Connecticut FREEMASONS

A Vote for 2014

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NOVEMBER 2013

Grand Lodge of Connecticut, A.F. & A.M.
P.O. Box 250
Wallingford, CT 06492
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Standing room only at the Hartog Center for the October 26 semi-annual communication.
Grand Chaplain’s Pulpit

“The Tenets of Freemasonry – Part 3: Brotherly Love”

(Note: This is the third entry in our discourse of the Tenets of Freemasonry – Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love)

It is difficult in today’s self-centered “me” society to fully understand the truly Masonic concept of “Brotherly Love.” We are taught in the Entered Apprentice degree lecture, “By the exercise of Brotherly Love, we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family—the high, the low, the rich, the poor—who, as created by one Almighty Parent, and inhabitants of the same planet, are to aid, support, and protect each other. On this principle, Masonry unites men of every country, sect, and opinion, and conciliates true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance."

Brotherly love in Masonry transcends the very concepts and differences among men that tear apart the fabric of society. This is why we “meet upon the level,” why no sectarian discussions are permitted in the lodge, and why we don’t (or shouldn’t) allow politics into Masonry.

General Ahiman Rezon in his 1868 treatise on the first degree wrote, “Brotherly Love or Friendship is regarded by Freemasons as the strong cement of the Order; without this high moral virtue, the Fraternity would soon cease to exist. By Brotherly Love, we are to understand that generous principle of the soul which regards the human species as one family, created by an All-wise Being, and placed on this globe for the mutual assistance of each other. The man who is actuated by the pure principle of Brotherly Love, will not desert his friend when dangers threaten or misfortunes assail him. When he is calumniated (Ed. Note: reviled, slandered), he will openly and boldly espouse his cause, and endeavor to remove the aspersion. When sickness or infirmity occasion him to be deserted by others, he will seize the opportunity, and redouble all the affectionate attentions which love suggests. No society can exist for any length of time, unless Brotherly Love prevail among its members. To “dwell together in unity,” is the life and support of the great Masonic institution.”

To dwell together in unity – beautiful words but empty if they are not inscribed in our hearts and exemplified in our lives. When we forget this principle, we become just another club or social organization.

The recent dissention in our jurisdiction has weighed heavily upon my heart. It hastaken us from the sublime principles we inculcate as Freemasons and lowered our fraternity to the level of the profane. This is not, my Brothers, how it should be.

Let us all now work together to mend and heal these self-inflicted wounds and rebuild our unity in the true spirit of the tenets of our fraternity: friendship, morality, and brotherly love. Freemasonry must not allow itself to devolve into a group engaged in “private piques and quarrels” as a brother stated at the October Grand Lodge session. If we allow ourselves to continue down this path we will self-destruct and good men will no longer find our fraternity as a place where all men can meet together as brothers.

Throughout the ages, Freemasonry has been an example for men of all walks of life to see “…how good and how pleasant it is for brethren together in unity.” My prayer is that we will once again stand united in the bonds on Brotherhood. 

God Bless!

2013 Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Session

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jurisdiction, sections concerning stated and special communications, Section 3414 (Permissible Forms of Communication), Section 4100 (How Membership is Acquired) were all passed by the Craft.

Section 2211 (Ritual and Ceremonies Committee) and changes to Section 2107 (Prerogatives of the Grand Master) did not pass. The Craft expressed concern and some confusion over the term “Standard Work” and so the proposal was returned for more labor. Likewise the proposal regarding the clarification of jurisdiction references in many sections of the rules and regulations. There was a lack of understanding at first by many brethren and the proposal did not muster the two-thirds votes necessary to pass. That legislation also has been returned to the committee for further work.

The floor was given to RW Thomas M. Maxwell II for the address of the Deputy Grand Master. RW Brother Maxwell conveyed that he is very ready to lead the craft next year as Most Worshipful Grand Master. He indicated that his signature program, the Masonic Scouters, has been running successfully for six years. He announced that lodge evaluations would be on any degree, and he strongly suggested that incoming Worshipful Masters participate in, and complete, the Master’s Path prior to taking office.

Grand Master LaPlace announced a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge to be held on Saturday, February 1, 2014, at the Hartog Center. This is not the annual session of the Grand Lodge but another communication in some cases are widely divergent, Masons can congregate together, and, remembering their obligations, can effectively work together for the good of the craft.

RW Ted Nelson accepts the election of Grand Junior Warden.
Morton N. Katz Awarded the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze

by Michael L. Castroll

In 1939, Grand Master Thomas H. Desmond presented the first of the Pierpont Edwards Awards, the highest honor that can be bestowed from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. Some people actually believe this month’s honoree knew Pierpont Edwards!

Brother Morton N. Katz was born May 15, 1919, to Ida and Brother Abraham Katz, in Hartford. After graduating from Hartford’s Weaver High School in 1935, he went on to the Connecticut State College at Storrs, now the University of Connecticut, graduating in 1939. At Iowa State University, in Ames, Iowa, Mort received his MS in Organic Chemistry in 1942. After returning from Europe with the 82nd Airborne Division in January 1946, he was a teaching fellow at Iowa State, leaving on 1948 to enter the University of Connecticut School of Law, graduating with honors in 1951. He has continued to practice law ever since.

Brother Katz was commissioned an Infantry Reserve Second Lieutenant on June 17, 1940, and took his basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was sent overseas to the (then) Second Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry in England, then in combat operations in Italy at Venafron on the Volturno Front and the amphibious invasion at Anzio. The invasion and liberation of Southern France and the Ardennes Campaign, better remembered as the “Battle of the Bulge,” was next. This battalion was disbanded after sustaining heavy losses in Belgium. Mort was transferred to the 505th Parachute Infantry, serving as S-2 (Intelligence Officer) in combat with operations on the Rhine River, the Elbe River amphibious crossing and the liberation of Wobbelin concentration camp, at Ludwigslust, Germany. He remembers his war service, but he does not talk much about the concentration camps.

This part of his life is not deemed to be a chronology of World War II in Europe. It does speak of his selflessness and courage.

Mort reverted to Reserve status after the war and commanded the 411th Civil Affairs Unit in West Hartford. Mort was promoted to colonel (O-6) in 1967 and was assigned to the office of the assistant chief of staff for intelligence (G-2) and Defense Intelligence Agency at the Pentagon. Upon his retirement from the Pentagon in November, 1972, he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

He was appointed by the President of the French Republic, Mr. Nicholas Sarkozy, to receive France’s most prestigious award, and on May 3, 2012, at the United States Military Academy, at West Point, New York, the insignia of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor was bestowed on him by His Excellency M. Francois Delattre, ambassador of France for his service in the liberation of France during World War II.

Brother Katz married Shirley Dinerstein, a registered pharmacist, on November 29, 1964. They have two daughters, Rachel Katz Brunke and Naomi Katz Cohen and three granddaughters, Diane and Anna Brunke and Tabitha Cohen. Any time you want, you can strike up a conversation with Brother Mort, just by asking him about his family. He is extremely proud of their accomplishments.

Brother Katz was initiated an Entered Apprentice in St. John’s Lodge No. 4 on May 2, 1962. Before the summer break, he was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. Brother Katz was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason by the Connecticut Military Masonic Degree Team on November 7, 1962.

Brother Katz joined “the line” and went through the chairs, serving as Worshipful Master of St. John’s Lodge No. 4 in 1975.


Brother Katz became Noble Katz, when he crossed the “hot sands” at the Sphinx Shrine Mosque, on December 12, 1967. He went on to serve as president of the Sphinx Temple Guard, and was later appointed Temple Attorney and Parliamentarian. In 2011, Noble Katz was elected Attorney Emeritus.

Brother Katz joined the Order of Eastern Star in Ruby Chapter No. 34 on February 20, 1967, for whom he served four times as Worthy Patron. He is now a member of Ionic Chapter No. 100. Mort’s other service for Eastern Star includes; president of the Eastern Star Charity Foundation and board of directors, Worthy Grand Patron, 1986-87; and chairman of the Appeals and Grievances Committee during its 1991-94 Triennium.

Brother Katz went on to serve the Grand Lodge as Right Worshipful District Deputy for 1984-85. He later served as chairman of the Trial Commission (2005-2010).

By the end of 1988, St. John’s Lodge No. 4 and Wyllys Lodge No. 99 were united. RW Katz received his 50-year recognition from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut in Wyllys-St. John’s Lodge No. 4 in 2012. Brother Katz received his 50-year pin from the Scottish Rite on Consistory Day, 2013.

Still active in the practice of law, his career leans toward those in need of counsel. He has been associated with the Public Defenders Office since 1997. He was appointed a Superior Court Magistrate hearing small claims in several Judicial Districts.

Mort devotes much of his time to pro bono work. He has spent a decade with the Connecticut Bar Association’s “Law Works for People” project in family relations litigations, and with Statewide Legal Services at its Hartford Legal Clinic representing claimants in Unemployment Compensation cases. At the 2010 Law Day ceremonies of the Hartford County Bar Association, Mort was presented with their pro bono award. RW Katz is certified to represent veterans in disability claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs. He also serves at “Operation Stand-down” at the State Veterans Hospital in Rocky Hill.

Mort still practices law, even at the age of 94. He claims to have the smallest practice, and the smallest small business. “When someone helps you in life it is your turn to help someone else.”

He is a member of Emanuel Synagogue in West Hartford.

For his many years of service to his family, his community, his nation, and to Freemasonry, Grand Master Simon R. LaPlace, on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut was proud to bestow upon RW Morton N. Katz the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.
There are eleven highway bridges that cross the Connecticut River within our state. At least half are named after individuals. Four are named after members of the craft. The Baldwin Bridge at the mouth of the river is named after Raymond Earl Baldwin of St. John’s Lodge No. 8. During the initial years of the Connecticut Turnpike (I-95), the bridge carried a dime toll for passenger cars and the administrative offices for the toll plaza can still be seen on the Old Saybrook side of the river. Brother Baldwin has the distinction of being the only Connecticut resident to serve as Governor, Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court and United States Senator. He was born in Rye, New York but was reared in Middletown and attended Wesleyan and Yale Law School. He was a veteran of World War I and in 1979 was awarded the David Wooster Medal in silver. He was also a holder of the Pierpont Edwards medal in bronze. 

The Putnam Bridge (Route 3) crosses between Glastonbury and Wethersfield. William Hutchinson Putnam was an investment banker and advocate of bridges. Born in 1878 in Brooklyn, he grew up without the advantages of education enjoyed by others. He worked for seven years at the Windham National Bank and then sold life insurance. In 1912 he started an investment firm “Putnam, Coffin and Burr”. From 1922 until his death in 1958 he was an investment consultant for the city of Hartford and helped to build worthwhile projects within the city including Hartford Hospital. He helped to start the Constitution Plaza project but died before it was completed. He was also a member of the Scottish Rite and the Shrine.

In Downtown Hartford, the 100-plus year old Bulkeley Bridge (I-84) was named in honor of Morgan Gardiner Bulkeley, Governor, Senator, National League president (baseball) and president of Aetna Insurance. Bulkeley was born in East Haddam but settled in Hartford. When he was Governor, the state had some financial issues and he financed loans to the state from his insurance company. He refused to accept a salary from the state during his tenure as Governor. In 1878 he was made a Mason at St. John's Lodge No. 4 in Hartford and maintained a lively interest in the craft. In 1908 he placed the final stone in the bridge which would eventually bear his name after a parade of 6,000 Masons marched through Hartford for the official cornerstone dedication. The next year he helped to lay the cornerstone for the State Library and Supreme Court.

The fourth bridge is the Dexter Coffin bridge which carries traffic on I-91. Dexter Drake Coffin was descended from a long line of mill owners and theirs was one of the oldest corporations in the country with family members as principal owners and executives. Dexter Coffin was a member of Euclid Lodge No. 109. They were leaders and what Masons ought to emulate. While the Department of Transportation does not have an accurate or complete list of bridges and their official names, it is an interesting project to find out if other bridges are named after Masons. This Grand Historian welcomes any input from the readers of this column.

