Connecticut FREEMASONS

DECEMBER 2013

Celebrate the Holidays!

PAGE 5

WB Jim Wilson Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal

PAGE 9

Rainbow’s Ali Stamm — In Her Own Words

PAGE 15

Bro. Tim Hogan Receives Case Fellowship

Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM

69 Masonic Avenue

P.O. Box 250

Wallingford, CT 06492
TABLE OF CONTENTS

- My Masonic Journey Began at an Open House
- Grand Chaplain’s Puppet
- Jim Wilson Receives First Degree
- IC Moris Wins Case Award
- My Masonic Journey Began at an Open House
- Grand Chaplain’s Puppet
- Jim Wilson Receives First Degree
- IC Moris Wins Case Award
- Tips to Avoid Back Pain
- Grand Historian’s Corner
- Masonicare Experience
- The ‘Gib’ That Keeps On Giving
- Colorful主题活动
- Gallager’s Gift Supports Nursing Program
- 2012 Festival of Trees Highest Bidder
- The Last Word
- Freemasonry: a Family Affair
- 2012 Festival of Trees Highest Bidder
- Congratulations
- Out Departed Brothers
- Gallager’s Gift Supports Nursing Program
- Welcome
- News from the Valley of Hartford
- ORS Hosts Fun with Rainbow and DeMolay
- News from the Valley of Hartford
- ORS Hosts Fun with Rainbow and DeMolay
- "Rainbow's Ali Stamm, In Her Own Words"
- Robert Polito Elected to Board of Trustees
- Elysie Dent Named Administrator at MAN
- Letter from Stephen B. McPherson
- Masonicare Experience
- Grand Historian’s Corner
- Lots More Awards Presented at Friendship Tuscan
- Grand Chaplain’s Pulpit
- My Masonic Journey Began at an Open House
- TABLE OF CONTENTS

- GALAXY LEVEL LOUNGE
- Connecticut Freemasons December 2013

- PROGRAM
- Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM
- 63 Masonic Avenue • P.O. Box 250 • Wallingford, Connecticut 06492
- Office hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., 1:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday
- First Saturday of the month: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
- Post Office: 203-679-5903 • 800-529-4161 (in-state only) • Fax: 203-679-5996
- e-mail: grandlodge@masonicare.org • www.ctfreemasons.net

- TRESTLE BOARD
- Simon R. LaPlace - December 2013

- Events
- Attribute
- Public Dinner

- Simon R. LaPlace - December 2013

- Connecticut Freemasons is the official publication of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut AF & AM. All original articles are subject to editing. All checks for payments and donations should be made out to Grand Lodge Publications and mailed to the Grand Lodge office at PO Box 250, Wallingford, CT 06492.

- Letters and advertisements may be sent to the Editor-in-Chief, Connecticut Freemasons, 63 Masonic Avenue, PO Box 250, Wallingford, CT 06492-0250, or sent to the Connecticut Freemasons, 63 Masonic Avenue, PO Box 250, Wallingford, CT 06492-0250. Postage paid at Wallingford, CT and additional mailing offices.

- Connecticut Freemasons (USPS 823-994)
- Volume 9 Number 7 December 2013 is published monthly (except August) by Connecticut Freemasons, 63 Masonic Avenue, PO Box 250, Wallingford, CT 06492-0250. Postage paid at Wallingford, CT and additional mailing offices.

- POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Connecticut Freemasons, c/o The Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut, PO Box 250, Wallingford, CT 06492-0250.

- Letters and advertisements may be sent to the Editor-in-Chief, Connecticut Freemasons, 63 Masonic Avenue, PO Box 250, Wallingford, CT 06492-0250. All submissions are required by the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. Please note: The Grand Lodge AF & AM of Connecticut, does not endorse any of the products or services advertised herein. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all advertisements, Connecticut Freemasons will only be liable to reprint, at no charge, any correction due to typographical error.
My Masonic Journey Began at an Open House

by Aaron Bowman

When I visited Temple Lodge No. 16 in Cheshire, I honestly wasn’t sure what to expect for the Open House; but I know that I did not expect a video. While the video was enjoyable, my hope had been to spend the time speaking with individuals, rather than viewing materials similar to what is readily available online. Having an open question and answer session afterward was good in that it allowed other potential candidates to propose questions that I had not thought to ask.

After I left Temple Lodge No. 16, I went to Friendship Lodge No. 33 in Southington. The experience there was more intimate than in Cheshire, I was the only guest present, and there were several brothers there. They were taking advantage of the beautiful weather and their attendance to make some improvements on the building. No one there wore an emblem of rank, and I am not sure if titles had been given during introductions. This gave me the impression of a much more relaxed environment, where as Cheshire gave a more formal feel.

I am glad that I was able to visit both lodges, although sadly, I spent so much time at those two that I did not make it to Sandy Hook or Ridgefield as I had intended.

I highly encourage Freemasonry to continue with the Open House program. I think it is a great opportunity for potential candidates to learn a little more and feel more secure in their decision to join. I am certainly more comfortable with the idea of approaching other lodges in the near future. People I spoke with online said to show up 30-60 minutes before a regular meeting and introduce myself, which I frankly find intimidating.

My interest in Freemasonry is multifaceted. As mentioned on Saturday, my father, uncle, and grandfather were all Masons, though it was not something I was aware of growing up. When my father became ill, he made it very clear that he wanted his dues at the three lodges he was a member of to be paid for as long as he was alive. It sparked my curiosity that he would insist on supporting something he never mentioned or discussed otherwise. He had also related a Masonic funeral service, and, when the time came, I found the service enjoyable and very touching. With that curiosity I began reading materials online in an attempt to find out what had made Freemasonry so important to my father at the end. What I found has generated a genuine interest of my own in Freemasonry.

My spiritual journey has swung, run widely afield, and is ongoing. I personally believe that it is one of several journeys key to life. Learning is another. Part of both of the journeys has been reading history, philosophy, and religion in general. It seems that Freemasonry could very easily be a part of that learning.

Gary at Friendship Lodge discussed his experiences with me and related a story about two blocks of stone sitting on the dais. In short, he said that part of his journey was understanding that he was the rough-cut stone, and being a Freemason was, for him, a journey to becoming the clean-cut finished stone. That resonates with my core beliefs.

In high school and college I was very active with volunteer activities, collecting for soup kitchens and building houses for Habitat for Humanity. After college I was sidetracked with working, relationships, and having an active social life. I would like to get back into doing things that are constructive and positive for my community and society at large.

I currently work handling all IT matters for a company with offices throughout Connecticut. I have a wife and three children, ages 9 to 19. We purchased our home eight years ago, and started remodeling it a year later, a never ending project that I work on as best as my skills permit. I enjoy reading, mountain biking, watching rugby, playing darts, pool, and board/card games. I grew up with one sibling, but my wife comes from a much larger family, which has been quite the learning experience for me.

In short I found it very appealing. Funny to actually meet someone from that lodge at a different lodge’s Open House. One could speculate on the statistical likelihood of that happening.

My central dilemma in joining Freemasonry centered around which lodge to join. The Open House has given me a fantastic start on finding the right lodge for me.
Isaiah 40:

1. Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.
2. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. For she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins.
3. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
4. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:
5. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

King James Version

Isaiah was a prophet who lived in the Kingdom of Judah during the 8th century BCE. He is the first of the latter prophets or neviium akharonim. He was the father of two sons, Shear-Jashub, which translates "a remnant shall return," and Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz, meaning, "spoil quickly, plunder speedily." He is considered by Christians as the prophet of the coming of Christ, and is also recognized by both Islam and the Baha'i Faith as a prophet.

The beginning of Isaiah's prophecies speaks extensively of God's wrath. "Through the wrath of the Lord is the land darkened and the people shall be as the fuel of the fire." Isaiah 10:19.

But after the destruction of the Assyrian army by the hand of the Lord, Isaiah brings the promise of hope to the world. Comfort ye my people – prepare ye the way of the Lord. He tells the people that their sins and wickedness are pardoned at that the Lord shall be revealed to the world.

For some, this hope is realized in the birth of a Savior in the town of Bethlehem over two thousand years ago. For others, this hope is still awaited in a Savior whose advent will unite the world and overcome the adversity which surrounds us. What unites us is our faith in the Supreme Being who is faithful to us and always keeps his promise. Unfortunately, it is human nature to focus on what divides us and not what unites us. This is evident in the divisions between the children of Abraham – Jews, Christians, and Muslims – and further divisions even within each of these three great religions.

The beauty of Freemasonry is that it sets these differences aside. We come together as a "Brotherhood of Men under the Fatherhood of God." It is a place where we meet upon the level and act upon the square. It is a place where we honor our diversity as we unite and embrace our common goal of helping each other to become better men. It is the promise we hold on to and cherish as Masons that one day all men will be brothers. Our task and charge is to exemplify in our lives and conduct that faithfulness, charity, morality, and brotherly love our Heavenly Father has graciously given to us.

As we approach the close of another year and look with hope to the promise and beginning of a new year, let us take a moment to be grateful to God for all the goodness and loving kindness He gives us each day. Let us start the year with joy in our hearts and look for opportunities to share that joy with those around us.

God bless!
WB Jim Wilson Receives Pierpont Edwards Medal

by Michael J. Carroll

James Henry Wilson, Jr. was born on April 14, 1929, in the village of Jefferson Valley, tucked within the town of Yonkers, New York. He was the seventh of eight children born to Charlotte Bixby and James Henry Wilson, Sr. Just eight years later, the family picked up stakes, moving to Coventry, Connecticut, in 1937; then, to Andover, and then to Canterbury. Jim graduated Griswold High School in 1947.

Jim then set out for adventure, as he hitchhiked across the country. When he reached his sister's home in Long Beach, California, he found employment with North American Aviation in the areas of aviation and assembly.

At the outbreak of the Korean Conflict, Jim attempted on several occasions to enlist in military service without success. Having sustained a bicycle accident in 1944, he was determined to fight for his country, Jim made one more attempt, and this time he was successful. He was finally admitted, but with limited service, on September 7, 1950.

This opened doors to a whole, new career. After being accepted into the U.S. Army Air Force, he received training in the library. His aptitude in the audio-visual arts and sciences earned Jim an invitation to the Hal Roach Motion Picture Studios. Jim studied the art of makeup under the watchful eye of makeup artist Samuel Kaufman. Then, it was off to France. Jim finished his tour at Wight-Patterson AFB, in Dayton, Ohio, in 1957.

Jim returned to Connecticut, and went into the sales of heating and air conditioning, from which he retired in 1994.

Jim serves as deacon for the First Congregational Church of Vernon.

He has two stepsons, who have provided him with several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Brother James H. Wilson, Jr. was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in Friendship Lodge No. 145, Manchester, on September 26, 1975. He jumped right in, and proved he wouldn’t do nor for the craft. He served as Worshipful Master in 1982, and again, in 2009. WB Wilson went on to earn the Lodge’s Craftsmen’s Award, and followed up with the Master’s Award. He was also a recipient of the Grand Lodge Master’s Achievement Award in 2009. WB Jim Wilson went on to become the 20th Worshipful Master in 2012.

Friends and family perched successes and failures of his career, followed by reminiscence of his daily work life.

He said, that the real power behind the throne is his wife, Nancy. She provided a lot of the information that went in to a successful awards night, last June.

WB James H. Wilson, It was surprised when he was called to the East by Grand Master Simon LaPlace to receive the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service. He was the only one who was surprised.

WB Jim spoke a few words after which his brothers gave him a rousing thanks of applause, and replied to him with the only words that really applied for the evening.

Gotcha!

Lots More Awards Presented at Friendship Tuscan Lodge

by Anderson Zeidler

On June 20, the officers, brothers and guests of Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 gathered for their annual awards night dinner and strawberry festival, a tradition of over twenty five years. The menu was different this year, consisting of Mexican food that was enjoyed by all.

Nearly one hundred were in attendance including MW Simon LaPlace and almost all of the Grand Lodge officers.

At the start of the festivities, Miss Crystal Reid and her family presented the medal on behalf of the lodge and turned it over to the Historian to be put in the display case. MW LaPlace then recognized WB Jim Wilson as the oldest, in terms of age, Past Master. It was then that MW LaPlace read the biography of WB Jim, and presented the Pierpont Edwards Medal.

Seventeen Past Masters of Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145 gathered at the Manchester temple for the annual awards night.

