading the Declaration of Independence while a patriotic slideshow developed by Dad Andy Birdsall, PSMC and chapter advisor of Sleeping Giant Chapter, played on a screen. The observance was capped by the solo electric guitar rendition of the Star Spangled Banner by new DeMolay Rich Magnotti, also of Sleeping Giant. Rich’s rendition brought suggestions that he was channeling Jimi Hendrix’ version of the anthem!

For the competitions, members of Sleeping Giant Chapter donned special tie-dyed t-shirts to accompany their competition banner, featuring the ‘Rampaging Snails.’

Fun was set aside for a moment as the business of electing state officers occupied the Conclave. Greg Goto of Edward W. Slade Chapter and Milford Chapter was elected State Master Councilor, Tyler Anderson of Robert H. Heller Chapter Deputy State Master Councilor, and Nicholas Ferrigno and Paul Evangelista, both of Sleeping Giant Chapter, were elected State Senior and State Junior Councilors, respectively.

Bro. Goto announced that Bro. Lorenzo Cardoso of Edward Slade would be State Senior Deacon, Matthew Lingenfelter of Sleeping Giant State Chaplain, Manny Peters of Laurel Chapter State Marshal, Benjamin Stern of New Haven Chapter State Scribe, and Harry E. ‘Jake’ Needham, IV the State Officer at Large.

After dinner, it was time for the Preceptor ritual competition. Several DeMolays competed in, and placed, in multiple parts. Track and field events were held in the CCSU ‘bubble’ before the group adjourned to the gym for basketball competition.

Eleven young men who joined Connecticut DeMolay at the Conclave initiatory degree class on July 10. Connecticut DeMolay membership grew for the 9th consecutive year.

Sunday morning found the tired DeMolays at breakfast and a post-meal non-denominational presentation by Dad Carl G. Ek, PSMC. His topic was DeMolay’s second precept – reverence for sacred things – and he asked the DeMolays to consider what they do or should – hold as ‘sacred.’

Surprisingly alert and well-dressed DeMolays then witnessed the installation of their new state officers under the direction of outgoing SMC Tenner, who was presented his PSMC jewel later in the morning. Bro. Chris Kehagias of Laurel Chapter was presented the Damien L. Becroft Memorial Award for Conclave spirit and brotherhood, and Connecticut’s Past State Master Councilors presented a new developed Conclave Spirit Award, represented by a 6-foot tall traveling trophy. The unanimous recipients of the initial award were the tie-dyed Rampaging Snails of Sleeping Giant Chapter.

At the closing banquet, Dad Carl G. Ek in his capacity as Worshipful Master of Unity Lodge No. 148, presented new SMC Goto with a Conclave sponsorship check of $5,000, noting that it was not to be used for a stop at Wendy’s, or for fountain soda…. Dad Harry E. Needham, III then presented a series of William Campbell Medals and awarded the Guild of the Leather Apron (advisor of the year) to Dad J. Andrew Birdsall, chapter advisor of Sleeping Giant Chapter.

After remarks from MW Carlstrom, DeMolays and advisors departed, appreciative of the work of Conclave Director Dad John S. Rhoads and his staff, and inspired to greater service and growth in the upcoming DeMolay year.

Photo: The head table at the Conclave 2009 closing banquet. From left: Grand Worthy Advisor Brittany Martin; State Sweetheart Brittany Blanchette; PWA Krystal McNamara-Cool, guest of immediate Past State Master Councilor Josh Tenner; Sister Jessica Stanley of Mountain Laurel Assembly No. 27, guest of new SMC Greg Goto; and Wilson, new friend of PSMC Jake Needham.
Texas Masonry First Hand

by Marshall K. Robinson

On July 9, I flew to Dallas-Fort Worth and drove my rental car to Comanche, Texas to visit an old friend, Frank Smith, who was to be installed as Worshipful Master of Hope Lodge No. 481. The weather was very hot, hitting 109 degrees on my way.

Brother Frank and I had some time to visit and reminisce about days gone by, which is always pleasant. My timing was such that on Thursday I drove directly from the airport to the lodge. I was administered the Tiler's Oath and sat in lodge with Brother Frank and brethren. I have always enjoyed visiting other lodges, especially those out of state or out of the country. The Texas opening and closing rituals are very similar to ours; we could open their lodge and they could open our lodge, that's how close it is.

On Saturday, the installation took place with, again, similar ritual. My long-time friend, Bro. Frank Smith was installed as Worshipful Master of Hope Lodge No. 481.

Another tradition is that on the day of installation, the incoming Master must provide food and refreshments for all in attendance. I can tell you that Bro. Frank's wife worked for two days preparing it.

It was a fun and rewarding experience and, as always, I strongly recommend that everyone visit other lodges. There are many new friends to be made and a lot to learn about our wonderful craft. I have always found Texans to be hospitable, friendly, and enjoyable to be with and look forward to my next visit.

You Have the Power to Save Lives – And Now it’s Even Easier!

by Richard F. Denno

Starting on September 1, signing up as a registered organ and tissue donor can easily be done online. Simply go to our Grand Lodge website, www.ctfreemasons.net, and scroll down to Donate Life. “Click here” will bring you to the new Donate Life New England website. At the bottom of the page click ‘register’ in the sign me up box. A primary advantage is that people can immediately register online, without having to wait for the Connecticut DMV to mail out a change of address card, which would have to be completed, stamped and returned to the DMV.

“This does not replace the DMV registries, but offers a convenient way for people to make their donation wishes known, as a supplemental system to the DMV registries,” said Chas Mackenzie, education manager of LifeChoice Donor Services, an organ procurement organization (OPO) and affiliate of Donate Life America. This New England Donor Registry is maintained by both LifeChoice and the New England Organ Bank, and covers all of the New England States. Mackenzie further noted that like registering through the DMV, this online registration is a ‘legally binding first person consent for organ and tissue donation’.

Deciding to become a registered organ and tissue donor should be an informed decision. After reaching the Donate Life New England website, please take the opportunity to check out the sections titled “Questions About Donations” and “Questions About the Registry.” Answers can be found to most questions. Additional questions can be asked by email, by going to the “About Us” section.

Another inspirational section is titled Stories, and deals with stories of life and giving. By telling the stories of both organ donors and recipients, this section ‘puts a face’ on organ donation. The “Resources and Links” section is a compilation of other websites, which provide more information on organ and tissue donation and on organ transplantation.

One advantage of the new registry, according to Mackenzie, involves people without a state ID or driver’s license. “People can still make their donation wishes known and have them accessible to the New England OPO. A donor card in someone’s wallet may be hard to find when needed,” noted Mackenzie.

There are unique features about the Donate Life Registry. For example, registering donors may do so “In memory of a loved one.” Another feature involves emails. After registration, you will be sent two emails. The first email will be a confirmation of registration and the second email to forward to family and friends to notify them of your decision to donate and urge them to get involved as well.

Perhaps the family of one of the donors in the ‘stories’ section, Amanda Paro, expressed it best: “The saddest day in our family’s lives turned into the happiest for another family’s. Knowing this fact brings our family comfort and reassurance that Mandy lived and died helping people.”

Online registration is the simplest way of giving ‘The Gift of Life’ to others in desperate need. Remember, “Don’t take your organs to heaven – Heaven knows we need them here!”

Cape Cod Nutmegger Reunion

You are invited to join Brother Arthur H. Carlstrom, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut, at the annual Cape Cod Nutmegger Reunion on Tuesday, September 22. It will be held at the popular Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis. The resort is located at Route 132 and Bearse’s Way.

The reunion will include a luncheon and update about Masonicare and its affiliates. “It’s a great opportunity to stay connected to our Masonic family members on the Cape,” said Brother Carl Anderson, vice president for fraternal relations at Masonicare. “We want to personally update members on the happenings and services of Masonicare.”

The cost of the program is $15 per person, which includes the luncheon. For reservations or more information, please call Brother Carl at 203-679-6917.
Ray and Laura Cooley Maintain “Heartfelt” Support of Masonicare

In 1981, RW Ray Cooley was working in the mental health field as a psychiatric chaplain in Kentucky when he was recruited to develop a clinical pastoral education program at Masonicare Health Center (MHC) in Wallingford, then known as the Masonic Home and Hospital.

“I felt this urge, this call, to work with older people,” Ray said. “So I came up here, interviewed, and fell in love with the place. There was no Ashlar Village yet — just the Masonic Home, cows, and a dairy barn. We were still drinking milk from our own dairy.”

Ray retired in 2006 after 25 years as director of spiritual services at MHC and Masonicare at Newtown. He and his wife of 49 years, Laura, recently shared their thoughts, feelings, and reflections on being a part of the Masonicare family and supporting the Masonicare Annual Appeal, The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut’s ongoing campaign to help Masonicare’s affiliates provide outstanding care for seniors.

A member of Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Bro. Ray joined the fraternity shortly after moving to Connecticut. He is Right Worshipful Past Grand Chaplain for the Grand Lodge of Connecticut (1984 and 1989) and is active in the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, where he served for several years as Eminent Grand Prelate, leading prayers at worship services and conducting sermons. Ray still graciously volunteers to give the invocation at the Masonicare Annual Appeal Donor Breakfast on Grand Master’s Day when his schedule permits.

Laura enjoyed volunteering for many years in the recreation department at MHC doing crafts with the residents. The oldest of the Cooleys’ three children, Karen, worked in MHC housekeeping one summer, but then worked as a recreation therapist in the dementia unit. She is now director of a dementia care program at Benchmark Assisted Living in Brookfield.

