Bro. JP Venoit
A Mason at Masonicare

RW Bruce Bellmore Receives Pierpont Edwards Meda

Grand Lodge of Connecticut Has a Birthday

Layfayette Consistory News
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**Grand Lodge of Connecticut, AF & AM**

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e-mail: grandlodge@masonicare.org • www.ctfreemasons.net

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**GRAND MASTER’S TRESTLE BOARD**

Simon R. LaPlace - September 2014

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Bro. Jon-Paul Venoit... Our Brother at Masonicare

Jon-Paul Venoit, who everyone knows as JP, has always been around Masonicare. Since beginning work at Masonicare in 1990, he’s been involved in every aspect of the organization.

He became a Mason when he wanted to, not because it looked good with the job, or the job required him to be a Mason.

Brother JP was raised at Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, in late 2000 and kept his first two degrees secret. Past Grand Master Gail N. Smith convinced him to join, and JP did, “I never wanted to become a Mason because of work. I wanted to become a Mason because it was the right thing to do. It fulfilled my mission and my values.” Bros. Jim Clifford and Al Wilson were the two who said, “Join the lodge. Here’s what Masonry is all about.” JP says, “They talked a lot about brotherly love, taking care of one another; that you never know who is a Mason until you’re in need.”

Masonicare’s then President Barry Spero was “livid” when he found out JP was going to take his third degree and it had been kept from him. JP has also affiliated with Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, New Haven, and Ashlar Lodge No. 332, Wallingford. He served Compass Lodge No. 9 as Worshipful Master in 2005.

He’s known Masonicare, on some level, all his life. “I used to skate on the pond, so I knew Masonic for two things; they kicked us off and wouldn’t let us skate anymore, and it was a hospital. But they had a kitchen where I could wait on tables and still play football, baseball, and basketball.” While working at Masonicare he met his wife, Chris.

JP’s home is still close to the Wallingford campus and he’s become part of the community, too. He’s secretary of the Wallingford Planning and Zoning Commission, chairman of the Wallingford Education Foundation, and his two boys are active in the local school and sports.

After graduating from the University of Hartford with a B.S. in Finance, JP came back to food service at Masonicare, then moved to marketing, then housekeeping, and finally administration as a manager. “I actually did leave for three months. It was a bigger better, higher paying job, best thing; it was the worst job I ever took. Nobody talked to each other; it was all about the business. I was walking down the stairs and the CEO was coming up. I said ‘Hi, how’re you doing?’ and he looked at me, then looked down and kept walking. I got to the landing and said, ‘I’m done.’ This culture, this mission doesn’t fit with who I am.”

He came back to Masonicare as manager of special projects. He oversaw accreditation, then housekeeping and maintenance, then food service and finally became assistant administrator of Ashlar Village. In 2001, he became the president of Ashlar Village. In 2004, he took on oversight of a multi-year, multi-million dollar expansion of the Ashlar Village community that included the new dining room and Hartog Activities Center.

JP was promoted in 2012 to the position of senior vice president of residential living and community-based services, with responsibility for all of Masonicare’s retirement communities, home care services, technology, corporate learning, and human resources.

What does he see as Chief Operating Officer of Masonicare? “We have so many talented individuals, the best part is I get to learn from them. Every single one of our staff has something to bring to the table, and the day you say you haven’t learned from anybody is the day you shouldn’t work for the organization.”

Masonicare President and CEO Steve McPherson adds, “I’ve worked with JP for fourteen years. He never disappoints. His energy and commitment to Masonicare are unsurpassed. JP’s boundless enthusiasm is infectious. He is the most trustworthy person I’ve had the pleasure of working with. Some people say they have your back, JP doesn’t have to say it for you to know it. His actions speak volumes. His concern for others is obvious. Walking the halls or visiting a home care branch, JP is a breath of fresh air.”

Jon-Paul was recent chairman of the Connecticut Assisted Living Association and a past recipient of its Distinguished Service Award. His citation read, “His leadership style fosters an environment of respect, independence and dignity. His ‘yes we can’ attitude has resulted in many successes.”

JP is a graduate of Leading Age’s national leadership in the senior care industry program and also has his aging services license through the University of Texas. The New Haven Business Times named him one of the “forty under forty” for his professional success and community involvement.

He is a member of the Board of Governors at Midstate Medical Center in Meriden. In 2008 he was installed as the chairman of the Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce, the largest “non-metropolitan” chamber in Connecticut.

He knows the challenges coming in the future. “The state is looking at reducing the number of beds utilizing skilled nursing by twenty to thirty percent. That’s a lot of beds. The Affordable Care Act impacts how you’re delivering the service, who’s delivering that service, how you provide that service in a cost effective manner without readmitting into the hospital. We’re postured great because we have all those pieces. What we have to work on is having all those pieces work better together.”

His view of Masonicare’s future is insightful. “If you go back ten years and look at what we’ve done, it’s amazing. I can only imagine the next ten years are going to be just as amazing. Look at Masonicare, how it’s grown, how it’s changed, and how what was only an option has now become a standard. Ten years from now there are going to be so many things we can do to keep people in their home, safe, secure, and healthy, that we can’t do today.

“...But in ten years, how do we address the social aspects of isolation? We’re doing everything for people to stay home except for that one component.

“One of the things I love about this organization is that, of my friends’ my age, I’m the only one who gets a history education on a regular basis. Guys are here who have gone through World War II, Korea, been involved in the invention of the first computer; they’ve lived it, and they love to talk about it. How do you do that when they’re home?”

JP’s experience with special projects, his oversight of the expansion of Ashlar Village, and his background in financing and marketing, puts him in the best position to oversee Masonicare’s expansion into Mystic, Oxford, and Mansfield in the coming years.
This summer we have witnessed great strife in the world. The fighting and numerous deaths caused by the conflicts in Gaza and Syria, the Ebola outbreak in Africa, and rioting in Missouri are just a few of the sad and awful stories we have heard every day. The media, depending on the source, blames one side or the other and most “news reports” from all sources tend to be more commentary than fact. One thing is certain regardless of who is doing the reporting; the need to attach blame.

We have become experts on attaching blame. It’s the Republicans’ fault, or the Democrats’ fault, or the Christians, or the Jews, or the Muslims; no one group, race, or religion is free from the blame. We have to attack someone in order to justify our anger and dissatisfaction. Don’t worry if you can’t figure out who to blame. There are enough political pundits, governments, terrorist organizations, the Westboro Baptist Church, and others to point out who is to blame while they push their own agendas on whoever will listen. So we continue to look for who to blame. We blame because it is easier than trying to determine the cause and address the problem.

Addressing these problems takes time, understanding, listening, negotiation, and most of all courage. It is not easy or popular for a leader to stand up and tell their constituents that they need to look inside and see if the problem is within themselves. Great leaders do what is right in spite of the consequences. They look at “the beam in their own eye before trying to remove the spec from someone else’s eye.” It is unfortunate that most true leaders are not appreciated until after they have left the public arena and the calm of reason and passage of time prove that they were justified in their beliefs.

Freemasonry is unique in this world of strife. In our lodges, it doesn’t matter what your race, creed, political affiliation, or even sexual orientation are when you are among your brothers. I, an Anglo-Catholic priest, am serving as Senior Warden in a lodge that was traditionally considered a “Jewish” lodge. We have brothers who are Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and probably a few others less well known. We are Caucasian, Hispanic, Arab, Indian, Asian, and Black. There are conservatives, liberals, moderates, and variations of each. But when we are together in the lodge, we meet on the level as brothers. We stand together in our equality of stature and unity of purpose. We come together with the avowed purpose of making good men better while standing upon the strong foundation of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

What is the center of this foundation? The altar upon which rest the three great lights of Freemasonry. The square to “square our actions” – to see that all our works and actions are right and perfect. The compasses to keep us within the due bounds of morality, justice, and righteousness. These lights rest upon the greatest light of all – the Holy Writings. Whether it is the Bible, the Koran, the Vedas, or other Sacred Book of the Law it is the central support upon which the entire structure of Freemasonry rests. It is this support that guides us beyond the pettiness, vindictiveness, and hatred of the world and shows us the way of truth, justice, morality, and peace.

As we consider these troublesome and dangerous times in which we live, let us remember the words written by the Psalmist:

“Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it” and further, “Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.”

God bless!
RW Bruce R. Bellmore Receives the Pierpont Edwards Medal

Bruce Raymond Bellmore was born in New Haven, on August 9, 1955, the youngest child born to the late WB Charles A. and Grace Morris Bellmore. His siblings include one sister, Dawn Thurston of Middletown, Rhode Island, and two brothers, Bro. Roger C. Bellmore of Raleigh, North Carolina and the late Ronald E. Bellmore, USN (ret).

He married the former Patricia Thomson, also of West Haven, in 1977. The couple have a son and a daughter.

Bro. Bellmore graduated from West Haven High School in 1973. He attended the Technical Careers Institute receiving a diploma in heating, refrigeration, and air conditioning. He attended Albertus Magnus College in New Haven majoring in business and St. Andrew’s Theological College and Seminary in Lexington, North Carolina.

Bruce is employed by Yale University as the energy systems manager of the utilities and engineering group which oversees the environmental concerns for over 300 buildings on campus.

Bruce has always been an active part of his church in many capacities. He has served as a lay reader, Eucharistic minister, vestryman, and warden. After a period of discernment, he answered the call to Holy Orders and was ordained a priest in the Anglican Catholic Church. In June, 2011, at the Synod of the Missionary Diocese of New England, he was elected and installed as the Archdeacon of the Diocese in charge of administration and operations. By virtue of his office, he is also on the staff of the Cathedral Church of the Resurrection in Ansonia.

Brother Bellmore joined Robert H. Heller Chapter, Order of DeMolay in November, 1969. He served as Master Councilor in 1972, and was State Chaplain in 1972-73. He has received the Degree of Chevalier, knighted a member of the Legion of Honor, and received the Representative DeMolay Award and the Blue Honor Key. He has served the Advisory Council of Robert H. Heller Chapter and on the Executive Officer’s staff. He served as Grand Commander of the Connecticut Court of Chevaliers, and Grand Commander of the Charles M. Gerdinier Preceptory of the Legion of Honor in Connecticut.

Bruce was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in November, 1976, in Olive Branch Lodge No. 84, and served as Worshipful Master in 1981. Following the consolidation of Olive Branch, Connecticut Rock Lodge No. 92, and Hiram Lodge No. 1, he served as master of Hiram Lodge in 1994. He affiliated with his Dad’s Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven. His Dad was Master there in 1968. Bruce is also a plural member of Ashlar Lodge No. 332, and Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125, where he currently sits as Senior Warden. Bruce served as Right Worshipful District Deputy (4-C) in 2004-05, and the following two years as Grand Lecturer. RW Bellmore was appointed Grand Chaplain from 2009-12, and reappointed in 2013.

Companion Bellmore was exalted in Franklin Chapter No. 2, RAM in 1979, and was High Priest in 1984, 1990, 2004, and 2011. He served as Most Excellent Grand High Priest in 1991. A Grand Trustee since 1998, Bruce has been chairman since 2001. He was presented with the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons International Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service in 2011. He is a member of the Connecticut Council of Anointed High Priests.

Companion Bellmore was greeted in Harmony Council No. 8, Royal & Select Masters, New Haven, serving as Thrice Illustrious Master in 1981 and 1988. He received the Ish Sodi Award from the Connecticut Grand Council in 1993. He is a Past Thrice Illustrious King of the Connecticut Council of Anointed Kings, Order of the Silver Trowel, and presented with the Philip J. Jones Award for Distinguished Service in 2010. He was Most Puissant Grand Master of Connecticut in 2011-12.

Bruce was knighted in New Haven Commandery No. 2, Knights Templar in 1980. He served as Eminent Commander in 1993. He served the Grand Commandery of Connecticut as Right Eminent Grand Commander for 2009-10. He is a Past Commander of the Knight Crusaders of the Cross. In 2009, Bruce received the Knight Commander of the Temple Award from the Grand Encampment in 2010.

Bruce served as Pre-eminent Governor of the Connecticut York Right Sovereign College No. 17. He received the Order of the Purple Cross, Associate Regent, at the York Sovereign College of North America Annual Session, at Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1994.

Bruce was Eminent Prior for 2004-05 in Connecticut Priory No. 28, Knights of the York Cross of Honor.

Illustrious Brother Bellmore is a member of the Scottish Rite in the Valley of New Haven and Lafayette Consistory. In 1987, he served E. G. Storer Lodge of Perfection as Thrice Potent Master; New Haven Chapter Rose Croix as Most Wise Master, in 1992; and was Commander-in-Chief of Lafayette Consistory in 2000. He received the Ill. Arthur M. Brown 33rd Meritorious Service Award from the Connecticut Council of Deliberation in 1995. Ill. Brother Bellmore was coroneted with the 33rd, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, at the Supreme Council’s Annual Session at Boston, Massachusetts, in 2002.

Bruce served as Worthy Patron several times of Golden Rod Chapter No. 34, Order of the Eastern Star, in West Haven.

Prophet Bruce is a Past Monarch of Hejaz Grotto No. 42, M.O.V.P.E.R. presiding during the centennial anniversary of Hejaz Grotto in 2011. He was appointed a Supreme Council District Deputy at the annual session in Dearborn, Michigan that same year.