Some interesting gleanings from the proceedings of 1873 when two grievances were brought before the Grand Lodge. Both were eventually dismissed and no action taken since the participants lacked the knowledge of Grand Lodge rules and no intentional harm was done.

One involved Putnam Lodge No. 46 and Eastern Star Lodge No. 44 (although a misprint in the proceedings indicates it was Evening Star Lodge No. 44 of Windham) where the Windham lodge apparently invaded the jurisdiction of Putnam No. 46 and initiated a brother. The brother and the accompanying fees were turned over to Putnam No. 46 and no further information was given other than the charges were dismissed.

The second occurred between Washington Lodge No. 70 and Federal Lodge No. 17 when the latter lodge apparently accepted for membership one who had been rejected for one reason or another in Washington No. 70. Since there was a lack of knowledge of the rejection, again the charges were dismissed. The committee recommended due care and diligence when examining candidates for Masonry and that admonishment still holds true today.

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The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut and Masonicare invite you to honor or remember loved ones by lighting up a light on the

**Tree of Life**

Your tax-deductible donation in support of the Tree of Life enables us to provide quality, compassionate care to our residents and patients when no other funding sources are available.

You can honor or remember a loved one by lighting up a light on the Tree of Life. To purchase a light, please provide all necessary tribute information on our online response form at [www.masonicare.org/tree-life](http://www.masonicare.org/tree-life) or print out a downloadable response form and return with your gift to:

**Tree of Life**
C/O The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut
P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492

Loved ones will be honored at one of three tree-lighting ceremonies:

**Tree of Life - East Hartford**
Saturday, November 23, 2013
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
East Hartford Community Cultural Center
50 Chapman Street
East Hartford, CT

**Tree of Life - Meriden**
Friday, December 6, 2013
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Augusta Curtis Cultural Center
175 East Main Street
Meriden, CT

**Tree of Life - Stamford**
Sunday, December 8, 2013
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Italian Center of Stamford
1620 Newfield Avenue
Stamford, CT

For more information, please call The Masonic Charity Foundation at 800-562-3992

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Few Masonic Charity Foundation donors have had the opportunity to view Masonicare from as many different perspectives as RW Jim Spencer. As a business partner, as the spouse of an employee, as a Mason, and now as a resident of Masonicare at Ashlar Village, he can say there’s an informed decision behind every gift he makes.

“I used to service Masonicare Health Center as a vendor,” Jim explained. “My business provided medical gasses like compressed oxygen to healthcare facilities. Masonicare was a customer of mine for over 30 years. And my late wife, Judy, spent the last 20 years of her nursing career working at the Health Center, so I know that place inside and out. I’ve watched the Wallingford campus grow into the community it is today.”

Donors like Jim make it possible for Masonicare to provide residents and patients in need with items and services that aren’t covered by any other sources, including dental care, resident out-trips, and the refurbishing of multipurpose rooms and lounges.

“I’m pleased to be able to support The Masonic Charity Foundation,” Jim said, “because I see how contributions are being used to do the most good and because I have confidence in The Foundation to manage and allocate donors’ gifts wisely.”

A Past District Deputy and Past Master of Center Lodge No. 97, Meriden, Bro. Jim has also supported the Holiday Appeal and various special events of The Foundation.

Jim admits that choosing Ashlar Village over other retirement communities in the area was not a decision that required a great deal of thought.

“It was a no-brainer,” he said. “Judy and I had spoken about where we wanted to go when the time came to give up our house in Meriden, and we knew we weren’t going to be looking anywhere else. Yes, we knew of Masonicare’s reputation through our involvement in the fraternity (Judy belonged to The Order of the Eastern Star, Meridian Chapter No. 8, and served as Connecticut’s Worthy Grand Matron from 2000-01) but, more importantly, we saw firsthand how residents and patients responded to the care they were receiving. And, quite honestly, being in the back door of virtually every convalescent home in central Connecticut and none of them hold a candle to Masonicare Health Center. The staff there and at Ashlar Village is wonderful and everything is immaculate and pristine.”

Judy passed away before the Spencers could relocate to Ashlar Village together. Several years passed before Jim decided he was ready to give up the large home he and Judy had shared and raised three sons. He moved into a cottage in June 2012 and has enjoyed making new friends, participating in activities, and expanding his Masonic ties as an officer of Ashlar Lodge No. 332.

He recalls his first introductory gathering with other new Ashlar Village residents. The group included a couple from Pennsylvania. Jim was impressed.

“They’d taken the time to research the best retirement communities in the northeast,” he said, “and they chose Ashlar Village. That tells you something about the reputation of Masonicare.”

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 masonicare.org/mcf.

The Medicare Open Enrollment period is from October 15 – Dec. 7, for plans effective January 1, 2014. As a Connecticut Mason who may want to use Masonicare services now or in the future, you might find it helpful to know which commercial insurance companies Masonicare has a contractual relationship with.

These include: Aetna, Blue Cross, Cigna, ConnectiCare, Coventry, Oxford, Yale and Multiplan.

If you are considering a Medicare Advantage program, we have relationships with Aetna, Anthem, ConnectiCare and Wellcare.

There are also many small commercial carriers whom Masonicare accepts. To be sure, you can call the Masonicare HelpLine at 888-679-9997.

Please remember, you have a choice – and should you choose a carrier not mentioned above or verified by our HelpLine, Masonicare may not be able to be your provider for those services.
The evening of October 10 was a very special one for Masonicare. We held our first company-wide appreciation celebration to thank all our employees for the outstanding care they provide to our patients, residents and families. Held at the Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford, there was music, dancing, food – and a good number of tributes. We recognized the service of 153 employees from across the Masonicare continuum who have been with us for 10 – 15 – 20 – 25 – 30 – and even 35 years.

Our employees are remarkable and I am very proud of them. That night I quoted from one of the many letters I receive from grateful families: 

“I cannot say enough about the quality of the people who cared for my mother. Everyone mirrored what I believe is a MASONICARE ATTITUDE. Because of the vision of Connecticut Masons nearly 150 years ago, Masonicare is here with employees dedicated to deliver on the promise to “help, aid and assist.”

A few weeks later, the 124th annual membership meeting of Masonicare Corporation was held as is customary during the Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication. I’m pleased to note the voting members re-elected WB Robert Simon and WB Geoffrey Ice to the Masonicare Board of Trustees, as well as MWPGM Ronald Thomas of Prince Hall Grand Lodge. In addition, WB Robert Polito was elected to fill the seat held by WB Donald Dean, who will remain on the board in the capacity of his office in the Grand Line. All five of these individuals bring great commitment and passion to their Board work. Masonicare is extremely fortunate to have Board members who have volunteered hundreds – even thousands – of hours to ensure the sound governance of our organization and its affiliates.

At this year’s Membership Meeting, it was also voted to establish Masonicare at Home as a separate affiliate of Masonicare. Formerly under Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, Masonicare at Home will become the umbrella for initiatives designed to provide non-clinical services to keep seniors in their homes and that help us become less dependent on Medicare and Medicaid. We’ll tell you more about these opportunities in future issues of Connecticut Freemasons.

In closing, I’d like to mention the upcoming Tree of Life events. Organized by The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, these non-denominational tree-lighting ceremonies provide an opportunity to honor loved ones who are no longer with us. There is more information on page 6, and I hope you’ll consider joining us in East Hartford, Meriden or Stamford this year.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Simon R. LaPlace, Most Worshipful Grand Master

My Grand Master’s Appeal asks for your donation to Masonic youth, Sandy Hook Family Relief Fund, and the Cardiac Research Institute of the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory.

Last year, because of your thoughtfulness, The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation continued to support Masonic charities, remember our Masonic widows on the Masonicare campus, and benefit other worthy causes. Again we ask your help, with a gift.

“Freemasons have always given of themselves.” Now is the time to help; no amount is too small to make a difference in our state, and to Freemasonry. You may designate your gift “in honor of” or “in memory of.” With your help, my expectations will be surpassed. Thank you for caring by giving to the Grand Master’s Appeal.

Simon R. LaPlace, Most Worshipful Grand Master

Gifts may be sent to:
The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation
P.O. 69
Wallingford, CT 06492
or online at www.ctfm.net

Support the Grand Master’s Appeal

Grand Master’s Appeal Donations In Memory of...

Brother Charles C. Anderson
Brother Richard C. Ashton
W.B. Everett C. Baker’s father
Brother Hollis M. Bartlett Jr
Brother David Bristol
Donald Buralow
Robert C. Campbell USN Ret
Brother Philip C. Carter
Brother Donald B. Clark
Brother Robert H. Crocker
Brother Norman Leslie Drew
George Emr Jr
Brother George Engborg
Brother Alvernon Feeo
Rick Godman
Brother Russell I. Goering
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Brother Harlyn Hoy
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Brother Walter E. Schroder
Brother Nathan Shear
Brother David S. Smyth
Louis E. St. George Sr
Brother Thomas Stretton
Brother George L. Wallen
Brother William H. Whitlock Sr
Tom Wright
by Thomas McCauley Maxwell II

I wish to thank you for electing me to serve as your Grand Master for the ensuing year. In my Masonic journey of almost 40 years, I have been blessed with both the opportunity and the honor of serving as the presiding officer of fifteen different Masonic Bodies and feel well prepared and ready to serve as your Grand Master of this jurisdiction.

I was born and raised in Texas, attended public schools, and graduated from Texas A&M with an Engineering degree and minors in English and Science. Following college graduation, I entered the American Foreign Service and served as a Peace Corps volunteer working in Malaysia and Nepal. My assignments included rural community development projects and teaching physics, algebra, plane geometry and trigonometry at a technical High School and a school for the blind.

My four years abroad had a profound influence on my life and values. These years included circling the world twice and solo backpacking overland through the Far East, Central Asia, Middle East, North Africa, and Western Europe. My journey back home was mostly through underdeveloped countries where I literally walked through pockets of acute famine and poverty, and areas with no law enforcement. I also witnessed harsh discrimination against girls and women, boys as young as twelve years of age forced to serve in military units and innocent children as young as six years of age bound in slavery. From this experience I developed a sacred and profound passion for humanitarianism, democracy, freedom in its broadest application, patriotism, and deep respect and love for all races and religions.

When I returned to the States, I came to Connecticut and began my career at Wilton High School teaching descriptive geometry and architecture. I immediately pursued and completed graduate degrees in counseling psychology at Fairfield University and started my private practice in Newtown. Subsequently, at Wilton High School, I was transferred from the classroom into the counseling department where I spent 38 years in a career of working with people, which brought challenges, pride, and great satisfaction.

In 1974, I became a member of Hiram Lodge No. 18, Sandy Hook. I was born into a family of Masons who date back to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, so Masonry is a cornerstone in my personal life. It's in my mind, heart, and soul; Freemasonry is part of my heritage and I will never in any way or manner compromise the integrity or spirit of Freemasonry.

Traditionally, incoming Grand Masters are expected to present their plans for their upcoming year, which includes a program with lasting legacy. In 2007, as Grand Senior Steward, I began planning the Connecticut Masonic Scouter Association (CMSA) and over the last six years it has thrived beyond our expectations. We are now approaching our 100th Eagle Scout commendation award in Connecticut which is presented at public Eagle Scout Courts of Honor. Eagle Scouting is a prime future members of our fraternity as they share our core values and are proven leaders in society.

So, the Connecticut Masonic Scouter Association is my major program contribution as your incoming 2014 Grand Master. It's functioning at a high level without my presence and will allow me to concentrate my energy solely on leading our Grand Lodge. As I serve as your Grand Master, I will always exercise the leadership skills of two-way communication, ongoing evaluation, knowing and using my resources, reflecting, understanding the characteristics and needs of the group and its members, sharing leadership, and leading by setting the example.

