Grand Master Leads Auvergne Honorary DeMolay Class

PAGE 5
Gary Post Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal

PAGE 14
‘Letter G’ Returns to Wethersfield

PAGE 15
Reaching Out to the World


**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Grand Master’s Message .................................................4  
Gary Post Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal ..................5  
Grand Chaplain’s Pulpit ..................................................6  
“December’s Rose” Play Reading ...................................6  
Masonicare Experience ..................................................7  
Grand Historian’s Corner ..............................................7  
The Affordable Care Act .................................................9  
From the Desk of Steve McPherson ............................10  
New Faces at Masonicare ...........................................10  
News from the Valley of Hartford ...............................11  
News from the Valley of New Haven ..........................12  
Examining the Concept of the Chain of Union ..........13  
Our Departed Brothers ...............................................14  
DeMolay Leadership Training ....................................28  
Craft at Labor..........................................................28  
Historic Part of Wethersfield Freemasonry’.............14  
Craft at Refreshment ..................................................29  
Hiram No. 1, Reaching Out to the World.................15  
Boosters ..................................................................30  
‘King Solomon’s Temple’ Parades in Newtown ..........16  
Prepare to Open Your Doors ....................................31  
God and the American Government - part 2 ..........18  
Adelphi Momauquin Donates $30,000 .............31  
2012 Brandt Nursing Scholarships.........................19  
New Outpatient Colonoscopy ....................................20  
Masonicare and Connecticut State Police ............20  
Open House Day for Donor Awareness Program ...21  
Edith Routan Knows Masonicare Firsthand ..........22  
Remebering Stuttgart-American Lodge UD .........23  
David Wooster Day Celebrated in Danbury ..........24  
Congratulations.......................................................24  
The Cosgrove Sisters...............................................25  
York Rite Opportunities..........................................27  
Causues of Shoulder Pain...................................26  
Welcome .................................................................26  
Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM 
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Office hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., 1:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Monday through Friday 
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**GRAND MASTER’S TRESTLE BOARD**

Gary W. Arseneau - October 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>ATTIRE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, October 1, 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Friendship Lodge No. 33, Southington</td>
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<td>Second and Third Section EA lectures</td>
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<td>Thursday, October 4, 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury</td>
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<td>Saturday, October 6, 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Wolcott Lodge No. 60, Stafford Springs</td>
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<td>Monday, October 8, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Trowel Club, Friendship Lodge No. 33, Southington</td>
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<td>Tuesday, October 9, 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Grand Lodge officers meeting, Wallingford</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>Friday, October 12, 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Philosophical Lodge of Research, Cromwell, Rededication</td>
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<td>Saturday, October 13, 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Crown Plaza, Cromwell</td>
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<td>Tuesday, October 16, 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, Wallingford</td>
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<td>Thursday, October 18-20</td>
<td>Grand Lodge of Ohio, Akron, Ohio</td>
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<td>Sunday, October 21, 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Grand Royal and Grand Royal Patron’s Reception, Amaranth Country House Restaurant, East Haven</td>
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<td>Y</td>
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<td>Monday, October 22, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>N</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 23, 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Grand Lodge officers meeting, Wallingford</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, October 27, 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Grand Lodge Semi-Annual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 29</td>
<td>Masonic Jeopardy, Burlington, Vermont</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Y</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Grand Master Leads Auvergne Fall Class

by Carl G. Ek

The Auvergne Honorary DeMolay Chapter made its debut 18 months ago as a place for Master Masons who were never DeMolay members in their youth to witness the degrees of DeMolay and thus gain a better understanding of lessons taught to the young men in their organization.

On Sunday, September 23, a class of 17 new Auvergne DeMolays, led by Most Worshipful Grand Master Gary W. Arseneau, took their degrees in New Haven to bring the chapter’s membership to 50. Additionally, the elected officers of Auvergne Chapter were installed.

The first order of the day was to receive Grand Master Arseneau, who was presented with the gavel of authority – a gift he promptly returned so that the work could continue. After Auvergne Chapter was opened ritualistically by State Master Councilor Matthew W. Lingenfelter, the first corps of elected Auvergne officers was installed.

Then, the class retired and returned to the Egyptian Room to receive the Initiatory Degree under the direction of State Master Councilor Lingenfelter, his state officers, and Past State Master Councillors Tyler W. Anderson and Paul Evangelista – each of whom had presided over one of the previous Auvergne classes. Following the degree, a sandwich lunch was offered in the dining hall.

Everyone then assembled in the Greek Room on the second floor, where the DeMolay Degree dramatic section took place. Thanks to Scottish Rite Valley of New Haven stage crew members Ill. Bros. Robert D. Sherrick, 33°, and Ernest Dubois, 33°, on lighting, and Jon Fisher, sound, and Willis E. Copeland, Jr., organ – both MSA’s – the degree was presented in a manner never seen at the local chapter level. The class then returned to the Egyptian Room to take their final obligation.

At the conclusion of degree, the new Auvergne's were presented with a framed certificate of their membership, as well as a specially created Auvergne lapel pin. Several speakers congratulated the new members, and it was noted that the class brings Auvergne membership to 50. Master Councilor George S. Greytak reminded the class that Auvergne Chapter was designed to work for the young men of the local chapters to help make DeMolay grow and prosper. As such, he looks for to working with each of the new members in various projects Auvergne will undertake.

Chairman Ken Hawkins reminded the new members that Auvergne membership is open to Master Masons who are not Senior DeMolays and asked them to pass this invitation along to Masons in their home lodges. Dad Needham continued on the theme of service, and State Master Councillor Lingenfelter spoke of the appreciation that he and his fellow DeMolays have for those who step forward to work with the young men of DeMolay.

In his closing remarks, MWGM Gary W. Arseneau spoke of the spiritual nature of the obligations he and his classmates had taken, and echoed the chorus of congratulations for all of the young men who had participated in conferring the degrees. He closed his remarks by presenting to all of the DeMolays present his Grand Master's pin, explaining the symbolism of a man emerging from a rough stone to become the more polished man that society expects. He told the young men that the path to that improvement can be found in the teachings of DeMolay, and, as the years pass, through the teachings of Masonry. He also noted that not every man would take the degrees of Masonry, but that the way in which they live their lives proves that many men are Masons – without even knowing it.

Grand Master and Auvergne Honorary DeMolay candidate Gary W. Arseneau receives the gavel of authority from, from left: Auvergne Master Councilor and State Chapter Dad George S. Greytak, MWPGM; Dad Harry E. Needham, III, Executive Officer of Connecticut DeMolay; and State Master Councilor Matthew W. Lingenfelter.

October 2012 Connecticut Freemasons Page 3
I believe that more will ask. So I would say “ASK12B1” and let the man decide for himself thereby he comes to the fraternity by his own free will and accord.

Another slogan is “We take good men and make them better. Is that really what the fraternity does? I think that we present the tools that a man can use to make himself better. We, each and everyone of us, by our actions present what we have learned from each other by using the tools presented to us. However, if we did not take up the tools and begin to shape that rough ashlar we would not become any better than when we started.

My brothers, we as Masons have learned many things on our personal journey through life and Masonry. We continue to learn as we use the tools of the craft. If we look for those men who would be a good brother, we should at least bring him to the door so that he may have the opportunity to ask.

May the Grand Architect of the Universe continue to bless us so that we can continue his work through Masonry.

Regular Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut

The Regular Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut will be held in the auditorium of the Hartog Activities Center at Ashlar Village on the Masonicare Campus in Wallingford, Connecticut on Saturday, October 27, 2012. Note that it is on the 4th Saturday due to the Open House program on October 17. You may enter from either Cheshire Road or from Masonic Avenue; you will need to follow the instructions of the security staff for parking. Bus transportation will be provided as necessary.

The formal opening will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. It is anticipated that the session should close at approximately 12:00 noon. Luncheon will not be available.

This Regular Communication is called for the purpose of electing Grand Lodge officers for the year 2013. In addition we will receive certain committee reports, act on any legislation that may be in order for consideration, and on other issues as directed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

All voting delegates must register by lodge number as designated by posted signs at the registration table beginning at 8:00 a.m. All brothers attending must present a 2012 dues card.
WB Gary Post receives the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze from Grand Master Gary W. Arsenneau at Temple Lodge's awards night on June 7.

by Michael L. Castroll

Garret Wayne Post was born on May 17, 1941, the second of two sons of Grace Gailey and W.B. Harold Benjamin Post. His brother, Peter, preceded him by five years.

Gary remained with his family through his days at Crosby High School and graduated in 1959. Gary remained in Waterbury until 1967, when he married Sandra Gordon of Syracuse, New York. He and Sandy moved to Cheshire in 1968, where they raised their three children. Stuart lives nearby in Cheshire, while Mark lives in Roswell, Georgia, and daughter Sharon of Kennesaw, Georgia, live a Stone Mountain's throw from each other. Gary and Sandy are proud grandparents of seven grandchildren.

Gary began his life of community service as a Boy Scout. Gary attended Bates College for two years before moving on to New York University, graduating in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business and finance.

With the Viet Nam conflict in full swing, Gary joined the United States Coast Guard officer candidate program completing training with the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade, and starting his military career in Washington, D. C., where he served in the law division.

Gary left active duty with the Coast Guard in June, 1967, remaining active in the Coast Guard Reserves for 23 years until resigning his commission, having attained the rank of Commander. He remains a Charter Life Member of the Military Officers Association of America. He returned to Waterbury to join the family business.

Gary went to work for Manpower, Inc., a temporary employment agency started by Gary’s mother in the 1950’s, and became president of the company a few years later.

After the sale of the family business, he affiliated with New England Mutual Life, where he spent his next 11 years. In 2001, he created Post Financial Strategies as co-owner with his son, Brother Stuart Post.

Gary’s professional designations include Life Underwriting Training Counsel Fellow (LUTCF) in 1993 and Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) in 2002.

He has been a leader of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA), and served his local Waterbury chapter and the Connecticut Board of Directors as treasurer, secretary, and president on both the local and state levels. Gary has also served the Greater Waterbury Chamber of Commerce.

According to the Seven Angels Theatre founder, producer, and artistic director, Semena DeLaurentis, Gary’s presence on the theatre’s development committee has assured the success of the theatre by creating an endowment fund.

Gary is a lifelong member of the Waterbury Congregational Church, served the Naugatuck Valley Association (Congregational Churches of Connecticut), and involved with Interfaith Ministry and Robin Ridge Housing for the Elderly Association of Waterbury.

Gary also sits as chairman of the board for the Post College Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Post University, founded by Gary’s grandfather in 1890. The United Way of Connecticut showed their appreciation for his 20 years of service by naming him "Outstanding Board Member."

Gary has been a Kiwanian for 45 years, having served as president of his home chapter as well as Lieutenant Governor for the Kiwanis Clubs of Connecticut. He was inducted into their Legion of Honor. Gary’s activity with YMCA started as a camp counselor then Wilderness Director. He is on the Board of Directors, and served as president of the Waterbury YMCA for three years. He was later the first president of Camp Hazen YMCA in Chester, when it became an independent YMCA. This was the camp Gary attended as a youth.

WB Garrett Wayne Post is a third generation Mason, his grandfather and father having joined Liberty Lodge No. 23 in 1907 and 1938, respectively.

Gary was a member of Doric Chapter, Order of DeMolay, in Waterbury, and later petitioned Temple Lodge No. 16, Cheshire. He was initiated on May 23, 1991, passed on September 19, 1991, and was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on November 21, 1991. Following in the footsteps of the Post family was Gary’s son Stuart, the fourth generation, in 2008.

WB Gary served Temple Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1997. He earned the Master's Achievement Award for his many programs. He has served on the Board of Trustees for over 10 years, and runs the school for instruction.

Brother Gary sought further light in the Scottish Rite, Valley of New Haven. He has also received further light in the York Rite bodies. As prophet of Hejaz Grotto No. 42, MOVPER, Gary is a permanent contributing member of the Humanitarian Foundation.

W.B. Gary has chaired the Masonic Charity Golf Tournament several times, and assisted with countless others.

At Temple Lodge’s awards night, Gary was not surprised to see Grand Master Gary Arsenneau as a 50-year brother was coming to receive his pin and life membership. When Gary saw his DeMolay brothers, who he hadn't seen in years, and then some of his family, he became suspicious something was going to happen with him.

His citation appropriately says, “We receive none knowingly into our order who are not moral and upright before God, and of good repute before the world.” The rewards and accolades afforded him were well recognized when the Grand Lodge of Connecticut bestowed upon him the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.
This question was the title of the sermon given by Reverend and Dr. Merlin Conrad of Ohio at the Vesper Service of the Supreme Council of 33° Scottish Rite Masons in Cleveland, Ohio, on Sunday, August 26, 2012. The question in itself is quite thought provoking and can pertain to just about any situation we may find ourselves. As Dr. Conrad eloquently expounded his message it became clear to the relevancy of what we do as Masons and human beings. What if we changed the pronoun in the question to “we” or “I” to make it more personal and look at the topic from a different perspective?

How often have we been in a situation and asked ourselves – What am I doing here?; What is the purpose?; What have I to contribute? These are interesting questions and we each may have similar or different answers. But when they refer to Masonry, duty to God and our fellow man, are we all in sync, or still wandering around, hoodwinked and searching for answers? We will never know all the answers to everything but the good practice of Masonic teachings affords us the opportunity to discover many of them.

We cannot afford to stop attaining knowledge and expanding our understanding of Masonry after being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Nor should we allow it to happen to our new brothers.