Those were only his official duties and offices. The unorthodox ones included being a part of the Master Mason Degree team, trip chairman, a mentor, and an interviewer to many prospective candidates.

WB James Henry Wilson, Jr. is a true Blue Lodge Mason. He is true to his trust, and is an example of what we all should expect by being true to his family, his church, his community, and our fraternity at large.

Jim said, that the real power behind the throne is his wife, Nancy. She provided a lot of the information that went in to a successful awards night, last June.

WB James H. Wilson, It was surprised when he was called to the East by Grand Master Simon LaPlace to receive the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service. He was the only one who was surprised.

WB Jim spoke a few words after which his brothers gave him a rousing thanks of applause, and replied to him with the only words that really applied for the evening.

Gotcha!
Prior to the Revolution lodges did operate in many of the river or coastal communities. In 1753, Thomas Oxnard Grand Master of the St John’s Grand Lodge of Boston granted a charter to “Sundry Brethren Residing at New London” on the 12th day of January, 1753” with Andrew McKenzie as their first Master. He was a Boston merchant who had moved to New London. Records show that the lodge met and provided returns until 1767. The lodge went out of existence during the Revolution and later returned as Union Lodge No. 31. One of the early members was Nicholas Lechmere, who later became Master but moved to Newport and as the hostilities became heated, he turned loyalist and moved to England. We do know that in 1754, the first known Masonic funeral was mentioned in the diary of Joshua Hempstead on June 16, 1754. "Grand Historian’s Corner"

In last month’s newspaper, our Grand Master talked about the Washington statue in Flushing, New York. It was originally designed for the 1964/65 World’s Fair held on that site. This Grand Historian remembers visiting the exhibit with my father, when I was in elementary school. The Masonic Brotherhood Center was a display case of Masonic history and memorabilia going back to medieval times. The Center was sponsored by the Grand Lodge of New York. It included a hall for exhibitions, a lounge, office, and outside patio. Unlike some of the exhibits, it was a free. I remember seeing the statue of Washington and as a young boy, interested in history, the cases of documents relating to Masons and cathedral builders was interesting. I naturally didn’t understand a lot about Masonry then but 14 years later, it would all make sense as I knelt at the altar of Masonry. The majestic and towering square and compasses at the entrance was impressive to both my father, then a 21 year Mason, and myself. I found a short description.

"Foremost American Mason. Dominating the hall is an 11-foot stature, in Masonic regalia, of George Washington, first of 14 American Presidents who have belonged to the brotherhood. Events from his life are portrayed in three-dimensional scenes, and the bible on which he took the oath of office as President is on display."

In 1905, the Grand Lodge met in mid January for the 137th session. There were 19,346 Masons in 110 lodges and there was a net gain of 223 Members were exempt after having paid dues for 30 years, not the current 50 years. A per-capita tax of $1 was imposed where 25 cents was for the operation of the Grand Lodge and 75 cents for the Masonic Charity Foundation for support of the Wallingford campus. Asa Fitch succeeded George Parsons as Grand Master. The Grand Lodge was saddened by the death of Luke Lockwood who had helped found the Masonic Home and Hospital, in just over a decade it had grown into a place to be proud of and 83 years later, is still the pride of Connecticut Masonry."

"Tree of Life" Masonic Care invite you to honor or remember loved ones by lighting up a light on the

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 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 79, Wallingford, CT 06492

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

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
1629 Newfield Avenue
Stamford, CT

For more information, please call The Masonic Charity Foundation at 800-952-3092.

RW Bro. Gary A. Littlefield, Grand Historian

Page 6 Connecticut Freemasons December 2013

RW Bro. Gary A. Littlefield, Grand Historian

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut
P.O. Box 79, Wallingford, CT 06492

"Due Guard" is not often found in dictionaries. The term does not have any meaning in 1756. It is not found in European or English Masonry and appears to be an American term. Mackey defines it as a mode of recognition which derives its name from its objects. During the 14th century, the art of papermaking was common in Continental Europe and one town in the center of the “paper making trade” was in France and the name was “Dieu le Garde” which meant “God Guard It”. Why then, have we adopted “Due Guard”? The old French “garder” meant to keep, serve or preserve and from early Elizabethan England, the word meant to watch, keep, protect or ward against danger. The due guard, learned for the first time after the obligation has been taken at the altar, could have the origin as “remember to watch, keep, protect and guard”. One researcher suggested that the words “Due Guard” and sign were used interchangeably for a time. It has been determined that widespread or common use of the word “due guard” was not used until after 1843.

In 1900, the Grand Master in his December address remarked that “let each one of us all resolve, that the standard shall not be lowered in the selection of material for our Lodges, those best qualified to fill them, merit rather than favor or rotation should be the unfailing rule, and thus for ourselves preserve and hand down to those who follow our institution unimpaired; so that the world at large may continue to be wise and better for having in its midst the Masonic Fraternity, which finds its inspiration in the recognition of Almighty God, His Fatherhood and our Brotherhood.” Even today, in 2013, these words ring true.
While it’s true that Masonicare can trace its origins to the generosity of Masons and the numerous fraternal organizations to which they belong, our statewide healthcare continuum has also benefitted greatly from the support it receives from Masonic widows. Through their continued charitable giving to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, they honor the memory of their loved ones while supporting the good work of Masonicare.

Cheshire’s Laura Clementsen and her late husband, WB Arthur Clementsen, joined The Foundation’s Baldwin Society in 2000 with a gift to The Foundation’s Endowment Fund. They did so because Bro. Arthur, Past Master of Continental Lodge No. 76, Waterbury (now Liberty-Continental) and a dual member of Temple Lodge No. 16, Cheshire, believed strongly in the Masonic ideal of philanthropy. He also recognized the special link between Masonry and Masonicare.

Arthur passed away in 2008 but several years later, Laura decided to make another gift to The Foundation on her own – one that could be used to support the healthcare programs, services and facilities of Masonicare. In recognition of her gift, her name was added to The Foundation’s Cleveland Society.

Laura, who retired from her job as a school psychologist in 1986, has kept herself busy as a weekly columnist for The Cheshire Citizen, where she writes about virtually any subject that strikes her fancy. A recent article explored the bittersweet feelings of seeing old friends move away. Another was a playful defense of her “predatory” house cat, Ollie. She wrote about the regret of passing up the opportunity to take her first motorcycle ride, then satisfied her curiosity by hopping onto the back of a Harley in September. But her favorite piece was a work of pure fantasy: a classified ad placed by a groundhog seeking new digs (pun intended).

Laura has also remained very active with the Sons of Norway, a national organization promoting and preserving Norwegian-American heritage and culture... which is ironic, since she doesn’t have a drop of Norwegian blood in her.

“Just because that’s where Arthur’s family was from,” she said, laughing. “My background is dull. We were just old Yankees from up in Vermont.”

Your gifts to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut will help create “Masonicare Experiences” for others. To find out how you can support The Foundation or to make a gift, please call 203-679-5555 or 800-562-3952. You can also donate online at www.masonicare.org/mcf.

Laura Clementsen, at home in Cheshire

Laura (on the Harley) with members of the Undesirables motorcycle club

Don’t Question a Gift from an “Old Yankee”
Elyse Dent Named Administrator
For Masonicare at Newtown

Masonicare is pleased to announce that Ms. Elyse Dent of Newtown has been named administrator for Masonicare at Newtown.

Elyse is a licensed nursing home administrator, and brings many years of managerial experience in the healthcare field to Newtown. She will be responsible for managing the daily operations of the 154-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility in Shelton.

Elyse is a graduate of Columbia College in Missouri and received her Master’s in Healthcare Administration from Western Connecticut State University. She also completed the nursing home licensure program at Quinnipiac University. Elyse has worked with the U.S. Army, taught quality in healthcare as an adjunct in the Master’s program at Western, and has served as board chair for Merritt Hill in Newtown. She was also a member of Connecticut Award for Excellence. She is currently a member of LeadingAge CT and the Connecticut Assisted Living Association.

You can view them on YouTube by searching for "Love Letters: The Caring Version," or by clicking on the following link: http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLtvYRQ53u_CK_tClosingBwC4lMEW0fSZN2Dm

Every day Masonicare helps families deal with dynamics and challenges such as this. Even the most loving and close families struggle with what is the right thing to do. How do I preserve my parents’ dignity while making sure they are safe and having the highest quality of life?

For nearly one hundred and fifty years, Masonicare has dedicated itself to the care of the vulnerable and needy. As we close out the year and look ahead to 2014, thank you for your commitment and support of our Masonic mission to "help, aid and assist."

Sincerely and fraternally,

Bro. Stephen B. McPherson
President & CEO of Masonicare

FROM THE DESK OF:

Bro. Robert Polito Elected to
Masonicare Board of Trustees

Masonicare is pleased to announce that Bro. Robert F. Polito, Jr. of Madison has been elected to its Board of Trustees.

Bro. Bob is a former Captain in the Connecticut Army National Guard. He has served on numerous boards and is a past president of the University of New Haven’s alumni association. In addition to Masonicare’s Board of Trustees, he is chairman of the investment steering committee, chairman of the information technology steering committee, and vice chairman of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

Bro. Bob chaired the 21st Annual Masonicare Golf Classic, held August 19 at Shuttle Meadow Country Club in Kensington. The event netted $165,311 to be used for the programs and services of Masonicare. Bro. Bob is a member of Trumbull Lodge No. 22, New Haven and a member of the Scottish and York Rite bodies.
Rainbow’s Ali Stamm, in Her Own Words

At the reception for Rainbow Grand Worthy Advisor Ali Stamm, she delivered the following address:

It means so much to me to see all the love and support in this room tonight for my grand officers and me. As Rainbow Girls, we thrive on the guidance we receive from our friends and families to help us get what we want out of Rainbow. Each Rainbow Girl, Grand officer, and majority member here tonight did Rainbow in her own way, and used Rainbow to learn what she thought was most important to her as an individual.

The one constant that can be seen for every Rainbow Girl, past and present, is the love and support from the friends and family around her. We rely on each other to make Rainbow into what we think it should be, and this evening is a terrific example of the love and support that our family, friends, and advisors constantly show which makes Rainbow so great.

However, being a Rainbow Girl can mean many different things. Some may think of it as a chance to learn community service, for others it’s a great way to do things with your friends, and of course, there’s always the cupcakes at the parties. It’s very easy to view the positive impact rainbow can have on a person, but I’ve personally started to see Rainbow as a lot more than service events and sleepovers. I now choose to see Rainbow as a roadmap that a girl can use to learn how to make the best out of every opportunity she might encounter.

Through my years in Rainbow I have been able to experience many wonderful opportunities. When I was 14, I received a nomination by a member of my community to become a People to People Student Ambassador. This program works to give students that show an interest in bettering their own communities the chance to learn about, and travel to, different places around the world. I was able to hop on plane for 17 hours, head to a foreign country whose language I didn’t speak, with thirty strangers, a camera, and an over packed duffel bag. The independence and confidence it took for me to overcome the anxiety of this adventure, I learned in Rainbow. Before this trip to Japan, I had been Grand Representative to the states and was able to take their input and improve my work as part of a performance ensemble and stage crew member, I have seen that I could share my ideas about a scene we were working on or a set piece we were creating, and was able to improve the performance ensemble and stage crew member, I have seen that I could share my ideas about a scene we were working on or a set piece we were creating, and was able to improve my contributions of what I brought to the table. These skills I learned in Rainbow, and applying them outside of the assembly room, is incredibly empowering. We are some of the few women in the world that can be seen as motivated creative thinkers, and innovative collaborators, and Rainbow has taught us that.

It’s important to realize of course, Rainbow Girls are not just Rainbow Girls. We’re not only crowns, gowns, engineers. We come together with all engineers, writers, artists, and teachers, coaches, writers, artists, and engineers. We come together with all our talents and experiences to create an organization that is truly extraordinary. Rainbow Girls use all of their individual skills. We connect and intersect like the winding streets in our hometowns, but when we come to Rainbow, we weave together forming a highway of our core beliefs, to be of service each day and to love one another.

I am so proud to be part of this amazing organization that brings so many different people together to better the world. Masonry and Rainbow have had a huge part in my life, practically since birth. If it wasn’t for my loving family and supportive friends, I wouldn’t be here today and I cannot thank you all enough. I appreciate everything you have done so far in the year and I know you will be there supporting me every step of the way.