During the next six months, I will be traveling extensively within our jurisdiction exchanging ideas and sharing the current and long range plans of our Grand Lodge. I will also be interviewing, selecting, and training our 2014 District Deputies with the assistance of our current Grand Senior Warden.

Teamwork is an invaluable equation in the calculus of solid leadership, and I pledge that I will lead a well-coordinated team of Grand Lodge officers as we serve you. I also pledge never to forget the words of every Senior Warden: “harmony being the strength and support of all societies, more especially of ours”.

As your next Grand Master, my plans include the following:

1. Reactivate the Grand Lodge Youth Committee and the Grand Lodge Youth Award program
2. The Master’s Path, Senior Warden Course and Proficiency Exam are strongly encouraged of all incoming Worshipful Masters before their installation, and they should demonstrate proficiency in opening, closing, and calling from labor to refreshment, and refreshment to labor in a tiled Lodge.
3. The official evaluation on lodges will be the degree of choice. Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, or Master Mason.

With assistance from my resources, I plan to:

4. Modify our EMR system to a new level of performance.
5. Continue to address new ideas on membership retention and NPDs, and declining membership
6. Modify the training and duties of District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals
7. Strengthen and define the goals and service of our Blue Lodge Councils
8. Honor our Past Grand Masters as a prime resource in decision making
9. Establish new avenues of two-way communication between the Grand Lodge and our Blue Lodge officers and members
10. Study and modify the rotation of Grand Lodge officers on the Masonic care affiliate boards.
11. Promote attendance and participation by brothers at Grand Lodge designated programs and seminars
12. Continue our strong personal presence and support of two of the finest youth organizations in the world – DeMolay and Rainbow for Girls.
13. Emphasize leadership training and review proven models.
14. Create a committee that will work with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge to celebrate our upcoming 25th anniversary of mutual recognition.

In closing, I express my deepest gratitude to you, my brothers for giving me the opportunity and honor to serve as your Grand Master next year. I am ready and excited to lead in this capacity and again, thank you for your confidence.

Thank you, Most Worshipful Grand Master, for allowing me time to share these words with our brothers and I look forward to working with you as we continue to serve this Grand Jurisdiction together.
What is Mentoring or Mentorship?

Mentorship is a personal developmental relationship in which a more experienced or knowledgeable brother helps guide a less experienced or knowledgeable brother. However, true mentoring is more than just answering occasional questions or providing ad hoc help. It is an ongoing relationship of learning, dialogue, and challenge. The brother in receipt of mentorship may be referred to as an apprentice or, more commonly in recent years, a mentee.

Mentoring is a process that always involves communication and is relationship based, but its precise definition is elusive. The focus of mentoring is to develop the whole person so the techniques are broad and require wisdom in order to be used appropriately.

There are five commonly used techniques among successful mentors:

1. **Accompanying**: making a commitment in a caring way, which involves taking part in the learning process side-by-side with the learner.

2. **Sowing**: mentors are often confronted with the difficulty of preparing the learner before he is ready to change. Sowing is necessary when the mentor knows what he says may at first not be understood or even acceptable to learners but will make sense and have value to the mentee when the situation requires it.

3. **Catalyzing**: when change reaches a critical level of pressure, learning can escalate. Here the mentor chooses to plunge the learner right into change, provoking a different way of thinking, a change in identity, or a re-ordering of values.

4. **Showing**: making something understandable, or using the mentor’s own example to demonstrate a skill or activity. The mentor shows what he is talking about through his own behavior.

5. **Harvesting**: the mentor focuses on "picking the ripe fruit": it is usually used to create awareness of what was learned by experience and to draw conclusions. The key questions are: "What have you learned?" and "How useful is it?".

Different techniques may be used by mentors according to the situation and the mindset of the mentee. The techniques used in modern organizations can be found in ancient education systems, from the Socratic technique of harvesting to the accompaniment method used in the apprenticeship of itinerant cathedral builders during the Middle Ages. Leadership authors Jim Kouzes and Barry Posner advise mentors to look for "teachable moments" in order to expand or realize the potentialities of the people in the organizations they lead and underline that personal credibility is as essential to quality mentoring as skill.

The Committee on Membership will be presenting a seminar to provide a program to assist lodges in developing Mentors. Brothers who complete the Mentoship program will be certified as Mentors and qualified to assist in the education of mentors for their lodge. This program is open to all brothers interested in making the experience of becoming a brother more informative and enjoyable for new candidates.

Connecticut Freemasons Have the Power to DONATE LIFE®

"What’s Next – English Bulldogs?"

By Richard F. Denno

Our efforts with the Morris the Donor Cat campaign reaped big rewards. After all, our topic is not one of “popcorn and bubblegum.” People can’t help but smile when they look into Morris’ beautiful eyes.

So what’s next? Perhaps a campaign using an English Bulldog? The slogan could be, “My name is Winston – And I’m Bullish on organ and tissue donor awareness and registration.” Should Winston’s campaign be well received, there are many colorful or unique animals that might attract people to become organ donors. Mickie the Monkey might warn you not to "monkey around" when it comes to registering as a donor. These are just a few ideas the Committee has come up with to promote its lifesaving message.

Better still – what great ideas do you have to stimulate passion among your brothers, family, neighbors and friends in donor registration? After all, this is your Masonic Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Program.

Currently, over 120,000 patients are on the organ transplant waiting list. That figure has increased by over 10,000 since it was last listed in March, 2011. That is only two and a half years ago. Each day, eighteen patients die. For them, time ran out before they could receive that transplant that would have saved their lives. Please help eliminate or greatly reduce this list.

The committee will award certificates to lodges and individual brothers who come up with the most creative ideas to stimulate organ donor awareness and registration. So put your thinking caps on and earn one of our certificates by coming up with some great ideas. Please forward them to Richard F. Denno at toursone@comcast.net.

For assistance in creating these wonderful ideas, go to the www.donatelifenewengland.org website and learn more about organ/tissue/eye donation. If you have not as yet registered, you can do so online at this website. Be sure to check ‘civic organization’ in the box asking how you heard about donating. The next drop-down box lists some groups. Please let Donate Life know that we are out spreading their lifesaving message by clicking onto Freemasons.

On behalf of your Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program, thank you in advance for your assistance.
Getting a Flu Shot – What You Need to Know

Caroline Hebert, RN, manager of the outpatient specialty clinics and employee health services at Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford, has seen dozens of patients with influenza and witnessed firsthand the serious complications that can often result. Now that flu season is here, be sure to read – and heed – the important information she has provided below.

The 2013 Flu season is now here.

The influenza viruses are highly contagious diseases that spread throughout the United States every winter, usually between October and May. One way of protecting yourself and your loved ones is by getting vaccinated against the "Flu."

The influenza virus is spread very easily through coughing, sneezing and having close contact with someone who is infected. So standing in line in the grocery store or at the bank can expose you to the flu. Anyone can get the flu, but the elderly, children, and people with certain illnesses will get sicker than most. Unfortunately it can even lead to pneumonia, and ultimately, death. Each year, thousands of people die from these viruses.

Here are some of the symptoms of the flu that can last for several days or more:
- Fever/chills
- Fatigue
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Muscles aches
- Runny or stuffy nose
There are two ways to get your vaccine:
- Inactivated influenza vaccine is what is called the "Flu Shot" and does not contain any live virus. This is given with a needle into your upper arm.
- The live, attenuated (weakened) influenza vaccine is given as a nasal spray; it does contain a weakened form of the virus.

Both vaccines take two weeks to develop protection from the viruses, and this protection will last for several months to a year.

Who should not get the “Flu shot?”

People with severe allergies should not get the vaccine.
People with a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome should not be vaccinated.

Anyone who is not feeling well should wait until they’re feeling better. If you are uncertain as to your history with any of the above restrictions, be sure to consult your physician before getting the shot.

Where can I get more detailed information on the viruses and the preferred treatments for the flu?

The United States Department of Health and Human Services’ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, also known as the CDC, publishes new information each year during flu season. You can go to their website at www.cdc.gov or call the CDC at 800-232-4636.

As another Flu season descends upon us, please remember that those around you – in grocery stores, banks, your workplace, or even in your own home – may be infected. Be sure to get that vaccination, and encourage your friends and loved ones to do the same. It’s always better to be safe than sorry!

Masonicare Child Development Center Proud to Celebrate Its 25 Year Anniversary

The Masonicare Child Development Center (MCDC), located on the Wallingford campus, opened 25 years ago this past September, and since day one, its outstanding staff has been providing quality day care to the infants, toddlers, and preschool children of Masonicare employees and the greater Wallingford community as well. And, it was recently accredited for the fifth consecutive time by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Director Darlene Rawling-Plummer, who has been with MCDC for more than six years now, says the Center has been a true success story – mainly because of the great teachers who have worked there throughout the years. “Many of our dedicated employees have been with the Center for at least 10 or more years, and a few for up to 25, which is unusual in the childcare field.” According to Darlene, some of the retired teachers even come back occasionally to work on a per diem basis, which, as she points out, says a lot about the whole operation.

“The Masonicare Child Development Center has a great reputation, not only within the Masonicare continuum, but out in the community as well. Parents whose children spend their formative years with us are always thrilled when their youngsters start school and it becomes so apparent that they are fully ready and adapt so easily to their new surroundings. We love it when parents come back to share that good news with us – it makes our jobs even more rewarding.” An added bonus is that special activities and programs. This has proven to be a win-win proposition – both young and old get so much out of the special time they spend together.

It’s family day at the Masonicare Child Development Center. Infants, toddlers, and pre-schoolers of Masonicare employees and the greater Wallingford community celebrate twenty-five years of quality day care.
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.

Abraham Goldbloom ................................................... America-St. John’s 8
George W. Bleez Sr. ................................................... Ashlar-Aspetuck 142
Charles J. Fabso .......................................................... Ashlar-Aspetuck 142
Kevin J. Mclaughlin ........................................................ Coasts 57
Newman J. Fellows ........................................................ Columbia 25
Winthrop Jensen .......................................................... Columbia 25
Harold Switkes .......................................................... Cosmopolitan 125
Gerald R. Wolf .......................................................... Day Spring 30
A. Edward Couch ........................................................ Estuary 43
Thomas W. Marshall .................................................. Estuary 43
Charles R. Castle ....................................................... Evening Star 101
Alexander Mitchell Jr .................................................. Fidelity-St. John’s 3
Joseph M. Swiatek Jr .................................................. Fidelity-St. John’s 3
Vincent S. Zarrillo ........................................................ Fidelity-St. John’s 3
Joseph S. Koch ............................................................ Frederick Franklin 14
Raymond I. Beimler .................................................... Hiram 1
Carroll D. Cooley ........................................................ Ionic 110
Allan F. Hellstrom Jr ................................................... Manchester 73
Ralph P. Leupold .......................................................... Moosup 113
Robert C. Beaulieu ....................................................... Temple 16
Philip S. Jennings ........................................................ Temple 65
Edward I. Abraham ...................................................... Unity 148
Wendell W. Morrell ...................................................... Unity 148

Recognition Degree Honors the Ziervogels

by Kathy L. Raveneau

On May 28, the Rainbow Girls of Norwich Assembly No. 30 assisted by the girls of Branford Assembly No. 19, performed a degree honoring the Ziervogel Family for their years of dedication to the Rainbow organization. Girls from other assemblies helped fill stations including Ali Stamm, Grand Worthy Advisor, and Samantha Stoddard, Jr. Past Grand Worthy Advisor.

The Ziervogel Family have been a very active part of Rainbow in Connecticut. Mom Michelle has been the Mother Advisor of Norwich Assembly for several years and, for the last year, was Grand Deputy to Branford Assembly. Dad Charlie has always been a willing helper serving on the Grand Assembly Committee. The Ziervogel’s daughter, Ashley, a Past State Miss Service, was married one month before this event and is remaining in Connecticut.

