NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
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MASONICARE’S 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Holy Land Pilgrimage
Officers of the
Grand Lodge of Connecticut
A.F. & A.M. 2018-2019

Bro. Melvin E. Johnson
Most Worshipful Grand Master

Bro. Stephen W. Petri
RW Deputy Grand Master

Bro. William E. Bohman
RW Grand Senior Warden

Bro. Bruce R. Bellmore
RW Grand Junior Warden

Bro. Newton Buckner, III
RW Grand Treasurer

Bro. Grant S. Gould
RW Grand Secretary

Bro. Joseph J. Porco
RW Grand Senior Deacon

Bro. Edward C. Page
RW Grand Junior Deacon

Bro. Les B. King
RW Grand Marshal

Bro. Rinaldo F. Magliano
RW Grand Senior Steward

Bro. Shane Dufresne
RW Grand Junior Steward

Bro. Joseph R. Krusienski
RW Grand Chaplain

Bro. Andrew R. Melillo
RW Grand Historian

Bro. Carl H. Anderson
RW Grand Almoner

Bro. Carl H. Anderson
RW Grand Organist

Bro. Richard C. Memmott, Jr.
RW Grand Tiler

Bro. Robert J. Kovi
Associate Grand Tiler

Bro. Frank R. Mangiero
Associate Grand Tiler

Bro. Brian E. Beals
Deputy Grand Treasurer

Bro. James M. Anderson
Deputy Grand Secretary

WB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr.
Assistant to the Grand Master

Not Just A Man.
A Mason.

Santa visits children at Harmony Lodge.

Wreaths Across America

Eminent Commander Charles Jewart of Washington Commandery No. 1, and REPGC William L. Miller II, the Chairman of the CT Templars for the Holy Land Pilgrimage.

SPECIAL NOTE:
GRAND LODGE
ANNUAL COMMUNICATION
APRIL 4, 8 A.M.
HARTFORD MARRIOTT,
15 FARM SPRINGS ROAD,
FARMINGTON, CT 06032

Letters, articles and advertisements may be sent to the Editor Frank Way at submissions@ctfreemasons.net and are due on the 10th of the month prior to the next issue.
Grand Commandery Sends Local Pastor to the Holy Land
by Francis G. Way

In an idyllic corner of Bloomfield, on a day whose weather seemed more like a late spring Easter Sunday than just two weeks after Christmas, the Grand Commandery and Sir Knights of Washington Commandery No. 1 gathered at the oldest Episcopal parish in Hartford County to present a special gift. Father Tim Squier, pastor of Old Saint Andrew’s Church, is the latest clergyman to be presented with a Holy Land Pilgrimage courtesy of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA and the Grand Commandery of Connecticut.

The Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage is a mission to send ordained Christian ministers on a Biblical study, and historical/cultural immersion trip that they would not otherwise have the opportunity to experience. The requirements for nominees are strict, but the reward for a minister is to see and experience first-hand the places where the events of the Gospel played out – to walk, as it were, where Jesus walked.

Father Tim Squier was nominated and supported by two members of Old Saint Andrew’s Church, who also happen to be Sir Knights in Washington Commandery No. 1: SK Bob Gresham and SK Doug Barnard. Both were on hand to witness the presentation before the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, January 12.

After gathering in the church library, a sunny, comfortable room lined with books, whose windows look out on the church cemetery on one side, and the woods behind, the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery and Washington Commandery No. 1 formed up for the procession into the sanctuary.

Led by SK Michael E. Seamon, Right Eminent Grand Commander, the Sir Knights processed into the church and occupied a reserved section of pews. REGC Seamon, Eminent Commander Charles Jewart of Washington Commandery No. 1, and REPGC William L. Miller II, the Chairman of the CT Templars for the Holy Land Pilgrimage, were joined by Father Tim in front of the church. After a short talk by REPGC Miller, explaining who the Knights Templar are, their various philanthropies, and the Holy Land Pilgrimage itself, REGC Seamon made the formal presentation of the gift to Father Tim. EC Jewart presented Father Tim with a gift from Washington Commandery No. 1 to help defray any incidental expenses Father Tim might incur on his trip. Before sitting down to let Father Tim begin the service, REGC Seamon also presented Father Tim with the coin he had struck for his year, asking Father Tim to carry it with him to the Holy Land.

The service followed the presentation, and Father Tim’s sermon was of special interest to all the Knights and Masons gathered in the congregation: “How Ritual Makes Us Human.” It was spirited and thought provoking. It was a sermon that should be heard by any brother who has ever questions why, as Masons, we stress ritual.

Following the service, the Knights and Father Tim gathered outside for a quick photo op in the record breaking 70-degree temperatures. Then all retired inside for coffee hour.

Father Tim leaves on his pilgrimage on February 3. Upon his return, he will host a travelogue for the Knights and others, and the Connecticut Freemasons will run a follow-up article.
We offer our condolences to the families and friends of those brothers who have been called by The Grand Architect of the Universe

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<td>John Peter Jaynes</td>
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<td>Richard Joseph Rust</td>
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Brothers All,

We invite you and your families to join us as we celebrate our 240th anniversary with an evening of dinner and dancing.

Union Lodge #40 AF & AM
Danbury, CT. EST. 1780

240th Anniversary Black Tie Gala

The event will be held on
Saturday April 4th, 2020 • Anthony’s Lake Club
15 Christopher Columbus Ave. • Danbury, CT 06810
Cocktail hour at 6pm • Dinner and Dancing Till 11pm

There will be a door prize and Silent Auction.
Tickets are $75 per person and are available by emailing Unionlodge40AFAM@gmail.com

Gotta Get to Garavel

Paul Garavel, Dealer

GARAVEL CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE RAM
300 Westport Avenue, Norwalk • GaravelCJDJR.com

GARAVEL SUBARU
10 Tindall Avenue, Norwalk • GaravelSubaru.com
I have had the privilege of attending several installations of incoming officers at both lodges and appendant bodies recently. All had brothers, friends and family members join in celebrating this step forward. Some had modest turnouts, one had 145 attendees. In all cases they were joyous occasions with renewed friendships and the remembering of shared experiences among not only the brothers, but their family members. We accept this as the norm and, indeed, it is for our family of Freemasons.

This stood in stark contrast to a five-page featured article in the current AARP magazine, entitled “The Loneliness Epidemic.” The pooled data of some 70 studies covering 3.4 million people showed a 29% greater risk of early death for those who were socially isolated. One scientist working with returning veterans noted that the mere presence of other people was not enough to prevent feeling isolated. What was needed were “core values and shared life experiences.” I hope that strikes a familiar cord.

It brings to mind several points. First, we need to really appreciate what we have in this Brotherhood and how literally true it is that “good and wholesome” describes the instructions we receive to guide our active participation in it.

If you have allowed yourself to withdraw and are no longer sharing in those experiences and core values, you owe it to yourself to try to return, at least at some level. Trust me, you will be embraced.

Officers, look through your membership list in Grand View and reach out to those you haven’t seen for a while. Ask how they are doing. Make them feel included, and don’t do it when you are asking for their dues. Sharing recorded video greetings is a great first step.

Look through your list of friends, relatives, fellow church members and acquaintances for men who would benefit by being included in some of our activities. They don’t have to be members to break bread with us. What we have to share could be vital to their well-being, even lifesaving.

Above all, have a fulfilling, rewarding and satisfying Masonic experience. Live long and prosper.

Additionally, the Reunions provide an opportunity to hear from the Grand Master about his programs and the state of Masonry in Connecticut. They are also a great opportunity to socialize and catch up with old friends – and to make some new friends as well. Each Reunion includes a fabulous luncheon.

What could be better? Good food, good friends, and great information – especially as it relates to healthcare matters that are important to us and to the Fraternity in which we are involved. I hope you make your reservation today and Barbara and I look forward to greeting you at one of the upcoming reunions. If you did not receive an invitation, it is likely because the Grand Lodge is not aware of your Florida address information. Please consult the last page of the CT Freemasons publication for further details as to how to make a reservation. Family, neighbors and friends are welcome to attend as well. Just call for reservations for each attendee so that we may properly accommodate those who attend.

We’ll see you at one of the 2020 Nutmegger Reunions!
First in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen. On December 14, 1799, the Father of the Nation laid down the working tools of life: Most Worshipful Brother Washington was dead. The minute books from this time in Connecticut pay final respects to Brother Washington. St. John's Lodge No. 2 in Middletown records a grand procession of clergy, leading citizens, the newly elected Grand Master Hosmer (also a Past Master of St. John's), and the civil magistrates of the town, to the meeting house and there to eulogize and mourn President Washington. Other lodges have simpler recordings of Washington's death, as with St. John's No. 3's second minute book, on page 5:

Voted that the members of this Lodge do wear on the left arm a wide black ribbon with a narrow white one in the center as a badge of Mourning for the death of our late Most Worshipful Brother George Washington, Grand Master General of all the Lodges of Free & Accepted Masons in the United States.

In Union Lodge No. 5's first surviving minute book, on page 175, is written:

Voted that the expense of dressing the room in mourning (on this day for our Worthy Deceased Br. George Washington) be defrayed by the funds of the Lodge. Also that each Brother wear a badge on the left arm until a different order be taken.