Thank you to my incredible assembly and Masonic family for always being there and for making this day truly wonderful. Every time I think you guys have gone above and beyond and outdone yourselves, you prove me wrong, and I love you for it. You are all amazing. Again, I’d like to thank everyone for coming tonight and I’m so glad I have the opportunity to spend this evening with all of you.
The ‘Gift that Keeps on Giving’

by Richard F. Denno

For years, we have heard the expression, ‘The Gift That Keeps on Giving.’ The phrase originated in 1924, and referred to the phonograph or ‘talking machine.’

Now, the phrase takes on an entirely new meaning if we use it to describe organ and tissue donor registration and donation. This is a more meaningful and wonderful use as we enter the December holiday season, for the over 120,000 patients currently on the organ/tissue/eye donor transplant waiting list. Their hope is that, thanks to the generous and thoughtful act of others, they may get to see next year’s holiday season, and many more to come.

Over the past five years, we have met brothers and friends with many stories. Temple Lodge No. 65’s Senior Warden Anthony ‘Tony’ Giunta and a member of our Masonic Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Program, received a kidney transplant after over three years on kidney dialysis. Tony wrote about his ‘gift of life’ in an issue of Connecticut Freemasons. Al Veilleux, and Brian Carrington, both kidney transplant recipients, have joined our committee, assisting in spreading the word of their ‘wonderful gifts’ and how much their new lives have meant to them. The same is true of and WB Chuck 2.0 Landau, from Sequin Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, who received his ‘gift of a new heart (than the nickname Chuck 2.0).’

Perhaps one of the most touching stories about ‘the gift’ involved WB Lee Harris, a valued committee member who lost his son before a liver could be found. I received a telephone call from Anchor Lodge No. 112’s WB Joseph Bonola a few years ago. “Richard, my wife Sue and I are here at the intensive care unit. My mother-in-law is dying and has requested that she be taken off life support. Remembering Lee’s talk on organ donation at lodge a few weeks ago, we discussed the possibility of her becoming an organ donor and she agreed. We have spoken to the hospital and perhaps it will happen.” Four months later, I attended a Valentine’s Day dinner at the lodge. Sue’s wife approached us and said, “Thanks for providing a meaning to my mother’s death. I just received a wonderful thank you from the New England Eye Bank. They were able to recover both of my mother’s corneas, and two people who were blind – now can see.”

Holidays are all about love and giving. There can be no greater gift you can give this season than to give the ‘gift of life’ by registering as an organ/tissue/eye donor. It truly is ‘The Gift that Keeps on Giving.’

To learn more, visit www.donatelifenewengland.org. When you do, be sure to check the Freemasons box, where it asks how you heard about organ donation. It just tells Donate Life that we are encouraging Freemasons to register as donors. That is all the ‘gift’ we need as committee members.

On behalf of the Masonic Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Program, we wish you and yours a very happy holiday season!

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Festival of Trees will begin on December 5 at Masonicare Health Center. This very popular event features a silent auction of 60 unique, beautifully decorated tabletop trees.

The lighted trees are designed and trimmed by teams of Masonicare employees, volunteers, and residents of Masonicare. The trees will be on continuous display in the lobby of Masonicare Health Center until Wednesday, December 18. Everyone from the Masonic family and the community is welcome to visit the Center any day between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. to view the trees and place a bid. Bids will be closed at 2:30 p.m. on December 18, when the highest bidders will be announced and winners can claim their holiday tree. Winners will be notified if they can’t be present on that date. All proceeds from the auction will be used to support a host of activities for the residents of Masonicare Health Center.

As always, this year’s Festival of Trees features a wide range of unique and imaginative decorations and a variety of themes that will appeal to every taste and delight adults and children of all ages. One of the trees may be just what you’re looking for to complete your holiday decorating or the perfect gift for that very special person. Be sure to stop by and place your bid!

For additional information, contact the Volunteer Services office, Masonicare Health Center, at 203-679-5980 or the Masonicare HelpLine at 888-679-9997.
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. No smoking signs have been put up across the Masonicare campus, and since November 21, the use of any tobacco smoked products is not 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 applies 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 to any Masonicare affiliate 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 eight 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.

Masonicare Went Smoke-Free November 21!

Freemasonry: a Family Affair at King Hiram Lodge

by Edward M. Houghton

On Tuesday evening, November 19, three Fellowcrafts, Brothers Henry Novelo, John Pulgarin and Blair Richardson, were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason at King Hiram Lodge No 12, Shelton. Brother Richardson had the particular honor of being joined for the evening’s festivities by his father, grandfather, and uncle. All three are members of Waltham Triad Lodge in Newton, Massachusetts and journeyed down from Maine and Massachusetts for this special occasion.

Brother Blair was raised with the assistance of his father, who later presented him with a Masonic ring that has been passed down to each generation since his great-grandfather. It has been a busy couple of months for Brother Blair. He was married September 21, just four days after being initiated as an Entered Apprentice. In order to complete his degrees with the two other brothers. He took his Fellowcraft degree just two weeks ago, and worked tirelessly to show more than suitable proficiency.

Festival of Trees 2012

Last year, Donna Terrell of Wallingford was the lucky recipient of the festive tree “Snow Day.” The tree received the highest bid of $400.00. In total, $6,531.50 was collected and was used throughout the year to support programs and activities for residents of the Health Center.

CONGRATULATIONS

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

William Ledewitz Cosmopolitan 125

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

Donald W. Archer Coastal 57
Bernard M. Kauderer Coastal 52
Melvin D. MacCallum Frederick Franklin 14
M. Edward Sauer Friendship 33
We offer our condolences to the families and friends of these brothers who have been called by the Grand Architect of the Universe.

Charles F. Snyder ........................................................ America-St. John’s 8
Thomas A. Dickson ........................................................ Amana-rae 89
Terry J. Munk ................................................................. Amana-rae 89
Charles P. Gabalis ............................................................ Columbus 25
Edward P. Le Noir ............................................................ Carthage 63
Herbert Etkind ................................................................. Cosmopolitan 125
Philip M. Rumpner ......................................................... Harmony 42
Harold L. K擪el ............................................................... Harmony 42
Nils S. Svensen .............................................................. Hiram 18
Bruce W. Allen ............................................................... Jeptha 95
John Drew ................................................................. King Hiram 12
Joseph Wabuda .............................................................. King Hiram 12
Harry W. Bishop Jr ........................................................ Liberty-Continental 76
William W. Davidson ................................................... Liberty-Continental 76
Richard G. Heelmer ....................................................... Liberty-Continental 76
Harold W. Johnson ........................................................ Liberty-Continental 76
Leonidas N. Lingertis ...................................................... Liberty-Continental 76
Norman S. Sera ............................................................. Liberty-Continental 76
William H. Welsh Sr ..................................................... Madison 87
Peter S. Theodor .......................................................... Moriah 15
Chris S. Peters ............................................................. Old Well 108
Edmund P. Burke .......................................................... St. Albans 38
David A. France ............................................................. Unity 148
David F. Palmer ............................................................ Warren 51
Robert W. Stevenson ..................................................... Warren 51

Gallager Gift Supports Masonicare’s Nursing Program

With a generous gift to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, Bro. Robert L. (Bob) Gallager has established a nursing scholarship at Masonicare in memory of his late wife Margaret, whom he still affectionately refers to as “my little Margie.”

A 56-year Mason belonging to Meridian Lodge No. 77, Meriden, Bro. Robert follows in the footsteps of Bro. John O. Brandt, Jr., a fellow benefactor of The Foundation who founded a nursing scholarship at Masonicare in memory of his late wife Norma. Like Norma, Margie worked as a nurse and was deeply passionate about her profession and dedicated her life to helping others.

The Maggie Gallager Scholarship will be administered as part of the Norma J. Brandt Scholarship Program at Masonicare. Bob’s generous gift to The Foundation will enable Masonicare to award a single nursing scholarship each year in Margie’s name.

Bob met Margie during a lengthy hospital stay. Together, they shared 49 years together and a love of Masonry. Bob is a member of numerous fraternal organizations including the Sphinx Shrine of Newington and the Royal Arch Masons, while Margie belonged to Meridian Chapter No. 8, Order of the Eastern Star and was a Past Royal Matron of the Order of the Amaranth.

We welcome our new brothers to the fraternity.

Alex A. Maldonado ..................................................... Ark 39
Michael T. Murphy ..................................................... Ark 39
John V. Snow ............................................................... Ark 39
Rene Vinfalo ................................................................ Ahsler-Aspetuck 142
Marcos G. Garcia ......................................................... Friendship Tuscan 145
Jeffrey P. Sweet ............................................................ Friendship Tuscan 145
Brian T. Wolverton ..................................................... Friendship Tuscan 145
Jason A. Arndt .............................................................. Union 40
James J. Davenport ...................................................... Union 40
Evelene D. Hutchins ..................................................... Union 40
Nestor J. Rodriguez .................................................... Union 40
Chad W. Gibbs ............................................................ Unity 148
Robert B. Pienies ........................................................ Unity 148
Geoffrey J. Holms ........................................................ Wolkert 60
Sean T. Knibloe ............................................................ Wolkert 60
On December 7, the Valley of Hartford will join the other valleys in Connecticut for a joint Consistory Day, at the Valley of New Haven. This year's fall class will see the proposed 32° portrayed by a cast from the three Consistories, and also a special presentation of the 22°, in a banquet form, by brethren from the Valley of Boston. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m., with activities beginning at 10:00 a.m. For those planning on attending the banquet, and who have not already made a reservation, the cost is $25.00. This event will end the first half of the Scottish Rite year and begin the holiday season. Always keep in mind that while the happiest moments in life are spent with family, we should also remember our fellow brethren, who may be sick, or alone. We should reach out to them, even if only a telephone call, to wish them a happy holiday.

Upcoming in the Valley's newsletter View of the Valley there will be an article by Bro. Shawn Coulter explaining the picture on the cover of the last issue, and information regarding the upcoming bus trip. This trip will be a mystery bus trip. There will be a chance for readers to win a free trip if they can guess the destination. There will also be information on applying for Abbott or Valley of Hartford scholarships for your child or grandchild who will be or is currently enrolled as a full time student in an accredited college or university.

If you or a brother Mason might be looking for further light in Masonry, the Valley of Hartford will host an Open House on Thursday, February 13, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. at 207 Deming Street, in Newington. Come down, meet the brethren, tour the facilities, and learn more about the Scottish Rite, its charities, its many Family Life activities, and the benefits of being a member. The degree schedule for the spring of 2014 is: Thursday, February 27, 4° and 5°; Thursday, March 13, 14° and 16°; Thursday, March 27, 18°; Thursday, April 10, Feast of the Pascal Lamb, a semi-public degree; and Saturday, April 26, 27° and 32°. Thursday evening degrees start at 7:30 p.m. Saturday degrees are scheduled to start at 9:00 a.m., followed by a luncheon upon the completion of the degrees. Degrees are portrayed in a theatrical format, and a candidate must see five degrees including the 4° and 32° to become a 32° Scottish Rite Mason. To Master Masons who may be interested in becoming a member, contact the Valley Secretary at 860-666-0712 for more information or to obtain a Scottish Rite Informational DVD.

Finally, we wish you "Happy Holidays" from the officers and members of the Valley of Hartford.

OES Hosts a Day of Fun with Rainbow and DeMolay

by Kathy L. Raveneau

Order of the Eastern Star hosted a fun afternoon of duck pin bowling in Newington. All of the adults who attended made it possible for the youth to play two games of duck pin bowling, and have as much pizza and soda as they wanted. Only adults paid which made it free for all the kids and made for a good turn out. There were some interesting match ups with the teams, and members of all three organizations were able to get to know each other better. It was nice to have the Rainbow Grand Worthy Advisor Ali Stamn, DeMolay State Master Councillor James Caronuagh, Eastern Star’s Worthy Grand Matron Shirley Hungerford and Grand Worthy Patron Roger Bailey posed for a picture together.

Whether someone was a good bowler or poor didn’t matter. The smiles and laughter made it a successful afternoon. Everyone loved the good laugh especially at their own bowling abilities. Youth groups and adult groups found a common ground, spent the afternoon together, and let fun ensue. There will likely be similar events in the future.
The Valley of New Haven is knee-deep in I.C.E.: Inspiration, Convenience, and Enjoyment.