Jessica had a very successful year as Grand Worthy Advisor in 2010. The Ziervogel family are moving across the country for the next phase of their lives. Charlie and Michelle will be in San Diego where he has been stationed after a promotion in the US Navy. Jess is continuing her education by attending college in Arizona.

The girls of Norwich Assembly wanted to do something special to wish them well on their new journeys so they came up with a special Recognition Degree written by Arianna Hargan, Worthy Advisor of Norwich Assembly.

Mom Anne Needham, Supreme Deputy in Connecticut and several friends from around the state watched the girls honor this special Rainbow family. The girls did an excellent job. It was a special way to tell the Ziervogels they are appreciated and will be missed.

We welcome our new brothers to the fraternity.

Sean G. Goodner ....................................................... Coastal 57
Gary L. Meyers .......................................................... Coastal 57
Robert A. Nigrelli Jr. .................................................... Coastal 57
Benjamin R. Ragsdale .................................................. Coastal 57
Jeffery C. Doherty ....................................................... Fidelity-St. John’s 3
Ryan P. Doherty ......................................................... Fidelity-St. John’s 3
Mark H. Letsch .......................................................... Fidelity-St. John’s 3
Fernando Alves .......................................................... Ivanhoe 107
Every year has its high and low points. One thing which can profoundly affect our lives is weather. Thankfully this year we have not seen the flooding, fires, and other natural disasters that have affected other parts of our country. Fortunately for those affected, the Scottish Rite was there to assist brethren on a local level through each Valley’s Hospitaler Fund, and on a national level through the Supreme Council’s Almoner’s Fund.

A very special thank you, then, is extended to all who supported the Martin and Max show, on October 11. The event raised funds for the Supreme Council’s Almoner’s Fund. The Supreme Council Almoner’s Fund has aided brethren in our state alone by nearly $25,000.00 this year.

As we near year’s end, we are also nearing the end of the Scottish Rite’s 200th Anniversary. The Valley of Hartford’s last 200th Anniversary class is now halfway through their degree schedule.

On November 14, they will view the portrayal of the 18°. Then, on December 7, they will join other 2013 Fall Class candidates from the other Valleys in the state when the three Connecticut Consistories hold an all Connecticut Consistory Day. For many Scottish Rite members, they will be seeing the newly proposed 32° for the first time. Also, the 22° will be presented by the Valley of Boston in banquet form over lunch.

The event will be held at the Masonic Temple, 285 Whitney Avenue, New Haven. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and activities begin at 10:00 a.m. The 32°, which is a newly rewritten combination of the current 31° and 32°, will be portrayed first in the lodge room upstairs. Then the brethren will go downstairs to the dining room to see the 22° portrayed in banquet form.

Advance reservations are required for the banquet. The meal consists of pasta salad, surf and turf sandwiches, and a beverage. Tickets purchased in advance by December 1 are $20.00. Ticket price after that date, or purchased at the door, will be $25.00. Mail your checks, made out to the Valley of Hartford, along with the reservation form, to the Valley of Hartford, P.O. Box 310195, Newington, CT 06131-0198.

To the brethren who are active in both the Blue Lodge and the Scottish Rite, the Valley needs you to look ahead to the spring of 2014. Seek out members of your lodge to see how they might feel about enhancing the lessons they have already learned. Be particularly careful to avoid recruiting newly raised Master Masons, however. If you are unsure how to do this, seek assistance from our Membership Committee, Ill. Brother Ric Manner, 33°, Ill. Brother Jeff Flynn, 33°, and Brother Frank Dlugoleski, MSA, who can put on a short program in your lodge. For more information please contact them directly or the Valley office.

From your fellow Brethren at the Valley of Hartford to each of you, Happy Thanksgiving!
Our Fall Reunion signals the last class to matriculate during this bicentennial celebration of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. November is usually a time of minimal activity in the Valley of New Haven, but there is a hefty schedule ahead.

On Monday evening, November 4, Most Wise Master, Illustrious Paul L. Chello, 33°, convenes New Haven Chapter Rise Croix and presides over the conferral of the 18°.

One week later, on Monday evening, November 11, Veterans Day will be celebrated. All valleys which comprise Lafayette Consistory will gather at the apartments of the Stratford Masonic Temple for the portrayal of the 20°. This degree is known as Master Ad Vitam, and portrays Brother George Washington, and many other Founding Fathers in Masonic light. In this portrayal Brother Washington is greeted by Virginia’s new Grand Master a short time after we won our freedom from Great Britain. The entourage includes many of Brother Washington’s officers. Then, there is a knock at the door of the lodge. Do not miss this one!

We return to Whitney Avenue on the following Monday evening, November 18, for a stated meeting topped off by the annual Oktoberfest. All Master Masons are welcome! Ever since Ill. Paul L. Chello, 33°, left his Oyster House for greener pastures, he has hankered to be back in the kitchen. Oktoberfest was his brainchild, and over the years, his culinary displays have grown. If you like the food, you will love the variety of beer available just for the occasion. Be sure to get your reservations in now! Bring your prospects for the Spring Reunion.

The very next Monday evening, November 25, we will return to Stratford for the presentation of the 26°. This degree is named Friend and Brother Eternal and reiterates the basic tenets of the Scottish Rite in a most profound manner.

All of the degrees begin at 7:30 p.m. In Stratford, the dinners are served at 6:00 p.m. In New Haven, dinner time is 6:15 p.m. Come, enjoy, and learn. Renew old friendships and make new ones.

Take the time to salute our veterans for all that they have sacrificed to maintain our freedom, and our way of life.

This year, the Jewish Festival of Light begins the evening before Thanksgiving Day. Happy Chanukah to all of our Jewish brothers. May the light of freedom burn brightly. And to all, a very Happy Thanksgiving!

See you in the Valley…

Renovation and Rededication in Monroe

by Roy Nealon

On August 12, a dedication ceremony was held at Washington Lodge No. 19 on the Monroe green to thank all who were involved in the restoration of the front of the lodge.

Some of those recognized included Bernie Sippin, who purchased the new columns. Wayne Saunders, Tommy Beard, Dave Klein, and Don Butterworth, coordinated and executed the project.

Phil Clark, from Claris Construction, was in charge of the engineering and installation of the new columns. Doug Wilson expert painting skills restored the front of the building to its original splendor. The project took many months, but the large group involved never wavered its completion.

Masons built Washington Lodge for Masons. Most lodges were redone into a Masonic lodge. Many important members of Monroe were Masons. There was pride when the building open in 1904, for the Masons as well as the community. Its location on the green in proximity next to the Town Hall was very important.

Most don’t know that the original town hall was the Masonic lodge. Now, the town has their town hall and the Masons have their own building. Historically, Masonry has been a part of the development of our country, and most don’t realize it starts in each town.

ATTENTION MASONSS

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
THE VALLEY OF NEW HAVEN
Masonic Temple, 285 Whitney Avenue New Haven

Monday, November 4
18°, New Haven
Monday, November 11
20°, Stratford

Monday, November 18
Oktoberfest, New Haven
Monday, November 25
26°, Stratford

For further information, please contact
Valley Secretary Ill. Vernon K. Cleaves, 33° at 203-269-0336
or any member of the Valley.

Secretaries Seminar
November 9
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Hartog Center, Ashlar Village
Wallingford, CT

Washington Lodge thanked benefactor Bro. Bernie Sippin, front row center, for the purchase of the new columns in the front of the building.
Masonicare Partners Celebrated Ten-Year Anniversary of its Pedi-Pal Program

Masonicare Partners Home Health & Hospice in East Hartford marked the ten-year anniversary of the inauguration of their pediatric palliative care or "Pedi-Pal" Program with the Pedi-Pal Gala, held on Friday evening, September 27, at the Manchester Country Club. To quote Christine Rodriguez, coordinator of the program, "The event was fantastic. It was really a fun night." Not only did it prove to be a great evening for the more than 100 people who attended, it raised $2,535 to help fund this unique program.

Ten years ago, several hospice employees realized there was a genuine need for a program that would provide special assistance and emotional support for children with life-limiting illnesses and their families. With the help of grants – both from outside sources and within Masonicare – the program was developed and inaugurated, and it is still the only one of its kind in the state to offer the full range of services Pedi-Pal provides. The Masonic fraternity has been very generous throughout the years in helping to support the program.

Hilde Sager Named Executive Director of Masonicare at Ashlar Village

Masonicare is pleased to announce that Hilde Sager has been promoted to the position of executive director for Masonicare at Ashlar Village.

In making the announcement, WB Jon-Paul Venoit, Masonicare’s Sr. vice president of residential and community based services, said, "Hilde has held increasingly responsible management positions within Masonicare at Ashlar Village and has proven she has the necessary leadership skills to guide us into the future. We are both pleased and fortunate to have Hilde serve as an important member of Masonicare's executive management team." In addition to her new responsibilities, Ms. Sager will continue to oversee the more than 170 independent living apartments at Masonicare Health Center.

Ms. Sager is a graduate of North Park College in Chicago, Illinois, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Communications. She joined Masonicare at Ashlar Village in 2004 as marketing manager, was promoted to director of marketing the following year, and had been serving as the retirement community’s assistant administrator for independent living prior to her promotion.

Ms. Sager completed the inaugural Leadership Academy program developed by LeadingAge Connecticut, a membership organization representing more than 130 not-for-profit provider organizations serving elderly and disabled individuals. She is a member of the board of directors of the Greater Meriden Chamber of Commerce and also serves on the Chamber’s health and wellness committee.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be on hand for the children and there will be a free “make and take” ornament table. A highlight of the day is a special drawing that will be held to win a beautifully decorated, 3-ft tall Christmas tree. Tickets will be on sale in the Health Center lobby. A portion of the proceeds will benefit The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

For additional information, please contact the Masonicare HelpLine at 888-679-9997.
The Grand Master addresses the Grand Lodge.

The three great lights.

A vote in favor of Masonicare.

The vote collectors were busy all day.

It was an emotional time for both WB Jimmy Peters and MW LaPlace when the charter for Old Well-St. John’s No. 6 was presented.

Recipients of the Perfect Ashlar Award are congratulated by Grand Senior Steward Brian Beals.

Grand Senior Warden Donald W. Dean was elected Deputy Grand Master for 2014.

Grand Junior Warden Michael B. Dodge was elected Grand Senior Warden for 2014.

RW Jordan Yelinek, Senior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of California, gave the oration.

The Grand Master presented RW Charles Tirrell his commission as Grand Representative of the United Grand Lodge of Germany near Connecticut.

The Grand Master presented RW Shane Dufresne his commission as Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Quebec near Connecticut.

Photographs courtesy of Charles Tirrell.
Jeffry L. Stober Awarded Meritorious Service Award

by William Breed

Brother Jeffry L. Stober, 32° MSA is the Valley of Norwich 2013 recipient of the Ill. Frederick H. Lorenson, Jr., 33° Meritorious Service Award. Brother Stober was presented his MSA jewel and red cap by Ill. Brother David L. Sharkis, 33°, Deputy for Connecticut, at the Preston Masonic Center during a meeting of the King Solomon Lodge of Perfection on October 5.

Brother Jeff has served as Thrice Potent Master, King Solomon Lodge of Perfection and as the Chairman of the Valley of Norwich Executive Committee. He continues to serve on the Executive Committee as an at-large member. He has also served as trustee for the Temple Corporation and the Valley of Norwich.

Jeff has been the Valley’s costume manager for the past six years. He and his wife Lou have instituted a program to refresh the costumes by diligently inventorying them, and repairing or replacing those requiring attention. Brother Jeff has journeyed to various suppliers of costumes such as New London Regalia and James Townsend & Son to talk with them about replacements. In some instances where thread and needle are required, Lou has repaired or remade costumes, particularly in cases where the sizes are to small to fit ever-growing cast members.

