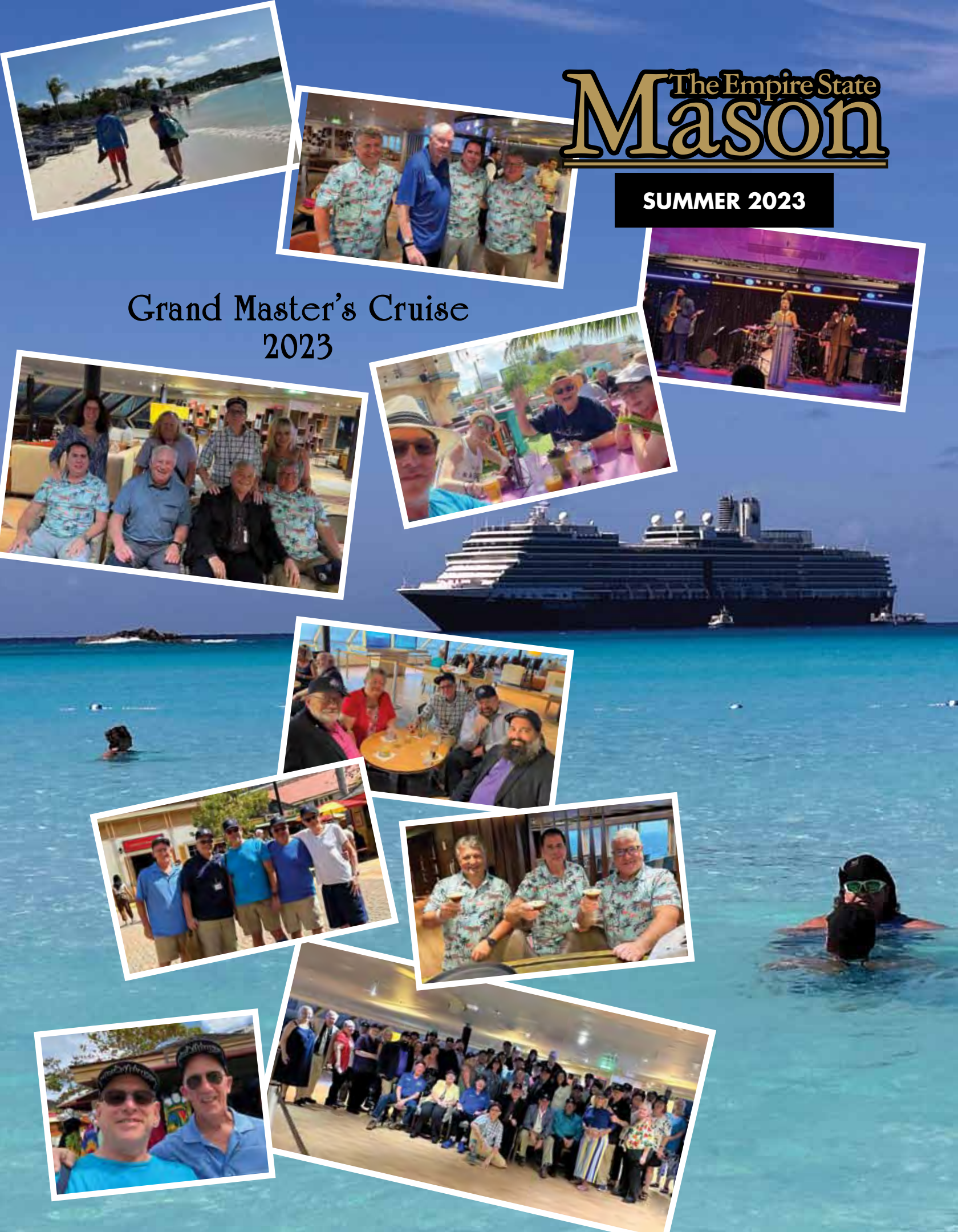


The Empire State Mason

SUMMER 2023

Grand Master's Cruise 2023



FROM THE GRAND EAST

MW RICHARD J. KESSLER

GRAND MASTER

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Freemasonry is one of the most nimble and adaptable organization in the history of mankind. For centuries our ancient Fraternity has captured the hearts and minds of quality men. These men chose to design, create, build and contribute to the world in which they lived. Through a shared focus on the core values of architecture and the building trade, Freemasons have contributed tremendously to the advancement of humanity. The number of noteworthy brethren is too great to list. They all had a common interest of trust for each other and a steadfast appreciation for each other's unique talents. This allowed them to be agents of change throughout history. By concentrating on our Principles and Tenets and stressing harmony they created a lasting legacy upon which we can continue to build.

Our Masonic heritage is balanced on a firm foundation of staying true to the past while being aspirational about the future. Our ability to adapt and thrive is driven by an unwavering focus on symbolic art and applied science. We are constantly driven by a need to strengthen our communities, families and the Craft. Our forefathers did not think small while building the foundation of our Fraternity and we must continue to be innovative in our approach toward broadening our reach in the world we live in. We must always be cognizant of our storied past, while standing on the shoulders of those who have passed this way before us, working to be the support for those who will surely follow us.

The development of our future depends on the environment we create in our Lodge rooms. While membership is always a driving force to keep any organization alive, we need to ensure that our Lodges project a positive environment of learning, stressing ritualistic and esoteric experiences, with a concentration on brotherhood. We need to be proactive in the following areas:

- **Back to Basics:** We need to concentrate on the basics of protocol, etiquette, education, Lodge management, ritual and the fundamental principles of our Fraternity. Freemasonry is complex and requires a solid level of knowledge to understand its workings and teachings. We must not assume that incoming brethren have a working knowledge of basic Masonic topics such as Masonic etiquette and protocol, Lodge management, officer duties and responsibilities—just to name a few. Education within a Lodge should be a lifelong mission of all members. It should not be considered complete just because a Brother becomes a Master Mason. The success of the individual Brother needs to be continually nurtured. The Lodge as well as our entire Craft depends on the development of effective leaders to guarantee our future. So, the real challenge is leadership! We need to work on proactive membership development to confidently keep our Lodges strong and vibrant.

- **Develop Masonic Teachers:** We need to provide our members with an environment where they can continue to grow and explore and through our teachings become better versions of themselves. The majority of members joining our Craft are sincerely interested in self-improvement and living a more fulfilling life. This trend should continue as we continue to project Freemasonry across the various forms of communication media. The challenge is to create a program where we can all work toward becoming better versions of ourselves through a safe and supportive environment where we can develop confidence, knowledge and positive encouragement. We all have the ability to teach, even if it is only on a limited level. But through such a learning environment we will develop a learning culture that will identify and develop continued leadership.
- **Invest in Lodge Officer Training and Development:** We have to continue to offer all the programs of the Leadership and Education programs to our Lodges. This has begun, but we have just touched the tip of the iceberg. We need experienced, well informed leaders who can design the plans, determine the work to be done, and inspire the brethren to follow their lead. This will result in stronger and more vibrant Lodges throughout our jurisdiction. The officers in our Lodges require Grand Lodge's help and support in building a vibrant learning culture in their Lodge. They need guidance and direction from dedicated instructors and mentors. We need to concentrate on time-honored traditions while being flexible in our teaching approach to develop Masonic leaders who embrace our historic past and develop innovative communicative methodologies.
- **Embrace Technology:** We need to continue to use all technology that is available to us. We are currently reaching out on individual, Lodge and District levels. We will strive to promote our programs and continue to listen to suggestions for improvement and act as appropriate. Technological tools and capabilities should be embraced as our modern working tools. These tools are needed to help communicate effectively with our membership and facilitate efficient Lodge operations. As we evolve into this century, we must be cognizant of the fact that our younger brethren conduct business very differently from what we are used to. For example, paper checks are not even in their vocabulary. Technology use will only increase as we move into the future. We must embrace it in our business, communication, education and training to better serve our entire jurisdiction.
- **Inspire Accountability and Ownership:** Good men seek out our Fraternity for three primary motivations and

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expectations: opportunity for fellowship, to learn about Masonic teachings and to make a difference in the world. Simply put, Brotherly Love, Truth, and Relief. At our root we are a brotherhood of men who seek to make genuine friends of a like belief. We need to love ourselves as well as our Brothers. Remember that the Lodge is the collection of its members, not the building materials. Work together, share the credit, help shoulder the burdens and rejoice in the victories, just as Freemasons have done through the centuries. We must continue to work in the quarries with our fellow workman for the betterment of our Craft, our community and ourselves.

Freemasonry is experiencing a renaissance. Men are coming to our doors in numbers not seen in the recent past. We are standing on the shoulders of those who have passed this way before us. It is time for us to pick up the baton and become leaders and not just be passengers going along for the ride. We have the tools, the drive and the message the world is looking for. Let us be the shoulders that our future brethren will proudly speak of. Our vision and mission has never been clearer.—Inspired by RW Wayne Spooner (Illinois)

Our Vision:

Successfully move our Fraternity into the 21st century and beyond and to establish a Fraternity grounded in education, spiritual development and fraternal bonding.

Our Mission:

- Establish a learning culture
- Promote our core values: Reverence for God, Love of Country, Integrity, Justice, Philanthropy and Tolerance
- Effective mentorship
- Officer sponsorship
- Enriched ritualistic environment
- Inspirational and thought-provoking programs
- Sound business practices; short- and long-term plans
- Sound leadership
- Enhanced membership involvement
- Accountability
- Transparency

The world needs Freemasonry more than ever. Let us be humanity's saving grace.

Masons Make a Difference

GM attends White Plains Awards Ceremony

One of the things I discovered after becoming WM of White Plains Lodge 473 (WPL473) was the number of service awards that had not yet been presented. I scheduled an awards night for the September stated meeting, our first of the 2022-2023 Masonic year. During this awards night the DDGM, RW John D. McAloon, informed me that the Grand Master generally likes to present service awards to the longer-serving brethren. As we had more than a few of these service awards to present, I decided to invite the Grand Master to WPL473.

After exchanging a few emails with the Grand Marshal, RW John Haslam, we identified an open date on the Grand Master's calendar. Finally, on March 1, 2023 Grand Master MW Richard J. Kessler came to WPL473 with Deputy Grand Master RW Steven A. Rubin. Other members of the Grand Line were also on hand to help present the following service awards:



Brothers

Service Years

RW Romulo Quesada
B Ronald Salvatore
WB Samuel Holden
B Pascal Storino
WB Charles Baker
WB David Richards
VW Raphael Wong
WB Stephen Petty

60
50
45
35
35
25
10
10

We capped the evening with a Festive Board. The Brothers of WPL473 introduced the Grand Lodge officers to our quail (filled with bourbon, not scotch), obligatory toasts and Masonic fire.



Afterwards the Grand Master was presented with a keepsake to commemorate his visit and a donation to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund. It was a night that Brothers of WPL473 will not soon forget.



DEPUTY GRAND MASTER



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My Brothers, we are fortunate to have so many men who take the time from their family and work to devote countless hours to our Grand Lodge Committees, our Masonic Hall and Home, our Masonic Medical Research Institute, our Robert R Livingston Library and Museum and our Boards and Foundations. They ensure that our history is preserved, our ritual refined, our financial underpinnings and the goals of our Grand Lodge are strong and sound. They rightly deserve our praise and sincere appreciation.

So do you. From pancake breakfasts to charity galas, from blood and organ drives to military outreach to transporting sick children to and from hospital, we Master Masons strive each day to fulfill our Masonic obligations, for this is who we are and this is what we do. Yet, maintaining a successful Lodge has grown ever more challenging and building ownership has added another layer of difficulty our Masonic forefathers never had to face.

For far too long Lodges and Lodge owners were required to face these hurdles on their own. Yet, even though Lodges and building owners will see new programming and funding opportunities in the coming Masonic years, in the end it is up to the Brothers of the Lodge and District to confront the ever-growing list of challenges, shake up the status quo and bring real meaning and value to our Brothers.

We never had a membership problem; it has always been a retention problem. Providing a meaningful Lodge experience to our existing members, to make them want to leave their families and work and come to Lodge—that has always been the challenge. While there is not one answer or one solution, as all Lodge cultures are different, I present one Lodge's journey from the brink to the cusp of success. That is Alcyone Lodge 695 in the Suffolk Masonic District.



Under the leadership of Worshipful Master Bradley Hubbard and a cadre of dedicated Brothers, many of whom affiliated with the Lodge in order to save it, and a District Leadership Team headed by RW Jeffrey Santorello, District Deputy, and RW Bob Licata, Staff Officer, the Lodge and

Chapter that meet at the same location have become the first Observant Lodge and Observant Chapter to meet within the same building in well over a century. While challenges remain and there are hurdles yet to overcome, as a successful Lodge like a successful garden always needs tending, the Brothers and Companions of Alcyone Lodge 695 and Suwassett Chapter 195 of Royal Arch Masons, demonstrate that failure does not have to be the answer. Their path and model may not be your Lodge's and Chapter's but it is nevertheless an example of what can be, what should be, what will be if we work together to confront the challenges that all Lodges face.

It is my honor to present their story, written by W Bro. Ron Seifreid, DSA, and published several months ago in CraftsmenOnline.com.

The Steps to Excellence **Observant Masonry Comes to Northport, Long Island**

by W Ron Seifried, DSA

Masonic Observance is by no means a new concept, but one which is gaining recognition and popularity as a means of addressing core issues of membership participation and retention in the Craft. It requires a steadfast commitment of time and effort from Brothers who look to create a more profound Masonic experience within their Lodge. Observance begins with a uniformly shared ethos among the membership, which then manifests itself in the form of certain practices which have come to be associated with the Observant Masonry movement.

There are no alterations or innovations to the ritual itself, but rather a few noteworthy enhancements to the ambiance which create a deeper, more impactful experience for members, visitors and candidates. A partial list of these practices would include a more structured and formal dress code at meetings, the judicious inclusion of periods of sound (music) and silence (meditation), the use of incense, and subdued lighting including real candles where permitted. The aim is to create a sacred, meditative space where Masons can work their mystic art beyond the distractions and trappings of the profane world. The ritual itself is performed with precision from memory without the aid of the Masonic Standard. Candidates preparing for each Degree meditate within a specially designed Chamber of Reflection to further prepare them for what follows. Periodic Festive Boards are encouraged as elegant affairs with formal toasts. All Masonic intercourse includes educational presentations with a focus on esoteric subjects. Lodges which apply for examination and are found to be regularly operating as such are granted permission to use the suffix "OM" for "Observant Masonry" after their Lodge name.

Continues on page 6 – Deputy Grand Master

Continued from page 5 – Deputy Grand Mason

On Tuesday, February 7, 2023 an unprecedented event occurred where two bodies – a Masonic Lodge and a Royal Arch Chapter – were both officially certified as Observant Masonic organizations for the first time in history. Freemasonry is no stranger to the sleepy village of Northport on the north coast of Long Island. Alcyone Lodge 695 has been meeting in the same building since the late 1870s, making it the longest continuously used Masonic building on Long Island. In the past year, Suwassett Chapter 195 of Royal Arch Masons moved into the Northport Temple, looking to join forces with the historic Lodge and create what was once thought an impossible dream. Together, these two organizations pooled all their resources and met the overwhelming challenges of fiscal restructuring, building management, and creating a new foundation for a Masonic Temple dedicated to the Observant model.

On this day, Right Worshipful Piers Vaughan visited Northport for his personal examination and certification of the Lodge as an Observant Masonic organization. The Special Communication of Alcyone was followed by a joint Lodge and Chapter Agape, which was followed by a Convocation of Suwassett Chapter 195 RAM, where the Most Excellent Jason Sheridan, Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in New York, assessed the Chapter for certification of Capitular Masonic Observance.

“It was a truly phenomenal evening with a complex array of events which would have normally occurred over the course of three evenings,” says W Bradley Hubbard, Master of Alcyone 695 and High Priest of Suwassett 195. “Our dedicated team of Brothers and Companions accomplished this with no loss of fidelity.”

The honored guests determined that both Lodge and Chapter are indeed operating as Observant Masonic organizations, marking it a milestone event in the history of American Freemasonry. Suwassett, having pioneered the concept of Masonic Observance in the Capitular setting over the past several years, is now the first officially recognized Observant

Chapter in New York. As New York is the pioneer jurisdiction for the Capitular Observance movement, one could say that by extension they have become the first in the world.

“Although many other Observant Lodges are currently in operation, there will surely be more Observant Chapters to follow,” continues W Hubbard. “In no other setting have the two come together to offer the possibility of a complete experience from the First to Seventh Degrees. Alcyone Lodge and Suwassett Chapter have modeled a seamless integration of Lodge and Chapter, closely mirroring the English model within the boundaries of our jurisdictional requirements. This has all happened under one roof for the first time in known record.”

What does this mean for the Northport Lodge?

“Well, in one sense nothing and another sense everything,” W Hubbard replies. “Nothing, insofar as we were adjudicated based on a core ethos which has manifested itself in all that we have done over the past year. We did not put on a one night show for them but put who we are on show for one night. In that regard, nothing has changed from last week to this week. At the same time this changes everything, as we are charged to not only sustain that progress but improve upon it at every opportunity and, by extension, improve upon ourselves. There is no room for resting on our laurels as the laurels themselves are illusory. We have offered ourselves to the Craft not only as an example of Masonic Observance but as a practical resource to all who may endeavor to follow this path.

“Earning this distinction has labeled us, both literally and metaphorically. While we now officially bear the designation ‘Observant Masonry,’ the title is little more than an indicator. The beacon has been lit and the true Seekers will continue to gravitate towards its brilliant glow in search of a more profound Masonic experience. It is incumbent upon us to keep it burning with intensity and remain steadfast on the course we’ve laid out.”

Uhland Celebrates 150 Years

The Brothers and Sisters of Uhland Lodge hosted a full house for the rededication of their Lodge. Uhland Lodge 735 achieved 150 years of Masonry. MW Richard J. Kessler was in fine form offering the Corn, Wine and Oil of Brotherhood.

We are honored and thankful for the Brothers who came before us, who built this Lodge. We stand together with all Masons and look forward to many more years of Masonry.



SENIOR GRAND WARDEN



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Greetings, as always, from the Grand West, my Brothers. This month I am going to give you a single Ancient Landmark:

“It is a Landmark of the Order that no visitor, unknown to the brethren present, or to some one of them as a Mason, can enter a Lodge without first passing an examination according to ancient usage. Of course, if the visitor is known to any brother present to be a Mason in good standing, and if that brother will vouch for his qualifications, the examination may be dispensed with, as the Landmark refers only to the cases of strangers, who are not to be recognized unless after strict trial, due examination, or lawful information.”

“My Brothers.” “My Brother.” We all have heard those salutations since the first evening we entered this beloved Craft of ours—every single one of us. Each of us also took obligations to practice the tenets of Freemasons: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. As “Brothers” we are bound together by our obligations and by the notion of being honest men and having strong moral principles that unite us with a lifelong commitment to practice our philosophy and principles. Those obligations are meant to be a way of life for us, not just empty words.