Washington united a Nation — but could the states remain united without him? To answer that question, our infantile country had, after careful debate and consideration, drafted a new national Constitution to govern the several States so that uniformity and harmony and the principles of benevolence would seek to bind the nation together as a new and united whole. That same constitutional spirit flowed into the world of Connecticut Freemasonry. Since 1783 the various lodges in Connecticut were, “desirous of cultivating harmony amongst themselves & a uniformity in the respective Lodges.” The leading forces for the formation of a Grand Lodge in Connecticut were Major General Samuel Holden Parsons, Pierpont Edwards, Jonathan Bulkeley, Jonathan Heart, and a great many others. On February 4, 1784, it was, “Voted unanimously, that the Officers of the Grand Lodge should be a Committee to determine the most eligible mode for the Grand Officers Elect of the State of Connecticut obtaining a grand Warrant from the Grand Lodge in England.” The records after this are scant — and yet by this time General Parsons was on a mission in Ohio, Pierpont Edwards had a busy legal practice and was greatly involved in the civic affairs of the state, and Captain Jonathan Heart accepted an appointment in the army in Pennsylvania.

With the absence of many of the leading brothers behind the push for a Grand Lodge, years passed by before the idea was taken up.

Continued on page 10
We’re continuing to see changes in the healthcare industry ... changes that make it necessary for us to adapt. Even though that process can be difficult, we can’t shy away from it.

But reading some of the notes and letters we’ve received from grateful patients, residents and their families make me confident that we’ll get through this period of change thanks to our great employees.

A pair at Masonicare at Ashlar Village come to mind. Steve Hendrickson, MAV’s Director of Dining Services, got a call before the holidays from an Ashlar Village couple hoping to continue their tradition of hosting dinners in their home on Christmas Day. Chef Steve and his team not only prepared and delivered a great meal for the residents and their guests, but he followed up with a phone call to make sure everything was to their satisfaction. They were already enjoying the leftovers!

And there’s Jacob Oliano, a member of the Ashlar Village waitstaff who also cooks at the Duck Inn and works catered events. Residents nominated the University of Hartford sophomore and aspiring pilot several times for a GEM (Go the Extra Mile) Customer Experience Award, and I was pleased to be able to present him with the award in January.

“Jacob is always in the moment with our residents,” said Kerry Hatch, MAV’s Manager of Leisure and Learning, “sharing in the fun with them and thinking of ways to enrich their lives.”

These are the qualities we look for in all of our employees, no matter where they work. Because while some things at Masonicare may change, we’ll never stop looking for ways to enrich the lives of those we serve.

Sincerely and fraternally,

President and CEO of Masonicare

Masonicare Creates Facebook Group for Those Coping with Grief

Inspired by a conversation with MWGM Melvin Johnson, Masonicare has created a new Facebook group called “The Journey Through Grief - A Group for Those Coping With Loss.” It is open to all and intended to be an online space for those coping with grief to share their experiences with others. Members of the Masonicare team will be posting regularly with inspirational quotes and articles relating to coping with grief, and our hope is that as more people join, members will start their own discussions and communicate with each other.

The Journey Through Grief is a partnership between Corporate Marketing and the Hospice Bereavement Team. You can join by searching the group name on Facebook, and if you have any questions, please contact the Masonicare HelpLine at 888-679-9997.
Registration will start at 8:00 A.M. Please note: All voting delegates must register at the registration table and present their 2020 Dues Card to the Grand Tiler upon entry to the session. Registration will be by Lodge number as designated by posted signs in the area.

A proxy form will be sent directly to the Lodge Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden should they: 1) not be able to attend this Annual Communication in person [proxy must be executed in advance]; 2) be entitled to vote by virtue of holding one of these offices in more than one lodge; 3) be entitled to vote by virtue of being a Grand Lodge Officer or a Permanent Member of Grand Lodge. Please inform any Brother who is attending as a proxy that he must present his 2020 dues card. All Brothers entitled to vote should bring the Apron and Jewel of their office, whether as Permanent Member, Lodge Officer or serving as proxy.

Your attendance at this Annual Communication is important. We will consider available Reports of Standing and Special Committees, Grand Lodge Officer Reports, and any other business proper to be considered, all subject to the usual rules. There may be certain changes to the Rules & Regulations which will be considered for adoption.

Please note the following Sections of our Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations regarding Lodge representation:

Section 2300. Roll Call at Regular Communication. Immediately before the closing of a Regular Communication of the Grand Lodge, the roll shall be called, and any Lodge found to be unrepresented shall be declared delinquent, unless it shall have been previously excused.

Section 2301. Penalty if Lodge Is Not Represented at Regular Grand Lodge Communication: (reads in part) “A Lodge neglecting to be represented at a Regular Grand Lodge Communication shall incur the penalty of two hundred and fifty ($250) dollars . . .”

The Grand Lodge Office cannot make hotel reservations. Lodges and Brothers are responsible for making their own reservations with the Harford Marriott Farmington. We encourage you to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. March 16, 2020 is the cutoff date room reservations. For hotel reservations please call 800-228-9290 Group Code: BDLCT. Please mention the Grand Lodge Session when making your hotel reservations. Driving directions are on the following page.

ALL “LODGE HOSPITALITY ROOMS” MUST BE CLOSED AT A “REASONABLE HOUR” ON FRIDAY.

VOTING: Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, District Deputies, Past District Deputies, current Associate Grand Marshals, and current Grand Lodge Standing Committee members must register in order to vote. Each voting delegate will register only once, either by virtue of his highest attained Grand Lodge Masonic office or Committee Membership or, if he chooses, as an elector (proxy) on behalf of his lodge. The use of proxies is encouraged where appropriate to ensure full representation of constituent lodges.

FRIDAY BANQUET: The Grand Master’s Banquet for Grand Lodge Officers, Distinguished Guests, members of the Craft and their ladies will be held on Friday evening, April 3, 2020 at 7:00 pm with a social hour at 6:00 pm in the Grand Ballroom. All Brothers and their ladies are invited to attend. Please make every effort to get your reservation in early as this banquet is sold on a first come - first serve basis. Any request which is received in the Grand Lodge Office after March 23, 2020 will result in tickets being held for pickup at the door.

A banquet reservation form for the Friday night banquet is enclosed for your use. The entrée will be Filet Mignon $55.00, Grilled Salmon $45.00, or Vegetarian $40.00 and all by advance order. All prices are per person and include tax and gratuity. Please make all checks payable to the “Grand Lodge of Connecticut” and mail with the banquet reservation form. Banquet tickets will be mailed to those placing an order prior to March 23, 2020. It would be appreciated if a self-addressed, stamped envelope was also included. For orders received after that date, tickets will be held at the door.

(Continued on page 9)
SATURDAY LUNCH: Also on Saturday, April 4, 2020 at 12:00 Noon, the Past District Deputies Association of Connecticut will host a luncheon. Tickets are $30.00 per person. All Brothers are invited to attend. Reservations can be mailed to Bro. Brian Beals, 175 Mercier Ave, Bristol, CT 06010 or call 860-620-4102. Lunch will also be available at other Hartford Marriott Farmington venues and or surrounding areas.

Brother Lodge Secretary, please note that proxy forms will be mailed directly to the top three officers of your Lodge. Please remind them of their responsibilities to be present at Grand Lodge or to sign their proxy and give it to someone else.

With my fraternal best wishes
Grant S. Gould
R.W. Grand Secretary
February 1, 2020

Hartford Marriott Farmington, 15 Farm Springs Road, Farmington, CT 06032
(I-84, Exit 37 ~~ Hotel is located in Farm Springs Office Park) (860) 678-1000

Traveling North
Rte. I-91 North to Rte 9 North - Exit 20S
(once on exit take left fork)
Route 9 North to Rte. I- 84 West
Exit 37 Fienemann Road
End of exit go straight to Farm Springs Road

Traveling East:
Rte. I-84 West - Exit 37 Fienemann Road
Left off of exit - Travel under the bridge
Right on to Farms Springs Road

Traveling South:
Rte. I-91 South to Rte. I-84 West
Exit 37 Fienemann Road
End of exit go straight to Farm Springs Road

Traveling West
Rte. I-84 East - Exit 37 Fienemann Road
End of exit go straight to Farm Springs Road

See Page 11 for Past District Deputies Association Luncheon Reservation Form at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication.
Connecticut Freemasons

In accordance with its by-laws, the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation will conduct a brief meeting and election of representation to its Board of Directors at the will and pleasure of the Most Worshipful Grand Master during the Annual Stated Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Connecticut. All members of the Grand Lodge who are in good standing are invited to attend.

Fraternally,
Charles W. Yohe, Chairman

Grand Historian's Corner
continued from page 6

again. At the same time the States in the Union were ratifying the new national Constitution, the lodges in Connecticut were attempting to ratify a new Constitution of their own. What probably also helped was the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts found it quite difficult to get a great number of its constituent Connecticut lodges to regularly attend their Grand Lodge sessions and pay their dues. In June 1788, the Massachusetts Grand Lodge,

...again by letter warned the officers of delinquent lodges that unless they appeared in the next Grand Lodge session to give 'sufficient reasons' why their dues had not been paid, and why they had not been represented, they would be 'erased' from the Grand Lodge books and no longer considered to be regular lodges.

