



The Empire State Mason

SPRING 2023

MASONIC
TOYS FOR TOTS
FOUNDATION BALL

FROM THE GRAND EAST

Brethren, as we enter 2023 it is time to reflect on all the past year's accomplishments. This article contains the progress of many of our initiatives. We have undertaken a very ambitious agenda and though all of our projects are moving forward, we have not hit our benchmarks and the roll-outs have been somewhat delayed. Most of the delays were caused by unforeseen sicknesses among some project leaders. By the time this issue of the *Empire State Mason* is delivered to your box, they will be reached. I apologize for the delay but I promise that these projects will propel us into the future and guarantee our future growth and strength.

District Leadership

Dear Team: I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the outstanding work that each of you is performing in your respective District. You have faithfully and efficiently promoted all the educational, leadership and charitable initiatives that our jurisdiction is involved in with great enthusiasm. It began when you volunteered to complete a survey to assist the Leadership and Educational Committee in designing the most practical and effectual training program. It is said that a leader can gauge his effectiveness by the leaders he has in his inner circle. Successful leaders draw other successful leaders into their circle. If that is true, you are directly responsible for my success as a leader. You are simply the best.

Hiram

The Leadership and Educational Technical Team is mapping out the onboarding classes and they will be available beginning in January 2023. As the year progresses, the number of classes and course modules will continue to expand. This will allow each of you to start leveraging this tool throughout the rest of your term. The response to Hiram so far has been overwhelming. New features will continue to be added based on your feedback.

The Masonic Speaker Bureau is providing materials for Lodge programming and will be included in the first wave with content being added as we roll out, along with updated materials such as the *24-Inch Gauge* and Masonic Development Course. You will no longer need to look to Google links. You will have one source for all Leadership and Educational information.

Maxwell Leadership

The committee is mapping out the launch of this program for the State in 2023. The last of our coaches have received certification and we have started our initial module. The first wave of our Grand Lodge Leadership Program is centered on John Maxwell's book *Everyone Communicates, Few Connect*. The tectonic shift this material offers us cannot be overstated. In addition to your classroom training, each of you will receive, free of charge, a copy of this book. Stay tuned for specifics.

Masonic Development Course

The Leadership and Educational Committee is currently working on an update of our Masonic Development Course. The update is scheduled for the spring of 2023. There will be new class material, including but not limited to the Hiram Program. The MDC 2.0 will offer the first in the active effort to

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modernize and connect all of our Masonic education materials. The enhancement of the Masonic Development Course will be ongoing; but it will only be formally updated when enough relevant changes or innovative educational concepts necessitate it. The most efficient means of disseminating this information will allow for rapid and continued use by our entire membership. This will ensure its use and longevity.

Our Path Forward

Our website venture is a massive project that will put our jurisdiction in the forefront of Freemasonry. The branding, marketability and ease of use will be state of art. We are currently receiving the final framework of the web design. The idea is to build the very best. I believe we have succeeded in our mission. This website will allow New York Masons to lead the way. Reveals of this site before the official opening will be coming soon, as this project moves forward into full production.

Our Path Forward is much more than a website. It is an active effort to expand and modernize the visual imagery we use and the words we use to describe who and what we are. As with the efforts of the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and their study, we found very much the same thing. We have one of the most important and impactful messages there can be; we just do not do a good job in projecting that. Until now! This is expressed in our tagline - Where Men Build Meaning. Simple, but that statement sums up what we as New York Masons truly do. There will be a soft start during our Grand Lodge Session in May, with a full debut during St. John's Weekend in Utica.

Battle Within

We have reached more than 50% of the \$250K pledge for the Masonic Medical Research Institute's Research Lab endowment. The Foundation is working towards an organized corporate sponsor but at this point, nearly all donations to this cause come directly from the Masonic Fraternity. The profound generosity and support has been astounding. By Veterans Day you will hear news from the Foundation on the long-awaited Let's Talk Benches. Thank you all for rallying around this important issue.

Also, we are currently waiting for our third delivery of Grand Master Challenge Coins. The price of the coins is \$20 and they will be available to DDGMs upon request. The entire cost of the jewel will go directly to the Battle Within Foundation/PTSD research. So far, the sale of these coins has raised over \$10,000.

I need to comment on a few Brothers

RW Richard Newton and Forest Lodge were the first outside of Erie District to support this cause and continue to be great

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Take a few minutes
to read them.



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supporters. Their generosity has helped make a difference.

RW Brian Deroscher and St. Patrick's Lodge, along with their area Royal Arch bodies, have embraced the One Flag One Life campaign and other efforts to support PTSD awareness. His work has especially helped move the ball forward.

Times Square Ad

Many of you saw the preview of the look and feel of the logos and messaging when we ran an ad in Times Square this September. The ad time was donated by a Brother in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of Mecca Shrine. Mecca Shrine is affectionately referred to as Mother Mecca.

The ad ran on the NASDAQ sign, which is the most viewed corner in the world. This ad posted every ten minutes for a whole day. A video of the ad has been viewed—as of today, on our social media channels—well over 400,000 times, shared 50,000 times and mentioned over 55,000 times. The traffic to Discover Masonry has been measurably different. And the direct feedback from those looking to know more about us mentioned our tagline as the reason they reached out.

Brotherhood Fund

The Brotherhood Fund Drive is off and running. In addition to last year's gifts you can receive a binder with our new logo on it. For those with a flair for style, we have Masonic socks as well as a baseball cap with our new branding logo. Special note: if you look under the visor you will find the New York City skyline including our Grand Lodge Building. Another email will go out to each of you with the gifts and gift levels included.

Children's Dyslexia Center

There was a ribbon cutting for the Joanne Kessler Children's Dyslexia Reading Center on January 28. It was held at 71 West 23rd Street. Details are coming in the next issue of the *Empire State Mason*. It is long overdue that a Children's Dyslexia Center has a presence in New York City. This center will be state of the art and will be the prototype for future centers. I ask for your support for children with this debilitating condition. Help them reach their full potential.

Remember that failure is not an option. Masonry is not what we do, it is who we are. And that is why **Masons Make a Difference!**

Masons Participate in Wreaths Across America Event

Brothers of the Suffolk & Nassau Masonic Districts, along with friends and relatives, assisted in laying holiday wreaths on the graves of Veterans at both Long Island and Calverton national cemeteries on Saturday, December 17th. Sponsored by Wreaths Across America, the effort includes the sale of holiday wreaths throughout the year which are then sent to national cemeteries across the country for placement by volunteers. After laying wreaths at Calverton last year, this

year Brothers expanded their efforts to include Long Island National in Melville.





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My Brothers, like many of you I joined our Gentle Craft for its most special history and remarkable philosophy. But as Master Masons each of us is on his own journey. That never changes, not with the color of our apron, the initials that precede our name or the numbers that follow. For many of us, dedication and appreciation for the Craft has caused us to seek positions that permit us to assist in various aspects of the management of our Craft. Yet, while we take rightful satisfaction in the display of sound ritual, we frequently fail to praise—let alone recognize—our Lodge Secretaries, Treasurers and Trustees. These are Men and Masons who are truly the unsung heroes of Freemasonry as they work to ensure the proper functioning of our Lodges and buildings in our increasingly complex world.

Frequently without fault, our Masonic building owners face ever steeper challenges. Some of the worst news the Grand Master and I receive is that a Masonic building is in financial distress or that we have already lost another Masonic building to high taxes or expensive upkeep. That is why, working with the Grand Lodge's Lodges and Buildings Committee, I sent a Google form to each Lodge with the sole purpose to identify the ownership of the building where your Lodge meets. Why? Simple: Inexplicably, the Grand Lodge has never maintained a database of Masonic buildings within our Grand Jurisdiction. It is like McDonald's not knowing how many franchises it has in New York State. Why do we want to know? Simply put, to help. While we may not be able to save every Lodge building, as there are many factors that contribute to a Masonic building's failure, where possible and when appropriate we want to assist our Lodge building owners.

In the next several months you will hear about potential new funding opportunities for Masonic building entities. While the program will start small and slow, it is the first stage in a plan to assist our Masonic building owners.

Additionally, in the next several months the Lodges and Buildings Committee, RW Al Bryant, Chairman, will be hosting educational programs and workshops to further assist our Masonic building owners. By knowing what entities own which buildings, we will be able to target this assistance.

I understand that for some a request from Grand Lodge is met with skepticism and concern. That dynamic must change if we are going to work together to address the issues that have plagued the functionality and management of our Craft for decades. Together, we can change this dynamic and the face of Masonry in the State of New York.

As I continue to travel our glorious state, I am constantly reminded of our remarkable philosophy that resonates from upstate to down, from East to West. And the opportunity to attend the rededication and dedication of our Lodges and Lodge buildings is one particular joy of my position.

Congratulations go to Western Star Lodge 15 and L'Union Française Lodge 17 on their 225-year Anniversaries; Publicity Lodge 1000 on its 100-year Anniversary; and Geneva-Ark Lodge 33 on the Dedication of its wonderful Lodge building in the beautiful Finger Lakes Region.

This past January it was my further honor to represent our Grand Master at our Florida Sojourners Luncheons. While Grand Master Kessler was unable to attend because of the passing of our Grand Marshal's beloved wife Ann, he addressed each assemblage via Zoom.

Its origins have been lost to time but for upwards of forty years Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters have traveled to Florida to recognize our Brothers who have moved there. It was my honor to celebrate the Masonic lives of thirty-two Brothers for their fifty, fifty-five, sixty and sixty-five years of loyal and dedicated service to the Craft. Each Brother spoke of his love for the Craft and its positive influence upon his life.

While I was able to see so many wonderful Brothers, of particular note was the opportunity to see RW Gilbert Savitzky, Past Grand Treasurer, Past Grand Secretary and Trustee Emeritus, who was recognized for his sixty years of service to the Craft. I also spent time with RW Biaggio Valenti, Past Grand Standard Bearer, with whom I served from 2006-2008, and RW Louis Rosenthal, Trustee Emeritus. Here are some pictures of our wonderful Brothers and our Florida Sojourn:



Continues on page 6 – Deputy Grand Mason



As this is the last publication before the Grand Lodge Session, let me make some final observations and a request of each Worshipful Master, Warden or Proxy. The question is always asked, Who is Grand Lodge? Too often our Brothers think it is merely the Grand Master and the rest of the elected and appointed line. That is wrong. It is you. It is the elected and appointed Grand Line, but also each District Deputy, Staff Officer, Permanent and Committee Member and every Lodge represented. You comprise that powerful body. So please attend Grand Lodge with an understanding of the significance your decisions will have for the direction and future of our Craft. That is your duty.



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Fraternal Greetings from the Grand West, my Brothers. It has been an enjoyable few months. In October I went up to Auburn, represented the Grand Master, and presented a wonderful Brother with a Grand Master's Award of Appreciation. A few weeks later I was in Niagara-New Orleans sitting in on a DDGM visit. I followed that up with the First Westchester-Putnam District's Charity Gala.

Grand Master Kessler asked me to represent the GLNY at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Virginia so I spent a few wonderful days down in Richmond in mid-November. As Richmond is only a couple of hours away from North Carolina, I dropped down to Raleigh for a long-overdue visit with my dad. He is 92, moves a bit slower than he used to but he is every bit the USMC Drill Sgt. I have known for sixty-three years, and every bit the State Cop who inspired me to follow in his footsteps.

As soon as I returned from North Carolina I went to our Masonic Hall on 23rd Street in NYC and gave a presentation on Lodge Leadership to the 10th Manhattan Wardens & Deacons Association. This I followed on the next night with Pyramid Lodge's Veteran's Empty Chair Degree, which I highly recommend to any Brothers who can get down to see it.

The Toys-for-Tots Gala at Russo's on the Bay was fantastic, as always. I actually had to cut my afternoon short there and head up to Albany so I could attend the Grand Commander's Reception honoring our new REGC Dave Barkstedt.

December began in Buffalo with the Erie County Purple Association hosting the Apron Presentations for their District Officers, those of the Niagara-Orleans District, and our beloved Junior Grand Warden, RW Peter C. Stein. The following week I traveled to Utica and attended Infinity Lodge No. 00 and heard Most Worshipful Kessler address those in attendance. On December 17, we celebrated the 225-year anniversary of Western Star Lodge No. 15 in Bridgewater with a Rededication. A nice relaxing Christmas was followed by a St. John the Evangelist Festive Board on the 27th. As I said, these were enjoyable months—smiling faces everywhere I went and Brotherly Love at each and every locale.

And now for a couple of Landmarks (from the 1800s):

"The prerogative of the Grand Master to give dispensations for opening and holding Lodges is another Landmark. He may grant, in virtue of this, to a sufficient number of Masons,

the privilege of meeting together and conferring degrees. The Lodges thus established are called 'Lodges under Dispensation.' They are strictly creatures of the Grand Master, created by his authority, existing only during his will and pleasure, and liable at any moment to be dissolved at his command. They may be continued for a day, a month, or six months; but whatever be the period of their existence, they are indebted for that existence solely to the grace of the Grand Master."

"The prerogative of the Grand Master to make Masons at sight, is a Landmark. There has been much misapprehension in relation to this Landmark, The real mode and the only mode of exercising the prerogative is this: The Grand Master summons to his assistance not less than six other Masons, convenes a Lodge, and without any previous probation, but on sight of the candidate, confers the degrees upon him. After which he dissolves the Lodge and dismisses the brethren. The making of Masons at sight is only the conferring of the degrees by the Grand Master, at once, in an occasional Lodge, constituted by his dispensing power for the purpose, and over which he presides in person."

That last one is an interesting one. I have received a lot of questions about it from Brothers over the past few years. There has been a lot of misunderstanding of what a Grand Master can and cannot do as far as the so-called "making a Mason at sight" is concerned. There is obviously quite a bit more to it than going into a room with a profane, saying a handful of sentences and coming out of the room with a Mason.

I close with a few words about Leadership. Whether it is at the Lodge level, the District level or the Grand Lodge level, Leadership is about influence. If you want to be a leader you have to have Brothers follow you. If you want Brothers to follow you, you need to influence them in some way. How you influence and lead is up to you. You want your leadership to make a difference.

I have said in a number of talks that the level of leadership you reach depends more on your influence than any other factor. That is why it is so important. You never know how many people you will reach, how many people you will touch, how many people you will influence by your actions. Be a person who adds value to other people's lives. That is a true leader.



I love you Dad...

**Articles Due Date for the SUMMER Edition
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JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN



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As I write this article it is the Christmas holiday season. I hope you had awesome holidays, and Happy New Year!

Last fall was busy for the Grand Line and me, starting in October with the Grand Master's Day at West Point. Then your Grand Line conferred the First Degree at Tappan, New York. We then attended the State Triangle Installation and Grand Cryptic Council Ball in Albany. The next week I was honored to represent our Grand Master at the Grand Eastern Star Session in Binghamton and on the way home stopped in Perry, NY to instruct a NorthStar Program course.

In November I attended a fellowship event at Renaissance Lodge with their Canadian Sister Lodge. The next day we attended a Veterans Day Ceremony in Colton, NY hosted by Living Stone Lodge 255. In December I attended the Erie and Niagara Orleans Districts Apron Presentations, during which I was presented my Apron and Jewel by my wife Melanie and our Grand Master. It was a very special evening.

I represented Grand Master Kessler at Cassiopeia Triangle Installation in Amherst, NY. I then traveled with the Grand Master to Bridgewater, NY for the 225th year rededication of Western Star Lodge No. 15.

If you have not heard, in November I was sidelined for a few weeks due to a DVT (Deep Vein Thrombosis) blood clot in my left leg. I would like to thank all the Brothers for the get-well calls, cards and emails from across our Grand Jurisdiction. I love this Fraternity. As I write this article, I am on the mend.

In this article I would like to talk about the NorthStar Project. I receive questions all the time on the proper use of the project and many other questions.

The NorthStar Project is a framework to help a Lodge bring in a new member who is not known to the members of the Lodge. Gentlemen are contacting us daily via the Internet, seeking information on our Fraternity or wanting to become one of us.

The question most asked: Is the project mandatory and does the Lodge have to follow it step by step? The NorthStar Project is not mandatory but it is highly recommended, especially for a gentleman who is not known to the Brothers of the Lodge. If you have an interested gentleman whom a Brother knows or who is a relative of a Brother in the Lodge, it falls on the Master and Mentor of the Lodge to decide how much of the project your Lodge will use. I personally recommend that you go through most of the steps because there is great information in the project for any prospective member.

Another question: Is the West Gate part of NorthStar? No, it is a separate program and it is mandatory (Grand Lodge Edict). It fits in perfectly when you start the NorthStar Project.

The background check should be done in conjunction with the first few steps of NorthStar.

Does NorthStar replace the Investigating Committee? No, the Investigating Committee is a Constitutional entity. The NorthStar Project is a tool to help the committee complete its work. The investigation committee should meet with the Lodge Mentor to review information gathered on the potential member.

Does the NorthStar Project end when a gentleman is balloted on? No, this just ends the first half of the project—the candidate selection process. Now the Mentor begins the second half of the project, the Success Coaching Process, for the new Brother. Success Coaching has one objective: to teach the fundamentals of Freemasonry to every candidate so he may become a Master Mason in fact as well as in name, and a lifetime active worker in the quarries of Freemasonry.

Do we need a member of the NorthStar or Masonic Development Committee to travel to our District to teach the course? No. If there is a NorthStar-certified Brother in your District who is comfortable and willing to teach the course, then by all means go for it. For all the teaching materials just contact RW Joe Passaretti or me. If you would like a committee member to teach the course in your District, please contact either one of us. The committee also hosts NorthStar Zoom courses throughout the year.

How do I become a Lodge Success Coach/Mentor? First, you must have taken the NorthStar project course; then, the Master of your Lodge must appoint you and send an appointment email to the Grand Lodge Registrar's Office. Each Lodge may have up to ten Coaches assigned.

How many Internet inquiries does Grand Lodge receive? From 1 January 2022 to 12 December 2022 we received 1409 new inquiries. That is 700 from www.discovermasonry.com, 266 from the Scottish Rite "Not Just a Man but a Mason" campaign and 443 were entered into the NorthStar Portal manually.

How do the Lodges get these referrals? The gentleman's name is entered into the NorthStar Portal either automatically or manually, according to the District he lives in or what Lodge he might attend. The District NorthStar Chairman or District Deputy Grand Master then assigns him to a Lodge. The Lodge NorthStar Chairman or Master then assigns a Mentor to the potential candidate.

I hope this answers some of your questions about NorthStar. If you have any other question or need more clarification, feel free to call or email me.



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Where Do We Actually First Become a Mason?