A very old and seldom-used definition of virtue is “putting the common good before one’s own interest.” The Brothers who built our nation, men like George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Dr. Joseph Warren, they had virtue. Back then it was the lynchpin of public life. We need to make it that way again. We must be men of virtue.

Trust in God and have faith that He has a Master Plan for us to make this world a better place. Remember your obligations and live by them. Be honest. Be humble. We must be leaders in our communities, leading by example, showing what makes the man who has knelt at our altars stand out from the rest. Masonry, my Brothers, is the last best hope for a decent, benevolent society.

There is a reason Masonry has lasted for hundreds of years. This Fraternity is built on a very strong foundation. Much of that can be found in the Ancient Landmarks, the Old Charges and our Constitutions. My Brothers, we have a glorious past. It is a past that should be examined, understood and respected. We do not have to look too far in the past to realize that many of the problems we face today are problems that were faced by this Grand Jurisdiction decades ago, and in some cases more than a century ago. We do not need to reinvent the wheel. They dealt with the problems back then and survived. Maybe we can learn from our past. Right now, our job is to make sure we secure what we have and continue a commitment to excellence that will be a standard for generations to come.

Remember, my Brothers, the secret of Masonry cannot be explained or told to someone. It can only be felt and understood by those who seek it and live its principles. Much like the beauty of a morning sunrise, Masonry can only be experienced. It is a life to be lived, dedicated to service, charity and meeting on the level and in harmony with our Brothers.

I love you, Dad.



Chautauqua Fetes Two



District Deputy Grand Master Richard Newton and Brothers from Forest Lodge 166 and Silver Lodge 757 presented aprons, pins and certificates to a couple of very special members. Brother Donald “Duke” Ellington from Forest Lodge was congratulated on sixty years of service. W Marvin Smith from Silver Lodge was recognized for his seventy-five years of dedication to the Craft. Both of these Brothers are appreciated not only for their longevity but also for their tremendous contributions to Masonry and community.

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN



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My Brothers, what a great start to the new year! Sixty-two Brothers, their Ladies and friends went on the Grand Master's Cruise to the Caribbean. We had an excellent time with our Masonic family on board. Every evening we would get together on the ninth deck and enjoy each other's company.

After the cruise I was fortunate to travel with the Grand Master to New York City for a couple of weeks and we visited many Lodges and Brothers in the Metropolitan area, with a detour to Binghamton, NY for the Grand Chapter Session. Congratulations go to ME Larry Barnard, the new Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of New York, Royal Arch Masons.

I received this article from RW James Kintzel, Past Grand Marshal, and I would like to share it with you.

Every Brother has had his Just Due

This article came from one of our Canadian Brothers. In the ritual we use in NY part of the Sr. Warden's response to the W Master is, "To pay the Craft their wages if any be due." The verbiage in the Canadian ritual is slightly different but the meaning is the same.

At the opening and closing of every Lodge meeting the Senior Warden says, "having seen that every brother has had his just due." What does that mean? Consider the Senior Warden as the foreman of a large construction site. He must oversee the project and ensure that nothing disturbs the smooth progress of the work. If a dispute were to arise between the masons his job was to mediate and try to settle it on the spot, maintaining absolute fairness. Thus, ensuring that every brother had his just due.

This is based on our earliest operative document, the Regius Poem of 1390. "A true mediator thou might be to thy master and thy fellows free. Do truly all that thou might to both parties and is good right."

The Mason delegated to the Senior Warden was charged to take responsibility fairly and equitably for civil obedience. If the dispute proved too complex to remedy immediately a Love Day was called to settle the dispute amicably. This was typically done on a holy day so as not to interrupt the flow of work. This same theme is evidenced in many of the old

Constitutions.

Variations in our modern rituals include --to pay the men their wages and to see that every brother has had his just due. --- This suggests that the dues referred to are also their wages. Harry Carr however believes that after a careful examination of the texts dealing with the Warden's duties that wages had nothing to do with this particular phrase. If the ancient duties of the Senior Warden were to mediate disputes and ensure the smooth, uninterrupted work, then today he must--- ensure our brothers their due --- in education and guidance.

The Sr. Warden is charged to ensure that he will close the Lodge only after ensuring each member has gotten something of value from the meeting. What does every Brother expect to receive as ---his just due-- -? The only answer is that he must receive a good Masonic education program in a carefully planned, interesting meeting. The Senior Warden's promise at the opening and closing of Lodge implies that every meeting should be a learning experience that provides personal growth in Masonic knowledge. If it is not, then we have work to do. For a brother to advance in Masonry, whether it is to the next degree or to the Chair of King Solomon, he must have training; not only in the working of the Lodge and its ritual, but education which will enable him to better understand Freemasonry.

- What is it that makes a real Mason?
- What is it to play a part in promoting the welfare of the Craft?
- What is it to put his best into Masonry and get his best out of it?

Junior brethren seek knowledge early in their Masonic life. Many are uncertain where and how to find it. Thus 45% of them leave our Craft! It is the duty of the Lodge to ensure that every brother has had his just due. The Senior Warden must promote good order and regularity and, by virtue of good example, promote better conduct in others.
- by W Bro. Angus Gillis FCF, S.W. St Andrew's Lodge 560, Ottawa.

I hope you found this article as interesting and informative, as I have. Until the next time, may the Great Architect of the Universe keep you safe and healthy.

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



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GRAND TREASURER

Thoughts on Increasing Lodge Attendance

My Brothers, I am sorry to miss all of you at this year's St. John's weekend. A family commitment prevents me from attending.

In each of my messages in the *ESM* I try to write articles that are inspirational or educational for the Brothers. In 1996 I was elected as Worshipful Master of my Lodge for the first time (note, I wrote first time). MW Gary Henningsen presented me with a *Short Talk Bulletin* that was written in 1987 by PM Jordan S. Levitan of Norfolk Lodge No. 1 entitled "Are You a Master Who Dares to be Different?"

We must first stop blaming poor attendance on the failure of the Craft. Family ties now take precedence over fraternal ties. Some now work longer hours and the pressure of doing business at night is a contributing factor. The majority, however, do not attend simply because they choose not to. How many times can they sit and attend boring business meetings. To merely suggest programs that others find helpful is only part of the answer. What works for one Lodge may not necessarily work for another.

As I wrote in the last issue of the *ESM*, the new candidate's Masonic life begins with the Lodge Investigating Committee. Few candidates arrive totally prepared for the ordeal of Initiation. Even fewer receive a kindly briefing in the preparation room. Clearly, we have no reason to congratulate ourselves when a candidate rapidly memorizes the catechisms

and by three months receives his dues card. Few Masters, however, receive training in how to conduct Lodge meetings. Lodge management and good programming are rarely talked about in detail. Lodge officers are left to educate themselves on these matters. Many never do. Others start too late.

Setting the Craft to work implies more than Initiating, Passing and Raising candidates. The Master should encourage each member to take part in the activity suited to his character or abilities and to make sure there is an activity in which he can participate. Members involved in something they like to do value their membership and return frequently. We cannot expect brethren to return to Lodge week after week, month after month, if they are not given any responsibility. With nothing to do, sooner or later they get tired of sitting and stop attending altogether.

The Master who combines programs of Masonic interest with fellowship and continues a line of communication with his Lodge will sustain interest and induce attendance. Good attendance is the natural result of good preparation, planning and execution. A good Master must be prepared to execute a year by planning intelligently, communicating effectively and conducting meetings with dignity. Word spreads about the enjoyment of returning to Lodge. Increased attendance feeds on itself because the Master dared to be different.

QMA Charity Basketball Tournament

Team Francis Lewis 273 won first place in the QMA One-Day Charity Basketball Tournament. The competition was held on March 26, 2023 at PS 206 Horace Harding school. The tournament was organized by the Brothers from the Queens District.

Participating were six mixed Masons and non-Mason teams. Among those who have joined the tournament is the DeMolay team, which consists of senior and active members from the Knickerbocker Chapter. There were two team groups of Mason, one from Jose Rizal Lodge 1172 (LetsGo) and the Brothers representing the 4th Manhattan District (Bisdak).

The event was successful. Every team that joined is a winner for giving their time, talent and support for the charity by playing the sport they love.



GRAND SECRETARY

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Brethren, our Grand Lodge Annual Communication in May went very well. There was an atmosphere of Unity and Brotherhood that seemed to permeate every event. Please see the BE IT KNOWN letter in this issue for a summary of the details of the 241st Annual Communication.

The friendship and brotherhood among our members at the Annual Communication were in large measure due to the brotherly tone of our Grand Master, not only at the Communication but throughout his term. It also ran smoothly because the Grand Lodge Convention Committee, under Chairman RW Donald Mattson, performed superbly throughout the Communication. They organized the dinners, luncheons, and hotel reservations, and shuttled the members and guests to Masonic Hall and the various venues. We owe the members of the Committee a debt of gratitude for their ongoing efforts, which began more than six months prior to the Communication.

These past few months have been filled with many Masonic events all around the state. Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in New York, held in Binghamton, NY in March, was one such event. Most Excellent Jason Sheridan, the Grand High Priest in 2022-2023, finished an excellent term at this Grand Chapter session. He passed the torch to Most Excellent Larry Barnard as Grand High Priest for the coming year.

Outside the Chapter meeting, it was the privilege of the Grand Line, led by our Grand Master, to present a Grand Master's Award of Appreciation to a 97-year-old Mason, Brother Albert Rood. Brother Rood lives in Binghamton and is a Marine veteran of the assault on Iwo Jima in World War II. Pictured below (left to right) are: RW Peter Stein; RW Lawrence Kania; MW Richard J. Kessler, GM; Bro. Albert Rood; RW Donald Williams; myself; and W Ray Roche of the Masonic War Veterans. The presentation was made in Brother Rood's home with his daughter and grandchildren present. It was wonderful to see the smiles of his family members that day.



The Metropolitan Dedication Service and Breakfast was held at Marina del Rey in the Bronx NY, in March. This was another event that was organized and run by the Grand Lodge Convention Committee. It was through their hard work and effort that approximately 600 Masons and their families gathered and celebrated Masonry in New York State.

There have been numerous Dedicated Service Award (DSA) presentations all over the state. I recently attended a DSA presentation in my own Lodge, Queensboro 892 in the Queens District, where I assisted in presenting the DSA Award to a longtime friend, W Fernando Suarez. W Fernando, like other DSA recipients, was a very worthy recipient of this recognition by his work and participation in the Lodge and District for many years. The presentation also allowed me to attend my mother Lodge and see my closest friends and Brothers at work. In the photo below (left to right): myself; W Andy Bonomo, DSA; W Fernando Suarez, DSA; W Albert Dittmer, DSA; Queens Staff Officer, RW Danny Gaglio; and, RW Stewart C. McCloud. It was a night of good fellowship, friendship and brotherhood.



In closing, I myself give thanks for the friendship and fellowship we share as Masons. God loves us all and I am reminded of it all the time when I practice Masonry with my Brothers.

Be It Known

May 22, 2023

TO: THE OFFICERS OF THE GRAND LINE, ALL PERMANENT MEMBERS, DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS, GRAND SWORD BEARERS, GRAND DIRECTORS OF CEREMONIES, GRAND STEWARDS, GRAND CHAPLAINS, ALL EMERITUS GRAND LODGE OFFICERS, TRUSTEES OF THE MASONIC HALL & ASYLUM FUND, DIRECTORS OF THE MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, TRUSTEES OF THE CHANCELLOR ROBERT R LIVINGSTON MASONIC LIBRARY OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW YORK, ELECTED GRAND POST OFFICERS OF THE MASONIC WAR VETERANS, COMMISSIONERS OF THE COMMISSION OF APPEAL, GRAND LODGE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, ALL OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF SYRIA – LEBANON, GRAND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GRAND LODGES, ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS, AND TO ALL WORSHIPFUL MASTERS, SENIOR & JUNIOR WARDENS, TREASURERS AND SECRETARIES OF EACH LODGE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THIS GRAND LODGE:

BE IT KNOWN, that at the Two Hundred and Forty-first Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, held at the Masonic Hall in New York City, located at 71 West 23rd Street/46 West 24th Street, New York, NY 10010-4149, commencing on the first Monday of May, 2023, A.L. 6023, the following Brethren were elected, and proclaimed Grand Lodge Officers for the ensuing year:

MW Richard J. Kessler	Grand Master
RW Steven Adam Rubin	Deputy Grand Master
RW Robert L. Hogan	Senior Grand Warden
RW Peter C. Stein	Junior Grand Warden
RW Joseph J. Saglimbene	Grand Treasurer
RW Richard T. Schulz	Grand Secretary

ALL OF THE ELECTED OFFICERS named above, with the exception of the Grand Treasurer due to health and medical reasons, were duly installed on Tuesday, May 2nd at the Two Hundred and Forty-first Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, held at the Masonic Hall in New York City, upon the historic Theodore Roosevelt Bible belonging to Matinecock Lodge 806 and the historic George Washington Inaugural Bible belonging to St. John's Lodge One.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE COMMISSION OF APPEAL elected or reelected were: RW Marino Cesarini, (2026), for three years in place of RW Marino Cesarini, Chief Commissioner, term expired; RW Alexander M. Dudelson, (2025), for two years completing the term of RW Gilbert C. Ferrer, deceased; RW Jeffrey W. Halbreich, Past Chief & Emeritus, (2026), for three years in place of RW Jeffrey W. Halbreich, term expired; RW Michael E. Storck, (2026), for three years in place of RW Michael E. Storck, term expired. Continuing in unexpired terms are: RW Edward T. Bartels, (2024); and RW Hon. Louis R. Rosenthal, Past Chief, (2024).

TRUSTEES OF THE MASONIC HALL AND ASYLUM FUND elected or reelected were: RW Steven M. Cohen, (2026), for three years in place of RW Steven M. Cohen, term expired; RW George Filippidis, (2026), for three years in place of RW George Filippidis, term expired; RW Nathan

D. Lipper, (2026), for three years in place of RW Nathan D. Lipper, term expired. Continuing in unexpired terms are: RW Keith W. Heinrich, (2025); RW Christopher J. Hough, (2024); RW Alonza F. Lloyd, Sr., (2025); RW G. Michael Morris, (2025); RW Michael J. Siegel (2024); and RW David P. Spencer, (2024).

DIRECTORS OF THE MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE elected or reelected were: RW Paul A. Guerrero, (2026), for three years in place of RW Paul A. Guerrero, term expired; RW Robert A. Hewson, (2026), for three years in place of RW Robert A. Hewson, term expired; RW Paul G. Huck, (2026), for three years in place of RW Paul G. Huck, term expired; RW Sheldon B. Richman, (2026), for three years in place of RW Sheldon B. Richman, term expired; RW Frank R. Williams, (2026), for three years in place of RW Frank R. Williams, term expired. Continuing in unexpired terms are: RW Vincent Cunzio, (2025); RW Peter R. Gray, (2025); RW Pasquale Imbimbo, Jr., (2025); RW Alvaro F. Quiroga, (2025); RW James D. Swan, Jr., (2025); MW David D. Goodwin (Hon. PGM – Romania), (2024); RW Richard J. Miller, Jr., (2024); RW Paul E. Mossberg, (2024); RW Virgilio S. Quijano, (2024); and RW David F. Schneeweiss, (2024).

TRUSTEES OF THE CHANCELLOR ROBERT R LIVINGSTON MASONIC LIBRARY OF GRAND LODGE elected or reelected were: RW Philip S. Arony, (2026), for three years in place of RW Erik M. Strohl, term expired; RW Martin V. Benedict, Sr., (2026) for three years in place of Martin V. Benedict, Sr., term expired; RW Demetrios (Jim) G. Melis, (2026) for three years in place of RW Demetrios (Jim) G. Melis, term expired; RW Carl J. Klossner, (2026), for three years in place of RW Carl J. Klossner, term expired; RW Frank C. Rice II, (2026), for three years in place of RW Frank C. Rice II, term expired; and RW Pierre F. de Ravel d'Esclapon elected Library Trustee *Emeritus*. Continuing in unexpired terms are: RW Aram Adishian, (2024); RW Edward T. Bartels, (2025); RW Walter E. Cook IV, (2025); RW Rodney K. Couto, (2024); RW S. Marlon Gayadeen, (2024); RW Stephen S. King, (2025); RW C.F. William Maurer III, (2024); RW David A. Pearlmuter, (2024); RW David F. Velkas, (2025); and RW Lawrence Brill Wolff, (2025).

DIRECTORS OF THE MASONIC WAR VETERANS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, INC. elected or reelected were: W Harrison Greene, for one year in place of W Harrison Greene, term expired; RW Donald T. Kuhner, Jr., for one year in place of RW Donald T. Kuhner, Jr., term expired; RW Frederick J. Newton, for one year in place of RW Frederick J. Newton, term expired; and W Raymond Roche, for one year in place of W Raymond Roche, term expired; and W Vincent Scandole, for one year in place of RW Stephen S. Dreizler, term expired.

GRAND LINE OFFICERS appointed or reappointed were: RW John Haslam, Sr., Grand Marshal; RW Peter G. Unfried, Deputy Grand Marshal; RW Lawrence M. Kania, Senior Grand Deacon; RW Alberto G. Cortizo, Junior Grand Deacon; RW Donald G. Williams II, Grand Standard Bearer; *Continues on page 12 – Be It Known*

Continued from page 11 – Be It Known

RW Gustavo A. Teran, Deputy Grand Standard Bearer; RW Gary L. Heinmiller, Grand Historian; RW Richard C. Friedman, Grand Lecturer; RW Michael G. Postiglione, Judge Advocate; RW Mark J. Loughran, Proctor; RW Richard W. Bateman, Assistant Grand Secretary and Grand Pursuivant; RW Christopher A. Kessler, Grand Tiler; our seven Grand Organists: RW Donald C. Hamman; RW Eric S. Howd; RW Jordan I. Kaplan; RW Frank L. Miller; RW Stephen A. Rumpf; RW Charles J. Semowich, PhD; and RW Francis K. Wilcox.

GRAND CHAPLAINS PARTICIPATING DURING THE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION and Dinners were: RW Stenrick B. Adams, RW Thomas J. Carbone, RW Timothy TenClay, RW Wainright G. McKenzie, Sr., and RW James J. Van De Wal.

DISTRICT GRAND LINE OFFICERS FOR THE DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF SYRIA - LEBANON appointed or reappointed were: RW Fouad Khalife, District Grand Master; and RW Michel Timonian, District Grand Secretary.

AWARD PRESENTATIONS:

THE GRAND MASTER'S AWARD OF APPRECIATION was presented to the following deserving brothers: Brother Ryan M. Adams, RW Daniel J. Campis, RW Gerald T. Coleman, RW John T. Hansen, RW Carl J. Klossner, W Zachary N. Ostrow, and RW Stuart H. Singer.

THE KHALED E. TABET MEDAL was presented to the following deserving brothers: RW Steven M. Cohen, RW Keith W. Heinrich, and RW Donald P. Mattson for their constancy and ardor for the Grand Lodge.