Interestingly enough, RW Anderson Zeidler, secretary of Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester, made mention of this fact in this fall’s Trestle Board. “Our job (as a lodge) is to make Masons. Please notice that I did not say new members. There is a vast difference between a new member and a new Mason. We need to make Masons and if you don’t know the difference then you need to get back to lodge and become better educated.” This can be part of our answer to what we are doing here.

It behooves all of us to study the history of Masonry, our lodge, and the beautiful ceremonies and allegories of our degrees. In addition to our duty to God, brotherly love, relief, and truth, let us continue to learn and to educate each other. Then we can truly begin to answer the question — “What are we doing here?”

by Thomas A. Burke

At their September 20 Stated Communication, the brothers of Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, held a reading of December’s Rose, a Masonic play in two acts with an interlude. It was adapted from a play by Carl H. Claudy, revision by Theodore E. Torok, Supreme Council 33°, A.A.S.R., Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Intended for Masonic audiences, the play’s premise centered on a fictional country lodge in Pineville, a town set far from railroad tracks, with several long-serving brothers.

As the play contained parts for several brothers, nearly everyone in attendance was able to participate directly; audience members also participated by helping with lighting cues and general calls on “votes” in the play. Brothers used the character’s descriptions and staging directions to add depth and color to their part. Everyone enjoyed the play, which had a sincere and sentimental message and a heart-warming ending. Special thanks were extended to WB Digger Odell who provided the concept and the play for the evening.

Worshipful Master Tom Burke kept copies of the play that were made for the evening’s reading; if any other lodge is interested in reading or presenting the play and would like these copies, please e-mail him at tomalso@yahoo.com.

“December’s Rose” Play Reading at Union Lodge No. 5

WB Digger Odell holds the Masonic play performed by the members of Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford.
It’s been said that recreation therapy is sometimes undervalued and misunderstood as a component of elder care. John Sweeney, Administrator of Masonicare at Newtown, offers a simple explanation.

“In a nursing home setting,” Sweeney said, “you tend to be focused on the nitty-gritty details, like dressing and wound care and showering and bathing. But without recreation, our residents would be sitting in their rooms all day and it would be a pretty boring existence. Our recreation therapists bring quality to their lives. They’re a huge asset to our organization.”

Susan Sonnati is Manager of Therapeutic Recreation at Masonicare at Newtown (MAN) and Lockwood Lodge, the adjacent assisted living facility. She and recreation therapists Lynn D’Angelo, Diane Fingerhut and Ann Snyder plan and implement recreation and other activities for the residents and patients. On any given day that could include running exercise groups and word games, accompanying residents to spiritual services, planning an outdoor concert or special event honoring veterans, or arranging out-trips to an apple orchard or ice cream shop.

“And then we also do our one-on-one activities,” Sonnati explained, “like strolls and sensory activities for the folks who need a little extra attention because they’re either unable to participate in the larger activities – like our dementia and memory impaired residents – or because the interest isn’t there.”

Although therapists try to gauge an individual’s likes and dislikes during their initial evaluation, really getting to know a resident takes time and is less science than art.

“We’re with the residents more than our own families,” Sonnati said, “so we get to know them and build a bond with them. It also depends on the resident, because they respond to each of us differently. For example, there’s a woman here who I know I can get to come out for activities but she may not be as responsive with the other therapists.”

Sonnati smiles, adding, “and I know they like when Lynn runs the exercise groups more than when I do it.”

“We strive to make a difference in the residents’ lives every day,” D’Angelo said, “and every day is different. I wish I could do it for everyone every day, but you can only work with so many people. If someone’s upset, and I can calm them down or get them to enjoy an activity by using little tricks I know or talking with them about something from their life, then I’m good. That’s very rewarding.”

D’Angelo recalls how she first became interested in recreation therapy as a profession.

“When I was 15,” she said, “I had a life experience – I was very ill and had to stay in the hospital. I had a recreation therapist who made a tie-dyed shirt with me. I remember that clearly. So when I got better, and was in high school, I told my mother that I wanted to go into a field where I didn’t have to poke at people or stick them with needles and I could have a good time. Fifteen isn’t usually the age when you decide what you want to be, but that’s when it happened for me.”

Since then, D’Angelo has come to appreciate recreation as something of a “hidden” therapy.

“Our residents and patients don’t realize that when they’re playing Wii Bowling,” she said, “they’re using their upper extremities to strengthen their muscles, or when they garden they’re using hand-eye coordination. Playing cards sharpens their cognitive skills because they have to know their numbers and recognize colors. We put the ‘fun’ in functional. They’re not aware of the additional benefits that they’re getting from this form of therapy because they’re having a good time. We’ve taken their mind off those aches and pains.”

“Without the recreation staff and the volunteers to help, there wouldn’t be anything for the residents to do,” said Jane Misencik, a longtime Masonicare volunteer who, along with husband Bro. Joe Misencik, has been dutifully running MAN’s weekly Bingo games since the early 1990s. “It’s so important to have that interaction and all those activities. Many of them do not get any visitors because they either don’t have family or because the family they have doesn’t come. They look forward to you bringing in the outside world – telling them what you’re up to and what’s happening in your life.”

“During the big winter storms last year,” Sonnati said, “I think we were touched that the residents were so concerned about us. They worry about us driving in bad weather to get to work. A few years ago, there was a blizzard and the snow was so deep you couldn’t even see our sign out at the entrance. So a few of us stayed over and the next morning, we served the residents breakfast.”

“That, right there,” D’Angelo said, “is a Masonicare Experience.”

Your gifts to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut will help create “Masonicare Experiences” for others. To find out how you can support The Foundation or to make a gift, please call 203-679-5555 or 800-562-3952. You can also donate online at www.masonicare.org/mcf.
This month marks the 23rd year since Connecticut’s famous resolution to recognize Prince Hall Freemasonry made history. Together we celebrate the spirit of brotherhood and friendship. 

Most Freemasons have heard of the Regius Manuscript, the oldest and probably the most significant document of our Fraternity. Otherwise known as the Halliwell Poem, the 794 lines of Old English verse, 96 lines of a code of etiquette, and about 70 lines of directions is known to Freemasons in Europe and the Americas. The poem, part of the Royal Library of King Henry VII and presented to the Royal British Museum by George II, stands a hallmark to all of Britain.

In 1840 non-Mason James Halliwell found the manuscript and published it under the title of A Poem of Moral Duties. It had remained unread and untouched in the royal stacks for 500 years. We know the poem dates back to 1390 but some historians believe it may have been written earlier. It was most likely written to inform gentleman about Masonry and its foundations as there were no known “speculative masons” in the 14th century. There has been much written on the Regius Poem, some by experts in Chaucher’s English and they should be consulted for closer examination.

On June 24, 1764, Lodge No. 7 in his Majesty’s 55th Regiment of Foot at Crown Point recommended that Lieut. Daniel Moulton, Lieut. Samuel Mott, and Dr. Philip Turner be made Masons at Saint John’s Provincial Grand Lodge located at Boston.

A charter was soon granted for these three to form a lodge in Norwich but the minutes of the Grand Lodge (Provincial) mention the lodge in 1766 on a roll call of lodges in Connecticut outside Boston. The lodge was in existence for a few years until the start of hostilities.

Brother and Dr. Philip Turner, the most notable of the three, was an orphan who was apprenticed out to Dr. Elisha Tracy and during the French and Indian War. Dr. Turner learned his skill as a surgeon and was one of the first doctors to not study outside the country, as most physicians and surgeons of the time studied in Scotland or England. He was at Fort Ticonderoga in 1759 and in 1760 (at age 20) was appointed surgeon. Dr. Turner came back to Norwich to enter private practice until the outbreak of the Revolution.

He tried to propose a state medical society but that did not happen until 1792. He answered the Lexington alarm and served at Bunker Hill. Bro. Turner visited American Union Lodge in Roxbury in 1776 but did not affiliate. He tended the wounded in the Battle of Long Island and White Plains, and was at the bedside of General David Wooster when he was wounded at Ridgefield in 1777. Wooster died five days later.

Turner served until the end of the war and returned to Norwich to private practice. He first visited the lodge at Colchester and probably swapped stories with fellow patriots who served in the war with him. He then applied for a charter in 1785 for a lodge under Massachusetts to be called Columbia, but it was recalled because of the impending organization of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. By 1795, members of the two previous lodges in Norwich were granted a charter for a lodge called Somerset No. 34, and thus Turner, in a span of three decades, had chartered three different lodges in Norwich.

In 1954 our Masonic Healthcare facility still had an operating farm with cows and other animals. At the annual Holstein-Friesian Association annual show in Durham, the yellow ribbon (4th place) was given to a cow from Wallingford. The Masonic “Ormsby Dolly” had garnered points from both appearance and blood line and according to the report, all the cows at the farm were black and white.

This Grand Historian is curious to know if any reader remembers the farm and its operation and the showing of the cattle. The prize cow was born May 23, 1952, and sired by Ancana Masonic Chief of Ancana Farm in Mansfield and the dam was Ormsby Masonic Faye.

The Episcopal clergy made up a large part of the Masonic clergy in the early part of the 19th century. The third Bishop of Connecticut was Thomas Church Brownell (1779-1865) a native of Massachusetts who started his college education at Brown University. He relocated to Union College in New York when a favorite professor transferred there and Brownell graduated in 1804. He joined the faculty, eventually married a devout Episcopalian, and was ordained in New York. He served as an assistant pastor in New York City for three years but was favored to be selected as Bishop of Connecticut.

He lived for a short time in Hartford but later moved to New Haven and then back to Hartford, when he became President of Trinity College in 1823. By 1830 he devoted all his work to the diocese. He took a missionary trip to Kentucky and Mississippi and found his way to Louisiana and Alabama. Although he did not have time to devote a lot of energy in Masonry, he was a good standing member of Adelphi Lodge No. 63, Fair Haven.
**The Affordable Care Act:**
How Does It Affect You?

by Richard C. Memmott, Sr.
Director of Masonicare Community Services and Chairman, Connecticut Commission on Aging

On March 23, 2010, President Barack H. Obama signed the Affordable Care Act, the health care law that was designed to increase access to health coverage for many Americans and give new protections to people who currently have health insurance. Some parts of the law are in effect right now, and others will take effect down the road. The following is a brief outline, by year, of some of the provisions of the law that are currently in place and what will be happening through 2015.

2010: Some of the major consumer protections that became law in 2010 include the following.

Insurance companies can no longer deny coverage to children under age 19 because of a pre-existing health condition. And, young adults are now allowed to stay on their parent’s health plan until they turn 26.

Insurance companies can no longer rescind health coverage. In the past, they could search for errors or technical mistakes on a person’s application and use it to deny coverage when he or she became sick and needed it most. The law makes this illegal.

Under the law, insurance companies can no longer impose lifetime dollar limits on essential benefits, like hospital stays, and consumers now have a way to appeal coverage determinations or claims to their insurance company.

Also, 4 million seniors who reach the Medicare prescription drug “doughnut hole” now receive monetary assistance, and new medical plans must cover preventive services such as mammograms and colonoscopies without charging a deductible, co-pay, or coinsurance. The law also implemented new ways to reduce fraud and waste in Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program).

For those who retire before they’re eligible for Medicare and are without employer-sponsored health insurance, the Affordable Care Act created a $5 billion program to help employers provide coverage to these employees until more affordable coverage is available in 2014.

Another important component passed in 2010 makes it easier for states to hold insurance companies accountable for unreasonable rate hikes.

In 2011, seniors who reached the coverage gap for prescription drugs began receiving a 50% discount when buying Medicare Part D - covered brand-name prescriptions. And until 2020, when the coverage gap is closed, seniors will receive additional savings on brand-name and generic drugs. They also received free preventive care, such as annual wellness visits and personalized prevention plans. To avoid frequent readmissions to the hospital, high-risk Medicare beneficiaries now have their care coordinated when discharged and are connected to appropriate services in their communities.

2012: This year, many new components took effect that will continue to improve quality of care and lower healthcare costs. Hospitals now receive financial incentives to improve the quality of care they provide and physicians get incentives when they work together in groups to coordinate and improve the quality of patient care and reduce unnecessary hospital admissions. Since healthcare remains one of the few industries that relies on paper records, the law initiated a series of changes that will standardize billing and implement the use of electronic records to reduce paperwork and administrative burdens, cut costs, reduce medical errors, and ultimately improve quality of care.

Next year, in 2013, to improve preventive health coverage and expand the number of Americans receiving preventive care, the law will give new funding to state Medicaid programs that choose to cover preventive services for patients at little or no cost. It will also increase the Medicaid payments for primary care doctors, and according to the federal government, the increase is fully funded.

Many new and important consumer protections will take effect in 2014. Strong reforms will be implemented that will prohibit insurance companies from refusing to sell coverage or renew policies because of an individual’s pre-existing conditions. It will also eliminate the ability of insurance companies to charge higher rates due to gender or health status. The law will also prohibit new and existing group plans from imposing annual dollar limits on the amount of coverage an individual may receive.

Also beginning in 2014, if your employer doesn’t offer healthcare coverage, you can purchase insurance directly in an exchange – a new, transparent and competitive insurance marketplace where individuals and small businesses can buy affordable health benefit plans. Exchanges will offer a choice of plans that must meet certain benefits and cost standards. Members of Congress will also be getting their health insurance through exchanges.

Effective January 1, 2015, the year in which the final component of the Affordable Care Act will be enacted, a new provision will tie physician payments to the quality of care they provide. Physicians’ payments will be modified, and physicians who provide the best care will receive higher payments than those who provide lower quality care.