There is a noticeable gap in the chartering of lodges in Connecticut between the end of the French and Indian War and the concluding period of the Revolutionary War. What is now Compass Lodge No. 9 in Wallingford was chartered by John Rowe, Esq. of Boston after the Most Worshipful Brother Price resigned the Grand Mastership in 1768, which caused a great deal of controversy at home and in England. After this chartering the next one was Union Lodge in Danbury, with one exception: St. Alban's Lodge No. 38 which was also chartered by John Rowe in 1771. Records exist for this lodge until 1775 after which time it appears the happenings of the Revolution, and 18th century life took its toll. It was not until the May session of 1797 that the surviving brothers of this lodge successfully petitioned the Connecticut Grand Lodge to recognize their old charter. On March 23, 1780, Union Lodge in Danbury was chartered by John Rowe. Following Union was Wooster Lodge No. 10 in Colchester, chartered January 23, 1781; and St. Paul's Lodge No. 11 in Litchfield, chartered June 1, 1781 by Joseph Webb, Grand Master of North America. At this time there were two Grand Lodges in Boston – St. John's Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of England in 1733; and St. Andrew's Lodge which was chartered perhaps as early as 1752, by Lord Aberdour, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Joseph Webb, Esq. was the Grand Master of St. Andrew's Lodge. Therefore, in Connecticut there were two competing Grand Jurisdictions in Massachusetts and one in New York, chartering lodges. This reality created confusion and pushed many Connecticut lodges to renew calls for clarity, uniformity, and tranquility in Connecticut Masonry by forming their own Grand Lodge.

Following St. Paul's Lodge was King Hiram Lodge No. 12 in Derby on January 3, 1783, and Montgomery Lodge No. 13 on March 5, 1783 - both lodges being chartered by the Most Worshipful Brother Joseph Webb, Esq. There was a lodge chartered in 1785 in Norwich, called Columbia lodge, but it soon became dormant and in 1802 unsuccessfully petitioned the Grand Lodge to restore its charter. Lastly Frederick Lodge No. 14 in Plainville was chartered by Massachusetts on October 29, 1787. All during this time the forces for a constitution to form a Connecticut Grand Lodge were re-energized by Brothers such as Ephraim Kirby from St. Paul's. On July 8, 1789 the Grand Lodge was officially formed and Pierpont Edwards was elected its first Grand Master. From existing lodge records of that year, there were 16 lodges at labor in Connecticut, yet the Constitution showed that only twelve were present for its formation at Amos Doolittle's house in New Haven: Hiram Lodge, New Haven; St. John's Lodge, Middletown; St. Johns Lodge, Fairfield; St. John's Lodge, Hartford; King Solomon's Lodge, Woodbury; St. John's Lodge Stratford; Compass Lodge in Wallingford; Union Lodge in Danbury; Wooster Lodge in Colchester; St. Paul's Lodge in Litchfield; Frederick Lodge in Farmington, and; Montgomery Lodge in Salisbury.

There was a noticeable explosion in chartering lodges after the formation of the Grand Lodge. Over 30 lodges were chartered between 1790 to 1800. Many of these lodges have since merged or have lost their charter, but in the first decade of the Grand Lodge's existence an average of 3.1 lodges were created each year, beginning with Moriah No. 15 on October 15, 1790 “at or near Windham,” and ending at the turn of the century with Pythagoras No. 45 chartered May 14, 1800 in the Hamburg Section of Lyme.

At the end of the American Revolution, Connecticut Masonry was beset by the war's aftermath, it had difficulty in attending and adhering to competing Grand Jurisdictions from New York and two in Massachusetts, and all during a time when travel was still difficult, and timely correspondence a luxury. To remedy this, the early Brothers of Connecticut created a Constitution that helped bring about a longing desire: “to establish order and uniformity, to promote love and charity among Masons, and render more general and extensive the principles of benevolence and philanthropy…” With the great increase in the chartering of lodges after 1789 – Mr. Edwards and his first Grand Lodge, and its successors under Grand Master Judd, achieved just that.
Past District Deputies Association

In conjunction with the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut, we will hold our

Annual Reunion Luncheon
beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 4, 2020

at the
Hartford Marriott Farmington
15 Farm Springs Road
Farmington, CT 06032

The luncheon menu will include roast beef on a roll with horseradish creme, creamy dijon potato salad, pickle, New York cheese cake (gluten-free dessert option available), coffee, and tea.

Tickets are $30 per person.

Please make checks payable to: Past District Deputies Association and mail by March 23, 2020 to:
Brian E. Beals, Treasurer
175 Mercier Ave
Bristol, CT 06010

Please: Enclose a stamped self-addressed, stamped envelope with your reservation.
Thank you!

Past District Deputies Association – Annual Reunion Luncheon April 4, 2020 - $30 pp

Enclosed is my check for $___________ for the cost of _________ reservations.

Name: ____________________________  Cell: ____________________________

Address: __________________________

Email: ____________________________
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
50-YEAR BROTHERS

Alfred K. Bitters
Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116

Robert J. Borg
Composite Lodge No. 28

James Leonard Cox, Jr.
Columbia Lodge No. 25

William Herbert Flagg
Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145

Gordon R. Flanigan
Montgomery Lodge No. 13

William T. Koen
Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116

Robert D. Taylor
Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116

David N. Terry
Washington Lodge No. 70

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS!

Union Lodge No. 5
Aldrin Salvatierra Dauz

Union Lodge No. 5
Brian Michael Sabia

Union Lodge No. 5
Adam Alan Rothman

Union Lodge No. 5
Victor Raymond Biancardi

King Solomons Lodge No. 7
William A. Hubert

America-St. John’s Lodge No. 8
Yehudi DeJesus Jaquez

Compass Lodge No. 9
Daniel Paul DeBerry

Compass Lodge No. 9
Stephen John Rygiel

Compass Lodge No. 9
Kyle David Piper

Columbia Lodge No. 25
Oliver Joseph Lipman

Union Lodge No. 31
Wayne Eric Ford

Harmony Lodge No. 42
Jayson Pugh

Harmony Lodge No. 42
Jason Robert Gadue

Harmony Lodge No. 42
Richard D’Artagnan Chimera

Putnam Lodge No. 46
Dennis Paul Labelle

Warren Lodge No. 51
William J. Adametz

Warren Lodge No. 51
Louis Duncan Olaecchea

Coastal Lodge No. 57
Wilton Buckley Williams

Coastal Lodge No. 57
Jonathan Edward Ferraro

Coastal Lodge No. 57
Adler William Hodge

Shepherd - Salem Lodge No. 78
Jonathan John Ojeda

Shepherd - Salem Lodge No. 78
Carlos Aurelio Chuquipoma

Shepherd - Salem Lodge No. 78
David Allan Szast

Washington Lodge No. 81
Stanley Mackiewicz

Center Lodge No. 97
Anthony D. Polzella

Center Lodge No. 97
Jake Matthew Layman

Center Lodge No. 97
Tyler John Lukonis

Moosup Lodge No. 113
Ryan J. Snide

Annawon Lodge No. 115
Matt Schwartz

Annawon Lodge No. 115
Sergio Brandon Hrusko

Annawon Lodge No. 115
Bay View Lodge No. 120

Annawon Lodge No. 115
Jose Ramon Carrion

Annawon Lodge No. 115
David Martin Ferrari

Annawon Lodge No. 115
Zak Haque

Annawon Lodge No. 115
Christopher Francis Reynolds

Annawon Lodge No. 115
Remus Romeus

Annawon Lodge No. 115
Wilkens Bazile

Annawon Lodge No. 115
Sidney Bretoux

Annawon Lodge No. 115
Roberto Pauleus

Annawon Lodge No. 115
Thesro LambreUniversal

Annawon Lodge No. 115
Bleeker H. Jourdain
Union Lodge No. 40 Celebrates 240 Years

by John Arizzi

1780… 240 years ago… As the calendar turned to 1780, America was still in the midst of a great war. General Washington’s Army was pinned down by snowfall in Morristown, New Jersey, and the bitter cold and snow was foreshadowing the year to come. There was a great defeat in the south as the city of Charleston fell to the British, heavy losses at the Battle of Camden, the Waxhaw Massacre, and the treasonous acts of Benedict Arnold. However, the Continental Army saw success at the Battle of Springfield, New Jersey, and the Comte de Rochambeau and his French force of 7,000 landed at Newport, RI, to join the war.

On April 19, in Danbury, having been chartered the month before under the authority of John Rowe, Provincial Grand Master of St. John Grand Lodge (Moderns), Boston, Massachusetts, a group of brothers from lodges in Fairfield and Woodbury conducted the first installation of lodge officers at Union Lodge No. 40.

During this time Danbury served as a supply depot for the Continental army at the order of General Washington, a decision that was based on the town’s importance as a regional trading and manufacturing center, served by several major roads. The lodge’s early members included 20 American soldiers serving at a supply depot and a military hospital then located in the city, and it is said that Major General David Wooster, a Revolutionary War hero often called the “Father of Freemasonry in Connecticut,” may have been associated with them.

In its early days, the lodge would hold meetings in barns and taverns around town, until the building at 337 Main St. was purchased; the place the lodge still calls home. In its heyday, a regular meeting of Union Lodge would fill the lodge room, which seats over 120 people. There were active chapters of the York Rite, Commandery, and Eastern Star that shared the building. And while the lodge has seen its membership decline some, and these other appendant bodies fade away, it is not in that same bitter cold place as Washington’s army 240 years ago… In its 239th year there was net positive growth in membership! The lodge brought in more new brothers than were lost to NPD! There were a series of successful programs that filled the room once again, and that will be build-off in the years to come. The lodge completed a renovation of the community and recreation space that is pretty special.

So as Union Lodge enters its 240th year there is much to celebrate – the history, the successes and the lessons of its missteps…

Union Lodge will be holding a black tie gala in celebration of our 240th anniversary on Saturday, April 4, at Anthony’s Lake Club in Danbury, CT. Tickets are $75 per person and include an evening of dancing, a sit down dinner with open bar, and a silent auction. For information on tickets, or to make a donation of a silent auction item, please contact the lodge at Unionlodge40AFAM@gmail.com. We hope you can join us!