The answer, I am sure, from all of you will be: in our heart. According to our ritual that is the correct answer. Now think hard. What begins our Masonic journey is when the investigating committee comes to our home and asks our wife, lady friend, etc., if she minds if her husband desires to be a Mason. My Brothers, if she gives a negative answer we all know what that could mean. So, let us thank our ladies for allowing us to begin our Masonic journey.

During the holiday season I had the honor of being guest speaker at the 2nd Kings Holiday Party. I asked this same question. And I answered the question with a poem entitled, "A Letter From a Mason's Wife." I hope you enjoy this wonderful poem. To the person who wrote it: it is a good one and it may have really captured the feelings and emotions of a Mason's wife.

Dear Sir,
 How many wives of Masons
 Have given very much thought,
 To the wonderful Biblical lessons
 That Masonry has taught?
 Have you asked yourself this question?
 When you sit alone at night?
 While hubby is away at Lodge,
 "Is my reasoning wrong or right?"
 The nights are lonely and long, I know
 But then this thought occurred to me,
 "If my husband wasn't a Mason,
 What kind of man would he be?"
 They call us "Masonic Widows"
 I've been one for many a year,
 I have spoken my piece on lonely nights
 And even berated my hubby dear.
 But sometime later, I regret those words,
 And with compassion try to see

"If my husband wasn't a Mason,
 What kind of man would he be?"
 I attempt to be a patient wife,
 And while alone I meditate,
 I try to see his point of view,
 It's only fair, after all he is my mate.
 I always knew what the situation was
 It's really not something new,
 So why complain after all this time,
 I'm sure I speak for you.
 Some say that men make Masonry
 And this I understand,
 But deep in my heart I am still convinced,
 It's Masonry that makes the man.
 As we journey along our highway together,
 Finding the inner dreams of life,
 I pray Masonic ideals keep him the way he is.
 Yours truly,
 A Mason's wife

Smithtown Honors 65 Years

On September 20 the Brothers of Smithtown Lodge, with RW Grand Sword Bearer Robert Licata, presented a sixty-five-year anniversary apron and award to Brother James Gouras at his home. Bro. Gouras was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 14, 1956 at Smithtown Lodge.

The Brothers enjoyed a pleasant evening of sharing stories and talking about the Craft over coffee. Congratulations go to Brother Gouras for his many years of service and dedication to Masonry.



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As another calendar year has begun and spring is starting to poke through a cold and snowy winter for most of New York, our Grand Lodge has had quite an eventful few months. We held our Florida Luncheons in January and greeted many retirees and snowbirds from New York. We held luncheons in Sarasota, Tampa, The Villages and Palm Beach Gardens. Several members of the Grand Line and several Past Grand Masters attended the luncheons, where the main highlight was presenting Masonic Service Certificates, Aprons and Pins for fifty, fifty-five, sixty and sixty-five years of service. The Masonic Care Community and Masonic Medical Research Institute were represented and members gave presentations on their activities.

We held the International Grand Lecturers' Convention (IGLC) from January 27 to 29 at Grand Lodge. Exemplifications of all three Degrees were done by many Brothers from around the state. We have some truly excellent ritualists here in the Grand Lodge of New York. Brethren from several countries in South and Central America and Europe benefitted from this convention. Putting the convention together took a lot of work and effort. RW Richard Friedman, RW Stewart McCloud, RW Samuel Kinsey, RW Donald Mattson and the entire Grand Lodge Convention Committee, to name just a few, did the lion's share of the work.

On January 28, 2023, there was a ribbon cutting for the Joanne Kessler Children's Dyslexia Center (CDC), which is now in the basement of the Grand Lodge 23rd Street building. The Trustees of the Masonic Care Community put up the initial seed money of \$5 million and donated the space for this center. In conjunction with this event, the Trustees ran a successful Table Lodge barbecue dinner as a fundraiser for additional endowment money.

Throughout this magazine you will see photos of the events described above, along with further information and descriptions. A photo from the Florida Luncheon in West Palm Beach is my favorite. It is of three Grand Secretaries: MW Gary Henningsen, RW Gilbert Savitzky and me. At the luncheon in Florida, Gil received his sixty-year Service Certificate. MW Gary is in even longer—sixty-two going on sixty-three years. I am so proud to carry on the tradition of these fine Brothers by being your Grand Secretary. While my years in the Craft are noticeably less at thirty-

five years, these two Brothers have supported and encouraged me in this work at every opportunity. My thanks go to MW Gary and RW Gil for their support and guidance.



(l-r) MW Gary Henningsen, RW Gilbert Savitzky,
RW Richard Schulz.

Finally, I conclude with thoughts of gratitude to those men before me in the Craft. When I have been a part of presentations of Masonic Service Certificates throughout the year, and just recently in Florida, I am struck by the service, dedication and work of these brethren. When presented with the certificate and asked to speak, many of them recount their years in the Craft, the familial ties that first drew them to join, and the pleasure of being a member of the oldest fraternal organization in the world. I think to myself how extremely lucky I am to be a part of this organization and I look forward to working with all of the brethren of this Fraternity, so that together our Grand Lodge will continue to grow and prosper.

My Masonic life began with my Initiation into Ridgewood Chapter, Order of DeMolay in 1970. If you have not heard the story of my induction as a DeMolay, ask me about it and I will gladly recount for you the beginning of my Masonic journey.

I thank all my Brothers for your love, comradeship and friendship. As your Grand Secretary I look forward to working with you throughout the years to come.

SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday, October 7th • 2023 Grand Master's Family Day at West Point

Sunday, October 8th • 2023 Grand Master's Day at Tappan

Saturday, November 18th • 2023 Masonic Toys For Tots Gala Ball @ Russo's, Queens NY

Southern Tier District Holiday Food Drive

The Southern Tier District, in conjunction with the Square Deal Chapter of the Low Twelve Riders, participated in a Food Drive to benefit the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. Lodges throughout the Southern Tier District collected non-perishable food items to be given to those in need during the holiday season.

Often, people facing hunger are forced to make tough choices between buying food, paying medical bills, paying rent or buying holiday gifts for their children. While the holidays can be joyful for many, it can be a difficult time for people who struggle with food insecurity. The food that was collected will greatly help families that are struggling to make ends meet during the holiday season.



Sodus 392 To Salute Wayne Co. With Mural

Roger D. Campbell

The Brothers of Sodus Masonic Lodge 392 are proud to take part in the 200-year celebration of Wayne County, New York, which happens next year. For the occasion a mural was created to honor a special event from 1910. An acrobatic performer known as “Prince Nelson” did a high wire act as a promotion for a special community celebration.

In 1906 a fire destroyed the building on the corner of Main Street and Maple in Sodus. The fire damaged the original Sodus Lodge building, including the records of the Lodge, as well as a large section of adjacent buildings. The area was restored, including a new Masonic Lodge building, by 1910.

The community wanted to lure the public back to the business district and decided to host a two-day celebration they called “Booster Days.” The highlight of the event was to

have Prince Nelson (real name Nelson Stevens) showcase his high wire talents on a wire spanning Maple Avenue between the Sodus Masonic Lodge and the A.B. Williams General Mercantile Store (this building burned down in 1912). The wire was five stories above the ground.

Prince Nelson had already built a reputation for himself as a high wire performer, appearing for two months at the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, NY. He had also walked over Niagara Falls and the Genesee River Gorge.

Here in Sodus he walked the wire between both buildings, walked backwards with a blindfold and even stood on his head. The act was a huge success for the town and something the Brothers felt should be memorialized through the creation of the mural.



Mural of Prince Nelson's walk from the Sodus Masonic Lodge building to the A.B. Williams General Store Building. The patrons on the left include Brother William Dubois (upper corner window), a member of Sodus Lodge. His great-grandsons are members today.

GRAND LODGE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



RW CHRISTOPHER J. HOUGH
CHAIRMAN
hough441@roadrunner.com



Last year, 2022, was another successful one for our Educational Assistance Program. Some 436 children, grandchildren and Masons from Lodges across the State of New York were awarded grants for their schooling. At three in-person Award Ceremonies students were able to receive their award certificate and take photos with Lodge officers and Trustee Board members. We are tremendously proud of the success of this program once again, and are looking forward to 2023.

Scholarship applications for 2023 opened January 1

Applications for the 2023 Education Assistance Program can be found on the Grand Lodge website: www.nymasons.org under the Educational Assistance link at the bottom of the site. The enrollment period began January 1 and ends on March 31 for all students seeking financial assistance

for the fall 2023 academic term.

Requirements for eligibility and instructions for completing the scholarship application are provided online. If you are a returning applicant, please use the same profile you created for your previous application(s). Applicants selected to receive awards will be notified in May of 2023 and public awards presentations will be held around the state during the months of June through August.

To be considered for an award, an applicant must meet the following criteria: Be a child or grandchild of a NYS Master Mason or be a NY Master Mason returning to school for a college degree; show academic or vocational achievement and have a minimum GPA of 2.75; be a full-time student with a 12-credit per semester minimum for undergraduate and 9-credit per semester minimum for graduate level studies in fall 2023. A student is eligible for a maximum of four awards from this program.

Wayne Lodge cooks up surprise



On Wednesday, September 14, Wayne Lodge 416, 1932 Ridge Road, Ontario, New York, assembled for its first communication of the year. Among brethren in attendance was Brother Donald Tennity, who affiliated with Wayne Lodge through a merger from Marion Lodge.

Brother Tennity thought he was there to thank the Lodge for supporting his granddaughters with scholarships for college. After expressing his gratitude, the Lodge kept him on his feet and Worshipful Master Roger Campbell presented him with his fifty-year apron and certificate signed by Grand Master R.J. Kessler. He also received a fifty-year pin and RW Michael Cholach, AGL, presented a special pin.

This award was a welcome surprise to Brother Tennity and it gave the Lodge a great beginning to the 2022/2023 season. Wayne Lodge and the Wayne District are proud of our Brothers. We look forward to awarding the aprons and certificates to those deserving recognition.

District Presents Traveling Gavel



The Long Island Past Masters Association ended a pandemic-induced hiatus to resume its mid-year party on Monday, July 18. More than 100 Brothers, Ladies and guests attended the re-christened "Summer Soiree."

As part of the evening's festivities, RW District Deputy Jeffrey Santorello presented the Brothers of Riverhead Lodge No. 645 with the Suffolk Masonic District's Traveling Gavel Award plaque for the 2021-2022 Masonic year. The Traveling Gavel promotes a friendly competition between the Lodges of the Suffolk Masonic District to encourage visitation amongst the Lodges.

Yacht Club is Busy

by Bob and Kathy Stein

The Masonic Yacht Club (MYC) is happy to be meeting again after the past two years when things came to a standstill. Our annual dinner dance was the first real get-together after the effects of COVID. It was a fun evening with an Irish theme which everyone enjoyed, dinner and dancing but more importantly, enjoying the company of fellow Masons and their ladies.

As usual, the Masonic Yacht Club was represented under the big tent at St. John's Weekend where our new Grand Master and the Grand Line were honored. It was a fun weekend where many dressed the part to celebrate the various decades. Our Grand Master got in the spirit with his 70s attire, which brought a smile to everyone.

Opening day for the MYC was another opportunity for great Masonic camaraderie as we held our annual ceremony. Each Bridge Officer received the flag of his office and was sworn in for the ensuing year. Food and music followed as the members enjoyed a great afternoon with many laughs and stories of months in pandemic isolation.

The MYC sponsored three foursomes in the Grand Secretary's golf outing this year. We also sponsored three holes, which is something we do every year to support the various charities. Many of our members look forward to this event.

As we are just starting to come back to life, we were not able to be in Camp Turk this summer but will be there next year. Shortly, we will be participating in the Breast Cancer Walk, as we do every year. We are off and running in full force resuming all activities.

Membership in the Masonic Yacht Club is open to all Masons in good standing with their Blue Lodge. The cost is \$50 to join and the benefits are great. With your reciprocity card, a member can enjoy the restaurants of any Yacht Club facility listed in the American Yacht Club guide. Members have sampled scrumptious meals at clubs all over America. Ask any Yacht Club member where he has used the reciprocity card and learn about that experience. This feature, alone, is worth the membership fee. The cost to join others clubs is astronomical and this is cost effective. Please contact Bob Stein at 631/838-0184 with any questions or for an application.

There are other benefits as well. Check out the Masonic Yacht Club and remember that you do not have to be a boat owner to join the club or benefit from its membership. The Masonic Yacht Club is registered with Yachting Club of America and is listed in their Reciprocity Guide. The MYC is also listed on the YCA's website. As a member of the Masonic Yacht Club you automatically become a member of YCA, the oldest existing Yacht Club organization in America.

The Masonic Yacht Club and its First Mates Club is for nautically minded individuals who enjoy an evening out with friends. You do not have to be a boat owner to enjoy and benefit from membership in this organization. Anyone is welcome to attend one of our meetings to experience what we are about and we encourage you to join us.

Ninth Manhattan Appreciates their Ladies

by Bob Stein

The annual Ladies Appreciation Luncheon was held Sunday, September 11 at Captain Bill's Restaurant on Long Island. The Past Masters Association of the Noble Ninth treats our ladies.



Group photo of all the ladies and the widows who received a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of all they have done throughout the years. Even though some of the husbands are no longer with us, we will always keep them in the fold.



Irmgard Barth, a sister of Socrates and Von Mensch Lodges, is happy to be remembered on such a special day.



Members of the Past Masters Association who sponsored this lovely affair to recognize and pay tribute to these appreciated ladies.

North Woods Lodge 849

During the summer and fall North Woods Lodge 849 F&AM honored several members for their years of service.



Sixty-five-year Brother Raymond Philo receives his certificate, apron and pin from RW Andrew Getty, WM, and RW Carl Klossner, Acting District Deputy Grand Master, Oneida District.



RW Patrick Dan, Grand Sword Bearer, and RW Andrew Getty present Brother Fred Armstrong his sixty-year certificate.

The annual Raquette Lake Dinner Cruise and Awards banquet occurred in June. The following were honored:



Brother George Lapinsky, five years



Brothers Karl Tormey and P. Scott Gaffney, SW



Brother Edmund Girtler Jr., Tiler, twenty years.



RW Carl J. Klossner, PDDGM, receives his twenty-five-year certificate from PWM Tory Dunn and RW Andrew Getty, WM.



Forty-five-year honoree Brother Harvey Lawrence.



Brothers William S. Park and W Stephen C. Park, DSA, Secretary, are honored with their fifty-year pins, aprons and certificates.

Masons Make a Difference

SPRING 2023

9th Manhattan Celebrates German Heritage

On September 17 the Steuben Day Parade took place. Once again, the Noble Ninth participated. It was a glorious day and the weather was perfect. We were in one of the beginning divisions so we were finished fairly early.

The Past Masters Association hosted bagels, muffins, fruit, danish and coffee at the Temple before we boarded the bus at 9:30. After a short trip into Manhattan, we met our float on 67th Street. Bro. Gus Teran and Bro Harry Barth wore their Post 22 uniform and led our float. Twelve Brothers and eight ladies rode down 5th Avenue representing the Ninth Manhattan District. Various other Brothers visited our float but marched with other German Clubs.

Prior to the start of the parade, we watched as Bro. Joe Altmann of Allemania Lodge was honored for his service and commitment to Masonry. District Deputy RW Don Gorham, RW Larry Wund and W Eric Demery presented Bro. Altmann with his sixty-year apron. The proclamation was read, as was a letter from the Grand Master. Bro. Joe was surrounded by his family and Brothers as he was honored and congratulated.

Back at the temple, the Past Masters provided a delicious lunch of brats, leberkase, potato salad and macaroni salad. Very tasty.



The Ninth Manhattan next to the float



Past Masters' ladies ride the float



60-year apron presentation to Bro. Joe Altmann of Allemania Lodge

Jephtha Celebrates 3000

Masonic Lodges have traditionally celebrated important periodic anniversaries relevant to their rich history. Rarely if ever, does a Masonic Lodge celebrate an anniversary of its communications. Not until reading the minutes at a meeting in the prior Masonic year did one Long Island Lodge realize that a very important milestone was fast approaching.

On Monday, September 12, 2022 more than 100 Brothers travelled to Huntington, New York for the 3000th communication of Jephtha Lodge 494 F. & A. M. Special guests included RW Steven Adam Rubin, Deputy Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York; RW Joseph J. Saglimbene, Grand Treasurer; RW Alberto Cortizo, Junior Grand Deacon; RW Peter Unfried, Deputy Grand Marshal; RW Gustavo A. Teran, Deputy Grand Standard Bearer; and RW Jeffery Santorello, District Deputy Grand Master of the Suffolk Masonic District.

After a delicious meal by Jephtha's Executive Chef, Brother Geoff Cohen,



and Junior Warden John A. Lentinello, the guests assembled on the third floor of the Lodge building for the official stated communication. W Michael S. Crispino Jr., Master of Jephtha, opened the Lodge and welcomed several groups of visiting dignitaries. He offered the gavel to the Deputy Grand Master, who politely returned it.

The evening's program included a Proclamation presentation from the Town of Huntington, commemorating Jephtha's 3000th communication; a historical lecture of the Lodge by W Ron Seifried, DSA; the unveiling of a

new portrait of the Lodge by Brother Paul Vermylen III; and a Dedicated Service Award presentation to W Robert Previto.

The festivities continued on Saturday, September 17 with a special dinner and dance event open to friends and family of Jephtha Lodge. This capped off a very active week that included a newly minted challenge coin and a new fifty-page commemorative program published by Lodge editor officer, Brother Richard Gentile.

Lafayette Returns to America and to New York



In fifth grade, the history teacher explained that a good thing about growing up in New York was that the American Revolution took place here. Well, maybe this was not exactly where most of the war was fought but it was true that as children we visited historic sites and forts, discovered signs along the road of heroes and battles and even went hunting for musket balls in some of the fields. Yes, New York was important during the war.

Now, a reminder of a famous soldier is going to take place in two years in America and will begin, again, in New York City. This will be a celebration of the visit of Major General the Marquis de Lafayette, who returned here in 1824 some forty-plus years after the Revolution.

Lafayette turned out to be a true son that George Washington never had. An immediate friendship began and was carried on for many, many years. In fact, Lafayette named his only son George Washington Lafayette.

There is a story that Lafayette became a Mason sometime before his 18th birthday in September 1775. Lafayette was a captain in the Noailles Dragoons and was in Metz near the German border for summer activities. Also there was Comte de Brogie, Governor of Metz and a Mason. It is thought that he might have induced Lafayette to join. He did contribute greatly to Lafayette's military career and accepted Lafayette's impulse to go to America and help the cause. Through de Brogie, several of Lafayette's military friends were made Masons.

The Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette, May 2022, included an article by John C. Becica. It described how AFL President Alan Hoffman and wife Marilyn made a trip to France and toured the French Museum of Freemasonry. They were shown a Masonic book that belonged to the Lodge of St. Jean d' Ecosse (St. John of Scotland) and seemed to indicate that young Lafayette was accepted as a Freemason as of June 24, 1775. He would have been 17, almost 18 years old. The entry reads: "towards the end of a Masonic meeting, Lafayette asked for entrance at the door and that 'the Worshipful Master' sent him an escort of 'Chevaliers-ecossais' (high-ranking Masons) to honor him." The story was summed up: "Since only accepted or admitted Masons were allowed to attend a Masonic meeting, Lafayette's admission to the meeting proves that he was already an accepted Freemason in June of 1775."

My thought is that the Lodge was ready to close and there was a knock on the outer door, and the Master was told that the young man Lafayette would like to enter. The Master

may have responded, "We are closing now. RW Smith and Jones, do bring him upstairs and I will introduce him to the Brothers." Whereupon, Lafayette is escorted into the now closed Lodge and the Master says to the Brothers, "This is Captain Lafayette, he will be joining our Lodge in September and he is welcome this evening to join us for dinner." And the Secretary added it the minutes.

There are also many stories that once Lafayette first came to America, he visited numerous Lodges and was made a Mason. It may have happened in New York or New Jersey or maybe even Pennsylvania.



In 1824, President James Monroe, the last of the founding-father Presidents, invited Lafayette, who was the last surviving General of the Revolutionary War, to again visit the United States, as an official "Guest of the Nation." Forty-eight years had passed since the signing of the Declaration of Independence and forty-three years since the British surrender at Yorktown. As the generation of Revolutionary War veterans passed away, fewer and fewer Americans remembered the bloody struggle for liberty and freedom from England. President Monroe recognized that it was a crucial time in the country's history. He felt it was important for the younger generation to recognize that freedom and democracy had come at a great cost. The President looked to Lafayette, the hero of both France and America, to return and remind Americans of the sacrifices and heroism of the time.

The Marquis had taken his political career in France seriously. Lafayette survived the tumultuous years of the Revolution and its aftermath, which for him included a five-year prison term in Austria. Lafayette's fortune was confiscated by the French government and many of his relatives died by the guillotine. Experiencing financial difficulties, just prior to his trip he was given property in Florida and some \$200,000.

Lafayette took President Monroe up on the offer, and what a celebration it was! He left France on July 13, 1824 and was received a salute by artillery when he landed at Staten Island on August 15. From that time to September 1825 Lafayette traveled 6,000 miles by stagecoach, horseback, canal barge and steamboat. His tour included all twenty-four U.S. states. That was eleven more than the original thirteen. He was greeted with rapture, escorted by cavalcades, feted and honored. Streets, monuments and entire towns were named after him.



MASONIC TOYS FOR TOTS FOUNDATION

GEORGE FILIPPIDIS

PRESIDENT

GALA BALL CHAIRMAN

917/572-4312

GEORGE@ARES.NY.COM

WWW.MASONICTOYSFORTOTS.COM

The Masonic Toys for Tots Foundation's Annual Gala Ball is held each year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. On November 19, 2022 the Grand Master and the elected and appointed Grand Line members were joined by more than 320 Brothers, ladies and guests at Russo's on the Bay in Queens for the festive event.

The Masonic Toys for Tots Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charity and for more than forty-five years all proceeds have benefitted Children's Cancer & Blood Foundation at NY Presbyterian, Weill Cornell. The Toys for Tots is run by volunteers and has zero administrative expenses and very minimal operating expenses.

With some of the proceeds the Foundation has historically held two annual parties. One is at Masonic Hall open to all children and their family. The other is at the hospital medical center where Santa Claus, the Grand Master and Masons visit and distribute gifts to pediatric patients. At this party, Masonic Toys for Tots Foundation presents the remainder of all its proceeds as its annual donation to the Children's Cancer & Blood Foundation and receives the reports of the doctors and scientists of CCBF on the progress they are making in this field.

Toys for these parties are collected in donation bins at

Masonic Hall and by Brothers throughout the region. Toys not distributed at these parties are donated to other Masonic groups and charities to support their efforts, and to local groups and families in need.

The Masonic Toys for Tots Foundation has now expanded its reach to other children's causes throughout New York State. The Grand Master and Grand Line, the MTFTF Committee, Brothers and friends will also this year present monetary donations to the Ronald McDonald House in Manhattan and Cohen Children's Hospital in New Hyde Park. Additionally, MTFTF has added the Coats for Kids (and adults) campaign and Capes For Kids/Heroes to its causes. Last year more than 100 donated coats were inspected and professionally dry cleaned before being given to recipients and groups in need.

In 2023, the Masonic Toys for Tots Foundation's Annual Gala Ball will be on Saturday, November 18 at Russo's on the Bay in Queens. Please go to www.MasonicToysForTots.com to purchase tickets or tables for the Ball, to purchase journal pages or to donate to this worthy cause. I am always available to be contacted directly at any time for assistance. We would be delighted to welcome volunteers (Brothers, ladies, friends) to help with future efforts and events. We are grateful for your attendance and support.

Three Lodges Unite For Holiday Party

On December 17, 2022 Greenwich's Ashlar Lodge hosted a Christmas celebration with Cambridge Valley and Ballston Spa's Franklin Lodges. The highlight of the night was the recognition of four men for their long service in the Masonic Fraternity. Bob Endee celebrated fifty-five years; Art Center and Gerry Aiken, fifty years; and John Patterson has thirty-five years.

The Christmas party attracted fifty-one people. Guests enjoyed a prime rib and a fish dinner and toasted with festive punch.

Since their inception, these Masonic Lodges, each of which has existed in its community for more than a century, have been important in growing moral leaders committed to God, their country and their neighbor. The four awardees exemplify that commitment. Today, with more than 100 members and more than a century and a half of service to the community and charitable organizations, local Masons are supporting the causes of the national Masonic organization as well as local groups and organizations.



Photo: Dave D'Ambro

Seneca Lodge Presents Gavel to St. Andrew's 16, Toronto

Eric S. McQuiston

St. Andrew's Lodge 16 in Toronto, Canada celebrated their 200th Anniversary on November 26, 2022. Their sister Lodge, Seneca 797 of the Monroe District of New York took a delegation of nine, including spouses, to Canada for the event. Asked to deliver a speech for the event, I gave a history of their first Master, Sir William Campbell. He was a lawyer, militia officer, politician, judge and chief justice of the Supreme Court of Upper Canada. He had a life of trials and tribulations, but through all of that founded St. Andrew's Lodge 16 in Toronto. His first home in Toronto is a centerpiece of Toronto's history and is celebrated to this day.

I also spoke of my wife's grandfather, Brother George Steele. He was a forty-nine-year Mason of Craftsman Robertson Lodge 969. He was an avid woodworker and upon his passing left a surplus of wood in his shop. Some of that wood was olivewood from outside of Bethlehem.

Our two Lodges have been visiting each other every two years, back and forth across the border, for over 100 years. It is a tradition that when we visit each other's Lodge we bring a gift; the one for their anniversary needed to be special. My cousin, Brother Andrew Herzog of Inspiration Lodge 109, has followed in his grandfather's footsteps and is a spectacular woodworker himself. I asked him to turn a maul gavel as the gift to St. Andrew's Lodge. Andrew turned one of those pieces of olivewood and produced a beautiful maul gavel, which we presented to St. Andrew's during the speech.

This story illustrates the examples of Sir William Campbell, first Master of St. Andrew's Lodge, and Brother George Steele, craftsman. Their persistence, perseverance, passion and dedication to Masonry and life are passed down through our organization generationally from member to member. In our Craft, it is those who came before us that shape who we are as men and Masons and we remember and tell their stories to this day. That gavel of olivewood from George's shop is an emblem of our history of borderless Brotherly Love. Turned into a generational gift by the grandson of a lifelong Mason, its story I am proud to share.



The Olivewood Maul Gavel presented to St. Andrew's Lodge 16 will be utilized to bring back a tradition called "Custodian of the Gavel." It will be handed down from Master to Master and used in the East generationally for years and years to come.

Fun fact: Seneca Lodge's first Master was a member of St. Andrew's Lodge first. He became a dual member of St. Andrew's Lodge and Seneca Lodge in 1915 when he sat in the



East. The Brotherly Love of Masonry knows no boundaries or borders and the relationship between Seneca Lodge 797 and St. Andrew's Lodge 16 will be strong, long into the future.



Empty Chair Degree

Lance Allen Wang

In early November, Mt. Hope/Phoenix Lodge 96 conducted an old Masonic ceremony dating back to the 1870s. Called the “Empty Chair Degree,” it was originally published by the Grand Lodge of North Dakota. Similar to the POW/MIA ceremony currently used in veterans’ organizations, it acknowledges the veterans who are no longer among us.

The Lodge, located in Fort Ann, New York, enlisted the help of the local American Legion, whose members provided a firing detail. The event was well attended. It continues the goal of cementing the place of New York Masonry and its many veterans in the veteran community.



CONCORDANT BODIES PAGE



32° SCOTTISH RITE FREEMASONRY

**Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite,
Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, USA.**

- Strengthens the community and believes that each man should act in civil life according to his individual judgment and the dictates of his conscience.
- Vision: We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our members.
- Mission: Inspire our members by emphasizing our Core Values: Reverence for God, Devotion to Country, Integrity, Justice, Tolerance and Service to Humanity.
- Ensure that activities are convenient. Provide enjoyable programs and fraternal fellowship.
- Visit our website, www.scottishritenmj.org, to learn more about the Rite and to apply for membership online.
- Visit NYS Council of Deliberation website, www.nyscottishritemasons.org, to locate the Scottish Rite Valley near you.

YORK RITE BODIES: ROYAL ARCH



**Grand Chapter State of New York,
Royal Arch Masons**

Why would I want to be a Royal Arch Mason?

- To learn how to receive my wages from the Senior Warden
- To learn the *True Word* of Master Mason
- To be a member of the oldest Rite in Freemasonry
- I didn't want to stop at the 2.5 Degree – I want to complete the Third Degree
- I want to learn all the Secrets of Freemasonry
- I read the first 3 Chapters and I want to finish the book
- To make new friends from other local Lodges
- To participate in some of the most beautiful rituals in Masonry



Website: ny-royal-arch.org / email: ghp@ny-royal-arch.org

To be advised of a Royal Arch Chapter near you, email: grandscribe@ny-royal-arch.org



CRYPTIC MASONS

**Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
of the State of New York**

Why Join the Cryptic Council?

- Be a Royal Arch Mason in good standing
- Come celebrate our 200th Anniversary in 2023
- Learn the rest of the story of Hiram's Legend
- See some of the most stunning Degrees in Masonry
- See the parts you missed in the previous Degrees
- Find out what was deposited in the secret vault of the Temple
- See what happened during the final destruction of the Temple

Website: nycryptic.org

Contact the Grand Recorder's Office:

GrandRecorder@NYCryptic.org



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

**Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
of the State of New York**

Benefits of membership as a Knight Templar:

- Study ancient Knights Templar history
- Learn who the Templars were and who they defended
- The opportunity to become Knighted as a Sir Knight
- The importance of King Solomon's Temple
- To continue the journey that you started
- Knights Templar members must have Christian beliefs and be a Royal Arch Mason

To find out more regarding our Chivalric Order:

Website: www.grandcommanderyktny.org

Email: syrknightstemplar@gmail.com



CRYPTIC MASONS

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
of the State of New York



Website: nycryptic.org

Contact the Grand Recorder's Office:
GrandRecorder@NYCryptic.org

Cryptic Masonry in NYS What it is, How to Have a part

If I want to join, what is the process?

You must be a Royal Arch Mason in good standing in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the State of New York. You must petition a local Council to join. Request a petition from a Cryptic Companion you know.

If you do not have a Cryptic connection, use the Council Locator at <https://www.nycryptic.org/GrandCouncilMap.htm> to find a Council near you. Then email, write or call the Recorder of that Council expressing your interest. When you have submitted your petition you will be visited by members of that Council. The Council will vote on your petition and inform you of the result. If accepted, you will receive further instructions.

What Degrees are offered?

The Degrees are similar to one-act plays, in which you play a key part by your attendance and your heartfelt desire to become a Mason. Degrees teach very beautiful lessons using a system of symbols and allegories. There is never any hazing or poor taste in the Degrees. They are majestic and the Masons who work hard to exemplify the Degrees want the best experience for you.

The Cryptic Rite consists of three Degrees: the Royal Master Degree, the Select Master Degree and the Super Excellent Master Degree. The first two are mandatory Degrees; in New York State the third is an honorary one and not mandatory. Please visit the New York Grand Council's website at <https://www.nycryptic.org/>. See "How to Join the Cryptic Rite & Degree Explanation."

How will I know what to do?

Your Council will consult with you in selecting a mentor who will assist you through the Degrees and during your introductory period in the Council. The mentor is usually the first-line signer of your petition. Your mentor will be proficient in his duties and will be your guide throughout the process.

What do I have to bring?

Your Council will communicate to you any special requirements they may have prior to your taking the Degrees. Every Council has an initiation fee and your Council will notify you of the amount that must accompany your petition and the balance that you bring to your first Degree.

By now you have already met Brothers from your Lodge or Companions from your Royal Arch Chapter who are members of the Cryptic Rite. You now need only witness and participate in the Cryptic Degrees for yourself. This experience will complete your circle of perfection of becoming a well-informed Master Mason in Freemasonry.

What will it cost?

Every Council has a different fee structure. You must inquire about the fees and dues costs at the Council you wish to join. They will be only too happy to inform you.

We hope you take the journey to experience the Cryptic Rite. We are Zealous on behalf of the officers and Companions of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York.

Lodge Distributes Care Packages

On December 20, 2022 members of Geneva-Ark Lodge 33 F & AM of Geneva, New York delivered fifty holiday care packages to elderly members of the community. They acted in concert with the Geneva Salvation Army.

Pictured are Past Masters of the newly merged Lodge. RW David Locke, W Steve Goebert, W Charles Rouse, W John Keaton, W Jamie Kaim Jr., W Mark Lowe appear with volunteers and members of the Salvation Army.



Sad Tidings: MI Stephen A. Rubinstein Lays Down Working Tools

by John A. Gallant

It is with profound sadness that we learn of the death of the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council Cryptic Rite Masons, Brother Stephen A. Rubinstein. Our Grand Master, MW Richard J. Kessler, and Deputy Grand Master, RW Steven A. Rubin, offer their heart-felt condolences to Nancy, the Rubinstein family, friends and fellow Brothers for this great loss during the holiday season. We ask that you keep them in your prayers. May our beloved Brother be led into paradise and be welcomed into that Holy and Celestial Firmament above. Amen.

Obituary for Stephen Alan Rubinstein:

STOW, MASSACHUSETTS – Stephen Alan Rubinstein, 77, died on Saturday, November 19, 2022, at UMASS Memorial Medical Center – University Campus, after a period of declining health.

Stephen was born in Fitchburg, the son of Philip and Dorothy (Ferguson) Rubinstein. Following graduation from Fitchburg High School, Stephen proudly served his country in the U.S. Army as a Chaplain's Assistant during the Vietnam War. Prior to his military service, he graduated from Franklin and Marshall College with a Bachelor's Degree in History, and earning his M.B.A. from the University of New Hampshire.

He lived in Queens, NY for many years, eventually returning to Massachusetts and settling in the town of Stow with his devoted partner. Before his retirement, Stephen worked in several industries as an administrator and office manager and was an adjunct professor of management at New York University for many years. Stephen served for several years on the School Committee for the Nashoba School District and was also involved with the Tri-Town High School Building Committee.

Stephen lived his life "On the Level" and was most proud of his Masonic work. A Past Master of Charles W. Moore Lodge under the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, A. F. & A. M., he was also a Past District Deputy Grand Master of the Sixth Manhattan District in New York from 1993 to 1994, also serving as the current Most Illustrious Grand Master for the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of New York.

Stephen was a member in good standing of the Craft for 55 years since his raising in 1966 by Charles W. Moore Lodge of Fitchburg, Massachusetts. He also had held plural membership and served as Master in several NY Lodges in the former 6th Manhattan (now 1st Manhattan) District and he currently held membership in Wappingers Lodge No. 671 in the Mid-Hudson District of New York.

Stephen will be lovingly missed and remembered by his beloved partner, Nancy Maldari of Stow; his sister, Lisa Scholl and her husband, Joseph of Waltham; his brother, Dr. Neal Rubinstein and his wife, Dr. Isabelle Arndt of Chester Springs, PA; his two children and four grandchildren, four nieces and nephews; and his dear friends and Masonic brethren.

Funeral Services will be held on Sunday, November 27 at 11:00 AM at Miles Funeral Home, 1158 Main Street, Holden, Massachusetts. A Masonic ritual will precede the

service. Interment will follow at Agudas Achim Cemetery, 320 Rollstone Road in Fitchburg, MA. Memorial Observance will be announced at the service.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association or the charity of your choice.



Most Illustrious Grand Master Stephen A. Rubinstein
June 27, 1945 – November 19, 2022

Stephen A. Rubinstein was born in Fitchburg, Mass. on June 27, 1945. He was a graduate of Fitchburg High School and then of Franklin and Marshall College with a Bachelor's Degree in History. Stephen, before his retirement, worked in several industries as an administrator and office manager and was an adjunct Professor of Management at New York University. Stephen proudly served his country in the U.S. Army as a Chaplain's Assistant during the Vietnam War.

Stephen began his Masonic career in Charles W. Moore Lodge of A. F. & A. M. in Massachusetts. He was Initiated on September 1966, Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason that December and served in the East as Master of the Lodge. He joined New York Masonry in 1985 when he affiliated with Goldenrule Clermont McKinley Lodge 486. Joining four other Lodges in New York, he settled into Wappingers Lodge 671 in November of 2013. He served his District as District Deputy Grand Master.

He continued his York Rite travels, joining Zerubbabel Chapter 147, Royal Arch Masons, and was greeted in North Shore Council 88, Cryptic Masons, in August 1999. He served his Council as Illustrious Master in 2014 to 2015.

Stephen was elected into the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons as Grand Steward in August of 2015. He served our Grand Council with distinction as he progressed along the Grand Line and was Elected Most Illustrious Grand Master in August of 2022. He was an active member of the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International as a representative in Massachusetts.

Most Illustrious Grand Master Stephen Rubinstein, at the age of 77, passed away in office to that Celestial Lodge above on November 19, 2022. He is survived by his Lady Nancy Maldari and loving family members.

Grand Master Rubinstein will be greatly missed by the brethren in all his Masonic Organizations. "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter Thou into the joy of thy Lord!"

Publicity 1000 celebrates 100

On the evening of Monday, October 30, 1922, inside the Grand Lodge Room of Masonic Hall in Manhattan, Publicity Lodge 1000 was constituted and its officers installed by a ritual team consisting of MW Arthur S. Tompkins and a host of Grand Lodge officers. The centennial anniversary of that occasion was celebrated in elegance and energy by the Lodge.