The Affordable Care Act has been in the news continuously since its enactment in 2010, with many pros and cons being offered by politicians, healthcare providers, and the public alike. There are more than 900 pages in the Act, and here are highlighted just a few of the items of interest and importance to you and your family.

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**Masonic Trivia**

The Committee on Masonic Education emails a Masonic trivia question each Saturday, along with the answer to the previous week’s question, and a listing of fifteen brothers who answered successfully.

To subscribe to this Masonic education effort, please send an email request to cme@ctfreemasons.net
FROM THE DESK OF:

**Bro. Stephen B. McPherson**  
President & CEO of Masonicare

Our national association, LeadingAge, tells its members to “Inspire. Lead. Advocate.” This is often voiced in the context of promoting the care and services of the patients and residents we serve--which here at Masonicare is over 4,500 patients and residents each and every day. They are the inspiration behind all that we do. Some very special moments have occurred recently that I would like to share with you.

Two dear friends and residents of Masonicare at Ashlar Village passed away this summer–

Bert and Harry Subkowsky. As part of a celebration of their life at Masonicare, you may notice a new flag flying outside Bridgehouse, the “Ashlarian” flag of Ashlar Village. The flag was Bert and Harry’s brainchild. During the celebration, many speakers commented on how positive and welcoming the Subkowskys were, and how much they contributed to life at Ashlar. In his remarks, their son Robert insisted that the Ashlar community had done the same for his mom and dad. It’s been said that we get out of life what we give, and Bert and Harry certainly were proof of that.

At Masonicare Partners, our home care partnership with St. Francis Hospital, a very moving ceremony took place last month when several Connecticut State Troopers were made honorary members of our Pedi-Pal team. You can read all about it in this issue of Connecticut Freemasons. While the services of our Hospice team and the State Police were appreciated by this young man’s family, I am equally sure we received much more in return.

We have just completed work on a Medical Affairs Suite on Sturges 2 at the Masonicare Health Center. For the first time in recent memory, we can accommodate our medical staff (house doctors, PAs and APRNs) in one central location. The new suite provides an opportunity to recognize the many contributions they make 24/7, and to show our appreciation for all they do on behalf of those we are privileged to care for.

Also in September, two members of Masonicare management enrolled in a prestigious two-year program known as the LeadingAge Connecticut - Leadership Academy. Only eighteen people were admitted from our industry across the state. We wish Bro. Carl Anderson, vice president for mission effectiveness, and Hilde Sager, assistant administrator for independent living, much success in their pursuit.

You may not be aware that the 2012 Connecticut General Assembly authorized the creation of an Aging in Place Task Force. The newly formed task force is comprised of several key players from our industry, and I’m pleased to tell you that Bro. Tom Gutner, special assistant to the office of the CEO, is one of them. They are already hard at work looking at ways that seniors might age in place safely.

Lastly, please mark the date of Sunday, November 11, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., for our annual “Autumn Gathering” at Masonicare Health Center. This year’s event will include a special honor for our veterans. We hope to see you there.

Sincerely and fraternally,

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**New Faces at Masonicare at Ashlar Village**

Masonicare at Ashlar Village, Masonicare’s continuing care retirement community in Wallingford, is pleased to welcome Susan Larson, RN, BSN, as the community’s wellness coordinator and Margaretann Foster, who will lead the sales and marketing team as director of marketing.

As wellness coordinator for Ashlar Village, Susan provides health-related services and education that will promote and enhance the well-being and quality of life of the retirement community’s residents. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of Connecticut, and also received certification in elementary education at Southern Connecticut State University.

Prior to joining Masonicare, Susan’s nursing career included employment as a staff nurse at Hartford Hospital and MidState Medical Center, and she was also the wellness nurse at the Wallingford Senior Center. She has also worked as a nursing supervisor for Apple Rehab/Coccomo in Meriden. Susan resides in Meriden with her husband, Kevin, and their two daughters.

In her role as director of marketing, Margaretann will be responsible for managing the sales and marketing of both the independent and assisted living communities at Ashlar Village and for maintaining occupancy in the retirement community’s various residential living options, including its villas, cottages, and apartments.

Margaretann is a graduate of La Salle University in Philadelphia, where she obtained a BA degree in communications and public relations; in 2007, she received an MBA from the University of New Haven. Prior to joining Masonicare, Margaretann was with Elim Park Place, a continuing care retirement community in Cheshire, for nine years, six years of which she served as director of marketing and community relations. She resides in Meriden with her two Great Danes, and enjoys Bikram Yoga and horseback riding. Margaretann is a strong supporter of various animal welfare groups and has been a major supporter for Great Dane rescue.

Residents and staff alike are pleased to warmly welcome both women to the Ashlar Village community and wish them well in the important roles they’ve undertaken.
IS IT TIME NOW TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP?  (Part 2)
A Valley of Hartford, A.A.S.R. Message to Masonic Brethren

by David Blythe Sr.,
Valley Secretary

In the September issue we asked “Is it time now to take the next step?” The article reminded everyone of the basic lessons in the three steps to become a Master Mason. It also pointed out the lessons the Scottish Rite degrees teach as we see them portrayed in a theatrical setting.

Some brethren attended an open house and candidate information night on September 27, and as a result, turned in their applications. However, if you could not attend that night, or still considering submitting an application; you have until 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, October 11, to do so.

You might be asking yourself, “Do I need to see all the degrees, 4° thru the 32°, to become a Scottish Rite Mason?” The answer is “no.” Each class, one in the fall and one in the spring, is required to see the 4° and 31°/32°, plus three other core value degrees.

For those brethren whose answer to the question, “Is it time now to take the next step?” was “yes,” they will see the 4° and 14° on Thursday, October 11. The 4°, titled “Master Traveler,” takes one on a journey that gives one a glimpse of what will be coming as one views the various degrees of the Scottish Rite. The 4° gives a taste of all the core value degrees mentioned in the September issue of this publication. The 14°, titled “Grand Elect Mason,” teaches the core value of reverence for God. We would not been allowed into the Masonic order if we did not believe in a “Supreme Being.”

On Thursday, October 25, the 15°, titled “Knight of the East or Sword,” the core value is integrity, and teaches the importance of loyalty to conviction and devotion to right.

On Thursday, November 1, the 18°, titled “Knight of the Rose Croix,” teaches the lessons of reverence for God and tolerance. Here one learns that man must have a new temple in his heart where God is worshiped in spirit and in truth, and that he must have a new law of love which all men everywhere may understand and practice. It affirms the broad principles of universality and toleration.

The Valley of Hartford’s 2012 schedule will wrap up on Consistory Day, Saturday, November 17, when candidates will see portrayed the 23°, titled “Knight of Valor,” perhaps better know as the “Four Chaplain’s Degree,” and the newly combined 31° and 32°, combining the titles of “Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commander” and “Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret.” The 23° teaches the lessons of “tolerance, devotion to country, and service to humanity.” It makes us aware that a man who forgets his duty to family, country, or God will be morally and spiritually destroyed. In the 31° and 32°, the combination of the two degrees teaches that we should give every man the benefit of innocence and purity of intentions. One who would judge others must first judge himself. This degree also describes the victory of the spiritual over the human in man and the conquest of appetites and passions by moral sense and reason.

Are you still questioning, “Is it the right time now to take the next step?” Perhaps knowing that unlike in the Blue Lodge, no memorization is required will help you answer. All the degrees are viewed in a theatrical setting, most in period costume, and after the initial required degrees, you can come back at your leisure to see the degrees that you missed, or as they are updated. The Passport Book, received after taking the 4°, will be a constant reminder of the degrees you have missed. The passport book, along with your dues card, allows you attend degrees in other Valleys within the Supreme Council Northern Masonic Jurisdiction at anytime.

You might ask, “After I take the degrees, what is required and what is available to me?” If you want to get involved, you can become a member of a cast, become a member of the stage crew, or a member of our choir. There is the option of becoming an officer, or a director of a degree. Our hope is that you will come back, enjoy all the other degrees, and fill your passport book.

Perhaps now, you can better answer the question “Is it time to take the next step?”

Still have questions? If so, please fell free to contact me at the Valley of Hartford at 860-666-0712 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between 9:00 a.m. and noon, or at sect@snet.net. Remember …. THE SCOTTISH RITE – MAKING BETTER MEN…GREAT
A True Fraternity that stresses BROTHERHOOD

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
The Valley of Hartford
207 Deming Street, Newington, CT 06111

The Valley of Hartford’s
300 YEARS OF BROTHERHOOD
2012

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The Vision of the Scottish Rite
“We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our members”

The Scottish Rite
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, or would like a copy of Scottish Rite Informational DVD
Contact David Blythe Sr., 33°, Valley Secretary, at the Valley of Hartford Office 860-666-0712, or sect@snet.net or visit our Valley Website: www.valleyofhartford.org

Applications for membership in the 2012 Fall Class will be accepted until Thursday, October 11

See what we have to offer by visiting our website: www.valleyofhartford.org

Fairfield County
MASONIC FAMILY INFORM

Masonicare Home Health & Hospice
cordially invites you to attend an informational dinner

Friday, October 26
5:30 p.m. Social Hour • 6:30 p.m. dinner and program

The Italian Center of Stamford
1620 Newfield Avenue, Stamford

Learn more about Masonicare’s continuum and the expansion of services of Masonicare Home Health in Lower Fairfield County

Know your rights as a healthcare consumer

The dinner and program are compliments of Masonicare Fraternal Relations

RSVP or direct questions to Brother Carl Anderson
at 203-679-6917 or at canderson@masonicare.org

Masonicare

October 2012 Connecticut Freemasons Page 11
Hear ye! Hear ye! The Fall Reunion is upon us. As the trees shed their colorful leaves, our numbers keep going up! The Valley of New Haven keeps adding members!

We start the colorful month of October with a full boat, as the E. G. Storer Lodge of Perfection confers both the 4° and the 14° on Monday evening, October 1. Dinner will be served in our dining hall in between degrees. This is also the deadline for petitions for the Fall Reunion.

No sooner does the class get their first taste of the Scottish Rite as living stones of that Temple and the Rite when it is time to continue the journey. On Monday, October 15 we are back to our labors. This time the 15° is called to order when Sovereign Prince George A. Mudry V creates our class Knights of the East or Sword as the Babylonian Captivity comes to a close and Zerubbabel leads the dispersed Judeans back home to Jerusalem.

The following Monday evening, October 22, we are all back to work. This time it is the popular 18° as Ill. Paul L. Chello, 33°, leads the proceedings as Most Wise Master of New Haven Chapter Rose Croix of Heredom. This degree is very moving, and it is considered the philosophical degree of the Scottish Rite.

Everything seems to be jam packed in October, but that is for good reason. The Supreme Council is doing everything to make sure this is a very special year. They have issued a special medal cast to commemorate of its 200th anniversary and given to all candidates. The medal is also available to all Scottish Rite brothers.

Before coming to our shores at Charleston, South Carolina, the first reference to the Rite was in France in 1742, when it was applied to several degrees. They were called Ecossais, implying Scottish, but by no means implying any connection to Scotland or any part therein. Instead, it is used to indicate a higher sphere of Masonic education.

When the Scottish Rite came north it took some doing to untangle a web that was being woven by three different factions. On August 5, 1813, with the mess tidied up, Illustrious Daniel D. Tompkins was installed as our first Sovereign Grand Commander. The other pillar of note, Illustrious John J. J. Gourgas, became NMI’s first Secretary-General. After the smoke had cleared from the anti-Masonic Morgan affair, Illustrious Brother Killian Van Rensselaer came to New Haven, where Illustrious Francois Turneur de Bussy (Frances Turner) was made our first Active in 1850, a mere twenty years before E. G. Storer started our first Lodge of Perfection.

Our reunion this fall celebrates Illustrious Brother Tompkins for all he has meant to the state of New York as their governor, the nation as our sixth Vice President in the administration of President and Brother James Monroe, and to Freemasonry.

Stay tuned for our popular Oktoberfest, on Monday evening, November 5. You won’t want to miss it!

Ciao, and see you in the Valley.

New Haven Scottish Rite Scholarships Awarded

“That’s Prague, as in Czechoslovakia?” asks Ill. Randy S. Stevens, 33°, of Valley of New Haven Scottish Rite scholarship recipient Ashley Chello as he presents her 2012-13 junior year scholarship. Ashley was one of six Suffolk University, Boston students selected for an honors program in the Czech Republic over the summer, and is a three-time scholarship honoree. She is the daughter of Ill. Paul L. and Emily Chello of Guilford.

New Haven DeMolay and Trumbull Lodge No. 22 member Chris Rompe, son of Bill and Doreen Rompe of East Haven, made two trips to Ill. Randy S. Stevens, 33°, of the Valley of New Haven Scottish Rite scholarship committee. One was to pick up his own scholarship for his junior year at Mitchell College in New London, where he is a criminal justice major hoping to become an arson investigator with the State Police. The other was to pick up his Branford Assembly No. 19, Order of Rainbow sister Lauren’s check for her freshman year, also at Mitchell College.
Examining the Concept of the Chain of Union


by Andrew Hammer

Most readers of this publication will already be familiar in some way with the Chain of Union, if not already using such a ceremony in their own lodge. A common misconception among some brothers, however, is that the general concept of a Chain of Union is an import from European Masonry, recently brought forth by a few American Masons who are seeking a more esoteric experience in closing their lodges. In fact, the idea need not be imported at all; it may be found right here in the United States, within the rituals of our own Grand Lodges.