THE GEORGE PETER MEDAL was presented to RW Brian D. Singer for his valued input and dedication to the Masonic Benevolence Committee and the Masonic Youth Committee.

THE WENDELL K. WALKER MEDAL was presented to RW John Haslam, Sr., RW David R. Barkstedt, RW Hon. Louis R. Rosenthal, RW Angel Ruiz, and RW Bruce Testut for their many years of perseverance and devotion for the Craft and the Grand Lodge.

THE ROBERT R LIVINGSTON MEDAL was presented to W Ethan Gerard, RW Christopher A. Kessler, RW Martin Lincoln Richards, RW Donald G. Williams II, and RW Joseph A. Zimmerman in recognition of their tenured and steadfast professional ethics and fidelity to the Craft.

THE CHARLES HENRY JOHNSON MEDAL was presented to RW Richard T. Schulz for his fidelity and unwavering commitment to the principal tenets of the Craft and the Grand Lodge.

THE GRAND LODGE MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT was presented to the Most Worshipful Paul M. Leary, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire. The Grand Lodge Medal for Distinguished Achievement was presented by the Grand Master during the daytime Tiled Session of the Annual Communication on Monday, May 1, 2023.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION was accorded to RW Dennis A. Daugherty, Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Kansas near the Grand Lodge of New York, by our Grand

Master for his steadfast devotion to the Masonic Fraternity. Currently, RW Dennis Daugherty is a resident at Wiley Hall on the Campus of the Masonic Care Community in Utica, New York. He is a spry 83 years young and a plural member in good standing of Publicity Lodge 1000, Kane Lodge 454, and St. John's Lodge 1 with sixty-two years in the Craft. He traveled alone by train from the Masonic Home in Utica to attend the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in New York City. Upon being recognized, RW Brother Daugherty praised and thanked the Trustees of the Masonic Hall & Home and the Grand Lodge for making it possible for him and fellow aged Brothers to have a beautiful and safe place to call Home. He further shared with the Grand Master that many years ago as a young boy in his teens, residing with his parents in Kansas, he had the distinct pleasure of meeting Dad Frank S. Land, the founder of the Order of DeMolay. At that time RW Dennis Daugherty was the Master Councilor of his DeMolay Chapter.

I. THE GRAND LODGE COMMITTEE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT had the opportunity to examine and review the Books, Accounts, and Records of Baakline Lodge N 6 U.D. and Cilicia Lodge U.D., both Lodges under dispensation within the District Grand Lodge of Syria-Lebanon; and found everything to be in due order and proper form in compliance with our **Constitutions**. As such the Committee in concert with the Grand Secretary, Judge Advocate, and Chairman of the Charters Committee recommended to the Grand Lodge of New York, with the consent of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, that a Charter be Granted and subsequently Issued to Baakline Lodge N 6 1914, F. & A.M., and to Cilicia Lodge 1915, F. & A.M.

THE ABOVE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS WERE APPROVED BY THE VOTE OF GRAND LODGE.

II. THE GRAND LODGE COMMITTEE ON CHARTERS recommended the acceptance of the following addendum to the Committee's Report as published in the Annual Report Booklet and distributed at the Annual Communication via the Grand Secretary's Portal:

- a) Seneca River Lodge 160 and Liverpool Syracuse Lodge 501, both of the Onondaga Masonic District were consolidated effective on January 11, 2023 to be known as Liverpool Syracuse Lodge 501 in the Onondaga Masonic District.
- b) Mount Arab Lodge 847 and Mount Sabattis Lodge 1015, both of the Franklin-Hamilton Masonic District were consolidated effective on January 11, 2023 to be known as Raquette River Lodge 847 in the Franklin-Hamilton Masonic District.
- c) Brotherhood Lodge 1044 and Harry S Truman Lodge 1066, both of the Metropolitan Masonic District were consolidated effective on May 1, 2023 to be known as Harry S Truman Lodge 1066 in the Metropolitan Masonic District.

THE ABOVE ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE REPORT POSTED TO THE PORTAL WERE APPROVED BY THE VOTE OF GRAND LODGE.

III. THE GRAND LODGE COMMITTEE ON THE CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK recommended the acceptance of their multiple-page report containing various and necessary adjustments and instructions for the Standard

Work, Lectures, and the Masonic Ritual, as well as parameters for the Grand Lecturer's Conventions.

THE ABOVE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS WERE TABLED BY THE VOTE OF GRAND LODGE WITH THE PROVISIO THAT THE SAID MULTI-PAGE REPORT BE PRESENTED IN DELINEATED SECTIONS TO BE VOTED UPON SEPARATELY AT A SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

IV. NEW PROPOSAL & REPORT:

a) **THE GRAND LODGE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE** recommended the passage of the following proposed 12-month Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024 Budget of the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of the State of New York (June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024):

OPERATING REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT:

Fees & Dues	\$1,068,603
Lodge Services (Net)	110,000
TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT:	\$1,178,603

OPERATING EXPENSES:

Annual Communication	\$224,000
Print & Distribution of Proceedings	40,000
Transition to New Grand Master	18,500
Salaries and Related Costs	979,382
Grand Lodge Office Expense	535,100
Grand Lodge Officers' Travel	171,400
Grand Lecturer's Costs	40,000
Committee Expenses	140,800
Insurance	116,000
Other Masonic Endeavors	112,500
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:	\$2,377,682

CHANGE-NET ASSET BEFORE NON-OPERATING REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT:

(1,199,079)

NON-OPERATING REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT:

Investment Income	\$320,000
Grand Lodge Fund	3,000
Other Income (Net)	899,784
Transfer to Reserve Fund	(23,000)
TOTAL NON-OPERATING REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT:	\$1,199,784

Change in Net Assets \$705

GRAND TOTAL SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) \$705

THE ABOVE PROPOSED BUDGET WAS APPROVED BY THE VOTE OF GRAND LODGE.

V. NEW PROPOSALS AND AMENDMENTS FOR A FIRST READING TO THE CONSTITUTIONS:

THE GRAND LODGE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONS reported that there were no deferred proposals from the previous year. However, the Constitutions Committee did receive seven (7) new proposals as follows:

- 1) A Proposition to Amend Section 315 of the **Constitutions** pertaining to the Masonic Jewels and Aprons of the Officers of the Lodge was proposed by RW Samuel Lloyd Kinsey, Chairman of the Custodians of the Work. Section 315 currently reads as follows: *"The Jewels of the Officers of the Lodge shall be of silver or white metal; the color of their Aprons shall be white, or white and blue, and with or without silver ornamentations, except as otherwise especially ordered or allowed by the Grand Lodge."*

The Amendment proposed would allow for colored ornamentations and depictions of Masonic Symbols, their representation relating to the history of the Lodge, etc.

THE ABOVE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE TO BE CONSIDERED AT A SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL COMMUNICATION BY THE VOTE OF GRAND LODGE.

- 2) A Proposition to Amend Section 362 of the **Constitutions** was proposed by RW Richard C. Friedman, Grand Lecturer, which currently reads *"Consolidated with Section 361."*

The Amendment proposed is to delete the current statement and replace it with the statement *"The Master may appoint whomever he chooses to do the parts in the Masonic Ritual as long as the appointed Brother is participating at his status or below."*

The Constitutions Committee is of the opinion that neither Section 361 nor Section 362 speak to the concerns of the proposer. Rather, the Constitutions Committee finds that Section 361 of the Masonic Law addresses the regulation of the number of candidates and time intervals for the conferral of the various Degrees.

The Constitutions Committee also finds that under Section 641, of the Masonic Law (Page 166) and Section 980 of the Masonic Law (Page 244), *"the regulation of labor is the Master's prerogative. He may authorize any qualified brother in his presence, to open the Lodge or preside therein or to fill the place of any officer temporarily absent, even though a visitor. It is his prerogative to delegate to any person whom he desires the performance of any particular part of the work and on the other hand he may refuse to permit any individual to take part in the work."*

Therefore, the Constitutions Committee concludes that since neither Section 361 or 362 of the **Constitutions** relates to the premise of the amendment proposed, whereas Sections 641 and 980 of the Masonic Law do address the proposed issue, the Constitutions Committee recommends that Sections 361 and 362 of the **Constitutions** remain unaltered and intact.

After much discussion at Grand Lodge, the proposal was modified to amend Section 641 and 980 permitting the Worshipful Master of the Lodge in the regulation of labor for the conferral of the Degree of Entered Apprentice and/or the Degree of Fellow Craft, whereby the Master may delegate any part or parts of the First Degree to be conferred by a duly initiated Entered Apprentice, or duly passed Fellow Craft, or duly raised Master Mason. Further, the Master may delegate any part or parts of the Second Degree to be conferred by a duly passed Fellow Craft, or Master Mason.

THE ABOVE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WAS APPROVED ON THE FIRST READING BY THE VOTE OF GRAND LODGE.

- 3) A Proposition to Amend Chapter 11-B; Section 276 of the **Constitutions** was proposed by RW Stephen S. Dreizler, Commander General of the Grand Post of the Masonic War Veterans to add **"Space Force"** to the list of eligible entities from which to draw membership. Currently, *Continues on page 14 – Be It Known*

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this Section of the **Constitutions** reads in part “...to consist exclusively of persons who are (a) members in good standing in constituent Lodges of this Grand Lodge, or of some other Grand Jurisdiction with which this Grand Lodge is in Masonic affiliation and (b) were regularly enlisted, drafted, inducted or commissioned and who, at any time in the past were, or hereafter shall be, accepted into and serve in the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Air Force, Merchant Marine, or any other federal armed force that, by federal law or regulation or by the laws of the State of New York may be accorded Veteran Status...”

- 4) A Proposition to Amend Chapter 1; Section 112 of the **Constitutions** was proposed by RW Stephen S. Dreizler, Commander General of the Grand Post of the Masonic War Veterans to add the Directors of the Grand Post of the Masonic War Veterans to be designated as Right Worshipful. Currently, this Section of the **Constitutions** reads in part “...the Commissioners of Appeal, the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund, the members of the Masonic Medical Research Institute (Laboratory), the Trustees of the Chancellor Robert R Livingston (Masonic) Library of Grand Lodge, the Judge Advocate and Proctor, the Grand Pursuivant, the Grand Tiler and the Grand Organist shall be “Right Worshipful.”
- 5) A Proposition to Amend Chapter 1; Section 119 of the **Constitutions** was proposed by RW Stephen S. Dreizler, Commander General of the Grand Post of the Masonic War Veterans to add the Accounts of the Directors of the Grand Post of the Masonic War Veterans to the list of entities that are to be audited by the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance with a report to be presented at each subsequent Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. Currently, this Section of the **Constitutions** reads in part “The accounts of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund, Masonic Medical Research Institute (Laboratory), Chancellor Robert R Livingston (Masonic) Library, Masonic Brotherhood Foundation, and the Tappan Washington Memorial Corporation shall be examined by the Committee on Finance appointed pursuant to the Rules of Order, who shall make report to the Grand Master and to the Grand Lodge at each Annual Communication...”
- 6) A Proposition to Amend Chapter 1; Section 131 of the **Constitutions** was proposed by RW Stephen S. Dreizler, Commander General of the Grand Post of the Masonic War Veterans to add the Directors of the Grand Post of the Masonic War Veterans to the list of Past and Present Grand Lodge Officers that are entitled to receive reimbursement of actual expenses for attending any Communication of Grand Lodge not to exceed the limits imposed under Section 130 of the **Constitutions**.

The Committee on Constitutions is of the opinion that the above proposals (3 – 6) made on behalf of the Grand Post of the Masonic War Veterans are a policy matter that should be referred to the Jurisprudence Committee for further direction and analysis.

THE ABOVE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS (3 – 6) WERE REFERRED TO THE JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE BY THE VOTE OF GRAND LODGE.

- 7) A Proposition to perform administrative housekeeping

was proposed by MW Jeffrey M. Williamson, Past Grand Master, to correct several typographical errors found within the context of Section 497 (D) of the Masonic Law, Section 15 (N) of the Masonic Law, and Sections 247, 249, 251 and 262 of the Masonic Law.

The Constitutions Committee expressed gratitude to the proposer for bringing these discrepancies to the Committee's attention. Since each of these statutes was previously voted upon, passed and approved by the Grand Lodge, the corrections do not require an additional vote of Grand Lodge. As such, the Committee directs that the appropriate updates and corrections be implemented with the next publishing of the **Constitutions** and Book of Masonic Law.

VI. THE GRAND MASTER entertained a motion, which was seconded and affirmed by the vote of Grand Lodge, to accept the following Annual Reports submitted and printed in the two Annual Report Booklets distributed at the 241st Annual Communication of Grand Lodge via the Grand Secretary's Portal and not verbally presented during this Annual Communication due in part to time constraints: Reports of the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Historian, and the Committees on Awards, Camp Turk, Communication, George Washington Masonic Historic Site at Tappan, George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Grand Lodge Convention, Grand Lodge Education Assistance Program, Guarding the West Gate, Masonic Benevolence, Masonic Fraternity on Campus, Masonic Youth, NorthStar Program, Observant Masonry, Ritual Renaissance, Surviving Spouses & Loved Ones, Technology, VA Hospital Military Outreach and the report of the Grand Post of Masonic War Veterans.

THE ABOVE REPORTS WERE APPROVED BY THE VOTE OF GRAND LODGE. {PDF AND PRINTED COPIES OF THESE REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST AS SUPPLIES LAST. A LIMITED NUMBER OF PRINTED COPIES WERE DISTRIBUTED TO ATTENDEES AT THE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION AND PDF COPIES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE GRAND SECRETARY'S PORTAL} THE GRAND SECRETARY ANNOUNCED that the Annual Reports of Grand Lodge can be accessed through the Grand Secretary's Page on the Grand Lodge's Website at <https://nymasons.org/site/grand-secretarys-page/> by clicking on the button for “Annual Reports” and using the Password **GLProc2021**.

VII. THE GRAND MASTER further called upon the following Officers, Committees and Entities of Grand Lodge to present oral reports: Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home, Trustees of the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library, Directors of the Masonic Medical Research Institute, Grand Secretary, Grand Lecturer, Judge Advocate, Proctor, Charters Committee, Constitutions Committee, Correspondence & Relations Committee, Custodians of the Work, Finance Committee, Law Enforcement Committee, Masonic Brotherhood Fund, and the Necrology Committee.

THE ABOVE REPORTS GIVEN ORALLY WERE APPROVED BY THE VOTE OF GRAND LODGE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK, WHICH WAS TABLED BY GRAND LODGE TO AWAIT DELINEATION.

VIII. AFTER THE PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE & RELATIONS, THE GRAND MASTER further called upon the Grand Secretary, RW

Richard T. Schulz, to read a ***Special Letter of Reconciliation*** pertaining to our Grand Lodge's relationship with the Grand Lodge of Scotland. A copy of the said letter had been previously distributed throughout this jurisdiction and had been sent to all Grand Lodges to which our Grand Lodge is in amity. In summation, the ***Special Letter of Reconciliation*** declared the order suspending Fraternal Relations with the Grand Lodge of Scotland rescinded effective immediately and reaffirmed our mutual recognition between our two Jurisdictions of our Masonic Laws, Customs and Brotherly Love and Affection. A copy of the said letter can be found on the Grand Secretary's portal.

THE ABOVE SPECIAL LETTER OF RECONCILIATION WAS APPROVED BY THE VOTE OF GRAND LODGE.

IX. THE COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE, through its new Chairman, MW William M. Sardone, reported that the said Standing Committee oversees the actions of the Grand Lodge and the actions and decisions of the Grand Master to ensure their compliance with the ***Constitutions*** and Masonic Law. This committee consists of our Past Grand Masters and has met several times during the 2022-2023 term.

As such we have reviewed the budget and agree with the projections that have been established which are in due bounds with our financial needs.

We agree with the Grand Master's request for assistance and aid for the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, the Grand Lodge of Turkey and the Grand Lodge of Ukraine in their times of great need.

We applaud the Grand Master for continuing the implementation of the NorthStar Membership Program, which was initially launched during MW Jeffrey M. Williamson's Grand Mastership. A deployment such as this literally takes several years to be effective, and we now see that this bold initiative has put a serious dent in the decline of our numbers and has helped significantly to stem the loss of members.

The NorthStar Membership Program has been so successful that other jurisdictions have asked for us to share it with them, and they have adopted it. This program has been established to augment our grassroots mechanism of acquiring quality members.

For those of you who are saying you have not seen any leads, you need to work with your NorthStar Chairmen. As I give this report there are over 1,000 leads sitting in the system, waiting for you to contact them. They will not wait forever. The ball is in your court.

We agree with the Grand Master in recognizing the need to fortify our leadership teams with the introduction of the Maxwell Leadership Training Course.

The Grand Lodge of New York continues to be a global focal point for Masonry. As such, we applaud the Grand Master for increasing our International Network.

The Grand Master was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the 2024 North American Conference of Grand Masters. This is a great honor for the Grand Lodge of New York, and more work for the Grand Master.

In conclusion, MW William Sardone stated that he may be an old face to you, but a new face in the role of Chairman of Jurisprudence. As in any leadership position you look at who

you are following. The Committee acknowledges with thanks MW Carl J. Fitje for presiding over this committee for over twelve years. While he has stepped out of this position, he and the other Past Grand Masters remain committed to the welfare and success of our Lodges and this Grand Lodge.

THE ABOVE REPORT OF THE MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE WAS APPROVED BY THE VOTE OF GRAND LODGE.

X. THE COMMISSIONERS OF APPEAL, represented by RW Hon. Louis Rosenthal, Past Chief Commissioner and current Commissioner, tendered an oral Annual Report stating that there are no matters pending before the Commission this past year, and as such no decisions were rendered. The Chief Commissioner, RW Marino Cesarini, due to health and medical reasons had to be excused on Monday and was unable to present the Report as required on Tuesday.

THE ABOVE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF APPEAL WAS APPROVED BY THE VOTE OF GRAND LODGE.

THE GRAND MASTER ANNOUNCED that, in accordance with Section 103 of the ***Constitutions***, the Most Worshipful Grand Master would convene the **242nd Annual Communication** of the Grand Lodge at the Masonic Hall, New York City, on **Monday, May 6th and Tuesday, May 7th, 2024**. The Grand Master further announced that the Minutes of the 241st Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge would appear in the published Proceedings of this Grand Lodge.

THE GRAND MASTER CAUSED the names of the Grand Master's appointments for the offices of the Appointed Grand Line to be read as taking effect on May 2, 2023 and the names of all other appointments to offices and/or committees made by the Grand Master will be distributed to the membership at a later date. Further it was announced by the Grand Master that the District Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Lodge Staff Officers currently in office shall remain as re-appointed for their respective Districts, with minor exceptions to be announced. It was further announced that the annual observance of the St. John's Day Weekend will be held at the Masonic Care Community in Utica, New York, commencing during the weekend of June 24 and June 25, 2023.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Richard J. Kessler, closed the 241st Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of the State of New York on May 2, 2023



Given under my hand and Seal of the Grand Lodge of New York, this 22nd Day of May 2023, A.L. 6023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. T. Schulz".