The brethren actually were a day early, October 29, in their anniversary revelries, and they were one floor--in the banquet room--below the site of the eventful ceremony. But the Saturday night dinner and dancing united venerable Past Masters, young Master Masons, many brethren in between and beloved family members for a memorable evening.

"Publicity Lodge was sparked when Madison Avenue men who were acquainted, possibly through the Advertising Club of New York, eventually recognized each other as Freemasons," said Worshipful Master Christopher Graves. "A group hailed from St. Nicholas Lodge 321 in the Third Manhattan District, but soon a total of fifty-three charter members founded this Lodge."

Graves's first predecessor as Master was RW Herman G. Halsted, of Paul Block, Inc. He was a Past District Deputy Grand Master of the Third Manhattan and a Past Master of St. Nicholas.



"We are celebrating what those brethren started a hundred years ago and, with gratitude, we embark on our second century," Graves added. "Today we seem to have more actors than advertising pros, but we stand on the shoulders of the giants who came before us. I think our ancestors would be proud to know we're still here and to see today's officers are young, vigorous Masons."



The significance of advertising also factored into Publicity securing its No. 1000. The Lodges numbered 999 and 1001 were constituted in May of 1922; Publicity 1000 received its warrant nearly six months later. Lodge lore explains how: Because the Roman numeral "M" is our number "1000" the number was reserved for Publicity because in advertising copywriting the writer adds an "M," center page, at the end of his work.

Publicity Lodge M always has been organized with the Fourth Manhattan District and it meets on first Mondays at 6:09 p.m. in the Doric Room, except when holidays and the Grand Lodge Annual Communication coincide. The Lodge is renowned for its ritual work and hospitality. The brethren welcome you to visit.





RW G. MICHAEL MORRIS,
PRESIDENT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MASONIC HALL AND HOME
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The DeWint House –Washington’s Headquarters, Tappan

In addition to the oversight and management of the Masonic Hall & Home investment funds, the Trustees oversee, manage and maintain several properties located throughout New York. These include Masonic Hall and adjacent properties in New York City, the Masonic Care Community in Utica, regional Masonic Care campuses in New Rochelle and Henrietta, Round Lake/Camp Turk in the Adirondacks and the DeWint House—George Washington’s Headquarters and Historic Site in Tappan. This article focuses on the latter: its history and connection with George Washington, how it came into the possession of the Trustees, recent events and activities at the DeWint House and how Lodges and other Masonic Bodies can utilize the property for special events.



Built in 1700, the DeWint House is one of the oldest surviving structures in Rockland County. In 1746, West Indies planter and American patriot Johannes DeWint and his wife Antje DeWint bought the property. The DeWint House became a temporary headquarters for George Washington while he was Commander-in-Chief during the American Revolution. Washington was a guest in the south parlor twice in 1780 and twice in 1783 [1]. The “Washington Room” in the DeWint House is designated as a U.S. National Historic Landmark and is listed in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places [2].

From September 28 to October 7, 1780 Washington stayed at the DeWint House for the nearby trial of British spy Major John Andre, who plotted with Benedict Arnold to surrender West Point to the British. Washington provided meals for Andre, prepared in the kitchen at the DeWint House, and he signed Andre’s execution warrant in the house. The Major was subsequently hanged nearby at Gallows Hill [1].

From May 4 through May 8, 1783 Washington met with Sir Guy Carlton, his counterpart in the British Army, at the DeWitt House. Their final negotiations led to Evacuation Day in New York City. Subsequently, Washington met Carlton on

his ship, the *HMS Perseverance* anchored in Piermont, NY. This vessel fired the first naval salute to the United States of America. A feast was held at the DeWint House for the Americans and British to celebrate the end of the war.

By the early 1900s the property had fallen into disrepair. In 1935 M W Charles H. Johnson, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, visited the site, placed a binder on the property and encouraged/convinced the MH&H Trustees to purchase and maintain the property as a tribute to George Washington.

The grounds include a 19th-century carriage house that contains displays of artifacts recovered at the site during archaeological digs. There are also items related to Washington, Andre and Arnold and the Masonic Fraternity. Today, the grounds and displays in the DeWint House are open to the public [3] and are used to host both annual and special Masonic events, such as the annual Grand Master’s Day. This past year, Grand Master Kessler’s “The Master’s Class” was held on October 2. This was a First-Degree Conferral for eight candidates and was attended by more than 125 Masonic Brothers.

I do hope that you will have an opportunity to visit the DeWint House [4]. I know you will find it to be interesting. For additional information and inquiries regarding booking of special events at the DeWint House, please contact RW Alonza Lloyd, Chairman of the MH&H Trustees’ Tappan Subcommittee: ALloyd@NYTrustees.org.

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DeWint_House
2. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/66000568>
3. Hours of Operation: Tuesday – Sunday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed Mondays. Phone: 845/359-1359.
4. <https://www.wanderingwhytraveler.com/visiting-the-dewint-house-in-tappan-ny/>





RW ROB RAFFLE
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MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY



A Very Special Year

A number of important activities and events occurred in 2022 at the Masonic Care Community, making it a truly remarkable year. One of these events was the return of St. John's Day to our campus. To see Brother Masons, their families and their children once again under the big tent and enjoying the Great Lawn, the food, festivities and fireworks was a most welcome sight. After two years, it was amazing to welcome Brother Masons from Lodges all across New York State to gather once again for this special event. We look forward to hosting St. John's Day in June of 2023 and hope that even more Brothers from the New York State Masonic Fraternity will be able to join us.

Another highlight of 2022 was the Holiday Concert in December featuring the Fenimore Chamber Orchestra. It was an incredible night of music, in the beautiful Daniel D. Tompkins Memorial Chapel. We owe our thanks to the outstanding and talented musicians for their amazing performance and to the more than 150 donors and attendees who came to the event and supported the Chapel Restoration Fund. We also extend our appreciation to Grand Master Richard J. Kessler for joining us and supporting this truly special event.



As we look forward to 2023, we continue our mission to provide compassionate care for seniors. We remain dedicated to supporting, nurturing and educating those whose lives we touch by providing them with the care and services they deserve, guided by the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief, truth and integrity. These core principles have guided us since 1893 and they will continue to guide us in the upcoming years and in the future.

As we close one year and begin another I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the talented, dedicated and passionate staff of the Masonic Care Community every day. Their commitment to put our residents first and to implement our mission has been integral to our organization's progress and success.



To my fellow Brothers: The New York State Masonic Fraternity founded this organization and you are the ones who have continued this incredible legacy of caring for others in need. You and your Lodges across the state remain committed partners in all that we do; and we are grateful for your ongoing dedication and support that helps us to serve more than 500 seniors each year.

The year 2023 will also mark a very special year for the Masonic Care Community as we celebrate our 130th anniversary. We began in 1893 as the "Masonic Home" and the journey has not always been easy. It has taken courage and perseverance. As the Masonic Care Community turns 130 years old, let us toast our residents, employees, Trustees, partners and Brothers across the state who have helped us change people's lives. Let us continue to shape the future together.



Members of Oriental Faxon Lodge 224 in Utica deliver beautiful poinsettias for residents and staff at MCC.

MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY



MARA MULLIGAN
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC MARKETING AND PHILANTHROPY
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Giving that Grows

As I am writing this, holiday celebrations have ended and we now look toward the new year.

We look forward to celebrating the 130th anniversary of the Masonic Care Community which began in 1893. We also look forward to hosting St. John's Day once again on our campus.

Our history of charitable work is only able to continue thanks to the charitable support of the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund, our donors, and Brother Masons across the state and around the nation.

That is why I would ask you in 2023 to consider creating a planned gift to benefit the Masonic Care Community. Brother Greenfield Pote offered the first dollar and began the process to build a home for Masons, their wives, widows and orphans. The mission has now expanded to serve all those in need of services at MCC.



Named in Brother Pote's honor, the Pote Legacy Society is comprised of very special and caring donors who have established planned gifts in support of the Masonic Care Community. A planned gift is one of the most important gifts you can make to the Masonic Care Community—and one of the easiest. It helps you create a lasting legacy representing your lifelong values and aspirations. Your plans today can influence the lives of those who call the Masonic Care Community home for generations to come.

Quite simply, a planned gift is a contribution that is arranged in the present and allocated at a future date. Commonly donated through a will or trust, planned gifts are most often granted once the donor has passed away. A powerful way to ensure that our programs and services are available long into the future is by including the Masonic Care Community in your will. Furthermore, creating a charitable gift in your will is easy and requires very little time.

Whether you have a traditional IRA or another type of qualified retirement account, if you want to donate the retirement assets after your death, you can choose to designate a charity as the beneficiary of that account. The charity will not need to pay income tax on this donation and your estate



may benefit when it comes to estate taxes by reducing the amount your estate owes.

When you designate a charity as a beneficiary of your retirement account, you can choose to leave the full account or just a percentage of it. Your beneficiaries do not have to pay income tax on the funds given to the charity. Having your plans clearly laid out in a will can help ensure that your financial and charitable goals are accomplished.

If you have established a planned gift to the Masonic Care Community, it is also important that you let us know. That way, we can enter the information into our donor records and ensure that your wishes are followed and that the process goes as smoothly as possible.

If you are interested in more information about various types of planned gifts or establishing a planned gift to MCC, I welcome the opportunity to speak with you personally. I can be reached at 315/798-4703 or mulliganm@mccny.com.

Many years ago Brother Pote made a big impact with a powerful gift and other Brothers enthusiastically joined him in that cause. We ask you to consider doing the same and invite you to join the Pote Legacy Society so that the charitable work that was started back in 1893 continues long into the future here at the Masonic Care Community. "A legacy isn't only what you leave to the world...a legacy is also what you give to the world."



W JERRY FILIPPIDIS
 Co-CHAIRMAN
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MASONIC BROTHERHOOD FUND

One of the greatest virtues of our Fraternity is Charity. The Masonic Brotherhood Fund is the charity fundraising arm of our Fraternity. MW Robert Stack and RW Bruce Testut have been the pillars of this foundation for decades. I look forward to continuing the legacy of MW Robert Stack and working with RW Bruce Testut, the Brothers of the committee, the Grand Secretary's Office and the Brotherhood Fund staff in their efforts in raising funds for the Masonic Brotherhood Fund.

I ask that each Brother help us continue the great mission of the Masonic Brotherhood Fund by making a donation. There are great thank-you gifts as a commemoration for your

generous donation. The Grand Master asks us to remember our obligation to "Support all needy brethren, their widows and orphans."

The Grand Master and I appeal to you to make a donation to help our Brothers and families in need and help the great organizations the Brotherhood Fund supports. Please visit nymasonicbrotherhoodfund.org or scan the QR Code below to make a donation; reach out to your Lodge or District Brotherhood Fund Chairman. Thanks go to all the Brothers who have already contributed to the Fund. If you have any questions or need assistance please reach out to me directly at jerry@aresny.com and 718/344-3200.



The Masonic Brotherhood Fund **Grand Lodge of the State of New York**

2022 Thank You Gifts

Thank You Gift Levels

Binder with Grand Master's Pen - \$100 Donation

Donation Baseball Cap - \$75 Donation

Socks - \$50 Donation for 1 pair / \$75 Donation for 2 pairs

Baseball Cap & 1 pair socks - \$100 Donation

Military Bear with Silk Screen Pins - \$50 Donation

All 3 Gifts - \$200 Donation (One Cap, Two pairs of Socks and One Binder and Pen)

Bonus Gift! Grand Master's glass with a minimum donation of \$100 as an added thank you!



Masonic Brotherhood Fund



nymasonicbrotherhoodfund.org

Blood and Organ Donor Outreach

The Inaugural Gary Garippo Memorial Blood Drive and Organ Donor Awareness event took place on Saturday, January 7. Under the aegis of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons Community Service Committee and the Blood and Organ Donor Sub-Committee, Western Star 1185 and Chairman W Michael Wright coordinated with the Kidney Foundation of WNY and ConnectLife to present this event, both locally and beyond.

Gary Garippo was a member of Ken-Ton Lodge 1147 and Ismailia Shriners. After being diagnosed with polycystic kidney disease, Garippo learned that he was nearing kidney failure. He shared his story through kidneyconnection.org and Masonic newsletters in hopes of finding a living kidney donor. Several fellow Masons offered their assistance. In September 2014 Garippo received a kidney. The transplant took place at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester and donor and recipient recovered quickly. In the years that followed, Garippo took part in programs to raise awareness about organ donation and transplantation.

At the event we had several people from the community attend and give blood. They toured the Lodge, learned about living kidney donation and signed up for the organ donor registry. We also heard, via Zoom, from people around the country who are in need of a kidney transplant. These people were able to share their stories and network with each other.

Robert: "When I was 25 I was diagnosed with polycystic kidney disease (PDK). This is a genetic disease that attacks the kidneys with the development of cysts, eventually leading to kidney failure. I am now 61 years old and in end-stage kidney failure, and in desperate need of a kidney donor."

Ann: "Presently, I can only pray for the goodness of a kind person that would allow me to return to my once active life of enjoying and sharing my passions for painting, singing,



traveling and even rescuing abandoned cats! I am hopeful that a kidney would lead not only to a new lease on life for me but foster many lifelong friendships forged in connections of hope."

Justin, a new father who is not currently on dialysis but is still in desperate need: "I don't want to be thought of as sick or encumbered." He expressed gratitude for the Grand Lodge getting out the word.

Jeremy Morlock from the Western New York Kidney Foundation was able to provide the participants with information and free resources. For more information on these people in need or if you want to connect with the Grand Lodge Blood and Organ Donor Committee, please contact me at EdDraves@gmail.com.

Manhattan Lodge Scares Up Support

by Louie Razon

On Saturday, October 29, 2022, Manhattan Lodge 449 of the 4th Manhattan District sponsored a Halloween costume party. Lead organizers were WM Arthur "Bong" Domingo and his better half Sister Lisa Domingo.

Members of the Lodge and their families, visiting Brothers and guests mingled in their Halloween costumes. A costume parade and contest for adults and kids and a line dance competition completed the night.

The evening was made more memorable with the visit of our District Deputy Grand Master, RW Philippe Hiolle. Our Deputy Grand Master, RW Steve Rubin, who happened to be in the building also participated.

The fun and fellowship were one set of objectives. The other purpose: proceeds of the event will be used for a feeding program for children who are victims of abuse in the Philippines.



Unity Lodge 479

On November 19, 2022, Unity Lodge 479 (Spencerport, NY – Monroe District) hosted a community bike drive in conjunction with R Community Bikes (RCB). The drive itself was held at the Spencerport Fireman's Exempt Field, which is located alongside the Erie Canal. We collected 184 bicycles in all shapes, sizes and conditions and donated

them to RCB on site. RCB transported them to their warehouse for triage and reconditioning. In addition, the Lodge made a \$100 donation to RCB.

The RCB is a Rochester-based organization that repairs bicycles and distributes them free of charge to Rochester's needy adults and children. Its mission is to meet the basic transportation needs of those in the community who depend on bikes to get to work, school, training sessions and for recreation.



Scotia Lodge Hosts Burns Night

Grand Master Kessler joined members of Scotia Lodge 634 at the Annual Robert Burns Supper. Traditional festivities included the Piping of the Haggis, feasting and toasting and an address by the Grand Guest.



AWARDS COMMITTEE

Committee Approves 39 DSAs

RW GEORGE R. WACOB
CHAIRMAN
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The Awards Committee received recommendations from around the state for the Dedicated Service Award for the year of 2023. Twelve nominations came from the Metro Region, ten from Hudson-Champlain, nine were received from the Mid-State Region and nineteen from the Western Region. Thirty-nine awards were ratified, of which twenty-eight recipients are Past Masters. Six will be held over until next year due to District allotment restrictions.

All recipients and their Lodge Secretary were notified in January by the Grand Secretary. The DDGMs were notified of the recipients in their District by the committee. The Lodge Secretaries were advised of those held over by the committee.

The committee will be accepting 2024 DSA Recommendation Forms in September 2023. Letters and 2024 forms will be sent to Lodge Secretaries in late August 2023.

The DSA Chest Medallion will continue to be included in the DSA package purchased through Lodge Services. A DSA Chest Medallion is also available for past DSA recipients for the purchase price of \$20.00 plus tax and shipping. The medallion must be ordered through the Lodge Secretary.

The Community Service Awards (DeWitt Clinton, Jacob Morton and Grand Lodge Certificate of Excellence in Service to the Community) are not time-sensitive. Applications will be processed as they are received. This year seven DeWitt Clinton Awards and nine Jacob Morton Awards were approved by the committee. The Lodge Secretary and DDGM will be notified

within a short period if a nominee has been approved to receive one of these awards. This year the Brothers receiving Jacob Morton Awards have demonstrated the efforts by Masons throughout the state during the pandemic.

The Jacob Morton Award Chest Medallion should be awarded to recipients with their certificates. It may be purchased at a cost of \$20.00 by the Lodge Secretary from Lodge Services. It is also available to past recipients of the award for the same price of \$20.00, ordered by the Lodge Secretary.

Please take notice of the Awards Committee's webpage on the Grand Lodge website: <http://nymasons.org/2016/committees-departments-programs/awards-committee/>. This page will give you information, requirements and forms for the various awards.

I would like to thank the Awards Committee team for their time and efforts. They examine all of the recommendations and fairly determine who will receive the awards. Committee members include, from the Metropolitan Region: RW Gregory Noulas and RW Walter Fingerle; from Mid-State: RW Thomas L. Jenison and W Alfred W. Ferguson; in the Hudson-Champlain Region: RW Charles E. Knapp Jr. and RW Robert L. Hogan Jr. The Western Region is represented by RW William H. Greene and RW Douglas D. Air.

See the listing of DSA Recipients on the next page.

Cambridge Valley Lodge 481

Masons of Cambridge Valley Lodge 481 attended the opening of the new Cambridge, NY firehouse on October 15, 2022. The Lodge contributed a plaque to be placed on the Cambridge Fire Department's new home, dedicating the new building to "Cambridge Firefighters Past, Present, and Future."

(l to r) W Gerald Aiken, W Timothy Kavanaugh, W Brian Nilsen, W Alvon "Raz" McCauley and RW Lance Allen Wang.