Noble Bruce is also a member of the Sphinx Shrine in Newington.

Brother Bruce is a Past Royal Patron of Westwood Court No. 5, Order of the Amaranth. In 2007, he became a member of St. Andrew’s Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, which he currently serves as Eminent Viceroy.

His other Masonic memberships include Mohawk Council No. 28, Knight Masons, The Royal Order of Scotland, The Twilight Club of Bridgeport, and the Masonic Veterans Association of Connecticut.

In the community, Bruce has been honored as Volunteer Fireman of the Year in 1982, sung with the Arbeiter Maennor Choir singing society of West Haven, sitting on its Board of Governors, University Glee Club, and the Yale Summer Chorus. Bruce also been Scoutmaster in the Allington section of West Haven serving as for Troop No. 214. Bruce is also a member of Kiwanis International of New Haven.

Brother Bruce has said that all of the honors given him, “I’ve had two real highpoints: the night my father raised me, and the night I knighted my father.” For his service to his church, his community, and his grateful fraternity, at the Grand Lodge banquet on April 6, he was surprised to be presented with the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for Distinguished Masonic Service.
Tag sales, auctions, and estate sales can bring up interesting Masonic items. Brothers have found stolen or lost items belonging to lodges on eBay and other auction websites where usually the item has gone through several hands before reaching the auction block.

Recently a brother handed me papers he found in a non-Masonic book he found at a tag sale. The papers probably belong to the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, and they will soon be turned over to the Grand Secretary for vault storage. One is a petition for the restoration of charter of Temple Lodge No. 65, Westport, dated November 18, 1865, when George L. Cable was installed as Master, David M. Morain as Senior Warden, and John Baker as Junior Warden. The permission of St. John No. 6, Norwalk, was granted. The petition was signed by Grand Master Eli Quintard.

Another paper was for the constitution of Hiram Lodge of Bloomfield naming Hiram Case as Worshipful Master, Henry Isham as Senior Warden, and William Case as Junior Warden. This petition was dated February 7, 1866.

Also included in the papers was a petition for a lodge in Berlin known as Berlin Lodge and signed by the petitioners. They recommended Royal Dudley as Worshipful Master, Emilius Beckley as Senior Warden and Charles Stevens as Junior Warden. Interestingly enough there is no date on that petition.

It is amazing what one finds in old items. The brother had no idea where the book came from but it was apparently at a library tag sale where people donate old books for sale for funds for local libraries. The book was a 1960's book on pump repair. His wife was going to discard these papers, but he wanted to get a hold of the Grand Historian. I am eternally grateful.

Also this summer, a set of Masonic medals was discovered on eBay. They contained awards given to Past Grand Master Herbert L. Emanuelson, Jr. including his Past Grand Master's jewel. A Past Grand Master's jewel is property of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and "loaned" to the recipient during his lifetime and returned when he passes. Sometimes surviving relatives are not aware of this as seems to be the case with MW Emanuelson. However the complete collection is now on display at the Grand Lodge conference room showcase.

I came interesting Masonic facts. Brother Comfort Sage acted out his Masonic obligations by giving asylum to the children of Benedict Arnold after Arnold's treason. Brother Sage was a commander of the Connecticut militia. In 1776 there were Masonic lodges in all thirteen British colonies. John Carroll was the first Roman Catholic Bishop in the United States in 1790 and had been recommended to that office through the influence of Past Grand Master Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania who was not a Catholic.

Charles Melville Gerdenier is a name familiar in DeMolay circles. The Preceptory of the DeMolay Legion of Honor in Connecticut is named in his honor. He was the first Executive Officer (then it was called Deputy of the Grand Council of the Order of DeMolay). Brother Gerdenier was born in Haverstraw, New York on April 15, 1863 and was employed by Bridgeport Gas Light Company (later Southern Connecticut Gas) and retired as a superintendent. He joined St. Johns Lodge No. 3 being raised on June 11, 1884. He was Worshipful Master in 1905 and then became a charter member of Ashlar Lodge No. 124. He joined Jerusalem Chapter No. 13, Royal Arch Masons, Jerusalem Council No. 16, Royal and Select Masters, and Hamilton Commandery No. 5, Knights Templar where he was Eminent Commander. He joined the Scottish Rite in 1887 and received his honorary 33° in 1905. Brother Gerdenier was Scottish Rite Deputy for Connecticut from 1918 until he passed 22 years later at the age of 77. When Bridgeport Chapter was organized in 1922 he was a charter member of the Advisory board. He is buried in Mountain Grove Cemetery, Bridgeport. For over fifty years he gave his life to Freemasonry, and for almost two decades devoted his time to DeMolay and saw it prosper throughout the state.
A 2014 recipient of the Norma J. Brandt Nursing Scholarship, Masonicare’s Suzanne Timbro remembers how her mother’s love and sacrifice inspired her to pursue a career in nursing.

Joyce Russell was working as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) when her fiancé, Robert Condron, departed for Japan to serve in the Korean War. Although she had hoped to continue her education to become a registered nurse (RN), she had to make a difficult choice when Robert returned: get married or go back to school. She chose to get married and continue as an LPN. When Suzanne was born in 1964, Joyce stopped practicing her nursing outside the home to be a full-time mom.

“I didn’t really get to see my mother nursing in a professional sense,” Suzanne recalled.

“But I watched her take care of both of my grandmothers in our home, starting with my father’s mother. And then, when I was about 10 years old, I was in a pretty serious car accident and missed a whole year of school. My mother cared for me while I recuperated. So while she was in a pretty serious car accident and missed a whole year of school. My mother cared for me while I recuperated. So while she didn’t talk a lot about her career as a nurse, I found that because I was raised in a home with my grandparents, I had the ability to connect with the elderly in a way that some younger people couldn’t.”

Suzanne decided at an early age that she also wanted to pursue a career in medicine.

“I wanted to be a doctor,” she said. “I used to pull out all my mother’s books – the Merck Manual, her nursing guides – and I’d read them. I was fascinated by them. While my friends were playing with Barbie dolls, I wanted to perform brain surgery on Barbie.”

But, like so many of us, Suzanne admits that she “got a little sidetracked” in high school and her career aspirations were put on hold. She got married, had children, got divorced, and worked two jobs to support her family. Ten years later, feeling burned-out and unfulfilled professionally, she arrived at a crossroads.

“I thought to myself, ‘I’m 35 years old with three little kids and a GED – what am I going to do with myself?’ I’d had my fill of driving a school bus and didn’t care for waitressing. The one thing I knew I could do was take care of other people. So I answered an ad for a nursing assistant job at a nursing home five minutes from where I lived in Middletown. It was tough at first. It’s hard, physical work. But I hung on.”

At the encouragement of a coworker, Suzanne enrolled in an LPN program at a local technical school, eventually graduating with high honors. She was assigned to a unit at the same facility where she’d been working as a CNA.

“I did that for eight years and loved it,” she said. “I knew I’d found my calling, and I fell in love with the elderly. I absolutely loved them and still do. Where else could I work where I’d have 30 adopted grandparents? They have so many stories to tell and so much wisdom to impart. These were people from my community – the lawyer, the teacher, the person who worked at the grocery store – and I felt that in caring for them, I was giving back. And I found that because I was raised in a home with my grandmothers, I had the ability to connect with the elderly in a way that some younger people couldn’t.”

Suzanne, who has since remarried, went back to school to become an RN. In 2012, she left the Middletown facility to accept a position as clinical nurse manager at Masonicare Health Center.

“Before then,” she said, “I didn’t know anything about Masonicare except what I’d heard from the chair of the nursing program at Goodwin College who used to work here. She’d tell me that Masonicare Health Center was the Cadillac of nursing homes. She was right. This is a great place. There’s an integrity and adherence to certain values. Executive management talks about it all the time, and I feel like they’re really supportive of us. They want us to be successful. They want us to be there for the patients. I sense a patriotic spirit here, too, which I think has a lot to do with the company’s ties to the Masons. To prepare myself, I read about the fraternity before I came to work here and I found it to be very interesting. I actually wish I’d been exposed to it sooner.”

Suzanne is deeply grateful to have received a Brandt Nursing Scholarship. It will help pay for classes at Goodwin, where she is continuing her studies towards a Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing. She is mindful of the opportunities she has that her mother did not and wishes that Joyce, who passed away last May while under the care of Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, could have seen her accept the award.

“But I sensed she was with me at the ceremony,” she said, “in spirit and in my heart.”
FROM THE DESK OF:

Bro. Stephen B. McPherson
President & CEO of Masonicare

Our 22nd Masonicare Golf Classic was August 19, a day that had to be one of the most glorious this summer. Even if you played miserably, you could take solace in the beautiful weather we were blessed with. This annual event is The Masonic Charity Foundation’s signature fundraiser and is made possible thanks to generous sponsors, donors, staff and volunteers.

I want to recognize that “support” for Masonicare comes in many forms. We are extremely fortunate to have a large number of volunteers at our facilities in Wallingford and Newtown and in our hospice program at Masonicare Home Health & Hospice. These individuals truly make a difference in the lives of the patients and residents they interact with, and help us in our mission to deliver the highest quality care.

One volunteer program that you may not know about is our Lay Training in Geriatric Ministry at Masonicare Health Center. Upon completing a training program, these volunteers give four hours a week of pastoral ministry at the Health Center. You can read more about it on page 20 in this issue of Connecticut Freemasons.

Another way we receive “support” is when someone recommends a Masonicare service to a friend or family member. Do you know someone who is having surgery and might need rehab or home care afterward? You can recommend us for their follow-up care. Have you ever had the frustrating experience of waiting for hours in an Emergency Room? The Acute Care Hospital at Masonicare Health Center admits seniors with a range of acute diagnoses with no wait time as long as there is a physician referral. We also have a wonderful hospice and palliative care program that receives a lot of word-of-mouth endorsement. Information on any of our services can be obtained from our HelpLine, 888-679-9997.

Whether you volunteer for us, have remembered us in your will, or just put in a good word, please know we are deeply grateful. Together, this lets us “help, aid and assist” as our founding fathers envisioned.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Update on Masonicare at Mystic

The Sales Office for Masonicare at Mystic opened on July 21 to dozens of seniors interested in the new Independent and Assisted Living community. The Sales Office is located in an office building at 23 Clara Drive, adjacent to the 18 acres where the community will be built. The land has been cleared and work on the foundation is about to begin. Not far from the popular Mystic Aquarium, Masonicare at Mystic will have 179 apartments for rent and include many amenities when it opens late in 2015.

For more information, you can call 888-502-8859 or visit www.Masonicare-Mystic.org.
Harmony Lodge No. 67 Honors Brothers’ Memory with Donations

On Friday, July 18, Harmony Lodge No. 67, New Canaan, made donations in the amount of $1,500 to GetAbout in memory of Brother Raymond Guthke, and $1,500 to the New Canaan Day Care Center in memory of Brother Frank Bondor. The money was raised at the annual Memorial Day pancake breakfast, with assistance from members of the United Methodist Church of New Canaan, and the staff and students of New England Academy of Dance, supplemented by the Harmony Fellowcraft Club of New Canaan.

Getabout’s mission is to provide rides within New Canaan to “Seniors and those with special needs,” New Canaan’s elderly and handicapped. Five vans, four of them with wheelchair capability, operate eight hours a day Monday through Friday.

The Day Care Center of New Canaan provides full-day preschool for children ages 3-5 and after school care for children grades K-6. The program is open 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and operates 50 weeks per year.

Brother Raymond Guthke was a Past Master of Harmony Lodge No. 67 in 1985, and nearly a forty year member when he passed away last year. He served the Grand Lodge as Associate Grand Marshall in 1991 and 1992. Worshipful Master Drew VanDenAmeele said, “Ray stood up to help every Master at Harmony Lodge from the time he was a Master all the way until his health no longer allowed him. He filled in any chair anytime a brother could not attend. Ray showed up and help set up and take apart every function that we ever had, from pancake breakfasts to table lodges. Ray was always there helping. He was the go to guy in the lodge for helping with the ritual, and made good suggestions for memory, and floor work.”

Brother Frank Bondor took his degrees with his son Chris. They were raised together in 2003. WM VanDenAmelee commented, “The several years afterwards were a particularly difficult challenge because the lodge was under a fundamental transition, due to the lack of activity and participation from members, who had grown old or moved away. Brother Frank helped keep the lodge together.”

Both Brothers Guthke and Bondor passed to the celestial lodge in 2013. WM VanDenAmelee said, “These are the brothers who exemplified Masonry in Harmony Lodge No. 67. Their names connected to local charities is a very small honor for all they did for us.”

Housatonic Snow Cones a Big Hit

by Richard McDonnel

Freemasonry continues to surprise with what’s around the little northeast corner of Connecticut. Housatonic Lodge No. 61, North Canaan, was excited by an application from a local middle-aged gentleman who had been “meaning to apply forever.”

Gary Waldron did apply and received his degrees with the Master Mason degree conferred one Saturday afternoon in March 2014.

Since then the brother has taken on the vacated role of Senior Steward with much gusto. While the Worshipful Master was away, he gutted the kitchen, painted walls and ceiling, cleaned out cupboards and drawers of hostile critters, and rearranged things in a more orderly fashion.