How could Masons in a given jurisdiction not know about their own ceremonies? Very easily. Many of our lodges have a virtual attic of discarded ideas and practices that have been worn away by fear, lack of interest, or general laziness. In the same way that some Grand Lodges have done away with the penalties of the degrees, or allowed elements of Craft ritual to be removed away into appendant bodies, elements of lectures or charges that convey a special meaning or indicate a particular experience can find themselves lost before our very eyes. In some situations, we might find ourselves engaged in an activity that is clearly derived from a more specific point of origin, but those engaged in it are not aware of what precisely they are doing, or how it was meant to be done. This is the case with the Chain of Union.

A number of Grand Lodges in the United States, most of them east of the Mississippi, have in their work a closing charge, intended to be used at the end of meetings. For most of these Grand Lodges that charge is optional, which—human nature being what it is—unfortunately translates to “feel free to ignore.” However, in my Grand Lodge [Virginia] this closing charge is a mandatory part of our ritual, and is used at the end of all Master Mason’s lodges. The language goes back at least to the time of William Preston, and is monitory in those jurisdictions that include it.

While its form varies slightly from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, the text is essentially some variation on the following, used in Virginia:

“Brethren: We are now about to quit this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to mix again with the world. Amidst its concerns and employments, forget not the duties which you have heard so frequently inculcated and so forcibly recommended in this Lodge.

Remember that around this sacred altar, you have solemnly bound yourselves to befriend and relieve every brother who shall need your assistance. You have promised, in the most friendly manner, to remind him of his error, and aid a reformation. These generous principles are to extend further. Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. Do good unto all. Recommend it more especially to the household of the faithful. Finally, brethren, be ye all of one mind; live in peace; and may the God of love and peace delight to dwell with and bless you.”

This charge is given by the Master, after he has instructed the brethren to assemble about the altar, and in this act, the circle is formed which constitutes the chain of union by way of forming a temple of living stones. It is not the custom in Virginia to join hands, but it is also not prohibited, and one may well imagine a time when this surely must have been done in Virginia lodges [partially because the joining of hands is found in the closing ritual of an appendant body in Virginia]. In any case, the actual joining of hands is not the measure by which such an assembly should be judged: the image of Stonehenge and the concept of a sacred circle points to the higher purpose of the chain therein created. The Master then, while this circle remains intact, moves to declare the Lodge closed.

Some might point out that there is no reference to a chain in this charge. But interestingly enough, using language that is in part almost identical to that quoted above, the older Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania adds the following line:

“Remember always, Brethren, that these solemn rites of which you have been partakers, and your parts in them, are as binding on your conscience outside the lodge as within it. They are links in that chain made in life for eternity.”

Beyond that allusion to an actual chain, one should look closely at the words that are used throughout the charge. The purpose of a chain of union is to signify and validate the unbreakable oneness of the brethren by the bonds of the fraternity. In this particular charge, while the brethren are assembled, they are told that “around this sacred altar”—not at, when each man himself was obligated, but around, as a circle of brethren assembled in a chain of union—“you have solemnly bound yourselves” to each look after the other. At the end of the charge, an extraordinary line for an organization of free-thinking individuals is uttered: “be ye all of one mind.” In this simple phrase, a psychological chain is formed to reinforce the physical one. Clearly, the brethren who composed and enacted this charge nearly 300 years ago knew the nature of what they were doing.

In a few lodges I have visited, the practice of a chain of union is implemented using words either from other rites or jurisdictions, which then necessitates the Lodge having to close first, in order to do what becomes an unauthorized [but not prohibited] ceremony outside of a tyled Lodge. The advantage of the closing charge I am quoting here in this article is that it is not something that has to be done after the lodge is closed; it is already part of our ritual, and again, in Virginia, required in order to close the Lodge. Considering the number of American Grand Lodges where this exact version of a closing charge — or a variation thereof — is “on the books,” it would behoove brethren to take a closer look at their respective rituals to see if they might find something in their history which would take them to their own native version of a chain of union.

The lesson to be learned from such an investigation is that often the things we think we need to improve our Craft are not necessarily to be found from without, but from within. In this case, the Chain of Union is something to be found within our own histories and rituals as American Masons. In putting this ceremony to use within those boundaries, we bring to life the notion of the “temple of living stones” alluded to in our ritual, and demonstrate a tangible meaning of that concept to every brother present.

As brothers consider how they might implement a Chain of Union in their lodges, it is apparent that far from being a “foreign innovation,” it is instead a forgotten treasure of our own Masonic history that merely need be restored.
Called to the Celestial Lodge

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

Lee S. Abrams .............................................. America-St. John's 8
Harvey M. Hutchinson ...................................... America-St. John's 8
Jack O. Edgerton ........................................... Amos Beecher 121
Robert D. L. Crandall ...................................... Annawon 115
Herbert I. Ahrens ........................................... Ansantawae 89
Robert L. Reiss .............................................. Ansantawae 89
Gordon A. Wilson ........................................... Ansantawae 89
John H. Sorensen .......................................... Brainard 102
Paul T. Trevalle .............................................. Brainard 102
Timothy P. Devine ......................................... Coastal 57
George G. Hallett Jr ........................................ Coastal 57
Thomas W. Blowen Jr ..................................... Composite 28
Vernon Merrill .............................................. Composite 28
Samuel J. Dorr ................................................ Corinthian 103
Gerald Zitser .................................................. Cosmopolitan 125
Robert C. Tatters .......................................... Friendship 33

David H. Gellman ........................................... Granite 119
David M. Rogoff ........................................... Granite 119
Richard E. Uziemblo ...................................... Hartford Evergreen 88
James H. Schouten ....................................... Hiram 1
John Sfargas .................................................. Oxoboxo 116
Donald C. Walberg ......................................... Putnam 46
Harold L. Dewey ........................................... Sequin-Level 140
Simon S. Jaffee ............................................... Sequin-Level 140
Bernard H. Rose ........................................... Sequin-Level 140
Frederick W. Burton ....................................... St. Peter's 21
R.F. Michael Van Tassel .................................. Union 40
Richard E. Kronk ........................................... Valley 36
George Leaska ................................................ Valley 36
Harry E. Berggren ......................................... Washington 81
Peter P. Keihan ............................................. Washington 81
Edward N. Mehmet ....................................... Widow's Son 66

Historic part of Wethersfield Freemasonry returned to its proper place

by Richard F. Denno

At their first fall meeting, September 12, recently chartered Hospitality Lodge No. 128 unveiled a historic piece of Wethersfield's Masonic past. The original Hospitality Lodge No. 128 was chartered in Wethersfield on February 2, 1921. Through mergers and consolidations over the years, it ultimately became Silas Deane Lodge No. 147. At the end of 2011, the lodge turned in its charter, and 'went dark.' Through the efforts of Freemasons interested in maintaining a lodge in Wethersfield, a charter for a new Hospitality Lodge No. 128 was awarded at this year's Grand Lodge session.

In early 2000, the building that housed Silas Deane Lodge No. 147 was sold. The Grand Junior Warden Clifford 'Chip' Stamm, II, received a call from WB Russ Partridge. "He needed a ladder to help get down a cherished memento of Hospitality's past," said Bro. Stamm. The 'letter G,' high in the East, was to be saved. WB Partridge entrusted it to Bro. Stamm's keeping, and it remained in his attic until a proper time arose.

The September 12 meeting was that proper time. The original 'letter G' from Hospitality Lodge No. 128 was unveiled. "It should be at Hospitality Lodge. It's where it belongs," noted MW Stamm.

"I'm very pleased and happy that a historic part of the original Hospitality Lodge No. 128 will be with us each time we labor," said the new lodge's first Worshipful Master, Frank G. Way. "While our lodge may be brand new, Freemasonry in Wethersfield is not. It means a lot for us to have such a beautiful and meaningful link to our predecessor with us. I'm thankful that MW Stamm was able to provide safekeeping for our 'letter G,' and to have him present it to us was a very special moment indeed."

While Worship Mastr Frank Way, right, looks on, MW Chip Stamm puts the 'letter G' from the original Hospitality Lodge No. 128 in the East.
by Michael Calderone

“Keep doing what you do in your own lodge,” Brother Keith whispers to me in his Scottish brogue. “Don’t try to keep up with what you see.” “Keeping up” with the particular, and peculiar, procedures were not really an option for me. There are a handful of lodges in Connecticut with special permission to continue traditions that differ from Connecticut’s standard ritual and practice. For example, at Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, we wear our aprons under our jackets in the “colonial style.” In Edinburgh, Scotland, I was told there are lodges with established customs allowing distinctions for a similar reason; most of them wear their aprons under their jackets, too!

This past August, I had the great opportunity to represent Hiram Lodge No. 1 for an evening while visiting the Edinburgh Theatre Fringe Festival with my school. Nine of my drama students and one colleague from Hopkins School in New Haven toured and performed at the festival, held every summer in Scotland’s ancient capitol. Aside from the festival being a theatre geek’s dream, the chance to connect with my Scottish brethren was an experience I will not forget.

“What’s that?” Brother Keith whispered. “It’s called ‘The Sign of the Good Shepard,’” I replied. “And that?” “It’s called a dueguard.” The room at Caledonian Lodge No. 392 was much smaller than I was accustomed to; it was roughly one quarter the size of the Egyptian room in the New Haven temple on Whitney Avenue. Even still, the room was packed with Masons from all over the Edinburgh area.

Only a handful of lodges have stated communications during the summer and The Caley is one of the more popular ones known for its Harmony (what we would call refreshment) after the meeting. The guest register recorded over a hundred visitors that night!

The lodge room, itself, was set up differently than American lodges with only one entrance in the center of the north wall, columns flanking the East, and the three lesser lights surmounting the pedestal directly in front of the Worshipful Master, the Senior and Junior Wardens. When the Worshipful Master brought the room to attention and called for a presentation of signs, the room appeared to explode with innumerable gestures, few resembling each other or anything I had seen before!

Luckily for me, tonight’s meeting was a “Deputation,” meaning other lodges were on an official visit to see an exemplary of the second degree. A visiting brother from Ohio was selected to be the exemplar of the degree leaving me free to observe and take in the lessons. Much was the same and that which I didn’t know was explained in the various lectures.

Toward the end of the meeting, my contact, Brother Davie Park of the Lodge of Brotherly Love No. 1428, introduced me to the Right Worshipful Master, Brother John Brash. I was allowed to offer warm and fraternal greetings from Hiram Lodge No. 1 and present the RWM with a Hiram Lodge No. 1, 250th year commemorative medallion along with a pamphlet of the history of the oldest lodge in Connecticut. RWM Brash graciously received the medallion, officially welcomed me to The Caley and hoped that I would join them afterwards for the Harmony. After he closed the lodge and before the Harmony, RWM Brash met me in the East for a few photographs and the opportunity to sit in his exquisite chair. I was also stopped by a brother who introduced himself and told me that he hosted Connecticut Grand Master MW James T. McWain on his Scotland trip last year!

Downstairs from the lodge room, the stewards of The Caley had prepared a well-attended and well-received Harmony. Aside from the famous “Caley Mince,” or ground beef stew, and an endless supply of libations from the lodge bar, the Harmony was adorned by various entertainments. One visiting brother from England regaled us with a recitation of a Charles Dickens poem; another told a few jokes; and a few more played musical instruments or sang songs. There were toasts much like at our Table Lodges and plenty of conversation around the table. Near the end of the evening, RWM Brash presented me with his lodge pin and a lodge tie. Each Lodge in Scotland has its own distinctive tie worn by members of the lodge at meetings. I also received a commemorative lodge penny from a brother sitting next to me, a lodge patch, and a few business cards of brothers who wished to stay in touch with me.

If attending a lodge meeting in Edinburgh was not enough, I had plenty of spontaneous Masonic interactions along the way. A few of my students and I toured the Grand Lodge of Scotland’s museum and great hall; I met a brother who owned a regalia shop near Edinburgh Castle; one of our tour bus drivers was a brother Mason; I saw a play in Edinburgh Lodge No. 1 Mary Chapel (the city’s oldest, which was dark for the summer and rented out as a venue site.) My favorite interaction was in the Glasgow Airport on my way home. Waiting to buy a cup of coffee before an early flight, a gentleman tells me he noticed my ring then held out his hand to introduce himself as a Mason. We chatted for a few minutes and upon parting I asked him his name, to which he said, “David Mason: not too hard to remember!”

Scotland is rich with the history of our gentle craft, but also alive with brotherhood and fellowship. I look forward to a return journey to Edinburgh and to reconnecting with my brothers there!

Right Worshipful Master John Brash receives a Hiram Lodge No. 1 commemorative coin, from Bro. Michael Calderone during the latter visit to Caledonian Lodge No. 392, Edinburgh, Scotland.
‘King Solomon’s Temple’ Parades in Newtown

by Carl C. Er

For many years, Hiram Lodge No. 18, Sandy Hook, has participated in the Newtown Labor Day parade. This year, the marchers were accompanied by King Solomon’s Temple and a large contingent of local and state DeMolay members.

Worshipful Master Marty Scherzer built the replica temple – complete with bronze pillars and a smoking incense burner – on a trailer that was pulled along the parade route. Members of Hiram Lodge, several white-jacketed Grand Lodge officers, and a surprise visitor from Florida, MWPGM Norman L. Getchell, preceded the float in the parade.