District 3

Lodges 7, 1, 12, 17, 42, 47, 55, 64, 76, 78

Brothers Turn Out For Breakfast With Chip by Shane Dufresne

On Sunday, December 22, about 30 brothers got together to have breakfast with RWB Chip Schofield at Sheperd-Salem Lodge No. 78 in Naugatuck. RWB Chip is currently fighting an aggressive and rare cancer called Neuroendocrine Carcinoma. As a result, he has temporarily stepped away from Masonic activities to fight this head on.

Anyone who knows Chip knows this is a difficult decision for him. Chip is heavily involved with many lodges in the Third District. As a result, he is one of the most respected and admired brothers in the district. He is the voice of reason, one to help out wherever needed, to give good counsel to a brother, and the first to help out a brother in need.

So when Chip mentioned that he missed the brothers and would like to have breakfast with a few of them, the turnout was quite impressive. Chip’s Army came out and made it a memorable breakfast.

Continued on page 14
Harmony Lodge No. 42 Christmas Party
by Shane Dufresne

On Thursday, December 19, Harmony Lodge No. 42 held the annual Christmas party at the Waterbury Masonic Temple. Approximately 60 brothers, their significant others and children, from all over the state attended the festivities. Santa also paid a visit to the young and the young at heart.
Ed Note: We were alerted to the following article about Bro. Christopher Reade, a member of St. Andrew's Lodge No. 64, by RWB George Frascarelli. The article and photos, both by Kurt Moffett, appeared in the November 25, 2019 edition of the Republican-American and is reprinted here with their kind permission.

STEWARD FOR TOWN CEMETERIES

BY KURT MOFFETT
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

WINSTED — Last spring, Christopher Reade was walking his dog, Bentley, a terrier mix, through Forest View Cemetery off Rowley Street when he noticed that many of the older headstones were badly in need of repair.

A burly man with a Santa-like white beard and full head of hair, Reade said he didn’t realize the extent of the disrepair until he voluntarily started cutting back and removing some of the overgrown brush. He also didn’t want to get too far into the work without talking to Town Manager Robert Geiger first.

“I asked the town manager about it and the next thing I know, the guy’s up here with a brush cutter,” Reade said with a chuckle.

Geiger said he gave Reade his blessing. “He’s doing a good job,” Geiger said.

The public works department is in charge of maintaining the town’s three cemeteries: Forest View, Center and Winchester Center. But Geiger said the department doesn’t have the staff or time to do the work Reade is volunteering to do.

“The town appreciates the help,” Geiger said.

Reade, 54, said the work gives him something constructive to do. He’s single and a retired self-employed heavy truck mechanic.

Health issues forced him to retire early, he said.

“It’s just good exercise for me,” he said. “This kind of brought me back to life. I was getting kind of depressed sitting around doing nothing.”

He said he has worked on about 50 or 60 headstones so far, but there are at least another 50 or 60 that need to be fixed.

“I try to do at least one per day,” he said.

While Reade said he doesn’t like to sit at a desk all day, fixing gravestones has forced him to do quite a bit of research online. For example, he discovered he needs to specially order 18th-century mortar for the older headstones because modern adhesives don’t work.

Modern cement “can harden up so much that it squeezes the bottom of the stone ... and it will snap the stone right off,” he said, adding that the 18th-century mortar does cost “a little more.”

Reade, who moved to town 10 years ago, said he’s learned some local history, too, like that the prominent Burr family was connected to Aaron Burr, the vice president who shot and killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel in 1804.

He said the years 1848 and 1852 must have been difficult times as he has found several headstones of family members who died on dates very close to each other during those years.

Reade said he has recently noticed there are more white headstones “popping up,” signaling that other volunteers are coming to the cemetery to clean and fix old headstones that are tied to their families.

“More and more people are getting involved with it,” he said.

Reade said he welcomes more volunteers but “you got to want to do it and do it right.”

“You gotta know what you’re doing,” he said.

With winter on its way, though, work on the headstones will have to resume in the spring.

“The main thing is to get the town to help me,” he said. “The town will likely bring gravel and dirt up in the spring.”
The 270th Installation of Officers of Hiram Lodge No. 1
by Jeffrey A. Blayman

Although all of Masonry has its honorable customs and age old qualities, it is always apparent that there is something special about the old lodge in New Haven. On an unseasonably warm day in January, Masons in their finest regalia amassed at 285 Whitney Avenue. Brothers from all over the state were elated to see one another and share in the brotherhood and hospitality of the afternoon.

After some welcoming remarks from WB Glenn Jacques, the National Colors were presented with great fervor by the Sleeping Giant Chapter of Demolay. Shortly thereafter, officers were gathered as the Installing Marshal, RWB Salvatore R. Ferrigno circumambulated the lodge conducting the officers of 2019 who exited the room and retired with a hearty round of applause for the exiting Master WB Glenn Jacques.

Installing Master RWB Stephen M. Allinson proceeded with the installation of officers for 2020. It was lovely to see the brothers given a round of applause from their friends, family and brothers in the crowd as each was brought to their respective positions after receiving their jewel of office from the Installing Chaplain RWB Robert C. Moon. The kinship of brothers to one another and the esteem granted to the proceedings by the numerous Grand lodge officers in attendance was truly to be appreciated. The ladies of Hiram were offered heartfelt thanks for their constant support and understanding as their love allows us to work for a greater good.

After the charges were read and the working tools explained the new Worshipful Master Frederick A. Marotti took his gavel in hand for the first time to close the proceedings. He humbly offered it to MWGM Melvin E Johnson who expedited the process by closing in ample form. Soon everyone was in the dining hall enjoying a fabulously catered feast complete with decorative cakes and cookies emblazoned with the square and compass. Masons and their families enjoyed themselves as the laughter and merriment filled the cavernous hall with palpable joy. All was right at the oldest lodge in Connecticut as it has been for 270 years.
We hope you enjoy this 2019 look back at Masonicare. The words and images we've shared with you only tell part of the story. Of course. The notes of thanks we received from grateful residents, patients, and their loved ones tell another part, as do the many generous gifts to our philanthropic affiliate, The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

In a year that saw Masonicare win in three categories in the Meriden Record-Journal Readers Choice Awards, we also took the bold but necessary step of refreshing our brand, a collaborative process that involved careful consideration of our present and future without overlooking our past. While our logo may have changed, the principles upon which Masonicare was founded have not.

Reflecting on 2019, we are delighted with the surge of interest at all of our residential communities. We know that offering a complete range of living options for today's seniors—one designed to maximize independence and quality of life—is an ongoing process, and we've made enhancements to make those communities look, feel and function more like home as part of our true continuum of care.

To that end, we're also putting a renewed focus on hospitality across our organization. As we say, "Masonicare is not in the healthcare business—we're in the people business." That means making sure that anyone who has chosen Masonicare over a competitor is fully satisfied with their experience, no matter what services they've utilized.

Improving our technology will continue to be a priority following a year in which we introduced two new electronic health record systems for our healthcare and residential living service lines, launched a revamped website, and began using a new mass notification system to stay better connected with our employees and residents.

We are also looking forward to expanding our home and community-based services. In fact, in 2020, for the first time ever, Masonicare will begin serving seniors beyond the borders of Connecticut by providing homemaker and companion services in the Western Rhode Island area.

While we build on recent successes, seek out new partnerships, and look for ways to be more efficient, we know there are challenges ahead. As a not-for-profit, navigating changes to the way we are reimbursed by government payer sources will similarly require significant changes to the way we deliver healthcare services.

As we begin preparations for the 125th anniversary celebration of Masonicare Health Center that will take place this fall, and consider all the changes that have shaped our organization over these many years, we have a clear vision of who we need to be and how we need to function in order to be successful for the next century and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support of Masonicare and our mission.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Robert F. Polito,
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Jon-Paul Venoit,
President and Chief Executive Officer

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Financial Statement as of September 30, 2019 ($000 omitted)

The financial summary is presented on a consolidated basis to include Masonicare at Ashlar Village, Masonicare at Home, Masonicare at Mystic, Senior Living by Masonicare, Masonicare at Chester Village, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, Corporate Services, Masonicare Health Center, Keystone Indemnity Company and The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. A complete copy of the audited consolidated financial statement is available upon request.

2019 Financial Performance

Results of operations at Masonicare for fiscal 2019 reflect a year of significant changes and challenges for the organization. Operating revenues of $158.3 million are down -12% from the prior year, reflecting the closure of Masonic Management Services (MMS), physician practice, the sale of Masonicare at Newtown (MAN, SNF and Assisted Living) and the dissolution of Masonicare Partners Home Health & Hospice (MPHH&H), a joint venture with Saint Francis Hospital—partially offset by improved occupancy at Masonicare’s newest residential living facilities in Mystic (MIM), overall to 74% from 66% and Chester (MCV), overall to 74% from 66%.

Operating expenses of $179.2 million are down -11% from the prior year, impacted by the same strategic initiatives as noted above. Although contributions and investment income remains strong, market performance in fiscal 2019 lagged behind the prior year. Non-recurring activity in fiscal 2019 included a provision for restructuring costs, reduction of overhead costs and the write-off of the capitalized software acquisition costs for a fully-integrated health record for all continuum patients & residents implemented in 2017 due to unmanageable problems with the software and the elimination by the vendor of an offering in the home & community-based services space.

Fiscal 2019 Obligated Group loss from operations improved by $2.2 million over the prior year, with the elimination of losses previously incurred by MAN improving results by $2.0 million, the dissolution of MPHH&H reducing results by $1.2 million, and other entities aggregated improved results by $1.4 million. Fiscal 2019 Non-Obligated Group loss from operations declined by $0.2 million: MMS closure improved results by $0.3 million, MCV start-up losses increased by $0.6 million, MAM start-up losses decreased by $1.0 million, and the captive insurance company results declined by $0.9 million (prior year included a one-time non-recurring reserve reduction).