2023 Dedicated Service Award Recipients,

| District | <u>Metro Region</u> | <u>Brother, Lodge</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| First Manhattan | Golden Rule-Clermont-McKinley 486 | Charles E. Dorkey III, Holland 8 |
| Nassau | Albert J. Brecht, Wantagh-Morton 63 | Mark Berkson, Lynbrook-Massapequa 822 |
| Queens | Fernando L. Suarez, Queensboro 892 | Warren C. Ernst, Francis Lewis 273 |
| Suffolk | Francis A. Parella III, Alcyone 695 | Randolph Ivans, Jephtha 494 |
| 2nd Westchester-Putnam | Roy Allen Fager, Babylon 793 | Michael Robert Weintraub, Mt. Masada-Galaxy 902 |

| District | <u>Hudson-Champlain Region</u> | <u>Brother, Lodge</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Clinton-Essex | Ronald B. Pray, Ausable River 149 | Bruce Landin Van Buren, Oneonta 466 |
| Central Leatherstocking | Ellsworth J. Simpson, Unity 79 | Eric R. Morabito, Rip Van Winkle 468 |
| Fulton-Montgomery, | Michael James Bellizzi, Wappingers 671 | Stephen M. Gori, Victor 680 |
| Mid-Hudson, | | |
| Old Seventeenth | | |

| District | <u>Mid-State Region</u> | <u>Brother, Lodge</u> |
|------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cayuga-Tompkins | Charles S. Allen, Erie Canal 141 | John Jeroy Mott, Cazenovia 616 |
| Cortland-Madison | | |

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Jefferson-Lewis | Donald Rounds Haller, Dexter 1072 |
| Oneida | James W. Dimbleby, Oriskany 799 |
| Onondaga | William F. Friedel, Sconondoa Sherrill 814 |
| Southern Tier | Robert D. Bowles, Liverpool-Syracuse 501 |
| | Richard Alan Penhall, Crossroads United 93 |
| | Wilbur L. Corrington, Windsor 442 |

| District | <u>Western Region</u> | <u>Brother, Lodge</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Erie | David W. Thomason, Blazing Star 694 | Peter G. Vandenberg, Living Stone 255 |
| Herkimer | Ronald E. Cady, Newport Masonic 455 | Paul James Royce Jr., Warsaw 549 |
| Letchworth | James Shannon VanSickle, Nunda Station 682 | David J. Beardsley, Oakland 379 |
| Monroe | Jeremy S. Knox, Webster 538 | Richard T. Smith, Inspiration 109 |
| Niagara-Orleans | Raymond K. Crandall, Seneca 797 | Walter P. Heyn, Sutherland 826 |
| Ontario-Seneca-Yates | Stephen Mazzara, Niagara LaSalle 132 | David Charles Maslyn Jr., Social 713 |
| Steuben | David Allen Smith, Garoga-Sincerity 200 | Lyle Andrew Elwood, Addison Union 118 |
| Wayne | Walter Blankenberg, Pultneyville 159 | |

Our congratulations go out to all the recipients for their years of service to their Lodge and the Craft.

Renaissance Lodge 1188

On November 5, 2022, Renaissance Lodge 1188 welcomed their Canadian Brothers and Brothers from across the state to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship and witness a performance of historic value. The Lodge performed an historic version of the second section of the Third Degree in full costume. Then all were treated to a repast of steak and refreshments.

The Grand Master, MW Richard J. Kessler, was present and portrayed King Solomon, and other members of the Grand Line attended. After the performance, MW Brother Kessler presented the Grand Master's Appreciation Award to Renaissance Lodge and the Master, RW Alan B. Stewart. It was a great afternoon and everyone left with good memories.

Orange-Rockland-Sullivan Full House

The Orange-Rockland-Sullivan District exhibited a large turnout to welcome our Grand Lecturer for his annual Convention. We would like to thank RW Richard Friedman for coming to our District. As always, he shared with us his experience and light in Masonry in his engaging way.



Contribution Goes to Service Pups

by David Ambro

Members of the Grand Post Masonic War Veterans mustered at America's VetDogs headquarters in Smithtown on Friday, November 18 to make an \$18,000 donation. The VetDogs organization provides life-saving service dogs to veterans in need. Accepting the check was America's VetDogs Associate Director of Development Jaime McGrade. She said funding from organizations like the Masonic War Veterans is vital to the success of the program, which provides service dogs to veterans—of all eras—and first responders.

"We breed, raise, train and place our dogs and instruct on their use. We provide a lifetime of aftercare support free of charge for both the veteran and the handler," Ms. McGrade said.

Next year will be the 20th anniversary of America's VetDogs. Prior to that, organizers worked with the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind to provide service dogs to veterans. Ms. McGrade said the organization's first dog was offered to a veteran who returned from war with visual impairments; over his lifetime he received several guide dogs from the Foundation.

According to Ms. McGrade, it costs about \$50,000 to train a dog and the veteran it is matched with. "It is all donor dollars. It is individuals, Foundations, service groups like yours that make this possible," she said, adding that the Masons have donated \$30,000 to the organization.

During an interview after the ceremony Ms. McGrade said it is an honor to have the support of the Masonic War Veterans. "Without this funding it would not be possible to continue our efforts to provide service dogs to veterans and first responders with disabilities," she said.

She explained that the Masonic War Veterans participated in the Name a Puppy sponsorship program, which is \$6,000 per puppy. The funding is used to support the first year of life for the puppy. During the last fiscal year, she said, the organization provided 102 dogs to veterans and first responders. She said it is the highest number of veterans the organization has ever been able to help.

"I have been involved with this organization for over ten years. I have heard time and time again from our veterans that the dogs change their life, but when I really speak to them I realize that these dogs save their life," Ms. McGrade said. "They are life saving."

At the ceremony Friday was New York State Masonic War Veterans Grand Post Commander General Stephen Dreizler. He commented during his remarks that his community outside of Buffalo was being buried in four feet of snow and that he might have to stay with one of his fellow Masons on Long Island for the night. Though his home was facing blizzard conditions, Commander Dreizler said he traveled to Long Island Friday because it is an honor to be able to support veterans in this way. He added that the program supports more than veterans by including in its efforts three youth organizations, the Order of DeMolay for boys, Organization of Triangles, Inc. and International Organization of the

Rainbow for Girls.

The \$18,000 donation from the Masons will be used to pay for the training of three puppies for America's VetDogs program. Commander Dreizler said the youth group students were tasked to come up with a name for each of the dogs and to write an essay about why they chose that name, the winners earning a \$500 award. "It was a fantastic program. Something I hope we can do again next year," he said, then shared the dog names the participants submitted.



The winning name from Triangles member Sara Conover was "Rose," after Rose Scherer, the organization's founder. Triangles State Secretary and Senior Advisor on Long Island Pamela Melchert was at the event Friday to show support. During an interview after the event, she shared the importance of the service dog Name a Puppy program.

"I'm so glad to be here today because the Masons are so very dedicated to this program. That they can involve the youth in it helps us to understand the importance of our veterans and doing everything that we can to support them" she said. "Our Triangle girls are very happy to have been involved in this process."

Ms. Melchert said Sara, who won the Triangle contest, is involved in a Triangle program working with a veteran who has a service dog. "He takes the dog everywhere with him and all of the girls love the dog," she said. "That dog is probably retired now, but he has just been a life-long asset to the veteran, his family and the girls who have gotten to know him."

As for the Order of DeMolay, the winning name from Jorge Hernandez is "Marshall," named after Frank Marshall, who connected the Chapters around the world as the author of DeMolay rituals. "He often spoke about patriotism, the flag and the sacrifice of so many during World War I. It's pretty fitting, considering who these dogs are going to," Commander Dreizler said.

The international Order of Rainbow winning name was "Nanny," named after Mrs. Helen "Nanny" Spencer, long loved by all who knew her as a statewide supporter of Rainbow. The Rainbow member who came up with the name, Katie

Continues on page 33 – Contribution

Goshen, in Service to Community

Goshen Lodge 365 has been supporting those in need in our community through food drives for several years but for 2022 the Lodge took this charitable initiative to another level. In March and November, Brothers, family and friends went door to door throughout our community to drop off 400 empty grocery bags with a call to action to help those in need. These same volunteers came back a week later and retrieved donations offered by our great friends and neighbors. We also coordinated a donation bin at the local ShopRite and a community drop-off day at our Lodge building. With the help of our Brothers and volunteers, and the generous assistance of Brothers from Cornerstone Lodge 231, Goshen Lodge was able to support the Goshen Ecumenical Food Pantry and the Country Kids Food Pantry in Washingtonville just before the holidays when they experience the most need.



This great event also sparked interest from some of the community about what Masonry is and reminded others of the great works we do. The Lodge is tremendously proud of the work we have done and anticipates many more good things to come from the hard work and dedication of the Brothers of Goshen 365.

“Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another. Sympathy begets sympathy. Kindness begets kindness. Helpfulness begets helpfulness. And these are the wages of a Mason.”—Brother Benjamin Franklin.



Continued from page 32 – Contribution

Padavan, and Ms. Spencer's daughter Sheryl were at the ceremony Friday to join in making the charitable donation to America's VetDogs.

“We need to support our youth groups because our youth groups are our future, so we need to involve them in things,” Commander Dreizler said, adding that Rainbow, Triangle and DeMolay do a phenomenal job.

“They have poise, they speak well, they are controlled and they are young ladies and young gentlemen and that is something that those of you involved in these groups should be thankful for and

be very proud of.”

After eighteen months of puppy training, the America's VetDogs service training includes time in prison with an inmate and time spent on a college campus with young people. “It is a fabulous program. I have a friend who has two of these dogs,” Commander Dreizler said. “At a point the dog ages out of the program but stays with the veteran and then he receives a second dog to take over the service dog duties. It is a fantastic program and the dogs are phenomenal.”

Last year the Grand Post Masonic War Veterans sponsored two puppies

and this year it raised money for three. Commander Dreizler said next year they will continue to involve the youth organizations. The commitment will be at least three dogs and there is hope to raise enough money for six. He then presented the check to America's VetDogs.

Suffolk County Legislator Kara Hahn (D-Setauket) was at the event for the second year in a row. “I'm honored to be here to support the work that you all do, and this very generous gift to America's VetDogs. The healing power of love and loyalty of a pup make a difference for our veterans.”

“Remember that sports coach who taught you to play better? The teacher who gave you extra help? The adult that gave you advice? Our Youth need that more than ever.”

One of the most discussed topics in our Grand Lodge Masonic Youth Committee meetings is the need for Advisors in our three Youth Groups. Are you looking to bring a Rainbow Assembly, Triangle or DeMolay Chapter to your District? Have you an interest in mentoring the next generation of Masonic Leadership? Perhaps you want to see more young people engaged in the great things you are seeing our three Youth Groups do. The best way to proceed is to become a volunteer and be that mentor for the next generation.

Being a Triangle and DeMolay Advisor and watching the young people whom I got to know (along with their wonderful families) assume leadership roles in my Masonic District is an incredible feeling. Seeing them succeed in life and become a fine adult is even better. As Levar Burton always says, “Don’t take my word for it.”

I asked some of our Masonic Youth Group Adult Leaders to share their experiences as a volunteer. Here are some of the responses:

“I joined Rainbow at 11 years old during the 1992 Grand Assembly. The impact Rainbow has had on my life is monumental! I would not be the woman I am today without the guidance and nurturing of the Advisors who cared enough to shape the shy little girl I was then into the confident leader I am today. Now I’m a majority Rainbow Girl now serving as Mother Advisor of the Assembly. Being an Advisor and helping a young person achieve her dreams is such a rewarding and memorable experience for both the youth and the adult who gives the time and knowledge. The lifelong connections formed today help shape our tomorrow. We count on your support to continue to thrive!”

Geraldine Palmer
Mother Advisor
Middletown Assembly 16



Organizational of Triangle , Inc.

“When I joined Triangle in January of 2002, I never realized how much the Organization of Triangles, Inc. would impact my life. I was picked on and bullied growing up, and Triangle gave me a safe place to grow and figure out who I was as a person. I had older “sisters” that would protect me, and would ensure that I was safe. As I got older, I became that “sister” to the younger girls. Triangle introduced me to the college that I eventually went to, and now I work there as a Director of Workforce Development. We provide educational opportunities to those who may not have the means to go to college. We give back to our community just like we are taught in Triangle. I became a supervisor and later on, the Junior Deputy of Cassiopeia Triangle, because I wanted to give back to the Organization that gave me so much. My personal and professional life have been greatly impacted by Triangle, and I wanted the next generation to have that experience.



Advisor Robin Honeycutt—Dad Ardenski was his Chapter Dad

I wanted to provide a safe and happy environment for the ladies. I wanted to give them a confidante when they needed someone. Being Junior Deputy has been so rewarding and I encourage more to get involved with any of our youth groups. It has truly bettered my life and I know I am bettering the lives of the ladies and young men that I get to work with.”

Christine Whipkey
Junior Deputy
Cassiopeia Triangle 202

“My role in the creation of our DeMolay has brought about a rejuvenation of my youthful spirit. Watching these boys work together to build each other up and learn has been nothing short of amazing. I cannot wait to see what the future holds for these kids and the light they can share with the world.”

Tom Whitney
DeMolay Advisor

“Being an Advisor for Rainbow has been such a positive and uplifting experience for me that has been filled with so much love, laughter and fun. I am the 2012-2013 Jr. Past Grand Exalted Star of Light and Love of the Grand Constellation of Junior Stars, State of NY, and I am honored that I can contribute my years of knowledge and my unique perspective



RW Ed Ardenski, who was Chapter Dad at Ridge Council with future two-time State Sweetheart Pearl Draves

of being in a different youth group. I have always been a huge advocate of the Masonic adults becoming Advisors and it has been a huge blessing in my life to take that step myself. It's an indescribable feeling when the girls tell you how much you have impacted their life and how grateful they are to have you as an Advisor and in my case as Mother Advisor. The (Masonic) Youth Groups cannot function without Advisors, and the small commitment that you make to our youth today will lead to exponential growth in your respective organizations in the future. We can't wait for you to join us."

Crystal (Reynolds) Smith

Junior Past Grand Exalted Star 2012-2013;

Mother Advisor Temple Hill 40

"Having been a Grand Worthy Advisor in New York Rainbow many years ago, you could say my time as a Rainbow Girl was nothing less than magical. I received so much love, support and guidance from all of my Rainbow family, but especially from my Advisors.

When my daughters became Rainbow Girls, I had the opportunity to not only share Rainbow with them, but to become an Advisor and begin to repay some of what had been given to me during my teenage years. Rainbow made a real difference in my life and my hope is that somehow, my work as an Advisor will contribute to making a positive difference in at least one young girl's life. Although I will never be able to repay all that I have received, I will continue to try for as long as I am able.

Somewhere out there is a unique place for you to help others – a unique life role for you to fill that only you can fill."

Christine (McVeigh) Paynter

Past Grand Worthy Advisor 1985-1986;

New York State Board member

"I joined DeMolay when I was 15 years old, and after several memorable years in the organization, I decided to become an Advisor once I reached the upper age threshold (21). Becoming an Advisor for a youth organization is a tremendous responsibility, and is visibly different from my role as a former active DeMolay. However, I embrace this responsibility on my shoulders because I learned from existing DeMolay Advisors, who made it possible for me to live and relish the DeMolay experience, when I was formerly an active DeMolay. More importantly, I also want to be able to provide a space where

our youth can learn, grow and have meaningful experiences that can hopefully improve their lives and the lives of their close friends and family."

Jeffrey Calderon

DeMolay Advisor



DeMolay Advisor Jeffrey Calderon with some of the members of his Chapter.

"As DeMolays we are taught to help those in need, to provide relief to those in pain and suffering, and honor those in every field of service and sacrifice. The Advisors that taught me were larger than life, one a Huey door gunner in the Vietnam war, another a WWII Marine that stormed the heavily entrenched island of the Pacific, and a paramedic who worked during the height of gang warfare in Western New York, saving life while dodging bullets. It is the morals and the example of these men that drove me to work on an ambulance, volunteer with my local fire department, enlist, that also drive and govern my service as an Advisor to DeMolay. Without the lessons they taught me I would not be who I am today, and now I get to pass that knowledge along to the next generation of brothers."

Bryant Dorney

DeMolay Advisor

Being an Advisor has afforded several talented and caring adults the opportunity to invest in the future. Members of my family have gotten to know some amazing people by being Advisors. It is rewarding and fulfilling. If you want to get involved please contact:

for DeMolay, Peter Brusoe at pwbrusoe@gmail.com;

for Rainbow, Mrs. Gale Gould at cchhs_ggould@yahoo.com;

for Triangle Dr. Kristina Turri at trianglestatedirector@gmail.com.



DeMolay, Cortland

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Electric City Chapter Opens

On December 11, 2022 a new chapter in New York DeMolay's history was written with the opening of Electric City Chapter in Scotia, NY. With a series of fun events including a robot contest, volunteering at the Holiday on the Avenue and a trip to see the Black Panther movie, the Chapter commenced with a passionate and excited group of youth leaders. The youths were inducted during the Sovereign Grand Commander Peter J. Samiec Membership Class in Scotia, NY and welcomed as new Brothers into Electric City and St. Andrew's Chapters.

The Degrees were presided over by International Master Councilor Bro. Cooper Crabtree. Assisting were Brothers Lord

Josiah Ramilo; Jordan Dais; Jackson Dais; Chas Dumaguig, Metro Region Master Councilor; Ethan McKinney; Brandon Howard; James Hess, State Scribe; and Sebastian Pesquera, International Congress Secretary. They welcomed Bro. Max, Bro. Ethan, Bro. Ryan, Bro. Oliver, Bro. Isaiah and Bro. Noah, and Squires Calvin, Brayan and Aaron.

Village Trustee, Dad Justin Cook, PSMC, ALOH, presented a resolution on behalf of the Village of Scotia welcoming DeMolay to their community. Dad Samiec gave an inspirational and moving speech about the value of DeMolay. Thanks go to Dad Alvarado, Dad Dais, Dad Evarts, Dad Howard and Dad Jordan for transporting DeMolay cast members.



DeMolay Cast: The DeMolay Drama is a beautiful presentation of the lessons of brotherhood and toleration. The cast did an amazing job.



Total Membership: New DeMolays gather with Dad Samiec and members of the Degree Team.

Service Dog Named for Ritual Author

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Masonic War Veterans, each of the Masonic Youth Groups was able to recommend a name for a service dog for a veteran. New York DeMolay's winning entry was "Marshall" in honor of Frank Marshall, the author of the DeMolay ritual. Frank Marshall's ritual helps DeMolays through life, just as the service dog guides his human companions.

In recognition of their winning selection, DeMolay received acknowledgement from the MWV and an award. Bro. Jorge Hernandez was presented his honorarium by Post Commander Scott Dreizler at the annual LeadCon.



International Leaders Visit NY

Youth lead DeMolay at the local, regional, state and international levels. On the international level, DeMolay is guided by the International Master Councilor, Brother Cooper Crabtree of Oklahoma, and the International Congress Secretary, Brother Sebastian Pesquera of Connecticut.