Realizing the lodge was liable to be short of funds for the upcoming winter and necessary oil delivery, Brother Gary put into motion an idea to sell snow cones at the local Railroad Days as a fundraiser. “Hitting” on local businesses, Lindells, produced a snow machine, and another local business, Kristin Maries Cafe and Grill, donated enough ice to sink a small Titanic.

For three Saturdays in July, brothers and wives were encouraged by the enterprising Senior Steward to come out and sell to thirsty kids and adults.

Not quite enough funds were raised to fill the oil tank, but it was a huge success as it “got us out together” and enabled Housatonic Lodge to introduce themselves to the community. The lodge is sure this brother has many more talents.
Masonic “Clicks” are Not so Bad

by John A. Birdsall

In the early eighty’s I affiliated with Union Lodge No. 31, Niantic, and after my first meeting a fellow came up and congratulated me. He also advised me to stay clear of the “click”; they would be the downfall of the lodge.

I watched for a couple months and then I started asking questions, like what is this “click” that a brother said was happening in the lodge. No one knew anything. I figured out just what this “click” was, and who was involved. It wasn’t a “click,” but a “clique.” It seemed the clique ran the show.

They were there at the lodge on Saturday morning repairing, cleaning up, and making the lodge a better place. They were there on Wednesday night doing a rehearsal for a degree on Thursday night. The “clique” were the ones getting fruit baskets or flowers or candy ready to go to our widows. They were the ones involved with DeMolay, Rainbow, the sick and the shut ins.

Now, who would want to be a part of that clique? Some lodges have those type of cliques and they are no doubt doing well. Some lodges don’t and the members just attend the meetings, pay their dues, and they go home.

You know, I prefer the cliques. They seem to be doing something; they seem to care about their fellow man; and you know what I found? You do not have to ask to join them. You pay no extra dues to belong. You need to show up and do what you can do to be a part of the lodge. That’s right, it’s being a part of the lodge, not a Masonic “clique.”

As the age of the average Mason gets older, those who have worked in the quarries will need to be watched, assisted, and later relieved in a nice fashion of their work, but not forgotten about. Today we are getting more and more young men joining our lodges and we need to keep their interest going. We cannot do that by giving them a white leather apron, and then forgetting about them. We need to get them involved in the lodge in what they can do. Perhaps they cannot attend all the lodge meetings, but maybe they can spare a Saturday morning and spruce up the lodge’s grounds and building, and thank them in the trestle board.

Recall that saying; If I am to be a brother to you, it stands to reason that you must also be a brother to me.

National Camping Travelers - 49th National Rally

by Ray Geer

New England Masons and their families participated in National Camping Travelers’ 49th National Rally held in Centre Hall, Pennsylvania from July 20-24. District One New England had a strong showing with 10% of the 130 Masonic families attending. There were seven families from Connecticut, five from Massachusetts, and one from Vermont.

Participants came from as far away as California; Ontario, Canada; Texas; and Florida. Highlights of the rally included a bus trip to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, craft show, pet parade, people parade, golf outing, seminars, games, and nightly entertainment. Let’s not forget to mention plenty of good food!

District One New England won several awards at the rally including; District Secretary of the Year, third place and longest drive in the golf outing, second place in the Club History Book competition, first in dog tricks, first in graphic paper crafts, third place in the parade, and first in knitting.

Next year, NCT’s 50th anniversary rally will be hosted by District One and held in Essex Junction, Vermont from July 26-30 at the Champlain Valley Expo Center. Information and Registration Forms are available at www.MasonicFamilyCampers.org. Please mark your calendars, register early, and bring your children and grandchildren.

National Camping Travellers (NCT) is a fun group of Masonic families who bring their trailers around the country to meet others with similar interests. And they always figure out a way to enjoy themselves.

THE ROBERT J. DIPASQUALE MEMORIAL STEAK OR LOBSTER DINNER

Hamilton Council NO. 22
112 East Main Street, • Meriden, CT
Saturday, October 18 • 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: $25.00

For Tickets Contact:
Bruce Padula 203-228-4447 • Myron Reed 203-237-4550
Richard Eppler 203-271-2211 • Delbert Little 203-238-0885
John Broddock 203-235-5596
Called to the Celestial Lodge

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

Burton S. Klein .................................................................America-St. John’s 8
James A. Walsh ...............................................................America-St. John’s 8
Neil M. Beckwith ..............................................................Annawon 115
Joseph E. McKim ............................................................Annawon 115
Robert W. Lampe .............................................................Ashlar-Aspetuck 142
Robert N. Gimbel ...........................................................Center 97
Willbur H. Coolidge .........................................................Columbia 25
William C. Juram Jr ..........................................................Compass 9
Robert A. Colbourn .........................................................Corinthian 63
Nile H. Heermans ..............................................................Corinthian 63
Lionel G. Brody .................................................................Cosmopolitan 125
Robert Tombank ...............................................................Cosmopolitan 125
Richard E. Larcom .........................................................Day Spring 30
Kenneth T. Merrill ...........................................................Eastern Star 44
Kenneth A. Hopkins ........................................................Estuary 43
George D. Maharans ........................................................Fayette 69
Raymond B. Bailey .............................................................Frederick Franklin 14
Calvin L. Lyon .................................................................Frederick Franklin 14
Donald C. Austin .............................................................Friendship 33
Robert A. Fusco ...............................................................Friendship 33
James T. Bouchard ..........................................................Friendship Tuscan 145
Charles A. Smeaton ........................................................Friendship Tuscan 145
Edward E. Weed ...............................................................Harmony 67
A. Harry W. Olsen Jr .........................................................Hartford Evergreen 88
Douglas W. Stanish ............................................................Hartford Evergreen 88
E. Ernest Oberst ...............................................................Hiram 1
Emil A. Faber Jr .................................................................King Hiram 12
William Conda ...............................................................Liberty-Continental 76
Ernest R. Philippi .............................................................Liberty-Continental 76
Carlton E. Burke .............................................................Manchester 73
N. Sumner Cutler Jr ........................................................Manchester 73
Norman E. Kloter .............................................................Manchester 73
Robert F. Sieracki ............................................................Meridian 77
James M. Pearson ............................................................Old Well-St. John’s 6
William F. Clark ..............................................................Putnam 46
Stanley S. Sheldon Jr .........................................................Putnam 46
Earl E. Iffland Jr ...............................................................Seneca 55
James P. Moran ............................................................Sequin-Level 140
Julius S. Shapiro ...........................................................Sequin-Level 140
Nicholas D. Harrity ........................................................St. John’s 2
William MacAlpine .............................................................Temple 16
Lester F. Miller Jr ...............................................................Union 40
Lloyd W. Randall .............................................................Union 40
Arnold L. Wilson .............................................................Urie 24
Frank E. Bohman Jr ............................................................Valley 36
Russell E. Roden ..............................................................Valley 36
William D. J. Melton ........................................................Washington 19
Cleveland P. Huggins III ..................................................Washington 81
Douglas R. Johnson ............................................................Wyllys-St. John’s 4

Non-Owned Auto Liability Coverage

by Robert G. Fitzgerald, Grand Secretary

Our Grand Lodge and its constituent lodges create potentially troublesome liability exposures when employees and volunteers operate privately owned vehicles as part of their lodge responsibilities. The same Grand Lodge policy which provides General Liability Coverage for your lodge also provides non-owned auto Liability Coverage for vehicles used on Grand Lodge or constituent lodge business.

In the event of an accident, the owner of a vehicle is normally responsible if the vehicle operator is at fault. The owner’s auto policy should respond and protect the owner, operator and the lodge. However, the lodge may be exposed if:

- The accident results in serious injury of death;
- The vehicle owner has insurance but with minimal limits of liability;
- The vehicle owner has no auto insurance.

The lodge can take steps to minimize the non-owned auto risk by:

- Screening members who are likely to operate non-owned autos on lodge business to ensure they are safe, cautious drivers
- Evaluating the operator’s accident history and driving record to ensure there are a minimal number of non-serious auto accidents, or moving violations;
- Requiring operators/owners of non-owned autos to maintain primary auto insurance at minimum liability limits of $100,000/$300,000 Bodily Injury and $50,000 Property Damage or $300,000 Combined Single Limit, verifying with a Certificate of Insurance, or copy of policy declarations page.
- Maintaining copies of an operator’s driver’s license, along with the above information, in the drivers file.
- Consider consulting with the Great American Insurance Company Loss Prevention Specialist for specific training programs and information to promote safe driving techniques.
- Clearly state the basis (when/where) on which members may operate their autos on lodge business.

Implementing the above recommendations will foster safe driving habits, ensure you lodge is utilizing responsible vehicle operators and serve to protect your lodge from threatening liability obligations.

Please respond with an indication of the manner in which your lodge is accomplishing the goal of doing your best to prevent accidents from happening and keeping your members and your lodge safe from financial difficulties.
Andrew R. Melillo ............................................. Acacia 85
David N. Hanson ............................................. Ansantawae 89
John W. Hanson .................................................. Ansantawae 89
Robert E. Kee ...................................................... Ansantawae 89
Mark E. Zuccherella ............................................ Ashlar-Aspetuck 142
Robert A. Potter .................................................. Bay View 120
Daryl A. Sheppard ................................................ Bay View 120
John H. Wadsworth III ...................................... Bay View 120
Michael R. Wadsworth ....................................... Bay View 120
Jose Alvarado ..................................................... Brainard 102
James A. Gilstrap ............................................... Brainard 102
Robert W. Thorp .................................................. Brainard 102
Kenneth J. Cuccaro .................................. Center 97
Jason D. Caron .................................................. Composite 28
Andrew C. Christmas ......................................... Composite 28
Michael A. Hayden ............................................ Composite 28
John H. LeDoux .................................................. Composite 28
Robert H. Weidlich ............................................. Composite 28
Denny K. Peterson ........................................... Corinthian 63
Albert M. Rotondo Jr ........................................... Corinthian 63
Martin E. Cobern .............................................. Cosmopolitan 125
Luis A. Vega III .................................................. Cosmopolitan 125
Glenn Chasansoff ........................................ Daytime 144
Francis W. McLaughlin ...................................... Evening Star 101
Daniel J. Rynne Jr ............................................. Evening Star 101
Roger K. Kuhn Jr ............................................. Fidelity-St. John’s 3
John D. McMahon ............................................. Fidelity-St. John’s 3
Robert E. Barbour .......................................... Friendship 33
Todd Busbee .................................................. Friendship 33
Nicholas G. Kelly ............................................. Friendship 33
Ronald J. Mattson ............................................. Friendship 33
Luke J. Chapps ................................................ Friendship Tuscan 145
Matthew J. Duggan IV ....................................... Friendship Tuscan 145
John P. Olynky .................................................. Friendship Tuscan 145
Christopher A. Alexy ........................................... Granite 119
Michael J. Dunn ................................................ Granite 119
Ralph W. Ely ...................................................... Granite 119
Jeffrey T. Ogilvie ............................................. Granite 119
Andrew M. Landona ........................................ Harmony 42
Andrew J. Pogg ................................................ Hartford Evergreen 88
Anthony L. Carroll ........................................... Liberty-Continental 76
Kyle J. Pelletier ................................................ Liberty-Continental 76
Frederick R. Romaniello III ................................ Liberty-Continental 76
Zachary A. U. Soule ........................................ Liberty-Continental 76
Dylan M. Baker ................................................ Manchester 73
Scott P. Custer .................................................. Manchester 73
Robert R. Frechette ........................................ Manchester 73
William T. Harris ........................................... Meridian 77
James F. Valinsky ........................................... Meridian 77
Robert J. Scharlack Jr ......................................... Moriah 15
Jeffrey A. Creighton .......................................... Oxoboxo 116
Scott H. Trendian ................................................. Oxoboxo 116
Erik R. Eubanks ................................................... Putnam 46
William F. Pierce III ........................................ Putnam 46
Louis J. Engborg IV .......................................... Seneca 55
Attila Bordas ...................................................... Shepherd-Salem 78
Dakota B. Eckenrode .......................................... Somerset-St. James 34
Freeman F. McCaw ............................................ St. Andrew’s 64
Cody J. Murphy ................................................ St. Andrew’s 64
Fabiano S. Goncalves ........................................ St. Peter’s 21
Peter W. Moller .................................................. St. Peter’s 21
Mark T. Mulvaney ............................................. St. Peter’s 21
Walciando R. Oliveira ........................................ St. Peter’s 21
Dante A. Pezzolesi ............................................. Union 31
Karl J. Souffront ................................................ Union 31
Joseph F. Stalvey II ............................................ Union 31
Juan A. Wilbur Jr ............................................... Union 31
James M. Daniels ............................................. Union 40
David A. McClain ............................................. Union 40
Edwin J. Zorrilla .............................................. Union 40
Jose N. Leon-Ortiz ............................................. Union 5
Jose E. Botaqui ................................................... Universal Fraternity 149
Geoffrey H. Caravella ........................................ Universal Fraternity 149
Rems Desrosins .............................................. Universal Fraternity 149
Allen J. Furphy .................................................... Uriel 24
Christopher J. Roper .......................................... Uriel 24
David P. Vitol ..................................................... Uriel 24
Colin P. Cadarette ............................................. Valley 36
Phillip A. Davis ................................................ Washington 70
Harry A. Elliott III ........................................... Washington 70

We welcome our new brothers to the fraternity.