Also a part of the Masonic family in the parade were more than two dozen DeMolay members and advisors, principally from the Connecticut State Chapter, the combined Doric Chapter of Waterbury and the proposed George E. Johnson Chapter to be sponsored by Hiram Lodge and New Haven Chapter. Joining in the fun was State Sweetheart Janae Stodgen, who came cross-state from her Norwich Assembly No. 30 to take part in the parade.

The recently installed state team wore matching purple polo’s, while members of The Doric Chapter appeared in the powder blue bulldog polo’s. The local contingent passed out fliers about DeMolay membership throughout the parade, breaking ranks to hand information to young men of DeMolay age standing on the parade route.

The Masonic contingent was among the leaders in the very lengthy parade which, fortunately, is downhill much of the way. Local residents crowd the route, which passes through residential areas before making its way past Newtown’s celebrated mid-street flagpole. The route ends near shopping centers where, fortunately, rains were waiting to bring the marchers back to Hiram Lodge.

There, WM Marty, his family, and the officers of the lodge provided grilled treats of hot dogs, hamburgers, and other picnic fare for all comers. At the same time, the DeMolay state officers held their monthly meeting upstairs in the lodge room with State Chapter Dad Bill C. Gilman, II, the Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge No. 18 and the Grand Lodge officers step off in the 2012 Newtown Labor Day parade.

Members of King Hiram Lodge No. 18 and the Grand Lodge gather in front of the lodge’s float. Worshipful Master Marty Scherzer, center, in hat, is flanked by DGM Simon R. LaPlace, left, and GNW Donald W. Down, next to surprise visitor from Florida MW Norman L. Getchell. At the far right are MW George S. Greytak and GSW Thomas A. Massouli, both members of King Hiram Lodge No. 18. At the far left are MW George S. Greytak and GSW Thomas A. Massouli, both members of King Hiram Lodge No. 18.

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God and State

According to the United States Senate chaplain, our Founding Fathers believed in the separation of church and state but not in the separation of God and state. His statement should be emblazoned across our land and sent to all organizations that are trying to eradicate all religio-moral expression from politics, government, and public life. They aim, in a profoundly ignorant and misguided effort, at converting the First Amendment’s “no establishment of religion” clause into government disparagement, disapproval and banishment of God and America’s Judeo-Christian roots from all our institutions. They have secularized society to the point where prayer is prohibited at public events, Christmas carols are forbidden in schools, manger scenes have secularized society to the point where Christian roots from all our institutions. They banishment of God and America’s Judeo-government disparagement, disapproval and “no establishment of religion” clause into aim, in a profoundly ignorant and misguided eradication of all religio-moral expression from public life, we should not overlook the intent of the Founders and Framers, who understood God and nation to be inseparable. It was self-evident truth.

“In God We Trust”

Our coins and currency proclaim “In God We Trust,” our Pledge of Allegiance describes America as “one nation under God,” and Congress begins session with a prayer offered by the Congressional chaplain. In 1998, the U.S. District Court of Ohio affirmed the practice of civic piety in rejecting a suit to declare unconstitutional the Ohio state motto, “With God All Things Are Possible.” The Court remarked that “this nation was founded on transcendent values which flow from a belief in a Supreme Being.”

If God-talk is to be removed entirely from public life, we should not overlook the following:

- The Declaration of Independence has four references to God.
- The Great Seal of the United States, designed by a committee of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, portrays an unfinished pyramid representing the nation under the all-seeing Eye of Providence or Eye of the Deity (the seal artist’s own words for it), symbolizing divine intervention in favor of the American cause. The seal also carries the inscription Annum Coeptis, “He [God] blesses our work.”
- When George Washington was sworn in as President in 1789 with his hand upon a Bible, he — being a Mason — added the words “so help me God” to the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution, and every president since then has done likewise.
- The United States Constitution refers to Jesus, stating the Constitution was signed in 1787 “in the year of our Lord.”
- The last line of the last verse of our national anthem is: “And this be our motto: In God is our trust!”
- “In God We Trust” is our national motto (36 United States Code, Section 186).
- “In God We Trust” has been on our coins since 1863, even before it was our national motto (31 United States Code, Section 5112[D][1]).
- The inscription on the Liberty Bell cites the Old Testament, specifically Leviticus 25:10: “Proclaim liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof.”
- Our Pledge of Allegiance acknowledges “one nation under God.”
- State legislatures and the United States Congress employ paid chaplains to pray at the opening of all sessions.
- All military branches of the United States government have paid chaplains.
- A portrait of Moses with the Ten Commandments hangs above the Speaker’s chair in the United States Congress.
- The Library of Congress has statues of Moses and the apostle Paul, and it has Old Testament inscriptions of Psalm 19:1 (“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.”) and Micah 6:8 prominently displayed (“He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”).
- The Lincoln Memorial (U.S. government property) has chiseled on it, “Judgments of the Lord are righteous.”
- The Tomb of the Unknowns is dedicated to a soldier “Known but to God.”
- There is a prayer room in Congress.
- The Supreme Court session begins with the words, “God save the United States and this honorable court.”
- The United States government has mandated a “National Day of Prayer” (36 United States Code, Section 169 [H]).
- Christmas is a United States government holiday.
- Government-owned military cemeteries contain crosses and other symbols to declare the religious affiliation of the people buried there.

...to be continued
2012 Brandt Nursing Scholarship Recipients Honored

by Adam Raider

A celebratory luncheon honoring the 2012 recipients of the Norma J. Brandt Scholarship was held August 24 at Masonicare at Ashlar Village in Wallingford.

Speaking before an audience of honorees, their families, board members, and assorted guests, Masonicare’s senior vice president of residential and community based services, WB Jon-Paul Venoit recalled the old saying that an investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

“Everyone here today has invested in their own knowledge,” said Venoit, “and the knowledge of others. Through their future travels in the nursing profession, we hope the Brandt scholars will look to Masonicare and see an opportunity to help us strive to provide outstanding care to our residents and patients. Nurses make it possible for us to do what we do.”

The Norma J. Brandt Scholarship Fund was made possible by a generous gift to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut from Bro. John O. Brandt, Jr. of Pomfret Center, in loving memory of his wife, Norma. Norma was a registered nurse and an active member of both the Order of the Eastern Star (where she was Past Matron of Betty Putnam Chapter No. 106) and the Order of the Amaranth (Past Royal Matron of Rainbow Court No. 20). Her legacy of caring for others endures through this scholarship fund created to provide financial assistance for qualified individuals who are pursuing a career as a nurse.

“Norma and I served together in the Order of the Amaranth,” recalled RW J. Arthur Carbonaro, chairman of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut’s board of directors, “and often found ourselves traveling together to various events. She would talk about her early nursing experiences, when she was a county nurse. In her travels, she would care for people who were infirm at home, as well as new mothers and their children. She was very passionate about her work and she loved what she did. To see her legacy continue through the generosity of this scholarship really means a lot to me. I know it means a lot to John, and it would mean a lot to Norma as well.”

A scholarship selection committee comprised of medical staff from across the Masonicare continuum and chaired by Melinda Schoen, RN, MSN, LNHA, vice president for administration at Masonicare Health Center, identified the most qualified candidates from the pool of applicants.

“We are very grateful to John Brandt for making this scholarship possible,” said Schoen. “Along with the rest of the scholarship selection committee, I look forward every year to reading applications from individuals who are filled with such passion and excitement about entering the world of healthcare. As a nurse myself, I find it very rewarding to be a part of that process.”

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must either be a Masonicare employee, the child or grandchild of a Masonicare employee, or have some affiliation with a Masonic organization, either as a member or as a child or grandchild of a member. As well, employees must be eligible for benefits and employed by Masonicare for a minimum of one year. All applicants must display a passion for the nursing profession.

This year’s new scholarship recipients include Aimie Angeletti (Masonicare Health Center), WB David Edman (Friendship Lodge No. 33, Southington), Casey Fiola (daughter of Sandra Fiola, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice), Brianna Grills (granddaughter of Jeanette Theiler, RN, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice), Ana Quintana (Masonicare at Newtown), Maria Warcholik (Masonicare at Newtown) and Carla White (Masonicare at Newtown).

Continuing scholarships were awarded to Carolann Mora (Masonicare at Newtown), Jacqueline Murillo (Masonicare at Newtown), Stephen Murphy (grandson of the late Bro. Richard G. Murphy, Past Master, Warren Lodge No. 51), Alyssa Nadolny (Masonicare Health Center), Nikki Stone, (daughter of Phyllis Stone, Masonicare Health Center), and Vania Violante (Masonicare at Newtown).

Brandt scholars, seated from left, Ana Quintana, Jacqueline Murillo, and Carolann Mora. Brandt scholars, standing from left, Carla White, Maria Warcholik, and Vania Violante. Next to Vania is Vjolca Cleary, RN, manager of education and infection control at Masonicare at Newtown and a member of the scholarship selection committee.
New Outpatient Colonoscopy Procedures at Masonicare Health Center Can Help Save Lives

If we hear our doctor mention the word “colonoscopy,” many people tend to panic. Sometimes they’re afraid of the procedure, but also, they may fear the possible outcome of the test. That’s unfortunate, because colon cancer is preventable, treatable, and very often curable if proper screening techniques are used and pre-cancerous polyps are removed before they become a serious—and sometimes deadly—problem. Whether you’re just turning 50 and it’s time for your first colonoscopy or you need to schedule a follow-up, consider having it done at Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford, where the outpatient gastroenterology services are second to none.

Masonicare is especially pleased to announce they’ve recently partnered with Hartford Anesthesiology Associates, Inc., one of the largest medical practice corporations of its kind in Connecticut, to administer propofol sedation if necessary.

Caroline Hebert, RN, manager of the outpatient specialty clinics at the Health Center, explains the benefits of using propofol. “When administered by one of the group’s highly trained and experienced anesthesiologists, propofol sedation allows our gastroenterologists to fully examine a patient’s colon, with no pain whatsoever for the patient. This greatly increases the rate of polyp detection and removal, and definitely improves the patient’s satisfaction with the procedure.”

Masonicare Health Center’s newly-renovated, state-of-the-art colonoscopy suite recently added brand new cardiac monitors, scopes and medication pumps. “It is my understanding that the new light source and power source just installed are so new they’re the only ones currently in use in Connecticut and Rhode Island,” says Ms. Hebert. In addition, the board-certified gastroenterologists who perform the procedure are associates of some of the best gastroenterology practices in the state. And the competent and caring nursing staff specializes in GI procedures and has a true understanding of patient needs to make the experience as relaxed and comfortable as possible.

Dr. Gregory Kernisan, one of the expert anesthesiologists with Hartford Anesthesiology, administers propofol to patients at the Health Center. He says this is a different procedure for many, but once they’ve had a colonoscopy using propofol, they definitely prefer it. “When patients come in for the exam and receive the propofol, they are totally unaware of what’s happening during the procedure. They awaken much quicker than they would with standard “twilight” sedation, and the medicine wears off with no side effects whatsoever. There’s no nausea, drowsiness, or other discomfort. By promoting this painless approach to colonoscopy, we feel more people will get screened, increasing the chances of early detection and ultimately saving lives.”

Unfortunately, the exact cause of most colorectal cancers is unknown, but about 75% occur in people who have no known risk factors. The medical community has established, however, that the risk of developing the disease is much higher in people 50 and older. So if you’re approaching 50, be assured that your family physician will be encouraging you to schedule one soon. Also be sure to check with your provider to learn what they’ll cover, but most insurance plans will help pay for screening tests for those 50 and older and many will help with the cost for younger people who are at increased risk. People with Medicare who are over age 50 are eligible for colorectal cancer screening.

Some people aren’t aware that Masonicare Health Center’s gastroenterology services are not just for older adults; they’re also available to anyone age 18 or older. If you’re having any type of GI problems that need attention, Masonicare Health Center is the perfect choice for you, too. In addition to colonoscopies, the Center also offers a variety of diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopic procedures used in the treatment of all types of gastrointestinal disorders.

Masonicare Health Center, which is open to the community, is conveniently located off Route 150 in Wallingford. Free, convenient, and handicap accessible parking is available for all clinic services. To schedule an appointment, consultation, or procedure through our Outpatient Specialty Clinics, call 203-679-5902, or if your doctor suggests you see a specialist, ask for a referral.
Masonicare and the Connecticut State Police Bring Joy to a Young Pedi Pal Patient and His Family

The Pedi-Pal program offered through Masonicare Partners Home Health & Hospice is a specialized palliative care program focused on the unique needs of children and adolescents dealing with a life-threatening diagnosis. When twelve-year old Marcus Stephens of Hartford was at the later stages of his cancer diagnosis, Partners was contacted and Christine Rodriguez, RN, MSN, a pediatric nurse and Pedi-Pal program coordinator, arranged for caregivers to visit Marcus in his home to help him and his family through this very difficult time.

During those visits, caregivers learned that his dream was to become a policeman. When Bill Hodge, a hospice spiritual care counselor with Partners and also a volunteer chaplain with the Connecticut State Police, learned about it, he had an idea. He contacted the State Police, and a number of troopers volunteered to visit Marcus in his home. They not only paid him a visit, they brought along their police dog, Schutz, and made Marcus an unofficial member of the Connecticut State Police. Marcus was thrilled, and his mother, Henda Johnson, was very moved and most appreciative of the troopers’ caring and compassion.

According to Donna Dow-Conklin, RN, MS, Hospice clinical director, “The troopers were making plans to do even more, but unfortunately, Marcus passed away in May, just a few weeks after that visit. When they heard he was gone, they were able to honor a last request made by Henda, Marcus’s mother. They provided an honor guard to salute Marcus’ casket and escort him to his final resting place.”