Having the International Officers visit and share the excitement of DeMolay is a real treat for any jurisdiction. Bro. Cooper and Bro. Sebastian helped to institute Electric City Chapter in Scotia, they visited Master's Lodge No. 5 in Albany, and were able to see some of the rich history of William D. Goewey Chapter.



Bro. Cooper made sure to visit the Battle Within Memorial



A visit with MCC resident Bro. Dennis Daugherty, a Past EO of Kansas



A visit to Master's Lodge 5

Bro. Cooper went on to visit Tuscarora Chapter in Lockport, Mohawk Valley Chapter in Utica, Ridge Council Chapter in Buffalo and Knickerbocker Chapter in New York City. During his trip Bro. Cooper took the time to meet with Senior DeMolay Dennis Daugherty at the Masonic Care Community and visit the DeMolay archives in Utica.

Both visitors were impressed with the brotherhood. They applauded the tremendous support that Freemasonry gives to DeMolay, Rainbow and Triangle in the Empire State.



Tuscarora Chapter in Lockport had fun meeting



Buffalo's Ridge Council Chapter had an epic sweater party



A visit with the Brothers of Mohawk Valley Chapter in Utica

Leadership, Sports, Food, Service, Illusions: Best of DeMolay

November 11 to 13 saw NY DeMolay host its annual LeadCon in Albany, NY. Hosted at the gorgeous Cyprus Shriners building in Glenmont, Friday night kicked off with an epic pizza party and all-you-can-eat chicken wings. Afterward, the DeMolays made Christmas-themed blankets to donate to a number of different charities.

On Saturday morning the DeMolays learned team building by applying their STEM skills, working to construct a number of free-standing towers of plates, toothpicks and play dough. They later honed their event planning skills, membership sharing and the power of positive thinking.

For lunch, DeMolay had a private party at Apex entertainment. DeMolays were able to play LaserTag, use the sports simulators to do hockey, golf and football, and ate some of the most amazing food ever.

After lunch the DeMolays participated in a ritual performance workshop and honed their public speaking and had some downtime in the pool. That evening there was an epic Italian feast at Buca Di Beppo. To conclude the evening they enjoyed a show by Master Illusionist Mike “Ace” Russo.

In the morning the DeMolays held their devotional service at the New York State World War II Memorial and reflected on the service and sacrifice of so many of our troops. DeMolay became the first Masonic organization in New York State to conduct such a service at the memorial.

The DeMolays then held a scavenger hunt inside the state museum. The weekend capped off with a delicious farewell luncheon at the famous Dragon Buffett. The DeMolays left filled with knowledge, food and fun.



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE RAINBOW FOR GIRLS IN NEW YORK



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The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls is entering its second century in 2023, but the core values and lessons taught within the organization have remained unchanged since its inception in 1922. The colors of the rainbow represent life lessons to assist young women as they grow through life. Red/Love reminds us that we should keep our hearts open to everyone—our God, our family, our friends and even ourselves. Orange/Religion is the message that we should have the belief in a Supreme Being and involvement in the religion of our own choosing. Yellow/Nature highlights the beauty and gifts of the outdoors that are sometimes overlooked in our busy lives and our obligation to preserve and protect our environment and world. Green/Immortality teaches that death is just another part of our everyday life but by living a good life our souls can live forever. Blue/Fidelity's lesson is about loyalty and honesty with ourselves, our family and our friends and how our actions can sometimes speak louder than words. Indigo/Patriotism reinforces the basis that being a good citizen and remaining true to our country and

flag and defending our freedoms is true patriotism. Violet/Service teaches the most important lesson: to be of some assistance each day and help others whenever possible without regard for thanks or rewards.

The remaining principles of the Order, faith in our abilities and each other, hope for the future, and charity toward all, round out the values that have transformed the lives and changed the futures of hundreds of thousands of girls across the country and around the world. We would love to share this sisterhood and sorority with you. Please reach out if your Lodge or Chapter is interested in learning more, inviting us to make a presentation, holding a joint event; or getting more involved by referring young women for membership, stepping up to serve as Advisors or sponsoring an Assembly. It will be one of the best investments in the future of our youth, communities and country you will ever have the opportunity to make.



Suwassett Assembly held a breakfast with Santa in conjunction with the First Congregational Church of Bayshore.



Auburn Assembly participated in Wreaths Across America at Fort Ontario in Oswego.



Middletown Assembly attended the annual Veterans Day dinner of Beth-El Post 29 Masonic War Vets of NY in Middletown.



W Mark Sexson Assembly initiated three new members in December and then welcomed the DeMolay International Councilor to their collation following the meeting.

Auburn 124

by RW Michael Miller

On Sunday, September 18 Brothers of Auburn 124 conducted a rescue mission. In recent months, through the coordination of RW Anthony Tabone, DDGM, the Brothers have been able to gain entrance to the former Auburn Masonic Temple located in downtown Auburn. The current owner has been good enough to allow the opportunity to recover various artifacts.

This building was purchased by Auburn 431 and St Paul's Lodges in 1911, with renovations completed in 1916. The building suffered a devastating fire in 1932 but was restored and again occupied by the three Lodges and various Concordant bodies until the early 1990s. It has basically been empty, since.

On our most recent, and probably final visit, the goal was to recover a marble monument erected by the Lodge in the mid-1930s. The memorial was for Brothers of the original three modern Auburn Lodges (Auburn 431, St. Paul's and Sea & Field) who were veterans of World War I.

The memorial is made of marble and is approximately 3 feet by 5 feet. The heading that is visible indicates that it was intended to be an "Honor Roll" for Brothers involved in "The World War." Plans are currently in the works for restoration and for a future display (possibly in the local Veterans' Park).

Involved in the recovery were RW Anthony Tabone, District Deputy Grand Master for the Cayuga-Tompkins District, RW Tom Ostrander, RW Larry Pritchard, RW Steven Howard, W Steve Persaille, W Bill Pipher, W G. Scott Harris and Bro. Michael Stockmyer. Also present were Gale Gould and Jen Miller, representing the Supreme Council of the International Order of Rainbow Girls.



Photo credits: G. Scott Harris



My Masonic Poem

VW Keith W. Dickison

I would like to submit an original poem I wrote for the Empire State Mason. Not sure if this is something that would work for the magazine, but if it does, feel free to squeeze it in someplace. This is how I felt, and still feel about my Initiation in 2009.—Author.

Think back to that night
When with unknown fate
You knocked at the inner door

Seeking Masonic Light
You were told to wait
A candidate blind and poor

Not knowing your plight
You knelt down and prayed
Like Hiram in days of yore

An Apron bestowed, pure and white
A badge, proudly displayed
Of Honor and esprit de corps

Do you remember your delight
Do you remember the date
Do you remember the oath you swore

You may, and you might
For the hour was late
When at last you completed the tour

But your eyes were bright
And your back was straight
And your heart a Mason's for sure

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225 Years Young ... and Counting

by RW Francis Dumaurier

Instituted on December 26, 1797, L'Union Française Lodge No. 17 (L'UF17) is *de facto* the oldest French association in continuous existence in the United States of America. On the occasion of its 225th anniversary, its sitting Master, W Michaël Pelletier, organized a Gala Dinner that took place December 20 in the French Ionic Room on the 10th floor of the Grand Lodge building, 71 West 23rd Street in Manhattan. He invited the two French-speaking Lodges that were born directly from L'UF17 during the 19th century to be co-hosts: La Sincérité Lodge 373 and France La Clémentine Amitié Cosmopolite Lodge 410.

Our Deputy Grand Master, RW Steven Adam Rubin; Deputy Grand Marshal, RW Peter Unfried and his lady Inge; District Deputy Grand Master of the 10th Manhattan District, RW Willian Delima; Grand Sword Bearer, RW Jaime Alcaraz with his lady Bibiana and his daughter Clara were in attendance. Also on hand were Mr. Jérémie Robert, General Consul of France in New York, and Brother Anthony Herbert, Brooklyn Borough Director at the Mayor's Office.

RW Jaime Alcaraz escorted RW Willian Delima to the East to give the invocation. Master of Ceremonies, RW Francis Dumaurier, proceeded with the traditional toasts, and W Michaël Pelletier offered his welcoming remarks. Mr. Jérémie Robert extended congratulations on behalf of the French Consulate. He spoke of the importance of the French presence in the United States in general and in New York in particular, France being the oldest and closest ally and friend of the United States throughout history. Mr. Robert reminded us that an important time is coming in 2024 when we will celebrate the bicentennial of the Marquis de Lafayette's stay in New York with a series of events.

The extremely busy schedule of Mayor Eric Adams did not let him attend. On his behalf Brother Anthony Herbert presented W Pelletier with the Proclamation issued by the Mayor, stating that Monday, December 26, 2022 is the official New York City "L'Union Française's 225th Anniversary Day."



Presentation of the Mayoral Proclamation made by Bro. Anthony Herbert to W Michaël Pelletier; RW Francis Dumaurier on the right

Brother Tony is a member of Sons of Kings Lodge 123 under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York.

After an extended break for an array of appetizers and a choice of main courses, RW Peter Unfried escorted RW Steven Adam Rubin to the East. Straight from the archives of the Lodge, our Deputy Grand Master presented W Michaël Pelletier the original 225-year-old Warrant that allowed L'Union Française Lodge to work temporarily for six months as Lodge 14. He then presented the original petition of June 6, 1798, signed by fourteen members requesting a permanent charter.



Presentation of the original December 26, 1797 Warrant to W Michaël Pelletier by RW Steven Adam Rubin

RW Rubin's remarks were particularly pointed for the event. Several guests confessed they had been touched by his personal approach on the international history of Freemasonry and the meaning of our Royal Craft for those of us who study and practice the teachings spelled out in our Ritual Book.



Presentation of his 30-Year Certificate to W Daniel Monneaux, DSA, by RW Steven Adam Rubin

W Daniel Monneaux, DSA, came from his kitchen, where he had been working for hours, to take a seat with his personal guests. Our Deputy Grand Master, microphone in hand, took Daniel by surprise and escorted him to the East. Brother

Photo credits: W Alan Bresson

Rubin thanked him for the magnificent dinner he prepared and served and presented him with his thirty-year Certificate and Pin. Daniel was touched, and thanked RW Rubin with an appreciative and emotional message of his own.

The evening went smoothly. The French Ionic Room, with its Franco-American décor painted on the walls—including portraits of Lafayette and George Washington, as well as French and American flags—was the perfect setting. The program started and finished precisely on time.

For a personal touch, take home bags of souvenirs contained: a glass engraved in color with the two sides of the Lodge's commemorative coin; one of these coins; a color invitation and program on fine linen ivory paper; a mini copy of the Mayor's Proclamation printed on the same quality paper; a bag of macarons offered by W (and Food Network's host) Florian

Bellanger from his Mad Mac NYC Macarons company. There was also a sample box of amazing chocolate candies offered by W Daniel Monneaux on behalf of the Mr. Ganache Chocolatier company.

Throughout the evening Ms. Margot Sergent and her "So French Cabaret," with Patrick Brennan on guitar and Alex Safy on upright bass, provided exceptional musical accompaniment to the delight of the assembly. Finally, as a special treat, the original painting of welcome for a Masonic dinner, brilliantly executed by international artist and Brother Pablo Cavedes, had arrived the day before from Thailand, shipped by Brother Pierre Corteville in the nick of time.

This evening was one for the history books. It will remain vivid for a long time in the memory of those who attended the sold-out event.



Margot Sergent and her "So French Cabaret" with Patrick Brennan on guitar and Alex Safy on upright bass



RW William Delima, RW Steven Adam Rubin, Mr. Jérémie Robert, Bro. Anthony Herbert, RW Jaime Alcaraz, RW Peter Unfried



Mr. Jérémie Robert, General Consul of France in New York



Several members of L'Union Française No. 17 (l-r): Bro. Ricardo Corassa, Bro. Stéphane Koffi, RW Francis Dumaourier, W Alain Machu, VW Ziad Jalbout, Bro. Laurent Nare, W Michaël Pelletier, W Didier Viro, W Alan Bresson and W Adrian Dechbery

MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



RW ROBERT HEWSON
PRESIDENT
MMRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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As we begin a new Masonic year in 2023 the Masonic Medical Research Institute celebrates seventy-five years of serving humanity. This momentous event is thanks to New York Masons, friends, concordant bodies and government support. We remain the only medical research institute founded by, supported by and governed by Masons. Too few Masons in New York know of the Masonic Medical Research Institute, let alone its history. With that in mind I will attempt to enlighten you about the Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) and why it is the embodiment of "Freemasonry's long-standing commitment to health and quality of life for all mankind."

In early 1948 Most Worshipful Gay A. Brown established the Masonic Foundation for Medical Research and Human Welfare, "...to serve and benefit all mankind without regard to Masonic affiliation." Brother Raymond C. Ellis (later most Worshipful) was appointed chairman of a committee, which identified rheumatic disease and related degenerative diseases among the most serious confronting medical science. At that time there were 6.8 million cases compared to 3 million cases of heart disease. Despite the high incidence of rheumatic fever and associated diseases, virtually no substantial long-range program of basic medical research was conducted to find causes or therapies. Therefore, the Masonic Medical Research Institute was born out of necessity.

Originally, since the foundation did not have its own facilities, it allocated money to various medical colleges. In 1949 \$203,196 in research grants were given. These grants continued through 1955, totaling \$1.4 million.

New treatment options and medications for rheumatic fever lessened the need for further research in that area. This success allowed the Foundation's Board to concentrate on new challenges in medicine and open their own research facility. Working with the Trustees of the Masonic Home and Asylum, a 2-acre parcel of land was found on the Masonic Care Campus in Utica. Ground was broken for our research facility on St. John's Day 1955. On June 21, 1958 the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York turned the completed building over to the President of the Masonic Foundation. By then New York Masons and friends had contributed over \$1,000,000 to build this structure.

Shortly after the dedication Right Worshipful Gordon K. Moe, MD was made Executive Director. Under Dr. Moe the institute grew steadily, as did the professional staff. We had become a renowned center for cardiac research. Under his tutelage the laboratory established education and training programs for future scientists and researchers. The Summer Fellows program was established and continues to this day. The laboratory was developing continued fame in electrophysiology and atrial fibrillation studies. These accomplishments were

integral to the development and success of the pacemaker and cardiac defibrillator.

In 1976 the Board of Directors voted to change the name officially to the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL). With continued support from our Fraternity and its concordant bodies the Masonic Medical Research Lab continued to grow and succeed. In 1988 a new wing was added to the building, thanks to a \$300,000 grant from the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. In 1984 Dr. Moe retired from MMRL. When he died in 1989 it was a loss not only for MMRL and our Fraternity, but also for the entire scientific community.

During the 1990s MMRL gained further momentum and contributed to advances understanding and treating abnormal cardiac rhythms, most notably "Brugada Syndrome" (a life-threatening genetic cardiac rhythm disorder). During this time the laboratory further expanded to include a molecular biology program. In April 2004 our \$2 million genetics wing was added, which enabled researchers at MMRL, collaborating with researchers around the world, to discover a genetic mutation responsible for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

In 2018 the Board of Directors of MMRL took a bold step into the future by hiring Maria Kontaridis, PhD as its fourth Director of Research. Dr. Kontaridis came with fresh ideas and a 21st century approach to research. The name changed to the Masonic Medical Research Institute to better demonstrate our true focus. A new logo was created as well, emphasizing our commitment to new ideas and the future. The logo is a DNA double helix incorporating the square and compasses, illustrating that medical research and its benefit to mankind is in our Masonic DNA. Dr. Kontaridis is continuing to bring in the best scientific talent, actively pursuing National Health grants and collaborating with the most prestigious institutions around the world. Our building has been completely remodeled and equipped with cutting-edge technology, assuring our future growth and continued success. We are now recognized as a multifaceted research facility, highly respected in the scientific world for our research on lupus, diabetes and neuro degenerative diseases.

Plans are underway for special programs this year to celebrate the Masonic Medical Research Institute's seventy-fifth year. You should be very proud of these accomplishments, knowing that you have been a large part of it. Your support has, and will, assure a bright future. On behalf of the Board of Directors, scientists and administrative staff, I would like to thank all of you for seventy-five years of success. Without you this could not have been possible, and you are part of our team. Collectively, we are the MMRI.



STEPHEN F. IZZO, MA, MPA, LT. USNR (ret)
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MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



MMRI's 1958 Club

The cornerstone is the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation. For the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL), that very first stone was laid on April 7, 1956. The more significant date, however, was June 21, 1958, when the very last stone was laid. It was on that date in 1958 that the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York completed construction of the Laboratory—fulfilling its longstanding commitment to charitable work and MMRL's mission “to improve the health and quality of life for all humankind.”

To commemorate that most auspicious date and garner support for a mission that continues to this day, MMRI created this past year the 1958 Club. Its purpose is twofold: To enable donors to take a more active role helping MMRI create novel approaches to understanding, deciphering and overcoming disease, and to provide the steady stream of support needed to help MMRI achieve this vision, its mission and planned growth. For their monthly \$19.58 donation donors receive a welcome letter from our Board of Directors and Executive Director, a commemorative pin, invitations to Lab tours and special events, and regular updates on how their funds are helping the Institute achieve its vision and mission. Activity of the 1958 Club is also highlighted in MMRI's Annual Report, reports to our Board and in grant applications to underscore the Institute's broad and steady stream of support.

Donors also garner one other important thing from 1958 Club membership. That is the knowledge that their support is helping MMRI continue the critical work it undertook

that led to the development of the pacemaker, implantable cardioverter defibrillator, automatic external defibrillator, catheter-ablation therapy and a wide variety of drugs used to treat heart disease.

As the Masonic Medical Research Institute heads into a period of planned expansion, support from 1958 Club members and other donors will take on increased importance. Our research into cardiovascular diseases (including heart failure, atherosclerosis, thrombosis, inflammation, congenital heart disease and diabetes/obesity), neurocognitive diseases (autism, Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease), and autoimmune diseases (Lupus, Multiple Sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis) will all require additional human and financial resources.

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York has also asked MMRI to initiate a study regarding Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and possible genetics-based factors. So, there is quite a lot on MMRI's 2023 trestleboard for our scientists to address and donors to support.

Those interested in supporting our research can do so directly at <https://www.mmri.edu/donate-now/>. To become a member of our 1958 Club: <https://www.mmri.edu/1958-club/>. To inquire about MMRI's research, arrange a tour of the Institute or support the Institute as a benefactor, volunteer or MMRI ambassador, please contact me at any time at stephenizzo@mmri.edu and/or 908/477-7966.

Find us on:



Suffolk Masons Volunteer at Holidays

Organized by Potunk Lodge 1071 in Westhampton, Brothers of the Suffolk Masonic District volunteered this past holiday season at a local Soup Kitchen. Chores involved cooking and distributing the food to those in need.