Richard T. Schulz
Grand Secretary

NEW YORK STATE MASONIC FRATERNITY – SPECIAL EVENTS

RW GEORGE FILIPPIDIS
TRUSTEES OF THE MASONIC HALL & HOME
BOARD MEMBER AND ASSISTANT TREASURER
917/572-4312
george@aresny.com



Grand Master's Cruise '23

Grand Master Kessler, Senior Grand Warden Robert Hogan Jr., Junior Grand Warden Peter Stein and Lady Melanie and Grand Tiler Christopher Kessler welcomed a group of more than sixty members of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York and friends on the Grand Master's Cruise 2023. The luxurious week-long cruise was aboard the *Nieuw Amsterdam* ship of the Holland America Cruise Line.

The *Nieuw Amsterdam* left Fort Lauderdale on Sunday, February 5 for a seven-day Western Caribbean cruise, making stops at Grand Turk in Turks and Caicos; Georgetown in Grand Cayman; Falmouth, Jamaica; and Half Moon Cay, Bahamas. At these ports of call the guests visited truly amazing beaches with crystal-clear water, dined and shopped in the local establishments and explored the local sites.

The weather was spectacular for the duration of the cruise. The food on board was outstanding and included a variety of casual and fine dining options as well as endless snacks/beverages offered all day long.

Aboard the ship, cruisers had access to multiple decks, two pools and many on-board activities such as comedy shows, live music/dancing venues, art exhibits, upscale shopping, bingo, casino, tours of the ship's mechanicals, and a range of classes, seminars, and presentations, to name a few.

RW George Filippidis provided the group Grand Master's baseball caps, supporting the Brotherhood Fund, so everyone could be easily spotted and identified. Brother Filippidis, RW Michael Siegel and RW Spiro Triantafilis modeled fancy, matching lounge shirts and RW George promised to buy one for everyone on the next cruise.

Best of all, the group spent a week enjoying each other's company, sharing meals, drinks, cigars and laughter in a family atmosphere. In response to great demand and interest, Grand Marshal RW John Haslam Sr. is looking into possibilities for another group trip for our Brothers and Ladies.



GRAND LODGE

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Historic events and outstanding devotion of stalwart brothers of the Masonic Fraternity have long been the inspiration for granting our most prestigious and coveted award by the Grand Lodge of New York affectionately and appropriately named the Distinguished Achievement Medal. This Medal is indeed the highest expression of appreciation for achievements and contributions attributed to a small and select group of Masons. This Medal is awarded at the recommendation of the Grand Lodge Distinguished Achievement Award Committee through an act and with approval of the Grand Lodge and presented by the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

The Distinguished Achievement Medal has been awarded to notable individual Masons from many diverse backgrounds such as the great Composer and Musician Brother Jean Sibelius, member of Suomi Lodge 1, Grand Lodge of Finland; Brother Captain Edward V. Rickenbacker, World War I Aviator and Medal of Honor recipient, member of Kilwinning Lodge 297, Grand Lodge of Michigan; Brother and General Omar N. Bradley, General of the U.S. Army, member of West Point Lodge 877, Grand Lodge of New York; Brother and Sir Alexander Fleming, Physician and discoverer of Penicillin, member of Sancta Maria Lodge 2682, United Grand Lodge of England; Brother Cecil B. DeMille, Playwright, Director and Producer, member of Prince of Orange Lodge 16, Grand Lodge of New York; Brother John H. Glenn, U.S. Senator and Astronaut, member of Concord Lodge 688, Grand Lodge of Ohio; Brother and Reverend Norman Vincent Peale, Clergyman and Author, member of Midwood Lodge 310, Grand Lodge of New York; and Brother Gene Autry, Singer and Entertainer, member of Catoosa Lodge 185, Grand Lodge of Oklahoma to name but a few of the distinguished alumni.

Launched in 1934 under the auspices of then-Grand Master Robert Elliott Owens, the first Distinguished Achievement Medal was bestowed with much fanfare and dignity upon Brother John Ward Dunsmore, famous American Painter of Murals and Historic Figures, a former active member of the Sons of the Revolution, and member of Puritan Lodge 185, Grand Lodge of New Jersey.

This fine and beautiful morning affords us the unique opportunity to recognize and confer the highest award that our Grand Lodge of New York has the power and authority to present on a deserving Brother Mason, Most Worshipful Paul Michael Leary, the former leader of the Craft from our Sister Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire.

MW Paul Leary was born in Newport, Rhode Island three-quarters of a century ago on June 17th, 1948, to his proud



MW Brother Paul Michael Leary

parents, Paul Mowrey Leary and Frances Mae Malley Leary. He is the eldest child of six children consisting of four brothers and one sister. He attended Coggeshall Elementary School and St. Joseph's Grammar School from Kindergarten through the 8th Grade. He then was enrolled into high school at De LaSalle Academy, where he graduated in 1966 with a cum laude diploma.

MW Paul Leary continued his education seeking a religious foundation as a Christian Brother Novitiate from 1966 to 1967. During the next four years MW Paul Leary majored in both English and Music at Rhode Island College in Providence, R.I., from 1967 to 1971. In 1975, he completed a Business Certificate Program at the Hall Small Business Institute of Providence.

Nearly a decade later, MW Paul Leary changed course aiming his sights toward Police Work and Law Enforcement, where he graduated in 1982 with Class Number 59 of the New Hampshire Police Academy and the New Hampshire Police Juvenile Officer Institute in 1984. Enhancing his skill with Law Enforcement, MW Paul Leary also took courses in Criminal Justice at Hawthorne College in 1983.

However, we would be remiss if we did not also acknowledge that MW Paul Leary had a side career between 1969 and 1972, whereby he was a registered and practicing apprentice embalmer and undertaker, working side by side with his father Paul Mowrey Leary at the Dunphy and Leary Funeral Home of Newport, Rhode Island.

MW Paul Leary settled into domestic life marrying his lovely bride Margaret Ann (nee Montgomery) Leary on August 12, 1989, in Hampton, New Hampshire.

MW Paul Leary is a true pillar of the community. He is known as a man of tremendous character, a very personable and truly religious soul. He played an instrumental part of the religious life of the local church, Trinity Episcopal Church, in Tilton, a small town along the Winnepesaukee River of New Hampshire.

Together with his family he has been extremely generous and active with Trinity Church, where he has donated his time and talent in various capacities as a member of the Choir, Altar Guild, Lay Reader, and Eucharistic Minister. On several occasions, MW Paul Leary was asked to be a guest Preacher at Trinity Church. Subsequently, he was elected Senior Warden, an officer of the Church's Vestry and guided the Parish during its search to fill a vacancy for a new Rector until it eventually had to close its doors.

MW Paul Leary continued his spiritual growth and *Continues on page 18 – DAA*

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became active with the Episcopal Mission of Franklin, New Hampshire. Following his convictions and Christian path, in 2019 MW Paul Leary was received into Formation in the Reformed Catholic Church International, which is part of the Diocese of New England and Nova Scotia. Subsequently, he completed his studies and was Ordained a Deacon on September 19, 2020, followed by his Ordination into the Priesthood on July 17, 2021.

Currently, MW Paul Leary serves as the Chair of the Formation and Education POD of the Inclusive Catholics Creative Cluster (National Group). Plus, he helped to form the Shamrock Ministries of New England in 2021.

Dialing back the calendar to MW Paul Leary's college days in the early 1970's, he began a successful and heterogenous career in the hospitality industry to augment putting himself through college while honing his entrepreneurial and business skills. Starting at the very beginning as a dishwasher to the First Cook at the Shamrock Cliff Hotel in Newport, Rhode Island, he advanced to the position of First Cook at another establishment known as the Newport Motor Inn of Middletown, R.I. Both experience and perseverance led him to the position of Chef at the Willow Rose Restaurant in Middletown and the Rhode Island Country Club in Barrington.

As they say, practice makes perfect, MW Paul Leary, capitalized on his newly obtained knowledge within the field of the restaurant business and landed the prestigious night Chef position at the Squaw Mountain Ski Resort in Greenville, Maine. Subsequently, these positions opened up a new avenue of management and upper-level positions at impressive venues such as Chef of the Helm of Bangor, Maine; Assistant Manager at Christie's Waterfront Restaurant in Newport, R.I.; Assistant General Manager of the Viking Hotel and Conference Center in Newport, R.I.; Assistant General Manager of the Ramada Inn & Night Club of Portsmouth, R.I.; the General Manager of the Steele Hill Resort in Sanbornton, N.H.; and the General Manager of the Forest Glen Inn of New Hampshire.

While working several restaurant venues in Maine, interest in Law Enforcement was piqued by the many men and women of which he became acquainted and befriended who wore the respected blue uniform of the Law. In particular, while holding down the job of night Chef at the Squaw Mountain Ski Area, MW Paul Leary applied to the Piscataquis Sheriff's Department in Maine and was hired as a Special Deputy Sheriff from 1973 to 1974. After the Ski Resort closed for the season, MW Paul Leary went on to work for the Pittsfield Police Department in Maine.

Relocating to New Hampshire and continuing to follow the path of his dream, MW Paul Leary proudly became a patrolman, first for the Sanbornton Police Department and then for the Northfield Police Department, where in 1983 he was promoted to Sergeant and served for 12 weeks. As the rising star of the Police Department, he was promoted to Chief of Police and honorably served in that office for 11 years until 1994.

Never one to shirk responsibilities and always ready and willing to share his unique skills and qualifications with others in his field, MW Paul Leary further became an Adjunct Instructor of Radar Speed Measurement & Firearms for the

New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council.

The New Hampshire State Department of Resources and Economic Development had their eye on MW Paul Leary in whom they saw a great deal of potential. In 1994, the Department known by the acronym DRED brought MW Paul Leary on board as a Forest Ranger IV. During this point in his life, MW Paul Leary added to his educational repertoire several courses at the New Hampshire Fire Academy specializing in Incident Command Systems and National Wildfire Coordination. Within nine short years, MW Paul Leary became the Chief of Communications for the DRED, a position he held until 2014.

Today, MW Paul Leary is the current Bail Commissioner of the State of New Hampshire Judicial Branch and a Justice of the Peace.

MW Paul Leary has been recognized by several collegiate as well as professional organizations, who saw fit to elevate him to the office of President and/or placed him on the Boards of Directors. These organizations include the Rhode Island Student Chapter of Music Educators National; the Rhode Island College Student Senate; Forestry Conservation Communication Association (FCCA); National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC); and the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST).

MW Paul Leary also held membership on the Land Mobile Communication Council and the New Hampshire Bar Association Law Related Education Advisory Committee.

Although juggling a multitude of professional careers in the Hospitality and Restaurant Industry, Apprenticeship as an Embalmer and Undertaker, a member of Law Enforcement, the Forest Service, the Priesthood and the State Judicial Branch, our honoree this morning, MW Paul Leary, still found a little spare time to pursue a desire to find more "light" through Freemasonry by knocking on that outer door.

Through hard work, persistence, study and an unwavering devotion to the Craft, MW Paul Leary made the journey along the pilgrim's path as a brother from the basic Blue Lodge all the way to the esteemed office of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire. This momentous journey began with his initiation as Entered Apprentice in December 1987, passed to Fellow Craft in June 1988 and raised to Master Mason on July 14, 1988, by St. James Lodge 102 of Hampton, N.H.

In December of 1988, MW Paul Leary affiliated with Doric Lodge 78, now known as Doric Centre Lodge 20 of Tilton, N.H. He went on to serve in the office of Secretary in 1989 and was elected Junior warden in 1990. Continuing along this course he graced the Oriental Chair when he was elected and installed Worshipful Master in 1993, 1994 and 2001. Afterwards, as a Past Master he was elected and served as the Lodge's Treasurer from 2006 until 2010.

Developing a keen sense of Masonic leadership, MW Paul Leary accepted responsibility and duty as a mentor for others to follow. As such, he gladly and enthusiastically shouldered leadership positions both in his respective Masonic District and his beloved Grand Lodge. For the term of 2000 and 2001, he was appointed and served in the office of District Deputy Grand Lecturer of the Eighth Masonic District, where he had previously served as the District's Education Officer from

1996 until 1999.

MW Paul Leary success and willingness to serve his Masonic District opened new avenues and opportunities to serve as an officer of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire. Immediately following his term of duty as District Deputy Grand Lecturer, he was appointed in 2002 by Most Worshipful Wendell L. Woodard to the Grand Lodge Office of Junior Grand Deacon, which began his progression through the Chairs. In 2004, he was appointed Senior Grand Deacon and in 2005 MW Paul Leary was elected Junior Grand Warden. Following this ascension, he was elected in 2007 to Senior Grand Warden and then to Deputy Grand Master in 2009.

This sequence of the chairs led ultimately to the preparation of MW Paul Leary to become an effective Grand Master and leader of the Craft. On May 21, 2011, MW Paul Leary was elected and installed the one hundred and thirteenth Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New Hampshire.

Being Grand Master is a cherished and well-respected office that MW Paul Leary has elevated with his presence to laudable heights. In recognition of his love for the Craft, his constituents within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire awarded MW Paul Leary with the Major General John Sullivan Distinguished Service Medal and with their highest award, the Jeremy Ladd Cross Medal.

It should come as no surprise that like many of the Leaders of Industry, a Grand Master in similar manner has numerous affiliations with related organizations and concordant bodies. A small sampling of MW Paul Leary's auxiliary memberships and sundry offices include: The Planning Committee for the Conference of Grand Masters of North America (2012); Vice Chairman of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America (2013); Chairman of the Grand Lodge Jurisprudence Committee (2021 to Present); Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Ireland (2011 to Present); Grand Representative to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Connecticut and Honorary Membership.

Within the Order of the Eastern Star: MW Paul Leary has been extremely active where he joined Tide Mill Chapter 67 in 1988. Then over the next 13 years he served as Chaplain, Associate Patron and Worthy Patron. In 1989 he affiliated with Peabody-Mount Washington Chapter 35 in Tilton and served as Chaplain, Associate Patron and Worthy Patron for several years. He was appointed Grand Chaplain of the Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star in 1994 and was elected Grand Sentinel in 1995; Associate Grand Patron in 1996; and was Worthy Grand Patron in 1997. He was a member of the General Grand Chapter Committee on Vision from 2003 to 2006.

Within the York Rite of Masonry, MW Paul Leary served as a Past Excellent High Priest and member of Omer-Union Chapter 7 and North Star Chapter 16, Royal Arch Masons; Past Illustrious Master and member of Pythagorean Council 6 and North Star Council 16, Cryptic Rite Masons; Past Eminent Commander and member of Pilgrim Commandery 10 and North Star-St. Gerard Commandery 4, Knights Templar; member of St. George Commandery 76 of Cable, Ohio; member of De Valois Commandery 16 of Vinalhaven,

Maine; Excellent Chief (2010-2011) of Scenic Council 37 of Knight Masons; Past Sovereign Master (2012) and member of John Harris Council Allied Masonic Degrees; Past Knight Commander (2012) of Red Branch of Eri; Past Governor (2015) of York Rite Profile College 100; Past Puissant Sovereign (2017) of the Red Cross of Constantine; Past Very Eminent Preceptor (2020) of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; and member of the Knights of the York Cross of Honor, Priory 58.

Further offices held within the York Rite of Masonry include but are not limited to the following:

- Past Ambassador to New Hampshire of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International (2017 – 2020);
- Grand Governor of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America (2018 to Present);
- Grand Prelate of the Convent General of the York Grand Cross of Honor (2018-2019);
- Past Grand High Priest (2018) of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of New Hampshire;
- R.I. Grand Chaplain (2015 to Present) Grand Chapter of Cryptic Masons of New Hampshire;
- Past Grand Commander (2015-2016) of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of New Hampshire;

Within the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite: MW Paul Leary holds membership in the Valley of Concord; the Alpha Lodge of Perfection; the Ariel Council of Princes of Jerusalem; the Acacia Chapter of Rose Croix; and the Valley of Nashua Consistory. MW Paul Leary was coroneted an honorary member of the Supreme Council, 33rd°, on August 30, 2011.

Within the Order of DeMolay: MW Paul Leary was the Executive Director from 2018 to 2020; he is currently an Active Member of the International Supreme Council of DeMolay until June 2023, when he will become an Emeritus Member. MW Paul Leary was made an Honorary DeMolay Legion of Honor recipient on March 20, 2011.

Lastly, MW Paul Leary is a Noble and Member of Bektash Shriners of Concord, New Hampshire.

In conclusion, MW Paul M. Leary stands before this august body as the epitome of a Gentleman and a Mason, who continues without hesitation to be a good and faithful steward of the Craft, always keeping its well-being and positive progression in focus. Our honoree today, Most Worshipful Paul Michael Leary, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of New Hampshire, in his own words in 2012 said, *"...the other day when I got my copy of the "New Hampshire Bar News" and no I am not an attorney, in the President's Perspective, Jennifer L. Parent wrote (and I will paraphrase for my use for Masonry): "First, we look to the future. While it is inherently difficult to predict what lies ahead, we must appreciate and understand change."*

"We must envision where we see our "Masonic World" ten or twenty years from now, so that we are indeed prepared. As John F. Kennedy once said "For time and the world do not stand still. Change is the law of life. And those who only look to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

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“Brethren, these are some powerful words for us to consider. We live in a world of constant change and must stay relevant to be both viable and vibrant. We are rooted in the past by our rich heritage, but we must never lose sight that the Brethren who brought us Masonry were visionaries and men of action.”

“If we cannot continue to be relevant in today’s world, we will cease to exist over time and fade into history. I believe that this is not the case in New Hampshire and do believe membership is up to the challenges that the 21st century poses to us. Yes, it is not your father’s or grandfather’s Masonry, it is yours. The future of our Craft rests in all our hands. Let’s become active members on the march into the future.”

Desiring to add our own tribute of gratitude to the many which you have hitherto earned, the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York herewith confers upon you its Medal for Distinguished Achievement. We ask you to accept this coveted award from our Grand Master with

the assurance that our confidence, our respect and esteem accompany this very award.

Brother and Most Worshipful Paul Michael Leary,

WE HAIL! ---- WE SALUTE! ---- AND WE PROCLAIM YOU!

THE RECIPIENT OF THE HIGHEST HONOR
THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
CAN CONFER ON ANYONE

THE DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AND MEDAL IN
THE YEAR OF 2023.

Approved: MW Richard J. Kessler, Grand Master

Recommendation: The Committee on the Distinguished
Achievement Award

MW Vincent Libone, P.G.M., Chairman

MW Edward G. Gilbert, P.G.M.

MW Carl J. Smith, P.G.M.

MW Edward R. Trosin, P.G.M.