To thank the State Police officers for their generosity and the joy they brought to Marcus as he neared the end of his life, Partners invited them to attend a ceremony at the office in East Hartford in September so they could be made honorary members of the Masonicare Partners Pedi-Pal team. Marcus’ mother, Henda, was also in attendance, as well as members of the Pedi-Pal team.

The following members of the State Police attended the ceremony and were given certificates of appreciation, an official statement identifying them as Honorary Pedi-Pal Team members, and were also presented with hospice volunteer pins:

- Kerry Taylor, TFC (Trooper First Class), who brought along her police dog, Schutz, Scott Prouty, TFC, and Sgt. John Netkovick.
- Other officers who were unable to attend the ceremony also received recognition: Troopers First Class John Arigna, Melvin Gillus, Curt Booker and Chris Packer.

Masonicare Partners Home Health & Hospice, the Pedi-Pal Program, and especially Marcus’ mother, Henda, sincerely thank all of the troopers and their families, Partners staff and volunteers, and those who supported the Pedi-Pal Program, and especially Marcus’ care and compassion.

Open House Day and the Masonic Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Program

by Richard F. Denno

Your Masonic Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Program played a key role in last year’s Open House Day. Lodges proudly flew their Donate Life flags, handed out Donate Life brochures with our Masonic Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Program logo and had available individual informational handouts on the tables.

This year, on October 20, the program will provide even more information to potential candidates who might be interested in becoming Freemasons. Committee member Al Veilleux, a kidney transplant recipient, created a very informative PowerPoint presentation that lodges can show during the day. New handouts from the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) offer compelling reasons for Connecticut residents to register online as organ donors.

This year, you can even make it easier for candidates, and your lodge members, to register online. Your lodge will have a paper form which donor registrants can complete and give to your lodge. At the end of the Open House, simply mail them to me at my address, and Donate Life will input the information into their online registry. Your lodge will also have a QR Code, which prospective donors may click onto with a smart phones and automatically link to the online donor registry.

Why would your lodge actively participate in this effort to register prospective organ donors? The answer is simple and three-fold. It is simply the right thing to do! Freemasons have always stepped forward to assist in solving the problems of our communities, and the need has never been greater. The transplant waiting list keeps growing, and people on that list keep dying before a suitable organ donor can be found (now over 115,000 nationally.)

Your efforts will be noticed within your communities and appreciated.

Those interested men entering your lodge doors on Open House Day will recognize the program for its lifesaving capability, and how important the program is to your community. Quality men look to quality organizations with which to affiliate. Are these the men we seek as new members?

If any of your lodge members have stories to tell, perhaps their experiences may motivate your guests to action. Be proud of your Masonic Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Program; it is community involvement such as this program which save lives and makes an important difference among loved ones, our friends and neighbors. Have a great and successful Open House Day on October 20!
Edith Rutan Knows Firsthand How Masonicare Can Help When You Need It Most

Edith Hill Rutan was born in Providence, RI, in 1917. Except for the 20 years she and her first husband, the late Charles Hill, lived in Arizona, Edith spent most of her life in Warwick, Rhode Island, where Charles taught music in the local elementary school.

Charles was a long-time Mason in the Masonic lodge in Washington County, Rhode Island, and Edith was a Worthy Advisor for the Rainbow Assembly in East Greenwich, Rhode Island. “I think about those days often – it was such a happy time. But at my age, I sometimes wonder how I managed to memorize all of the information that was required to serve as the Worthy Advisor. I certainly couldn’t do that now!”

Although Edith is 95 years old, you wouldn’t know it. She appears to be much younger than that, and her warm personality and zest for life are quite apparent. Edith is a resident at Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford, but prior to that, she greatly enjoyed the three years she lived independently in her own apartment in the A. Norman Johnson Apartments on the Health Center campus. During her three years at Masonicare, Edith has come to know several areas and services of the Masonicare continuum quite well, both as a resident and a patient. She’s experienced firsthand the commitment and dedication of the organization’s employees and what their caring and concern have meant to her during a difficult period in her life.

After her second husband passed away, Edith moved to the Johnson Apartments in August 2009, where she made a host of friends and enjoyed the many social activities and programs available to its residents. “I loved living at Johnson,” she says with a smile. “It was a very enjoyable place to be. It’s very nice here at the Health Center, too, and everyone is so friendly and helpful. I must admit I miss having my own apartment and the ability to get around on my own. I’m happy, though, that my friends and I can visit often and have our Scrabble games. I love the game – it’s a challenge. And it’s so convenient when we want to get together. It’s been very easy to keep in touch with my Johnson friends.”

During the years she lived at Johnson, Edith fell several times. “It was rather embarrassing – I had to ring that thing around my neck so many times to call for help. You know, like the woman in that TV commercial, ‘I’ve fallen and I can’t get up.’

In March of 2011, one of those falls resulted in a fractured left hip. After surgery at MidState Medical Center and a month of rehabilitation at Masonicare Health Center, Edith returned to her Johnson apartment with home care services provided by both Masonicare Home Health and Masonicare at Home. Six months later, however, she fractured her right hip. After discharge from MidState, she again received rehab at Masonicare Health Center, returning to her apartment in January of 2012 and again receiving home care services. Just a month later, though, she was admitted to the Health Center’s Acute Care Hospital because she had fallen and sustained some broken ribs.

This resulted in another rehab stay. Edith says, “The doctors and staff in Masonicare’s Acute Care Hospital and the rehabilitation folks took such good care of me. Everyone was so kind and caring and worked very hard to meet all of my needs. I knew I was in excellent hands.”

Social worker Gail Kalliniich of Masonicare Health Center’s social services department was one of Edith’s social workers during this time. She explained, “For more than a year, staff and Edith’s niece had been encouraging her to consider a move to assisted living or to get additional help at her apartment. Even before that last fall, Edith herself realized she was having trouble transferring to her electric scooter and wasn’t as mobile as she had been. And this was impacting her ability to get to the dining room for meals.” Edith appreciated the concern and suggestions that she have more assistance, but explains, “I just wasn’t ready. I was hoping I would be able to return to Johnson, but unfortunately, it wasn’t to be. Deep down I knew I couldn’t live on my own, and that last fall pretty much convinced me of that. It was just too much for me to manage, and I knew it wouldn’t be safe for me. Although I was reluctant to admit it at first, I knew it was definitely time to make the move to long-term care. And now I’m very comfortable with that decision.”

In addition to her Scrabble games, Edith loves to read and samples many of the books from the Center’s library. She also enjoys doing jigsaw puzzles, and she and some of the other residents of Ramage 5 spend some of their free time working on them. “Two puzzles have been completed, and they’ve been sprayed with something and are hanging in the lobby at the end of the hall. It’s amazing, but they look like beautiful paintings.” And they really do, so if you happen to be visiting at Masonicare Health Center, stop by the elevator lobby on Ramage 5 and check them out. We’re sure Edith would appreciate it.

St. Peter’s Lodge No. 21 and Union Lodge No. 40 invite you to a

JOINT TABLE LODGE

Authentic German Style cooking

6:00 p.m. • $35

St. Peter’s Lodge No. 21 • 11 Aspetuck Avenue, New Milford
Looking forward to see you all there
by Stuart Pervis and Paul Edman

A brother residing in Yuma, Arizona was raised at Stuttgart-American Lodge UD (under dispensation) by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut in 1952. Bro. William G. Norton was to receive his 60 year pin at his home lodge in Washington State. He received his courtesy degrees while serving with the United States Air Force at an Airbase near Stuttgart, Germany.

British Freemasons in previous years had established a Square and Compass Club in Cologne November 1921, and the Rhineland Masonic Society in December 1922. Soon after World War II ended, Square and Compass Clubs sprang up in almost every major area of military concentration in Germany.

One such club, located in Frankfurt, soon petitioned the Grand Lodge of Oregon UD for permission to establish a lodge. The petition was granted and on July 11, 1946 the Oregon Military Lodge UD was consecrated in the presence of some sixty-six Brethren. They were empowered to make Masons but were limited to hold their meetings on military installations, first due to the then existing occupation circumstances, in later years to avoid conflict with the time-honored principle of sovereign territorial jurisdiction. Oregon Military Lodge thus became the first American Lodge to operate in Germany. Its successor in Frankfurt, Oregon Military Lodge No. 936.

On May 25, 1947, a chapter was issued to the Berlin Square and Compass Club by the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island authorizing establishment of Berlin Lodge UD. Their petition for charter had been submitted by Bro. J. Taylor Wilson, who was a member of a lodge in Rhode Island, and well known to the Grand Master. Thus the second American Lodge was established in Berlin. This lodge still exists, under chapter by the United Grand Lodge, and under the jurisdiction of the American Canadian Grand Lodge.

Soon after the formation of the lodge in Berlin, WB John A. Holbrook, Past Master of Siloam Lodge No. 32, Old Saybrook, together with twenty other brethren in the Stuttgart area, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and received a charter as the Stuttgart American Lodge U.D. WB Holbrook was a Major in an army engineering group that was sent into Nellingen in 1945 to rebuild the airstrip at Kaserne. Nellingen was closer to downtown Stuttgart, seat of the military government, than Echterdingen, the commercial airfield for the city. The unit also worked on the restoration of public utilities damaged during the war.

German Freemasonry was an object of persecution by the Hitler regime, and the few German brethren alive in 1945 were able to re-establish their lodges, their country being occupied by the Allied powers, and under military government. WB Holbrook and other brethren in that foreign country, applied for dispensation to form a lodge in 1946.

The uniqueness of the Stuttgart Lodge was its “traveling or circuit charter,” which enabled the Master to open his lodge anywhere in Germany and confer degrees. The lodge made visits to Square and Compass Clubs all over Germany; an ideal situation for the brethren scattered and located in isolated areas. During the next nine years, Stuttgart American Lodge UD raised 259, recorded in the annual reports for the years 1947 thru 1956.

One interesting account describes how fifty-four brethren boarded a plane at Rhein Main Air Base and flew to Bremerhaven to raise a brother to Master Mason, using the same “traveling charter” which had previously been used by the Stuttgart Lodge to pass this same brother to Fellowcraft at a meeting in Heidelberg.

Those Brethren were obviously “travelers” in the truest sense of the world. The history of Stuttgart-American Lodge UD is closely related to the story of RW Rasmussen, who was destined to become the first Provincial Grand Master of the American-Canadian Provincial Grand Lodge in Germany.

Brother Pete, as he was affectionately called, was a Past Master (1932) of Wheaton Lodge No. 269, Wheaton, Illinois, when he was called to active duty in the United States Navy after Pearl Harbor. At the close of the war, he found himself in Heidelberg as a civilian employee. He became acquainted with the Master of the German lodge in Heidelberg, “Ruprecht zu den Furf Rosen,” and was instrumental in assisting that lodge in regaining possession of its building. Brother Pete interceded with the local military government officials in Heidelberg; as the story is told, twenty-four hours later the building was indeed returned to its rightful owners, by the city authorities.

Stuttgart-American Lodge, U.D., met in the Reichsbahn building, by the Hauptbahnhof (main station) in Stuttgart, and later in the Hotel Graf Zeppelin, across the street from the Hauptbahnhof.

Brother Rasmussen, a civilian employee of the occupation forces, was transferred to Stuttgart in August 1947; just three months after the Stuttgart-American UD Lodge received its charter. Through chance, on his very first visit to Stuttgart-American Lodge UD, Brother Rasmussen was elected secretary of the lodge. By the end of that year (six months after the lodge was chartered) its master, WB Holbrook, was rotated back to the United States. Because WB Rasmussen met all the prerequisites; he was immediately elected to serve Stuttgart-American UD Lodge as its Master, an office he held in that lodge for the ensuing nine years. The Stuttgart-American Lodge’s charter was returned to Connecticut in 1956.

A dispensation issued by a Grand Master expires at the end of his term of office. Thus, the next Grand Master must assure a new dispensation of continuance for his term of office, with many thanks for the wise decisions of contrivance of the Stuttgart-American Lodge UD by the Grand Master. During the years 1947 to 1956, many Masons returned to the USA and contributed to the advancement of Masonry in their home states.

Connecticut ritual was used by the Stuttgart-American Lodge U.D. and they abided by Connecticut Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations.

The Grand Lodge reports for years 1947 thru 1956 lists names of 259 brothers from different states who were raised to Master Mason with Connecticut ritual and under the Connecticut Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations. Each mason that was raised became a member of his home lodge and member of Stuttgart-American Lodge UD in Germany.

Aprons and jewels of Stuttgart-American Lodge, U.D., were on display at the Grand Lodge office in Hartford, and later in the museum room in Wallingford. Sometime in the 1970’s they were returned to Solomon’s Lodge No. 822 for their archives.

Stuttgart-American Lodge was close in due and ancient form on March 22, 1956. “It will live on in the memory of thousands of American and German Masons who have enjoyed the meetings of our lodge.”

Bro. William Norton is now 90 years of age. His past in Connecticut’s Grand Lodge history with the Stuttgart-American Lodge UD in Germany began in 1952.
David Wooster Day Celebrated In Danbury

by Carl G. Ek

In April 1777, Wooster learned of a British attempt to raid a supply depot in Danbury. Working with his Hiram Lodge Brother and General Benedict Arnold (yes, that Benedict Arnold), they chased the British from Danbury, although much damage was done to the city. Wooster led a detachment to harass the rear column of the retreating British, only to be mortally wounded in Ridgefield. He died a week later in Danbury, where he was buried.