Sue Laughlin Named Hospice Volunteer Coordinator for Masonicare

Sue Laughlin has been named hospice volunteer coordinator for the Brookfield-Newtown office of Masonicare Home Health & Hospice. In her new role, Ms. Laughlin will be responsible for recruiting, screening, and training hospice volunteers from within the community and connecting them with hospice patients and their families.

Prior to this position, Ms. Laughlin was a Masonicare hospice volunteer herself, and a 2013 recipient of the Dedicated to Outstanding Volunteer Excellence (D.O.V.E.) Award.

“Their is always a need for hospice volunteers and I look forward to increasing awareness about this important program,” stated Ms. Laughlin. “Sharing time with a hospice patient is not a sad or depressing interaction but rather something that is very gratifying for volunteers because they know they’re helping to provide comfort and peace to someone preparing for the next part of their journey.” Ms. Laughlin received a B.S. degree in Education from Springfield College in Massachusetts. She and her husband, Tim, reside in Brookfield with their two daughters.

This fall, Ms. Laughlin will present a training course in Newtown for the greater Danbury-Newtown-Southbury areas. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old and there is no cost to participate. Once training is completed, volunteers set their own time-schedule and receive on-going support and training from a multi-disciplinary hospice team that includes hospice nurses, social workers, and spiritual and bereavement counselors. For more information, please contact Sue Laughlin at 203-775-0675.

Sue Laughlin
Bro. Benjamin Franklin once wrote “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”

Never were truer words spoken. If you look at oneself, and see what you have accomplished in life, you see that once you get involved, whether in business, in community, family, or Masonry, nothing is more satisfying than the end result. It takes a team effort in all projects to get results.

It takes the hard work of many brethren for the lessons of all the Scottish Rite degrees to be presented with meaning to our candidates. It takes performers, directors, stage-hands, make-up artists, prop-masters, sound and lighting techs, and many others so each presentation is meaningful and professional. Each degree presented to a class of candidates teaches the fundamental values of Masonry, and builds upon the lessons taught in our Blue Lodges.

This year the Valley of Hartford will present its degree schedule in a different format. We will hold one class, instead of the two (fall and spring) as in the past. In doing this, new candidates will have a chance to join the class at anytime and still be able to see the required number of degrees to become a Sublime Prince, 32° Master Mason.

The Valley will start its 2014-2015 schedule on Thursday, October 9, with the presentation of the 4° and the 11° degrees. On Thursday, October 23, the Lodge of Perfection officers will portray the 14° degree and the Princes of Jerusalem will present the 15° degree. Degrees will start at 7:30 p.m., preceded by an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner at 6:00 p.m. The price for the dinners is the same and reservations are required. New candidates will be our guests for the dinners.

Should a candidate join the class after October 9, he will view the 4° degree on DVD prior to witnessing all subsequent degrees. Arrangements can be made with the Valley Secretary.

The Valley will hold a special Family Life program on Friday evening, November 14, with family style turkey dinner, followed by the presentation of a play in keeping with the upcoming holiday season. Additional details will be in the Oct-Nov-Dec issue of the View of the Valley, as well as in our October article in this newspaper.

The Valley of Hartford website, www.valleyofhartford.org offers all Masons links where they can obtain up-to-date information on what is happening within the Valley via the latest Calendar of Events. You can also find information such as how to join; driving directions to the Valley; view current and past issues of Valley publications; obtain forms for all our events; download membership applications; learn more about the Valley’s history; or obtain links to other Masonic websites that might be of interest.

Or feel free to call any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday morning between 9:00 a.m. and noon, at 860-666-0712, or at sect@snet.net. Informational DVD’s about the Scottish Rite are also available on request.

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

Howard M. Goldman ............................................ Annawon 115
Charles R. Holcomb ........................................... Composite 28
Thomas C. Baum ............................................... Composite 28
William B. Jackson ............................................. Corinthian 63
F. Allison Ham .................................................. Sequin-Level 140
George M. Leaman .............................................. Temple 16
Forrest Belcher Jr ................................................. Wolcott 60
Albert A. Kandarian ........................................... Wyllys-St. John’s 4

Are you ready to experience and improve upon the lessons learned at your blue lodge?

APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR OUR UPONING CLASS WHICH STARTS ON OCTOBER 9

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

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A Mason’s Proficiency

by George Frascarelli
and Bob McDonald

At least twice in one’s Masonic journey all Brother Master Masons hear these following words: “Has he shown suitable proficiency in the preceding degree?”

The answer has always been “Yes,” and yet, depending on the lodge, the Worshipful Master, and the lodge traditions, the words “suitable proficiency” can take on different meanings, with different emphasis.

The journey one makes through the degrees are such an important part of the Masonic experience, it is a worthwhile endeavor to explore and discuss what suitable proficiency means, why it is important to Masons and Masonry, and how, over the years, the definition and how it is applies to brothers based on differing circumstances, needs to be acknowledged.

Masonry has evolved on the interpretation and application of the term suitable proficiency, not in dramatic ways, but with small nuances. “In discussing proficiency with my brothers who have over fifty years in the fraternity, I found that the requirements for proficiency seem to have been more stringent in the past than we require today,” discovered WB George Frascarelli. It may have began with a change in what suitable proficiency meant, and how it was then applied.

Webster’s New World Dictionary describes suitable as an adjective, with the definition “that suits a given purpose, etc.; appropriate.” The dictionary then defines the noun proficiency as “highly competent; skilled.”

When combined in different ways based on the definitions, the literal meaning for the phrase “suitable proficiency” would seem to have at least two interpretations with different emphasis for Masonry, while sharing a similar foundation: 1) for a given purpose high competence (is desired) 2) appropriate skills (are desired). Obviously these two interpretations can have alternative applications and potential consequences, specifically in the expectations and requirements to achieve suitable proficiency to be passed from an Entered Apprentice to a Fellowcraft, and of a Fellowcraft to be raised to a Master Mason.

At the end of each degree the Worshipful Master states that “you will now give your attention to the lectures of this degree, the first section of which you will be required to commit to memory before advancing to the next degree.” Seems pretty clear, but all too often one now hears it questioned. Does the EA really need to commit the whole lecture to memory or just the first couple of pages?

We all know that a building stands on its foundation and that without a good foundation a building may fall. Being initiated as an Entered Apprentice is the laying of the Masonic foundation in our fraternity. Learning the first section lecture is the base of this foundation. Without requiring an Entered Apprentice to memorize this lecture do we weaken this foundation, or will an understanding of the symbols and lessons from the lectures suffice for those who do not, or cannot, memorize the lectures? Or are we allowing our brother to enter Masonry ill prepared for building his Masonic life?

Historically, memorizing the first section lecture has been a fundamental requirement for the Masonic journey, yet today, different motives, and an application of a different definition of suitable proficiency, has contributed to internal changes in procedure for passing and raising a brother. Requirements for an understanding of lodge officers, functions and workings lay a solid foundation when combined with the memorization.

This discussion must recognize personal bias; especially when one enjoys ritual and if memorization comes easily. An Entered Apprentice benefits from the application of the first definition, that for this given purpose, high competence is desired.

Over the years some lodges and Worshipful Masters have started to lean towards leniency in the memorization of the first section lectures, leaning towards the second definition of suitable proficiency, that of showing appropriate skills. There are many valid reasons for this change, often having to do with an individual’s personal situation. Time, ability, and interest in ritual are a few reasons that this adjustment is made so a brother does not stop the degree process.

But the concern is that an Entered Apprentice who is raised to a Fellowcraft after a few months without demonstrating proficiency in the degree does not necessarily have a sound foundation for his Masonic journey. Since it is evident that, realistically, this interpretation of suitable proficiency is changing in lodges and individuals, how does Masonry begin to address this change, and insure a brother’s journey is grounded with a solid foundation in Masonry?

If the emphasis on suitable proficiency is changing, how do we, as Masons, address this change so that our new Brother’s journey is well grounded in the foundations of Masonry.

The key to new brothers becoming solidly proficient require a structured mentoring program, and opportunities for him in the lodge. New brothers must work with their older brothers and share both the experience and the knowledge.

Often, by spending a great deal of time in the kitchen, one begins their Masonic journey. “I have noticed that the Entered Apprentices, when working on projects or in the kitchen serving and cleaning, is building his foundation as a Mason and bonding with his brothers and his lodge,” says Brother Bob McDonald. Time spent as an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft should be a learning experience. Memorization of lectures and the bonding with the brothers is an actual joint proficiency. It will insure the new brother will be active and continue to attend the lodge, because he feels a part of it.

Memorization without understanding, discussing, and contextualizing through shared interaction, deprives the individual of the intellectual and spiritual connection to Masonry that begins as an Entered Apprentice. “I have mentored several young enthusiastic Entered Apprentices and worked with them on their proficiencies. I have seen the light in their eyes as we discuss Masonry and the enthusiasm to learn more about our fraternity”, declares WB George Frascarelli. “The self confidence that they develop in learning the lecture is an example of high competence for a given purpose.

For those who choose not to memorize the lectures for whatever reason, the emphasis, and expectations of all involved, must be to insure the brother shows “appropriate skills” in knowing the material. That requirement, combined with the other aspects will lay a basic, sound foundation for that brother. Then if the time comes where the brother aspires to the officer line or participates in the ritual, he is grounded and prepared.

Brothers are connected to each other and to the lodge and fraternity by the shared experiences with others, both present and past. As more knowledge is accrued and as more light is displayed, it will become even more apparent how these first section lectures are guiding lights on our journey, and either definition of suitable proficiency is a valuable and necessary tool.

If the emphasis on suitable proficiency is changing, how do we, as Masons, address this change?
The realistic display features an array of scenes and scenery, including a replica of the Masonicare Health Center. There are trains that light up, blow their whistles, and even one that makes steam.

“The buildings are all handmade and all of the cars and locomotives were donated,” volunteer David Peters explains. “We also do all of our maintenance and repairs right here in-house.”

Perhaps the biggest attraction for the younger audience has been the addition of Thomas the Train and his friends! Also, each child who comes to visit receives their own train whistle to take home.

The Model Railroad Room is located on floor 3-West of Masonicare Health Center. It is handicapped accessible with a direct entrance off an elevator. It’s open to the public every Thursday from 10am-3pm. For more information, please call 203-679-5900.
The Grand Lodge of Connecticut Celebrates a Birthday

by Michael L. Castroll

On July 8, 1789, just two hundred twenty-five years ago, brothers representing fourteen Masonic lodges throughout Connecticut gathered at Amos Doolittle’s Tavern and formally constituted the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. This past July 8, Grand Master Simon R. LaPlace remembered that occasion in a most profound manner. It has been a mere 25 years since our Grand Lodge’s Centennial, and it seemed only fitting for MW LaPlace to celebrate another milestone birthday. The occasion was one of joy, notoriety, and much class.

On this 225th anniversary of the creation of the Grand Lodge of the Honorable and Honorable Society Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut, this past July 8, Grand Master Simon R. LaPlace read portions of a letter sent to lodges in 1789 organizing the Grand Lodge as the brothers were “impressed with the importance of adding stability and reputation to the Masonic art as well as uniformity in the communications and working of the different lodges in this state who profess to be founded upon and governed by the ancient principles of the fraternity, as well as to correct such abuses in the working of the craft that have inadvertently crept into our lodges by blending the ancient manner with the modern, as well as to stimulate the brethren in this state to embrace the present favorable opportunity of placing the society in that laudable point of view with the world that the noble principles of our order really demand and thereby restore the gem of antiquity to its primitive luster.”

We profess to embrace all mankind in the arms of benevolence and to good as we have the opportunity from an impalze that becomes the proficient in the royal Art.”

On a hot Tuesday afternoon, the Knights Templar of Connecticut, led by Right Eminent Grand Commander Donald W. Dean, Deputy Grand Master, and Theodore J. Nelson approached the first Grand Master’s grave. Grand Commander Mackley led in saluting and pledging allegiance to the flag of our great nation. RW and Rev. Bruce R. Bellmore, Grand Chaplain, led those assembled in prayer. Our first Grand Master, MW Pierpont Edwards, whose mortal remains were lowered beneath the silent clods of the valley in Grove Street Cemetery, in New Haven. Brother Edwards had actually been installed due to lack of conviction that a Grand Lodge was truly needed or supported so soon after the Revolutionary War’s end. In 1789, he was again elected and installed that afternoon, exactly 225 years before this year’s celebration.

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On a hot Sunday afternoon, the Knights Templar of Connecticut, led by Right Eminent Grand Commander Donald W. Dean, formed a color guard, followed by the Grand Lodge officers, and marched through two rows of Pierpont Edwards Medal recipients to that first Grand Master’s grave. Grand Commander Mackley led in saluting and pledging allegiance to the flag of our great nation. RW and Rev. Bruce R. Bellmore, Grand Chaplain, led those assembled in prayer.