Jeff is also a member of the stage set up crew and on degree days after properly cladding the cast members, he can be found assisting with scene changes, and tending to proper return of costumes and props to their proper places.

The Meritorious Service Award recognizes Brother Jeff as a most devoted and deserving Brother!

Being Educated Alive During a Night to Remember

by John Forlenza-Bailey

Philosophic Lodge of Research attendees were “educated alive” on September 20. As promised by their officers, a whole brain experience occurred when the creative/emotional right hemisphere and the analytical left hemisphere, were simultaneously stimulated by the labor of the evening. This allowed each participant in the lodge the opportunity to have an accelerated learning experience.

WB Justin A. Duffy, a Philosophic Lodge of Research member, shared an excellent presentation on the esoteric meaning of the opening of a lodge. The presentation itself was educationally informative, but even more learning took place in the lengthy discussion that followed the presentation. Everyone, it seemed, had something to say about what they had just heard.

Among those in attendance were MWGM of CT, Simon R. LaPlace, and MWGM of RI, Russell R. Davis, Sr., who headed up a delegation of brethren from Rhode Island. A good night was had by all, and the Rhode Island brothers were suitably impressed.

What else made the night so special? In addition to the research paper presented, prior to the meeting Masons met and enjoyed yet another delicious dinner at ABC Pizza. Dinner with our brothers is not a prerequisite but is just another option to enjoy the evening’s event. Many of the 25 brothers in attendance at PLR ate a hearty meal and shared some lively conversation prior to meeting in the Lodge just above the ABC Pizza Restaurant. The meeting was so successful due to the brothers in attendance who exemplify the pursuit of a ‘smooth ashlar.’ Good Brothers make a good lodge. Faith, hope, charity are alive and well at PLR, and the research, with accelerated learning by Master Masons in attendance, continues.

PLR’s WM James A. Nankin says, “Philosophic Lodge of Research encourages all Master Masons who are interested in who we are to visit any of our Stated Communications.” For more information regarding PLR simply visit our website: www.philosophiclodgeresearch.org
Chapel Renovation Increases Accessibility, Versatility

Renovations made possible by generous gifts to the Masonicare Annual Appeal have transformed the chapel at Masonicare Health Center into a space that is brighter, more versatile, and easier to access for residents and visitors with limited mobility.

The recent facelift included the removal of all pews in favor of individual seating; a raised platform was dismantled so that the entire floor would be level; wall-to-wall carpeting was replaced with a durable new surface that looks and feels like wood; new lighting was installed and existing lights were equipped with brighter bulbs. The room was also painted.

“Our chapel was built and designed at a time when many residents were still ambulatory and not dependent upon assistive devices or wheelchairs,” said Melinda J. Schoen, vice president, administration, Masonicare Health Center. “The resident population at the Health Center has become frailer and less mobile so our most debilitated residents couldn’t participate in services. This much-needed renovation addresses that shift and now allows all of our frail elderly population to participate in chapel services. As we know, the mind and spirit are just as important to one’s well being and quality of life as physical health.”

Masonicare Goes Smoke-Free November 21!

On March 1 of this year, Bro. Stephen B. McPherson, Masonicare’s president and CEO, announced that Masonicare would become a smoke-free organization on Thursday, November 21, and that date is fast approaching. From that day on, the use of any tobacco smoked products will not be permitted within the buildings or on the grounds of any Masonicare affiliate. Masonicare at Newtown actually lead the way by going smoke-free in 2009.

Known as the “Clean Air at Masonicare” initiative, this will apply to employees, residents, patients, vendors, and visitors to any Masonicare location. There are a very few current residents of Masonicare Health Center and Masonicare at Ashlar Village who actively use tobacco products. These individuals will be “grandfathered,” but they will be required to smoke in a designated location determined by each affiliate executive. Residents who move into or are admitted after November 21 may not use any form of tobacco products on Masonicare grounds.

November 21 was chosen because it’s the American Cancer Society’s annual Great American Smokeout Day. “The announcement was made in March to give employees who smoke more than 8 months’ lead-time and the support needed to help them quit. We are sponsoring smoking cessation programs, providing informational literature, and offering other assistance to help. We would not be a responsible employer if we didn’t promote wellness and healthy living habits for all of our employees,” Bro. McPherson said.
Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125 is the youngest lodge within the bounds of the City of New Haven; yet, it has one of the oldest traditions. Cosmopolitan Lodge was chartered on February 19, 1919. The armistice had ended the “War to end all wars,” just three months earlier. WB Jacob Caplan, an esteemed jurist and legislator, served as the charter master. Ten years later, in 1929, WB Samuel W. Ritch decided to plan an event to honor the first Worshipful Master. This became a tradition. Another tradition came about when WB Samuel L. Calechman became the first of Cosmopolitan Lodge’s past masters to survive 25 years after his term in the East, in 1921. In 1946, WB Leon Horton honored WB Calechman for his dedication to the lodge and to Freemasonry. This, too, became a staple. The tradition has held. Nearly 50 brothers have commemorated their twenty-fifth anniversary since presiding in the East.

On October 16, the honoree was WB Michael L. Castroll. Yes, I had my night in the spotlight!

Tradition being what it is, the 10-year past master would be invited to resume his station in the East, and preside over an Entered Apprentice Degree. The 25-year past master would, generally preside over a Master Masons’ Degree. In each instance, as many of the past masters, who had been the honoree’s officers, would take their former stations.

Last year, my immediate predecessor, WB Edward L. Goodstein was so honored. WB Goodstein will always be remembered for producing the first “Ladies’ Night” in Cosmopolitan Lodge. Although his ritual is second to none, he chose, once again, to honor the ladies of the lodge. Coming all the way from Texas, there was none prouder than Ed and Fern. As it turned out, this was but a foretaste for the presentation of two more of our past masters, as RW Gary Matican was formally presented as a Right Worshipful District Deputy, who, in turn, presented WB David E. Berger as his Associate Grand Marshal.

A long standing tradition of Cosmopolitan Lodge is the introduction of all of the past masters of the lodge, as they enter the lodge room. In full array, they flank on each side of the altar. The Senior Deacon introduces the guest of honor, and the Worshipful Master greets his predecessors. Some of these proceedings have been quite colorful, and memorable.

On January 16, 1988, Brother Michael L. Castroll was installed Worshipful Master of Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125. A throng of supporters packed the house. MW Norman Getchell brought his officers and made Bro. David W. Goldberg a Tiler Emeritus. Then, in 1998, after ten years out of the East, I was invited to preside over a Master Mason Degree. That year, W.B. Leonard Tombank was the 25 year past master. Everybody in sight was offering to be my escort, as if I would miss Lenny’s night. Little did I know what lie ahead for me, none other than Pierpont Edwards Medal!

The night was October 16. The devastations of unemployment, coupled with the edicts of the Grand Architect have laid to waste many of our rich traditions. Two of my officers, Bro. Robert M. Kaplan and WB Harley Pretty have passed on, and presiding with my officers was impractical. WB Jason Morse and I decided on a Table Lodge. Among the past masters present were RW Gary Matican, RW Arnold Freedman, RW Gary E. Cohen, WB David E. Berger. MW Simon R. LaPlace honored me with his presence. After every toast, I presented a portion of Cosmopolitan Lodge relevant to each toast. MW LaPlace reflected about his association with WB Castroll, and encouraged everyone else to do the same. This set the tone for the evening. A surprise eighth toast was given by WB Stern, which was responded to by the honoree to the body. It was not your typical Cosmopolitan Lodge Past Masters Night, but it was more than memorable. The Historian so notes.
by Michael L. Castroll

Each of the following dialogues were given after the appropriate toasts.

The first toast is to Our Country.

Ever since colonial times and the days of our war for independence from Great Britain Freemasonry has been adorned with Jewish influence, and rightly so. Haym Solomon, a Chassidic Polish immigrant, sought freedom on our shores. It is said, he paid his debt for that freedom as the financier of the American Revolution. Emmanuel de la Motta is regarded as a patriarch of the Scottish Rite. He was a founding member of the Supreme Council, founded in Charleston, SC, in 1801, and assisted the founders of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction 200 years ago.

Closer to home in New Haven and Norwalk, the Isaacs family is well documented. Although practicing Episcopalians, Ralph Isaacs, Jr. followed his father’s footsteps as Worshipful Master and secretary of Old Hiram. Many of the brothers of Hiram Lodge were Tories, and Ralph Isaacs, Jr. was numbered with them. His brother, WB Benjamin Isaacs, served as charter master of the lodge in Norwalk. Vehement in the patriarchal cause, he was kidnapped by the British upon their landing at Compo Beach. MW Ralph Isaacs Ingersoll served as our seventh Grand Master.

In 1917, Brother Samuel Campner became the only (so far) Jewish Mayor of New Haven. He later affiliated with Cosmopolitan Lodge. Our charter master, WB Jacob Caplan, had a distinguished law practice. At our founding, he was Judge of the City Court of New Haven, and later served in the Connecticut State Senate.

Our nation, state, and community are grateful for their service.

Traditionally, this toast is extended to the Holy Saints John. As festive boards are traditionally scheduled to honor these two icons of Christianity, their secular lives are considered as perfect parallels of Masonry. In Cosmopolitan Lodge, our tradition is to honor the Temple of Solomon. Cosmopolitan Lodge was chartered in Hiram Hall, on Crown Street. Six years later, we became one of eleven owner bodies at 285 Whitney Avenue.

It is fitting, that we should never forget those who have continually put their lives on the line to defend our freedom and right to assembly. Shortly after the Armistice was signed ending World War I, Cosmopolitan Lodge would see the light of day. During World War II, lodge officers left the lodge line for the front lines. RW Joseph Shure served two consecutive terms in the East. When the boys came home, they came in droves. In 1945, W.B. “Goodie” Wolff titled his trestle boards “Cosmopolitania.” The numbers peaked in 1948, with 63 brothers raised. Somehow, we always seemed to excel after a war.

As we reflect upon all of those who have gone on to the Celestial Lodge, let us remember how untimely the sands of time sifts through the hour glass. Upon the approach of our first anniversary, we were saddened with the news of the passing of Bro. Isidor Freed, one of our charter members, whose passing occurred on February 17, 1920. Bro. Abram M. Friedman, the “daddy of Cosmopolitan Lodge, went to Brooklyn to perform Masonic obsequies for our departed brother. Since those early days, many more have gone to the land where all are equal. I would like to take a little license to remember two of my officers, Robert M. Kaplan and WB Harley O. H. Pretty. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

We esteem our Grand Master and welcome his presence. I find it is only fitting that we remember MW Wallace S. Moyle, who presented the charter that rests on our altar. We remember MW Morris I. Budkofsky, within whose administration I was privileged to join this craft. I was elated with the entourage that MW Norman Getchell brought with him to my installation, and thank MW John Gonzalves for taking his time during that year. Again, MW Simon R. LaPlace, thank you for taking the time to be with us tonight.

The Tiler’s Toast: Manny Shure was the first. Then came 63 years of Goldbergs. Then came Steve; but, he was related to Jordan. Thanks so much for everything.
Masonicare Reports to Grand Lodge


I’m pleased to stand before you this morning and give an update on Masonicare. We have had a most successful year. I am most proud of the excellent patient and resident satisfaction results we received this year, our scores remain extremely high. This will always be a major focus of our staff – to provide high quality care in a compassionate and thoughtful manner.

Financially, our bond rating with Standard and Poors was recently affirmed. While many others in the health care delivery system are scaling back with reduced revenues and staff, Masonicare continues to grow. The S&P rating was in recognition of the continued improvement we have had financially since the financial markets collapsed in 2008.

Our biggest challenge is to grow volume while at the same time reduce dependency on the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Much of what we do will be directly tied to this goal.

Our healthcare environment continues to undergo unprecedented change. The roll out of various aspects of the Affordable Care Act has set the stage for decades to come. The Medicare and Medicaid programs are undergoing significant changes. The roll out of what we do will be directly tied to this goal.