Changes in the financial position of Masonicare at year-end 2019 from the prior year include: continued growth in the levels of unrestricted cash & investments (to 175 days on hand from 172 days), reduction in net property and equipment as depreciation expense exceeded acquisitions, reduction in current liabilities with the classification of all items of debt as long-term at September 30, 2019. Increase in other long-term liabilities with additional entries for receivables at the continuing care retirement communities and incremental defined benefit pension accounting liabilities, and reduction in net assets with 2019 expenses in excess of revenues, change in unrealized gains/losses on investments and change in the post-retirement benefit plans’ liabilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPARATIVE INCOME STATEMENT (000's Omitted)</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPERATING REVENUE</td>
<td>$158,254</td>
<td>$179,206</td>
<td>-12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPERATING EXPENSES</td>
<td>(178,189)</td>
<td>(202,148)</td>
<td>-11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>NON-OPERATING INCOME</td>
<td>9,060</td>
<td>14,285</td>
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EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER (UNDER) REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>before one-time items</th>
<th>(11,927)</th>
<th>(6,657)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provision for restructuring costs</td>
<td>(701)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write-down of software acquisition costs</td>
<td>(3,494)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on sale - NewTown facility</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inherent contribution - Chester Village purchase</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,886</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provision for dissolution costs (MPHH&amp;H)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1,703)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction in progress write-off (MPHC)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1,177)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in value of interest rate swap</td>
<td>(452)</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority interest</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>1,127</td>
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</table>

EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER REVENUES

| Obligated Group | ($8,381) | ($1,652) |
| Non-Obligated Group | ($7,376) | ($4,135) |
| TOTAL | ($15,357) | ($5,787) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEETS (000's Omitted)</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>% Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>$38,637</td>
<td>$34,378</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments - unrestricted</td>
<td>86,248</td>
<td>96,703</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments - restricted</td>
<td>66,745</td>
<td>67,239</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment</td>
<td>190,740</td>
<td>201,045</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>1,104</td>
<td>974</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$381,332</td>
<td>$400,919</td>
<td>-5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-term liabilities</td>
<td>$34,981</td>
<td>$78,835</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other long-term liabilities</td>
<td>155,943</td>
<td>111,601</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td>79,341</td>
<td>73,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total liabilities &amp; net assets</td>
<td>$381,332</td>
<td>$400,919</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days Unrestricted Cash/Investments</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>172</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Making a hospice patient’s last wish come true

This particular patient happened to be a musician who had played all around the world. Music was his life and passion. Upon entering his hospital room I found him surrounded by 5 very saddened men, who all quickly introduced themselves as Bill’s band mates. After arranging for Bill to transfer to the ACU for inpatient hospice, the leader of the band approached me and said that Bill’s only wish was to play with the band one more time. They knew that he physically might not be able to do this so he asked if maybe the band could come and play for him once he got to the ACU. I told him I would have to ask because typically the unit is quiet but I’d see what I could do. I reached out to the director of nursing at MHC and asked if it would be ok for a band to come play on the ACU and she quickly responded with “We’d love to have a band come and play!” I let the leader of the band know and he was just ecstatic. I spoke with him after he had played for Bill and he said that it had brought so much joy to Bill and the whole band and that they would be forever grateful for allowing them to play.

– Susan D. Haswell, Clinical Case Manager
The Masonic Charity Foundation
Year in Review 2019

During fiscal year 2019, the fundraising efforts of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut secured $4,835,349 in support of the programs and services of Masonicare and its affiliates. These gifts came in many forms, including bequests, trust distributions, beneficiary designations, and outright major gifts, as well as donations to the Masonicare Annual Appeal and to the Foundation's special events. Between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019, unrestricted contributions totaling $3,582,534 were received, as well as $534,954 in funds given by perpetual trusts and $717,861 in restricted donations. Of particular significance was the very generous gift of $380,000 from The Eastern Star Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

Fiscal Year 2019 Contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bequests and Trusts</td>
<td>$2,315,943</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perpetual Trusts</td>
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<td>Major Gifts (Outright gifts of $10,000 or above)</td>
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<td>Beneficiary Designations</td>
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<td>Gift Annuity Residuals</td>
<td>$80,253</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masonicare Annual Appeal</td>
<td>$490,000</td>
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<td>Gifts to Masonicare’s Hospice Program</td>
<td>$34,857</td>
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<td>Holiday Appeal</td>
<td>$17,093</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masonicare Golf Classic</td>
<td>$248,382</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masonicare Wine &amp; Beer Tasting</td>
<td>$107,538</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED $4,835,349

Our Ageless Commitments

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Gail N. Smith
Ashlar Lodge No. 332 Highlights Masonry for Masonicare Residents by Emma Tuthill

Ashlar Lodge No. 332 has the unique distinction of being the only Connecticut lodge chartered for Masonicare's Masonic residents to attend. The lodge is also a longstanding and generous supporter of the Masonicare Annual Appeal, which helps enhance the quality of life of Masonicare residents and patients in need across the continuum of care. Here, Ashlar Lodge No. 332 Treasurer, RWB William S. Clark, presents a check to Emma Tuthill of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

“Meeting on Masonicare's campus is a great opportunity for our lodge for a number of reasons,” said WB Stephen M. Thal, newly-installed Worshipful Master of Ashlar Lodge No. 332 and resident of Masonicare at Ashlar Village. “First, we are able to share with residents what Masonry is all about. Secondly, by being on Masonicare's campus, we become more acutely aware of residents’ and patients’ needs. It exposes our members to what's actually happening on campus, providing them with a firsthand look at what Masonicare is all about. That's why we give to the Masonicare Annual Appeal. We realize that the charitable need is there, and we are honored to do our share to help support Masonicare's programs and services.”

District 5

Hospitality Lodge No. 128 Holds a Historic Installation of Officers by Francis G. Way

On Wednesday, January 8, Hospitality Lodge No. 128 in Wethersfield installed their officers for the year 2020. This year was special.

Chartered in 2012, the Lodge has seen a succession of Past Masters occupy the Oriental Chair for the first eight years of its existence. But now, in its ninth year, Worshipful Brother Alberto Dieguez, one of the first brothers raised by Hospitality Lodge, has assumed the Chair of Solomon.

Objectives for the year are greater service to our community, Veterans outreach, fostering stronger relationships with the other lodges in Masonic District 5B, and increasing our membership.

Other officers installed are: RWB Francis G. Way, SW; Bro. Douglas Maliszewski, JW; RWB Richard R. Jones, Jr., Treasurer; WB Matthew F. Griffin, Secretary; RWB James S. McNeely IV, SD; RWB Charles D. Weiss, JD; RWB Brian E. Beals, Chaplain; Bro. James Payette, Tiler; RWB Theodore Hasty, Almoner.

District 5 continued on page 23
“He Must Increase, But I Must Decrease”

by John A. Amarilios, MSA, membership@lafayetteconsistory.com

Lafayette Consistory begins the winter degree season with a premier live presentation of the new 4th Degree, a prequel to the Hiramic Tragedy, on Monday, February 3. The live presentation will be preceded by video presentations of the 12th and 17th Degrees. Then on Monday, February 24, there will be a live presentation of the 31st degree preceded by video presentations of the 4th and 29th Degrees. If you are looking to complete your Scottish Rite passport, February presents you with the opportunity to conveniently complete five degrees within the comfort of the Leo H. Lohrmann II, Theatre in Stratford.

For those of you seeking Family Life opportunities, the Consistory heads to the Two Roads Brewery in Stratford for a Tour and Tasting on February 1st. This event is open to Scottish Rite Masons and to Scottish Rite candidates and the cost is $10 per person (Spouses and significant others are welcome).

In April, the Consistory will be hosting the Grand Lodge Hospitality Suite on Friday, April 3, at the Marriott in Farmington in room 439. All attendees at the Grand Lodge are invited to stop by for refreshment.

A reminder that the deadline for the Abbott and Valley Scholarships are fast approaching - April 1. Rules are listed with the application on line at https://scottishritemnj.org/abbott. You MUST provide a current official Transcript with letters of recommendation are always better than one. Again, the deadline for filing application hard copies to the Valley Secretary is April 1. No electronic paperwork will be accepted.

The centerpiece of Blue Lodge Masonry is the Great Light. It is from there that the goal and method of attaining Masonic Light is alluded to, albeit in the most veiled and guarded of language. The Great Light is many things to many people, and its genius is that it can function on many different levels – from the commonly employed literal interpretations propounded by most, to the more esoteric and arcane employments. We as Freemasons, having become accustomed to the art of interpreting signs and symbolism, have become accustomed to deriving complex meaning therefrom. This skill, if applied to the Great Light, more especially to the Gospel of John, can prove very instructional to the Brother who seeks more Masonic Light and who is seeking instruction on how to motivate the individual which hosts it, to cultivate the attributes and graces of the soul. As soon as the mind adopts this as its mission, it becomes the “Voice in the Wilderness” – i.e., John who heralds the arrival of the Christ.

Likewise from John 3:30 above, it is the soul directed individual who must increase, while the former mortal materialistically oriented one, must decrease if this Great Work is be initiated, if not completed.

If you apply the methodology of Masonic interpretation of symbolism in like manner to your study of the Great Light, you will find out that it lays out a plan and guideposts for your personal physical and spiritual transmutation. And now you know why the Great Light attains a position of profound prominence in each lodge room. Its very great promise and potential lies open to all in the lodge room to not only see – but also to do. Nothing of great value comes without great effort and labor. Our Fraternity cannot do the work for you – but it will steer you in the correct direction if you are willing to labor!