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The entourage was invited to a reception with champagne and hors’ d’œuvres at the Graduate Club, just two blocks from the cemetery. It also happens to be located diagonally across the street from Battell Chapel, whose Elm Street side encompasses the site of Amos Doolittle’s Tavern, where our Grand Lodge first organized 225 years ago.

Let us recommitted ourselves to the purposes of Freemasonry, as our forefathers did, here, in this city, in this state, 225 years ago. Today My Brothers, that is our duty, that is our burden, let it be our obligation.” After the honor guard led the commemorative pictures were taken following the hallowed ceremony. Nearly a third of the one hundred fifty living Pierpont Edwards Medal recipients were in attendance. The entourage was invited to a reception with champagne and hors’ d’œuvres at the Graduate Club, just two blocks from the cemetery. It also happens to be located diagonally across the street from Battell Chapel, whose Elm Street side encompasses the site of Amos Doolittle’s Tavern, where our Grand Lodge first organized 225 years ago.

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut officers prepare to place a wreath at the grave of the first Grand Master Pierpont Edwards. As the occasion of the 225th anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Warden placed a memorial wreath.

Because of the support given to the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation, funds were allocated to the Valley of Hartford’s 5k Road Race. The funds will go in support of the Children’s Dyslexia Center of Connecticut in Waterbury. This Scottish Rite initiative helps children with dyslexia learn to read and write.

Deputy Grand Master Donald W. Dean, left, presents a check to Illustrious Brother Jeff Flynn, 33°, organizer of the yearly 5k Road Race.

The Connecticut Freemasons Foundation was organized to support philanthropic pursuits of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut beyond care of the elderly so ably done by The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

Help the Grand Lodge of Connecticut continue this good work with a gift to: Connecticut Freemasons Foundation P.O. Box 69 Wallingford, CT 06492

Thank you for your support.
Valley of Norwich presents Scholarships

by Bill Breed

On Monday, July 7, the brothers of the Valley of Norwich gathered at the Preston Masonic Center to honor several young men and women from Scottish Rite families and Masonic related-youth groups with the award of scholarships to support their continuing education. Ill Bro. Howard D. Turner, 33°, hosted the awards ceremony and made the presentations.

The Supreme Council, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, awarded Scottish Rite Abbott Scholarships, named after Leon M. Abbott, Sovereign Grand Commander from 1921 to 1932 to Dakota Eckenrode and Gunnar Eubanks.

Dakota Eckenrode will be a sophomore at Duquesne University, Pittsburg Pennsylvania. He is majoring in philosophy and classical civilizations as a basis for a career as a lawyer and educator of law. He is in the Honors College taking advanced courses. His current GPA is 3.92. His is also a member of the Duquesne Mock Trial Team. He plays soccer with an intramural team. He was recently raised as a Master Mason in Somerset-St. James Lodge, No. 34, Preston. This will be his second Abbott Scholarship. Dakota is the son of Brother Brain E. Eckenrode, 32°, of the Valley of Norwich.

Gunnar Eubanks, will a junior at the University of Connecticut with a major in agricultural and resource economics. His GPA is 3.09. He is currently applying to the agricultural school and aspires to pursuing a career in either operating his own business or working for a large agricultural farm. He is involved with Commuter Student Association and participates in rock climbing and soccer. This will be his second Abbott Scholarship. He is also a Master Mason, Putnam Lodge No. 46, South Woodstock, and a 32°, Valley of Norwich. Gunnar is the son of Brother Robert Eubanks, 32°, Valley of Norwich

The Valley of Norwich awarded scholarships funded by the Valley to Stephanie Jaskiewicz, Nicole Palmer, and Emily Turner

Stephanie Jaskiewicz will be a freshman at the University of Connecticut. She plans to major in chemistry/pre-med. She aspires to be a cardiovascular surgeon. She is a graduate of Montville High School with a GPA of 3.77. While in high school, she played competitive volleyball and tutored other students in chemistry. She has been active in her community as a volunteer fundraiser for Autism Speaks. The chairman of that group writes: “Stephanie is a compassionate, hard working and an overall amazing individual.” Stephanie has accepted that she has dyslexia and that takes her a bit longer to read assignments, but she never lets it stop her progress. Stephanie has already completed about a year’s worth of college credits. Stephanie is the grand daughter of Brother D. John Watkins, 32°, Valley of Norwich.

Nicole Palmer will be a senior at Sweet Briar College. She is a business management major with a minor in environmental studies. Her current GPA is 3.52. Her extracurricular activities include horseback riding and cross-country. She works 20 to 25 hours at three different jobs to support herself, yet she finds time to volunteer at non-profit organizations. One is for battered women, and another the “Beacon of Hope” for disadvantaged youth. In her third year as a fundraiser for her school the director recognizing her abilities made her a shift supervisor, responsible for training new employees, mentoring new callers, writing solicitation scripts, and performing data analysis. Nicole is a member of Rainbow Girls. She is the daughter of Brother William C. Palmer, 32°, Valley of Norwich.

Emily Turner will be a senior at Southern Connecticut State University. Her major is business administration and business management. Her current GPA is 3.29. She is member of the Groton Congregational Church, active in the choir and youth groups. She is a member of Omega Zeta Pi sorority and was elected Greek Life Council representative and fund raising chairman, and Alumni Relations and Sportswear chair. She is a graduate of FLIP, First Year Leaders in Progress, and was recently inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success. This past spring she studied Spanish and business in Salamanca, Spain. While there she also volunteered two hours a week to teach English in a local elementary school. Emily is the daughter of Ill. Brother Burton Turner, 33°, and the grand daughter of Ill. Brother William Turner, 32°, both from the Valley of Norwich.

Upon completion of the awards, the brothers and their guests retired to the dining room for light refreshments and cake and ice cream.
“Zealous about life!”

by Bro. and Reverend Bruce R. Bellmore, Right Worshipful Grand Chaplain

I don’t know how many of you have met Brother Richard Denno but immediately upon meeting him you will be struck with his zeal and commitment to Organ Sharing. Richard’s wife needed a kidney transplant almost six years ago and was fortunate to receive an organ that was available through organ donation. She is alive and well today because someone contacted the Donate Life Connecticut and registered to share their kidney. Since that time Richard has dedicated himself to spreading the word about organ sharing.

Donate Life Connecticut writes, “Organ, eye and tissue transplants offer patients a new chance at healthy, productive and normal lives and return them to their families, friends and communities. Transplantation is one of the most remarkable success stories in the history of medicine. It provides hope to thousands of people with organ failure. In addition, transplanted tissue offers hundreds of thousands of people active and renewed lives. But transplantation requires the commitment of organ, eye and tissue donors. Unfortunately, the need for donors is much greater than the number of people who actually donate.”

So why is the Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut talking about Organ Donation? I am helping Brother Denno and the Grand Lodge Committee for Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness spread the word about “National Organ Donor Sabbath Month” which is observed during the month of November. We are asking lodges and brothers to help raise awareness of the Donate Life Program and to encourage their houses of worship to observe November 7 – 9, 2014 as National Donor Sabbath Weekend. Most religions recognize organ donation as both an act of faith and a gift of love. A list of different religious organizations and their position on donation is available on the Donate Life Connecticut website www.ctorgandtissuedonation.org. I would also recommend speaking with your minister to answer any other questions you may have.

On this site you will also find interesting facts and information on organ sharing and forms for registration. Our Grand Lodge website www.ctfreemasons.net also has information on donating life. Just click on Community Action, then Committee on Community Action, then Organ and Tissue Donation.

My brothers, there are currently over 122,000 people on waiting lists to receive kidneys, livers, hearts, lungs, and partial pancreas replacements. Unfortunately, there is no National Registry so if even if you are listed in another state, our state is not notified. It is critical for each of us to register in our home state as well as others.

In the movie, Kingdom of Heaven, there is a scene where a crusader is in a blacksmith shop and he notices a phrase carved into a beam. He asks the blacksmith what it says and he replies, “What man is a man who does not make the world a better place.” My brothers, we have an opportunity to make the world a better place by donating the gift of life. What can be a more important task for Freemasons?

God bless!

Open House — an Opportunity

by Richard F. Denno

The Masonic Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Program can play an important role at your lodge’s Open House on Saturday, October 18. Quality men who look for quality groups to affiliate with will want to become involved with fraternities that ‘Make a Difference’ in their communities. The Masonic Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Program is a great example of such a program.

All lodges were provided with Donate Life flags a few years ago. These flags should be flown on Open House Day. We still have a few extra flags if your lodge’s flag has been lost or damaged. Lodges have also been provided with Donate Life brochures and holders to be displayed in lodge.

Is your lodge Wi-Fi capable? Last year, some lodges had computer setups for organ donor registrations. Visitors to the Open House, or brothers who had not registered previously, were able to go to www.donatelifenewengland.org, review the New England Organ Bank website, and make that important, lifesaving decision to register online as an organ/tissue/eye donor. We will be emailing other materials to lodges, such as the paper organ donor signup forms and reference materials. These can be photocopied and be available for our guests. The ever increasing number on the organ transplant waiting list now exceeds 123,000 nationwide and keeps growing. It is through efforts like those of Connecticut Freemasons, that those numbers will be reduced.

Another excellent source of information is the COCA (Committee on Community Action) webpage on the www.ctfreemasons.org website. Here, you’ll find interesting information on organ/tissue donation. Included on the site are the topics, Facts about organ donation, and Organ Donor Questions and Answers.

Other examples of our community service programs can also be found on the COCA site. These include, CTCHIP, Tabs For Tots, Program Take 25 Child Safety, as well as Bootcamp for Veterans, and our involvement with the American Red Cross. It is quality programs such as these that will stimulate interest in our fraternity by the potential candidates coming to our Open Houses across the state.

Freemasonry and community service go hand in hand. By sponsoring quality community service programs, we will attract those men in our communities that will become the future of our fraternity.

Remember – “Don’t Take Your Organs to Heaven – Heaven Knows We Need Them Here!”
MHC Seeks Volunteers for the Geriatric Lay Ministry Program

Aging, with its many challenges, is often a time when spiritual resources and emotional support are very important to the elderly and their families. Unfortunately, there simply aren’t enough people trained to provide the pastoral care and spiritual resources vital to an elderly person’s well-being.

Masonicare and its affiliate, Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford, are meeting that need by offering the “Lay Training in Geriatric Ministry” program. Open to people of all faiths, the program has been teaching basic ministry skills to volunteers from the community for close to 20 years.

Participants will attend a 20 hour education program, held in October, at Masonicare Health Center. A sample of topics covered include “Introduction and Orientation to our Facility,” “The Pastoral Care Visit,” “Understanding Dementia,” and “Coping with Loss.”

Continuing education and support sessions are provided monthly.

After completing the course, participants make a one-year commitment to provide approximately four hours of pastoral ministry at Masonicare Health Center each week. In addition to making a valued contribution to the lives of residents, volunteers will learn skills that will enable them to minister effectively to older members of their own families, church, mosque, or temple, as well as in the community.

Other opportunities to serve the worshipping community at Masonicare Health Center include transporting seniors to worship and other religious activities and instrumental accompaniment at worship services, vespers, and hymn sings.

If you have interest in participating in the Lay Training in Geriatric Ministry Program at Masonicare Health Center, please call Chaplain Thayer Quoos at 203-679-6259 or tquoos@masonicare.org.

For information about Masonicare and Masonicare Health Center, or to obtain directions, visit www.masonicare.org or call the Masonicare HelpLine at 888-679-9997.

Join the Masonicare Memory Keepers at the Walk to End Alzheimer’s – September 28 in New Haven

Masonicare is a leader in caring for seniors, many of whom have Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia. On Sunday, September 28, you can join Masonicare’s team, the Masonicare Memory Keepers, at the 2014 New Haven regional Walk to End Alzheimer’s. The walk is one of many to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer’s care, support and research.

The walk will be held at beautiful Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven. Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. with the walk starting at 10:00 a.m. and ending by 11:30 a.m.

There will be free refreshments, basket raffles, a Promise Garden to honor loved ones, t-shirts, an inspiring opening ceremony – and it’s on the beach! You can call or email Team Captain Audrey Grove in Masonicare Community Services at 203-679-6907 or at agrove@masonicare.org. She will send you all the information you need to register on-line.

A World Away, MHH’s Aimee Powers Makes a World of Difference

Aimee Powers is a physical therapist for Masonicare Home Health. In June, Aimee was one of 119 people who made an annual two-week mission trip to the Dominican Republic. These volunteers help Haitian immigrants who come from their neighboring country in hopes of a better life but earn pennies a day cutting sugar cane. They live in squalor in “Batey” villages inside the sugar cane fields and are denied healthcare at government-run hospitals because they are not citizens.

A member of First Baptist Church of Wallingford, Aimee became interested in this cause back in 1989, when missionaries spoke to her congregation about the plight of these people. The following year, Aimee and 11 other charter volunteers of the Dominican Republic Mission Team traveled to the island and helped pour footings for the Good Samaritan Hospital. Now, twenty-four years later, the hospital is near completion and treating over 50,000 patients a year – and the mission team includes scores of volunteers from across the U.S. and even has its own website: www.drmissionteam.org.