As Bro. Howard mentioned, the Board of Trustees updated our strategic plan this past summer. In spite of the uncertain and ever changing environment, the need to plan and move forward is more critical than ever. Without a plan we will not be able to accomplish our long term goal of providing services “east of the river”.

The board approved further study of the development of an independent living and assisted living facility in Mystic. If successful, this will accomplish a long standing goal of providing services “east of the river”.

Budget constraints both in Washington and Hartford have forced rate reductions in Washington (sequestration) and Hartford (5% hospice cut). This will require creativity on our part to raise revenue form other sources and become more productive on the expense side. Home and Community Based Services will provide a good piece of the additional revenue part of the equation. Pursuing CCRC without walls concept; growing Masonicare at Home; and adding home care market share are three areas of opportunity. Expansion of retirement living in Mansfield is awaiting resolution to the water issue but will add to the bottom line and enhance cash flow when operational.

Masonicare is uniquely positioned to continue our leadership role in the care of seniors. A number of Masonicare executives represent us on the state and national level. Bro. Richard Memmott is chairman of the State Commission on Aging; Bro. Carl Anderson is on the Ethics Committee for our national organization, LeadingAge; Bro. JP Venoit is on the Board of the Connecticut Association of Assisted Living Agencies; I am honored to represent Masonicare on the board of LeadingAge in Washington as well as LeadingAge CT and the Masonic Communities and Services Association. Masonicare’s voice is well respected and strong in the senior services industry.

I look forward to 2014 with great anticipation. You should be proud of what has been accomplished and our goal is to improve on the historic foundations that our forefathers started 118 years ago.

I would like to thank Boards of Masonicare, almost 80 individuals who give freely of their time and knowledge at numerous board and committee meetings; the very talented group of professionals I am privileged to work with, 2500 strong; the residents and patients at all of our affiliates, over 150, who provide the 4500 daily, who provide the very best in long term care; the very talented group of professionals I am privileged to work with.

Happy Thanksgiving!
What We’ve Gained, and What We’ve Lost

To The Editor;

Our Fraternity is a dynamic organization. Ever evolving to be meaningful and fitting in our everchanging world. At the Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, held on October 26, Connecticut Freemasonry underwent a change that will, in my opinion, mark a significant moment in our history that, hopefully, we will see for what it was thought to be, and what it might really be.

First, I want to congratulate Brother Ted Nelson on his being elected as Grand Junior Warden for 2014. I offer my warmest fraternal wishes for the difficult tasks that lie before him. I remind him of the words shared in one of the statements recently circulated by his committee: “Every Mason should be held responsible for their actions.” I couldn’t agree more.

So what have we gained?

The events that made Bro. Ted’s election possible actually prove that our Fraternity works. First, the election for Grand Junior Warden proves that WE are, in fact, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. Unlike the perceptions, (or should I say misperceptions), of many that would suggest that the Grand line officers and the Grand Master “dictate” what our Fraternity is, the process of getting Ted elected, has demonstrated that the strength of our Fraternity lies within the body of men we know as brothers.

Secondly, it proves that regardless of truth, we trust each other because we are Masons, and we have obligated ourselves to act as such. Why would our brothers share untrue information? The process proved that this is what we believe, because regardless of truth or complete information, the will of the majority accepted the opinions of a few and got Ted elected! Those that put out the information were trusted by their brothers who believed what was said must be true. Frankly, although I believe that those that engineered this campaign did so knowing that their brothers would trust their word, it does show that a fraternal trust exists, even in spite of words presented being untrue.

The third thing I feel we have gained is the certainty that those who truly believe in our values and precepts are capable of rising above the poor behavior of their brothers. They are able to do this by understanding that we are all rough ashlars, trying our best to be good men, and laboring for the betterment of our craft. Even though it was said to us with motive and a questioning concern. I feel we have lost the ability to believe simply because it was told to us by a brother. I feel we have compromised our universal trust in one another and replaced it with a politically motivated self-serving set of ideas.

Please don’t misunderstand. I believe in being free thinking and in proper inquiry. I believe in the exchange of ideas that drive us toward rightness, but I also believe in truth and value personal integrity. I believe in respect and reverence for all brothers, but also for the offices and officers that serve us. Above all, however, I believe we need to place Masonry in front of us so that it might properly lead us. Once again, it has proven to me that when we put our own interests first, our fraternity will never catch up.

So my brothers I ask, am I right? Have we turned the corner of a new Masonic standard? Has the profane world made its way into our midst? Although my greatest fear is that I am right, I remain ever hopeful and firmly committed to a naive and unwavering belief that given the truth, Masons will always do what makes us Masons.

What I feel we have lost in the events surrounding getting Ted elected is that we have allowed the profane world to breach our Masonic fortress. By the use of tactics and strategies common in the outside world, we are no longer free from the effects of those that believe in winning at any cost, a world that refuses to reason through things to a fair solution, a world that doesn’t want to consider truth, or in a world that sees only through biased and cloistered eyes or by preconceived notions and ideas. And through the paradox of Masonic brotherly affection, as we extend our hand outward in trust, we have failed to fend off those whose deceptiveness has never been seen or taught in our landmarks, precepts, or rituals. We have surrendered to those that know that our greatest strength, our fraternal love, is also our weakness, because as true Masons we choose not to malign our brothers.

My brothers, I fear we have lost our refuge. I feel we are now compelled to view what is within the rights and authority of the Grand Master to suspend Bro. Ted for much of his behavior, he chose instead to allow Ted the opportunity to meet and offer his concerns. Even though Ted offered an apology, it was really a little more than an “sorry I got caught” statement, the Grand Master chose not to act at that time because he thought it would reflect poorly on our fraternity. Our Grand Master served as an example of how to act Masonically.

So what have we lost?

In my time as a Mason, one thing I have come to know is that Freemasonry is my refuge from a world filled with those who seem bent on furthering their own self-interests, whose idea of right and wrong is based upon getting caught, whose strategy in life is designed to deceive and divide, whose intellect is garnered largely from the social media sites, and whose compassion and understanding is only for those who agree with them. That’s right, my brothers. It’s what we know as the “profane world” and it has been and remains our duty and obligation to keep our fraternity free from these corrupt influences. Denying these qualities and living Masonic values is what truly separates us from the rest of the world. It’s what makes us different. It’s what makes us special. It’s what makes us Masons.

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— Kenneth I. Greenhill
Masons for Harmony — A Rebuttal

This is a rebuttal to the erroneous statements made in the "Masons for Harmony" letter, distributed recently. By advancing these ideas through misstatements, they are sowing the seeds of disharmony. This is not the Masonry I know.

MW Simon R. LaPlace, Grand Master

By empowering the Craft through the restoration of the democratic process as prescribed by our Constitution, Rules and Regulation.

What change occurred which requires "restoration of the democratic process?" It is a democratic process now to the extent it was designed to be. It is not a "democracy" and was never intended to be - it is "representative republic" in form and "the Craft," if fully represented by Masters and Wardens (or proxies) would constitute a vast majority in contrast to the number of Permanent Members who normally attend. Between sessions of the Grand Lodge, it is a benevolent dictatorship and was designed to be that.

By permitting the Craft to determine how many districts there will be and their boundaries.

When the present Law wording was adopted (Oct 2007), Section 2400, it changed both the boundaries and was never intended to be - it is "representative republic" in form and "the Craft," if fully represented by Masters and Wardens (or proxies) would constitute a vast majority in contrast to the number of Permanent Members who normally attend. Between sessions of the Grand Lodge, it is a benevolent dictatorship and was designed to be that.

By supporting the autonomy of the lodges as set forth in our Ancient Landmarks.

There are no "Ancient Landmarks." Ancient Landmarks were mentioned once in passing in Anderson's constitution in 1723, but never listed or specified. Albert Mackey wrote a list of twenty-five landmarks in 1858, and various jurisdictions have chosen whatever Landmarks they want to use since. The Grand Lodge of Connecticut voted in 1989 to change theirs.

By permitting the Craft to determine how many districts there will be and their boundaries.

There is no truth to any of the statements regarding "institution of the 9 district system."

Prior to 1904, there were seven districts set up according to the county lines of the state, with Windham and Tolland Counties combined into one Masonic district. In the 1903 proceedings the Grand Master reported: "We have one hundred and ten Lodges in the jurisdiction, with seven Deputies, and I find one district with only ten lodges, and another with twenty-five. I fully realize the work of the deputy, and that he should be familiar with the lodges in his district. I am confident that to increase the number of deputies, appointing two in Hartford County, and two in New Haven County would add greatly to the efficiency of the work, and the expense would be no greater to the Grand Lodge, and I recommend that this be done."

The next year, 1904, two additional district were created by adding portions of Fairfield County and Hartford County to make the Second, Third, and Fifth District, and leave the balance of Hartford County as the Sixth District. A lodge was also moved from New London County to Middlesex County (Seventh District).

As lodges closed and consolidated throughout the end of the twentieth century, there was fear that the minimum number of lodges for a district would not be maintained, and further movement of lodges would be necessary, particularly regarding the Eighth (New London) District.

Various redistricting plans were defeated by the Grand Lodge, therefore the simple change to the Constitution, and Rules and Regulations were made so that "The Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge shall be divided into Districts, over each of which one or more District Deputies shall be appointed."

At the time, the Eighth District was very pleased as this averted change, particularly when the number of lodges shrank to seven.

A review (included) of the hometowns of the Grand Masters for the fifteen years prior to 1904 and fifteen years after 1904, reveal Grand Masters were selected without respect to what district they came from. There was no revolving system through the state. Every district didn't get their own Grand Master.

A 15 year tally of Grand Masters by District after 1904, demonstrates there was no "equality" between districts. They took the best man for the job.

District 6 - 4 Grand Masters
District 8 - 3 Grand Masters
District 2 - 2 Grand Masters
District 3 - 2 Grand Masters
District 1 - 1 Grand Master
District 4 - 1 Grand Master
District 5 - 1 Grand Masters
District 7 - 1 Grand Master
District 9 - 0 Grand Masters

"The abolition of the 9 district system by edict" is a patently false statement. Given the change in 2006, it was expected that the Grand Master would be the administrator of his District Deputies and, hence, the districts. There was no "edict." There was a decision by the...

…continued on page 25
empowered Grand Master to do things in a different way. Because Districts are required, he decided on six instead of nine.

The reporting of decisions, edicts, and dispensations was always expected to be reviewed and submitted for approval at the end of a Grand Master’s term. Prior to 1993, this had been a two day “session” when the report was submitted the first day, reviewed overnight by the committees who reported back on the second day for a vote. With the change in 1993, having a regular communication of the Grand Lodge in October, the wording of the annual communication or “session” was not changed. It was understood to be at the end of a Grand Master’s term. For that reason, no Grand Master has ever submitted a report, and no Committee on Addresses and Reports has ever asked for one.

This includes those who are now advocating a semi-annual report failed to do theirs and can offer no explanation as to why. The peevishness of those who did not perform what they say is now required, begs for explanation.

There is no cause to complain about Edicts, Decisions, and Suspensions were contrary to the rules and regulations if the Grand Lodge approved it. Those who do are not showing their Masonic value of “who best can work, and best agree.”

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A Thirty Year Review (1888-1919)

Hometowns of the Grand Masters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Lodge</th>
<th>Dist.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John W. Mix</td>
<td>1888</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheshire</td>
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<td>Hugh Stirling</td>
<td>1891-1892</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Andrew J. Hallock</td>
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<td>Randolph Butler Chapman</td>
<td>1911</td>
<td>42</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wallace Simon Moyle</td>
<td>1919</td>
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<td>New Haven</td>
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by Gwen M. Rochette

More than 15 members of the Grand Court of Connecticut Order of the Amaranth along with several family members spent a few days enjoying fun and fellowship with the members of Pennsylvania Amaranth. Activities included shopping, a trip to the casino, and an evening of bingo and refreshments at the Bartonville lodge. One of the highlights of the trip was a lunch at the Waterwheel Cafe and a private tour of the Pike’s County Historical Society in Milford, Pennsylvania. The society’s most treasured exhibit is a flag from Ford’s theater from the night that President Lincoln was assassinated.