Last month, we were well fed at our annual Oktoberfest! We owe our thanks for the culinary delights, as well as the array of beer and other beverages to Illustrious Brothers Paul L. Chello and Charles H. Tirrell, who backed up Assistant Valley Secretary Thom Beck and Membership Chairman Steve Allinson. Our dining hall was dressed in a motif fit for any Bavarian beer haus and grille. Moreover, typical Bavarian music played throughout. Prior to dessert, Charles spoke about his recent appointment as the Representative of the United Grand Lodge of Germany near Connecticut. He also spoke about the history of Freemasonry in Germany from the days of the Weimar Republic. It was most enlightening.

Then came the Rose Croix degree. Our class went to Stratford, to witness the Master Ad Vitam, or 20°, where the class met Brother George Washington, and witnessed his prowess in running a lodge, and brought forth many of our lodge traditions. Then the "Abraham Lincoln Degree" came out of mothballs. The 26°, now known as "Friend and Brother Eternal," could not be a better way to kick off Thanksgiving Week.

On Saturday morning, December 7, at the New Haven Masonic Temple, will be the conferral of the 32° and the 31°. Our class become Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret before they are Knights Aspirant. The former is the ceremonial section, and the latter is the most profound allegory. When it is time for lunch all Sublime Princes will be entertained by the Valley of Boston, who will portray the colorful and melodious 22°, otherwise known as "Prince of Libanus."

For nearly 140 years, it could not have been done without the players. Each era has its stars. They have come from various hamlets, perfect in their trade, tops in their profession. We are fortunate to have had two beginnings.

The first was in 1848, when Ill. Killian H. Van Renssalaer came to New Haven spreading further light in the Scottish Rite. E.G. Storer became the first Thrice Potent Grand Master (as it was called back then), but with strife and in-fighting dominating the early years, the time just was not right. With the Civil War in the past, a second attempt was made in 1873. This was three years after the passing of our first TPM. There is a fine line which links the past with today.

When Ill. Dr. Charles W. Skiff, M.W. and Ill. Frederick H. Waldron, and Ill. Horatio Gates Bronson engaged themselves to the task of rejuvenating what was to become the Valley of New Haven, Ill. Deputy Charles Carter expedited the request for the renewal of New Haven’s activity by ordering the Council of Deliberation to meet in New Haven.

This is the time to be thankful. I hope you all enjoyed a very happy Thanksgiving. Let us be thankful for all that we have been given, and those whose lives have been extended to us even for a short time.

We congratulate Brother Christopher J. Earle upon receiving the Peripatetic Edwards Award in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.

We thank our veterans, who serve to keep us free.

We congratulate Ill. Charles H. Tirrell, MS A 33° upon his recent appointment.

We truly, have a lot to be thankful for.

We hope all of our Jewish brothers continue to enjoy a happy Chanukkah. May the spirit of freedom be with us always.

To those who celebrate Kwanzaa, may this season be fruitful and joyous.

To our Christian brothers (of all denominations), may this season’s meaning permeate in all your lives throughout the year.

May this season be joyful for you and your loved ones. May the New Year coming be filled with wonderful health, great happiness, and prosperity for all of you and your families.

Most of all do not forget those less fortunate. Answer the Blue Envelope Appeal when it comes to your mailbox.

And most certainly, along with the aforementioned, let it be a safe and healthy New Year!

See you in the Valley…

ATTENTION Masons

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

The Valley of New Haven

Masonic Temple, 257 Whitney Avenue, New Haven

Saturday, December 7

32° and 31°

New Haven

Happy New Year!

For further information, please contact

Valley Secretary Ill. Vernon K. Civitano, 33° at 203-269-0336

or any member of the Valley.

BEECHER & BENNETT
FUNERAL SERVICE
Since 1894

2300 Whitney Ave., Hamden.
48 Cook Ave. Meriden
410 Campbell Ave., West Haven

Arthur J. Erickson • Carleton V. Erickson
Helping families provide a meaningful tribute while celebrating the life of their loved one.
Providing options for every budget.
(203) 288-0800

For Information, give us a call or visit our
Web Site at: www.beecherandbennett.com

T.J. NELSON
Home Improvements
“We Do It Right...”

860-444-6771

www.lynchshomes.com

Page 14 Connecticut Freemasons December 2013
Masonic Lodge of Research Presents
Brother Timothy Hogan as Case Fellow No. 21

by Michael L. Castoll

The junior of our research lodges is, by no means, second to none, when it comes to celebrating the memory of Connecticut’s first Grand Historian, the late RW James Royal Case. The Masonic Lodge of Research (MLR) was chartered on May 3, 1945. Just five years later, in 1971, a program was put together to hold this icon of Masonic history. The brainchild of RW Leon Rosene, charter master of MLR, and meeting with the hearty approval of WM Carleton Atwater and JW Pratt MacWhorter, All of the officers had a role in this gala, which was to be held at Bridgeport’s Klein Auditorium, a medal was cast, a citation drawn up, and an honor so due Brother Case was paid him, with his name perpetuated. The RW James Royal Case Fellowship was established, and a tradition had begun. Immediately following Brother Case, MW Conrad Hahn was made a Case Fellow. The list of recipients is mind boggling.

The Masonic Lodge of Research gathered en masse to bestow another James Royal Case fellowship. After dinner, all assembled in the Egyptian Room, where WM Seth Strohecker welcomed all of the attendees including MW Simon R. LaPlace.

Brother Bradley K. Cooney, RW Grand Senior Deacon and Past Master of MLR presented a brief resume of the lodge. WB RW James Royal Case. The Masonic Lodge of Research Presents Brother Timothy Hogan as Case Fellow No. 21!

On Saturday evening, October 19, at the New Haven Masonic Temple, the Masonic Lodge of Research presented the Case Fellowship to a new and an honor so due Brother Case was paid him, with his name

Seth Strohecker welcomed all the guests of honor.

WB Timothy W. Hogan was born in Denver, Colorado, in 1974 to Kathie Warren and Steve Hogan. He has one sister, Elizabeth, as well as many step-brothers and step-sisters.

Freemasonry seems to run on both sides of his family. Tim and his wife, Rosa, are the proud parents of their infant daughter, Vivian. He graduated from Rocky Mountain College in 2007 with a B.A. in Business and Illustration. Tim spends time working on his father’s political campaigns, as mayor of Aurora, Colorado, the third largest city in that state. Tim went on to manage and own a number of businesses. Bro. Tim is the CEO of Elite Sterling Security, providing unique bullet resistant clothing options for government and civilians. Tim is also CEO of Circes International, an organization that does diplomatic work and research between cultures.

Timothy Warren Hogan was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 6, 1996, in East Denver Lodge No. 160, and served as Worshipful Master in 2004 and 2006. He was appointed a District Lecturer and served until 2010. His many Masonic relatives include Dr. Joseph Warren, Grand Master of Massachusetts Provincial Grand Lodge, and one of our first Scottish Rite Bodies. Tim was invited to become a member of the Order of Scotland, the Order of Pythagoras, and a multitude of mystical and Rosicrucian rites, which would use up more print space than allotted. WB Timothy W. Hogan came with the proper credentials to receive the honor bestowed upon him.

When Brother Hogan took the floor, he spoke of the wisdom of the ancients, the transformation of the body and soul, geometry, and alchemy. He also said that as Masonic architecture is said to be given to us by the ancient Greeks, alchemy comes to us from the ancient Egyptians. The root of alchemy and chemistry comes from Khemet, the ancient name the Egyptians used to call their nation.

Bro. Tim used illustrations to identify the uses of symbolism, and showed how the triangle contains many mysteries. Tim’s presentation was very well received, and he made himself available to field an abundance of questions over dessert and coffee. Ending the formal part of the evening, MW LaPlace spoke of the many facets of Freemasonry that have merely been touched upon by Brother Hogan, and how fortunate we were to be blessed with WB Hogan’s knowledge and award him as a Case Fellow.

Brother Hogan will return to Connecticut as a keynote speaker at the Committee on Masonic Education’s July 2014 Esoteric Seminar. The success of the seminar this past July is certain to draw a large crowd.

Masonic Lodge of Research Presents
Worshipful Master Seth Strohecker pins the James Royal Case award on WB Tim Hogan.
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

A tax deductible gift in December can be used as a deduction toward 2013 taxes.

Brother Edwin Allan
Brother Donald Beckwith
Brother Howard W. Bodwell
Brother Ernst Welby Brodeur
Brother James Clark
Brother Edward H. Doerr
Brother Robert C. Dressler
Brother Clifford H. Drost Jr
Brother Burton Quincy Ewell
Lissie Fagerholm
Ruth Gesler Galway
Brother David W. Goldberg
Brother Robert T. Grippen
George Harrison
Roland F. Jewell
Brother Harvey N. Mallove
Brother Robert B. McCallum
Frank B. Miller
Ruth H. Mitchell
Ann K. Nanamaker
Brother Walter. Nichols Sr
Jane S. Quint
Brother Robert W. Ruple II
Brother Richard L. Shelton
Brother Carleton W. Shepherd
Brother Joseph Sherwood-Smuth
Brother Kevin C. Smith
Ben Young
Brother Vincent S. Zarrillo

Guests were welcomed at Anchor Lodge by Wm Dave Cross

Sequin-Level Lodge promoted heavily.

New Haven Temple had a steady stream of inquiring visitors.

Most lodges had informational hand outs available.

In Cheshire, from left, Temple Lodge JW Jonathan Martin, WM Eric Silver, and WB Tom Burke encouraged visitors to come back to the lodge for dinner at their next meeting. Everyone said they had heard the radio ads, or seen information about the Open House on social media.

Branford brothers had their banner out on a beautiful day.

Brothers at Esmary Lodge started their grill for visitors.
Insights into the Open House Program

by Tom Burke

The Open House program was a joint effort of brothers from three committees, Committee on Community Action, Masonic Awareness Committee, and the new Intergenerational Communication and Technology Committee. This year a website devoted to the Open House program was created, openhouse.ctfreemasons.net. In order to make the site more easily accessible, the domain ctfmn.net was also purchased. It had training videos, an invitation video recorded by the Grand Master, and downloadable information sheets.

A survey sent to all the lodges collected information about the times a lodge might be open, and this was listed on the website along with the lodges address, and a photo of the lodge.

In the past, radio spots were placed on stations with the highest demographics of a target audience of twenty and thirty year olds. The website name was also included to draw people to find more information from a central source. Also new this year was social media advertising on Facebook. The Grand Lodge Facebook page is very active and over the past three years has accumulated nearly 5,000 fans. Special tags were posted that attracted a large three years has accumulated nearly 5,000 fans. Social media also included to draw people to find more information from a central source.

As in the past, radio spots were placed on stations with the highest demographics of a target audience of twenty and thirty year olds. The website name was also included to draw people to find more information from a central source. Also new this year was social media advertising on Facebook. The Grand Lodge Facebook page is very active and over the past three years has accumulated nearly 5,000 fans. Special tags were posted that attracted a large audience.

Intergenerational Communication and Technology Committee

Guidelines for Social Media

by the Intergenerational Communication and Technology Committee

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut understands the importance of social media, not only to enhance the spreading of brotherly love and friendship, but also to appeal to an entirely new audience of the next generation of Freemasonry in Connecticut.

Social media have become a fantastic new type of working tool. Brothers communicate with each other, sharing ideas, opinions, events, and Masonic information. This freedom goes far beyond a brotherly grip and word. Communication, that once took place monthly, is now streaming, posting, and tweeting, minute by minute. While this ushered in a new era of Masonic brotherhood and expands our light in Masonry, it requires each of us to be cognizant of our content and usage, and mindful of our obligations.

Whenever we post, tweet, upload, or share, from a Masonic standpoint, it is important not to cause disharmony. By taking a hard stand on political, social, or religious issues, you can antagonize others. Remember what is posted can be seen by Masons and non-Masons alike.

The next generation of Freemasons are not physically knocking on our door, or being brought in by family members. They are now in our virtual windows, and knocking on our electronic doors, utilizing social media. They research us on the Internet, on our Facebook page, or individual lodge pages, and, in some cases, our Grand Lodge.

Instead of the Grand Lodge policing the Internet regarding the content posted by its members, it expects them to act with the same reverence as if a man were physically knocking on the door. Giving the wrong impression can lead a man away from Freemasonry before he ever knocks.