In June 1777, the Continental Congress voted to erect a suitable monument to Bro. Wooster, but nothing occurred until the Grand Lodge of Connecticut erected a 30-foot sandstone monument in the early 1850’s. In 1854, Grand Master David Clark led thousands of Masons in the dedication of the memorial to their brother.

Just over two decades ago, the monument was refurbished by Connecticut Masonry. A committee led by Bro. Louis Vander Eyk, soon to become Most Worshipful Grand Master, raised thousands of dollars to preserve and repair the fragile sandstone. Bro. Lou’s Grand Master’s pin is one of the few that is vertical, and features the Wooster memorial.

Masons throughout Connecticut are indebted to David Wooster for formally bringing Masonry to the state. Hopefully, more brothers will be able to journey to Danbury in 2013, when the next David Wooster Day will be celebrated.

With the Wooster monument as a backdrop, officers of Connecticut DeMolay honored the United States flag as a part of September’s David Wooster Day. Here, State Junior Councilor Jason Ferenczy, left, presents a tribute to the flag as State Master Councilor Matthew Lingenfelter, center, back to camera, and State Junior Deacon Jonathan Scherer, right, holding the flagpole, look on.
The Cosgrove Sisters – An Unlikely Pairing of White Gowns and Pink Swine

by Carl G. Ek

Given their family tree, it comes as no surprise that Kelsey and Marissa Cosgrove are outstanding members of Hope Assembly No. 46, Litchfield, as well as officers of the Grand Assembly of Rainbow. Given their rural Litchfield County home, it should come as no surprise that the sisters are actively involved in their country’s 4-H Club programs. Given their penchant for white gowns and crowns, it may come as a surprise that Kelsey and Marissa both raise champion swine (also known to non-4-H-ers as hogs, pigs, or bacon on the hoof).

Kelsey and Marissa are both Past Worthy Advisors of Hope Assembly and have held multiple grand officers. This year, Kelsey is serving as Grand Recorder after her term as Grand Hope, while Marissa is Grand Religion and served as both a Grand Representative and Grand Representative mentor. In high school, Kelsey was a varsity swimmer – on the boy’s team, as her school did not have a girls’ swim team. Marissa plays basketball and softball. Kelsey has as her career goal to be a large animal veterinarian; she is now a freshman in the animal science program at Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, north of Philadelphia.

For several years, Kelsey and Marissa have raised hogs, showing them in local 4-H fairs. In 2012, the sisters competed head-to-head for the first time in the senior age group. Both sisters won several ribbons, and it was clear that the ‘competition’ was friendly, with the competing swine sharing the same stall. Eventually, the pink competitors will end up in the freezer for family meals throughout the year.

In addition to their 4-H and sports interests, the Cosgrove sisters share a remarkable fraternal family tree. Mom Lisa is a Past Worthy Advisor and Past Mother Advisor of Torrington Assembly No. 16 and she and dad W. James – a member of St. Paul’s Lodge No. 11, Litchfield – are advisors of Hope Assembly No. 46. Their late aunt, Sharon Brun Whitton, was also a PWA of Torrington Assembly and served as Connecticut’s Grand Worthy Advisor in 1983-84. She later served as a Mother Advisor and Worthy Matron of Eastern Star in South Carolina.

Grandmother Barbara S. Brun was also a member of Torrington Assembly No. 16, and served as Worthy Matron of three Eastern Star Chapters – Mayflower No. 47 and Ephraim Kirby No. 75 in Connecticut, and also in South Carolina. Grandfather Henry Brun was a member of Seneca Lodge No. 55, Torrington, and Mayflower Chapter. Great aunt Elaine Brun Tyrrell was another PWA and PM in Torrington and Litchfield.

Great grandfather Frank X. Brun was a member of Seneca Lodge and great grandmother Helen Brun served as Worthy Matron of yet another OES chapter – Pierpont Chapter No. 49. The other set of great grandparents were also fraternally prominent.

Great great grandfather James N. Sadler was a Past Master of Amos Beecher Lodge No. 121, New Hartford, and Past Patron of Mayflower Chapter No. 47. He also served as chapter dad of Ionic Chapter, Order of DeMolay in Torrington. After her term as Worthy Matron of Mayflower Chapter, great grandmother Jane B. Sadler served as Worthy Grand Matron of Connecticut in 1968-69. She would later be elected grand treasurer for multiple terms and then grand treasurer emeritus.

Kelsey and Marissa Cosgrove continue to serve Rainbow on the local and jurisdictional basis, enjoying their work and adding to the record of their distinguished family tree. These sisters are clearly at home in all surroundings – whether wearing white gowns or showing pink swine!
Common Causes of Shoulder Pain and How to Ease Your Symptoms

Christopher Lathrop, OTD, MS, OTR/L is the director of rehabilitation at Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford. With a clinical specialty in upper extremity rehabilitation, Dr. Lathrop knows only too well how debilitating an achy, painful shoulder can be and how quickly it can affect one’s ability to perform even simple self-care tasks and household chores. Here, Dr. Lathrop discusses the most common causes of shoulder pain and what can be done to help ease the symptoms.

There are many causes of shoulder pain, so it is important that an accurate diagnosis be made of your symptoms so the appropriate treatment can be provided. Outlined below are three of the most common conditions that can cause shoulder pain and discomfort.

Osteoarthritis: osteoarthritis is part of the normal aging process, and can frequently affect the shoulder, causing pain on the outside where you can ‘cup’ the shoulder with your hand. Osteoarthritis pain is characterized by stiffness, usually worst at night, early morning, or if your shoulder has been immobile for a while. Shoulder pain caused by osteoarthritis often decreases with active motion and by using the arm. A hot shower or warm compress may also help to relieve some of the symptoms.

Shoulder strain: Did you try to pick up something that was too heavy for you, without asking for help, and now your shoulder hurts? There are many muscles around the shoulder and through the shoulder joint that could have been strained. A strain is characterized by an episode of acute over-use, such as lifting something too heavy, pulling something, or reaching in an awkward manner. The worst pain from a shoulder strain comes with use or motion and is usually relieved with rest. A cold pack and rest will help relieve some of these symptoms. Unfortunately, pain from a shoulder strain can sometimes persist for more than two weeks.

Rotator cuff: The rotator cuff is a set of four muscles that help control the shoulder and arm and maintain the integrity of the shoulder joint. These muscles tend to weaken and thin as we age. Rotator cuff pain is similar to shoulder strain pain, since the two pathologies are very similar, and the symptoms are often relieved with ice and rest. A consultation with an orthopedic surgeon is necessary if there was a complete tear of the rotator cuff, which is only detectable by an evaluation of the clinical symptoms and by the patient having an MRI.

Fortunately, physical therapy can be very helpful in relieving the pain and symptoms of all three shoulder pain syndromes. Physical therapists are skilled at helping to reduce pain and rebuild shoulder integrity. During the pain phase, there are machines and specific exercises that therapists can use effectively to reduce pain. Once some of the pain is gone, physical therapy can help to build muscle and joint integrity to prevent the injury from returning.

Masonicare provides outstanding physical therapy for shoulder pain and other conditions in the newly-renovated outpatient physical therapy department, and also provides occupational and speech therapy as well. The department is conveniently located in Masonicare’s Medical Office Building on the main campus in Wallingford. If you are experiencing persistent shoulder pain, be sure to visit your doctor for an examination. If physical therapy is recommended, ask for a referral to Masonicare.

Medicare, workers compensation and most commercial insurances are accepted.

Please feel free to call and ask for Dr. Lathrop directly at 203-679-6909 with any questions or comments. He’d be happy to assist you.
Connecticut 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.

Tuesday, October 2, (RE) (U) Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford, reception of Grand Commander, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Tuesday, October 2, (F) Keystone Chapter No. 27, Meriden, inspection, Mark Master degree
Wednesday, October 3, (ME) (F) Halleck Chapter No. 44, Madison
Friday, October 5, (ME) (F) Columbia Chapter No. 31, Collinsville, 50 year awards
Saturday, October 6, (ME) (RE) (S) AMD/SRICF, East Hartford, 9:30 a.m. lunch
Sunday, October 8, (ME) (F) Union Chapter No. 7, Stonington
Tuesday, October 9, (F) Hamilton Council No. 22, Meriden, Royal Master degree

Wednesday, October 10, (ME) (F) Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, East Hartford, Mark Master degree
Thursday, October 11, (ME) (F) Joseph Andrews Chapter No. 46, West Haven
Thursday, October 11, (F) Columbia Council No. 9, Haddam, Royal Master degree, inspection
Thursday, October 11, (RE) (F) Rittenhouse Chapter No. 11, and Washington Council No. 6, Darien
Friday, October 12-14, (ME) (RE) (U) Grand York Rite of Massachusetts/Rhode Island, Milford, Massachusetts
Sunday, October 15, (U) St. John’s Commandery No. 11, North Windham, inspection, Order of Temple
Tuesday, October 16, (U) St. Elmo Commandery No. 9, Meriden, inspection, Order of Temple
Thursday, October 18, (ME) (MP) (RE) (U) Hamilton Commandery No. 5, Stratford, Knights Patriot, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Friday, October 19, (U) New Haven Commandery No. 2, New Haven, inspection, Order of Temple
Tuesday, October 23, (ME) (F) Trinity Chapter No. 9, North Windham, 50 year awards
Wednesday, October 24, (ME) (F) Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, East Hartford, reception of Grand High Priest, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Thursday, October 25, (U) Palestine Commandery No. 6, North Stonington, inspection, Order of Temple
Thursday, October 25, (MP) (RE) (U) Hamilton Commandery No. 5 and Trinity Commandery No. 3, Darien, Order of Malta
Friday, October 26, (F) Jerusalem Council No. 16, Stratford, Select Master degree
Friday, October 26-28, (ME) (F) Grand York Rite of Maryland

COMING UP:
November 13, Cyrene Commandery No. 8, Middletown, inspection, Order of Temple
November 15, Hamilton Commandery No. 5, Stratford, inspection, Order of Temple
November 20, Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford, inspection, Order of Temple

From the Grand High Priest
We are now officially back to the quarries and your officers and chapters are busy implementing their term plans. My visits, too, have begun, and I appreciate the warm welcome and courtesies that have been extended to Lisa and me as we crisscross the state.

I am pleased to report that all our chapters have joined me in extending to our 50-year companions the well deserved recognitions for their longevity. This effort will continue until we have brought honor to all these distinguished companions. A number of companions have moved out of state; others are shut-ins or in care facilities, but with the help of our Great I Am, we will seek them out.

Our presentations in chapters have proven a valuable reunion for our honorees with their contemporaries. For those we have yet to reach, I ask all our companions to bring joy and applause to these special companions.

Bill Miller

From the Most Puissant Grand Master
My companions, now that summer is over it’s time to resume our Masonic activities. There was a change in the requirements of Cryptic Masonry. The Super Excellent Master degree is now an optional degree. There was also a change in the Grand Council bylaws which allow for the establishment of a Super Excellents Masters Council.

This Council shall confer the Super Excellent Master degree upon all Select Masters who may wish to receive it. Bylaws are in the process of being drawn up for this new council. In the meantime we still participate in the Tri-State Festival which currently includes the amplified form of the Super Excellents Masters Degree.

I have ten fifty year pins to present and have asked each council to make plans as soon as possible for me to make a proper presentation. Please forward to me and my officers a copy of your trestle boards. If you go on the Grand Council’s web site you will find a listing of all the Grand officers and their e-mail addresses. We need to be informed of any special events you may be holding we can make plans to attend and support your council.

I remind you that the success of your respective commanderies depends on the success of your councils. Your councils’ success depends on the success of your chapters, and them on your Blue Lodges. We all inter-connected and must support each other if we are to enjoy continued success into the future.

Edward R. Ham
Craft at Labor...