As always, Lafayette Consistory, and the Valleys of Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury stand ready to help further your understanding of the Three degrees of Freemasonry. Should you have questions about the Scottish Rite, please feel free to contact me at the email address above, or call the Consistory office at (203) 375-0064.
Veterans Honored at Columbia Lodge  

by Arnie Grot (photos by Bernie Meucci)


Quilts of Valor Foundation is a grassroots group of quilters from all across the US. In 2003, a quilter named Catherine Roberts had the idea of comforting veterans with quilts during the time her son was deployed in Iraq. Since then, over 240,000 Quilts of Valor have been awarded here in the United States, and in Germany, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. A Quilt of Valor says unequivocally, “Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor” in serving our nation.

The Stitch Chicks Quilts of Valor Group has been making quilts for six years. They have awarded over 800 quilts.

The quilts are labeled with the quilt maker(s) name and state, including the maker of the top, the quilter (machine or hand), and the binder and the name of the recipient.

The quilts are intended to be used regularly by the veteran for comfort both from winter cold and unpleasant memories. Each quilt comes with...
If you have a candidate, or know of a Master Mason who might be interested in Scottish Rite, the Valley of Hartford is now accepting petitions for membership for the current class in February. Go to https://valleyofhartford.org/join/ and fill out the online petition.

We will begin the spring schedule with the portrayal of the new 4th degree. Supreme Council has once again changed this degree but maintained its core values. By doing so, it is hoped that our members will not get tired of seeing the same old degree, and stop attending as often. By changing some of the degrees from time to time, yet maintaining the core values, it is hoped that all will enjoy them more – both candidates and members. The spring schedule beings Thursday, February 6 (snow date February 20), at 7:30 p.m.

If you have a possible candidate in mind but are not sure what to tell him, just mention:

1. he will be joining an organization with more than 200 years of tradition and heritage
2. he will be joining an exclusive group of Freemasons dedicated to bettering themselves and their community
3. he will develop his leadership and ritual skills if he takes part in degree work or becomes an officer
4. that Scottish Rite strives to fulfill our Masonic obligation to care for our fellow members
5. that we offer Family type life events
6. that each of our 29 degrees highlights the core values: REVERENCE TO GOD, DEVOTION TO COUNTRY, INTEGRITY, JUSTICE, TOLERANCE, and SERVICE which makes one a better Mason.

A candidate need only see the 4th and 32nd degrees, and three additional degrees. Seeing portrayals of other degrees is up to him and at his convenience.

All degrees will be preceded by an all-you-can-eat dinner at 6 p.m. at the Shrine Center. Advance reservations are required. Individual dinners are $15, but if you buy all three, the price is $10 per dinner. Cost at the door is $20. Come enjoy the brotherhood, breaking bread, and meeting the new candidates. Candidates, by the way, eat compliments of the Valley of Hartford.

Other reminders and information:

- The Valley of Hartford does not own the building, but rents it from the Scottish Rite Foundation. As a member of the Valley you can become a lifetime member of the Foundation for $100, and vote on all building related issues. You are also eligible to attend, free of charge, the Annual Meeting Luncheon each June.
- Sphinx Shrine has accepted an offer from the Scottish Rite Foundation to purchase the land currently owned by Sphinx Shrine. A special meeting of the Foundation was scheduled for January 9 to vote on that purchase. Follow up actions are to be determined.

- Family and friends are invited to the joint Sphinx Shrine/Valley of Hartford luncheon, the second Friday of each month, at 11 a.m. at the Shrine, for just $10 per person. Reservations are required. Call Barbara at the Shrine office (860) 666-0712. The February luncheon is on February 14, and will feature salisbury steak, potatoes, veggies, fresh bread, homemade chocolates, coffee and dessert.
- Children or grandchildren of Valley of Hartford members who are in college or about to attend an accredited university, and who meet the GPA requirements, may apply for an Abbott or Valley of Hartford scholarship. Deadline for application is Wednesday, April 1. All supporting documentation must be included. Applications can be found on the Supreme council, NMJ’s home page, or by contacting the Valley secretary.
- The Valley always needs and welcomes help in portraying the degrees. Officers, speaking or non-speaking parts, make-up, stage, costumes, the choir, directing degrees are all open to anyone who is interested. Contact the alley secretary and he will direct you to the right person.
- Dues notices for 2020 were mailed in early January and are now due. If your contact details have changed, notify the Valley office in order that your records with the Valley and Supreme Council are up to date.
- Informational DVDs about the Scottish Rite are available upon request from the Valley office. Call (860) 666-0712 and a copy will be mailed.
SAVE THE DATE!
MARCH 21, 2020

2020
Grand Historians' Symposium

Exploring the origins of Freemasonry with the advantages of 2020 hindsight.

FEATURING:

DR. MARGARET C. JACOB, PHD
REKNOWNED ENLIGHTENMENT SCHOLAR
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITUS, UCLA

RWB ANDREW MELILLO
GRAND HISTORIAN FROM CONNECTICUT

RW DAVID LAVERY
GRAND HISTORIAN FROM RHODE ISLAND

Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library
33 Marrett Road
Lexington, MA 02421
For more details about any of these events, please contact the Lodge directly. In many cases, reservations are required, and they may or may not be open to the public.

All times are supplied by the lodges. The Connecticut Freemasons newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events. For recurring events and breakfasts, they may not take place during the summer months – call to check.

**RECURRING EVENTS**

Every Tuesday, Day Spring Lodge No. 30, Hamden, 7 p.m., BINGO. Open to the public, all Masons and Eastern Stars. Refreshments

Every Thursday, Putnam Lodge No. 46, Putnam, 7 p.m., Thursday Night Meeting Socializing, Rehearsing, Prepping.

Second & Fourth Wednesday of the Month, Union Lodge No. 5, Stamford, 7 p.m., Fellowship Night at the Lodge. Open to all brothers, friends. Refreshments and discussion. Please call to verify

**RECURRING MONTHLY BREAKFASTS**

First Sunday, 7 a.m.
Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington.
SBA Breakfast Fund-raiser

Second Sunday, 8 a.m.
Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford.
Fellowship Breakfast (8 a.m. to 10 a.m.)

Third Sunday, 8 a.m.
Washington Lodge No. 19, Monroe.
Country breakfast

First Thursday, 9 a.m.
8th District Lodges Niantic.
District Breakfast, Groton Townhouse, Rt 12, Groton

**EVENTS**

Sun., February 2, 8 a.m., Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142, Trumbull, CTCHIP Event,

Sun., February 2, 3:00 p.m., Ionic Lodge No. 110, North Windham, 2nd Annual Superbowl Party. Start time is 1 hour before kickoff

Sun., February 2, Valley Lodge No. 36, Simsbury, Super Bowl LIV Party, Best Wings Contest! Details to be announced.

Fri., February 7, 6:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Valentine’s Day Dinner

Sun., February 9, 8 a.m., Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, Annawon Lodge Breakfast, $7 All you can eat. Eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, toast, coffee and OJ.

Tues., February 11, 6 p.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, Dinner Night Out

Sat., February 15, 5 p.m., Putnam Lodge No. 46, Pomfret Center, Ladies At Table Dinner, Reservations Required

Sat., February 29, 5 p.m., Milford Rainbow Assembly No. 4, Milford, Children's Dyslexia Center Fundraiser, Hollywood Charity Dinner, at Daytime Lodge No. 144, 3960 Main Street, Stratford, 5-7 p.m., Adults $10, Children $4. Dinner, Music, Raffles, Contact Kristy for tickets (203) 808-0815

Mon., March 2, 7:30 p.m., Meridian Lodge No. 77, Meriden, Table Lodge - Mardi Gras Theme

Sat., March 7, 6:30 p.m., Widow's Son Lodge No. 66, Branford, Robert Burns Night

Sat., March 7, 6:30 p.m., Annawon Lodge No. 115, Branford, Robert Burns Night - Widow's Son.

Join Widow’s Son Lodge No. 66 for their annual Robert Burns night celebration.

Sun., March 8, 8 a.m., Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, Annawon Lodge Breakfast, $7 All you can eat. Eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, toast, coffee and OJ.

Thu., March 12, 7:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, St Patrick's Table Lodge.

Sat., March 14, 7 a.m., Fidelity-St. John’s Lodge No. 3, Fairfield, Pancake Festival

Sat., March 14, 8 a.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, Red Cross Blood Drive.

Sat., March 14, 6 p.m., Sequin-Level Lodge No. 140, Newington, St. Patrick’s Day Dinner
To have your lodge events appear in the newspaper, please update your lodge website calendars prior to the 10th of the previous month. If your lodge needs assistance accessing the website please have the Worshipful Master, Secretary, or Calendar Admin contact the Help Desk: https://ctfreemasons.on.spiceworks.com/portal.

All times are supplied by the lodges. If there is a dinner, the time in the heading reflects that. The Connecticut Freemason newspaper is not responsible for errors. When traveling, please contact the Secretary of the lodge to verify all times and events and to inquire about dinner reservations.