On October 15, Honored Ladies and Sir Knights from Connecticut attended the official visitation of the Pennsylvania Grand Royal Matron and Patron at Dorothy Lim Memorial Court No. 110, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.
A Play About Fulfilling Your Obligation

While the leaders of the Scottish Rite in Connecticut are not allowed to participate in the degrees of the valleys, this doesn’t mean they can’t act. On Friday, October 11, Ill. Dave Sharkis, 33°, Deputy for Connecticut, and Ill. Bruce Work, 33°, Active for Connecticut showed they weren’t rusty at all.

The two-man Masonic play, Martin and Max, was presented by Ashlar Lodge No. 332, at the Hartog Center. The play centers around the Masonic friendship of two men who found brotherhood in Masonry. Their friendship matured as they did, and the principles they learned to live by cemented their friendship.

The audience’s entry fee contributed for the benefit of the Supreme Council Almoner’s Fund, a personal favorite of Ill. John Wm. McNaughton, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Commander McNaughton’s Almoner’s Fund makes funding available to those truly in need. The Supreme Council Almoners Fund has given more than $100,000 to Brother Masons in need, particularly those affected by the recent floods and tornadoes.

Martin and Max is an especially poignant play. It depicts the lives of two men in different stages of their lives, at first one who discovers Masonry from an "old timer," and near the end of the play, the lessons of Freemasonry helps the younger repay the gift of brotherly love.

Martin, as played by Ill. Dave, is the younger man and impatient with the usual briskness of life. Max, the elder Mason played by Ill. Bruce, successfully imparts the importance of his Masonry to Martin.

From the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction’s headquarters in Lexington, Massachusetts, Ill. Jim Deyo, 33°, who heads up the development office presented Bro. Sharkis with a Commander’s Circle pin based upon his pledge to the Almoner’s fund. Bro. Sharkis, in turn, presented the pin to Bro. Charles Weiss representing the Valley of Hartford, in recognition of the valley’s gift to the fund.

The Connecticut Scottish Rite leaders showed they still “had it.” Everyone hopes they take their show on the road.

Report of The Committee on Masonic Awareness

The Committee on Masonic Awareness has had a very productive year thus far, whether it be working on its own or in conjunction with other committees to accomplish various goals.

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in harmony.”

Working with the Committee on Community Action, the Committee on Masonic Education, and the Intergenerational Communications and Technology Committee, we have produced a website specifically designed to inform the public, and provide resources for the lodges for the upcoming Open House. The website openhouse.ctfreemasons.net has video and document content to help prepare lodges for the open house. Additionally, the website has a page where lodges can register the time of day their doors will be open to the public and what activities are planned. This allows the public to learn where and when to visit a lodge that day.

The new website has many of its features requested from lodges after a statewide survey on the Open House program. The survey inquired what our lodges were looking for in way of support from the Grand Lodge and its committees. A follow up survey is planned after the Open House program to receive feedback on how the individual events went and determine best practices. We continue to work with other committees to develop next year’s Open House program, and build on what we have learned from the previous years.

The Committee on Masonic Awareness is committed to keeping the Grand Lodge website up to date. Recent updates include but are not limited to: updating the awards programs, Master’s Path, Past Grand Master biographies, current Grand Lodge line officers, current District Deputies and Associate Grand Marshals. In addition to the Open House program website, assistance has been provided to the Committee on Community Action (COCA) to develop its own website.

The Committee is currently working to obtain email addresses for permanent Grand Lodge members. With a more complete list, this will allow for speedier communication and saving on postage.

We thank Grand Master Simon R LaPlace for being the facilitator, enabling the committees to work together with efficiency and harmony. Thank you to the brothers of Connecticut Freemasonry.

Without your support and input, we simply could not have accomplished what we have done this year.

COnGRATULATIONS

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

Ronald M. Oddis ..................................Anchor 112
Harvey W. Lobner .................................Annawon 115
Frederick M. Haney .............................Ansantawae 89
Paul A. Martin .................................Ark 39
William G. Hicks .................................Brainard 102
Robert L. Kilgore ...............................Center 97
Gerald S. Jones ..................................Coastal 57
Kenneth W. Johnson .........................Compass 9
Orrin M. Ogren ................................Composite 28
Lewis Pultz ........................................Composite 28
Robert Tombank ................................Cosmopolitan 125
Donald I. Germaine .........................Cosmopolitan 125
John D. Shane ..................................Fayette 69
Shirl R. Slaughenhoup .......................Moriah 15
William C. Pearson Sr ........................St. Paul’s 11
Peter W. Nordholm .........................St. Peter’s 21
Alfred C. Adinolfi ..............................Temple 16
Austin F. Stephan Jr ........................Trumbull 22
John R. Owens Sr .............................Uriel 24
Lawrence H. Gabel .........................Widow’s Son 66

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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 yrctrams@yahoo.com.

NOTE: All dates and visitations are subject to change without notice.

Tuesday, October 1, (F) Keystone Chapter No. 27, Meriden, joint Royal Arch degree with Pulaski Chapter No. 26, 6:00 p.m. dinner
Wednesday, October 2, (ME)(F) Halleck Chapter No. 44, Madison
Thursday, October 3, (MP)(C) Grand Council Select Masters officers meeting, Stratford, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, October 4, (ME)(F) Columbia Chapter No. 31, Collinsville
Saturday, October 5, (MP) Children’s Dyslexia Awareness Walk, Waterbury
Tuesday, October 8, (ME)(F) Franklin Chapter No. 2, New Haven
Tuesday, October 8, (F) Hamilton 22 SM, Meriden. Royal Master degree
Wednesday, October 9, (ME)(F) Hiram Chapter No. 1, Sandy Hook
Thursday, October 10, (ME)(F) Cyrus-Meridian Chapter No. 15, Torrington
Thursday, October 10, (MP), Rittenhouse Chapter No. 11, Washington Council No. 6, Darien
Saturday, October 12, (MP)(S) Connecticut York Rite College, Madison, 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, October 12, Hamilton Council No. 22, Meriden, annual steak or lobster dinner, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 13, (MP) DeMolay Auvergne Honorary degree, New Haven
Monday, October 14, (ME)(F) Union Chapter No. 7, Stonington
Tuesday, October 15, (ME)(MP)(RE)(U) Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford, reception for Grand Commander, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Wednesday, October 16, (ME)(F) Washington Chapter No. 30, Suffield
Thursday, October 17, (MP)(RE) (U) Hamilton Commandery No. 5, Stratford, Knights Patriot degree, open 6:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. dinner
Friday, October 18, (U) New Haven Commandery No. 2, New Haven, Order of Malta with Hamilton Commandery No. 5, 6:15 p.m. dinner
Friday, October 18-19, (ME)(MP)(F) Grand York Rite of Massachusetts
Wednesday, October 23, (ME)(F) Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, East Hartford, Past Master and Most Excellent Master degree
Thursday, October 24, (MP)(U) Trinity Commandery No. 3, Darien, Order of Malta
Friday, October 25-26, (ME)(F) Grand York Rite of Maryland
Friday, October 25, (F) Jerusalem Council No. 16, Stratford, Royal Master and Select Master degrees, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Saturday, October 26 Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF&R, Semi-annual communication
Wednesday, October 30, (MP)(F) KYCH, Branford

COMING UP:
November 5, Keystone Chapter No. 27, Meriden, Past Master degree
November 8, (ME) Baldwin Chapter No. 13
November 12, (ME) Milford Chapter No. 49
November 12, Hamilton Council No. 22, Meriden, Select Master degree
November 13, (ME) Pulaski Chapter No. 26
November 14, (ME) Joseph Andrews Chapter No. 46
November 16, York Rite testimonial dinner, Glastonbury
November 19, St Elmo Commandery No. 9, Meriden, Order of Malta, short form, 6:15 p.m. dinner
November 19, Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford, Order of the Temple, inspection
November 21, Hamilton Commandery No. 5, Stratford, Order of the Temple, inspection
November 27, (ME) Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, East Hartford, Royal Arch degree
November 28, Thanksgiving Day

FROM THE MOST PUISSANT GRAND MASTER
Companions, things have taken off now and our Councils are busy with their work. I am pleased to see degrees being portrayed and planned for. I hope that as the Grand Council officers make their visits, they are making mention of the various upcoming events, including the York Rite Testimonial on November 16 and our hosting of the Tri-State Cryptic Festival on March 22, 2014.

I continue to try and fill the many vacancies in Grand Representatives so I encourage any of you with a desire to communicate with and perhaps visit our sister jurisdictions to contact me and see if any of the openings work for you.

Finally, I will end this and every message with my desire for each of you to remember that without the Council degrees, the degrees of preservation, there are no discoveries to be made by the three Most Excellent Masters returning from Babylon, and therefore no Royal Arch Degree. We need to be proud of our degrees and our title as Select Masters.

– Charles A. McCollum
Craft at Labor...

Entered Apprentice Degree
Wednesday, November 6, Columbia No. 25, South Glastonbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner, evaluation
Tuesday, November 12, Madison No. 87, Madison, 6:15 p.m. dinner, inspection
Wednesday, November 13, Granite No. 119, Haddam, 6:30 p.m. dinner, inspection
Monday, November 18, Meridian No. 77, Meriden, 6:30 p.m. dinner, evaluation
Wednesday, November 20, Montgomery No. 13, Lakeville, 6:30 p.m. dinner, evaluation

Fellowcraft Degree
Monday, November 4, Jerusalem No. 49, Ridgefield, 6:30 p.m. dinner, WB Jeff Bartlett in the East
Tuesday, November 5, King Hiram No. 12, Shelton, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Tuesday, November 5, Unity No. 148, New Britain, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Thursday, November 21, Warren No. 51, Portland, 6:30 p.m. dinner, SW James W. Hartzell Jr. in the East

Master Mason Degree
Saturday, November 2, Hartford Evergreen No. 88, South Windsor, 9:00 a.m., The Barn, Ferry Road, South Windsor
Saturday, November 2, Washington No. 70, Windsor, 1:00 p.m., The Barn, Ferry Road, South Windsor
Monday, November 11, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 6:30 p.m. dinner, step up night
Monday, November 11, Ashlar No. 332, Wallingford, 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, November 14, Putnam No. 46, South Woodstock
Monday, November 18, Wyllys-St. John’s No. 4, West Hartford, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Monday, November 18, Compass No. 9, Wallingford, 6:00 p.m. dinner
Monday, November 18, Friendship No. 33, Southington, 6:30 p.m. surf and turf dinner
Tuesday, November 19, King Hiram No. 12, Shelton, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Tuesday, November 19, St. Peter’s No. 21, New Milford, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Tuesday, November 19, St. Alban’s No. 38, Branford, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Tuesday, November 19, Union No. 40, Danbury, 7:00 p.m. dinner
Tuesday, November 19, Seneca No. 55, Torrington, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Tuesday, November 19, Coastal No. 57, Stonington, 5:30 p.m. dinner
Wednesday, November 20, King Solomon’s No. 7, Woodbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Wednesday, November 20, Hiram No. 18, Sandy Hook, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Wednesday, November 20, Estuary No. 43, Old Saybrook, 6:30 p.m. dinner, MWGM Simon LaPlace in the East for the second half
Thursday, November 21, Fidelity-St. John’s No. 3, Fairfield, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Thursday, November 21, Union No. 31, Niantic, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Monday, November 25, Washington No. 70, Windsor, 5:30 p.m. dinner, SW Charles Jackson in the East
Monday, November 25, Evening Star No. 101, Unionville, WB Rob Ingvertsen in the East

Rainbow Holds Annual Grand Officers Night
by Kathy L. Raveneau

Fall is in the air and Rainbow holds a special night to honor its Grand officers. This is always an exciting event because it is the first time during the year that the girls wear their new Grand officer gowns and the first time that they do degree work together as a team.