Looking back on his many years of service to Masonicare, Ray is very pleased to have helped get MHC accredited by the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education. What he found most rewarding was working with people. This included providing supportive care to the terminally ill and their families, leading worship services and bible studies, and developing what he calls a “spiritual life review program” in which he and his pastoral education students made audio recordings of people living at MHC and Ashlar Village. From 1983 until 2004, they collected stories from nearly 200 residents.

“I happened upon a book,” Ray said, “by Dr. Robert Butler, a gerontologist who first developed the message that when elderly people start remembering the past, it’s not because they’re living in the past, it’s because they are bringing meaning to their lives. So we recorded them with the idea of preserving their memories, how they felt about the contributions they made in life, and how they would like to be remembered.”

During his time as a Masonicare staff member, Ray felt it was important to support the Annual Appeal. Giving to The Masonic Charity Foundation remains a priority to the Cooley’s, even in retirement.

“Giving to the Annual Appeal makes you feel like more a part of what’s happening at Masonicare,” Ray said. “I think of us, even as employees, as belonging to the Masonic community, whether or not we belong to the Masons, or the Order of the Eastern Star, or some other affiliated organization. It’s good to know that we can contribute to that community and its future.”

Annual Appeal donors since 1986, the Cooley’s generously increased their contribution in 2008 to join the Masonicare Society. Members of this ever-expanding group of caring individuals and organizations are those who give $520 or more each year in support of the Annual Appeal.

“I continue to feel like I’m a part of Masonicare Health Center and believe very strongly in what Masonicare is doing,” Ray explained. “I believe in the quality of care that Masonicare offers, including spiritual care, and I am also a Mason who wants to support the Masonic facility here in Connecticut. Above and beyond all of that, our donation is heartfelt.”

First Pitch

Seth Kolasinski throws out a first ball at the Sunday, June 28 New Britain Rock Cats game. Seth is the son of Kathy Hertweck, Administrative Assistant for Inpatient Rehab Services at Masonicare Health Center, and the grandson of the late Bro. William and Gladys Hertweck. Bill had been an active member of Center Lodge No. 97, Meriden, for over 50 years.

One of the beneficiaries of ticket sales for the game was the Quality of Life Funds of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. Thanks to all who bought tickets. It was a fun day and it was even sunny!
Letter to the Editor...

I just received my copy of the Connecticut Freemasons and I was anticipating finding a photograph of the Pyramid/Sphinx Highlander Pipe Band marching in the parade, only to find a photograph of a non-Masonic Band (New Haven Gaelic Pipe Band) instead. I saw pictures of the other Masonic Organizations (OES, Templar’s, etc.), but not the Shrine Pipe Band. Both myself and my band mates were disappointed in your choice of using this photograph, instead of a Pyramid/Sphinx Highlander Pipe Band photograph for the paper. Our band was the leading pipe band, and came out in good numbers to support Grand Masters Day, however, for some reason the New Haven Gaelic Pipe Band’s picture was chosen to reflect a Masonic event.

Respectfully yours,
Thomas Till

Editor – Bro. Till, thank you for your comments. The photos were chosen strictly by which was the “best” photograph. There were many other Masonic groups not included, as well. I’m sorry we did not include the Pyramid/Sphinx Highlander Pipe Band but here is a photograph of your group from that day.

Rainbow Majority Members Find Fun and Funds at Rock Cats

by Carl G. Ek

The Connecticut Majority Association – a group of majority members of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls – was established in 2005 to bring together senior Rainbow members for fun and the opportunity to provide service to upcoming generations of Rainbow Girls.

In July, the organization, led by president Tonya Affricano, held a fund-raiser in conjunction with the New Britain Rock Cats baseball team. Over 200 game tickets were sold to family, friends, members of the Masons and Eastern Star, and even a large contingent of DeMolay members. Tonya, a Past Worthy Advisor of Willimantic Assembly No. 26 and State Miss Service in 1987, noted that the money will be used to help provide scholarships for continuing education and for girls who wish to attend Rainbow Camp in Massachusetts.

Rainbow was prominently publicized throughout the evening with 11-year-old Sister Brenna Llanes of Willimantic Assembly No. 26 singing ‘America’ before the game, the CMA having a table on the concourse, and announcements about Rainbow made between innings over the public address system.

Will the Association do a Rock Cats night in 2010? “Definitely!” was the response from Sister Tonya. And next year, they promise to promote the event through Connecticut Freemasons so that even more tickets can be sold and more scholarship dollars raised!

MCF Receives Gift from Eastern Star

The patio at Masonicare at Newtown, long a favorite destination for residents and patients at the facility, has been named in honor of Rosemary Chapter No. 85 of the Order of the Eastern Star, Stamford.

The dedication, which took place at a ceremony in June, followed Rosemary Chapter’s generous donation of stock in the amount of $13,530.00 to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut (MCF), earmarked for Masonicare at Newtown.

“The patio here in Newtown has a raised flower bed that has been redone with some nice perennials,” said Bro. Thomas M. Gutner, President of Masonicare at Newtown, “and now features a plaque commemorating Rosemary Chapter’s gift. It really is a nice, peaceful spot where residents enjoy having cookouts with their families. I know that Rosemary Chapter was very pleased to be able to show their support for Masonicare at Newtown.”

From left, at the Masonicare at Newtown patio dedication are: Sister Gail F. Mattiello, Past Matron, Rosemary Chapter No. 85; Sister Ottilie Bulakites, Past Matron, Rosemary Chapter No. 85; Eloise Mongillo, director of development for MCF, and Bro. Thomas M. Gutner, president of Masonicare at Newtown.
Valley of Norwich presents Scholarships to Local Students

by Bill Breed

On Monday, July 20, the Valley of Norwich gathered at the Preston Masonic Center to honor young men and women from Scottish Rite families and Masonic youth groups with scholarships to support their continuing education. Ill. Bro. Theodore J. Nelson, 33°, hosted the awards ceremony.

The Supreme Council, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction awarded Scottish Rite Abbott Scholarships, named after 1921-1932 Sovereign Grand Commander Leon M. Abbott to Randy Weiner, Matthew Teperow, and Rebecca LaMothe.

Randy Weiner will return to Lasell College, Newton, Massachusetts, a sophomore majoring in sports management. He is a member of the Lasell baseball team, works part-time, and made the Dean’s List his first semester. He aspires to become a professional baseball player, coach, or sports executive. His grandfather is Bro. Samuel Bernstein, 32°, Valley of Norwich.

Matthew Teperow is a rising senior at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, New Hampshire, majoring in communication/film studies and graphic design. An avid snowboarder, he has been sponsored in competition by Signal Snowboards. He is a graduate of the 32° Masonic Learning Center and also a grandson of Bro. Samuel Bernstein. Rebecca LaMothe will attend Three Rivers Community College as a freshman majoring in animal science. A graduate of Griswold High, she plays the violin, participated in school musicals, and enjoys writing music. She has an avid interest in horse training and horseback riding. She is the granddaughter of Bro. Kenneth Ayers, 32°, MSA, of the Valley of Norwich.

The Valley of Norwich also funded scholarships to the following students.

Emily Eckenrode is a returning sophomore at Plymouth State University, majoring in childhood studies and elementary education. She is a competitive swimmer, certified lifeguard, and teaches swimming at the Norwich YMCA. Emily is the daughter of Brian Eckenrode and the granddaughter of Bro. Gerald Eckenrode, both Scottish Rite Masons.

Candice Reavis will attend SUNY, Potsdam as a junior majoring in math and Spanish. She belongs to the Tri-State Horsemen’s Association and participates in Big Brothers, Big Sisters. She is the daughter of Associate Grand Marshal WB Mickey Reavis, 32°, Valley of Norwich, and the granddaughter of Scottish Rite Mason Bro. Henry Clay Reavis.

Daniel Smith will attend Nichols College as a sophomore. He is leaning towards following in his grandfather’s footsteps as an attorney. He has a talent for creative writing and was selected by his professors as an academic peer tutor for the exploratory writing class. He is also a member of the psychology club. He is the grandson of Bro. Roy L. Smith, 32°, Valley of Norwich.

Rebecca Smith will be return to Nichols College as a junior majoring in psychology. She participates in student government, is vice president of the psychology club, and recipient of a Sophomore Leadership Award. Her letter of recommendation indicates, “She was instrumental in turning several near catastrophic management problems into successes.” She is the granddaughter of Bro. Roy L. Smith, 32°, Valley of Norwich.

Heather Turner will transfer to the University of Connecticut as a sophomore this fall. She is interested in speech and language pathology and has shadowed speech pathologists at Lawrence & Memorial. Heather has been a Special Olympics volunteer and has been selected for the National Art Honor Society. She is the daughter of Ill. Bro. Howard Turner, MSA, 33°, and granddaughter of Ill. Bro. Burton Turner, 33°, both from the Valley of Norwich.

DID YOU VOTE?

Results are in!
There is a new poll on the Grand Lodge website (www.ctfreemasons.net).

Since July 4, the polls have collected the opinions of 37 voters asking if they or their lodge would donate Masonic books to the Grand Lodge library, and 69 voters if they follow the Grand Lodge Facebook page.

The results are in and the tally is:

Would you or your lodge donate Masonic books to the Grand Lodge library?

Yes ................................................................. 31 .................... 84%
No ................................................................. 6 .................... 16%

I follow the Grand Lodge Facebook page.