“Be a Mason, act like a Gentleman”

One in particular drew more than 42,000 "reaches." A "reach" is the number of unique people who received impressions of a Page post. "Have you ever wondered where the phrases "on the level" or "getting the third degree" came from? The answer is the Freemasons. This Saturday, October 19 lodges across Connecticut will open their doors to the public, where you can learn more about the Masons and how their history helped shape our great nation! - http://openhouse.ctfreemasons.net"

Another post said, "Are you interested in becoming a Freemason? Visit your local Masonic Lodge on Oct 19 and learn more about the greatest fraternity in the world!!" reached 38,000.

Several visitors mentioned seeing and hearing both the social media ads and the radio ads. Over the five days of advertising 2,100 unique visitors viewed 6,200 pages on the Open House website. On the Grand Lodge site, 1,200 unique visitors viewed more than 4,300 website pages.

For next year, the mix of advertising may be tweaked again, instead of 20% social media and 80% radio ads as used this year, it might increase to 40/60 split. Data is still be reviewed by the committees.

So far, recommendations include:

1. Keeping and updating the website, having the lodges note their hours helped visitors.
2. Maintaining advertising, but possibly increase the social media part of the mix depending on traffic drivers to website.
3. Look into signs or banners that lodges can use/order if they need/want more signs/banners (some have lost their Open House banners).
4. Add to the suggestions for lodges to hold programs that would coincide with the Open House (i.e., history display/discussion, play reading, blood drives, etc...)
5. Sharing the videos on how to greet visitors, talk to visitors
6. Send out a second survey asking lodges what worked best for them this year, and what suggestions they have for the Open House program.

For next year, the mix of advertising may be tweaked again, instead of 20% social media and 80% radio ads as used this year, it might increase to 40/60 split. Data is still be reviewed by the committees.
Tips to Help You Avoid the “oohs” and “ouches” of Back Pain

Physical therapist Bonnie Platt of Masonicare’s Outpatient Rehabilitation Department offers the following advice to help us avoid pain and discomfort in the back. Back pain is certainly not a rare experience. Did you know that 60-80% of the population will experience low back pain at least once in their lifetimes? People all over the world complain of “oohs” and “ouches” brought on by the symptoms experienced from problems and injuries to the lower back. But what causes it? And what can we do to help avoid it?

The lower back is subject to a great deal of mechanical stress and strain, making lower back pain highly prevalent and at times, debilitating. Low back pain can be the result of herniated discs, muscle or ligament strains, spinal fractures, arthritis, scoliosis, or osteoporosis. Although these are all very common disorders, low back pain may develop even without a specific cause. What better way to avoid back pain symptoms than to try and prevent them from happening in the first place. Taking action by making the right choices can help.

Here are some suggestions:
1. Participate in physical exercise, without overdoing it, as often as possible.
2. Use proper body mechanics when bending, lifting, etc.
3. Think about your posture – remember to practice good posture at all times.
5. Make sure to get enough Vitamin D – it helps to keep our bones strong.

Use proper techniques when lifting objects to avoid hurting the back. It’s a common phrase, but it bears repeating -- “lift with the legs.” Squat to the ground and bring the item up with you, whether it weighs a lot or not. If it’s too heavy to lift properly, ask for assistance.

Unfortunately, something we can’t avoid that can lead to back pain is gravity. We don’t see or feel it, but it’s pushing down on us all the time. To remain upright and strong, your spine needs both the abdominal muscles to lift it and the back muscles to hold the spine in place so that gravity is pushing through the spine and not in other places. The back muscles along the spine are as important as the abdominal muscles in keeping your posture strong.

Are you frequently tired or achy, or bothered by nagging neck and back pain? A simple answer could be your posture. Approximately 60% of the population slouches, and most of that happens in the older population. Slouching is a problem that can cause pain and even reduce your energy level. Fatigue, faulty alignment, and poor posture can make you appear older and heavier, while a well-aligned body projects an energetic, self-confident image. Poor posture can lead to muscle fatigue. The extra stress poor posture puts on your muscles can leave you physically drained, which can make you feel tired.

Poor posture can even affect your breathing. Some experts have observed that slumping forward may leave less room for your lungs to fill with oxygen. When your lungs don’t expand and contract properly, you may not get enough oxygen to all of the tissues throughout your body. And that can sap your energy. If you have been experiencing low back pain or neck and shoulder pain, it may be time to seek medical advice. Catching early signs and symptoms now and working with a health care professional can definitely improve quality of life and decrease the level of disability you might experience in the future.

To learn about the helpful physical therapy services provided by Masonicare’s Outpatient Rehabilitation Department or to make an appointment, call 203-679-6909.

Bonnie Platt

The big day has finally arrived! On October 31, youngsters from the Masonicare Child Development Center on the Masonicare campus in Wallingford donned delightful costumes to celebrate one of their favorite holidays of the year – Halloween! The group, along with their teachers, made their way throughout the campus, bringing smiles galore to residents, patients and staff alike. Therapeutic recreation and Child Development Center staff plan a variety of intergenerational activities like this on a regular basis. The students always love spending time with their “grandmas and grandpas,” and these frequent get-togethers are a real day brightener for residents as well.
Letters to the Editor…

Response to “What We’ve Gained, and What We’ve Lost”

MW Brother Simon,

A pdf of the Last Word page 31 of the Connecticut Freemasons December 2013 issue has been sent to me.

In your “Last Word” statement, you solicited feedback by asking for input from interested Brothers who desire an opportunity to share some of my thoughts.

I am currently serving as Worshipful Master of Masonic Lodge No. 12, A.F. & A.M., and believe however these remarks are my own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the brothers of the lodge.

I find it somewhat ironic that you were surprised by “the usual case of writing down the names of the people on the ballot” and further, by my own actions and pronouncements called for just this to happen. You stated that your appointment to the Grand Lodge was understood that they would not necessarily progress or be reappointed. Are you now saying that your appointment to the Grand Senior Deacon chair was to be elected Gilford Junior Warden? Was it not your plan to establish a “pool of candidates” from which the voters of the Grand Lodge would elect the brother they choose? Were we expected to wait to jump into the pool until after you picked the Grand Junior Warden? I don’t it to be expected that a natural result of a pool as opposed to a progressive line would be some level of public opposition. The Blue Lodge Council meeting (the historic 3rd District held at Morning Star 47) prior to your installation you asserted that the Masonic freedom to structure did not have brothers qualified to serve as Grand Lodge Officers. Based on the majority of the remarks I read in your semi-annual session, I would recommend that the current GL Officers would do well to redirect their work before criticizing others.

You and those that support the changes were an explanation during open lodge to be a very powerful combination. If groups believe the Lodges & Regulations be posted in their entirety in print on the Grand Lodge website, this would provide a valuable searchable resource for all brothers and might avoid some of the confusion when changes are proposed. It should also have the added benefits of reducing printing costs. Please feel free to publish my remarks in an upcoming issue.

Fraternally,

Edward M. Houghton, Worshipful Master
King Hiram Lodge No.12, A.F.& A.M.

Letters to the Editor…

Response to “What We’ve Gained, and What We’ve Lost”

I myself disappointed and disturbed by the contents of RW Brother Simon’s editorial. I also would to address a couple of comments made by the Worshipful Master in his “Last Word” article. If I’m reading it correctly, RW Ken is basically saying that a handful of well respected brothers throughout the state played the part of the powerful actors and lead us to a certain action at the Semi-Annual. That role of us are either dumb or naive to see through this. That we automatically believed what they told us because they were brothers and we voted the way they wanted us to. I’m insulted to say the least. I will give the benefit of the doubt to brother Ken that he mis-spoke out of frustration and that he didn’t receive all of that negativity about his brothers.

To the Committee on Landmarks: The concept of resurrection, now under discussion by the committee, is both central and fundamental to our life and work as Masons. I have attached a copy of a paper presented to the Philosophic Lodge of Research in 2010 on the subject matter. The paper was accepted and is the basis on which I was advanced to Full Member of the PLR.

From my point of view, as given in the paper, it would be a mistake to substitute “transformation” for “resurrection.” I have two reasons for saying that.

1. Transformation is too vague a word to convey the meaning intended by the landmark. For example, a hardened criminal may become rehabilitated and then be described as someone who “transformed” his life. That is still (to use an appropriate metaphor) light-years away from being resurrected in the full Masonic sense.

2. Resurrection is a word that is not uniquely a Christian concept. While it is indeed central to Christianity, it was developed within the context of other religious concepts and terms for it from many religions and sacred traditions. To present the word as explained in the Connecticut Freemason article is to narrow the metaphorical understanding of Masons, not broaden it.

If Freemasonry is to be understood as a spiritual organization rather than a religious one, the emphasis “making good men better” should include the idea of spiritual transformation of people, but in the context of pointing to the culmination of the process, namely, attaining that state of being exemplified by the risen Jesus but not limited to him not to the Christian tradition. That makes Freemasonry inclusive, not exclusive, and universal, not parochial. That change is still (to use an appropriate word) a Christian concept, but it is not as given in the paper, it would be a mistake to substitute “transformation” for “resurrection.” I have two reasons for saying that.

1. Transformation is too vague a word to convey the meaning intended by the landmark. For example, a hardened criminal may become rehabilitated and then be described as someone who “transformed” his life. That is still (to use an appropriate metaphor) light-years away from being resurrected in the full Masonic sense.

2. Resurrection is a word that is not uniquely a Christian concept. While it is indeed central to Christianity, it was developed within the context of other religious concepts and terms for it from many religions and sacred traditions. To present the word as explained in the Connecticut Freemason article is to narrow the metaphorical understanding of Masons, not broaden it.

Furthermore, John White

Editor: The full text of Brother White’s article “Masons, Masons and Mysticism” can be found among the Philosophic Lodge of Research papers on the Masonic education website, http://foundation.cfreemasons.net/index.php/masonic-education.html

Log in is required and available to all Connecticut Freemasons.

For all things printed...

Complete Design, Print, and Mailing Services!

Banners, newsletters, cards, plaques, posters, bumper stickers, stickers, signs, stationery, envelopes, invitations, catalogs, promotions, letterhead, mailing services, and more!

860.585.3600 • 866.424.4408 • fax (860) 585.8518

Ask for Ken (203.494.4839)

visit us on the web at www.ollipress.com

Page 21

Connecticut Freemasons

December 2013

Page 20

Connecticut Freemasons

December 2013

Response to “Clarifying the Landmarks without Changing Them”

To the Committee on Landmarks,

The concept of resurrection, now under discussion by the committee, is both central and fundamental to our life and work as Masons. I have attached a copy of a paper presented to the Philosophic Lodge of Research in 2010 on the subject matter. The paper was accepted and is the basis on which I was advanced to Full Member of the PLR.

From my point of view, as given in the paper, it would be a mistake to substitute “transformation” for “resurrection.” I have two reasons for saying that.

1. Transformation is too vague a word to convey the meaning intended by the landmark. For example, a hardened criminal may become rehabilitated and then be described as someone who “transformed” his life. That is still (to use an appropriate metaphor) light-years away from being resurrected in the full Masonic sense.

2. Resurrection is a word that is not uniquely a Christian concept. While it is indeed central to Christianity, it was developed within the context of other religious concepts and terms for it from many religions and sacred traditions. To present the word as explained in the Connecticut Freemason article is to narrow the metaphorical understanding of Masons, not broaden it.

If Freemasonry is to be understood as a spiritual organization rather than a religious one, the emphasis “making good men better” should include the idea of spiritual transformation of people, but in the context of pointing to the culmination of the process, namely, attaining that state of being exemplified by the risen Jesus but not limited to him.

Response to “Clarifying the Landmarks without Changing Them”

To the Committee on Landmarks,

The concept of resurrection, now under discussion by the committee, is both central and fundamental to our life and work as Masons. I have attached a copy of a paper presented to the Philosophic Lodge of Research in 2010 on the subject matter. The paper was accepted and is the basis on which I was advanced to Full Member of the PLR.

From my point of view, as given in the paper, it would be a mistake to substitute “transformation” for “resurrection.” I have two reasons for saying that.

1. Transformation is too vague a word to convey the meaning intended by the landmark. For example, a hardened criminal may become rehabilitated and then be described as someone who “transformed” his life. That is still (to use an appropriate metaphor) light-years away from being resurrected in the full Masonic sense.