Congratulations go to these Brothers. They demonstrate Masonry's commitment to Faith, Hope and Charity.



350th Blood Donation

Dear Brothers,

Thanks to the Great Architect I have just given my 350th donation made up of 103 whole blood, 34 plasma and 213 platelets. From the bright sunny day in August 1965 when three friends went and gave their first donation, it has been 57 years of giving. The GAOTU is the one to be thanked for allowing me to do so by giving me good health. Since affiliating with Service City Geba 1009 in 1977 (now consolidated and has become Advance Service Mizpah 586) I gave at the Blood Drives in Queens.

After giving 103 pints of whole blood, I have stopped giving whole blood. Why? Because I am AB+, have a high platelet count and that is what the NYBC thinks I should do. So, for the last many years I give only platelets which requires me to go to a Blood Center. Don't worry, I use the Group number 10691 (Queens Blood drive number) at my donations. This is the only reason you do not see me at the Queens blood drives.

I urge all my Brothers to please donate blood. You cannot buy it off the shelf and it is not manufactured. All blood products have an expiry date and new donors are needed all the time. There is no age limit and I just heard that a person 92 years old donated. We all know of Brothers in Queens in their late 80s who donate at our drives. Please do not say, "They won't take my blood." Ask your doctor if you can donate, then read the material for eligibility, answer all questions truthfully and then let the professionals decide whether you are fit to give or not. They will not put your life in danger nor ruin their reputation.

Have I been deferred or "postponed?" Of course; many times. What do I do, I just make another appointment and go right back. Unfortunately we cannot regret the times we could have given but did not, just do it.

350 looks like a big number but when you take 57 years into consideration it only works out to 6.10 times per year. Everyone is allowed to give blood 6 times a year. PLEASE GIVE.

Regards, C & F Jamshed.



Below is an article that was printed in *ESM* Winter 2007

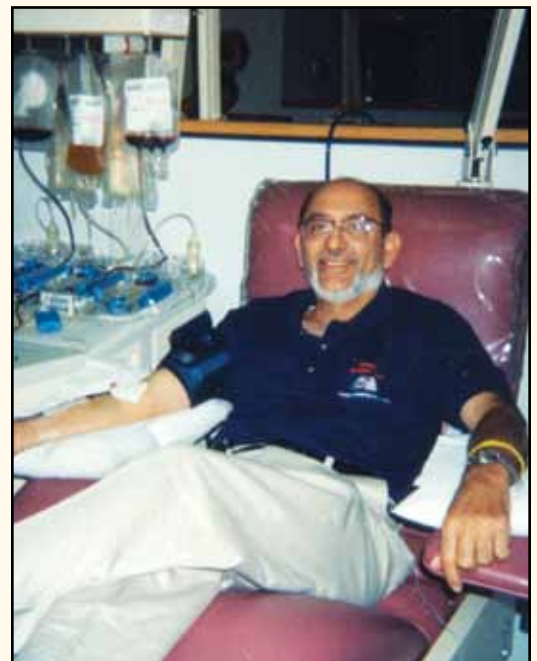
Ghadiali Makes 200th Donation

On a bright sunny day in August 1965, three friends in Mumbai, India spontaneously decided to donate blood. Two are Freemasons and the grandfather of the third was a Mason. From that day forty-two years ago, Brother Jamshed R. Ghadiali has gone on to donate 199 more times. He recently said, "My only regret is the number of times that I could have given, but did not for many lame excuses."

When he joined Service City Geba Lodge in 1977, he remembers Brother Murray Silver driving him to the Blood Drives all over the Queens District. Brother Ghadiali later went on to be the chairman for the First Queens and Area Vice-Chairman for the Grand Lodge. He was also portrayed in the video series of the Grand Lodge, along with Chairman Sheldon Stachel.

Jamshed never thought he would donate even 100 times, but has succeeded in donating whole blood 97 times, plasma 36 and platelets 67 times. In the past ten years he has donated blood products 101 times.

Has he ever been deferred or "postponed?" Of course; many times. But he goes back and refuses to be disappointed. He laments that had he not wasted his youth and not been postponed, he would by now have donated many more times. What a credit to Freemasonry and the Queens District! As this is being written, Brother Jamshed is looking for the next blood donation date for the Queens District. ■



The Curious Story of an Apron Case

Jeffrey M. Williamson

Since time immemorial, a substantial number of New York State and Province of Ontario border-town Lodges have taken the opportunity and pleasure of establishing corresponding Sister Lodges between our two jurisdictions. These relationships produce a constant source of joy and happiness, as friendships and interactions between the Lodges can span decades and even generations. Equally essential is the chance to involve newly Raised Brothers from both Lodges so they, too, have the opportunity to become a link in a true chain of friendship and brotherly love, thus perpetuating the tradition.

Such was the relationship between Western Star Lodge 1185 F&AM, located in Lackawanna, NY, and Adoniram Lodge 573, AF&AM located in Niagara Falls, Ontario. A few years ago Adoniram Lodge amalgamated with St. Mark's Lodge 105 AF&AM in Chippawa, Ontario, which graciously acceded to the relationship with Adoniram's long-standing Sister Lodge.

In 2016 I was elected Grand Master of Masons in New York. I soon realized that the apron case which carries the Grand Master apron, collar, cuffs and other accoutrements was just too large and cumbersome to take on airplanes. I remembered the old "doctor's bag" apron case used by Canadian Masons and knew it would be the perfect answer to my travel complications.

Contacting Dominion Regalia and many other suppliers, I learned they were not marketing the apron cases any longer. Next, I spoke to honorary member, RW Brother Nicholas Andras expressing my desire to obtain a doctor's bag apron case. He suggested the apron case of the late RW Brother Daniel Russell, Past District Deputy Grand Master, beloved Secretary of Adoniram Lodge, and honorary member of



Western Star Lodge 1185, might be available for my use.

And so, after refurbishing the old apron case I was able to use it during my tenure as Grand Master. RW Brother Russell's doctor's bag apron case traveled with me to England, France, Italy, Lebanon, South America, Mexico, Canada and dozens of States in the performance of my Masonic duties. Now it was time to bring it back home.

On December 13, 2022 we attended the annual installation of officers of St. Mark's Lodge 105 AF&AM. After overcoming the COVID 19 difficulties, it was a true delight to witness such a packed Lodge room, filled to capacity with genuine friends and Brothers eager to perform those important duties required by Masonic Law. When ceremonies were complete, the visitors and dignitaries were given an opportunity to offer some words of congratulation. When I had the chance to speak I beckoned the honorary members of Western Star Lodge to the East. I gave a verbal chronicle of the travels of this special apron case and I bestowed it upon the newly installed Master, Worshipful Brother Graham Lundy, with an exhortation to use it as he sees fit. Perhaps he might offer it to someone who can continue its journey of spreading brotherly love and affection within our wonderful Fraternity.

After dinner it was time to say our goodbyes. As we journeyed back to our home in western New York, we felt the warmth of the brotherly love and affection so freely afforded to us. We were so grateful we could resume our fellowship with our Sister Lodge, and share with them... the curious story of an apron case.



YEARS OF SERVICE

81 YEARS

0524 MORNING STAR
Gwynn K. Morey

77 YEARS

0128 OGDENSBURGH-ACACIAN
Robert Denner
0633 RICHVILLE
Wallace K. Hurlbut

76 YEARS

0084 AMSTERDAM
Carson A. Thompson
0112 STEUBEN
Donald E. Scott
0120 HAMILTON
Arnold R. Fisher
0231 CORNERSTONE
Belding F. Clearwater

0297 ALEXANDRIA
John A. Keeler

0839 ATHELSTANE
Fred Kaplowitz

0855
PAUMANOK-PORT WASHINGTON
James R. Wells

0890 JOSHUA
David Rowe

0892 QUEENSBORO
Joseph K. Muller

1185 WESTERN STAR
William W. Swenson

75 YEARS

0634 SCOTIA
John W. Robertson

74 YEARS

0033 GENEVA-ARK
Richard Haag

0137 ANGLO-SAXON
George R. Johanson

0164 PHILANTHROPIC
Irwin E. Brown

0406 HUMANITY
Earl Buchanan

0445 CASSIA
Hugh D. Greenberg

0551 RANSOMVILLE
Albert L. Rusk

0970 JOHNSON CITY UNITY
Alton L. Frisbie

1041 BROTHERHOOD
Marcel Seidler

1174 SCHENECTADY
Robert L. Johnson

73 YEARS

0472 TRITOWN
Elmer H. Vanarkel

0533 ROUND HILL
Carl Marca

0639 SOMERSET
Burnette C. Wayner

0651 TRUE CRAFTSMAN'S
Theodore J. Fuchs

0701 BEACON LIGHT
Charles J. Ericson

0787 GASPORT
Victor E. Fitchlee

0912 GREAT KILLS
John G. Anderson

72 YEARS

0110 SCIPIO
David A. Brooks

0439 DELAWARE RIVER
Lester E. Gregory

0579 PORTVILLE
Eugene L. Newburg

0589 NAURASHANK
Vincent Trojan

0616 CAZENOVIA
Sterling G. Brisbin

0634 SCOTIA
Herman S. Stein

0791 LIVINGSTON MANOR
Albert A. Voorhess

0814 SCONONDOA-SHERRILL
Curtis J. Hammill

1068
JAMES W. HUSTED-FIAT LUX
Neil R. Berzak

71 YEARS

0083 NEWARK
Eugene R. Denagel

0155 FRATERNAL
Myron F. Degenhardt

0177 BINGHAMTON
Jerome P. Jones Jr Jr

0183 FARMERVILLE-UNION
John Holcomb

0230 UNIVERSITY
John D. Cramond Jr

0256 FORT BREWERTON
William A. Grady Sr

0285 GEORGE WASHINGTON
Frank J. Lengenfelder

0365 GOSHEN
Harold E. Suresky

0548 LAURENS
John C. Duroe

0627 WALKILL
Walter T. Roosa

0639 SOMERSET
Herbert C. Loesch

0819 COMPOSITE
Arthur Schorr

1041 BROTHERHOOD
Lester Fishman

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS
Earl C. Valder

70 YEARS

0013 APOLLO-KING SOLOMON'S
Albert E. Bibb Jr

0040 OLIVE BRANCH
Donald T. Gloo

0041 SYLVAN
Wendell B. Hatfield

0060 SUFFOLK
Richard Cox

0109 INSPIRATION
Gerald D. Merzke

0155 FRATERNAL
Lindy H. Carl

0173 MONROE
Donald H. Spencer

0211 POCAHONTAS
Lewis E. Catherman

0230 UNIVERSITY
Carl E. Clark

0284 AMERICA
Chester T. Nantz

0378 BIG FLATS
E. James Strates

0468 RIP VAN WINKLE
Bill Link

0474 BELMONT
Henry D. Mayo

0508 HERSCHEL-ARGYLE
Theodore Cross

0588 CARPENTER-EMANUEL
James Tallon

0799 ORISKANY
William R. Wind

0890 JOSHUA
Burton J. Tudor

1180 DRUMLIN SQUARE
Donald I. Jeerings

1185 WESTERN STAR
David W. Bradley
David C. Larish

1187 NORTH ROSE WOLCOTT
Gerald Colvin

65 YEARS

0006 ST. GEORGE'S
Alfred W. Canova

0056 ST. ALBANS
William C. Manthey

0095 GENERAL SULLIVAN
Paul L. Hoff

0127 LAKE CITY
John R. Hughes

0134 LOWVILLE
Gerald J. Phelps

0154 ERAC
Edward O. Simon

0178 CORNERSTONE
Jerry Wolf

0230 UNIVERSITY
Stephen C. Saunders

0252 ENCHANTED MOUNTAINS
Raymond F. Roulo Jr

0383 NORTHERN AURORA
Gerald K. Langdon

0387 LA FRATERNIDAD
Manuel Marina

0412 HOFFMAN
Jerome Bernstein

0471 TOMPKINS
William W. Pape Jr

0527 AKRON
John Mozian

0533 ROUND HILL
Mark L. Harned

0548 LAURENS
William E. Martin

0549 WARSAW
Richard L. Neeley

0579 PORTVILLE
William E. Miller

0580 GLEN COVE
Edward Armstrong

0648 MEMORIAL
George Wasickanin Jr

0793 BABYLON
Harold G. Haudenschild

0797 SENECA
Neil E. Lawrence

0855
PAUMANOK-PORT WASHINGTON
James O. Brew

0934 JOSEPH WARREN-GOTHIC
Henry Kuhn

0948 SWEET HOME
Gerald Freedman

0981 AMHERST
Robert E. Ess

1041 BROTHERHOOD
Daniel Weiss

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS
Donald F. Igel

1066 HARRY S TRUMAN
Herbert B. Mars

1180 DRUMLIN SQUARE
James G. Riles

1186 KEN-TON
Marron W. Swart

1188 RENAISSANCE
Charles P. Sanida

1193 TOWPATH
Herbert G. Koenig

60 YEARS

0019 MIDWOOD FORTITUDE
Chester A. Engley

0040 OLIVE BRANCH
Bradford A. Haines

0066 STATEN ISLAND
Howard Salles

0075 EVENING STAR
Arthur E. Bowen

0122 GENESEE VALLEY
Robert Flesch Jr

0145 MOUNT MORIAH
George A. Oste
Donald C. Puder

0151 SENTINEL
Bryan D. Higgins
Shirley E. Holt

0154 ERAC
Masao Okita

0155 FRATERNAL
Maxwell E. Hunt

0217 GOUVERNEUR
Leon K. Griffis

0313 STONY POINT WAWAYANDA
Robert F. Blanke

0393 WADDINGTON
Howard C. Green
Robert E. Green

0394 COBLESKILL
James H. Kitchen

0406 HUMANITY
Stephen Balogh
Edgar R. Everhart

0425 WARRENSBURGH
John B. Alexander

0477 WILDWOOD
Donald Koster

0506 RISING LIGHT
Melvin M. Bovee

0538 WEBSTER
David C. Williams

0579 PORTVILLE
Robert C. Huddleston

0589 NAURASHANK
James W. Jones

0620 CLINTON F. PAIGE-BEREAN
Charles C. Gardiner

0648 MEMORIAL
Gilbert J. Walter

0651 TRUE CRAFTSMAN'S
Martin Novick
Stanley P. Roth

0673 AVOCA
David A. Rynders

0740 ALLEMANIA
John J. Hinsch

0787 GASPORT
Gene C. Brayley

0877 WEST POINT
Helmut Buchholz

0890 JOSHUA
Donald S. Preven

0916 PHILADELPHIA
Adrian Flath

0922 AMOS-FORT GREENE
Joseph Goldberg

0934 JOSEPH WARREN-GOTHIC
Richard L. Ander

0956 SPARTAN
Myron C. Rosenstein
Jesse Scharf

0968 PHILO-MOUNT SINAI
Harry Paston

0977 AMITYVILLE
Emil G. Pavlik Jr

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS
Richard H. Stoeltzing

1174 SCHENECTADY
Joseph A. Newton
Joseph Sampson Jr

1185 WESTERN STAR
Warren H. Williams

55 YEARS

0007 MONUMENTAL
HUDSON WIDOW'S SON
Albert R. Trezza

0019 MIDWOOD FORTITUDE
Finn Berg

0044 EVENING STAR
David A. Houghton
Wayne B. Snow

0085 BETHLEHEM
Raymond J. Hodsoll Jr

0145 MOUNT MORIAH
William A. White

0168 CORNING PAINTED POST
C. Alan Berkebile

0172 CHAUMONT
George R. Gaumond

0175 OXFORD
Sergei Ticknor

0201 GENESIS
Russell C. Johnson

0221 CAYUGA
Douglas W. Whitten
Gary M. Whitten

0255 LIVING STONE
Stanley R. Maj

0349 PECONIC
John W. Hallman

0368 CROTON
Philip G. Atkinson

0383 NORTHERN AURORA
Fay E. Barney

0404 CONSTELLATION
Jon E. Olin

0414 SCRIBA
William G. Ruprecht

0416 WAYNE
Peter T. Dibble

0472 TRITOWN
Douglas L. Stairs

0494 JEPHTHA
William F. Hren

0501 LIVERPOOL SYRACUSE
Richard A. Walsh

0511 KINGS COUNTY
Richard J. Heitmann

0524 MORNING STAR
Harvey A. Eysman

0550 HANNIBAL
Jay O. Sawyer

0557 JAMES M. AUSTIN
Willis Vermilyea

0561 DELAWARE
Peter S. Stetka

0575 OLIVE
Harold L. Jenkins

0611 ST. JOHNSVILLE
Douglas H. Beard

0615 STISSING
Spencer L. Herbst

0627 WALKILL
Norman E. Moon

0645 RIVERHEAD
Robert J. Svoboda

0648 MEMORIAL
Ronald H. Leclair

0673 AVOCA
Clark Wraight

0684 BERNE
Jacob H. Herzog Jr

0713 SOCIAL
Marshall D. Cole

0725 SOUTHERN LIGHT
Robert K. Hatch

0750 SHAKESPEARE
Harry I. Manner
Sheldon B. Richman

0784 KING HIRAM
David J. Wall

0791 LIVINGSTON MANOR
Thomas O. Trask

0799 ORISKANY
Richard J. Vandyke

0849 NORTH WOODS
William L. Helmer
Peter Meneilly
Dean H. Pohl

0977 AMITYVILLE
Lothar Beer

0981 AMHERST
David P. Barwell

1037 VICTORIA SEA GATE
Allan R. Levine

1041 BROTHERHOOD
Daniel Rosa

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS
Frank A. Mangiaracina

1118
LODGE OF THE UNITED SERVICES
Leo H. Kelly

1186 KEN-TON
George H. Koch

1188 RENAISSANCE
Keith D. Bowes
John E. Pufpaff

50 YEARS

0004 ST. PATRICK'S
Thomas L. Daggett

0007 MONUMENTAL
HUDSON WIDOW'S SON
John A. Rector

0041 SYLVAN
John H. Young Jr

0049 WATERTOWN
Damon E. Ormsby

0060 SUFFOLK
Michael D. Gilbert

0087 VAN RENSSELAER
Claude K. Olsen

0095 GENERAL SULLIVAN
William E. Collins

0103 RISING SUN
Charles A. Harris Sr

0109 INSPIRATION
Frank D. Zaffino

0112 STEUBEN
Gary A. Clinton

0121 QUEENSBURY
William J. Elder
Richard White Jr Jr

0123 DUNDEE
Robert Kurt Ahnert

0172 CHAUMONT
Spencer J. Churchill

0193 ULSTER
William C. Vickery

0232 KING SOLOMON-BEETHOVEN
Jay R. Deutsch

0285 GEORGE WASHINGTON
Joseph Calleja

0298 FISH HOUSE
James C. Bernier

0309 HUDSON RIVER
Richard K. Higgins

0352 HOMER
Richard J. Simister

0371 HERITAGE
John J. DeSocio
Louis P. DeSocio

0458 SHEKOMEKO
Gordon R. Flanagan
Theodore A. Lamanna

0466 ONEONTA
Eugene P. Asta

0472 TRITOWN
Bradley W. Tichenor

0481 CAMBRIDGE VALLEY
Joseph W. Dwyer

0486
GOLDENRULE CLERMONT MCKINLEY
Robert S. Bernstein

0508 HERSCHEL-ARGYLE
Richard P. Leise

0513 MASSENA ERROL
Wilson McLean

0565 GUIDING STAR-ANGLE
Roger C. Viadero

0581 WINFIELD
Lyle D. Aney

0589 NAURASHANK
Lee M. Osborn
Alexander P. Petersen

0620 CLINTON F. PAIGE-BEREAN
Richard A. Rosell

0633 RICHVILLE
Holcomb V. Huse

0634 SCOTIA
Albert Nahum

0664 AMICABLE
Russell M. Howard Jr

0750 SHAKESPEARE
Peter K. Junttila
Maurice E. Markewich

0796 DOLGEVILLE
Robert E. West

0814 SCONONDOA-SHERRILL
Justice M. Cheney

0818 MELROSE
Stanley D. Smith

0849 NORTH WOODS
James B. Herron

0892 QUEENSBORO
John E. Chillello

0948 SWEET HOME
Fred Schmalheiser

0981 AMHERST
John W. Thuerck Jr

1000 PUBLICITY
Donard Murphy Jr

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS
Henry M. Wulf

The American Lodge of Research

On the evening of Thursday, December 1 the officers and members of the American Lodge of Research traveled north along the Hudson River to the town of Highland Falls, New York for a joint communication with West Point Lodge 877. The ALR may hold special communications away from the Grand Lodge of New York building, in jurisdictions around the world, at the pleasure of the Worshipful Master as a way of presenting papers on topics that may be of interest to that particular audience.