Good Works Continue in 9th Manhattan

by Bob Stein

This spring the Ninth Manhattan, under the fearless leadership of Brother Mike Seeley, ran its bi-annual Blood Drive. They do one in the fall and another in the spring. Brother Mike works diligently to ensure a successful drive. This spring at Mike’s urging, Brothers and friends contributed 42 pints of blood. The Ninth Manhattan is grateful to Brother Mike and to all those who donated.



The Ninth Manhattan’s bi-annual blood drive
at the Whitestone Temple.

Copernicus Lodge 545 had their 15th annual Lukan’s weekend on Friday, September 23 to the 25th. Some Brothers headed up on Thursday to extend the weekend. This event began in 2007 with five Brothers and their wives. This year nineteen rooms were filled with a total of thirty-six people.

Lukan’s Farm Resort always provides meals that are both delicious and plentiful. On Saturday morning all went on a boat trip around Lake Wallenpaupack. After lunch a group went shooting at two local ranges, one for skeet shooting and the other for rifles. Some Brothers and Sisters chose to stay at the resort to relax or play cards. We were treated this year to views of a pair of bald eagles who made their nest on the



Copernicus Lodge annual trip to Lukan’s Resort.

property. It was a magnificent sight to see.

The Ninth Manhattan is a predominately German District and maintains many of the old German customs and many of the old German Associations. One such association is the Freimaurer Begraebnisplatz Gesellschaft. This Association was founded about 1877 by thirteen German Lodges of the Ninth Manhattan District. The purpose of this Association was to provide a resting place for Brothers who passed away in the District and who had no family and no money. The cost of the burial was mostly carried by the member Lodges which were Trinity 12, German Union 54, German Pilgrim 179, Schiller 304, Copernicus 545, Fessler 579, Teutonia 617, Goethe 629, Uhland 735, Lincoln 748 and Solon 771. Each Lodge appointed a delegate and the delegates elected association officers. Membership initiation fees were between \$359 and \$500 and the first meeting was on October 28, 1877. The first burial was in July 1879.

The Lutheran Cemetery founded in 1850, now known as

Continues on to the next page – Ninth Manhattan



W JERRY FILIPPIDIS
 CHAIRMAN
 718/344-3200
jerry@aresny.com
nymasonicbrotherhoodfund.org

MASONIC BROTHERHOOD FUND

For his many years of service to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund, Grand Master Richard J. Kessler honored RW Bruce Testut with the Wendell K. Walker award at the Grand Master's Dinner and during our Annual Grand Lodge Session. We thank and congratulate RW Testut and his wife Debbie for their years of dedication and support. RW Testut has now become the Chairman Emeritus of the Masonic Brotherhood Fund. I look forward to continuing the great work of MW Bob Stack and RW Bruce Testut.



Please visit nymasonicbrotherhoodfund.org or scan the QR Code below to make a donation, or contact your Lodge or District Brotherhood Fund Chairman. Deep thanks go to all the Brothers who have already contributed to the Fund.

MW Richard J. Kessler tells us Masons Make a Difference. This is so true with respect to the Brotherhood Fund. The Brotherhood Fund has helped so many people and programs over the years: from helping a widow who has fallen on hard times to giving a child the opportunity for a better life through the Joanne Kessler Children's Dyslexia Center, and many other programs. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me directly at jerry@aresny.com and 718/344-3200. If you would like to mail a check, please send it to Masonic Brotherhood Fund, PO Box 2497, Hicksville, NY 11802-2497.



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The hosts of Von Mensch Lodge's annual Schlachtfest.

Lutheran All Faiths Cemetery, donated a burial plot which was 35 feet by 60 feet. The plot had ninety-two graves and a Masonic monument was erected at a cost of \$2650. The cornerstone was consecrated on October 3, 1881 and the dedication of the monument was on May 21, 1883. The member Lodges paid yearly dues of \$15 for maintenance and other expenses.

After almost 110 years, due to Lodge mergers, the membership shrank to five Lodges and the responsibility of the association was taken over by the Past Masters Association.

In 1991 the plots were placed in perpetual care at the cost of \$10,000. An additional \$2000 was spent for the installation of a new stone curb which provided an additional thirty-five graves for cremated remains. A rededication ceremony was performed on July 14, 1992 with an inscription on the monument from the Past Masters Association. This provides our District with burial space for many years to come.



Members of the Ninth Manhattan District enjoy the great food at the Schlachtfest.

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: syrknighttemplar@gmail.com



Concordant Bodies Page - Spotlight on: Royal Arch Masons



Website: ny-royal-arch.org

Email: ghp@ny-royal-arch.org

New member inquiries: grandscribe@ny-royal-arch.org



Leaders of the 2023 Grand Chapter in the State of New York are pictured above. Some you may recognize but all are very approachable and enjoy serving Grand Chapter for the close to 3,000 members in the sixty-seven Chapters around New York State in seventeen Capitular Districts.

To be a Royal Arch Mason you need only be a Master Mason.

WHY SHOULD YOU AS A MASTER MASON CONSIDER JOINING ROYAL ARCH MASONRY?

After being Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, you are outwardly at the highest Masonic level a Brother can be. Inwardly, you can still seek “further light in Masonry.” You already know about the “Three Great Lights in Masonry” from the instruction given to you by the Master of your Lodge in the first three Degrees. Masonry offers further light to those who seek it.

The Grand Chapter State of New York, Royal Arch Masons offers our brethren that further light. Royal Arch Masonry offers you, the Master Mason, the chance to live history beyond “that which is lost.” Do you remember how you received the Substitute Word? The Royal Arch fills in the blanks.

Do you know who completed King Solomon’s Temple? What role did Nebuchadnezzar II, King of Babylonia, and his forces have in the destruction of Solomon’s Temple and how long did it take to rebuild it? Why did King Solomon’s Temple have to be rebuilt? My Brothers, you will live the history in the Royal Arch, as all of these questions are answered one by one in your quest for further light in Masonry.

Whatever your reason, the Royal Arch is waiting for you, Brother. In it you will gain first-hand experience in our mysteries, unfolded to you as you become a participant in our mystic Degrees. You will present work to Overseers and learn how to make your mark, key to receiving your Masonic wages.

You will rule a Lodge with wisdom and decorum, resolving

disputes and gaining the respect of your brethren. You will complete the Sacred Temple and be celebrated as a Master, earning the ability to work and travel in foreign lands and contribute to the relief of others. Finally, you will travel a rough and rugged path, learning lessons along the way and rejoicing as the long lost, ancient Master’s Word is discovered and realized. Indeed, the Royal Arch has much to offer. We are awaiting you, Brother. Take the next step.

A fundamental activity of all Masonic Bodies is the practice of Charity and the Grand Chapter State of New York Royal Arch Masons is no exception. The Grand Chapter sponsors three main charities: the Royal Arch Scholarship Fund (RAM EAP), the Medical Relief Fund and the Royal Arch Medical Research Foundation, Inc. To learn more about all our charities go to <https://ny-royal-arch.org/wp/charity/>.

As Master Masons we search for further light in Masonry. That further light can be found in our Concordant Bodies as you become a Companion of the Holy Royal Arch.

As Royal Arch Masons, we should always remember to support our Craft Lodges. We need each other to be strong and effective.

Freemasonry is a progressive science, taught by Degrees only.
Fill your inward desire for further light,
join the Holy Royal Arch.

<https://ny-royal-arch.org>

MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY



RW G. MICHAEL MORRIS,
PRESIDENT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MASONIC HALL AND HOME
585/734-4012 (C)
mmorris@nytrustees.org

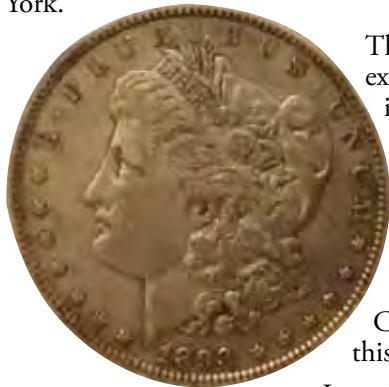


As history indicates, it took the courageous act of one man to help build both the Masonic Hall in New York City and a home for the Fraternity's aging and needy brethren. According to Past Grand Secretary James Herring, several brethren were assembled around his desk discussing these projects when Worshipful Greenfield Pote, Grand Tiler, placed a silver dollar on the Grand Secretary's desk and called it the first contribution toward the establishment of a Masonic Home.

Brother Pote reportedly said, "Brother Herring, the Hall and Asylum Fund, on behalf of the aged and infirm, the Widows and Orphans of our Order, is a sacred necessity. Let mine be the honor to head the list of contributors with my last and only dollar."

Just one year later, a memorial was presented at Grand Lodge that contained the signatures of one hundred Masons and was accompanied by a sum of \$300. That is how the "Masonic Home," now the Masonic Care Community, was started in 1893 by the Trustees of the of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund.

Why Utica? Because it was in the heart and center of New York.



This powerful act is an extraordinary example of the impact of philanthropy. From just one silver dollar, the 440-acre campus of the Masonic Care Community, its amazing facilities, its incredible senior programs and its Child Care Center stand to this day.

Incredibly, this tradition of giving to the Masonic Care Community continues through our 1893 Society. Named for the year that the Masonic Care Community opened, the 1893 Society is a special group of donors who provide an annual gift of \$500 or more to support the charitable activities that were started by Greenfield Pote and other caring Brothers, 130 years ago.



I invite you to join me this year as a member of the Masonic Care Community's 1893 Society. Following the example set by Brother Masons who championed for a special Home for their fellow Brothers, thousands of Brothers have continued to lead this charge with their own personal donations. Our donations ensure that the "Jewel in the Crown of Masonry" is forever taken care of.

In addition, joining the 1893 Society has never been easier. Simply go online to MasonicCares.com and click the yellow "Donate" button on the top of your screen to make your gift. You also have the option to make your donation on a monthly basis. Under payment type, simply select "Monthly Donation."

You are also encouraged to reach out to the MCC Philanthropy Department at 315/798-4703. Members of the MCC staff can help facilitate your donation and answer any question you may have as it relates to a charitable donation to the Masonic Care Community, including planned gifts.

The Masonic Care Community is a beautiful reflection on the New York State Fraternity and Masonry. Greenfield Pote was a visionary and we can continue that vision long into the future with our support for the 1893 Society today, and in the future.

MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY



RW ROB RAFFLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY OF NEW YORK
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The year 2023 marks the 130th anniversary of the Masonic Care Community, and that is something that every Masonic Brother should feel very proud of. To this day, as a charitable organization, we continue to provide support for Brother Masons as we did so many years ago.

There are countless examples of selfless service in Masonry. For example, Dennis Daugherty, a resident of Wiley Hall, is a 33° Mason with more than sixty years of service to the Fraternity. He began his service in DeMolay and when he left his home state of Kansas and moved to New York, he became a member of Publicity Lodge 1000 in New York City. Dennis has held many Masonic offices and has been involved in a wide range of Masonic projects. His commitment and love for the Brotherhood runs extremely deep. Dennis will tell you that moving to Wiley Hall helped save his life.



Herb Steel, a Brother who received his seventy-year apron from the Grand Master during St. John's Day last year, lives with his wife at MCC's Health Pavilion. Herb's home Lodge was Amityville Lodge 977. As Herb himself says, "I've enjoyed all my life with the Masons, and thank God they are here. We've been at the Masonic Care Community for several years, and I'm so happy for the people who take care of us."

The Masonic Care Community is a beautiful senior care campus where we provide a range of living options for older



adults. We have The Neighborhoods of Acacia Village for independent living. Our Wiley Hall provides care for adults who may be in need of a little extra assistance. And we have our Health Pavilion where we provide exceptional 24-hour nursing care.

As we cared for orphans in the past, we continue to care for children on our campus through our Child Care Center. This service is of great benefit to many of the staff who work at MCC.

I would like to thank all of you as members of the Masonic Fraternity for your role in continuing to support "The Home" in Utica. It is your legacy. Because of you, our supporters, more than 500 elderly people lead a purposeful life here at Masonic Care Community and receive the care and help they need. You have remained true to a commitment that was made more than 130 years ago; and that is something that should make every member of the New York State Fraternity very proud.

Grand Lecturer Visits Suffolk

On Saturday, March 25 the Suffolk Masonic District received RW Richard Friedman, Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons in New York. This annual visitation was hosted by Alcyone Lodge 695 in Northport.

A Lodge room full of Brothers sat in rapt attention as RW Friedman instructed them on avoiding common ritual

mistakes, as well as the importance of emphasizing specific words within the ritual in order to strengthen its message. RW Friedman especially encouraged the brethren to slow down when speaking so the message can be received. Or, as he sang it, "Take your time...do it right."

The evening was followed by an excellent collation, served by several members of our youth groups. Gung Ho!

ACACIA VILLAGE



LINDA RAE AVOLIO
SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY RELATIONS
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avoloio1@acaciavillageny.org



Celebrating One Year at The Neighborhoods of Acacia Village

A year ago Charles and Charlotte Sands moved from Leeds, New York in the Catskills to The Neighborhoods at Acacia Village. Charles, a previous District Deputy Grand Master, had been to the Masonic Care Community several times and was familiar with the campus, so The Neighborhoods at Acacia Village was high on the list of places to retire to and make home. Before taking their decision, though, Charles and Charlotte did their homework and researched a number of other retirement communities, both in person and online. What they found was they could “get more bang for their buck” at The Neighborhoods of Acacia Village.

When choosing their new, two-bedroom Lodge Suite, Charles and Charlotte journeyed here on an Amtrak train. They pulled up at Union Station in the morning around 10:30, enjoyed lunch in The Hearth restaurant, met with other residents and were back on the train headed home at 4:00 p.m.

The next day they put their house on the market and it sold in just a few days. Charles says that they were at a point in their lives where they were having to hire people to help with chores like snow shoveling and it did not make sense to stay in their home any longer. He added, “contrary to popular belief, this is not an expensive place to live. We figured it out and compared to what it was costing us with the upkeep of our home, it is costing us approximately \$500 more a month to live in a worry-free place with friendly neighbors and lots of things to do.”

Both Charles and Charlotte are enjoying so many activities. Charlotte loves her water aerobics class. She also volunteers to make crafts for former neighbors who have transitioned to skilled nursing in MCC’s Health Pavilion. She belongs to a knit-and-chat group and plays Mahjong every Friday afternoon. Charles loves the men’s group that meets weekly, where they can talk about anything, except politics. He also enjoys jigsaw puzzles and the woodshop.

This past fall, Charles and Charlotte both modeled in a Funny Fashion show where the residents made all the costumes from scratch. Charlotte was a piece of candy and Charles was a human candle. The show was a big hit and was even featured on the local evening news.

Charles and Charlotte purchased scooters last summer to explore our 440-acre campus. They love driving down to the cemetery and watching the koi fish in the ponds on the Great Lawn.

Charles attends Infinity Lodge meetings here on campus and appreciates that we provide transportation so that all Masonic



Brothers here on campus can get together. Charles wants to know why more of his fellow Brothers are not moving here when there are so many reasons they should.

They call the Masonic Care Community a progressive care campus, with independent living at The Neighborhoods at Acacia Village, residential adult care at Wiley Hall and skilled nursing in the Health Pavilion. Charles had a recent hospital stay and was able to recuperate right here, in our in-patient rehabilitation center. He says he received excellent care. Charlotte was thrilled that they were here on the same campus and she did not have to travel far to visit with him. Charles was able to smoothly transition back to their apartment with some nursing and physical therapy from Acacia Home Care, the Masonic Care Community’s home care agency.

Charles and Charlotte are very happy overall with the health care they are receiving here in Utica. Most of their doctors are part of the Slocum-Dickson Medical group in Utica, which Charles says is an extremely well-equipped facility with many specialists under one roof.

The Sands are quick to say they have no regrets about their move to Acacia Village. They commend the staff for being thorough, kind and friendly, and for remembering everyone’s name. They really like their fellow neighbors, who they say are courteous, respectful and nice. They highly recommend The Neighborhoods at Acacia Village as a welcoming place to come and live.

MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY



MICHELLE SMITH
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
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The St. John's Day Celebration is always a yearly highlight at the Masonic Care Community. Masons and their families from across the state travel to our campus to support their Brothers, catch up and relax with friends. In addition, our resident Masons are able to visit and enjoy the festivities and connect with people they may not have seen in years.

In 2022 there was even more excitement leading up to St. John's Day because after a two-year break, the event was a go. From the meetings and investiture to the barbecue, fireworks and food trucks, Brother Masons and their families laughed, ate and enjoyed being together again. The theme last summer was "Rewind the Decades" and guests did not disappoint. From leg warmers to poodle skirts, to go-go boots and tie-dye t-shirts, people rocked out to The Midnight Riders band and were awed by the annual fireworks display.

One of the most joyous aspects of St. John's Day in 2022 was the presence of family. Children played lawn darts and soccer on the Great Lawn and enjoyed freshly squeezed lemonade and ice cream. People also browsed the Masonic vendor tent and enjoyed the sunshine.

This summer's St. John's Day will focus on family and current planning and discussions are underway to add some new activities, including a carnival atmosphere and the return of a children's bouncy house. There may even be a friendly competition or two.

Friday night there will be fun for the whole family with the barbecue, a DJ spinning tunes and an incredible fireworks display. Be sure to stay for the amazing fireworks. They are magnificent and are truly one of the most extraordinary aspects of the entire weekend.

Saturday will again see the return of great local food trucks, the Masonic Expo tent and the Masonic parade. If you or your Lodge would be interested in participating in the Expo, please contact me at smithmi@mccny.com or 315/798-4768.

We are so looking forward to seeing all of the Brother Masons and their families from June 23 to 25, 2023. I invite everyone to bring wives, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and anyone else they can think of to share the joys and purpose of Masonry. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months. I hope to see you there.



Welcome Guests

Robert Stevens, a member of Tri-Valley Lodge 148, ROneida, NY, and his wife Samantha, daughter Phoebe and son Henry opened their home to refugees from the war-torn country of Ukraine. Mikhaïlo and Natalia Shikht from Lviv, Ukraine moved in with the Stevens family on January 16 until they obtained their US documents in order for them to work and travel. They are safe and now living with extended family in Miami, Florida.

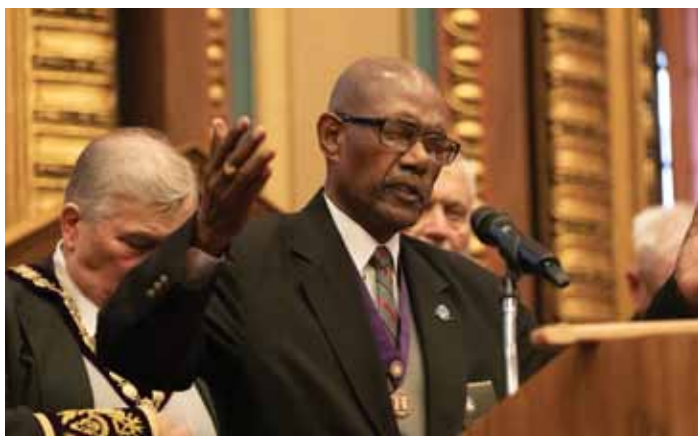
Pictured L-R: Robert, Samantha, Phoebe (pink shirt), Henry (baby), Mikhaïlo and Natalia.