2. Resurrection is a word that is not uniquely a Christian concept. While it is indeed central to Christianity, it was developed within the context of other religious concepts and terms for it from many religions and sacred traditions. To present the word as explained in the Connecticut Freemason article is to narrow the metaphorical understanding of Masons, not broaden it.

If Freemasonry is to be understood as a spiritual organization rather than a religious one, the emphasis “making good men better” should include the idea of spiritual transformation of people, but in the context of pointing to the culmination of the process, namely, attaining that state of being exemplified by the risen Jesus but not limited to him.

For a very powerful combination. If groups believe the Lodges & Regulations be posted in their entirety in print on the Grand Lodge website, this would provide a valuable searchable resource for all brothers and might avoid some of the confusion when changes are proposed. It should also have the added benefits of reducing printing costs. Please feel free to publish my remarks in an upcoming issue.

Fraternally,

Edward M. Houghton, Worshipful Master
King Hiram Lodge No.12, A.F.& A.M.

response to “What We’ve Gained, and What We’ve Lost”

I find myself disappointed and disturbed by the contents of RW Brother Simon’s editorial. I also would to address a couple of comments made by the Worshipful Master in his “Last Word” article. If I’m reading it correctly, RW Ken is basically saying that a handful of well respected brothers throughout the state played the part of the powerful actors and lead us to a certain action at the Semi-Annual. That role of us are either dumb or naive to see through this. That we automatically believed what they told us because they were brothers and we voted the way they wanted us to. I’m insulted to say the least. I will give the benefit of the doubt to brother Ken that he mis-spoke out of frustration and that he didn’t receive all of that negativity about his brothers.

To the Committee on Landmarks:

The concept of resurrection, now under discussion by the committee, is both central and fundamental to our life and work as Masons. I have attached a copy of a paper presented to the Philosophic Lodge of Research in 2010 on the subject matter. The paper was accepted and is the basis on which I was advanced to Full Member of the PLR.

From my point of view, as given in the paper, it would be a mistake to substitute “transformation” for “resurrection.” I have two reasons for saying that.

1. Transformation is too vague a word to convey the meaning intended by the landmark. For example, a hardened criminal may become rehabilitated and then be described as someone who “transformed” his life. That is still (to use an appropriate metaphor) light-years away from being resurrected in the full Masonic sense.

2. Resurrection is a word that is not uniquely a Christian concept. While it is indeed central to Christianity, it was developed within the context of other religious concepts and terms for it from many religions and sacred traditions. To present the word as explained in the Connecticut Freemason article is to narrow the metaphorical understanding of Masons, not broaden it.

If Freemasonry is to be understood as a spiritual organization rather than a religious one, the emphasis “making good men better” should include the idea of spiritual transformation of people, but in the context of pointing to the culmination of the process, namely, attaining that state of being exemplified by the risen Jesus but not limited to him.
The Valley of New Haven Celebrates the Bicentennial of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction

by Michael L. Castroll

This year you have seen examples of the important and significant heritage of the Valley of New Haven to the allegiance to the Supreme Council of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. The history began with a forging of friendships between Illustrious Brother John J. J. Gourgas and Illustrious Brother Francis Turner, who entrusted themselves with their French heritage. It solidified the quest of Killian H. Van Rensselaer, whose first attempt 1867 rejuvenated the notion that Connecticut hold its original intentions, the Union of NMJ past her New York boundaries did not unseen proportions.

The Valley of New Haven met with some success in 1848, Connecticut would not find fertile ground for another ten years. The Elm City Council Princes of Jerusalem was named for her numerous elm trees, which lined the city's streets. Horatio Gates Bronson, an affiliate from the Valley of Hartford, was the charter Most Wise Master, and as Thrice Potent Master, as well. He was coroneted by the NMJ Supreme Council in 1867. He was called to the celestial lodge in 1909. In the same class of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General was MW Eli Sanford Quintard. A native of Norwalk, MW and Illustrious Quintard was a railroad clerk and a merchant. He was raised in Wooster Lodge No. 79, New Haven in 1856, where served as master in 1861. His talents were recognized; he served as Grand Master in 1865-66. He led our Grand Council as MPGM, and then became Ill. Grand Commander of Knights Templar. He spearheaded the creation of Trumbull Lodge in 1869. As many of his forebears in the Sanford family were the backbone of Hart's Lodge No. 22 which fell victim to the Morgan Affair, he suggested that No. 22 be awarded to the new lodge. In the Valley of New Haven, Illustrious Brother Quintard earned his stripes with his leadership as Thrice Potent Master (1886-88) and Most Wise Master (1894-1900).

III. Br. Quintard was succeeded by Ill. Br. David R. Alling (1901-04), a coal dealer. Atherton Barnes was sandwiched in between four past Grand Commanders, to wit: Lyman H. Johnson, Samuel J. Bryant, Albert W. Mattson, and Samuel H. Williams.

Elm City Council Princes of Jerusalem was kicked off by MW and Illustrious Frederick H. Waldron, a "four star general. Most of his successors had been doubling up in the other bodies comprising the Valley of New Haven. Among his successors was William W. Price (1895-1905). Charles E. Rounds helped to create the New Haven Masonic Temple Association.

After World War II, Harold D. Smith took the reigns from Amos G. Hewitt. Brother Hewitt will be remembered as having owned the safe & lock company. Brother Smith was followed by The Honorable John Q. Tilson, who represented New Haven for many years.

In this particular segment, there were changes at the top as well. Melvin Maynard Johnson succeeded Leon Abbott as Sovereign Grand Commander.

MW and Ill. Arthur M. Brown succeeded Ill.Charles M. Gerdenier who had been Deputy for twenty-years until his death in 1949. Ill. Carleton H. Stevens, of New Haven, became the Active; but, he, would be taken by death in 1943. Ill. Bro. Chauncey H. Clements was elevated from Active to Deputy and succeeded Arthur M. Brown, upon the latter's demise within a week following the annual session of the Connecticut Council of Deliberation in 1949. Ill. Irving Emerson Partridge's election as Active would signal a new era of further light.

In 1954, the first Meritorious Service Awards were presented memorializing Ill. Arthur M. Brown 33°. The first two recipients from the Valley of New Haven were Charles S. Gostaeb and Kenneth L. Smith. Their contributions had not involved their acting or ritual ability, nor were they heads of any bodies.

Ill. Partridge gave way to MW and Ill. William Campbell. At Supreme East, Sovereign Grand Commander George A. Newbury moved NMJ offices from Boston to Lexington, Massachusetts. Upon moving to Lexington, he provided for the creation of a museum and library.
**Silent Auction of Holiday Wreaths:**

Wreaths on Display from December 6 through December 20

The Annual Holiday Wreath Silent Auction will begin on Friday, December 6, at Masonicare at Newtown. The popular event features a silent auction of 21 unique, beautifully decorated holiday wreaths, designed and trimmed by Masonicare at Newtown employees. The wreaths will be displayed in the lobby of Masonicare at Newtown until Friday, December 20. Everyone from the Masonic family and the community is cordially invited to visit the lobby any day to view the wreaths and place a bid. Bids will be closed at 12:00 noon on December 20, when the highest bidders will be announced and winners can claim their wreath. Winners will be notified if they can’t be present on that date.

**Bro. Thomas Gutner Appointed to Connecticut Commission on Aging**

Masonicare is pleased to announce that Bro. Thomas Gutner has been appointed to serve a two-year term on the Connecticut Commission on Aging. A longtime member of Masonicare’s management team, he served as administrator for Masonicare’s Newtown campus for 28 years, administrator at Masonicare Health Center, and since 2012, has been assistant to the president and CEO. Bro. Tom is a member of Sequim-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington. The Commission on Aging, a non-partisan state agency of the Connecticut General Assembly, was established in 1953 to advocate on behalf of Connecticut’s senior population. The commission fills a unique role within state government by providing objective information and counsel on issues affecting older adults and persons with disabilities to the legislative and executive branches of state government, local government, the business community, organizations serving older citizens and numerous statewide public/private sector coalitions. Connecticut’s home to one million “Baby Boomers” – people born between 1946-1964 - or roughly one third of its population. By 2030, Connecticut’s older adult population is expected to increase by 64%.

Bro. Tom began his career in the field of aging services in Washington, D.C. as a legislative assistant with the American Association of Homes for the Aging. He is now LeadingAge CT. He previously served as board chair and member of the Connecticut Assisted Living Association and on the Connecticut Task Force to Study Aging in Place.

Bro. Tom earned his Bachelor of Arts Humanistic Studies from Johns Hopkins University and his Master’s degree in public administration from George Washington University. He and his wife, Brenda, are residents of West Hartford. Stephen R. McPherson, president and CEO of Masonicare, praised his appointment. “Tom brings many years of valuable experience and a wealth of knowledge to the Commission on Aging. His service to Masonicare has been exemplary for more than 30 years, and I know he’ll be an excellent contributor to the work of the commission.”

Masonicare Health Center Celebrates Its Veterans

On Monday, November 11, a moving Veteran’s Day event was held at Masonicare Health Center to recognize the many residents who are veterans and sacrificed so much for our country. The program was coordinated by Marie Lakota of the Health Center’s recreation department, with Masonicare Health Center employees Katie Keough singing patriotic songs and Betty Fine accompanying her on the piano. Past Grand Master Bill Greene worked with Marie, and they were assisted by Brothers Gary Eppler, James Vander Eyk and Col. John Lawlor, Health Center residents and veteran Tom Lawlor; and State Representative and volunteer Alfred Adinolfi.

The various presenters explored the history of the “stars and stripes” and used world maps as visuals to discuss the various wars. Individual residents were invited to share their personal stories about their own wartime experiences. As everyone who attended agreed, it was a very special afternoon from start to finish and one that will be remembered. At the MHC Veteran’s Day program were, from left, Brother and Colonel John Lawlor, State Representative Al Adinolfi, Health Center Resident and veteran Tom Lawlor, and Brothers James Vander Eyk, Richard Eppler, Gary Post and Bill Greene.
The 2013 Autumn Gathering at the Masonicare Health Center was moved to a Friday evening this year, November 8. A similar yearly event, the Winter Gathering is similarly held on a Friday night in March at Masonicare of Newtown.

This was a good time to show off the recently renovated chapel, made possible by gifts to the Annual Appeal of The Masonic Charity Foundation. The space is now brighter, more versatile, and provides easier access for residents and visitors.

A ribbon cutting by Ms. Bonnie McWain, chairperson of the Quality of Life Committee, allowed the doors to open, and the guests of the Autumn Gathering to see the new floors, lighting and paint.

Because so many of the residents utilize wheel chairs, the old pews were limiting in allowing relatives to sit with residents. The new space created by the removal of the pews provides more room for chairs so the chapel can serve more patients and residents.

The pulpit is also on ground level letting residents participate in the spiritual services. A handsome, new lectern, handmade by Masonicare employee Jack Abascal, was an object of admiration. Melinda Schoen, vice-president, administration Masonicare Health Center, presented Mr. Abascal with a certificate of appreciation.

The new chapel duly dedicated and admired, the crowd then adjourned to the auditorium for refreshments. The pumpkin bisque, sliced pork, and assorted cheeses were all hits with the crowd. Friends got reacquainted, and new friends were made. Tours of the health center were given and questions asked and answered.

Bro. Carl Anderson, vice president for mission effectiveness, introduced Bro. Steve McPherson, president and CEO of Masonicare, who welcomed everyone and then introduced Ms. Schoen for comments.

Bro. Anderson then called on the military veterans present to advance to the front and receive thanks for their service. Fifteen men came forward, including one who received a Purple Heart citation during the waning days of World War II. All the armed services were represented.