Yes ................................................................. 43 .................... 63%
No ................................................................. 23 .................... 33%
I don’t know what that is .................................. 3 .................... 4%
Under sunny skies on Saturday, August 8, Masonicare at Newtown celebrated the success of patients who had “graduated” from its rehabilitation program.

This was the fourth annual Rehab Reunion, held in conjunction with Masonicare at Newtown’s eighth annual Classic Car Show, a popular event for its Lockwood Lodge

Brian Mauriello of Huntington won first place for his red 1964 Chevy Corvette. Brian is the grandson of Clara Mauriello, a Lockwood Lodge resident and its very first move-in in 1998! Clara was delighted that Brian took first place!

At its annual meeting in June in upstate New York, Stephen McPherson, president and CEO of Masonicare was elected president of the Masonic Communities & Services Association (MCSA), formerly known as the Masonic Homes Executives Association of North America.

Founded in 1931, the association was organized to bring together executive officers of Masonic Homes and other such service providers “for fellowship and counsel, as well as recognizing the important work all of the Masonic Homes do collectively, including branching out into more community-based services.”

Masonicare is hiring!

Do you have a friend, neighbor, or family member who is a Physical Therapist (PT), Occupational Therapist (OT), PT Assistant (PTA), or Certified OT Assistant (COTA)?

Well, if you do, tell them Masonicare wants to meet them! With physicians increasingly recommending post-surgery and post-hospitalization therapy, Masonicare has openings for full-time, part-time, and per diem or per visit therapy professionals at:

- Masonicare Health Center, conveniently located off Route 15 in Wallingford
- Masonicare Home Health, with 6 regional offices throughout the state
- Masonicare Partners Home Health, a partnership with Saint Francis Hospital serving greater Hartford and beyond from offices in East Hartford and Suffield.

Masonicare is a recognized leader in the field of healthcare for people over 55, and recognizes the improved quality of life a patient can achieve with effective therapy.

Masonicare’s therapists work in an environment that encourages teamwork and innovation. They receive a competitive salary and benefits package that includes a 401(k) plan with company match.

Any interested PT, OT, PTA, or COTA should send their confidential resume to careers@masonicare.org or fax it to 203-679-3052. They may also mail it to the Masonicare Recruitment Center, P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492, or call 203-679-5156 for more information.

Bro. McPherson Elected President of Masonic Executives Association

At its annual meeting in June in upstate New York, Stephen McPherson, president and CEO of Masonicare was elected president of the Masonic Communities & Services Association (MCSA), formerly known as the

Former rehab patient Margarita Dietter of Bethel attended with her husband. She was happy to reconnect with the therapists who had treated her in September 2008 when she was admitted with pneumonia. “Everyone here was kind, understanding, and patient with me. I went from being in a wheelchair unable to walk to now running after my students in class. There could not be a better place to go for therapy.” Margarita also came back to Masonicare at Newtown for outpatient rehab services and achieved a full recovery.

Greyhound Rescue and Rehabilitation, a non-profit organization of volunteers, greeted everyone with their four-legged friends to help raise public awareness about ex-racing greyhounds. These greyhounds are excellent pets and companions, and can be adopted through the organization.
Is It The Map, Or The Territory?

by Don Tansey

A recent issue of Connecticut Freemasons considered attitudes toward different ritual practices in Connecticut lodges. This article examines some of the origins of Connecticut ritual and its role in this Grand Jurisdiction, and while not advocating any change to the ritual seeks to stimulate thought and inquiry.

A well informed brother stated that “It does not lie with any man, or body of men, to make innovations in Masonry.” This set me to thinking: is the ritual synonymous with Masonry? Certainly, it is the vehicle through which we make Masons and communicate Masonry. It is the ritual that sets the craft apart from other fraternities; or that wholesale changes in the ritual would result in something that has no relation to Masonry as we understand it.

But is the ritual Masonry?

I contend that it is not. Otherwise, we would not recognize other jurisdictions that employ a ritual that is far different than ours, but is still regular Masonry. The United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) uses a number of different rituals, and yet all their lodges recognize each other as brothers entitled to receive all the degrees of life succinctly and in such a fashion as to make a lasting impression on a man; to give him something to aspire to; to show him by a method that requires his total involvement, what is important to his character and to the world.

So where does that leave us with regard to differences or changes in ritual? Can changes be made to ritual and the sentiment that no changes can be made in the body of Masonry? History clearly demonstrates that changes have been made in ritual. The greatest example of this can be readily seen in Brother Robert L.D. Cooper’s Cracking The Freemasons Code that early in our history the craft had but two degrees. In our own jurisdiction many changes have been made in Connecticut ritual. Is there no bedrock of Masonry that does not shift? What of the Landmarks?

Sadely, there is no absolute agreement here either. Landmarks differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and some don’t even state any Landmarks. Is there then no basis for agreement on what is Masonic and what is not?

I would answer that there is. There are fundamental characteristics that constitute what is Masonry and what is not. For one: the belief in a Supreme Being. We are all familiar that no atheist can be made a Mason. For another: there is the system of the three degrees. I contend that no system of initiation that practices less can be considered Masonery. And lastly: the lessons of the Third Degree. Here, the great question of life is considered, and no man undergoes the Sublime Degree of Master Mason and comes out the same as when he first entered the Temple.

There are many brothers who look upon deviation from the printed ritual as abhorrent. There may be a perception that the ritual has come down to us as if full blown from the brow of the Almighty. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The work employed in this grand jurisdiction is known as the Webb work, and is the result of a Herculean effort on the part of Thomas Smith Webb, who in turn had the material of William Preston on which to ply his genius.

And where did Preston come by his material? At the time William Preston was Master of his lodge, the Old Charges were read to the candidate and these expounded upon extemporaneously by Masters concerning their salient points. Preston gathered around himself a group of friends to comment and criticize him as he developed his lectures.

So then the ritual we know today was the result of the efforts of unknown brethren, brought together by Preston and refined by Webb. It was the product of men much like ourselves who sought to refine and perfect the lessons of Masonry in a majestic and impressive form.

Does this mean that we should undertake a similar effort? Have the lectures of the degrees become archaic? Should we move forward with the spirit of our time? I think not.

By preserving the wording of our ritual, we forge a link with the past. By using a vocabulary outside the common ken we elevate our lessons beyond the every day. The words and phrases of our ritual are bold and majestic and should be conserved as one would tend to a venerable oak.

I am well aware of a certain kind of tyranny that would reprehend the slightest forgotten “and” or “the” in the delivery of ritual. While perfect recitation is an admirable goal as it disciplines the mind, it is the spirit, not the letter of the ritual that leaves its mark upon a man.

In the final analysis, where does all of this leave us? I would say that the goal of memorizing ritual so as to deliver it flawlessly is a goal worth pursuing for every brother. But, what is more important is that he takes the lessons exemplified in lodge out to the wider world that is desperately in need of what we have to offer. If we manage to recite, without error, every word of a degree, but fail to make such an impression upon a candidate that he cannot absorb and live what we teach, then we have failed.

When encountering deviations from the prescribed ritual we should ask ourselves if the purpose and intent of our teachings has been made clear to those who knock at our West Gate. We are admonished that: “The material given in the mnemonics is the minimum requirement and may be supplemented, BUT WITH DISCRETION.”

Thus our ritual is a map. The territory is its tenets and teachings. May Masons never deviate from those.
Three Days of DeMolay

Sons and Dads

by Carl G. Ek

On three consecutive days, the new officers of Connecticut DeMolay were asked to install officers in three new chapters. New State Master Councilor Bro. Greg Goto and his suite performed admirably, having only been installed two+ weeks earlier.

Of special interest were the family ties in each of the three installations. New Doric Chapter, Waterbury, Master Councilor Kyle Stoddard is the son of Chapter Advisor Fred Stoddard. Fred is a Past Master Councilor of Nathan Hale Chapter in New Britain and Junior Warden of Unity Lodge No. 148, New Britain.

At Sleeping Giant Chapter, North Haven, Master Councillor James Cavanaugh, II joined his father in holding a presiding gavel. Dad Tim is a DeMolay advisor and Worshipful Master of Corinthian Lodge No. 103, North Haven, the chapter’s sponsoring body.

Finally, Jon Behler assumed the East in Edward W. Slade Chapter, Wallingford. His dad, twice Past Master of Day Spring Lodge No. 30, Hamden, Bob Behler, tearfully noted that his dad, the late WB Robert Behler, Past Master of Temple Lodge No. 16, Cheshire, had wanted his son to join DeMolay, but he didn’t do so. Jon has several aunts who were Rainbow members and are now Rainbow advisors, as well as a number of cousins in Evergreen Assembly No. 44.

At the Sleeping Giant installation, a pair of other awards was presented. Immediate Past State Master Councilor Bro. Josh Tenner received a plaque from the chapter in recognition of his efforts on both a local and jurisdictional level over the last several years. Josh was then asked to present the Past Master Councilor’s Meritorious Service Award to Bro. Brian Fields in recognition of his work as Edward Slade Master Councilor during Josh’s term as SMC.

All three events were well attended by family members and friends, happy to see the good works of the Masonic family passed on from generation to generation.

Doric Chapter, Waterbury – Chapter Advisor, father, and PMC Fred Stoddard (right) with new Master Councillor Kyle Stoddard.

WB Bob Behler congratulates son Jon on becoming Master Councillor of Edward W. Slade Chapter, in Wallingford.