GRAND LODGE ANNUAL SESSION
Saturday, April 4, 8 a.m., Marriott, Farmington

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREES
Mon., February 3, 6:30 p.m., Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Dinner
Mon., February 3, 7:30 p.m., Meridian Lodge No. 77, Meriden
Thu., February 6, 6:30 p.m., Harmony Lodge No. 42, Waterbury
Mon., February 10, 7:30 p.m., Evening Star Lodge No. 101, Unionville
Wed., February 19, 7:30 p.m., Columbia Lodge No. 25, South Glastonbury

FELLOWCRAFT DEGREES
Mon., February 17, 6:30 p.m., Valley Lodge No. 36, Simsbury, Dinner
Wed., February 19, 6:30 p.m., Valley Lodge No. 36, Simsbury, Dinner
Wed., February 19, 6:30 p.m., King Solomon's Lodge No. 7, Woodbury, Travel to Hiram Lodge No. 18 – Joint Fellowcraft Degree
Wed., February 19, 6:30 p.m., Hiram Lodge No. 18, Sandy Hook, Joint Fellowcraft Degree with King Solomon's Lodge No. 7
Mon., March 2, 6:30 p.m., Compass Lodge No. 9, Wallingford, Dinner
Thu., March 5, 6:30 p.m., Fidelity-St. John's Lodge No. 3, Fairfield, Dinner

MASTER MASON DEGREES
Sat., February 22, 9 a.m., Friendship-Tuscan Lodge No. 145, Manchester, Special Communications MM Degree

Hejaz Grotto Installs 2020 Officers by William L. Greene

Hejaz Grotto held its Annual Installation of Officers for 2020 on Wednesday, January 8 at the Hartog Auditorium in Ashlar Village with 42 members, ladies and guests present including MWGM Melvin E. Johnson. Prophet Jerry Gruenbaum was installed as Monarch by Prophet Gary Matican, Past Monarch and Supreme Council District Deputy, assisted by Prophet Lawrence L. Brandolini, Past Monarch. Prophet Gary Cohen served as Installing Chaplain and Prophet David Berger, Installing Marshal. Hejaz Grotto’s meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) with a 6:30 p.m. dinner in the Hartog Auditorium with their ladies, followed by the stated meetings at 7:30 p.m. in the Ashlar Village Lodge Room.

The Grotto’s charity is to provide dental care for children with special needs. Through their Humanitarian Foundation, Grotto members believe that children with special needs should live as fully and as independently as possible. They are passionately committed to helping to alleviate the suffering and to improve the quality of life by providing dental care for those who otherwise may go without, one smile at a time, “Bringing Special Smiles to Special Kids!”

To learn more about Grotto or becoming a member contact William (Bill) Greene, Membership Chairman, at 860-989-4240 or Gary Matican, Secretary, at 203-410-9733.

Gary Cohen, Chaplain; Gary Matican, Secretary; Bruce Liebman, Treasurer; Michael Abrahamson, Marshal; Frank Mangiero, Chief Justice; Jerry Gruenbaum, Monarch; Jeffrey Potter, Master of Ceremonies; Frederick Marotti, Venerable Prophet; Frank Andriulli, Captain of the Guard; and Michael Steinfeld, Sentinel of the Guard.
It’s a new year, and the Masonic Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Program is revving up for the coming year. Again, we’ll be working with Donate Life CT in efforts to increase donor awareness and register new donors. Our program will have a list of projects you can participate in, as well as Donate Life CT events we can become involved with. We’ll be sending out links where you can learn about these projects/events and how to sign up.

Our first BIG event of the year is the Donate Life Blue & Green Walk. The 5K/Walk is on Sunday, April 26 starting from Griffin Center, 7 Waterside Crossing in Windsor. The Walk starts at 8 a.m.

It’s a WIN – WIN – WIN for everyone. Here’s the math:

1. We, as Freemasons, get to work with our brothers, family and neighbors from across the state on a very worthwhile and fun community service event -AND help increase donor awareness and save lives at the same time. Funds raised from the Walk are used to further the organ donation cause.

2. Connecticut communities appreciate and recognize those efforts.

3. Quality men in your community will take notice of your lodge and seek info on Freemasonry and possibly inquire about joining our ranks. After all, what lodge would not welcome new quality members.

You’ll be receiving more info about the great day shortly. You can, however, go to www.bluegreenwalk.org and register to be a member of Team Connecticut Freemasons. Click on “join a team” and follow the prompts. There is a place on the application to say which group (i.e. Anchor Lodge No. 112) is joining the Team Connecticut Freemasons.

The size of the Team Connecticut Freemasons tent on the day of the walk is determined by the number of Freemasons who register. Let’s have the BIGGEST tent at the walk. There will be refreshments, and for the $25 registration fee, you are entered and receive your very own Blue Green Walk T-Shirt. If you can't walk the 5K distance, they have a reduced course. Should you not be able to attend, there is a spot on the registration form to donate for Team Connecticut Freemasons. Lodges can donate to the Team Connecticut Freemasons goal of $10,000 online. I’m confident we’ll be increasing that goal as the days go by.

Thanks for your support and see you in Windsor on April 26.

NOTE: The date in the January edition of the Connecticut Freemasons was incorrectly given as Saturday April 27th. Sorry about that.

Remember – Don’t Take Your Organs to Heaven – Heaven Knows We Need Them Here!

That’s One – That’s Two – That’s Three by Richard F. Denno

Be a Connecticut Freemasons Booster!

Name or Lodge _____________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________

Town ___________________________________________________

State ____________________________ Zip ___________________

Email address ___________________________________________

Booster appearing as ___________________________________

Makes checks payable to: Grand Lodge AF&AM of CT • 69 Masonic Avenue • Wellingford CT 06492

Booster support is not deductible as a charitable contribution under IRC Section 170(c).
### Grand Master’s Circle

$100 or more.

- Timothy V. Cavanaugh
- Ron & Loretta Christensen
- Carlton & Susan Csiki
- Lester Culver, Jr.
- James W. Currier
- Leonard Finegold
- Michael G. Fitting
- Paul Garavel
- Col. & Mrs. John G. Gergulis
- Paul E. MacDonald
- Bill & Sandy Milton
- John A. Novak
- Charles & Sandra Opalenik
- Robert & Lori Polito
- Alvin B. Reiner
- Frederick W. Schmalz
- Rebecca & William Schoeck
- William J. Strand
- Arthur R. Tinsz
- Dean True
- Richard R. Washburn
- Myron E. Yudkin

### Grand Boosters

$50 - $99.99

- Joseph F. Platti
- John R. Ranney
- Heinz D. Rosskothen
- John R. Speicher
- John H. Spencer
- Rodney A. Spooner
- John A. Sturges, Jr.
- Gerald F. Thompson
- Alex J. Tripoli
- Gordon C. Willoughby
- H. Frederick Wintsch
- Andy Zeidler

- Mario Accornero
- Harmin L. Andrews
- Douglas T. Barrett
- Gustaf R. Bodin
- Lowell Cantor
- Ed Childs
- Bill Clark
- Roger R. Cole
- Lester A. Culver, Jr.*
- Jack Dilks
- Earl S. Evans
- William H. Flagg
- John M. Flynn
- Aubrey & Carol Fisher
- Matthew F. Griffin
- Edward Gross
- Ralph H. Hunt
- A. Richard Kirschner
- Kenneth H. Kirschner
- George M. Leaman
- Kurt Maehlenbrock
- Don Maehlenbrock
- Richmond W. Morrison
- Lewis W. Pennell
- Anton Petras

### Booster

$25 - $49.99

- Joseph F. Platti
- Donald Berry
- Judd Blaze*
- Gordon B. Boucher
- Allen Bulmer
- George W. Coulston
- Ward M. Edgerton
- Martin Evensen
- Rudolph A. Gaydos
- Victor S. George*
- Walter Grube
- Kenneth W. Hartwick, Sr.
- L.O. “Skip” House
- Peter J. Hunt
- Roger Knickerbocker
- Paul R. Marte
- Fred C. Neuffer
- Martin L. Rudnick
- James R. Savickas
- Robert A. Simon*
- Dale E. Sweet
- John VanKirk
- William Welsh, Jr.
- Edward T. Willard, Jr.

### Lodges & Organizations

$75 or more.

- Acacia Lodge No. 85
- Anchor Lodge No. 112
- Coastal Lodge No. 57*
- Columbia Lodge No. 25
- CT Widows Sons Masonic Riders
- Evening Star Lodge No. 101
- Friendship Tuscan Lodge No. 145
- Ionic Lodge No. 110*
- Ivanhoe Lodge No. 107
- Temple Lodge No. 16
- Unity Lodge No. 148
- Washington Lodge No. 81

The form to continue your financial support of this publication as a Booster is in page 28.
Washington Lodge No. 81 Holds Pancake Breakfast
by Zachary Marotte

On Sunday, December 1, 2019, members of Washington Lodge No. 81 held a pancake breakfast to raise money to support the Gregory Gaulton Scholarship. For over 35 years, the Gregory Gaulton Scholarship has been providing two high school students with money toward their college education. The pancake breakfast is organized each year by WB Kurt O’Neil.

In addition, at the Annual Meeting of Washington Lodge on December 12, WM Steven Saehrig presented WB O’Neil with a $1,000 donation from IT Direct, where WM Steve works as the Vice President. Each year, the pancake breakfast garners increasingly larger amounts of support from the local community, and this latest donation is no exception to this trend.

Washington Lodge No. 81 Installs Officers for 2020 by Zachary Marotte

On Sunday, January 5, Washington Lodge No. 81 installed its officers for the year 2020. WB Steven Saehrig is Worshipful Master; Brother Dave Brown is Senior Warden; WB Phil Gorman, Junior Warden; WB Kurt O’Neil, Treasurer; Brother Kevin Brignole, Secretary; Brother John Morales is Senior Deacon; Brother Stan Mackiewicz, Junior Deacon; and RWB Ken Smith is Tiler and Historian. Washington Lodge congratulates its officers and wishes them the best of luck for the New Year.