On Saturday, Oct. 19 in Branford, the Grand officers of Rainbow performed the initiatory degree and welcomed a new member, Amanda Schmidt. The Grand Worthy Advisor Ali Stamm led the Grand officers through the beautiful degree. It was also a homecoming for Melissa McKusick Trofatter, State Mother Advisor, who is from Branford Assembly and is a Past Grand Worthy Advisor.

A big part of this organization is when the girls grow up to become advisors and want to give something back to the organization that did so much for them in their youth. The room was full of proud and smiling faces, including many former Rainbow girls.

It was wonderful to have some of our sponsoring dignitaries present. Gwen Rochette Grand Royal Matron, Order of the Amaranth and Past Grand Worthy Advisor of Rainbow in Connecticut was there with some of her Grand Officers. Also, the Worthy Grand Patron Roger Bailey, Order of the Eastern Star, was there with some of his Grand Officers. Deputy Grand Treasurer Paul Watson represented the Grand Lodge. Preceeding the ceremonies, Milford Assembly No. 4 hosted a delicious dinner. The sidelines were full and the support was encouraging to our youth.

A Rainbow Dad pin was presented from Dad Donald Langlois, who told the story of receiving one when his daughter joined Rainbow and she gave it to him. He has worn it ever since. Now he presented a Dad pin to Amanda Schmidt, his grand daughter, to give to her Dad.

Connecticut Rainbow Grand Worthy Advisor Ali Stamm with her corps of Grand Officers enter the assembly room for the opening ceremonies at Connecticut Grand Officer’s Night.
Craft at Refreshment...

Friday, November 1, Wooster No. 10, Colchester, 5:15 p.m. Cathedral Table Lodge
Friday, November 1, Unity No. 148, New Britain, 10:30 p.m. Past Master’s dinner at Portoño’s Restaurant
Saturday, November 2, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, 5:30 p.m. Cathedral Table Lodge
Saturday, November 2, Ashlar-Aspetuck No. 142, Easton, 12:30 p.m. beer and bourbon tasting
Monday, November 4, Compass No. 9, Wallingford, 6:00 p.m. dinner, ladies night
Tuesday, November 5, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, bingo fun for everyone
Tuesday, November 5, Seneca No. 55, Torrington, 6:30 p.m. potluck dinner
Wednesday, November 6, King Solomon’s No. 7, Woodbury, joint stated communication with Hiram 18, Sandy Hook
Wednesday, November 6, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, Masonic enlightenment
Wednesday, November 6, Estuary No. 43, Old Saybrook, annual financial meeting
Wednesday, November 6, Ansantawae No. 89, Milford, 7:00 p.m. dinner, Masons night at the Orange Ale House
Wednesday, November 6, Center No. 97, Meriden, lodge of instruction
Wednesday, November 6, Cosmopolitan No. 125, New Haven, 5:45 p.m. Table Lodge
Thursday, November 7, Fidelity-St. John’s No. 3, Fairfield, movie night “The Man Who Would be King”
Thursday, November 7, Warren No. 51, Portland, discuss results of the Open House
Thursday, November 7, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 6:15 p.m. dinner, Veteran’s appreciation ceremony
Friday, November 8, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, 4:00 p.m., UConn vs. Louisville at “The Rent”
Saturday, November 9, Warren No. 51, Portland, 7:00 p.m. dinner, ladies night
Saturday, November 9, Shepherd - Salem No. 78, Naugatuck, 7:00 p.m. surf and turf dinner
Saturday, November 9, Corner Stone-Quinebaug No. 122, Thompson, 5:00 p.m. home style macaroni and cheese dinner
Saturday, November 9, Unity No. 148, New Britain, 7:00 p.m. Carl G. Ek Memorial Table Lodge
Monday, November 11, St. John’s No. 2, Middletown, lodge of instruction
Monday, November 11, Evening Star No. 101, Unionville, step up night
Tuesday, November 12, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, bingo fun for everyone
Tuesday, November 12, Manchester No. 73, Manchester, step up night
Tuesday, November 12, Shepherd - Salem No. 78, Naugatuck, 6:30 p.m., game night, review of hunting laws in Connecticut and a DEP presentation
Wednesday, November 13, Ashlar-Aspetuck No. 142, Easton, 6:30 p.m. Harvest Table Lodge
Thursday, November 14, Hiram No. 1, New Haven, 7:00 p.m. Table Lodge
Saturday, November 16, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 5:00 p.m. pasta supper at Fiddle Dee’s
Saturday, November 16, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 6:00 p.m. Venision Table Lodge
Sunday, November 17, Union No. 5, Stamford, 2:00 p.m., 250th Celebration at Putnam Cottage, Knapps Tavern
Sunday, November 17, Washington No. 19, Monroe, 8:00 a.m. country breakfast
Sunday, November 17, Friendship No. 33, Southington, 7:30 a.m. pancake breakfast
Sunday, November 17, Moosup No. 113, Moosup, 8:00 a.m. all you can eat breakfast
Tuesday, November 19, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 7:00 p.m., bingo fun for everyone
Wednesday, November 20, Columbia No. 25, South Glastonbury, Senior Warden Radu in East
Wednesday, November 20, Village No. 29, Collinsville, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Blue Lodge Council
Thursday, November 21, Annawon No. 115, West Haven, 6:00 p.m., beef and beer
Friday, November 22, Estuary No. 43, Old Saybrook, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Blue Lodge Council
Saturday, November 23, Temple No. 16, Cheshire, 6:00 p.m. dinner, 5th Annual Harvest Table Lodge
Saturday, November 23, Unity No. 148, New Britain, 5:30 p.m. Ladies at Table
Saturday, November 23, Annawon No. 115, West Haven, 10:00 a.m., Yale-Harvard football at Yale Bowl
Monday, November 25, Union No. 31, Niantic, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Blue Lodge Council
Tuesday, November 26, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 7:00 p.m., bingo fun for everyone
Tuesday, November 26, Manchester No. 73, Manchester, 7:30 p.m., memorial service
Tuesday, November 26, Shepherd - Salem No. 78, Naugatuck, historian lecture
Friday, November 29, Center No. 97, Meriden, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Blue Lodge Council
Saturday, November 30, Friendship Tuscan No. 145, Manchester, 12:00 noon, UConn vs. Rutgers at “The Rent”

Activities for Lodge at Labor
and Lodge at Refreshment
are taken from calendars on lodge websites. Please visit the lodge websites for updates and more information.
For a directory of all lodge websites visit www.ctfreemasons.net

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Those names in bold are new or renewing Boosters. Thank you for your support.
The recently concluded semi-annual communication of the Grand Lodge was without precedent to those with a long history of attendance. But the ten days leading up to the session was also one full of surprises; letter after letter and nearly anonymous, and the week finalized with emails of nominations and vote seeking. Everyone was scurrying to the Rules and Regulations to see if rules were broken, and questions as to whether responses were necessary.

Two Past Grand Masters whose names were on the letters had been in my office less than a week earlier pronouncing their full support. I knew that the changes instituted in April, however legal, had created disappointment, confusion, and hurt feelings. It didn’t matter that they were purely administrative and not personal. It didn’t matter that none of them interfered with the private affairs of a lodge. The fact that previous edicts were not renewed were no relief.

I had been addressing this through visits to lodges and Blue Lodge Councils. The Grand Lodge officers were addressing concerns through their "Road Show" presentations at lodges across the state.

There was certainly more than a handful at the semi-annual. When the 380 seats up were filled another twenty seats were also quickly filled. Standing in the East, I estimated there were forty more standing on the sidelines.

Some had asked what I would do if the crowd "got out of hand." I assured them that wouldn't happen because we were all Masons. And it didn't get out of hand. The legislation went smoothly with relatively few, respectful comments. The election was different as I asked those who were "ready, willing, and able" to stand for the office they sought. No names were given or announcements made as I felt everyone should vote for who they knew, or leave their ballot blank if they had no idea who was standing. The usual case of writing down the "next in line" was discarded. Consequently, there was an "upset" with Bro. Ted Nelson getting more votes than Bro. Brad Cooney for Grand Junior Warden. How voting will be handled in the future will not be my choice, but I haven't heard any complaints about how I handled the balloting.

Those that came to the Grand Lodge session and voted came because they wanted to, not because they had to. That's how it should be. Those who were apathetic and absent may have voted differently, but that is always the risk of indifference.

I congratulate Bro. Ted Nelson on his election to Grand Junior Warden. My hope is that his year off from Grand Lodge officer duties will inspire him and rejuvenate him, although he may not think it was necessary. I have told him in the past that when he is 100% committed he provides a valuable resource for the Grand Lodge. He has an opportunity to work hard and provide guidance, and I hope he will take advantage of his position to have a positive effect.

Now people say to me, "Where do we go from here? What happens now?"

My initial response was that the game has changed and everyone better become comfortable with the new rules. What had been considered a Masonically incorrect way of getting elected is now wide open to use. The floodgates of politicking and campaigning will permeate all future elections, and we might as well create some kind of Masonic political parties to distinguish us from each other.

However, that is not the Masonry I know. I do not believe that is the Masonry that the greatest majority of brothers want. I think Masons feel that kind of negativity belongs in the outside world, not within the walls of a lodge, and not between brothers. We cannot forget our obligations, and we won't forget what a brotherhood is. We are not brothers like Cain and Able.

So my plan is to reach out to who I perceive to be the leaders of the restless. I want to stretch out my hand of conciliation to meet and discuss with them the important issues they obviously feel so strongly about. I offer my hand of brotherhood and understanding, open and ready to accept another’s in return. Not a fist of rejection or vengeance, but in a spirit of Freemasonry.

On the back of the statue of George Washington, dressed as a Mason, in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens, New York, are the words, "Brotherhood is the Foundation of World Peace." There is a square and compasses over that quote. I believe it is there to tell the world to behave as Masons do.

If some left feeling victorious over a foe, remember he is the brother you vowed to stretch forth your hands to lift up. If some left feeling the time will come for payback and reversal, remember the profane world, where foes flail at each other, where neither side remembers who struck first, or whether they ever got even, but only who got the last strike in. That is not the Masonry I know.

I encourage all of you to talk with us and give your input. What unites us is far greater than what divides us. We are united by our obligations and our ritual, and by the brotherhood which we all know and believe in.

Mine is a spirit of conciliation, not capitulation. Mediation not appeasement, and certainly I know I am so lucky to be dealing with brother Masons who I believe, do believe, as I do.

We did not get where we are in one morning, or in ten days. We got here slowly, inch by inch, to where we are. Likewise, we should walk together, step by step, arms locked in harmony, to get where we aught to be.

As Masons, we are taught to find agreement between brothers, not division. Divisiveness may be appropriate for the outside world, but we set our own examples for relationships between each other, between each brother. I will find agreement with my brothers and build a foundation built on trust and common goals. Together we will identify obstacles, those walls that keep us apart, and we will find the opening that will again lead to our path in Freemasonry.

Fraternally,

Simon R. LaPlace
Most Worshipful Grand Master
Hospice is a philosophy of care with a holistic approach that not only addresses physical needs but psychosocial, emotional and spiritual as well. Palliative Care provides comfort to patients with a progressive, serious or life-limiting illness. It is designed to alleviate pain or discomfort and improve quality of life.

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And our expertise extends even further. Should a patient require an acute inpatient stay, our hospice wing at Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford offers private rooms that can accommodate family members in an atmosphere of peace and comfort.

For additional information about our hospice and palliative care expertise, please call 1-888-679-9997

My wife’s team was magnificent!

November is National Hospice and Palliative Care month.