Edward W. Slade advisory council chairman Steve Tenner presented a plaque recognizing outstanding service to DeMolay to immediate Past State Master Councilor and his son, Bro. Josh Tenner, at the recent chapter installation.

The Cavanaugh’s share the gavel as presiding officers of two Masonic organizations meeting in North Haven.
How Far will a Master Go!

by Jeff Moores

May was awards month for the brothers of Columbia Lodge No. 25, South Glastonbury, with a very successful awards night on May 6. Although 16 brothers received awards, WM Jeff Moores was not happy enough with that and planned a trip to Florida to reach out to some of the brothers that could not make it up.

He flew into Orlando on the weekend before Memorial Day with plans to visit as many brothers as he could fit into his schedule.

His first stop was in Tarpon Springs and had a very pleasant visit with John and Vi Christensen. Brother John received his 55 year pin and there was a lot to talk about. John just had his 93rd birthday.

The next day it was off to see Dwight and Marie Nickerson in Port Charlotte. WB Dwight was Master of Orient Lodge No. 62 (now consolidated into Columbia No. 25) in 1982 and 1983 and received his 40 year pin.

Then it was off to the east coast of Florida and a visit with Ron and Loretta Christensen in Palm City to present Bro. Ron’s 35 year pin.

WM Jeff now manages part of the business at Pratt & Whitney that Brother Ron managed almost 20 years ago.

On the way back to Orlando it was a stop in Haines City to visit with Don and Nancy Smith and present another 40 year pin. Brother Don is the cousin of Columbia’s treasurer, WB Henry Killam.

Enjoyable fraternal visits across the state of Florida meant driving more than 1,000 miles over the course of the week, but WM Jeff had a great time doing it. He’s planning to catch up with those he missed on his next trip to Florida.

In early August, Brother Anthony Polydas was presented his 60 year pin. Brother Anthony was unable to attend the May awards night as he was out of the country with his family on vacation. He is planning to be out of the country again when he celebrates his 100th birthday this October.

Worshipful Master Jeff Moores said, “Visiting with the brothers that don’t make it to lodge very often is one of the best parts of serving as Master of the lodge.”

How Far will a Master Go!

In April of 2000 the “Connecticut Grand Lodge Permanent Fund” was begun to insure the financial future of the Grand Lodge. In 2004, this entity was changed to the “Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc” and was designated a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization thereby being able to accept tax deductible contributions. This fund continues to grow each year so that we can continue to support educational and charitable purposes.

We are all proud of the increasing support and strength of the Grand Lodge Permanent Endowment Fund and the service that CTCHIP provides to Connecticut families. I realize that we experiencing difficult economic times, but I hope you will consider making a gift today. Your contribution will assist me in further growth of the endowment fund so that we can continue to support these important programs.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Arthur H. Carlstrom

MW Grand Master

Columbia Lodge’s WM Jeff Moores put on a lot of miles this summer presenting service awards, and he didn’t forget his camera! He’s pictured with John Christensen, Dwight Nickerson, Ron Christensen, Don Smith and Anthony Polydas.

GRAND MASTER’S APPEAL

In April of 2000 the “Connecticut Grand Lodge Permanent Fund” was begun to insure the financial future of the Grand Lodge. In 2004, this entity was changed to the “Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc” and was designated a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization thereby being able to accept tax deductible contributions. This fund continues to grow each year so that we can continue to support educational and charitable purposes.

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Sincerely and fraternally,

Arthur H. Carlstrom

MW Grand Master

Grand Master’s Appeal

P.O. Box 69, Wallingford, CT 06492

Yes, Grand Master I/we want to help ensure the growth of Freemasonry in Connecticut and continue the charitable and educational works of the Grand Lodge.

$25 $50 $100 $500 $1,000 _______ Other

Allocated as follows:

CTCHIP Grand Lodge Permanent Endowment Fund

Please make your check payable to:

Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Inc., PO Box 69, Wallingford, CT 06492

Name: ___________________________ Address: ___________________________

City: ___________________________ State: _______ Zip: ________________

Phone: ___________________________ Email: _____________________________
DISTRICT
No. 1

(a) RW Steven A. Bowen, DD • WB Lemuel G. Johnson, Jr., AGM
(b) RW Philip R. Roberts, DD • WB Danny A. Camp, AGM

Union Lodge No. 5’s Annual Summer Picnic

by Thomas A. Burke

With the melodious sounds of Worshipful Brother Joe McBride’s mournful blues vocals fronting Brother Jon Ringel’s amazingly talented band, “The Mad Things,” the Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, annual summer picnic rocked the neighborhood and the city of Stamford on Saturday, July 11. More than 60 brothers, family members, and friends joined together for a rousing barbecue picnic on a beautiful summer day filled with laughter, friendship, and brotherly love.

In addition to the brothers of Union Lodge No. 5, several other area lodges accepted the invitation to join the picnic, including Old Well Lodge No. 108, Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107, and Harmony Lodge No. 67. It was wonderful to have so many Masonic lodges well represented.

Held on the lodge grounds, where a large lawn provided ample space for several tents to be set up, adults and children alike played games of horseshoes, bocce, and several other fun games dreamed up by Worshipful Master Ken Robertson. Senior Warden Stephen Petri’s wife Patrice planned, shopped for, and ran several of the games. WB Doug Burchard rigged an additional tarp to provide extra shade, which came in handy for the children at play so they could avoid getting sunburned.

The grills were set up under the trees so the chefs of the day, Senior Warden Stephen Petri and WB Joe McBride, could have some shade while laboring for several hours to cook a delicious meal that included 15 racks of ribs, 30 chicken breasts, 72 sausages, burgers, hot dogs, 3 watermelons, and 7 pies. Brother Adam Ellison brought home-made beer that turned out to be a big hit among the brothers.

Several brothers in attendance remarked on the event, noting how great it was to have such a large turnout. Starting several days before the event with planning and food preparation, to the event setup and eventual tear-down, each brother and volunteer pitched in gladly and readily, making the work fun and easy. A truly “Masonic” event in character, Union Lodge No. 5’s annual summer picnic was an unqualified success from start to finish!
**Washington Lodge No. 19 Awards Student Laptop**

*by Isack Waserman*

Each year Washington Lodge No. 19, Monroe, awards a top of the line laptop computer to a Masuk High School student who has graduated and plans to attend college. On August 10, this year’s award went to Amanda Allain, who came highly recommended by school officials.

Amanda plans to continue her education at Southern Connecticut State University in the fall, majoring in education and becoming a high school English teacher. She has been a Future Business Leaders of America member throughout her high school career. Additionally she has been an intern at the school day care program. In her off hours she is a technical assistant at Photoland Monroe, a tutor, and has been a teacher’s aide at CCD, all this while being an honor roll student.

The brothers of Washington No. 19 were pleased to present the award to such a worthy student as Amanda, and they know she will make good use of her new laptop and printer during her college endeavors.

Amanda Allain holds her new laptop computer awarded to her by the brothers of Washington Lodge No. 19. From left, front, Washington Bros. Juan Rodriguez, Tom Hawkins, Paul G. Knecht, Amanda’s mother and Isack Waserman. From left, rear, David Shultz, Dave Klien, and Greg Gnandt.

**Masons Turn Painters in Waterbury**

*by Shane Dufresne*

When Rebecca Schoeck, widow of Brother Howard Schoeck, needed help, she asked her son, William, what to do.

Bro. William lives in Massachusetts, but contact PGM Lou Vander Eyk, who in turn contact WM Shane Dufresne, Worshipful Master of Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury.

He put together a team who worked more than 90 hours to prepare, scrape, and paint Rebecca’s house.

The brothers who helped are pictured, from left, Augustus “Augie” Jayaraj, WM Shane Dufresne, Chaplain Russell Griswold, Ryan Heller, and Art Nonenmacher.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Masonicare Nutmegger Reunions**

**Coming to Florida – March 2010**

**MARCH 1, VERO BEACH**
Vero Beach Masonic Lodge No. 250 1959 14th Avenue • Vero Beach, Florida

**MARCH 2, NAPLES**
Olde Cypress Golf Club 7150 Treeline Drive • Naples, Florida

**MARCH 3, SARASOTA**
Hilton Gardens • Hilton Garden Inn Sarasota 8270 N Tamiami Trail • Sarasota, Florida

**MARCH 4, OCALA**
Marion Dunn Lodge 1846 S.E. 36th Avenue • Ocala, Florida

**MARCH 5, NEW PORT RICHEY**
Timber Greens Golf Club 6333 Timber Greens Boulevard • New Port Richey, Florida
Orange Lodge No. 143 Presents Medical Scholarships

by Elmer F. Manley

Orange Lodge No. 143, Orange, recently presented $1,000 scholarships, each, to four college students pursuing a career in the medical field. Applicants must have completed a minimum of two semesters in their chosen field, and maintained a grade point average of 2.75 or more. This year the applicants exceeded expectations as all achieved a GPA of 3.04 or higher, announced committee chairman, Elmer F. Manley.

Amber N. Conroy is studying at Branford Hall Career Institute in the field of medical assistant and phlebotomy. Her vision is to work in pediatric care and to continue her education with a goal of becoming a pediatric nurse. Amber is the daughter of Past Master Dennis and Ruth Conroy of Milford.

Michael V. Ferris graduated in May from Wesleyan University with a BA in biological chemistry. In the fall he will begin graduate school at Wesleyan University with a career goal in orthopedic surgery. Michael is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Bernie Ferris of Orange and grandson of Past Master William and Sue Orrell of Orange.