Bro. Anderson called on Grand Master LaPlace to present an American flag pin to each. After final comments by MW LaPlace, and one final bite of everyone’s favorite treat, the guests dispersed into the night, remembering the new chapel and the Veterans Day to come the following Monday.
Report by the Committee on Archives

Grand Lodge Library

1. Work to establish a library that is neat, presentable, and a focus of interest to visitors. This has been achieved and it is open one Saturday a month. We don’t have the volunteers to keep it open longer hours or more weekends, but are looking into expanding the times.
2. Continue to maintain a ‘check out’ procedure for borrowing materials which can be administered by the Grand Lodge office staff when no committee members are present. This consists of a catalog posted and published in Mark format at http://opac.libraryworld.com/opac/home for easy browsing of collection titles. Keeping the current check-out system, xerox borrower’s license and book, add date and contact info, call after three months if not returned.
3. Reduce duplication of library holdings to improve availability of shelf space.
   • $325 worth of donations received for books the Semi-Annual Grand Lodge Communication
   • $192 worth of donations received for books at the Kirk White Lecture
   • $300 worth of donations received for books at Grand Masters Day
4. Identify and mark or segregate those items which may not be removed from the Library/Museum. This currently consists of any book not for sale on Amazon.com or over 50 years old.
5. Continue inventory and cataloging of the holdings of the Library and Museum in a computer database. Debbi continues to catalog Museum items.
6. Prepare purchase lists for new materials for approval by the Grand Master.
7. Continue efforts to rebind older books.
   • A Sublime Brotherhood: Two Hundred Years of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, by Richard Burgess, Jeffrey Croteau, Alan Foulds, Aimee Newell, Jerry A. Beach and Catherine Swanson
   • Founding Fathers, Secret Societies: Freemasons, Illuminati, Rosarians, and Deciding the Great Seal, by Robert Hieronimus, Ph.D.
   • The Magna of Freemasonry: The Mysterious Life of Elias Ashmole—Scientist, Alchemist, and Founder of the Royal Society, by Tobias Churton
   • Secret History of Freemasonry, by Paul Naudon
   • Secret Societies: Illuminati, Freemasons, and the French Revolution, by Ulla Birch
   • Shadow of Solomon, The: The Lost Secrets of the Freemasons Revealed, by Laurence Gardner
   • The Temple of Solomon: From Ancient Israel to Secret Societies, by James Wasserman
   • The Secrets of Masonic Washington: A Guidebook to Signs, Symbols, and Ceremonies at the Origin of America’s Capital, by James Wasserman
   • The Enigma of the Freemasons: Their History and Mystical Connections, by Tim Wallace-Murphy
   • Secrets of the Freemasons, by Michael Bradley
   • The Following new volumes were donated by MW Simon R. LaPlace:
     • Observing the Craft, by Andrew Hammer
     • The Secret Psychology of Freemasonry, by Cliff Porter

   • A Traditional Observance Lodge, by Cliff Porter
   • Better Angels of Our Nature, by Michael Halloran
   • Solomon’s Builders, by Chris Hodapp
   • Masonic Librarian’s Cataloging Manual, by Brian Rountree

Museums

1. There be an establish a five year rotation for the display of Museum holdings. Unfortunately, the best items in care of the Museum are scattered in displays about Masonicare, nor is there really any space beyond the shelves above the drawers for display. We have been considering putting together a traveling rotation that can be presented to various lodges.
2. The committee will prepare promotional or informational materials for distribution to the Craft via the Connecticut Freemasons publication or other mailings from the Grand Lodge office. We continue to work on this.
3. Bro. Jonathan Beatty of Columbia Lodge No. 25, South Glastonbury, and Philosphic Lodge of Research, Cromwell, has prepared a presentation on preserving Masonic Treasures that he will present to any lodge interested in the topic.
4. In process: photographic archival of historic items.
5. Continue to foster our relationships with the Connecticut Historical Society and various museums including Yale Peabody, and the Wadsworth Atheneum.

Web Resources

1. We continue our efforts at preserving and making available the research papers of both the Masonic Lodge of Research and the Philosopher Lodge of Research to the Master Masons of Connecticut via the Grand Lodge’s secure website.
2. Established a Grand Lodge Archive Committee Facebook page to share news about the Archive Committee, outline historical dates and events, and post photographs of some of museum holdings.

Monuments and Memorials

1. Continue to aide area lodges in holding memorial services for historic Masons.
2. Attempted to organize a visit to the Yale Peabody Museum. Withdrawed official Archive Committee support for the event upon request of the Grand Master after the event had become too large. The event was instead sponsored by an independent organization of brothers from various lodges.

Follow-up

1. Minutes of committee meetings distributed to members via emailed.
2. New updated goals and objectives are distributed to committee members via email.
3. News and information shared via the Grand Lodge Archive Committee Facebook page.

Special Thanks

1. Special thanks must be given to WB John Forlenza-Bailey of Wyllys-St. John’s Lodge No. 4, West Hartford, and the Philosopher Lodge of Research, Cromwell WB John helped out the Archive Committee at several of the book sales.
2. Special thanks must be given to Grand Lodge secretary Deborah Laplace. Without Debbi our jobs would be much more difficult. We are fortunate to have her.
The Gallery Restaurant in South Glastonbury was the scene of the annual York Rite Testimonial dinner honoring the three heads of the York Rite bodies; Grand High Priest David Ahbranets of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons; Most Puissant Grand Master Chuck McColllum of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters; and Right Eminent Grand Commander Stuart Drust, of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar.

The James Royal Case Award is awarded annually by the York Rite Coordinating Committee to recognize outstanding service to Masonry and to the York Rite in particular. This year the recipient was Bro. Richard E. “Digger” Odell.

Digger was raised on December 5, 1992 in Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, and served as Worshipful Master in 1999. He raised three of his sons in Union Lodge No. 5.

He became a member of the Bridgport Valley of the Scottish Rite in 1993. In 1995 he also joined the Pyramid Shrine Temple No. 9, and became a member of the Pyramid Motor Patrol. Digger is still active with them. He has also received the Royal Jewel of Honor. In 2000, Digger received the various degrees of the York Rite in Rittenhouse Chapter No. 11, Washington Council No. 6, and Stamford Clinton Commandery (Now Trinity Commandery No. 3). Digger is also a member of the Avebury Chapter of DeMoyal.

He received the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouters Award in 2002, and is a member of the Masonic Scouters Association. In 2013, he was inducted into the York Rite College No. 17. In April 2013, Richard was appointed Associate Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

Digger also has been associated with the Boy Scouts of America for more than fifty years. He served the Alfred W. Dater Council (later Fairfield County Council) as commissioner, and was a member of the Council Executive Board representing Training. He received the Wood Badge Recognition in 1967, and was later Wood Badge Course Director.

His many Scoutings include the Arrowhead Award, Scouters Award, the Scouters Key, the Key Three Award, District Award of Merit. The Vigil Honor of the Order of Arrow, Council Satanite, and the Silver Beaver. Stuart Drust was raised a Master Mason in America St. Johns No. 8, Stratford, in 1994. Stuart was appointed to the Grand Commandery line by Sir Knight Edward Ham who also selected him for the position of Grand Inspector.

He refined the inspection form for each Commandery to use for their improvement. For his efforts to Templary in Connecticut, Stuart was awarded the Knight Commander of the Temple in 2012.


In the Grand Lodge, he served as Associate Grand Marshal from 1995-1997. He was appointed Right Worshipful District Deputy in 2013.

Companion Chuck was exalted in Washington Chapter No. 24, Norwalk, in 1995, and affiliated with Eureka Chapter No. 23, serving as High Priest in 1999, 2000 and 2004. He is a dual member of Rittenhouse Chapter No. 11.

Chuck was installed as the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Connecticut in 2005. Companion Chuck was greeted in Wooster Council No. 28, Danbury in 1996, serving as the Thrice Illustrious Master from 2001 through 2004, and again in 2009. He received the Order of the Silver Trowel in 2002 and the Knight of Ish Sodi award in 2006. Chuck was appointed to the Grand Council line in 2007.

Sir Knight Chuck was knighted in Clinton Commandery No. 3, Norwalk, in 1997, and affiliated with Crusader Commandery No. 10, Danbury, serving as Eminent Commander from 2001 to 2007. He affiliated with Stamford-Centerville, Massachusetts, and affiliated with Washington Lodge No. 70, Windsor, in 2001, serving as Worshipful Master for 2007.

Companion David was exalted in 2002 in Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, serving as High Priest in 2005 and 2006. In 2008, he was awarded the Ephraim Kirby Award. Companion David was greeted in 2003 in Wolcott Council No. 1. He served as Thrice Illustrious Master in 2005, received the Order of the Silver Trowel in 2006, and in June 2007 was created a Knight of Ish Sodi.

Sir Knight David was knighted in Washington Commandery No. 1, serving as Eminent Commander in 2008. In 2010, he was elected to the Connecticut York Rite College No. 17.

In 2008, David was appointed Grand Master of the First Veil. He was installed in 2013 as Most Excellent Grand High Priest.
Connecticut York Rite Opportunities

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

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

Tuesday, December 3, (MP)(F) Harmony Council No. 8, New Haven

Thursday, December 5-6, (ME)(F) Grand Holy Royal Arch of Pennsylvania

Sunday, December 8, (MP)(RE)(U) Cyrene Commandery No. 8/St. Elmo Commandery No. 9, Meriden, joint Christmas observance, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 10, (ME)(F) Wolcott Council No. 1, East Hartford

Wednesday, December 11, (ME)(F) Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, East Hartford, Royal Arch Mason degree

Wednesday, December 11, (MP)(F) Crawford Council No. 19, Branford

Thursday, December 12, (MP)(F) Rittenhouse Chapter No. 11 and Washington Council No. 6, Darien

Friday, December 13, (RE) New Haven Commandery No. 2, annual Christmas service, Masonicare Health Center auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 14, (MP)(RE)(U) Trinity Commandery No. 3, Darien, Christmas observance, 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 15, (MP)(RE)(U) Hamilton Commandery No. 5, Stratford, Christmas observance, 3:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. dinner

Monday, December 16, (ME)(MP)(F) Milford Chapter No. 49, Milford, annual Christmas dinner and carol sing, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17, (ME)(MP)(RE)(U) Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford, joint York Rite Christmas observance, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Wednesday, December 18, (MP)(F) Suffield Council No. 23, Suffield

Friday, December 20, (MP)(RE)(U) New Haven Commandery No. 2, New Haven, Christmas observance, 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25, (ME)(MP)(RE) Merry Christmas!

Thursday, December 26, (MP)(U) Trinity Commandery No. 3, Darien

COMING UP:

January 1, Happy New Year!

January 14, Wolcott Council No. 1, East Hartford, Royal Master and Select Master degree, inspection

January 21, Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford, Order of Red Cross

FROM THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST

Companions, as we approach this holiday season, we need to remember not only those in our families, but those in our Masonic family. Those brothers, companions and Sir Knights that are not able to get out and come to lodge, chapter, council and commandery. Also, we must not forget the widows of our brethren who have entered into the lodge above. During month of December, I ask that each of us take the time to remember all of our brothers both living and passed, and the widows. Say a prayer, send a card, make a phone call or pay a visit. I will be making a couple of visits to the Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford this December, and hope that each of you can find the time to also visit.

My Lady Julie and I wish each and every companion in Connecticut and their families a safe and wonderful holiday, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

David C. Abrames

FROM THE MOST PUSSUANT GRAND MASTER

Companions, as we enter the busy holiday season as well as the year-end activities in our lodges, I ask that each of you take care of yourselves and your companions. It is so easy to get swept up in the hustle and bustle of the time and forget to just be good to each other.

I hope that each council is working with the Grand Council officer assigned to them to schedule their inspections. Remember that each council must portray the Select Master degree for inspection. If you need assistance with parts for either of the two degrees, remember to ask for help. You can contact the Grand Council officer assigned to you or MP Richard Eppler who is the contact person for the York Rite College.

We have begun planning the Tri-State festival for this spring and look forward to hosting our companions from Massachusetts and New York. We may even have companions from New Jersey come up. This will be the only time this year that Connecticut Council of Super Excellent Masters portrays the Super Excellent Master degree. I encourage all Select Masters who have not seen this degree to come out and see it.