2023 GRAND LODGE C



CONVENTION PHOTOS



AWARDS COMMITTEE

Nominations for DSA Due in September

RW GEORGE R. WACOB
CHAIRMAN
631/838-7508 (C)
grwacob1@optonline.net



Recommendations for the 2024 Dedicated Service Award will be accepted from September 1 until the cutoff date, November 12, 2023. Please submit recommendations early. Last year several recommendations were missing the required "Member Profile" from the MORI system. Please read the requirements and conform to them.

The committee works diligently to provide a fair and comprehensive review of all recommendations sent in by the Lodges and processes them in a timely manner. The committee will continue to provide information through its *Empire State Mason* article as well as on its webpage at the Grand Lodge website: <https://nymasons.org/site/committees-departments-programs/awards-committee/>.

At the end of August, a letter will be sent with updated information, timetable and form for the 2024 Dedicated Service Award and various Community Service Awards. The letter will go to DDGMs, Staff Officers and Secretaries of Lodges. If you do not receive it by the middle of September, go to the website where you can obtain all the information you will require.

DSA requirements

The Dedicated Service Award Program enables Lodges to obtain Grand Lodge recognition for Brothers who continue, year after year, to support their Lodges and their District with their presence, time and talent. They attend Lodge and District meetings and they participate in Degrees and programs, with or without holding office. This does not exclude Past Masters. These are the Brothers who often serve to inspire and motivate others to emulate their examples of true Masonic dedication.

The guidelines provide that a Brother be a member of the Fraternity for at least ten years. A Right Worshipful, a Very Worshipful and those who are reasonably expected to be recommended for the Purple are not eligible and should not be recommended for the Dedicated Service Award. Current Masters and current Secretaries are not eligible and should not be recommended for the Dedicated Service Award.

The Committee scrutinizes each recommendation received from a Lodge. Every item must be completed and the form appropriately signed and the Lodge Seal affixed. Accurate ages and years of membership are requirements for Grand Lodge statistical purposes and cannot be omitted. If the applicant has dual or plural membership, please list all Lodges. Submit the Member Profile from the MORI system with the recommendation form. If the Lodge is not on the MORI system a copy can be obtained from the Grand Lodge Registry Department. Attach any additional pertinent information to the form.

The Committee is interested in facts supporting each recommendation, not conclusions such as "he is a dedicated

Mason." What has the Brother done to truly demonstrate his dedication to his Lodge and the District? Recommendations that fail to show why a Brother was recommended are rejected. Being a Tiler for a number of years is simply not sufficient, neither is the opinion of the Master "that the Brother deserves the Award." Equal consideration will be given to a Brother's support of his District and District programs. Masonic affiliations and community endeavors may be considered only if they are in addition to his regular Lodge and District work.

Recommendations for the award must be initiated by the Brother's Lodge on the form provided, which is the form dated for the proper year. The form must be signed by both the Master and Secretary and the Lodge Seal affixed. One nominee per year per Lodge is permitted. A District's allotted number of Awards will be no more than one-fifth of the Lodges in a District per year (as of the last Grand Lodge Convention) and to the nearest whole number.

Nominations are to be sent to the Awards Committee by November 12. Mail to:

George R. Wacob
Chairman Committee on Awards
13 Floyd Street
North Babylon, NY 11703-1808.

The Lodge nomination will be reviewed at committee meetings in early December. Because there is much preliminary screening and work, the committee will not be able to consider recommendations postmarked later than November 12.

The Awards Committee will inform the District Deputy Grand Masters of the nominations received from their District Lodges. Immediately after their meetings, the Committee will communicate its recommendations to the Grand Master. Lodges will be notified of the Grand Master's decisions by the Grand Secretary in January. A letter congratulating the recipients will be sent by the Grand Master at the same time. A letter from the Committee will notify the DDGMs of recipients in their District.

If desired, and with appropriate advance notice to the Committee Chairman, an attempt will be made to have a Committeeman present to help make the presentation and relate the history of the Award to the recipient and members. The form of the Award is a distinctive white apron with silver and purple trimming.

An invoice and a form for ordering the Certificate, Lapel Pin, Apron, Apron Case, Pocket Badge and Chest Medallion will be mailed to the Lodge Secretary. The Certificate is signed by the Grand Master and is suitable for framing. The Awards Committee recommends all DSA Certificates be framed before presenting. Additional information, forms, timelines
Continues on next page – Awards Committee

RW Gilbert J. Walter's Obit

RW Brother Gilbert J. Walter died March 13, following a battle with cancer. This month, he was a sixty-year member of our Lodge. Gilbert Jay Walter, 81, passed away on March 13, 2023 in his home in The Villages, Florida.

A generally quiet man, Gil requested his obituary simply read, "He was a good man. He loved his family." His family, however, had a few more things to say. Gil was greatly loved by his family including his wife of 53 years, Kathleen; daughter Allison (Rod) Kirk; sons Matthew (Julie) and Mark; grandchildren Avery, Olivia, Nolan, Cameron and Owen; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews; good friends and his brother Wayne.

Originally from East Syracuse, NY, Gil graduated from East Syracuse High School. He proudly served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. Gil always had a love of numbers that led to his career as an accountant at Community General Hospital. True to his being a "numbers guy," he was born 9/41 and his passing was at 9:41.

An active supporter of his local community, Gil was a communicant and the youngest Trustee of James Street Methodist Church. He coached East Syracuse Little League baseball for a decade, served on the community advisory council of Bristol-Myers Squibb, and together with Kathy led the Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation Program for St. Matthews Church.

Gil was an avid reader, always with a book in hand, and served on the East Syracuse Library Board for many years. He was a third generation Freemason and was the recipient of the highest honor, the 33rd Degree of the Scottish Rite.

After retiring from Community General Hospital after forty-plus years of service, Gil and Kathy retired to The Villages, Florida in 2007. There, Gil enjoyed one of his favorite pastimes, playing golf year-round, and was most well-known for his great short game.

He also found joy spending time with his family in the



Adirondack Mountains, the St. Lawrence River and on many road trips throughout the eastern United States. Gil "bled orange" for Syracuse University sports, missing very few games. He took many continuing-education courses throughout his retirement years, helping him learn more and discuss his lifelong interests of history and politics.

As Gil would always say when parting company, "Be safe." In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or The Salvation Army. Funeral services were scheduled for April 14 with burial at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell.

Continued from last page – Awards Committee

and DSA history are on the Grand Lodge Website: <https://nymasons.org/site/committees-departments-programs/awards-committee/>.

The coveted Chest Medallion is also available for past DSA recipients. Secretaries may order from Lodge Services. The price is \$20 plus tax and shipping.

Community Service Awards

The DeWitt Clinton, Jacob Morton and GL Certificate of Excellence in Service to the Community have no cutoff date and will be processed as they are received. The Lodge will be

notified within a short period of time if the nominee has been approved to receive one of these awards.

I thank the Awards Committee team for the time and efforts they put into examining all of the recommendations and fairly determining who will receive the awards. They are: in the Metropolitan Region, RW Gregory Noulas, Vice Chairman, and RW Walter Fingerle; in Mid-State, RW Thomas L. Jenison and W Alfred W. Ferguson; the Hudson-Champlain representatives are RW Charles E. Knapp Jr. and RW Robert L. Hogan Jr.; and in the Western Region, RW William H. Greene and RW Douglas D. Airt

MASONIC YOUTH COMMITTEE

W ED DRAVES
CHAIRMAN
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If you were to ask the members of your community what they know about the Masons they may say they have a building downtown, or they had a great-grand relation who was a Mason, or some character from a film. Yet, where Lodges are active in their community the answers are much different. "They sponsored our soccer team." "They helped fund our band trip." "They supported our soup kitchen." Positive engagement with the community helps to strengthen Lodges, strengthen our communities and truly shows how Masons make a difference.



A new Masonic year is underway. Everything is fresh, bright and new. Lodge Committees and duties are being assigned and tasks are underway. One of the best ways to have a positive impact is engagement with youth activities in your community. When your Lodge appoints a Youth Chair it can make a huge difference. This might be someone who develops a local DeMolay Chapter, Triangle or Rainbow Assembly. It could be someone to engage with the local Scout troops, Little League or youth soccer. It could even be someone working with the local PTAs and PTOs to support the local schools. Think about what you can do for the children of your members.

Your Lodge probably has the perfect liaison to our groups among its members. Perhaps it is you. You do not have to be young, up on today's music or cool. You only have to be willing to engage young people and their parents or guardians.

Every Lodge is different. Your Lodge's participation could be as simple as attending a Masonic Youth Group installation, handing out flyers for fundraisers at work, manning the grill at a hot dog sale or even sponsoring and providing trained

Advisors for a DeMolay Chapter, Rainbow Assembly or Triangle. Your Lodge and Youth Chair's level of support and commitment is up to you.

As you and your Lodge get engaged the youth will benefit from the wisdom of your members, your support and the connection to a Masonic Lodge. So many Masons have so much to share and so many youths are eager to learn and of course, everyone will have fun and make new friends. The Youth Chair can facilitate so many wonderful things. Some ideas for programs are:

- Do a toiletries drive together for a nursing home or veterans group.
- Visit Lodge members who are in assisted living together.
- Adopt-a-highway program.
- Invite them to Lodge to share a meal.
- Co-sponsor a toy drive to provide holiday gifts for needy children.
- Organize collection drives for clothes, coats, books, eyeglasses, etc.
- Volunteer at soup kitchens together.
- Have a Lodge and Youth Group co-fundraiser.
- Spruce up day at Lodge together.



Remember that John Maxwell is famously quoted: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." A Youth Chair at your Lodge can be the perfect way to demonstrate to the next generation how much your Lodge cares about the future leaders in our Fraternity and our Great Nation.

Totton Essay Contest, 2023

As Masons, we are taught to be general lovers of the arts and sciences and to pass them on to future generations. To help inspire the next generation of writers and thinkers the Fifth Manhattan District's Endowment Fund has for nearly sixty years sponsored the Frank M. Totton Essay Contest. This annual essay contest is open to graduating high school seniors who are the child or grandchild of a New York Master Mason or a member of Rainbow, Triangle or DeMolay.

We join the entire Fraternity and the family of these outstanding students in our grateful appreciation to the Fifth Manhattan Endowment Fund Inc. for their generosity and support and for allowing the Committee to continue the important work of administering this contest on their behalf. The essays were graded using a blind review process, where all identifiable information was removed. The 2023 winners are:
First Place - Nick Odle. Nick is the grandson of Alan L. Morse of Webster Lodge.
Second Place - Madison Buscaglia. Madison is the

granddaughter of William Heusinger, daughter of Steven Buscaglia and sister to Bro. Brandon Buscaglia, all of West Seneca Lodge.

Third Place - Micalena Ardito. Micalena is the daughter of Michael Ardito of Herder Lodge 698.

Fourth Place - Seth Warrick. Seth is the grandson of Charles Toombs of Nortrip Lodge 998.

Fifth Place - Austin Mitchell. Austin is the grandson of A. Harry Williams IV of Adonai Lodge 718.

Sixth Place - Minna Cederman-Kobayashi. She is a member of Cassiopeia Triangle 202 and daughter of Kanjin D. Cederman of Sutherland 826.

Seventh Place - Abby Higgins. She is the daughter of Brian Higgins of Delaware River Lodge 439.

Eighth Place - Allysa Henderson, Hudson, New York, Pleasantville Assembly 37 of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls and daughter of Craig Henderson of Hudson Widow's Son 7.

Privacy v. Security: A Constitutional Analysis

by Nick Odle



“Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.”¹ Little did Ben Franklin know, when he uttered these prophetic words, the extent to which liberty would be sacrificed in future generations. Modern government has utterly trampled constitutionally guaranteed privacy rights and protections against unreasonable searches and seizures. Through policies such as the USA PATRIOT Act and PRISM program, the government data mines and stores vast amounts of digital information belonging to private citizens.² The Fourth Amendment states, “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”³ Blatant violations of this amendment could not be clearer, but what does the alternative entail? Advocates of these programs argue that they prevent terrorism and crime while providing a tool for war. Consequently, we must ask ourselves, do we sacrifice freedom for security, security for freedom, or are these ideals compatible?

Our founding fathers gave clear instructions regarding

the balance of privacy and security. The federal government is empowered to protect national security as enumerated in Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution,⁴ but only as far as such actions are not in violation of constitutional amendments. Policies are to be created through proper governmental processes as outlined in the constitution. It is imperative, therefore, that courts be established not in darkness, but upon constitutionally sound warrants with clearly outlined objectives. Problems arise when secretive courts, such as FISA, issue vague warrants, and mass data collection, sponsored by PRISM, bypasses warrants altogether.⁵ The very existence of these organizations has proven to be a gross violation of our constitutional rights and unnecessarily sacrifices freedom in the name of national security. It should be noted that constitutional amendments only apply to American citizens. Thus, the federal government still retains the authority to surveil foreign entities for national security purposes without violating the rights of its own citizens.

How, then, can we protect our citizenry from domestic threats while simultaneously abiding by the Constitution? Often proponents of heightened government surveillance argue that such spying is necessary to combat evil. However, this is misguided. Rather than merely arrest evil in progress, national interests would be best served by addressing the moral foundation of our society. In recent decades, our country has witnessed a rapid decline in morality, heavily due to the acceptance of subjective truth. Such relativism fails to establish a common definition of morality. Furthermore, if morality is irrelevant, why choose good over evil? The answer is that once truth and goodness become subjective, society

Continues on to page 30 – Privacy v. Security

crumbles. Crime and fear run rampant. The best course of action to ensure national security is to promote and enforce a universal standard of right and wrong. If we fail to address the true source of evil, surveillance is merely a temporary solution. We must return to the Judeo-Christian values upon which our nation was founded and which have held it together for centuries.

The boundary between liberty and security is thin - but clear. The government has the constitutional power to monitor foreign threats provided it does not infringe upon American citizens in the process. It also has the authority to monitor Americans if and only if it has received a proper warrant. America was established first and foremost upon the freedom of the American people from government oversight and control. The United States is unique because its people do not serve the government; the government is a public servant to the people. Recently, however, this ideal has been forgotten. Government infringes upon constitutional rights under the guise of “national security,” “classified information,” “counterterrorism,” and more. The government has far exceeded its constitutional power; it is blatantly clear that we are in jeopardy of reversing the relationship between citizens and government. We must fight to stop this perversion. We must push back against governmental overreach, re-establish our national values, and restore a reasonable balance between security and liberty as intended by our forefathers in the

United States Constitution.

Notes

1. Quotes from the Past. (2021, May 28). Benjamin Franklin on sacrificing freedom for security. Quotes from the Past. Retrieved January 15, 2023, from <https://quotesfromthepast.com/benjamin-franklin-on-sacrificing-freedom-for-security/>.
2. Patriot Act. EPIC. (n.d.). Retrieved January 15, 2023, from <https://epic.org/issues/surveillance-oversight/patriot-act/>.
3. Greenholt, J. (2011). Words aptly spoken: American documents (second). Classical Conversations, Inc. 195.
4. Legal Information Institute. (n.d.). Article I. Legal Information Institute. Retrieved January 15, 2023, from <https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/articlei#:~:text=Section%208.&text=To%20make%20all%20laws%20which,any%20department%20or%20officer%20thereof>.
5. Lucas, R. (2019, December 22). Scathing report puts secret FISA court into the spotlight. will congress act? NPR. Retrieved January 15, 2023, from <https://www.npr.org/2019/12/22/790281142/scathing-report-puts-secret-fisa-court-into-the-spotlight-will-congress-act>.

60 Year Apron

Attached is a photo of when we presented Worshipful Brother William Maltbie his sixty-year apron, pin and certificate. The date was September 14, 2022. Brothers VW Frank Allard; W Tom O'Dea; Ron Zarczynski; and I, W Greg Bolton, made the presentation and had a real nice visit with Brother Bill at his home on Brant Lake.

Bill was made a Mason in 1962, taking all three Degrees in a time period of less than one month, in Warrensburgh Lodge 425. He served as Master for two years in 1976 and 1977. He received his fifty-year apron in Lodge on November 19, 2012 and when we gave him his sixty-year apron, he asked if he should return his fifty-year apron. Always a humble man, he ran a successful auto dealership for many years.

Ironically, this visit was at the time of Queen Elizabeth's death and funeral.



Bill proudly shared that he had been in England at the time of her early days of reign and even had a photo as proof he had seen her in a parade.

Although our visit was somewhat brief, it was very enjoyable and we were invited to stop anytime. Brother Bill

turned 93 on February 23 and is still very active and healthy. He is a model of how a true Mason should be, live and act. We thank him for his many years of service.



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Drones, Service, Hibachi, Trampolines

New York DeMolay's 2023 Winterfest was epic! DeMolays from across New York State gathered in Albany for a fun and educational weekend. The host hotel was the luxurious Albany Hampton Inn, nestled in the heart of the university district and featuring access to the indoor pool, workout rooms and exclusive use of the hotel meeting facilities.

Friday night saw an all-you-can-eat pizza party. Afterward, the young men packaged over 1,000 care kits for the homeless in Albany and Schenectady Counties. On Saturday morning DeMolays were mentored by students at the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity and were able to use their hands-on drone lab. The DeMolays were able to learn about careers in STEM, law enforcement and informatics.

For lunch the DeMolays took over a hibachi restaurant where they learned about Japanese culture, tradition and customs. After having all of the hibachi they could care to eat, they went to the trampoline park and had a blast pushing their boundaries and learning new skills. To close out Saturday night, they had an all-you-can-eat buffet at Dave and Busters, did team builders and tried their skills at a number of different games.

On Sunday morning DeMolay welcomed new members in a great exemplification of the DeMolay Degree. To hone their collaboration and team-building skills they went to the Albany Escape Room complex. Finally, to close out this epic weekend, they enjoyed a farewell feast at the Albany Olive Garden. A truly great time was had by all.



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE RAINBOW FOR GIRLS IN NEW YORK



MRS. GALE GOULD
Supreme Inspector in NY

35 Maple Street
Auburn New York 13021
Phone: 315/253-8206

e-mail: galegould@gmail.com
Website: www.nyiorg.org
f: facebook.com@NY Rainbow

The end of March saw the converging of girls, advisors and friends from across the state and country at the Villa Roma Resort in Calicoon, NY for the 82nd Grand Assembly sessions of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls in New York. Not only were we thrilled to gather together for this special, fun-filled time, but also to be joined by Rainbow friends from Maine, New Hampshire, Ohio and Vermont; and our NY Masonic family, including our MW Grand Master Kessler made it even better.