And they haven’t stopped there! “We’ve put water filters in homes to combat illness from contaminated drinking water, we’re constructing hurricane-proof homes in place of tin shacks and we even provide mobile medical clinics out in the villages and distribute food,” says Aimee.
Carrying the Lamp of Research into the Blue Lodge

by Chuck 2.0 Landau

Why do research on Freemasonry? Isn’t everything we need to know already in our Blue Book, our lodge room furnishings, and our Past Masters?

The Philosophic Lodge of Research (PLR) and its sister Lodge of Research in New Haven (MLR) play a unique role in Connecticut Freemasonry. Research lodges do not initiate to make Masons. They are composed of Master Masons with an interest in the history and mysteries of Masonry who conduct original research, write up the results, and then carry that knowledge out into the Blue Lodges and the craft.

Some brothers encounter the research lodges at Grand Lodge workshops, seminars, and training sessions. Others are treated to a visiting presentation at their home lodge, and still others will download and read research lodge papers from the Grand Lodge website, foundation.ctfreemasons.net/index.php/masonic-education.html, after signing in.

Freemasonry is an ancient and honorable fraternity, which has evolved over time in America. If we do not know what has happened before, we will likely repeat the mistakes of the past, and less likely to notice and follow those paths which have produced the best results. We also study those giants of the past to better emulate their qualities and successes. We revere George Washington not merely for what he did, but who he was and how he did it. In Washington, Franklin, and the country’s founders, we uncover more of what it means to be a Mason.

Our ritual and furnishings hold the secrets of our philosophy, but they do not give up those secrets easily. Not all our ritual explanations are plainly written, and some are deliberately disguised. The clues are there, but will only yield to contemplation, not mere memorization.

In the first half of 2014 PLR has lectured at twenty-five lodge communications, with eight lecturers and fifteen different presentations. Worshipful Masters in Connecticut have this added resource in composing interesting programs designed to make lodge meetings more interesting and increase attendance. Programs ranged with topics about “Brother Audie Murphy- tragic hero” (history); “Diversity in the Craft :”Kindnesses in Cusco, Kathmandu, and Kishine” (brotherly love); “Recognition and Preservation of Masonic Artifacts” (treasures); “An Esoteric Examination of Lodge Ritual” (ritual); and The Secrets of a Master Mason (Philosophy). Many more choices available to lodges simply by contacting PLR. To schedule a lecture, please contact the PLR librarian, Chuck 2.0 Landau at chuck 418 @gmail. com.

Freemasonry is supported by brotherly love, relief and truth. Brotherly love is the friendships and picnics; relief is our charitable endeavors, and the search for truth is what distinguishes a Mason from other clubs or associations. We share with those fine organizations a concern for community, but as Masons, we have the search for truth, embedded in our rituals and history. It is what distinguishes us as Masons.

Lunch & Learn

“The Risks of Taking Too Many Medications”

On Thursday, September 18, Kim Venterea, RPh, MBA, CGP, consultant pharmacist for Masonicare at Newtown, will present a Lunch and Learn program there entitled “The Risks of Taking Too Many Medications.”

In her presentation, Ms. Venterea will discuss the increasing prescription use in the senior population and the risks involved in taking more medication than is clinically needed. She will also address the safety of taking medications daily, as well as what you need to know about over-the-counter medications.

Ms. Venterea is a graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, and received her Master’s from the Ancell School of Business at Western Connecticut State University. She earned her certification in Geriatric Pharmacy in 2005, and has been employed at Omnicare of Connecticut for 14 years. Ms. Venterea has experience in both hospital and retail pharmacy, but has focused on the long-term care pharmacy environment for the past 17 years.

The free presentation will be held in the Lodge Room at Masonicare at Newtown, 139 Toddy Hill Road at 11:30 followed by a complimentary lunch. Reservations are required, so please call the Masonicare HelpLine at 888-679-9997 by Friday, September 12, to reserve your space.

Masonicare provides Lunch and Learn programs for adults and caregivers as a public service to the community.
The 3 R's...Rules and Regulations Review

by Thomas A. Burke

When someone is asked to join a committee at work, their first thought may be “okay, now what—more work!” And it’s true; working on committees really does take some effort. But would you ever think of committee work as a venue to learn, make friendships, and promote Masonry? If not—this may change your mind!

The work of an active lodge requires the participation of more than just the elected and appointed officers. There are events to organize and run, education to be dispensed, audits to be conducted and reports to be prepared, visitors to be examined, and petitioners to be investigated. Many opportunities for brothers to work together for the betterment of their lodge. In your lodge’s bylaws there may be provisions for standing committees. That means these committees are required to be staffed. Examples may include Audit, Budget, Sick and Visiting, Publicity, or Custodian of the Work. Special committees are not noted in lodge bylaws but can be found in a defined procedure titled “Lodge Committees” (administered by the Committee for Masonic Education) at www.ctfreemasons.net/index.php/departments/policy-and-procedures.html.

As described previously, and as noted in the contents document, “The Policy and Procedures Manual is a collection of documents which describe policies of the Grand Lodge and its committees as well as procedures for accomplishing certain objectives. The Policy and Procedures Manual is intended to provide a single source of the latest correct information on a particular topic. The documents contained therein are therefore the controlling documents and all other existing documents are subordinate thereto.”

Working on a committee at a lodge is one of the best ways to get to really know your fellow brothers. One of the longest friendships I have had within the fraternity developed while I was elbow-deep in a kitchen sink washing dishes for an upcoming installation program, as I had volunteered to serve on the special committee to plan and organize that event. Over the course of a few hours, time spent laboring was accompanied by time spent talking, sharing, and building the bonds of brotherhood (envision our working tool the trowel).

I also learned how to conduct a financial audit of a lodge by volunteering to assist an audit committee. Other brothers who had conducted audits in the past shared their knowledge and processes with the committee members. We further researched the rules and regulations and policies and procedures to determine the requirements, and we worked as a team to conduct the audit and write the report for our lodge’s annual meeting. I was able to take this knowledge with me into other areas within the fraternity.

Within the procedure, several types of committees are discussed in detail in order to provide an overview and guidance to brothers (as noted: Brother Frank L. Linsley, Most Worshipful Grand Master in 1963, explained the purpose of several lodge committees). Specific detail is provided for committees on education, programs, publicity, public relations, and investigation.

The detail provided for Publicity and Public Relations does an excellent job differentiating between these two similar, yet distinct topics. Publicity is clearly explained as something that lodges use and control at their own discretion, for their benefit and the benefit of the fraternity, “…Through use of diverse media, this committee can publicize our Masonic activities, as permissible, that the whole world will know our organization is an active one.” Public Relations is described as actions with regard for or in response to other groups, individuals, or the community at large. As noted in the Public Relations section, “…Good public relations begins at home with well-informed members…great care should be taken that the public receives a good impression of the craft and its workings, so that its reputation is preserved…By a full observance of his duties as a Master Mason, the individual brother will maintain relationships in the community which will bring credit to himself and honor to the fraternity.”

REVIEW:
Lodge Committees
Policy and Procedure
Revision Date: 2009.07.15
Responsible Committee: Masonic Education
Location:
www.ctfreemasons.net/images/stories/P_PGLCT
lodgecommittees091507.pdf

Policy and Procedures documents are often structured so as to reference the specific Rules and Regulations that cover the topic. For example, the Lodge Committees Policy and Procedure references three Sections of the Rules and Regulations:
Section 3002 Lodge has Authority over Committees
Section 3215 Master’s Prerogative to Appoint All Committees
Section 4115 Petition must be Referred to Committee on Investigation

The procedure also notes “Lodge Bylaws May establish Standing Committees”

There are two types of committees: standing and special. Standing committees are those which are required by the lodge bylaws. The membership of these committees may change each year. Special committees facilitate the execution of a particular program, project, or meeting. Committee work is an excellent medium for creating and maintaining active interest among the membership. A most important duty of a Master is the appointment of Lodge committees.
LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS
News from the Valleys of
Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury

Issue No. 1

September 2014

Considering the Path of the Scottish Rite?
Here’s how it works:

by John A. Amarilios and Erik P. Meyer

New Scottish Rite Freemasons are often curious about how the degree system works. In Blue Lodge, they’re told the degree of Master Mason is the “Highest” or “Most Sublime” degree in Masonry. Now they are offered an additional 29 degrees, the 4° through the 32°, with the possibility of another, the 33°. They may be curious that they will receive the 4° right away, and only three other degrees needed to receive the 32°.

This may seem strange to a brother who has risen through the hierarchical progression of the three Blue Lodge degrees. The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction offers the degrees of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in a scheme called the “Bookend Concept.” It is intended to convey the primary goals of the AASR in the least possible time while giving the candidate an enticing taste of what the full cycle of degrees has in store.

This initial set of at least five degrees, beginning with the 4°, followed by any three additional degrees and ending with the 32°, entitles the candidate to full membership in the Rite. On completion of his degrees he will be presented with a durable membership card that will entitle him to travel freely to any regular Valley or Consistory where he may complete his “travels” from the 5° through the 31°. These additional degrees may be viewed in any order whenever they become available anywhere within the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. He may thus fill his “32° Passport” with memories of the experiences gathered along with the dates and names of the places frequented during his quest to view the full cycle of degrees.

Fortunately, one does not have to travel far to complete this journey, as most degrees are likely to be portrayed within the confines of one’s own state, or even one’s own Consistory, over a period of just a few short years!

Let’s see how this all works.

The following degrees will be offered in Lafayette Consistory in the Fall of 2014 at the time and places indicated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DEGREE</th>
<th>WHERE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>4° and 10°</td>
<td>New Haven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 29</td>
<td>14°</td>
<td>Stratford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>6°</td>
<td>Waterbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>15°</td>
<td>Stratford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>22° and 24°</td>
<td>Stratford (on DVD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>13°</td>
<td>Waterbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>11°</td>
<td>New Haven</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 19</td>
<td>16°</td>
<td>Waterbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 24</td>
<td>21°</td>
<td>Stratford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>18°</td>
<td>New Haven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>32°</td>
<td>Norwich</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So, to be eligible for the 32° in Norwich on December 13, it is only necessary to view the 4° in New Haven on September 22 and view any three of the other offerings before the 32° comes around.

If one misses the 4°, he can arrange to view a DVD presentation of this degree on the same day and in advance of one of the other degrees offered. If one is hard pressed for time, due to work, family, or other obligations, the degrees can still be completed during subsequent seasons because Passport stamps never lapse. If some diligent brother manages to view every single degree offered in Connecticut during the coming Fall semester, he will complete nearly half of the full cycle of AASR degrees in only three months.

Come join us for another season of spectacular pageantry that will ennoble your spirit and further your understanding of your Master Mason obligation, and come and break bread with us before the degree.

Stamford Cigar Night

The Valley of Bridgeport hosted a Cigar Night for brothers and friends on Friday, August 8, at the Stamford Cigar Lounge in Stamford. A night of good cigars, generous libations, excellent sports TV, and unparalleled good fellowship was enjoyed by all. Close to fifteen brothers attended the event, which promises to be an ongoing social for brothers in the Southwest corner of the state.

The next one should be sometime in January!

Watch for future announcements…

Annual Dyslexia Awareness Walk

Sunday - October 5
Registration from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Registration Fee: Under 12 ($5), Adults 12 and older ($15)
Family ($25)
Walk step-off at 1:00 p.m.
Children’s Dyslexia Center of Connecticut
529 Highland Avenue, Waterbury, CT 06708
203-465-0830
Sign up Sponsors Brochures available at the Learning Center
WALK IN SUPPORT OF THE CHILDREN’S PROGRAM
Brother Irving Lieff MSA, Awarded Lifetime Achievement Award

If you have been to a Consistory event, or for that matter any Valley of Bridgeport event in the past score of years, you have probably run into the omnipresent Irving Lieff. “Irv,” whose quintessential smile and graceful demeanor, has served as a great introduction to Scottish Rite Freemasonry, to countless numbers of Master Masons who sought to further their understanding of the essence of their Master Mason obligations.

Irv, was recently awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by Illustrious Bruce T. Work, 33°, at the Second Annual Surf and Turf soiree on June 11, 1924 in Bridgeport, held at Lafayette Consistory in and attended Bridgeport Public Schools, graduating from Central High in 1942. He soon joined the family textile business which he later moved from Bridgeport to Norwalk.

In 1995 Irv was recognized by the Supreme Council for having witnessed all of the Scottish Rite Degrees from the 4° to the 32°. At the time he was the second brother in Lafayette Consistory to have accomplished this.

This year he was awarded his 60 year pin from Grand Lodge at Temple Lodge No. 65.

His fraternal commitments and involvements are legend, and the number of appreciative brothers who he has personally introduced to Scottish Rite Freemasonry can be found in many lodges throughout the state.

He is probably best known for his smiling countenance, friendly demeanor, and his never ending efforts to shepherd Brothers in search of more light to the doors of the Masonic Fraternity!

Brother Irving—Congratulations!

NEWS FROM THE VALLEY OF NEW HAVEN:

by Steven Allinson, Sovereign Prince
Elm City Council, Princes of Jerusalem

This fall reunion is going to be extraordinarily special. The Valley of New Haven has many exciting events planned. The first kicks off with a bang, or more accurately the pop of a cork.