Corinthian Lodge No. 104 Christmas Party by Mark Lindsay

On December 20, 2019, brothers from Corinthian Lodge No. 104 held their annual Christmas party at Fidelity-St. John’s Lodge No. 3 in Fairfield for brothers, families and future brothers. The event was overflowing with members from seven different lodges in District 1, along with Scottish Rite, York Rite and Shriners. WB Ken Krasko organized the party with WB Adam Plotnick, and WB Jim Goldstein who provided the music and a photo booth.

Toys were collected and donated to Hall Neighborhood House, which has been serving the Greater Bridgeport community for over 130 years, and whose mission is to provide services to educate, enrich and empower the lives of Bridgeport residents. Also in attendance were Grand Lodge Historian RWB Andrew Melillo, WB Andrew Flasko and RWB Don Domain. Corinthian Lodge also supports Shriners Clowns, Bridgeport Inner City Youth and The Boys & Girls Club of Bridgeport which was their main charity this year.

Continued on page 34
Connecticut Widows Sons Motorcycle Riders Association Now a 501(c)(3)  by Chris Smith

The Connecticut Grand Chapter of the Widows Sons MRA is proud to announce it has now officially received its determination letter for approval to operate as a public charity with tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue code. Contributions donated to the Widows Sons Inc. are now fully tax-deductible. The Connecticut Grand Chapter of Widows Sons will now also be eligible to apply for government and foundation grants, which will further broaden its access to resources and strengthen its ability to serve charities throughout the region. Obtaining 501(c)(3) status is a major milestone for the Connecticut Widows Sons.

“This opens many doors for us to expand our fundraising activities and helps us to fully realize our goals as a charitable organization that is invested in developing the potential of its members and helping our communities,” remarked President-elect Jeff Davis.

The Widows Sons exist to create meaningful experience that provokes thought and conversation about faith, hope and charity through the common interest of masonry and motorcycles. To date the Connecticut Widows Sons and its members have contributed in excess of $30,000 to various charities, such as the Grand Almoner’s Fund, Shriners Hospital, Special Olympics, Make a Wish, Suicide Prevention, Veteran Affairs, and distressed Widows Sons.

Currently the Widows Sons have active chapters in 40 states and more than 20 foreign countries. Its membership consists of Master Masons who own a street legal motorcycle with an engine of at least 500cc.

Contact the Windows Sons at club@WidowsSons.club to receive more information on joining or making a donation.
Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 Reaches Back In Time Installs Charlie Chaplain

Hartford Evergreen Lodge No. 88 recently installed its officers for the year 2020. Based on reports from those on the scene, and the photographic evidence presented here, Hartford Evergreen Lodge installed Charlie Chaplain as, well, their Chaplain.

Actually, based on a remark made after the incoming Worshipful Master made his appointments, one of whom was RWB Charlie Weiss as the lodge Chaplain, RWB Charlie decided to have a little fun with it.

Masonry is most times serious, but this serves as a reminder that MWB George Greytak was right when he said, “If it ain’t fun, why do it?”

Veterans Honored continued from page 23

a handmade bag made of the backing cloth for storage for the warmer months. When not in use, a simple rack is encouraged for display so that others can feel the warmth instilled by the hands of those who made them.

Each brother was wrapped in a personal quilt and given a hug by Jan and Cheryl.

After the awarding of the quilts, a wholesome Italian dinner from Melilli’s Cafe & Grill of Portland was provided by the Veterans of Korea & Vietnam and Saudi Wars. At the Lodge Annual Meeting that night, Br. Sam Ranno presented a check of a handsome sum from the group to the Lodge in recognition of the service of Freemasons to Veterans and the community.
On December 14, 2019, a cold rainy Saturday, a small band of patriots gathered in a gated cemetery located in Middletown to pay tribute to a brother. That Brother was Commodore Thomas MacDonough who, on September 11, 1814, won a decisive victory at the Battle of Plattsburgh on Lake Champlain, that destroyed or captured every British vessel. MacDonough, outnumbered 14,000 to 1,500, compelled the enemy ground troops to retreat back to Canada. This victory won the War of 1812 for the United States and prevented all of New York and the New England States from becoming part of Canada.

Following his great victory on Lake Champlain Commodore MacDonough continued to serve in the Navy. He was in command of the USS Constitution, on patrol in the Mediterranean in the fall of 1825 when he received word that his wife, Lucy Ann, had died. He was suffering from last stages of tuberculosis and the news hastened his own death. On November 10, 1825, Commodore Thomas MacDonough, died at the age of 41. Brother MacDonough was buried in Middletown, CT, with Masonic honors by St. John's Lodge No. 2, of Middletown, at Riverside Cemetery.

In conjunction with Wreaths Across America, where wreaths are laid at veterans’ gravesites nationwide in December, a Masonic wreath laying ceremony to place at the Commodore’s tombstone. In attendance were MWGM Melvin Johnson, RWB Lew Bither, RWB Fred Taft, WB Gary Jensen, Brother Bill Deluca, Brother John Chan and his wife Sally, and Army Veteran August DeFrance. Each had a role in the wreath laying ceremony: MWB Johnson provided the wreath and embellished it with the Square and Compasses, RWB Taft carried the National Flag; WB Jensen played the bagpipes; Brother Deluca played Taps on the bugle; RWB Bither held the umbrella to keep 93 year old WWII Navy vet, Brother Deluca and his bugle dry; Army veteran August DeFrance (head of the Middletown Cemetery Assn.) unlocked the gate to the cemetery; and Sally Chan was the photographer.

At noon, Bro. Chan gave the command to present the colors as RWB Fred marched our flag from the gate to the right of Commodore’s tombstone accompanied by WB Jensen piping a military march. After the invocation, all saluted the flag and sang the National Anthem, followed with MWB Johnson and Bro. Chan rendering the Masonic Funeral Ritual.

At the end of the Evergreen section of the Funeral Ritual, MWB Johnson and Bro. Chan laid the wreath on Commodore MacDonough’s obelisk, accompanied by the piping of “Amazing Grace” by WB Jensen. Bro. Deluca played Taps on his bugle, and all presented the slow motion military salute.

At the conclusion of the event, MWB Mel hosted a pizza lunch for the attendees. It is the hope of MWB Mel Johnson that other Masonic Wreath Across America events will be held throughout Connecticut next year, on Saturday, December 19, 2020, as Lodges honor their veteran Masons who have laid down their working tools, with similar events.
Fayette Lodge No. 69 Installs Officers, 50-Year Pin Presented by Perne R. Maynard

January 6 was a great day at Fayette Lodge No. 69 in Ellington. The 2020 officers were installed, with Bro. David G. Larsen installed as Worshipful Master. WB Dave is a doer and with his young officer line he has planned many programs for the upcoming year.

The surprise of the day was when MWGM Melvin E. Johnson and MWB Gail N. Smith requested that RWB Edward C. Page, Grand Junior Deacon, conduct Fayette's organist WB O. James Purnell III to the East. He was presented with his 50-year pin and certificate for his many years of service at Fayette Lodge, and recognized as their organist for the past 12 years.

Brother Craig Franklin, of Ionic Lodge No. 110 in North Windham, is retired and living in Florida and is also a member of Pearl of the West Lodge No. 146 in New Port Richey. On December 9, 2019, he was awarded their Mason of the Year Award for 2019.

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Connecticut Freemason Family Day

2020

March 1st at 3:00pm

An annual celebration of Freemasonry in Connecticut with the express purpose of creating awareness in the community at large and fellowship amongst brothers and sisters alike.

1 Civic Center Plaza,
Hartford, CT 06103

Questions? Contact:
Tom Mumford - 860-917-4574
tom.mumford@triaxis.com

XL CENTER

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

All Seats $14.42 *
* includes service charge

Exclusively Available at: www.ctfreemasonfamilyday.org

Come see the 1st place Wolf Pack face-off against division rivals, the Providence Bruins. And be part of the largest celebration of Freemasonry in Connecticut. It only happens once a year. Come with your Lodge, family and friends and show your pride.

Harmony is the strength and support of all societies, most especially of ours.
2020 NUTMEGGER REUNIONS

PLEASE JOIN US at these wonderful Nutmegger Reunion luncheons at one or more of our locations.

Take this opportunity to meet and greet Bro. Melvin E. Johnson, Grand Master; Bro. JonPaul Venoit, Masonicare’s President and CEO; and, Bro. Robert F. Polito Jr., Board of Trustees Chair; and to reconnect with many of your valued friends at this year’s reunion!

**Wednesday, February 26, 2020**
The Holiday Inn – 4715 Helen Hauser Boulevard
Titusville, Florida

**Thursday, February 27, 2020**
Marion Dunn Lodge, 1846 SE 36th Avenue
Ocala, Florida

**Friday, February 28, 2020**
Timber Greens – 6333 Timber Greens Boulevard
New Port Richey, Florida

**Saturday, February 29, 2020**
The Meadows Country Club, 3101 Longmeadow
Sarasota, Florida

* **Sunday, March 1, 2020**
The Club at Olde Cypress, 7165 Treeline Drive,
Naples, Florida
This reunion will begin one hour later

• Registration at 11:30 a.m.
• Program at 12:00 p.m.
• Lunch at 1:00 p.m.

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**Program Schedule (Except for March 1st)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Masonicare Update</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Greetings by Bro. Melvin Johnson,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Most Worshipful Grand Master of</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the Grand Lodge A.F. &amp; A.M. of CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost:</td>
<td>$15 per person</td>
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</table>

**FOR QUESTIONS** or if you plan to be in Florida and would like to attend one of the reunions, please contact RW Brother Carl Anderson at 203-679-6917.

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Our members are the cornerstone of our **future**.