Serena F. Guba recently completed her Junior year at Southern Connecticut State University where she is majoring in nursing with a vision toward the operating room and/or maternity. Her volunteer work at St Raphaels Hospital in assisting nurses and technical staff with patient care and family support have reinforced her vision. Serena is the daughter of Robert and Felicia Guba of Orange.

William H. Zaleha, Ill, has completed two of the three year accelerated program required to receive a Doctor of Pharmacy at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. In August he will begin clinical rotations at 6 different locations in Connecticut, giving him insight to different opportunities before his graduation in June 2010. William is the son of William and Deborah Zaleha of Derby and the grandson of late Past Master David W. Gilbert and Grace Gilbert of Derby.

New Jersey Welcomes Silas Dean No. 147

by Doug Crawford

This spring Silas Deane Lodge No. 147, Newington, traveled to Philo Lodge No. 243, New Jersey. The New Jersey State Police Blue and Gold Degree Team raised five Master Masons, of which two were either current or former members of the New Jersey State Police.

The trip was made on April 25 and departed from Newington with 12 members and wives. and two Connecticut State Police degree team members, RW Marshall K. Robison, King Hiram Lodge No. 12, Shelton, and Bro. Jack Boyce, Wylis-St. John’s Lodge No. 4, West Hartford. Bro. Marshall was also asked to participate in the degree work of the day.

The Connecticut brothers were impressed with how the degree team acted with precision and were flawless in their New Jersey ritual work, which included the long form (Beehive) lecture. Unlike Connecticut there was no tragedy, yet the raising of the active police candidate was as memorable to see as it was to the candidate.

All candidates were given a cigar to give the Master at the end of the degree, which they placed in their pockets. Needless to say, when asked to present them...there was nothing left but pieces. Following the degree, a generous meal was provided and a quick and safe return guided by our Connecticut State Police degree team member.

SD Steve Shoopak helped organize the trip and Bro. Eric Lassen from Philo Lodge No. 243 invited the members of Silas Deane No. 147 to the raising. Bro Lassen’s wife Debbie entertained Meg Crawford, Lorraine Abrozino, Stephanie Shoopack, and Janet Hangland... while WB Douglas Crawford, SD Steve Shoopak, Marshal George Zack, Bro. Joe Romano, Bro. Ivan Finkle, WB Larry Hangland, Organist Murray Litchner, RW Marshall K. Robison, and Bro. Jack Boyce were recognized and treated to the events of the afternoon.

The Connecticut brothers arrived home around midnight with the help of our CTSP Degree Team leader (who told the drive how to get home faster than his idiot Garmin). This was a successful way to bring two lodges closer and show how New Jersey organizes their lodges and does their degree work, with a master of ceremonies and extra stewards.
No, Brother Chris Werner didn’t join Freemasonry at age 18. He petitioned Unity Lodge No. 148, New Britain, at the age of 19 with two of his DeMolay and high school friends – Greg Goto and Harry (Jake) E. Needham, IV. (That the Master of Unity Lodge that year was Harry E. Needham, III might have played a part in where the young men petitioned.)

Soon after being raised, Chris, an outstanding DeMolay ritualist, determined that he’d like to learn some Masonic work. Greg had presented the Working Tools, and he and Jake had done a lecture. Chris took a different path, and over the summer of 2008, learned the Middle Chamber Lecture. In long form!

After a rehearsal with WB Curt Holtman of Unity Lodge, Chris was ready for live candidates. And so, in September 2008, Chris delivered, for his first time, what may be the longest single piece of ritual in the Blue Lodge – and he did it all but flawlessly! Indeed, Chris was so good that visitors from Frederick-Franklin Lodge No. 14, Plainville, invited him to repeat his performance in their lodge the following month. The result was similar.

Now 20, Chris’s job and college class schedule prevented him from being at Unity degrees for the first half of this year, but on July 25, he was able to attend a special communication at which the Fellowcraft Degree was being conferred. Once again he worked his magic, to the delight of the class of four and all who witnessed the work.

Is Chris Werner the youngest brother to guide others to the Middle Chamber? Probably not, but age aside, the skill with which this DeMolay Past State Master Councilor presents the central lessons of the Fellowcraft Degree is an inspiration for all.
A Problem of Degrees

by Carl G. Ek

This year, I have the privilege of serving as Master of Unity Lodge No. 148, New Britain. The by-laws provide for one stated meeting a month; usually a special is also held monthly.

And therein was the problem… By our June stated, we had three candidates approved to take the degrees of Masonry – a good problem. However, two were 18-year-old twin grandsons of WB Robert Jeffrey, our Master in 1972, and students who would be back in college in Boston and Florida before our first meeting in September.

A series of special communications seemed the answer, but they couldn’t start until July as the June special was already a Master Mason Degree. At a CTCHIP event, WB Bob and I came up with a series of dates that might work.

Assembling degree teams on July 14, July 25, and August 4 became the next challenge. With a little help from my friends, we conferred the three degrees in fine form, in each case following an excellent meal prepared by Junior Warden Fred Stoddard.

WB Jeffrey had said he would like to preside for the Entered Apprentice Degree, and it was my honor to allow him to do so. As a brother 37 years out of the East, Bob was inspiring! WB John Canning, the other signer on the young men’s petitions and Master in 1977, offered the obligation. Joining the Ciarcia’s and Marion Panek was Bill Barneschi, Chris Ciarcia, and Panek – two 18-year-olds and one slightly older – the class would include 18-year-old Garrett Brush of Shepherd-Salem Lodge No. 78, Naugatuck, and 18-year-old Christopher Dunn of Ansantawae Lodge No. 89, Milford.

Having known Garrett since he joined DeMolay at 12, it was my honor to include him to the class when asked by his dad, WB Chuck Brush, another Senior DeMolay, if he could be raised in New Britain before going to college in Vermont in August. Similarly, RW Alan Brown – another Senior DeMolay – contacted me about Bro. Dunn, an 18-year-old former student of his wife’s who was off to college in Philadelphia. That filled the class with five FC’s of a combined age of 112!

Before dinner, proud grandfather Bob Jeffrey approached me with a question: “Can I sit in the East?” “To observe, or to preside?” I asked. “To preside,” he replied with his Scottish burr. “Of course,” I responded. “It would be my honor.” And with RW Al Brown taking the East for the second half, all I had to worry about was being the First Craftsman – and making introductions!

No fewer than 7 sitting DD’s or AGM’s were present, as were Worshipful Masters Brian Newman from Wolcott Lodge No. 60, Stafford Springs, Steve Nevins from Shepherd-Salem Lodge No. 78, and Tim Cavanaugh from Corinthian Lodge No. 103, North Haven.

Brothers from 16 different lodges took a part in the degree. In the first section, WB Canning again delivered a flawless obligation. WB Brush presented the working tools to his son and the class. The brothers Stern – WB David, lodge secretary, and son Ben of Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven – filled the Stewards chairs. Ben would later present the lecture with WB Harry E. Needham, III, lodge chaplain.

Each of the five new Master Masons was raised by family members, members of their mother lodge, and brothers who had sponsored them into Masonry.

Doing a series of three degrees over 21 days in the middle of summer should probably not be the usual course, but an air-conditioned building and fine dining helped us to lure those not away with family on vacation to make it to lodge – for that I am most appreciative. Unity Lodge is also appreciative of the brothers from all around Connecticut who attended the work – some of whom found themselves on the team as the gavel sounded. But would I do it again?

To ensure that four young men went to college as Master Masons, rather than as Fellowcrafts? Without a second thought!
Friendship Tuscan No. 145 Makes Presentation at Home

by Jim Wilson

On Thursday, July 9, members from Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester, recently honored one of their members by making a visit to his home in South Windsor.

WB Wilbert E. Nead, Past Master and current Tiler, was surprised when brothers began showing up at his home. He was enjoying the evening sitting out on the deck at home, recovering from a recent lengthy stay at a rehab center due to knee problems. The evening started with those attending bringing treats, along with a “Cake of Congratulations.” Eight Past Masters and five brothers “stopped by” as a surprise for “Geno.”

“Geno,” as he is affectionately called, was even more surprised when he was presented an award pin for his lapel signifying he has been a member for thirty-five years. The presentation was made by RW Don Dean, Grand Marshal. Geno has held every position in the officer line except secretary and treasurer, and served as Worshipful Master twice. He is also a Past Master of Ionic Lodge No. 110, North Windham. He enjoys working with the new members that join Friendship Tuscan Lodge, and had been known as the “lodge chef” in earlier years. His nature to volunteer wherever needed has endeared him to all who know him. He has also received several awards throughout his membership for his exceptional talents and hard work.

Along with Gene’s career of Masonry, he is also a member of the Sphinx Shrine, Newington, being a member several units, most notably the “Funsters.”

From the very beginning as Tiler, “Geno” has taken all new candidates for degrees into his confidence as he prepared them for the evening. He has also been known to mischievously tie several knots into a cabletow, much to the dismay of the Deacons.

Honored WB Geno Nead, seated, is surprised and surrounded by visiting brothers of Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145. From left; Bro. Dean Craft, kneeling; WM Jim Wilson; RW Don Dean; WB Bill Strickland; Bro. Gene Botterton; WB John Pierce; WB Stan Ostrinsky; WB Chris Ramsey; Bro. Art Lassou; Bro. Jack Rosen; WB Andy Zeidler; RW Dwight Mertens; and Bro Bill Craft.