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
Monday, December 2, St. John’s No. 2, Middletown, annual meeting, election of officers
Monday, December 2, Two-Ty St. John’s No. 4, West Hartford, annual meeting, election of officers
Tuesday, December 3, Union No. 5, Stamford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting, election of officers
Wednesday, December 4, Union No. 5, Stamford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting, election of officers
Wednesday, December 4, King Solomon’s No. 7, Woodbury, annual meeting, election of officers
Thursday, December 5, Jeptha No. 95, Clinton, annual meeting, election of officers
Friday, December 6, Washington No. 19, Manchester, dinner at the break
Saturday, December 7, Continental No. 76, Waterbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner, joint degree with Shepshed-Salem No. 78
Tuesday, December 10, Day Spring No. 30, Hamden, 7:00 p.m. bingo for everyone
Tuesday, December 10, Harmony No. 42, Waterbury, 6:30 p.m. dinner, holiday celebration
Tuesday, December 10, Manchester No. 71, Manchester, annual meeting, election of officers
Tuesday, December 10, Shepherd - Salem No. 119, Haddam, annual meeting, election of officers
Wednesday, December 11, Ashtabula-Aspen No. 13, Manchester, 7:00 p.m., installation
Wednesday, December 11, Josiah Aspinwall No. 9, Norwich, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting, election of officers
Thursday, December 12, Hiram No. 1, New Milford, dinner, installation
Thursday, December 12, New Milford No. 101, Torrington, 7:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting, election of officers
Thursday, December 12, Fairfield No. 14, Groton, annual meeting, election of officers
Friday, December 13, Washington No. 19, Manchester, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting, election of officers
Friday, December 13, Shepherd - Salem No. 73, Haddam, annual meeting, election of officers
Saturday, December 14, Urbil No. 24, Merrow, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting, election of officers
Saturday, December 14, Harmony No. 42, Waterbury, 4:30 p.m. dinner, installation
Saturday, December 14, Brainard No. 102, Niantic, 6:30 p.m. Christmas party
Thursday, December 19, condominium of Research No. 401, New Haven, annual meeting, election of officers
Thursday, December 19, Friendship No. 49, Ridgefield, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting, election of officers
Saturday, December 21, Josiah Aspinwall No. 9, Norwich, 6:30 p.m. dinner, joint degree with Shepherd-Salem No. 78
Tuesday, December 3, Estuary No. 43, Milford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting, election of officers
Tuesday, December 3, Annawon No. 115, West Haven, 6:30 p.m. - holiday party
Saturday, December 14, Witch No. 146, New Britain, 7:00 p.m., Christmas party at Whiststone Tavern at Stanley golf course
Sunday, December 15, Hiram No. 18, Sanger, 3:00 p.m., installation
Sunday, December 15, Washington No. 19, Manchester, 6:30 p.m. country breakfast
Sunday, December 15, Friendship No. 53, Southington, 7:30 a.m. pancake breakfast
Sunday, December 15, Manchester No. 73, Manchester, 2:00 p.m., installation
Sunday, December 15, Annawon No. 89, Milford, 6:00 p.m. Christmas party
Friday, December 20, Philosophy of Rites of Research No. 400, Cromwell, 6:15 p.m. dinner, annual meeting, election of officers
Saturday, December 21, Shepherd - Salem No. 78, Naugatuck, 9:00 A.M. BIFT, breakfast with Santa
Sunday, December 22, Friendship No. 33, Southbury, 7:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting, election of officers
Saturday, December 29, Friendship No. 33, Southbury, 7:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting, election of officers
Wednesday, December 18, King Solomon’s No. 7, Woodbury, move up night
Wednesday, December 18, Ennui No. 43, Old Saybrook, annual meeting, election of officers
Thursday, December 19, Fidelity-St. John’s No. 3, Fairfield, 6:30 p.m. dinner, installation
Thursday, December 19, Temple No. 16, Cheshire, 6:30 p.m. dinner, newly elected officers take new chairs
Thursday, December 19, Composite No. 58, Suffield, 6:15 p.m. dinner step-up night
Friday, December 20, Warren No. 51, Portland, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Actual Past Masters degree
Friday, December 20, Ansantawae No. 89, Middletown, 7:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting, election of officers
Saturday, December 21, Shepherd - Salem No. 78, Naugatuck, 9:00 A.M. BIFT, breakfast with Santa
Thursday, December 26, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, annual meeting, election of officers
Saturday, December 28, Friendship No. 33, Southbury, 7:00 p.m. dinner, installation
Wednesday, December 18, King Solomon’s No. 7, Woodbury, move up night
Wednesday, December 18, Ennui No. 43, Old Saybrook, annual meeting, election of officers
Thursday, December 19, Fidelity-St. John’s No. 3, Fairfield, 6:30 p.m. dinner, installation
Thursday, December 19, Temple No. 16, Cheshire, 6:30 p.m. dinner, newly elected officers take new chairs
Thursday, December 19, Composite No. 58, Suffield, 6:15 p.m. dinner step-up night
Friday, December 20, Warren No. 51, Portland, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Actual Past Masters degree
Friday, December 20, Ansantawae No. 89, Middletown, 7:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting, election of officers
Saturday, December 21, Shepherd - Salem No. 78, Naugatuck, 9:00 A.M. BIFT, breakfast with Santa
Thursday, December 26, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, annual meeting, election of officers
Saturday, December 28, Friendship No. 33, Southbury, 7:00 p.m. dinner, installation
Wednesday, December 18, King Solomon’s No. 7, Woodbury, move up night
Wednesday, December 18, Ennui No. 43, Old Saybrook, annual meeting, election of officers
Thursday, December 19, Fidelity-St. John’s No. 3, Fairfield, 6:30 p.m. dinner, installation
Thursday, December 19, Temple No. 16, Cheshire, 6:30 p.m. dinner, newly elected officers take new chairs
Thursday, December 19, Composite No. 58, Suffield, 6:15 p.m. dinner step-up night
Friday, December 20, Warren No. 51, Portland, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Actual Past Masters degree
Friday, December 20, Ansantawae No. 89, Middletown, 7:30 p.m. dinner, annual meeting, election of officers
Saturday, December 21, Shepherd - Salem No. 78, Naugatuck, 9:00 A.M. BIFT, breakfast with Santa
Thursday, December 26, Washington No. 81, Cromwell, annual meeting, election of officers
Saturday, December 28, Friendship No. 33, Southbury, 7:00 p.m. dinner, installation
Wednesday, December 18, King Solomon’s No. 7, Woodbury, move up night
Wednesday, December 18, Ennui No. 43, Old Saybrook, annual meeting, election of officers
Thursday, December 19, Fidelity-St. John’s No. 3, Fairfield, 6:30 p.m. dinner, installation
Thursday, December 19, Temple No. 16, Cheshire, 6:30 p.m. dinner, newly elected officers take new chairs
Those names in bold are new or renewing.

Booster Thank you for contributing more than $25:
John R. Bogan
John F. Mandy
John H. Nomikos
John W. Johnson
John R. Sherry
Joseph P. Volaille
Kenneth M. DeJong
Lansford S. Elmer
Laurel P. Fogg
Leroy J. Suggs, Jr.
Leroy W. Flegall
Lester A. Galves, Jr.
Lester W. Pennell
Louden W. Clark
Lowell H. Carter
Ludwig E. Hudson
Lyle J. Eberly
Micheal E. Filling
Michael T. Shear
Michael E. Filling
Michael T. Shear
Merrill E. Moore
Richard R. Armstrong
Robert J. Cole
Robert W. Adams
Robert W. Adams
Robert W. Adams
Robert H. Bogart
Robert G. Sagan
Robert T. Kinscherf
Robert T. Kinscherf
Robert F. Pollet, Jr.
Rudolph Campion
Scott A. Manta
Shane Duffler
Sharon M. Peterson
Stanley D. Bux, Jr.
Steven C. Allie
Thomas E. Cooney
Thomas Krosnoff
Thomas A. Tursic
Thomas W. Welsh
Warren W. Thompson
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
William J. Dickey, Jr.
December 2013 Connecticut Freemasons Page 31

The Last Word…

“I don’t think I’ve ever met a Grand Master’s wife before,” a guest at a recent function told me. He was speaking about my wife, amazed that she would go to an event many other wives might forgo.

Yes, it’s true. My shy and retiring wife, Debbi, has put her adventurous spirit to good use, accompanying me almost everywhere she can go. She designed a pin she could offer to other Masonic wives, an ice breaker to put herself forward and introduce herself to strangers. The response she receives is proof to her that others are thankful to have their “ice” broken through, too.

How she arrived to work at the Grand Lodge office is typical of the type of caring woman she is. When Joanne Shaw, the secretary in the Grand Lodge office, died suddenly in December 2008, I received a call informing me of her passing. I remarked to Debbi that it must be difficult for Marje to be working alone that day, without Joanne.

Debbi thought she should go to Wallingford and, at least, take Marje out to lunch. She had come to know both Marje and Joanne from the volunteer work she had done, getting books out of boxes in the weeks before the opening of the new Grand Lodge office. That, and the regular trips I was making to Wallingford while going through the offices as a Grand Lodge officer.

When she came back later that day, she said she had stayed and helped get out the Grand Lodge Christmas cards. There were more to send out and, it being a busy season at the office, she was going back the next day. One day led to another, then another, and there was still more to do and time to spend for her in Wallingford.

She didn’t mind the daily forty mile drive each way, but really enjoyed the company of Marje, Bob Fitzgerald, and Russ McClellan. After a month of volunteering, she was offered a temporary part-time job, and she started cataloging and organizing the Grand Lodge library.

When the library was packed before the demolishing of the old office building, DEmolay boys were enlisted to get the books off the shelves and into boxes. That’s just what they did, pack the books, without any time to do it in any order. Consequently, when the books came out of the boxes, there was no order to them. It was tough enough just to get the books on the shelves, and beat the deadline of the official ribbon cutting.

So she painstakingly went through all the books, listed them, put the duplicates in boxes, and reviewed the cataloging systems used by other Masonic libraries around the country. It was a slow methodical process, but she finally finished.

Through working with the books and artifacts, and asking me a lot of questions, she learned a lot about Freemasonry. pretty soon I was asking her questions, and she would always share stories of what she had found and the significance of it all.

This fit in very nicely with my travels, and her inquisitiveness as we visited Masonic halls across the state together. When I went out weekends to photograph Connecticut’s Masonic buildings, she would go with me. She would come home from work and speak about some nice brother who had come into the office. She learned what Masonry is all about, and what I see in it.

She has visited many other jurisdictions and seen women who can make everyone feel welcome and comfortable. She’s been among those who are hesitant to step forward in a crowd of strangers. But she’s learned, especially as my wife, to do something about it.

She doesn’t ask me if there will be any women at an event we’re going to. She’ll ask who will be there. One time, she famously said, “There are only 26 Masons in the state,” because she felt she saw the same ones everywhere. She has since met many more.

Muff Fowler, the wife of 2006 Grand Master Chuck Fowler, had a reputation of being able to greet everyone in a room, remember their name, and make them feel at home, wherever they were. More than one Grand Master’s wife has since proclaimed, “I’m no Muff Fowler.” Debbi is no exception, but has put herself out to be as accommodating as she can be.

Now she will go up to any women at a Masonic event and say, “Hi, I’m Debbi LaPlace, the Grand Master’s wife, and I would like to give you my pin.” When she enters a lodge room, I will escort her to a seat. When she stands to leave, I will escort her to the door. I owe her all the courtesy and respect she rightfully deserves. She is my partner, my confidant, and my best friend.

The forty years we have celebrated together this year is special for both of us. She doesn’t mind sharing my time with the fraternity. She may not have fully realized the permission she gave me nine years ago to go through this fantastic experience. She may not have realized how involved she would be in it with me, but I don’t think she would trade it for the world.

So if your wife has a chance to wear some Masonic bling, a small magnetic pin of a mountain laurel blossom, it would make Debbi and me very happy. It means you or the special woman in your life has a chance to share in our year. We hope it makes your year special, too.

Both Debbi and I wish you all the happiness life has to offer in the coming year. May the joy of the holidays brighten your days, and peace and good health be with you always.

Fraternally,

Simon R. LaPlace
Most Worshipful Grand Master

Most Worshipful Grand Master

Fraternally,

Simon R. LaPlace
Most Worshipful Grand Master
Best wishes for a joyful holiday season from the Masonicare family.

The Masonicare HelpLine
1-888-679-9997
An information and referral resource for seniors and their families.

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

For example, we might:
- Refer callers to an appropriate assessment program when they express concern that a loved one’s memory loss has become an issue
- Offer suggestions that can help a family find a solution when they’re worried about the safety of a loved one living alone
- Explore the various retirement living options available for seniors in Connecticut

The Masonicare HelpLine is a vital resource that provides guidance and support to individuals, families and caregivers who need direction and don’t know where to turn for help.

Remember — The Masonicare HelpLine is here for you.

www.masonicare.org