Entered Apprentice Degrees

Tuesday, October 2, King Hiram No. 12, Shelton, 6:30 p.m. dinner, evaluation
Tuesday, October 2, Coastal No. 57, Stonington, 6:30 p.m. dinner, by Past Masters
Wednesday, October 3, Hiram No. 18, Sandy Hook, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Junior Warden Richard H. Goessinger in the East
Wednesday, October 3, Cosmopolitan No. 125, New Haven
Thursday, October 4, St. John’s No. 6, Norwalk, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Junior Warden Richard H. Goessinger in the East
Wednesday, October 3, Cosmopolitan No. 125, New Haven
Thursday, October 4, St. John’s No. 6, Norwalk, 6:30 p.m. dinner, evaluation

Fellowcraft Degrees

Monday, October 1, Oxoboxo No. 116, Montville, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Tuesday, October 2, Moosup No. 113, Moosup
Wednesday, October 3, Corinthian No. 103, North Haven
Friday, October 5, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford, 6:45 p.m. dinner, by Past Masters
Wednesday, October 10, Wooster No. 79, New Haven, evaluation
Thursday, October 11, Hiram No. 1, New Haven
Monday, October 15, Friendship No. 33, Southington, 6:30 p.m. dinner, SW in the East
Monday, October 15, Valley No. 36, Simsbury, 6:00 p.m. dinner
Monday, October 15, Oxoboxo No. 116, Montville, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Tuesday, October 16, America-St. John’s No. 8, Stratford, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Wednesday, October 17, Somerset - St. James No. 34, Preston, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Thursday, October 18, Union No. 31, Niantic, 6:30 p.m. dinner, evaluation
Thursday, October 18, Harmony No. 42, Waterbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Thursday, October 18, Wolcott No. 60, Stafford, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Thursday, October 18, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 6:15 p.m. dinner, SW in the East
Saturday, October 20, Putnam No. 46, South Woodstock
Monday, October 22, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 6:30 p.m. dinner, evaluation
Monday, October 22, Annawon No. 115, West Haven
Wednesday, October 24, Granite No. 119, Haddam, 6:30 p.m. dinner, evaluation, second half outdoors depending on weather
Thursday, October 25, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, SW in the East

Master Mason Degrees

Tuesday, October 2, Seneca No. 55, Torrington
Wednesday, October 3, Columbia No. 25, South Glastonbury
Wednesday, October 17, King Solomon’s No. 7, Woodbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Thursday, October 18, Warren No. 51, Portland, 6:30 p.m. dinner, evaluation
Friday, October 19, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford, lodge opens at 7:00 p.m., dinner at the break
Tuesday, October 23, Corinthian No. 104, Fairfield, 6:30 p.m. dinner

DeMolay Leadership Training

At the 21st annual DeMolay Region 1 (New England and Atlantic Provinces, Canada) held in New Hampshire, several Connecticut DeMolay state staff members dropped in to witness the work of the staff and visit the young men who spent the week immersed in DeMolay. Front row, from left, conferees: Nick Szewczul, Milford Chapter; John Baker, Robert H. Heller Chapter, West Haven; Noel Womack, Milford Chapter; Evan Ruszczyk, Nathan Hale Chapter, New Britain; Sam Homes, Robert H. Heller Chapter; Martin Trautl, Sleeping Giant Chapter, North Haven; and Austin Golebiewski, Edward W. Slade. Back row: conferee Jack Waterfield, Edward W. Slade Chapter, Wallingford; Dad Carl G. Ek, in his 20th year on the LTC staff; visitors State Master Councilor Matthew W. Lingenfelter, Executive Officer Harry E. Needham, III, and Deputy Executive Officer Gordon M. Candeel; conferee Zach Aubin, Doric Chapter, Waterbury; and Dad Herbert W. Mower, the founder of the Region 1 LTC in 1991. Missing from photo: State Junior Councilor Jason Ferenzcy, Doric Chapter, Waterbury; and Connecticut staff members Dad David C. Earle and Mom Linda Stauff. As is typical at LTC, the young men were divided among four cabin ‘chapters’ for the week, and two of these chapters elected as their Master Councilors Brothers Szewczul and Womack, both of Milford Chapter.

SAVE THE DATE

Secretaries/Treasurers Seminar

November 10 • 8:30 a.m.
Hartog Center Ashlar Village

Connecticut Freemasons

October 2012
Monday, October 1, Wylys-St. John’s No. 4, West Hartford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, lodge of instruction - Master Mason Third Section Lecture, by Bro. Scott Rosengrant

Monday, October 1, Jerusalem No. 49, Ridgefield, Entered Apprentice Esotericism by WB Steven Canada

Tuesday, October 2, King Hiram No. 12, Shelton, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Masonic Education - Observe vocabulary from the ritual

Tuesday, October 2, St. Peter’s No. 21, New Milford, lecture about Psalm 133

Wednesday, October 3, King Solomon’s No. 7, Woodbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner, review of the responsibilities of each primary officer

Thursday, October 4, Union No. 31, Niantic, 6:30 p.m. dinner, bring a friend

Thursday, October 4, Somerset - St. James No. 34, Preston, 9:00 a.m. 8th District breakfast at Groton Townhouse Restaurant

Thursday, October 4, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 6:15 p.m. dinner, The Defense of the Ruffians, a play by Friendship Lodge No. 33

Saturday, October 6, Columbia No. 25, South Glastonbury, 6:00 PM, 7th annual wine tasting

Saturday, October 6, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, Habitat for Humanity Day

Saturday, October 6, Wolcott No. 60, Stafford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, awards night

Sunday, October 7, Harmony No. 42, Waterbury, 12:00 noon, Annual Dyslexia Awareness Walk

Monday, October 8, Anchor No. 112, East Hampton, step up night

Tuesday, October 9, Union No. 5, Stafford, lodge blitz: Acacia Lodge No. 85

Tuesday, October 9, Fayette No. 69, Ellington, visiting Aircraft Radio Control Club

Wednesday, October 10, Ashlar-Aspetuck No. 142, Easton, 6:30 p.m., Hirams Café: Oktoberfest, kielbasa, bratworsts, red hots, sauerkraut

Friday, October 12, Philosophic Lodge of Research, Cromwell, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 70th anniversary rededication by the Grand Master and Grand Lodge officers

Saturday, October 13, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 5:30 p.m. Oktoberfest dinner

Saturday, October 13, Wolcott No. 60, Stafford, 8:30 a.m. breakfast, annual leaf peeping ride

Saturday, October 13, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, UConn/Temple football

Sunday, October 14, Estuary No. 43, Old Saybrook, 4:00 p.m. dinner, special ladies dinner, barber shop quartet

Monday, October 15, Meridian No. 77, Meriden, 6:30 p.m. dinner, program: interesting questions experienced while taking the Master’s Path examinations

Tuesday, October 16, King Hiram No. 12, Shelton, 7:30 p.m. dinner, Table Lodge, Masonic education: video program

Wednesday, October 17, Union No. 5, Stamford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, speaker: Patricia Morgan from Masonicare

Wednesday, October 17, Corinthian No. 103, North Haven, presentation by Masonic Scouters Association

Saturday, October 20, Union No. 5, Stamford, 7:00 p.m. dinner, The Masons’ Secret Ball

Saturday, October 20, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 6:00 p.m. dinner, 225th Celebration at J Timothy’s Restaurant

Saturday, October 20, Warren No. 51, Portland, 8:00 a.m. Open House breakfast

Saturday, October 20, Wolcott No. 60, Stafford, 2nd annual Wolcott hunt club outing, Markover hunting preserve

Sunday, October 21, Moriah No. 15, Brooklyn, 11:00 a.m. potato pancake festival

Sunday, October 21, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 8:00 a.m. country breakfast

Sunday, October 21, Friendship No. 33, Southington, 10:00 a.m. Ladies at Table brunch

Monday, October 22, Union No. 5, Stamford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Blue Lodge Council

Monday, October 22, Compass No. 9, Wallingford, 6:00, Lodge visit to Jeptha Lodge No. 95, Clinton

Monday, October 22, Anchor No. 112, East Hampton, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Rusty Mason’s Night

Tuesday, October 23, Fayette No. 69, Ellington, awards night

Thursday, October 25, Temple No. 65, Westport, 7:00 p.m. dinner, Oktoberfest themed Table Lodge

Friday, October 26, Union No. 5, Stamford, 6:00 p.m. dinner, Masonicare awareness event: Tree of Life program, Italian Center, Newfield Avenue

Friday, October 26, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, family annual Halloween party

Saturday, October 27, America-St. John’s No. 8, Stratford, 7:00 a.m., blood drive

Saturday, October 27, America-St. John’s No. 8, Stratford, 6:00 p.m. dinner, Oktoberfest celebration

Saturday, October 27, St. Peter’s No. 21, New Milford, 6:00 p.m. dinner, Joint Table Lodge with Union No. 40 at St. Peter’s

Saturday, October 27, Union No. 40, Danbury, 6:00 p.m. dinner, Joint Table Lodge at St Peter’s No. 21 in New Milford

Saturday, October 27, Putnam No. 46, South Woodstock, 6:00 p.m. dinner, 15th annual Halloween Table Lodge, costumes encouraged

Saturday, October 27, Wolcott No. 60, Stafford, 5:00 p.m. annual Yankee pot roast dinner

Sunday, October 28, Annawon No. 115, West Haven, 1:00 p.m., Masonicare visitation

Monday, October 29, Evening Star, No. 101, Unionville, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Blue Lodge Council

Monday, October 29, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 6:15 p.m. dinner, Blue Lodge Council meeting

Wednesday, October 31, Harmony No. 67, New Canaan, 4:30 p.m. family Halloween party and open house
MASONIC FAMILY BOOSTERS

Adelphi-Momauguin No. 63 ............... North Haven
America-St. John's No. 8 ............... Stratford
Anchor No. 122 ......................... East Hampton
Annawan No. 115 ........................ West Haven
Ark No. 39 .............................. Danbury
Ansantawa No. 89 ....................... Milford
Ashlar No. 332 ......................... Wallingford
Ashlar-Aspetuck No. 142 ............... East Braintree
Brained No. 102 ........................ Niantic
Center No. 97 .............................. Meriden
Coastal No. 57 ............................ Stonington
Columbia No. 25 ........................ South Glastonbury
Crescent No. 97 ........................... Wallingford
Composite No. 28 ........................ Suffield
Connecticut Masonic Scouters .......... Connecticut
Connecticut York Rite College .......... New Haven
Corinthian No. 103 ........................ New Haven
Cosmopolitan No. 125 ................. New Haven
Daytime No. 144 ......................... Stratford
Estuary No. 43 ............................ Old Saybrook
Evening Star No. 101 .................... Stratford
Federal No. 17 ............................. Waterbury
Frederick-Franklin No. 14 ............... Plainville
Friendship No. 33 ........................ SouthINGTON
Grande Commandery No. 137 ......... Manchester
Granite No. 119 ........................... Haddam
Harmony No. 42 ............................ New Canaan
Hartford Evergreen No. 88 .......... South Windsor
Hejaz Grotto No. 27 ........................ Enfield
Hiram No. 18 ............................. Sand Hook
Hiram W. Peck, Jr.

Freemasons thank you for contributing more than $25

GRAND BOOSTERS

David C. Toomey, Jr.
Clyde D. Eidson
Clifford T. Kearney
Cleveland P. Huggins III
Charles C. Maxson
Carleton L. Quint
Arthur R. Tinsz
Andrew G. Weinmann, II
Adrian E. Offinger
Alvin J. Maedren
Anderson H. Ziegler, Jr.
Andrew G. Weissman, II
Andrew J. Larsen
Anthony F. Keegan
Arthur J. McKenna
Arthur R. Tinsz
Aubrey V. Fisher
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Prepare to Open Your Doors

by Simon R. LaPlace

On Saturday, October 20, Connecticut Masonic lodges will again open their doors to welcome the public, and give explanations to the curious and interested about our favorite topic – Freemasonry.

The Open House Committee has scheduled dozens of radio spots on popular stations promoting the statewide event. This coordinates with the massive amount of advertising usually broadcast on behalf of Massachusetts Freemasons that goes across our state’s boundaries. In fact, every jurisdiction throughout New England will participate in the third Annual Open House initiative.

Now is a good time to make posters and flyers and spread the word. All lodges should have the “Community Open House” banners distributed by the committee. For any lodges who need an extra banner, contact WB Johnny Miller.

“Donate Life” flags are also available courtesy of the Connecticut Masonic Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Committee led by Richard Denno. A limited number of flags are still available for Masonic flagpoles in front of Masonic buildings. The donor Awareness Committee also has handouts and holders available.

Some lodges have also used stick-in-the-ground signs announcing their upcoming Open House to passing motorists. These signs draw attention to what some of the public had previously thought were empty dwellings or mysterious halls. Indeed, the mysteries of Masonry are attracting more and more younger men who find the ancient beliefs of Freemasonry have relevance in today’s society.

The Grand Lodge has pamphlets explaining what Freemasonry is and available at no cost. Extra issues of this publication are also available to help validate to the general public the vitality of today’s Freemason.

Now is the time to spruce up your lodge. It may not have been cleaned since last year, so what’s wrong with a yearly scrubbing? Everyone knows the smell of a closed up lodge hall. Why not open the windows and let some fresh air in? Perhaps a pot of coffee or the smell of fresh baked goods on the day of the Open House is just the welcoming feature that will attract a possible petitioner.

Have a young more recent member explain what it was that drew him to Masonry. He might be the best one in the lodge to explain the benefits of brotherhood. Don’t hesitate to explain the structure and traditions in a lodge room, but, of course, beware of giving away any secrets! That is part of the mystery that separates us from the club down the street.

It’s also a good time to invite the next door neighbors to visit and find out who those strangers are who come every month to the their neighborhood. They might find out that those guys they hear talking in the street late at night actually have something interesting to say.

You can be sure at least one visitor will say, “My grandfather (substitute a relative) was a Mason.” Explain to them that while nearly an entire generation missed out joining the fraternity, today more and more young men are finding the benefit of our principles – brotherly love, relief and truth. Those are some pretty refreshing values in a world full of cynicism and distrust.

October 20 is a day to celebrate. Celebrate your membership, celebrate your brotherhood, and celebrate “our gentle craft.” The obligation a Freemason takes is one that “makes a lasting impression on the mind, and serves as an uplifting and ennobling influence on our life and character.” Let your doors be open!

Adelphi Momauguin No. 63 Donates $30,000 to DeMolay Foundation

Before the financial crash of the last decade, Adelphi Momauguin Lodge No. 63, North Haven, pledged $30,000 over a 10-year span to the endowment fund of the Connecticut DeMolay Foundation, Inc. The lodge has voted to merge with Corinthian Lodge No. 103, also of North Haven, but before the merger, Worshipful Master Mark Osenko, right, attended the installation of Sleeping Giant Chapter to present the pledge payment in full to the Foundation through State Master Councilor Matthew W. Lingenfelter, center, and Connecticut DeMolay Executive Officer and member of the Foundation board of directors Harry E. Needham, III. Nearly a half million dollars has been pledged to the endowment fund, representing half of the million dollar goal that would help to make DeMolay self-sufficient on an ongoing basis.
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