To The Brethren of the Seventh Masonic District:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your expression of support and fraternal regard each and every one of you showed in conducting a Masonic funeral service for my father.

I was nearly moved to the point of tears.

I could not be more proud to call all of you my Brothers. Thank you one and all.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Dana E. Brochu

Moonlight in Vermont... Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor is hosting a trip to Stowe, Vermont October 2, 3, and 4.

Spend Saturday and most of Sunday in the beautiful village of Stowe at the base of the highest mountain in Vermont, Mount Mansfield.

Entered Apprentice degree Saturday afternoon at Mystic Lodge No. 56, Stowe. Ladies tour the town and just relax.

Sunday, more touring of the town before heading back.

Everything in Stowe is an easy walk on the recreation path.

The leaves should be at their peak and the town is quintessential New England!

See links to truly appreciate what this trip will entail.


First come first serve! Send WM Mitch Page a $100 deposit now!

Total estimated cost of the trip is $440 to $450 per couple or $225 per single.

Seats are going fast!

Mitch Page, 46 Olive Street, Newington, CT 06111-2578, 860-667-1835, mitchpage@yahoo.com

HEJAZ GROTTO, M.O.V.P.E.R.

proudly supporting Dentistry for Children with Special Needs for information call “Dr. of Smiles” Prophet David Cole at (203) 214-4867

Meetings on second Wednesdays at the 95 Gathering Place, Wallingford For information contact Ron Dworkin, Membership Chairman at (203) 469-4576 or (203) 464-2762
New DeMolay Chapter Started

by William L. Greene

A new DeMolay Chapter has been started in North Windham. The chapter is called Ionic Chapter. The chapter will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m.

At the January 2009 stated meeting of Ionic Lodge No. 110, the Master asked if the lodge would be interested in starting and sponsoring a DeMolay chapter. The response from the brothers was unanimous. Dad Harry E. Needham, III, Executive Officer for Connecticut, was contacted and things moved quickly. In fact, so quickly that the first three members took their Initiatory and DeMolay Degrees just one month later through the courtesy of Israel Putnam Chapter, South Woodstock.

Now this new chapter is looking for more young men between the ages of 12 and 21 to become Charter Members of the chapter.

Any young man interested in becoming a member or adult interested in being an advisor, please contact William Greene at 860-742-0457 or greenwl@charter.net.

New Britain Rainbow Accepts Applebee's Offer

by Carl G. Ek

New Britain Assembly No. 6, International Order of Rainbow for Girls, is the most recent Masonic youth group to take advantage of an ongoing Applebee’s Restaurant fundraising opportunity: pancake breakfasts.

Applebee’s Neighborhood Grills do not serve breakfast, but will, on Sunday mornings, open their doors for non-profit groups. A group is allowed to sell up to 300 breakfast tickets at a recommended price of $5.00 each. For those who come for an excellent meal of pancakes, sausage, coffee, tea, and juice, the organization keeps $4.00 of the ticket; for no-shows, they keep the entire $5.00.

The group is responsible for pre-selling the tickets, and for having members on hand to seat and serve diners, bus and wipe down tables, and have a pleasant morning with their guests.

New Britain Assembly No. 6 set up a pancake morning for July 19 at Plainville Applebee’s, and members and advisors alike were kept busy from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m.. The girls were kept especially busy bringing seconds (and more) to an especially hungry table of members of Unity Lodge No. 148, their sponsoring body.

By closing, New Britain Assembly had raised several hundred dollars to support their local operation and state and local Rainbow charities. They are also looking to find another open date to hold another Applebee’s pancake breakfast in early 2010!
Masonic Musicians Wanted

A communication center is being established for Masons that are, or have been, musicians. After a few years of discussing the idea of playing together with other brothers in different styles of musical bands, groups and combos, Bro. Rick Smith wants to contact other musicians from the fraternity.

Rick has been the drummer of the Sphinx Shrine Brass Concert Band for six years, and has served as manager for the past three. Everyone who has heard of putting together musical units comprised of Masons has thought it would be a great idea, and there have been many suggestions for the type of events that would benefit from musical entertainment.

Blue lodge events such as Widow's Nights, picnics, and family gatherings could all use a little music to liven things up, and Rick feels music is a great way to do it. Different musical units can range in size and be free to add or change members depending on their musical interests.

Based on the range of ages at a typical Masonic lodge, many styles of music would be welcomed. The many possibilities could include light rock or oldies, bluegrass, Dixieland, jazz, big band swing, or the Sphinx brass band. The idea would be to put musicians in touch with each other that share common interests and geographic locations.

Rick feels that statewide there has to be people with backgrounds similar to his. Prior to becoming a Mason and then a Shriner to join the Sphinx Band, he was a wedding-party bandleader for 20 years, playing over 1000 events. After a few years away from playing every weekend, Rick now enjoys the idea of playing a variety of events with new friends from the fraternity.

The Sphinx Shrine Band was formed in 1899, and is the oldest continually formed and performing Shrine band in the world! The size of the band varies from 14 to 20 pieces, and average 12 events a year. They rehearse in Newington, and just like most brass bands, they are always looking for new members.

Anyone interested in contacting Rick for more information is welcome to do so via email at: quarrymusicct@aol.com or phone at 860-523-1850.

For Wallingford's Ulbrich, It All Started With “The Masonic Home”

Brother Bill Ulbrich jokes that his name “is on more bronze plaques in Wallingford than you can shake a stick at.” It’s probably not far from the truth.

A lifelong resident, he’s been an active player on the Wallingford political scene for decades, serving at various times on the Town Council, the Democratic Town Committee, the Wallingford Housing Authority, and a host of other municipal boards and civic organizations.

But as much as Bro. Bill is known for the contributions he’s made to his community, Masonicare and Connecticut Freemasonry as a whole have similarly benefited from his robust volunteer spirit and desire to help those less fortunate.

Although he was a plumbing and heating contractor by trade, it was Bill’s auctioneering business, Maison Auction Company, which led to his involvement with the Masons.

It was nearly 40 years ago when Bill first approached Dr. and Bro. Kurt Pelz, the former executive director of what was then known as the Masonic Home and Hospital, about providing auction services to new residents looking to downsize their personal property. With his experience as an auctioneer, Bill eyed a good opportunity to use his skills to assist these elderly residents.

“At first,” Bill recalled, “Dr. Pelz told me, ‘We have another person doing these auctions right now. But, if anything changes, we’ll let you know.’ Six months later, my phone rings.

It was the Masonic Home.”

And so, Bill began working with residents interested in his auction services. After Bill began to work more closely with the “Masonic Home,” he developed an even greater appreciation for the work they were doing with the elderly. He also forged strong relationships with prominent members of the fraternity, like MW Past Grand Master Gail N. Smith and the late Brother Walter Kowalski. Together, they were Bro. Bill’s sponsors when he decided to join Center Lodge No. 97, Meriden.

“All of this happened because of the Masonic Home,” he said. “It’s interesting how everything came together.”

Since then, Bill has remained a loyal friend to Masonicare and its charitable affiliate, The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut (MCF). A supporter of the Masonicare Annual Appeal who also remembered MCF in his estate plan, Bill is also the founding volunteer auctioneer of the Masonicare Goods and Services Auction and, as a longtime member of the Masonicare Golf Classic Committee, has been instrumental in getting local businesses to donate goods for MCF’s signature fundraising event. In 2008, he was the recipient of the Gail N. Smith Award, an annual award presented by MCF recognizing outstanding dedication by a volunteer to the Masonicare Golf Classic.

Clearly, what began many years ago as a means to assist the elderly has become something much more personal for Bill.

“When I retired about 16 years ago,” he said, “I decided that I wanted to volunteer one day a week at Masonicare Health Center because that place was good to me for many years. It was time for me to give something back. So I volunteer in physical therapy and audio-speech and I help take people from their rooms to their appointments. I’m there every Tuesday, and a little bit more often around the holidays. It’s something I enjoy. I enjoy working with the elderly and, fortunately, it seems like all the people I work with like me, too. That makes a big difference.”

In 2008, MW Brother Gail N. Smith (left) presented Brother Bill Ulbrich with the Gail N. Smith Award in recognition of Bill’s longtime participation in the Masonicare Golf Classic.
CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate this brother who has achieved 75 years of Masonic membership.

Lawrence B. Grew...........................................Widow’s Son 66

We also congratulate these brothers who have achieved 50 years of Masonic membership.

Myles T. Kennedy........................................Composite 28 Leo M. Black Jr........................................St. Alban’s 38
John E. Pinkney ........................................King Solomons 7 James E. Shafer.......................................Temple 16
William D. Hewitt........................................Manchester 73 Frederick J. Kaeser.................................Uriel 24

We welcome our new brothers to the fraternity.