For a frightfully great adventure just before All Hallow’s Eve, we will tour the historic Grove Street Cemetery on October 5, at 11:30 a.m. We will meet at 285 Whitney Avenue, for coffee, water, and doughnuts, then walk or carpool to the cemetery for the tour. Don’t be scared. Reserve your spot by going to http://tinyurl.com/nunsvud. Please bring a small contribution to tip our tour guide.

In addition to these events, we have an exciting set of degrees planned. Many have not been performed in several years, and if you haven’t been to the Valley recently, come on down. A lot has changed and we can’t wait to see you again.

Brother Irving Lieff—Congratulations!

LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS NEWS FROM THE VALLEYS OF BRIDGEPORT, NEW HAVEN, AND WATERBURY Published quarterly with a semi-annual special section in the Connecticut Freemasons Consistory Secretary: Jack J.S. Farkas, MSA, 33° • Editor: John A. Amarilios 32° Change of Address-Mail Correspondence to: Lafayette Consistory News, PO Box 309, Stratford CT 06615; E-mail to: Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com 203-375-0064 • Fax 203-386-0828
Lafayette Consistory Appreciation Night

Every August the Consistory honors members who have spent hours rehearsing, traveling to degrees, preparing costumes, and setting up sets and sound systems to make degrees happen by serving a sumptuous steak dinner. This year’s dinner was held at Molto Bene in Ansonia.

The heads of each of the Rite’s bodies also have an opportunity to give a look into the coming year.

Meet the New Commander in Chief of Lafayette Consistory!

RW Brad Cooney, brings his own unique style to the position of Commander in Chief and promises a term of increasing cooperation and inter-valley fraternal contact between all the Scottish Rite Valleys of Connecticut!

Brad Cooney, Commander in Chief – Lafayette Consistory!

The schedule is already set for the first class. We’ll be setting a date to establish the schedule for the Spring class later in the season. I’ll be reaching out to the other Commanders in Chief to try to coordinate the degrees even better between the consistories.

We should continue to try to find parts for our new Scottish Rite brothers. The best way to keep them–and to keep them interested–is to give them work to do. Now that we’re portraying more (and different) degrees each season, there should be many more opportunities to bring new brothers in to take those parts. For the more established degrees, we need to promote understudies for each principal part. This is useful when the experienced brother isn’t able to take his part, but also good to see different portrayals and perspectives about any given part. Our degrees have many layers of meaning. Seeing them portrayed by different brothers, on a regular basis, will help us to see new layers of meaning in our degrees. Remember, also: now that we are working closely between the different valleys in our consistory, we should feel free to look for understudies from other Valleys.

I’d also like to see our Valleys continue to increase programs for discussion and elucidation of the lessons of our degrees. This includes those degrees which have been changed or modified. We can discuss the lessons left out in the modified degrees, I believe, without breaking trust with our leaders in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Finally, I’d like to thank Ill. Bro. Jack Farkas for his substantial and continuing good work in our “noble and glorious cause” as Scottish Rite Masons.

Gary Shepard, Thrice Potent Master
Dewitt Clinton Lodge of Perfection:

We’ll be having our annual installation dinner on September 6 at the Riverview Bistro in Stratford. Wives and significant others will be our guests to enjoy dinner, the formal installation, and entertainment. I am working on a trip in September to the Big E in Springfield, Massachusetts, as well as a Boston Pops Christmas concert in December if they perform in Connecticut. Finally, we will be marching in Stratford’s 375th anniversary parade on September 20.

The Lodge of Perfection from the Valley of Bridgeport will portray the 14° on September 29, and the 11° entitled “Sublime Master Elected” on October 27 in New Haven. We are looking for additional cast members for both degrees.

The Valley of New Haven has asked for our help as directors for the portrayal of the 4°, scheduled for September 22 in New Haven.

To plan for the spring of 2015, it is important to meet with the Thrice Potent Masters from Waterbury and New Haven to discuss their ideas on degree work to get the most out of the Lodges of Perfection, and how we can help each other out.

Tyreke Bird, Most Wise Master, Pequonnock Chapter Rose Croix:

I thank Illustrious Brothers Dave Sharkis, Bruce T. Work, and Jack Farkas for their integrity, enthusiasm, and intellect. Their support has given me the opportunity to be the leader I am. Through the spirit of faith you can see the devotion to our work. You paved the way for our new leadership, Illustrious Brothers Brad Cooney and Austin Clarke, who will do exceedingly well.

I thank the officers in the chapter for taking the obligations to perform their duties. Willingly, one day, the office of Most Wise Master will be yours.

I plan to reach out to the Valley of New Haven. Brother Bob Furce, successfully put together a large cast for the 17°. He told me, whatever I needed in my year, he’ll do. So he can bring the scotch and cigars for rehearsals for the 17° in spring of 2015.

I am ecstatic about the knowledge, wisdom, understanding, and freedom the Scottish Rite gives its members, the virtue of equality among the world’s best men.

Erik Meyer, Sovereign Prince
Washington Council Princes Of Jerusalem:

In the coming year, the Washington Council Princes of Jerusalem will be staging two degrees: the 15° on the October 6 and the 16° in the spring of 2015. We are seeking participants to fill some of the roles. You needn’t be experienced or have a sharp memory. There are parts for everyone.

Please make sure that we have your current e-mail address so we can solicit your interest and advise you of upcoming rehearsal dates. Our email is office@lafayetteConsistory.com, Thank you, my brothers for your attention.
Looking at Lafayette Consistory’s Legacy

We have just begun the third century of Scottish Rite Masonry in our Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. The trials and ordeals, which have been endured have only made the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite better and provide a more lasting impression of the ineffible and sublime teachings of the Rite through her ceremonies and allegories.

Without being too academic, the Scottish Rite made three different attempts to lay anchor in Connecticut. The first came from French Santo Domingo in 1800, who found themselves about Norwich. There are a number of accounts pursuant to various attempts in New London and Middletown, as well, to colonize Scottish Rite operations. But, it would take another 64 years to get the Valley of Norwich off the ground.

It may help the layman to know that the Scottish Rite is a French conception. The word Scottish comes from the French word Ecossais, which means Scottish. It alludes to a form of learning, or a type of school. It has nothing to do with Scotland as the City of York has to the York Rite.

As the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (NMJ) was struggling to grow, a path was forged, and a plateau met in New Haven, fostered by Killian H. Van Rensselaer. It seemed he found a common bond between Ill. John J. J. Gourgas 33* and Francis Turner (deBussy), both of whose roots were steeped in French heritage. Born Francois Turneur deBussy, he left his native France to teach French at Yale. He married a grand-daughter of Brother and General David Wooster. After his coronation he returned to France. Upon his return, Illustrious Turner found much disarray throughout the NMJ. After the passing of E. G. Storer in 1870, the Lodge of Perfection was named for him, and within five years the Elm City Council Princes of Jerusalem and the New Haven Chapter, Rose Croix had fully established The Valley of New Haven.

The work of Ill. Turner, E.G. Storer, William E. Sanford, and others were stalled for a time, and the focus turned to Bridgeport, where William R. Higby, James L. Gould, and Edward Atwood gathered the troops, and instituted The Valley of Bridgeport and Lafayette Consistory, on June 1, 1858.

While the internal strife between the Hays-Raymond Supreme Council and that of Cerneau-Arwood had resulted in more harm than good, the Union of 1867 caused peace and harmony to prevail.

When the Valley of Waterbury was finally established a mere thirty years after the Union in 1897, they conferred the Ineffible Degrees in Waterbury, and were welcomed to participate with the Valley of Bridgeport and the Valley of New Haven in the conferment of the Sublime Degrees within Lafayette Consistory. Thus, the work of the Scottish Rite in the jurisdiction of Lafayette Consistory has continued without confusion.

2014 Clambake, Surf and Turf Feast

by John A. Amarilios

In what is the social highlight of the summer season for Lafayette Consistory for Lafayette Consistory, over 180 Scottish Rite brothers and their families attended the Second Clambake, Surf and Turf Feast on August 2 at Booth Memorial Park in Stratford. The event was sponsored by the Valley Of Bridgeport and Lafayette Consistory. Brothers and their families, from Bridgeport, New Haven Waterbury Valleys and brothers interested in the Scottish Rite were in attendance.

As if, steamers, lobster and steak were not enough, homemade desserts abounded as the ladies brought their goodies to share.

This year’s feast began at around noon, and all the worries about the weather abated as the rain clouds parted and sun shone down. An idyllic summer day was enjoyed by all.

Originally conceived of as a summer Thanksgiving, it has rapidly become a Scottish Rite Family event which everyone looks forward to.

Opportunities to work on degree parts, lighting, sound, wardrobe and costuming makeup, and technical crews are available, for anyone. The Scottish Rite always encourages a brother to indicate his interest. Please contact Office@LafayetteConsistory.com or Membership@LafayetteConsistory.com for more information on opportunities for Scottish Rite and membership!

CATCH OF THE DAY!
Consistory Fishing Trip
Planned for September 13!

The Consistory Fishing trip is planned to leave the docks in Bridgeport at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 13 for several hours of offshore fishing. Last year’s outing yielded some blue fish, bass and lots of fluke. Those interested should contact the Consistory office, Office@LafayetteConsistory, to make reservations.

Brothers Thom Beck, Harvey Hartin, Jose Colon and Francis Shergold, along with friends Amanda MacMillan and Osi Rosenberg, show off their handiwork at this spring’s trip!
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 yrctramsm@yahoo.com.

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

Tuesday, September 2, (MP)(F) Adam Sattig Council No. 35, Milford, Apple Festival
Tuesday, September 2, (RE)(U) Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford
Tuesday, September 2, (F) Keystone Chapter No. 27, Meriden, Mark Master degree, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 3, (ME)(F) Halleck Chapter No. 44, Madison
Friday, September 5-6, (ME)(MP)(RE) Northeast Department York Rite Conference, Manchester, New Hampshire
Monday, September 8, (ME)(F) Union Chapter No. 7, Preston
Monday, September 8, (MP)(F) Cushing Council No. 4, Preston
Tuesday, September 9, (ME)(MP)(F) Milford Chapter No. 49, Milford, Most Excellent Master degree
Tuesday, September 9, (RE)(U) Cyrene Commandery No. 8, Middletown
Thursday, September 11, (ME)(MP)(F) Rittenhouse Chapter No. 11 and Washington Council No. 6, Darien, Mark Master Mason degree
Thursday, September 11, (F) Joseph Andrews Chapter No. 46, West Haven, Most Excellent Master degree
Saturday, September 13-14, (ME)(RE)(U) Grand Commandery of New York, Lake George
Monday, September 15, (MP)(U) Trinity Commandery No. 3, Darien
Tuesday, September 16, (ME)(F) Burning Bush-Washington Chapter No. 6, Middletown
Tuesday, September 16, (RE)(U) Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford
Friday, September 19, (RE)(U) New Haven Commandery No. 2, East Hartford
Wednesday, September 24, (ME)(F) Pulaski Chapter No. 26, Branford
Thursday, September 25, (ME)(MP)(U) Palestine Commandery No. 6, Preston
Thursday, September 25, (RE)(U) Palestinian Council No. 6, Preston
Saturday, September 27, (RE)(U) Good Intent Chapter No. 17, Order of Eastern Star, South Glastonbury, 120th anniversary flag presentation

COMING UP:
October 3, ME at Columbia Chapter No. 31, Collinsville
October 7, Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford, reception of REGC, 6:30 p.m. dinner
October 8, ME at Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, East Hartford
October 9, ME at Cyrus-Meridian Chapter No. 15, Torrington
October 14, ME at Franklin Chapter No. 2, New Haven
October 17-19, ME at Grand Chapter RA of Massachusetts

FROM MEGHP CHARLES D. O’NEILL
Companions, I hope that all of you had a good relaxing summer away from the quarries, but now it is time to resume our labors. September looks to be a very busy month.

All High Priest and chapter secretaries should have received a copy of the Directory of Chapters and Grand Officers; please contact your inspecting officers and schedule your chapter’s inspection as soon as possible. Remember that the inspection this year requires the chapter to portray the Mark Master degree, without the aid of ritual books.

I am looking forward to my visitation to Union Chapter as they move to their new home in Preston, as well as all the other chapters. I wish everyone a productive and successful year.

As there is no state wide chapter festival this year, some chapters have already begun discussion of holding their own regional festivals for the portrayal of the Royal Arch. I encourage our chapters to work together and improve our degree work. Remember that the Grand Chapter officers are here to help, and you can contact any of us for assistance.

FROM MPGM CHARLES A. McCOLLUM
Companions, after what I hope was a restful summer, we are now resuming our labors in the quarries. I look forward to getting out to all the councils this fall and visiting with you. You should be contacted soon, if not already, by the Grand Council officer assigned to your council to set up the date for his official visitation and inspection. Remember that all inspections must be on the Royal Master degree, even if you do not have a candidate.

I am trying to fill numerous vacancies in Grand Representatives, so I encourage any of you with a desire to communicate with and perhaps visit our sister jurisdictions to contact me and see if any of the openings works for you. Each of the Grand Council officers will have the list of vacancies during their visits.

During each Grand Council officer visit, to include my own, a formal discussion of the two-year term for Grand Council officers will take place and your input is earnestly solicited. This discussion can be done during the assembly or after during fellowship, but it is important that we as a Grand Council know your feelings on this proposal.