There was no better location than West Point for that evening's research presentation, which provided the Lodge an opportunity to correct a long-held misconception about the role of RW Bro. William Malcom (1745-1791) and his impact on the formation of the United States. As a result of a misinterpretation, by modern historians, of correspondence between Malcom and General George Washington,

as well as some embellishment by his second-in-command Lt. Col. Aaron Burr, Colonel Malcom's efforts were diminished over time. On that evening, the ALR shared the real story of his involvement in the early development of the fortifications at West Point, his suspicions about Benedict Arnold, his role as de facto Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of New York (Moderns). The paper revealed his extraordinary work in protecting the western frontier of New York, including Fort Schuyler in Rome, and details of hand-to-hand combat with none other than the previous Provincial Grand Master, Sir John Johnson.

Before West Point Lodge 877 delivered their own excellent presentation, the ALR provided a framed portrait of Colonel Malcom, which was drawn by the noted artist and Freemason Bro. Travis Simpkins, as a token of thanks to commemorate the historic night. We hope that the officers of West Point Lodge

can find a place for it in their impressive Lodge building, as it is truly the appropriate setting for Bro. Malcom.

The ALR has experienced tremendous growth upon its resurrection last year, with about half of the new members coming from jurisdictions outside New York and often outside the United States. Prospective members who are interested in research and writing about Freemasonry can join as Active Members. We encourage high scholarship in our publications; however, we want to work with all members who have a desire to write, even if they are new to the idea of research and are unsure of where to get started.

We invite Master Masons who are not yet members to visit the ALR for our upcoming meeting on March 28, 2023 in the Colonial Room of the Grand Lodge building. We will hear two presentations, "The Masonic Journey of the Princess of Lamballe" by VW Bro. Ziad Jalbout and "The Textual and Philological History of the 'Winding Staircase' and 'Middle Chamber'" by Bro. Daniel Machlis. More information and details about reservations can be found at www.alrny.org. We hope to see you there.



Teddy Roosevelt Takes up Residence in GM's Office

Brother Theodore Roosevelt proudly and diligently served as the President of the Board of the New York City Police Commission in 1895. He was a member in good standing of Matinecock Lodge 806, located near his residence of Sagamore Hill in Oyster Bay, New York.

During his tenure with the New York City Police Commission, Brother Roosevelt established the Meritorious Service Medal for worthy and deserving police officers on the beat. Teddy Roosevelt was well known amongst the rank and file for his early-morning and late-night habit of walking the same beat his officers walked.

Roosevelt sayings are often quoted. Among many, he said, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."





BROTHER KENNETH JP STUCZYNSKI
 WEBMASTER, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
 NYMASONS.ORG
 716/868-1329
ken@kentropolis.com

FROM THE WEBMASTER

We are told that once you post something online it is there forever. That is not always true but an average post or comment in a public forum may be visible long after the user is gone. Our grandkids will know if we were kind or hateful, open-minded or bigoted. But why should we be more concerned on the Internet than in everyday, non-virtual life?

Masons in ages past put their mark upon their work, a symbol or initial to tie the object to themselves. It was not just for quality control, but credit and reputation. Masters—in stone, art, literature—are known for their achievements. Even when works were not signed, their legacy was so notable that their name was preserved. Their masterpieces embodied them, and through them were immortalized.

What remains after our earthly existence? Generations will retell stories about us. High school trophy cases are graced with our photos. Our names are on donor plaques and memorial bricks. And if we do something wrong or unjust our infamy will be whispered among associates and neighbors for decades. Maybe none of these are forever; but we as Masons believe our Charity (Love) is eternal.

Few will have a street named after them or their own Wikipedia entry. But everything we do has the potential to survive our mortality, even if our name is lost. The fruits of our hands, words and other choices will live on. We may have affected the future of a company, a Lodge, a community and

society. No matter how small our contribution, the needle will move in part because of each of us. Even an absence of action is part of the equation. An artist's signature is not always present or discernable, but the work still says something about an author—the image or footprint of a human being as if set in stone for all time.

What about being someone of your word? Integrity is known, not for intentions, platitudes or even oaths, but as a record of our actions. Will we become a perpetual example to aspire to? Will we hope others can fill our shoes? Or will people hope someone “better” moves into our stations and places once we “check out?” Will our fate be a warning to others of what not to do or what to be like?

We worry about social media as if it is an invasion of privacy. But participation is voluntary—and painfully honest. It is perhaps today's biggest avenue of self-exposure and broadcast of one's character. All can know a tree by its fruit, even if the bushel is in the metaverse.

But it is not ultimately about technology. Some people do not seem to leave a mark at all on our future, which is the reward of apathy and inaction. But most of us will, for better or worse, without even logging in. We work against the backdrop of eternity. Act as if everything we say and do will be remembered and our world forever changed for it. Because it will be.

Syrio-American Recognizes Past GM

The officers and brethren of our Syrio-American Lodge 1901 have dedicated their Secretary's Room in honor of MW Leon Zeitounian, Past District Grand Secretary and Past District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of Syria-Lebanon.

By copy of this memo, we congratulate MW Brother Leon Zeitounian for this impressive honor bestowed upon him. It is well-deserved for having faithfully served the District for twenty-six years.



WPYSA Donation

On July 24, 2022 White Plains Lodge 473 and John Jay Lodge 653 hosted a joint social. We had a good turnout of close to fifty attendees for the barbecue/picnic. The heat was sweltering that day and we were all thrilled when the ice cream truck arrived.

More importantly, we conducted a raffle/auction and managed to raise \$500 for White Plains Youth Soccer Association (WPYSA). The funds raised were later matched

by additional funds from Brothers in White Plains Lodge 473 to bring the donation up to \$1,000.

Before the November stated meeting, White Plains Lodge 473 arranged for the head of the WPYSA to accept the \$1,000 check and take a photo with the Brothers on the steps of the Lodge building. WPYSA will use the donation as a scholarship for local kids who cannot afford the club's fees.



WM Jay Warner (John Jay Lodge 653)
posing by the ice cream truck.



Head of WPYSA receiving donation from
White Plains Lodge 473.

Renaissance Masons Make a Difference

by Brian D. Singer

Since 1999 the members of now Renaissance Lodge 1188 have gathered at the Erie County Fair grounds in the beginning of August with members, family and friends to bear the heat, humidity and, yes, sometimes Biblical rain. The reason for this is to set up the Curly Q Booth, which for the last twenty-four years has supported the Lodge—sometimes to keep the Lodge solvent, other times to support scholarships and other charitable events.

This year was no exception. Taking the lead from our Grand Master that we do make a difference, we thought long and hard on where our donation would make the best impact. The answer was clear. We chose to donate to a food pantry, but not just any pantry. This donation would go to help the veterans.

It is my opinion that we do not and can not do enough for the men and women who protect us. So, on December 17, 2022 RW Brian Singer, manager of the fair booth, and our Grand Master, MW Richard J. Kessler, went to the VALOR (Veterans Assistance Local Ongoing Recognition) food pantry at 47 Main St., City of Tonawanda. There they presented a check for \$7,000 to support the veterans in the local area.



Brother Todd Orleman and Sister Laura Brown.

Advance Temple, Astoria, Queens

by Jamshed Ghadiali

Advance Temple is the home and meeting place of Advance Service Mizpah Lodge 586. It is a beautiful stone and brick building completed in 1915. Advance Lodge 635 was chartered in 1867. It was named after the 120-ton brigantine ship *USS Advance*, built in 1847 as *Augusta* in New Kent County, Virginia.

In 1853 the ship set sail under the command of Dr. Elisha Kent Kane for an Arctic Expedition looking for a Northwest passage across the Arctic west to the Orient. Though they did not succeed in their expedition, the ship did reach a latitude of 78 degrees 43 minutes north, which was the highest degree ever attained by a sailing vessel. This became the motto of Advance Lodge—Ad Summam—To the Highest Degree.

The ship was abandoned in the treacherous snow and Captain Kane removed the masthead, “Fair Augusta,” and brought it back with him. This masthead is in the Kane museum at the Grand Lodge and Advance has a replica, made with their permission.



Advance consolidated with Island City Mizpah 586 in 1993 and took their number 586. Advance Island City Mizpah 586 (AICM) then consolidated with Service City Geba 1009 on January 31, 2018.

City Lodge 408 was chartered in 1856 in Manhattan, and then in 1973 they consolidated with Service Lodge 1009 in Flushing, Queens. Service Lodge was started in 1922 mainly with Jewish Brothers as they were not admitted in other Lodges. In 1982 Service City consolidated with Geba Lodge 954 which was chartered in Elmhurst in 1920.

Advance Temple has always been a shining beacon in the midst of other residential buildings. This year, under the leadership of WM Antonio “Pon” DeCaro, with the help of Bro. John Herouvis (a contractor) and our new Entered Apprentices and members (Brete Murphy, Chris Adamic, Billy Nicolis and Luis Rodriguez, et al) it got a new coat of paint

and front doors. The face lift caught the eye of the local paper, *Give me Astoria*. The article talks about the double wooden doors which feature individual panels depicting common Masonic iconography, including the all-seeing eye, a trowel and crescent moon. There are two brass knockers and ornate handles.

The building of 108 years needs tender loving care and pots of money to keep up. There are only two Lodges in Queens, owned by the Lodges in Queens District, and the members are adamant to preserve this structure.

Following the tenets of our Craft, the Lodge has started playing a role in the community. We hold quarterly Blood Drives, which are so well known in the community we now get more neighbors who come out to donate than we do Masons of the Queens District.

Along with other Queens charities the Lodge has a Thanksgiving turkey donation. We fondly call it the “gobble giveaway” and 100 families received the dinners from the Lodge.

Our WM saw that the poor students in the public school did not have school bags or supplies. He arranged a drive and more than seventy-five bags filled with supplies were donated. Lastly, to show our presence in the community the Lodge participated in two street fairs in the summer.

It is not all work and no play. Bro. Rich Araya arranged Halloween and Valentine’s Day parties in the Lodge. We have fun and raise some funds for the Lodge. We strive to be the pioneer Lodge in Queens and the Grand Lodge.



GRAND LECTURER

Our Conventions

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“The lapse of time, the ruthless hand of ignorance and the devastations of war, have laid waste and destroyed many valuable monuments of antiquity, upon which the utmost exertions of human genius have been employed. Even the Temple of Solomon, so spacious and magnificent, and constructed by so many celebrated artists, escaped not the unsparing ravages of barbarous force. Freemasonry, not withstanding, still survives. The attentive ear receives the sound from the instructive tongue, and the mysteries of Freemasonry are safely lodged in the repository of the faithful breast. Tools and implements of architecture, and symbolic emblems, most expressive, are selected by the Fraternity, to impress upon the mind the most wise and serious truths and thus, through a succession of ages, are transmitted unimpaired the tenets of our Institution.”

For a moment, reflect upon these words. Time, ignorance and war have destroyed many of the great monuments of the past and yet our magnificent Fraternity still survives. Why? Because through the centuries, serious Brothers have sought instruction from those who are the wisest in the Craft, those who have studied our secrets until they themselves have become wise enough to pass them on to the next generation.

Today this responsibility falls on our shoulders. It is sacred law that our ritual must be transmitted unimpaired, by memory, from one Brother to the next. To be sure, some of the language is old and difficult to understand. This is a strength of our system of Masonic Education, for, as we study, the words themselves force us to reflect upon them and, if we are to transmit them unimpaired, force us to comprehend fully what they mean.

Have you ever been asked, when we use our motto of “making good men better,” How exactly do we do this? Our answer as Freemasons is simple. Freemasonry never lets us forget the life-guiding principles inherent in our ritual. By keeping these soaring ideas in our collective faces, we find our pathway to self-improvement and the making of good men better. Our ritual is a constant reminder that as Masons we have chosen the tougher road in life. We seek to do right when it is almost always easier to do wrong. That is what the ritual enjoins us to do. That is what our ritual demands we do. Ours is a tremendous responsibility: to transmit unimpaired the tenets of our Institution.

Now you are probably thinking that the suggestion that one must completely understand the tenets of the Craft will make memorization that much more difficult. Perhaps it will. But on the other hand, when you have reflected seriously upon the meaning of our tenets and have a thorough understanding of them, memorization and the presentation itself will become easier. The better you understand your ritual, the more convincingly you will be able to transmit it unimpaired to a new Brother. Good ritualists are made—not born.

The key to learning ritual, whether it is the opening of Lodge or the Third Degree Historical Lecture, is repetition out loud; in the car alone when you are driving, in the shower, in a room with the door closed—anywhere it is quiet and you are by yourself. Repeat your ritual out loud, with feeling, over and over and over. Almost any Mason can become a ritualist.

Not everyone has to learn the Middle Chamber Lecture, but rather some small part: the demand, the working tools, a charge. Choose it. Learn it. Make it your own.

“But,” you say, “I get so nervous in front of people.” You know why you get nervous? Because you have not memorized your part reflectively. You are afraid, therefore, that you will forget your lines, embarrassing yourself and the Lodge, and be unable to transmit unimpaired the tenets of our Institution.

To bind your anxiety always remember that your audience consists of your Brothers and they want you to succeed. The fact is that if you reflect upon the words before you memorize them, they will become easier to transmit. You will be confident instead of nervous and once you have delivered a small portion unimpaired, your career as a ritualist will take off. You will be eager to learn longer, more complex passages. You will want to share your enthusiasm and skill with your Brothers, showing them at every opportunity how well you are able to serve the Craft.

We have observed that in truth there is really no such thing as the absolutely perfect ritual performance. It is much more common that a Brother tends to forget something during a recitation. Once you accept this, your fears will abate a great deal. That is why Grand Lecturers throughout the years have highly recommended that we should never deliver anything, during a Degree, without a prompter. If you have truly learned your lines, then a single word or phrase will remind you of where you should be if your mind goes suddenly blank. There should be only one prompter assigned to a Degree and clearly identified to the brethren in attendance so that prompts are not indiscriminately shouted out from the sidelines.

The key to excellent ritual lies in its rendering from the heart. Always say your words as if you understand and mean them. Speak slowly, clearly and loudly. Remember, many of our most faithful Brothers are older and hard of hearing.

We are told in the Middle Chamber Lecture that “it is by Rhetoric that elegance of diction is taught.” There is good reason Rhetoric appears as one of the seven liberal arts and sciences. It is a constant reminder to all of us to recite our ritual elegantly. A rapid-fire, machine-gun delivery, does no one any good. We find this problem most often in the opening and closing ritual of Lodge.

If it takes three seconds for the Senior Warden to say

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Our Path Forward Debuts at Times Square

by Daniel J. Di Natale

On Saturday, September 24 the Grand Lodge launched a very special unveiling of the visual elements of “Our Path Forward” in partnership with the Grand Lodge Membership Development Committee. Our Path Forward was introduced at our Grand Lodge Session and involves a refresh of the visual style and messaging we use, not just on our website and printed media but in visual and advertising as well.

This demonstration was made possible by the donation of ad space on the NASDAQ sign in Times Square by Ill. Zackary Ostrow, Potentate of Mecca Shire, and Noble Ryan Adams, the PR Director of Mecca Shrine, in NYC. They were working on ad time to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Mecca Shrine and



highlighting the work of Shrine Hospitals. They generously donated time to Grand Lodge to emphasize the connection between the two bodies.

This ad ran on the most-viewed corner of the world and video of it was shared on the social media. We measured over a seven-day period and it was viewed over 200,000 times, shared over 1,000 times and directly mentioned over 35,000 times. This exposure resulted in hundreds of inquiries for membership and information on the Fraternity.

The message of “Where Men Build Meaning” resonates strongly with the community, both Masonic and otherwise. More is coming, this is just a taste. We hope you liked it.

Spring Training

Hard to hit a ball when it's coming in on a slant. Two squads, 30 and over, and 32 and over.



Cary Cohn and 3 of his 8 pitchers

75 Year Apron

Bethlehem Lodge 85 was proud to present Brother Harvey Sutton with his 75-year apron and certificate on August 9, 2022. Brother Sutton was raised in 1947 and was a Captain in the Air Force and served his country in World War II. Brother Sutton turned 105 on September 11, 2022.



Pictured in the photo (Front)
Brother Harvey Sutton,
(Back) W. Keith Becker,
Brother Warren Rosenblum,
W. Ryan Cerone.
(Not Pictured, Photographer)
W. Walter Klisiwecz

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“Harmony being the support of all institutions especially this of ours” he will not get across the importance of that sentence. Always perform opening and closing ritual the same way you would a Degree.

Good ritual sets the tone for a good evening. Bad ritual leaves a bad taste in a Brother's mouth right from the start. Remember, “unimpaired” means distinctly, with feeling and elegance. It means to perform your ritual properly at all times. Always do ritual with love.



2023 FLORIDA SOJOURNERS