Michael D. Sabia.................................Acacia 85
Edward M. Smith ......................America-St. John’s 8
Jared Sorhaindo ...........................America-St. John’s 8
Patrick S. Lawton ..........................Anchor 112
Mark D. Boss ..............................Ansantawae 89
William J. A. Boyington ..........Ansantawae 89
Philip G. Giampapa Jr ........................Ansantawae 89
Christopher R. Hutchinson ................Asnuntuck 142
Michael G. Nowlin ................................Ansantawae 89
Christopher J. Oliveri ............Ansantawae 89
James F. Velonis Sr ................Ansantawae 89
Keith Allen ...............................................Ark 39
Lee P. Goodrow ..............................................Ark 39
Frederick V. Miller III ..............Ark 39
Dennis R. Perkins ..............................Ashlar 332
Louis I. Kuslan ..........................Ashlar-Aspetuck 142
Raphael Mojica ................................Ashlar-Aspetuck 142
Johnny P. Zahacefski .....................Bay View 120
Brian F. Barkman ...............................Center 97
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Allan W. Nielson ..................................Columbia 25
Matthew L. Simpson .............................Columbia 25
Travis J. Simpson ................................Columbia 25
Robert Korwek ......................................Compass 9
Jonathan R. Whitehouse ................Compass 9
David J. Adamitis ..............................Composite 28
Thomas A. Duclos ............................Composite 28
David W. Elliott ..............................Composite 28
Jonathon H. Luoma ................................Composite 28
Michael P. Amendola ...................Corinthian 103
Jeffrey J. Dirzius ..............................Corinthian 103
Thomas E. Gersdorf ......................Corinthian 103
Edwin J. Lehman ...............................Corinthian 103
Benjamin W. Loebick ......................Corinthian 103
Earl D. Stamp .........................................Corinthian 103
Arthur R. Tramontano ..................Corinthian 103

David B. Berry ................................Corner Stone-Quinebaug 122
Scott Bumps ........................................Cosmopolitan 125
Peter B. Dushkin ......................................Cosmopolitan 125
Christopher M. Kingston ..............Estuary 43
Ronald M. Pratt .................................Evening Star 101
Anthony V. Zwolensky ....................Evening Star 101
John W. Biehn III ..............................Fayette 69
Khass Sarrafi ........................................Fayette 69
Mark E. Vesco .......................................Fayette 69
William H. Bulman Sr .........................Federal 17
Michael T. Desjardins .......................Federal 17
John R. Frederick ..........................Frederick-Franklin 14
Aaron Z. McCarthy ....................Frederick-Franklin 14
Dennis W. Bellamy Jr ................Friendship Tuscan 145
Paul S. Loulakis .................................Friendship Tuscan 145
Christopher A. Vannier ..............Friendship Tuscan 145
Ryan J. Heller .........................................Harmony 42
Arthur K. Nonnenmacher ..............Harmony 42
Geoffrey W. Stowell ......................Harmony 42
Douglas A. Krupa ..............................Harmony 67
Charles A. O’Flaherty ........................Harmony 67
Andrew J. Reinertsen ......................Harmony 67
Andrew N. VanDenameele ..............Harmony 67
Andree B. Beimler ..............................Hiram 1
Michael J. Calderone .........................Hiram 1
Wesley J. Armatoowski ...................Hiram 18
Robert A. Heckmann .......................Hiram 18
Leopoldo M. Iannaccone ................Hiram 18
Kenneth H. Williams ......................Hiram 18
Christopher D. O’Clair ....................Ionic 110
Anthony T. Mangone ......................King Hiram 12
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Eric A. Olsen ..................St. Peter’s 21
Eugene K. Ward ..............................St. Peter’s 21
Silvan J. Gleissner IV ...........................Union 40
William P. Keller ...............................Union 40
Jean M. Bourdeau ............................Universal Fraternity 149
Verly E. Dolce ............................Universal Fraternity 149
Albert Dorelien ..............................Universal Fraternity 149
William S. Rankin II .......................Village 29
Ronald M. Backer ..............................Washington 70
Christopher A. Houdie ........................Washington 70
Nathan M. Curtiss ..............................Wyllys-St. John’s 4
Henri N. Mathieu ..............................Wyllys-St. John’s 4
Ruben A. Rivera ..............................Wyllys-St. John’s 4
## York Rite Opportunities

Information to be included in York Rite Opportunities must be submitted by the 10th of the preceding month to the Grand Secretary/Recorder, Charles B. Fowler, 525 Stillwater, Windsor CT 06095-3842 or yrctramrsm@yahoo.com.

**NOTE:** All dates and visitations are subject to change without notice. Please note this corrected email address for the Grand Secretary/Recorder. Please also note the change of snail mail address for Companion Fowler.

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### Coming up in October

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### RECEPTION FOR SIR KNIGHT VINCENT COWIE

Sir Knight Vincent A. Cowie, Past Grand Commander of Connecticut, was installed in August at the Grand Encampment Triennial in Roanoke as Northeast Department Commander. He is the first Department Commander from Connecticut in many years. A reception and testimonial dinner in his honor will be held at the New Haven Masonic Hall on September 26. Social hour with hors-d’oeuvres at 6:00 p.m. and roast pork supper at 7:00 p.m. Cost of $20 includes open bar and allowance for a gift for Vince. Reservations with SK Clyde W. Kayser, 19 Adelaide Ave., Waterbury 06708, phone 203-754-8209, cwk33@juno.com
From the desk of David R. Blythe, Sr., Valley Secretary
Valley of Hartford, A.A.S.R.

If you missed the 5K Run/Walk on July 25, you may have been the only one. It was quite a sight to see so many people in our parking lots, our building, and running and walking through the streets of Newington. This would have been a great event at anytime, and for it to be so successful, as our first 5K Run/Walk, bodes well for next year. All the brothers and friends who volunteered deserve a pat on the back for the extra effort they made for their Valley.

The Valley of Hartford will start the 2009 fall season with a “Candidate Information Night” on Thursday, September 24, at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Newington at 7:30 p.m. The degree schedule kicks off on Thursday, October 1, with the portrayal of the 4° and 7° and continues on October 22 with the portrayal of Secret Master (old 4°) and 14°.

On October 29 will be the portrayal of the 15° (vignette) and 16° (full), on November 5 the popular 18°, and on November 12 will be the portrayal of the 19°.

All degrees start at 7:30 p.m., but all Scottish Rite brethren are invited to join our new candidates, valley officers, and members of the production staff for a pre-degree buffet dinner starting at 6:00 p.m. Advanced reservations are required. Reservation forms can be found in the View of the Valley or by visiting the Valley’s website. Candidates are guests for the dinners.

To any Master Mason who might be reading this article: if you would like more information about the Scottish Rite, our fraternal benefits of belonging to the Scottish Rite, we have informational DVDs available. Contact the Scottish Rite office: 860-666-0712, or via email at sect@snet.net and request a DVD.

As always, a wealth of information is available on our website: forms, membership applications, electronic copies of our newsletter View of the Valley, and a calendar of our events. The website is: www.valleyofhartford.org.

Become part of the Scottish Rite family and enjoy all its benefits and activities. Applications for our 2009 Fall Class are now being accepted.

Notes from the Valley of New Haven, A.A.S.R.

by Michael L. Castroll

Our summer picnic came off without a hitch thanks to the teamwork of Jack Stevens and Bob DiPasquale. The efforts of membership chairman Charles Tirrell are not to be overlooked. Over 80 attendees enjoyed food, fun, games of all kinds, and just being with one another.

Family, friends, scholarship awardees with their families, and prospects for our Fall Reunion all enjoyed each other’s company! Birthdays were celebrated by our Illustrious Secretary, Vern, his wife, Patsy.

Speaking of the Fall Reunion, we welcomed another double-figure class to our candidates’ Open House, just past. The best is yet to come!

As we welcome you to join us at all Scottish Rite functions, be mindful of our degree schedule. Come on out and support the Valley of New Haven, and welcome another record sized class.

Ill. Sidney W. Isenberg, our Thrice Potent Master, will convene the Fall Reunion on Monday, September 14 with the portrayal of 4°.

On the following Monday, September 21, we will revisit the 11°. Ill. Charles Warfield, the perennial director for this most enlightening story, has toiled hard to assemble new faces in the drama of this degree.

The work of the Valley continues with a membership seminar on September 25-26.

On Sunday, October 4, the Valley of Waterbury will again host the Walk to benefit the 32° Masonic Learning Centers which tackles the challenge of dyslexia head-on, both by providing free tutoring for children with dyslexia and by training a growing cadre of highly skilled and dedicated tutors. The following night we are back in New Haven for the conferral of the new Grand Elect Masons.

L’shona tova to all of our Jewish Brothers as they usher in the year 5859. The Scottish Rite celebrates the same year. The Hebrew calendar, although lunar, is termed by the Scottish Rite as Anno Mundo, the year of the world.

See you in the Valley…

ATTENTION MASONSON

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
The Valley of New Haven
Masonic Temple, 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven

Be a Candidate in the Fall Reunion!
September 14 – 4°
September 21 – 11°

Last Date for Petitions: October 1
Contact Valley Secretary Vern Cleaves now!

For further information, please contact
Valley secretary Ill. Vernon K. Cleaves, 33°.
Craft at Labor...

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREES
Wednesday, September 9, Ivanhoe No. 107, Darien, dinner
Saturday, September 12, Uriel No. 24, Merrow
Monday, September 14, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Tuesday, September 15, Coastal No. 57, Stonington
Thursday, September 17, Wolcott No. 60, Stafford, 6:30 p.m. dinner

FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES
Monday, September 28, Annawon No. 115, Milford, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Craft at Refreshment...