Our presiding 2022 Grand Worthy Advisor, Sydney Dennerlein, and her officers did an outstanding job during their Land of Far, Far Away sessions. These included beautiful ritual portrayal and the Initiation of two new members. There were lots of fun free-time activities of games and an epic lip sync battle and participation in our Supreme Worthy Advisor's project, Purses of Empowerment. The girls gathered and assembled sixty gently-used handbags and filled them with personal care items to be distributed to women's shelters across the state.

It was also the conclusion of our two-year state charity project for the MMRI-Autism Research Project. NY Rainbow is absolutely thrilled to announce that with the support of our members, advisors and Masonic families we raised \$13,271.50 to be donated to that project.



Grand Assembly 2023 attendees.

The Saturday of convention saw the influx of dragons at the installation of our new Grand Worthy Advisor, Alyssa



RW Sr. Grand Deacon Kania; OES Grand Matron Karen Kennedy; 2022 NY Rainbow GWA Sydney Dennerlein; NY Supreme Inspector Gale Gould; MW Grand Master R.J. Kessler; OES Grand Patron Ralph Hastings.

DiBartolo and her 2023 Grand Officers. The girls are so excited to begin their year of "One Friendship Can Change the World" and they look forward to spending as much time together and with our Masonic families as possible. We also witnessed the conferral of the Order of Deborah on Meagan Jefferson for her outstanding contributions to Rainbow and her community and being the epitome of what Rainbow teaches.

If you have never attended Grand Assembly, you are truly missing out. Our next convention will be in March/April 2024, when we will be celebrating 100 years of Rainbow in the state of New York. Stay tuned for more information on that, but in the meantime, take a little time and visit with one of our amazing youth groups that we are so fortunate to have here in NY. These young people make it all worthwhile, and you will be so impressed with them that you will absolutely want to bring the opportunity to get involved to your children, grandchildren and other young people in your life.

We need you and would be more than happy to share our organizations with you. Just contact us and follow us on social media for the next events. Remember, "If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch the life of a young person."



Grand Assembly 2023 attendees.

Order of Deborah

The Officers and Brothers are proud of Meagan Jefferson, Past Worthy Advisor Temple Hill Assembly 40, Past Grand Worthy Associate Advisor NY Rainbow. She has attained her Majority and also received the Order of Deborah from the York Rite Bodies of New York.



Nassau District GL Convention

by Michael LaRocco
AGL, Nassau Masonic District

Nassau District held their Grand Lecturer's Convention on March 29 at the Scottish Rite Temple in Rockville Centre. There were 126 Brothers in attendance and I am still feeling the positive energy as I write this article.

As the Assistant Grand Lecturer for the Nassau District, I have learned a few life lessons as a result of this amazing event. I have worked hard to create unity in what were the First and Second Nassau Districts by using the ritual to inspire love and dignity. RW John T Hansen, our District Deputy; RW Berdj Agopian, Grand Steward and Staff Officer; W Frank Sforza, President of the School of Ritual Instruction; W Steve Beiner, Vice President; and W Francisco Castillo, Secretary of the School, are all part of a team that has helped this District break through barriers of time and location to make us one great District. And when I say great I mean greatness in the quality of our ritual and of our brotherly love for each other.

The Grand Lecturer's Convention was terrific and I have received many texts and emails telling me how grateful the Brothers are for coming. Some said they learned more in one night than in years in their Lodge. Others said the vibe was amazing.

The hardest part was getting the Lodges to commit to buying plates and making sure I got it arranged in time. Caterer Nick Milano from Bonbinos was incredible. The food was delicious and abundant. He even made sure we had enough for the gluten-free Brothers and it was all for a really good price.

I did not have to work too hard on the parts for the Degree.



I used Groupable and Facebook to tell the District what parts were needed and the Brothers volunteered immediately—except for the exemplars and conductors, which took a strong arm in the end. I put in much footwork beforehand, and then gave it to God, and the rest just happened.

These Brothers are not just members of the same Fraternity as me. They are my best friends and some of the greatest men I have ever met. We all have our faults and many get frustrated and event disheartened; but I realize (sometimes not soon enough) that the difficult ones are my Brothers, too. They have the same divine spark in them that created and sustains me. So, to hate another is to hate myself. To love another is to love myself. And the God's honest truth is that I learn and grow more from the tough times and interactions that the good times.

None of us has it all together, but together we have it all. Brother Rich Freidman our Grand Lecturer reminds us that the most used word in the Masonic ritual is Love.

POLICE SQUARE CLUB OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BRO. JASON COHEN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER
POLICE SQUARE CLUB



The Police Square Club of the City of New York (PSC) was founded on March 15, 1920 at a time when many Masonic Clubs were founded by members of a particular trade or profession. The Police Square Club was founded by Freemasons who were also members of the nation's largest police department, the New York City Police Department. The PSC today is a member of the NYPD's Committee of Police Societies (C.O.P.S.) and the NY State League of Masonic Clubs. Our members are from Lodges hailing from the GLNY, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of New York and other out-of-state jurisdictions which are in amity with the GLNY.

The objectives of the Police Square Club are to promote social intercourse, strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and promote welfare amongst Masonic brethren who are active or retired, uniformed or civilian members of the Police Department of the City of New York. The PSC also accepts Associate Membership for Master Masons in good standing, who are like-minded in the advancement and benevolence of our law enforcement community and the principles of Freemasonry.

Members of the club enjoy fellowship at our meetings, annual fishing trips, cigar nights, annual family day picnic barbecues and other events to raise money for our charities and other club endeavors. We hold 50/50 drawings every meeting and most importantly, enjoy good laughs. We meet in plain clothes, except for special occasions, so you do not have to stress changing or carrying a suit with you after work. The PSC is a Masonic club and discussion of "the job" is limited at meetings.



**PSC 100th Year Anniversary Dinner Dance with
GM William Sardone, Marina Del Rey March 12, 2020**

The Police Square Club celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a glorious and highly attended Dinner Dance Gala on March 12, 2020 at Marina Del Rey in the Bronx. Moving forward into 2023 and beyond, the PSC looks to continue to flourish. We encourage all Lodges to inform any NYC Police Officers or NYPD Civilian Employee(s), active or retired, who are Raised in their Lodge, they may join the Police Square Club of the City of New York. The Police Square Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month, September to June at Advance Masonic Temple, 21-14 30th Avenue, Long Island City, NY.

For any questions or inquiries regarding membership or collaboration, please email Secretary W Richard Araya at NYPDPSC1920@aol.com. You may also visit our website at www.NYPDPoliceSquareClub.org.



103rd Installation of Officers January 24, 2023

1,092nd Stated Meeting February 28, 2023



MOLLIE DENSLOW
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MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



RW ROBERT HEWSON, DPM
PRESIDENT
MMRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS
716/866-3353
Rhewson@mmri.edu



By the time you read this message it will be midsummer and I hope you all are enjoying our beautiful weather. Time has flown by since the spring edition of the *Empire State Mason Magazine* made it into your hands. This has been, as always, a busy time at the Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI).

In January RW Pasquale Imbimbo and I traveled to Florida with our development team to participate in the annual Sojourners event. We were able to proudly supply the fifty- and fifty-five-year service aprons to the many Brothers now residing in Florida. We were also able to present a program enlightening them and their spouses about the great work being done on their behalf at the MMRI.

February was another busy month, as well. Our Executive Director, Dr. Maria Kontaridis, and I were invited to address the Grand Assembly at the Council of Grandmasters in Alexandria, Virginia. With Stephen F. Izzo, our Development Director, and Tony Gilbert, MMRI's Communications Associate, we were able to meet the leadership of Grand jurisdictions from around the world. This was an incredible opportunity to introduce the MMRI and its science to a collection of world Masonic leaders, many of whom had never heard of the MMRI. I also had the distinct privilege and honor of meeting and discussing the Masonic Medical Research Institute with the Senior US Senator from Iowa and our Masonic brother, Charles ("Chuck") Grassley.

In March we had our second meeting of our resurrected Community Advisory Committee. These community leaders have assisted us in our core mission by raising awareness of and support for MMRI; we are grateful for their help and dedication.

As a result of this cooperation, I am pleased to announce our first annual Masonic Medical Research Institute golf tournament will be played on Monday, August 28, 2023 at the beautiful Yahnundasis Golf Club in New Hartford. This is a great opportunity to have some fun, play some golf at a great golf course, enjoy the camaraderie of our Brothers and guests, and support the MMRI. I hope you will take this opportunity

to play and/or become a sponsor, knowing that every dollar raised goes to support the medical research studies that are so essential to our well-being.

In April the Institute was visited by a delegation of Brothers from the Grand Lodge of Colombia. Our scientists provided summaries of their specific research areas. This is the type of worldwide Masonic recognition we seek. We are planning to work in cooperation with the Grand Lodge of Colombia on several projects in the coming years.

In May our Board of Directors attended the 241st Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of New York in NY City. Dr. Kontaridis reported on the scientific advances made at the MMRI over the course of last year and I presented MMRI's annual report to the brethren assembled.

The Board of Directors of the Lupus and Allied Diseases Association (LADA), located not far from us in Verona, NY, visited the Institute in mid-May. This was an opportunity for this all-volunteer national patient advocacy organization to see our recently completed renovations, meet our staff, and hear the results of our ongoing research projects. LADA, a major collaborator, and funder of MMRI's lupus research, also used the occasion to celebrate May as Lupus Awareness Month.

Finally, in June at St. John's weekend, the Institute opened its doors. Visiting brethren were able to see first-hand the incredible state-of-the-art research laboratory their support helped create, and of which we are all so proud.

Throughout these last few months our scientists have been busy making discoveries and publishing their studies. Our administrative staff has actively supported and enabled them to do what they do best: identify the causes of and cures for disease. I am very proud of everyone who works for and supports the mission of the MMRI, which is "improving the health and quality of life for all humankind."

Thank you for helping us maintain the high level of research for which we are known. Have a great summer and stay well.

Find us on:





MARIA I. KONTARIDIS, PhD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GORDON K. MOE PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

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MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



As the winter cold fades to make way for the warmth of spring, we are reminded that the warm and welcoming festivities of St. John's Day are right around the corner. We hope to see you, the Masons of New York, in Utica this June, when you can meet our scientists and tour the labs of the Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI). I am proud of what we do and of the efforts we make toward achieving our goal of enabling tomorrow's cures.

Our core areas of research include the following:

Lupus: My mother battled lupus for over twenty-five years. Sadly, she passed away from this devastating disease in 2009. Finding the cause of and developing better treatments for lupus have become personal goals for me. Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease of relatively unknown etiology, one that disproportionately affects women and minorities. My team is working to identify the mechanisms causal to lupus, focusing on targeting enzymes and signaling molecules within the immune cell population. Together with my colleague, Dr. Jason McCarthy, we are working to not only identify new molecular drug targets but also to find novel ways to deliver them to tissues to ameliorate the disease.

Autism: Many friends and family know first-hand what it is to live with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). ASDs impact one in forty-four children in the US alone, predominantly boys. We are working to improve their life experiences and understand whether genetic, environmental and/or socioeconomic influences underlie these disorders. Last year alone we identified three novel genes associated with individuals that have both ASD and congenital heart disease (CHD). Using inducible pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) and genome editing technologies we have begun to understand how these genetic anomalies can influence embryonic development and how they may impact multiple organs and tissues in our bodies.

Diabetes and Obesity: Diabetes and obesity are likely to become our next global pandemic. In the US alone, over 34 million people have been diagnosed with Type II Diabetes and, as of 2022, over 42% of our population is considered obese, i.e., with a body mass index of over 30. My colleague, Dr. Zhiqiang Lin, is working to delineate how the heart, liver and fat work together to induce obesity. Specifically, he is developing novel gene therapy approaches to restore metabolic balance, converting

white fat ("bad" fat that is stored) to brown fat (energy-producing "good" fat), to reverse obesity. In addition, my lab is focused on a novel gene that, when no longer expressed in the heart, has profound global metabolic effects, including reduced body fat on a high-fat diet and improved overall heart health. We are hopeful we can target this gene therapeutically to create a novel drug to treat both heart disease and obesity in the near future.

Heart Disease: Since its inception in 1958, the MMRI has been at the forefront of making novel discoveries to improve cardiovascular health. Our research was instrumental in the development of the defibrillator and pacemaker, the former of which helped save the life of Buffalo Bill football player Damar Hamlin. Today, our scientists are working to understand mechanisms that cause heart failure, cardiomyopathies, cardiac inflammation, congenital heart disease and cardiac arrhythmias. We use technologies such as imaging, iPSCs and single-cell molecular mapping to do this. We are on a mission to generate novel targets and develop new drugs to treat all aspects of heart disease.

MMRI scientists work tirelessly to make a difference in each of our lives every day. I came to the MMRI from Harvard because of its legacy of outstanding research and its commitment to nurturing careers in science. Importantly, our work is 100% funded by the generosity of our donors and through our competitive research grants. If any (or all) of our research areas motivate you to support our mission, please consider contributing a gift to the MMRI—a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, top-rated by Charity Navigator. You can help in many ways and all gifts are tax-deductible:

- Make a one-time donation
- Join our 1958 Club (with a recurring monthly gift of \$19.58)
- Earn income while supporting our research through a gift annuity
- Become a member of our Cornerstone Society by making a gift bequest, and in doing so, building your own and MMRI's legacy

Each of us can make a difference in the world, and I invite you to consider how supporting the MMRI will make that difference—to you, your family and our communities. Together we can build a healthier tomorrow. Thank you for your consideration. To learn more or for additional information, please reach out to our Development Director, Stephen F. Izzo, at 908/477-7966 or stephenizzo@mmri.edu.

Find us on:



MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



STEPHEN F. IZZO, MA, MPA, LT. USNR (RET)
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Success can be a double-edged sword: The Masonic Medical Research Institute's (MMRI's) efforts to raise awareness of who we are and what we do have helped us successfully connect with Masons and non-Masons alike in the fifty states and beyond. Major-media platforms featuring MMRI in the past year included Reuters, CNN, WebMD, Sky News and Medical News Today. We had numerous local mentions on Spectrum TV, WKTV and Ithaca.com and in the *Rome Daily Sentinel*, *Central New York Business Journal* and *Syracuse News Today*. Our success in raising grants and donated funds also fueled the rebuilding of our laboratories—from bottom to top—in just the past four-plus years.

All this success, however, may be responsible for a misperception: that we are flush with funding and do not need philanthropic support to achieve our mission. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the past, current and continued success of MMRI rests where it always has since we opened our doors in 1958: with our supporters. The MMRI, as a 501c3 charitable entity, is 100% funded by grantors and donors; and we need, more than ever, your support to continue and expand our research. Current studies of lupus, autism and diabetes, as well as planned studies of PTSD, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's diseases, among others, all require your and others' support, which we do not take for granted.

So how can you, as Masons, ensure the continued success and expansion of MMRI, a jewel not only of the Masonic community, but also of the world of scientific research? How can you get to see, up close and personally—should you visit us during St. John's week (June 21-25) or at another time—the fruits of your investment? There are a few ways you can achieve those goals:

- The first is by joining our 1958 Club (<https://www.mmri.edu/1958-club/>). I mentioned the Club in my spring *ESM* update. The 1958 date is an important one. While the Grand Lodge of New York and New York Masonry supported scientific research starting as early as 1947, it was not until 1958 that MMRI opened its doors on the campus of the Masonic Care Community. For your

monthly \$19.58 donation you will receive a welcome letter from our Board of Directors and Executive Director, an initial commemorative pin (plus an annually redesigned pin thereafter), invitations to Lab tours and special events and regular updates on how your funds are helping the Institute achieve its vision and mission. By joining the 1958 Club you will also satisfy a need every charity has: the need to achieve long-term viability and success through donors' recurring support.

- Another way to ensure our future success and see for yourself how your gift is impacting the lives of all humankind is by pledging a bequest to the Institute and thereby joining MMRI's Cornerstone Society. You can document your plans on a Bequest Intention Form (https://www.mmri.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/A-Cornerstone-Tradition_fillable-1.pdf), which can be altered at any time. So much of the support we have received over the years has emanated from bequests and estates, most of it from beneficent Masons who chose to leave the Institute a legacy improving the lives of current and future generations.
- The final way does not require a donation—just your presence. Come and visit us. We want this to be a relationship and conversation rather than a sales pitch or a lecture. If you can stop by, we are happy to arrange a tour of the facility you helped us build and introduce you to the scientists who spend their days seeking to understand, decipher and overcome the causes of disease. We also can present on MMRI to Masonic Lodges, Districts and individuals either in person or remotely, via Zoom or MS Teams, and can share materials on our work that you can pass on to others.

To inquire about our research, arrange a tour of the Institute or support us—as a benefactor, volunteer or MMRI ambassador—please feel free to contact me at any time at stephenizzo@mmri.edu and/or 908/477-7966. Thank you again. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Find us on:



Save the Date!

FOR OUR FIRST ANNUAL



Celebrating 65 years of research at the Masonic Medical Research Institute

Join us for the first annual MMRI Golf Classic fundraiser.

Your support will allow us to enhance our efforts in cardiovascular, neurocognitive, and autoimmunity research.

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For more information on MMRI or to join, sponsor, or purchase tickets for our fundraising event, please go to mmri.edu.

Questions? Contact Stephen F. Izzo, Development Director,
at 908-447-7966 or stephenizzo@mmri.edu.

NEW YORK STATE MASONIC FRATERNITY – SPECIAL EVENTS

RW GEORGE FILIPPIDIS
TRUSTEES OF THE MASONIC HALL & HOME
BOARD MEMBER AND ASSISTANT TREASURER
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Grand Master's Family Day at West Point

On Saturday, October 1, 2022 Grand Master Richard Kessler, Deputy Grand Master Steven Rubin and the members of the elected and appointed Grand Line welcomed Brothers and families from throughout the State of New York and beyond to the campus of the United States Military Academy. This was the Grand Master's Family Day at West Point. Even though it rained for days leading up to the event, and the game day weather forecast was not good, the Masons of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York were unfazed. Though it rained early that morning, the showers stopped and allowed everyone to have a spectacular day.

As always, there was strong support from the Beautiful Bronx District. District Deputy Grand Master RW Gil Agosto, RW Matty Frank and W Frankie Mercado arrived at 8:00 a.m. to set up and start making breakfast. Not to be outdone, DDGM Stu Singer brought out the Mighty Queens District in full force.

In the past, this event sold an average of eighty to ninety tickets, so it was amazing when all previous attendance records were broken when over 225 tickets were sold for the event. Many more people, including family and friends, joined with our Masonic Brothers and gathered on the United States

Military Academy campus, taking tailgating to an entirely different level. Everyone huddled together as one big happy family in Lot H, and then sat together in Michie Stadium for the game.

The extensive tailgating provided ranged from the usual hot dogs and hamburgers (including all sides and fixings) to a variety of souvlakia grilled by RW Spiro Triantafilis. He never left his post, manning the grill all day. He was supported by VW Devin Rincon, W Jerry Filippidis, Astrid Rodriguez and Viki Skliris.