FROM REGC WILLIAM A. G. MACKEY
Palestine Commandery No. 6 invites you to a special evening to mark its opening Conclave at Preston on Thursday, September 25. Ladies, family members, and friends are cordially invited to this semi-public event. The program for the evening will include a potluck dinner, followed by a reception of the REGC and his suite of Grand Commandery officers and their ladies. I have been invited to present my paper on Masonic Knights Templar: A Short History, which has been revised and augmented with PowerPoint slides. Reservations are required for meal planning purposes. Please email Sir Knight John Birdsall at PalestineNo6KT@sbcglobal.net to make your reservations and to let him know what item of food you are bringing for the potluck dinner.

You are warmly invited to a “Masonic Family Holiday Country-Dance Party” on Saturday, December 6, at 7:00 p.m. at New Haven Masonic Temple. This event — which is a fundraiser for Connecticut DeMolay and Connecticut Rainbow — is being sponsored by the Grand Commandery in partnership with all Masonic bodies in Connecticut. Bill Barr will be playing a mix of barn dance, country, and popular dance music. He will also be teaching and calling the dances. All dances will be fun and easy to do. If you can walk to a beat, you really can have fun and dance! Light refreshments will be served and you are invited to bring an item on a potluck basis. Tickets will be $10 per person, or $15 per couple, and $5 for those under 18 who are not members of DeMolay or Rainbow. The dance is free to members of Connecticut DeMolay and Connecticut Rainbow. More details to follow. Please mark your calendar for this holiday season event!
Entered Apprentice Degrees
Wednesday, September 3, Union No. 5, Stamford, 6:30 p.m. dinner, inspection
Wednesday, September 10, Ivanhoe No. 107, Darien, 7:00 p.m. dinner, inspection
Wednesday, September 17, Corinthian No. 103, North Haven, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Thursday, September 18, Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington, 6:15 p.m. dinner

Tuesday, September 23, Acacia No. 85, Greenwich, 7:00 p.m. dinner, inspection

Fellowcraft Degrees
Tuesday, September 16, Coastal No. 57, Stonington, Senior Warden in the East

Thursday, September 17, Corinthian No. 103, North Haven, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Master Mason Degrees
Thursday, September 25, Hiram No. 1, New Haven, 6:30 p.m. dinner, performed by Past Masters.
Saturday, September 27, Ashlar-Aspetuck No. 142, Easton, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 8th annual Master Mason Farm Degree, Klein Farm, 22 Stanley Rd. (Corner of Judd Road and Hiram Hill), Monroe

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THE 2ND ANNUAL FINE ARTS SHOW AND SALE
Proceeds to Support the Museum
SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2014 - 11AM-4PM
112 East Main Street - Meriden, Connecticut 06450

Featuring:
* Judged Fine Art Show!
* Young Artist Show!
* Fine Art Sale and Vendors!
* Prizes Awarded!
* Refreshments Available!

Guest Judge Melissa Gionfriddo from Tesoro Artisan Gift Gallery & Boutique
Main Street, Middletown, CT.

To Register For Show
or For Space Rental Please Contact:
Paul Magnotta
Phone: 860-398-0685
Email: magnottapaul@icloud.com

See You There!

SAVE THE DATE
THURSDAY - OCTOBER 2, 2014
6:30 PM - 9:30PM
SEQUIN-LEVEL LODGE 140
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT
PROUDLY PRESENTS 2014

LODGE AT TABLE

THIS WILL BE A TRADITIONAL TABLE LODGE
WHERE MEN OF LIKE MIND GATHER TO ENJOY A GREAT MEAL, STIMULATING CONVERSATION, SUPERB RITUAL AND MOST IMPORTANT BROTHERHOOD.

WE HAVE CRAFTED A SEVEN COURSE MEAL THAT IS FIT FOR ROYALTY

OUR KITCHEN CREW IS SECOND TO NONE.
THE MEAL WILL BE UNFORGETTABLE
$25.00 PER PERSON

THIS IS A FORMAL EVENT - TUXEDO OR BLACK SUIT
ONLY 100 TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE
TICKETS GO SALE NOW
THIS EVENT WILL SELL OUT, SO PURCHASE YOUR TICKET EARLY
ALL OFFICERS HAVE TICKETS
reservations@sequin-level140.org
Craft at Refreshment...

Saturday, September 6, Ivanhoe No. 107, Darien, 10:00 a.m., Masonic Memorial Service for WB Lynn Hanks

Sunday, September 7, Hiram No. 1, New Haven, 11:00 a.m. lodge picnic, Ashlar Village pavilion, Wallingford

Sunday, September 7, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, 8:30 a.m., Master’s roundtable and breakfast

Sunday, September 7, Corinthian No. 103, North Haven, 9:00 a.m., North Haven Fair, fried dough booth

Thursday, September 11, Hiram No. 1, New Haven, 6:30 p.m. dinner, awards night

Thursday, September 11, Temple No. 65, Westport, 7:00 p.m., German food and beer

Thursday, September 11, Corinthian No. 103, North Haven, 8:00 a.m. breakfast at State St. Café, North Haven

Tuesday, September 16, Frederick-Franklin No. 14, Plainville, education by WB Ken Jones

Tuesday, September 16, Seneca No. 55, Torrington, Scott Rosengrant in the East, casual dress

Wednesday, September 17, Center No. 97, Meriden, instructions to new members regarding the latest degree work, discussion of symbology in the lodge

Friday, September 19, Philosophic Lodge of Research, Cromwell, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Bro. Ryan J. Brown: Anti-Masonry: A Historical View From 1200 A.D. To Modern Anti-Masonic Theory

Saturday, September 20, Montgomery No. 13, Lakeville, 4:00 p.m., lobster and clam sales

Saturday, September 20, Moriah No. 15, Brooklyn, 5:00 p.m., 4th Annual Ye Olde Table Lodge

Monday, September 22, Temple No. 16, Cheshire, Esoteric Freemason lecture series

Wednesday, September 24, Masonic Lodge of Research, New Haven, presentation by Bro. Eric Meyer

Saturday, September 27, Putnam No. 46, South Woodstock, 7:00 dinner, Glow Ball (golf) tournament, Roseland Golf Course

Sunday, September 28, Center No. 97, Meriden, 8:00 a.m., Center Lodge Breakfast

Tuesday, September 30, Friendship No. 33, Southington, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Fifth District Blue Lodge Council, Wethersfield Community Cent, 30 Greenfield St, Wethersfield

Tuesday, September 30, Seneca No. 55, Torrington, 7:30 PM, Table Lodge, Yes, Table Lodge - starts promptly at 7:30pm

The July/August issue of Connecticut Freemasons misidentified Wyllys-St. John’s Lodge (Not Wyllis) along with Brothers John Kessler (not Kehler) and Justin Duffy (not Patrick).

Thanks for bringing it to our attention and being such good sports!

Reminder Wyllys-St. John’s Lodge No. 4 will meet at Sequin-Level No. 140, Newington while construction is underway.

Harmony Court No. 12 and Rainbow No. 20, Order of the Amaranth Together with Winn Residential Proudly Present the 3rd Annual

Al’s No Toes Motorcycle Run For Diabetes Research

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6

Registration 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Start off location: Masonic Temple, 220 Providence Rd. (Rt. 6) Brooklyn, CT

Ending Location: Golden Greek Restaurant 474 Putnam Pike Dayville, CT

Diabetes Research Information Speech 10:15 a.m. Run begins at 10:30 a.m. (Rain Date Saturday September 13)

Combined with...

A Bicycle Run and Walk For Diabetes Research

Owen Bell Park in Dayville - I-395, Exit-93 and Route 101 Registration in the Parking Lot, Route 101, Dayville - 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Diabetes Research Information Speech 11:00 a.m. - Run/Walk begins at 11:15 a.m.

All to meet afterwards at Golden Greek Restaurant, 474 Putnam Pike Dayville at 1:00 p.m.

Cost:

Motorcycle/ Bicycle $20, Passenger $10, Ghost Rider/Walker $5, Children Ages 5-10 $3, Free Children Ages 4 and under

Call Judy Brod for advance tickets sales and more details - (860) 564 - 9092
Those names in bold are new or renewing Boosters. Thank you for your support.
The Last Word…

After the busy June I had, I thought the summer would be more relaxing and I could spend more time with my wife. We had some more traveling to do in July, but I was looking forward to biking on some trails I’ve had my eye on for the past year. I didn’t realize I had set up a schedule that postponed some of my plans.

We had observed David Wooster Day last year in Ridgefield and Danbury. This year we had an opportunity to remember General and Brother David Wooster in New Haven, his hometown. The brothers of Quinta Essentia Lodge No. 500 were introduced to Masonicare’s Sue Marchese, who had helped organize the Friends of Fort Wooster, and the lodge and other brothers agreed to help. Fort Wooster is a town park that had become overgrown through neglect. It was the site of the 1779 British attack on New Haven and one of the highest spots along New Haven’s harbor.

On July 5, 235 years to the day, after the battle, the park was on its way to being cleaned up. There isn’t room enough to give proper acknowledgement in this issue, but the 200 Masons and townspeople held a great program. Sue Marchese was presented the David Wooster Medal, and the brothers of Quinta Essentia Lodge fed everyone a wonderful meal.

Three days later it was time for another party. This one observed the 225th anniversary, again to the day, of the organizing of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. You can read more about this on page 16.

The next day, Wednesday, I presented a Grand Representative’s commission from the Grand Lodge of Argentina to Bro. Michael C. Jachimczyk at Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107, Darien. I love lodge meetings in the summer.

On Saturday, Putnam Lodge No. 46, South Woodstock, put on a Master Mason degree performed by their Past Masters, despite losing the leader of Past Masters Dean Bunnell. WB Dean had suddenly passed away on his return to Connecticut from vacation, and was scheduled to preside over the degree. The brothers went ahead and filled his shoes in tribute to him and all he meant to Putnam Lodge.

The DeMolay Conclave in the middle of the month was a treat. I did it the Ken Hawkins way; I went home at night and slept in my own bed instead of toughing it out on hard college bunk beds. The weather was notably different from last year, lots of sunshine, but the spirit the DeMolays showed doesn’t change. I was humbled by being presented with the William Campbell Medal, the highest award presented by Connecticut DeMolay. Humbled because I shared one with so many others who had done so much more than me for DeMolay.

The middle of the next week was a trip to Toronto for the session of the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario. Debbi and I reconnected with our good friends, PGM Garry Dowling and his wife Wendy. Then we traveled straight down to Washington, D.C. and the Grand Lodge there who hosted the Northeast Conference of Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, and Grand Secretaries.

The conference improved on the format Connecticut instituted last year. There were six sessions but a prior survey revealed only four topics of interest. When asked for more topics, the sitting Grand Masters responded with twelve recommendations. Instead of choosing only two of the twelve, we decided to talk about all of them last year. There were six sessions but a prior survey revealed only four topics of interest. When asked for more topics, the sitting Grand Masters responded with twelve recommendations. Instead of choosing only two of the twelve, we decided to talk about all of them.

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Debby and I weren’t home for long before we left for my first board of directors meeting of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. It was my first visit since being elected to the board for a three-year term. The work of the past five years at the Memorial will come to a conclusion over the next two years. The renovations, weatherproofing, displays, and securing will have been accomplished. The Memorial will reach out to Grand Lodges and their subordinate lodges to spread the word about our mission: “To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country.”

I gained further insight into the Memorial and greater appreciation for what it means to our fraternity. Brothers, have you been to the Memorial? There’s always time for another visit. I strongly encourage you to see first hand what the Masons of our great country have built. Now it’s our turn to maintain it.

The rest of August flew by at meetings, office hours, a great dinner as a new “Taintor,” and another Camp Degree with the Masonic Scouters. The Scouters’ Entered Apprentice degree showed just how strong this association is. There were a number of Scouters from last year who couldn’t make it this year. Not a problem, as there was plenty of others to take up the slack and fill in. The Scouts were “prepared,” and put on a great night.

I expected to be with Debbi a lot more this summer. I just didn’t think it would be driving around everywhere. But, we enjoyed the drives. As someone said, “How bad is it to be stuck in a car with your best friend?”

Now our batteries are recharged as I hope yours are. We’re ready for the fall and can’t wait to get back to lodge. I hope to see you at lodge, and I appreciate all the hard work you brothers do for Freemasonry. I’m often reminded of Past Grand Master’s sayings: “If it ain’t fun, why are we doin’ it?” “Make Masonry Meaningful!” “Youth are our future!” “Masonry, a way of life. Live it every day!”

See you in lodge.

Fraternally,

Simon R. LaPlace
Most Worshipful Grand Master
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 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.

"Their experienced visiting nurses, therapists and caregivers were here for us — at home."

If your physician recommends medical care at home for you or a loved one, Masonicare is here for you. Our experienced nurses and therapists can help you recover in the comfort and familiarity of your own home, on a schedule that meets your needs.

If the situation calls for hospice or palliative care, Masonicare has specially integrated teams to bring this care to you.

For general information, call 1-888-679-9997.
For physician referrals, call 1-888-482-8862.

www.masonicare.org

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