Thursday, September 3, 9:00 a.m. 8th Masonic District Breakfast at the Groton Townhouse Restaurant
Thursday, September 3, Harmony No. 42, Waterbury, presentation by Masonicare by Carl Anderson
Friday, September 4, Putnam No. 46, South Woodstock, 9:00 a.m., Woodstock Fair motorcycle parking
Saturday, September 5, Uriel No. 24, Merrow, awards night
Monday, September 7, Hiram No. 18, Sandy Hook, Labor Day parade
Tuesday, September 8, Manchester No. 73, Manchester, awards night
Thursday, September 10, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, Masonic Education Night

Thursday, September 17, Harmony No. 42, Waterbury
Thursday, September 17, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Tuesday, September 22, Village No. 29, Collinsville
Tuesday, September 22, Manchester, No. 73, Manchester
Tuesday, September 22, Corinthian No. 104, Fairfield
Tuesday, September 22, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville

Saturday, September 12, King Hiram No. 12, Shelton, 10:00 a.m., 10th Annual Tractor Show
Saturday, September 12, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, annual picnic, Churchill Park, Newington
Sunday, September 13, Brainerd No. 102, Niantic, awards program
Monday, September 14, Annawon No. 115, Milford, 7:30 p.m. Table Lodge
Monday, September 14, Washington No. 70, Windsor, Lodge of Instruction
Wednesday, September 16, Eustay 43, Old Saybrook, 6:30 p.m. dinner, awards night
Saturday, September 19, Putnam No. 46, South Woodstock, 7:00 p.m. Southern bar-b-que dinner

Saturday, September 19, Village No. 29, Collinsville, Sam Collins Day
Saturday, September 19, Quad Lodge Golf Tournament, Cromwell
Sunday, September 20, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 8:00 a.m. country breakfast
Sunday, September 20, Wooster No. 10, Colchester, ice cream outing
Monday, September 21, St. John’s No. 2, Middletown, 6:30 p.m. BBQ dinner, Malcolm Pierce presentation about his trip to China
Friday, September 25, Philosophic Lodge of Research, Cromwell, program: Brother Leonardo Da Vinci
Saturday, September 26, Putnam No. 46, South Woodstock 5:30 p.m. Southern bar-b-que dinner

Called to the Celestial Lodge

We offer our condolences to the families and friends of these brothers who have been called by the Grand Archite of the Universe.

Chester S. Ambrose...........Adelphi-Momauguin 63
Arthur A. Avedisian..................Washington 70
George E. Becker ..................Village 29
Kenneth R. Biebel...........Ashlar-Aspetuck 142
Norton H. Bradley ..................Day Spring 30
Lester P. Bresnahban..............Fayette 69
Fernand E. Brochu.............Granite 119
Daniel T. Camilleri...............Friendship 33
Alfred E. Clark..................King Hiram 12
Robert E. Clark...............Adelphi-Momauguin 63
Nathan Deckman ..............America-St. John’s 8
Carl T. Doerfler..................Bay View 120
Norman G. Dull..................Coastal 57
Clifford F. Fontaine.............Evening Star 101
Harold A. Geer..................Manchester 73
James K. Godburn...............Center 97
Stephen P. Gode..................Day Spring 30
Guy O. Hawkins..................Ashlar 332
Frederick H. Hermonat.........Shepherd-Salem 78
Arthur B. Hitchcock..............Composite 28
Larry A. Hutson ..................Seneca 55
Russell E. Jacobs...............St. Paul’s 11
Peter B. Janes..................Coastal 57
Alvin E. Jernstrom...............Uriel 24
Thomas J. Johnson..............Widow’s Son 66
Elroy R. S. Jones.............Corinthian 103
Edward P. Lace..................Coastal 57
Robert E. Lobner...............Day Spring 30
Ivan E. London..............Uriel 24
Eugene J. Longo...............Composite 28
Johnston McKeever.............Manchester 73
Joseph Y. Miller..............King Hiram 12
Harold M. Neumuth..............Columbia 25
Stanley R. Nichols..............King Hiram 12
Albert W. Oberg...............Coastal 57
Milton Opotzner.............Cosmopolitan 125
Lawrence T. Palmieri............Federal 17
William E. Paquette.........Annawon 115
John H. Peters III..............Fayette 69
Edwin W. Poulton............Widow’s Son 66
James B. Prince................Coastal 57

David K. Rines..................Columbia 25
Alan P. Rowland..............Sequin-Level 140
Donald I. Rudder.............Wyllys-St. John’s 4
Henry F. Schaefer...............St. Peter’s 21
Jack Segal........................Hiram 1
Henry C. Setterstrom..............Somerset-St. James 34
Robert S. Shearer...............St. Paul’s 11
Arthur W. Simmonds.........Manchester 73
Ernest J. Smith...............Manchester 73
Jonathan G. Snow..............Frederick-Franklin 14
Chester T. Speed...............Brainard 102
Norman P. Stinehour...........Madison 87
Roderick J. J. Stockel...........Arsamatawae 89
Edmund K. Swigart............St. Peter’s 21
Ronald N. Taylor.............Bay View 120
Alfred C. Warren..............Putnam 46
Harold Y. Weaver..............Day Spring 30
Frank C. Wood Jr..............King Hiram 12
Walter R. Woron...............King Hiram 12
Clifford R. Wright.............Wooster 10
Those names in **bold** are new or renewing Boosters. Thank you for your support.

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- Anchor No. 112
- Anna M. No. 115
- Ansantawae No. 89
- Bay View No. 120
- Brainard No. 102
- Center No. 97
- Coastal No. 57
- Columbia No. 25
- Compass No. 3
- Connecticut York Rite College
- Corinthian No. 103
- Cosmopolitan No. 125
- Estuary No. 42
- Evening Star No. 101
- Federal No. 17
- Frederick-Franklin No. 14
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- Grand Commandery Knights Templar
- Granite No. 119
- Harmony No. 82
- Harry No. 67
- Hartford Evergreen No. 88
- Hejaz Grotto
- Hiram No. 18
- Ionico Chapter No. 100
- Ionic No. 110
- Ivanhoe No. 107
- Jerusalem No. 49
- Jeptha No. 95
- King Hiram No. 25
- King Solomon’s No. 7
- Knight Templar
- Clinton
- Shriners
- Temple
- New Milford
- St. Peter’s No. 21
- Temple No. 65
- Third Masonic District
- Tombstone No. 22
- Union Lodge No. 5
- Unity No. 148
- Urial No. 24
- Valley of Hartford, AASR
- Valley of New Haven, AASR
- Village No. 29
- Washington No. 70
- Washington No. 81
- Widow Son No. 66
- Wooster No. 10
- Wooster No. 79
- Wyllys-St. John No. 4

**Connecticut Freemasons September 2009**

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AASR-Valley of Hartford Stages Road Race

by Carl G. Ek

Bro. Jeff Flynn is chairman of the Scottish Rite Valley of Hartford’s ‘Family Life’ committee. He’s also a runner, averaging 4-6 miles a day, five days a week. Why not, he thought, combine his two pastimes into a fun event that could raise money for the 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children in Waterbury?

Planning began in October, and a goal of 100 runners was set. On the last Saturday of July – which will hopefully be the date of the race hereafter – 148 runners of all ages headed out into the neighborhoods of Newington for the inaugural race. The day was an unqualified success.

Jeff characterized the race as “lots of fun” and said the Valley would host it for “many years to come.” Did anything go wrong, Jeff was asked. One small detail – there were not enough of the smaller sized race t-shirts for the competitors, and many leftovers in XL and above. A valuable lesson has been learned: runners are smaller than most Masons!

Yes, that’s 5K Race chairman Jeff Flynn running in his own event, finishing 3+ miles on a hot, humid morning in a very respectable 27:14.

The Bet

It was just two buddies talkin’, a couple of chunky guys on the board of the 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children.

“We oughta run in this next year.” “Us? We’d never get out of the parking lot!” “Yeah, but how about if there was something important on the line to make us take this seriously?” “Okay – loser pays tuition for a student at the Learning Center for a year.” “Okay – let’s shake on it!”

Thus began “The Bet” between a portly pair of middle-aged 33°’s – Dave Sharkis and Howard Turner, the former Ill. Active for Connecticut, the latter Commander-in-Chief of Connecticut Consistory, Preston. As some ‘trash talk’ ensued, both realized their first ‘run’ would be to a shoe store – neither owned a pair of sneakers!

Yes, a 5K is only 3.1 miles, but both ‘runners’ are already asking about having the medical unit follow them on the course. And both are accepting pledges to help pay the $5,000 tuition in the event they are not first in this epic two-man challenge.

The early favorite is Ill. Dave – pledges to support him may be e-mailed to dsharkis@snet.net. But with eleven months to prepare, Ill. Howard certainly can’t be counted out – his tuition pledges go to hdtturner@hotmail.com.

Watch Connecticut Freemasons for further details on this heavyweight challenge!

Annual Dyslexia Awareness Walk
Sunday, October 4
Registration from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm
Walk step-off at 1:00 p.m.
Waterbury 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children
529 Highland Avenue, Waterbury, CT 06708
Call 203-465-0830
Sign up Sponsors - Flyers available at the Learning Center
WALK IN SUPPORT OF THE CHILDREN’S PROGRAM
The Masonicare HelpLine provides guidance and support to individuals, families and caregivers who need direction and don’t know where to turn for help.

The HelpLine is free and confidential. Our knowledgeable representatives respond to inquiries regarding senior healthcare and retirement living, and offer assistance in accessing and using services, agencies and programs in Connecticut that are available but can be confusing to seniors. We also help seniors and families explore Masonicare’s wide-ranging continuum of care.

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If you or a loved one needs home care following a hospitalization, illness or surgery, look no further than Masonicare Home Health. We bring a caring touch right to your doorstep.

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