Please save the date for this year's Grand Master's Family Day at West Point. It is Saturday, September 9. The West Point Army Black Knights will take on the Delaware State Hornets. Weather permitting, there will be a memorial service and wreath laying by the Grand Master, and the opportunity to view the Parade of Cadets. Proceeds from this event will benefit Masonic Charities.

For this year's event, please contact me. Look for our upcoming website www.GLSNYevents.com for pictures and ticket information. Thank you for your support; we look forward to seeing you in September.



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Card Playing

Gaming, Geo. Washington and DeWint House

It is noted that in the 18th century, “Wealthier colonists played Pope Joan, quadrille and whist.” Few of these citizens likely kept as full a gambling record as did George Washington. His diaries show that he lost six pounds, three shillings and three pence between 1772 and 1775. After he took control of the Continental army he banned card games among his men, as it was impossible to discriminate between “innocent play” and “criminal gaming.”

The *Pennsylvania Evening Post* dated May 8, 1777 ran this announcement: “Headquarters, Morristown, ‘General Orders: As few vices are attended with more pernicious consequences in civil life, so there are none more fatal in a military one than that of gaming, which often leads to disgrace and ruin upon officers, and injury and punishment upon the soldiery. And reports prevailing, which it is to be feared are too well founded, that this destructive vice has spread its baneful influence in the army, and in a peculiar manner, to the prejudice of the recruiting service, the Commander-in-chief, in the most pointed and explicit terms, forbids all officers and soldiers playing at cards, dice, or at any games, except those of exercise or diversion, it being impossible, if the practice be allowed at all, to discriminate between innocent play for amusement and criminal gaming for pecuniary and sordid purposes.”

On January 8, 1778 at Headquarters: “The Commander in Chief is informed that gaming is again creeping into the Army in a more especial manner among the Lower Staff in the Environments of the Camp, he therefore in the most solemn terms declares that this Vice in either Officer or Soldier shall not when detected escape exemplary punishment and to avoid discrimination between play and gaming forbids Cards and Dice under any pretense whatever.”

The rule on card playing and gaming was strictly enforced. Cornet Walker Baylor (Brother of George Baylor, former aide of General Washington and now Commander of the Third Continental Dragoons) was later caught playing cards and remained waiting for a court martial back at home for some time.

December 27, 1780 - The story of “The Soldier and His Cards” is recorded on this date. “Knowing General Washington’s orders against card playing, a soldier being unfortunately surprised at a game of cards by a sergeant who owed him an old grudge, was carried before the colonel of the regiment, that he might be punished for gaming, against which general orders were very severe. The soldier being asked what he had to say in his defense, replied: That having been religiously educated, and well instructed in the Bible by his parents, and his pay so small that with the greatest economy he had not

been able to save enough to buy one, he had therefore purchased an old pack of cards for a few dollars of one of his comrades, which not only served him for a Bible, but made a most excellent almanac besides; then taking out his cards he proceeded thus: ‘When I see a one, it reminds me that there is but one God; a two, of the Father and Son; a three, of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; a four, calls to my remembrance the four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; a five, the five wise and five foolish virgins; a six, that in six days God created the heavens and the earth; a seven, that the seventh was to be kept holy; an eight, of the eight righteous persons that were preserved from the flood, viz.: Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives; a nine, the nine ungrateful lepers cleansed by our Savior; a ten, of the ten commandments; the queen reminds me of the Queen of Sheba, who came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and the king, of the great King of Heaven.’

The colonel told him he had forgotten the knave. ‘That,’ he replied, ‘used to represent Judas; but from this time, when I see the knave, I shall always think of the sergeant who brought me before your honor.’

‘I don’t know,’ interrupted the colonel, smiling, ‘whether he is the greater of the two, but I am sure he is the greatest fool.’

The soldier continued as follows: ‘When I count the number of dots on a pack of cards they are three hundred and sixty-five, for so many days there are in a year; when I count how many cards are in a pack, I find fifty-two, so many weeks are there in a year; when I reckon how many picture cards are in a pack, I find there are twelve, so many months in a year; when I reckon how many tricks are won by a pack, I find there are thirteen, this reminds me of the duty I owe to the thirteen United and Independent States of America. Thus, they serve both for Bible and almanac.’

The colonel called his servant, told him to treat the soldier well, and dismissed him, saying he was a clever fellow. Reader, be not ashamed of cards, since they may be applied to the best of purposes; the scandal consists not in the use, but in the abuse of them.”

When the war had concluded, Washington was on his way to visit West Point and then back to New York City to see the British evacuate New York. From November 11 to 14, 1783 General Washington was caught in a severe snowstorm and took refuge at the DeWint house, for his fourth and final visit. Mrs. John DeWint Jr. recalled that she “introduced cards by the way of amusement.” And now that the war was over, it was the first time the General played cards since the commencement of the Revolution.



A Historic Re-Connection

by James William Gregg
Grand Sword Bearer
Fifth Manhattan Masonic District



George Washington Lodge 285 of the Fifth Manhattan Masonic District is celebrating its 170th year as a Lodge. Recently, the leaders of GWL decided to reconnect with a Lodge we had aligned with in the past: Fredericksburg Lodge 4 of Virginia. Fredericksburg Lodge 4 is one of the oldest and most historic Lodges in the Commonwealth of Virginia and has existed since 1752. It is one of two Lodges to be considered to date from “Time Immemorial” or “a time before legal history, and beyond legal memory,” prior to its Scottish Charter of 1758. (The Lodge still retains this charter as well as its founding charter from 1752).



Fredericksburg Lodge is known for the first documented conferral of the Royal Arch Degree, in 1753. Fredericksburg Lodge 4 was also George Washington’s Lodge, in which he was Initiated, Passed and Raised. As with St. John’s Lodge 1, which holds George Washington’s Presidential Inaugural Bible, Fredericksburg holds the Bible on which George Washington took his Degrees.

This may then be the reason Fredericksburg Lodge 4 and George Washington Lodge 285 connected many years ago. In historic fashion, GW 285 presented Fredericksburg 4 Lodge with a mighty chalice to commemorate the 168th Masonic Birthday of Brother George Washington on November 4, 1920.



As a gracious gesture in 1921, George Washington Lodge 285 was presented a gavel made of cherry wood from the Mount Vernon Estate by Fredericksburg Lodge.



In recent years, our connections have flourished. In 2019 Fredericksburg Lodge 4 brought their historic George Washington Bible to the Grand Lodge of New York for our Fifth Manhattan District-wide Installation.



Our Lodge makes a yearly sojourn to an out-of-state Lodge to confer a Degree upon our incoming candidates or Brothers. In commemoration of the historic connection, W Matt Minor and eighteen

Brothers made the journey to Fredericksburg to confer the Fellowcraft Degree upon two Brothers of George Washington Lodge 285.

All Brothers met in the morning to enjoy a pancake breakfast. Then Worshipful Joseph Gilkerson offered a tour

Continues on next page – A Historic

Warwick Lodge 544

Warwick Lodge 544 presented an excellent Third Degree, conducted by W Kyle Williams and his Degree team. Congratulations go to our new Raised Brothers Jon Barton, Robert Chocallo and John Longinus.



Continued from previous page – A Historic



to the Brothers of George Washington Lodge and presented a wealth of history that is contained in each floor of their Lodge building.



All were invited to sit in on a Research Lodge meeting in which a fuller history of Fredericksburg Lodge 4 was described. After some preparation, the brethren opened George Washington Lodge under dispensation from the Grand Lodge of New York and the Grand Lodge of Virginia, and conferred the Fellowcraft Degree according to New York standard ritual. At the closing, all offered thanks and gratitude for the strong fellowship and Brotherly Love on display and the genuine support each offered. We continued our fellowship with collation in downtown Fredericksburg and all enjoyed the town and each other's company.



YEARS OF SERVICE

83 YEARS

0097 RENOVATION
Lloyd F. Cliff

82 YEARS

0922 AMOS-FORT GREENE
Arthur Sanders

78 YEARS

0634 SCOTIA
James Lowell Kopper

77 YEARS

0341 CLYDE
Roland C. Hurlburt

0557 JAMES M. AUSTIN
George E. Story

0664 AMICABLE
Robert H. Brown

0782 TRIUNE-OBED
John T. Zimmer

0796 DOLGEVILLE
Arthur Knapp

0839 ATHELSTANE
Ernest P. Cassis

76 YEARS

00006 ST. GEORGE'S
George Clarke Peck Jr

0085 BETHLEHEM
Harvey S. Sutton

0433 FORT PLAIN
Owen R. Dievendorf

0434 PLEASANTVILLE HIAWATHA
Peter J. Girardi

0620 CLINTON F. PAIGE-BEREAN
Curtis R. Perkins

0727 BUNTING-CHARITY
William Kastner

0956 SPARTAN
Edward Crabb

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS
Arthur F. Searby

1124 PAN-AMERICAN
Robert F. Ricart

75 YEARS

0002 INDEPENDENT ROYAL ARCH
Stanley J. Ciaputa

0006 ST. GEORGE'S
Eli Y. Leslie

0019 MIDWOOD FORTITUDE
Norman Finkelstein

0200 GAROGA-SINCERITY
Harold Bloser

0231 CORNERSTONE
Edward W. Smith

0266 POUGHKEEPSIE
Allen S. Brower

0342 WYOMING
Philip J. Teubl

0513 MASSENA
Sarkis K. Balukjian
Robert Arthur
Ingraham

0647 AURORA GRATA-DAY STAR
Richard C. Kunz

0710 RIDGEWOOD
Christian C. Troll

0750 SHAKESPEARE
George J. Seaman Jr

0776 RELIANCE
Constantine J. Ballos

0934 JOSEPH WARREN-GOTHIC
Martin Ziserman

1037 VICTORIA SEA GATE
William H. Stern

74 YEARS

0146 WESTERN UNION
Hugh D. Chamberlain Jr

0159 PULTNEYVILLE
Larry Charles Fisher

0167 TRI-TOWN
Chris G. Bickos

0205 PHOENIX
Theodore D. Veru

0266 POUGHKEEPSIE
David W. Cundy

0445 CASSIA
Burton Handelsman

0483 ZEREDATHA
Gerald Safferman

0494 JEPHTHA
Kenneth H. Gusovius

0501 LIVERPOOL SYRACUSE
John R. Coniber

0511 KINGS COUNTY
William R. Merkent
William F. Nester

0588 CARPENTER-EMANUEL
Victor J. Facio

0757 SILVER
Lester H. Manning

0776 RELIANCE
Alfred H. Jantzen Jr

0867 DAMASCUS
Louis J. Savarese

0912 GREAT KILLS
George W. Garbutt Jr

0942 UNITED LODGE
Victor Gatto

1041 BROTHERHOOD
Nathan Glasser

1174 SCHENECTADY
Donald E. Forte

1175 FELLOWSHIP
Jack R. Hendricks

1188 RENAISSANCE
William R. Burger Jr

1193 TOWPATH
John Bruce Long

73 YEARS

0020 MOUNT MORIAH
Edward Simpson

0073 CHARLOTTEVILLE
Charles L. Ossman

0152 HANOVER
Justin H. Niebel

0205 PHOENIX
Kostas Vellios

0226 QUEEN OF SHEBA
James S. Morse

0250 WILLARD SYLVAN GROVE
Antranig M. Ouzoonian

0352 HOMER
James R. Cox
George C. Wood

0381 HUGENOT
John A. Rener

0468 RIP VAN WINKLE
John E. Gottlieb

0473 WHITE PLAINS
Raymond E. Ebe

0511 KINGS COUNTY
William A. Heath

0582 WAWARSING
John F. Geary

0588 CARPENTER-EMANUEL
Joseph A. Gottlieb

0634 SCOTIA
Edwin Yabrow

0653 JOHN JAY
Walter Lilling

0689 WHAT CHEER
James Ward Cotey

0699 HARMONIE
Donald C. Brooks

0782 TRIUNE-OBED
Henry A. Olson Jr

0787 GASPORT
Paul N. O'Neill

0799 ORISKANY
William J. Vandyke

0814 SCONONDOA-SHERRILL
Gilman E. Alstad

0877 WEST POINT
John R. Shaffer

0922 AMOS-FORT GREENE
Richard Hoffman

1068
JAMES W. HUSTED-FIAT LUX
Marvin Hirshfeld

1174 SCHENECTADY
Harry P. Coton Jr

1187 NORTH ROSE
Wolcott Allen Mitchell

72 YEARS

0023 HANCOCK-DIRIGO-ADELPHI
Martin Burger

0097 RENOVATION
Dennis E. Smith

0110 SCIPIO
David A. Brooks

0130 PORT BYRON
Elmer Kilmer Jr
Robert Rude

0145 MOUNT MORIAH
Donald M. Englestad

0211 POCAHONTAS
Kenneth W. Padgett

0224 ORIENTAL-FAXTON
John M. Haynes

0230 UNIVERSITY
Barden Conroe

0349 PECONIC
James F. Homan

0378 BIG FLATS C
Robert Watson

0392 SODUS
Donald G. Walker

0521 SULLIVAN
Richard B. Gregory

0548 LAURENS
William W. Frone

0586 ADVANCE SERVICE MIZPAH
Donald Victor

0622 CENTRAL SQUARE
Ronald D. Gordon

0647 AURORA GRATA-DAY STAR
George P B Outzen

0799 ORISKANY
Richard C. Wood

0837 HESPERUS
Donald G. Hart

0849 NORTH WOODS
Albert W. Brussel
Theodore L. Harwood

0855
PAUMANOK-PORT WASHINGTON
Edward George
McIlhenny

0890 JOSHUA
Robert Bloomberg

0922 AMOS-FORT GREENE
Morton J. Koplo

0977 AMITYVILLE
Irving M. Messinger

1041 BROTHERHOOD
Theodore Newler

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS
William H. Kramer

1185 WESTERN STAR
Bruce F. Hawkes

9009
AMERICAN LODGE OF RESEARCH
Francis J. Tutell

71 YEARS

0020 MOUNT MORIAH
Jerry Cedar

0056 ST. ALBANS
James Julian Owens

0066 STATEN ISLAND
Roger E. Acker

0093 CROSSROADS UNITED
Harvey E. Pierce

0154 ERAC
John C. Wihlen

0166 FOREST
Daniel Charles Smith

0168 CORNING PAINTED POST
Donald E. Palme

0173 MONROE
Loren E. Knab

0183 FARMERVILLE-UNION
Lee E. Weaver

0217 GOUVERNEUR
Norton Warren Taylor

0229 ORIONA GROVE
Keith C. Folts

0294 CANANDAIGUA
William A. Morehouse

0301 DUNKIRK-IRONDEQUOIT

Willard L. Fredricks

0320 UNION STAR

Martin J. Reitz

0365 GOSHEN

Herbert C. Mueller

0466 ONEONTA

Ralph W. Knox

0486**GOLDENRULE CLERMONT MCKINLEY**

Herbert Schuman

0501 LIVERPOOL SYRACUSE

William G. Crabb

0586 ADVANCE SERVICE MIZPAH

Russell F. Sweet

0588 CARPENTER-EMANUEL

Hyman E. Matza

Morris E. Matza

0611 ST. JOHNSVILLE

Adam Klock

0648 MEMORIAL

Olin D. Bockes

0776 RELIANCE

Robert Edward Moore

Lewis Prono

0789 WHITEFACE MOUNTAIN

George L. Riebel

0806 MATINECOCK

Noel Vernon

0877 WEST POINT

Harry V. Dutchyshyn

Edmund A. Thompson

0902 MOUNT MASADA-GALAXY

Samuel J. Rosen

0922 AMOS-FORT GREENE

Oscar Gole

1066 HARRY S TRUMAN

Harvey S. Horn

1188 RENAISSANCE

Thomas A. Miller Jr

70 YEARS**0009 UNITY**

Harold E. Evans

0063 WANTAGH MORTON

Edward A. Boulus

Charles Smith Homadue

0084 AMSTERDAM

Gerald A. Roberts

0097 RENOVATION

Roy W. Salmon

0264 BARON STEUBEN

Robert L. Morgan

0285 GEORGE WASHINGTON

Wesley B. France

Charles C. Holt

0287 CONTINENTAL

John Homer Vagelos

0306 CUBA-FRIENDSHIP

V. Perry Carter

0403 BALDER-GREENPOINT

Roger D. Martz

0415 PULASKI

Malcolm B. Adsit

0434 PLEASANTVILLE HIAWATHA

Owen B. Cottle

0445 CASSIA

Albert Edelstein

0463 LAMOKA

Richard G. Haight

0474 BELMONT

Robert H. Mcninch

0478**SOUTH DANSVILLE-WAYLAND**

Richard A. Schwingel

0487 NORMAL

Michael Agresta

George Turner

0494 JEPHTHA

Richard H. Schultze

0521 SULLIVAN

Harold L. Gold

0533 ROUND HILL

Eugene H. Darrow

0586 ADVANCE SERVICE MIZPAH

Charles Zirpiades

0764 SAVANNAH

Robert A. Mayne

0776 RELIANCE

Frank William Zimmer

0796 DOLGEVILLE

Gordon A. Darling

0854 ARCHIMEDE-ROMA

Frederick Cuffari

0877 WEST POINT

Bruce F. Miller

0892 QUEENSBORO

Kenneth E. Nicholas

0934 JOSEPH WARREN-GOTHIC

Harvey Rosenzweig

0948 SWEET HOME

Peter T. Xanthos

1037 VICTORIA SEA GATE

Allen R. Kaplan

Harris I. D. Schwartz

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS

Robert N. Robson

1071 POTUNK

Felix V. Chateau

1185 WESTERN STAR

John B. Elliott

David C. Larish

9101 UNKNOWN

Gregory L. Winther

65 YEARS**0003 MOUNT VERNON**

Norman Glen Bradley

Daniel Joseph Bradley Jr

0005 MASTERS

Glenn R. Cropsey

0006 ST. GEORGE'S

Melvin Mintz

0013 APOLLO-KING SOLOMON'S

Richard W. Horton

0020 MOUNT MORIAH

Myron I. Levy

0023 HANCOCK-DIRIGO-ADELPHI

Harold Herbst

Irwin Schwefel

0046 HUGENOT

Peter John Woodcock

0075 EVENING STAR

Ronald F. Powell

0085 BETHLEHEM

Jeffrey T. Wennar

0096 MOUNT HOPE-PHOENIX

Henry Stone

0097 RENOVATION

John E. David

0105 HIRAM

William A. Gick

Joseph B. Johnson

0109 INSPIRATION

Donald Winfield

Woodruff

0120 HAMILTON

John W. Merz

0130 PORT BYRON

Vernon M. Jetty

Irving J. Wood

0159 PULTNEYVILLE

Ralph Morgan

0178 CORNERSTONE

Joseph N. Samek

0221 CAYUGA

William H. Hares

0224 ORIENTAL-FAXTON

Eugene F. Halliday

David J. Schrenk

0262 PHOENIX

Donald G. Boland

0273 FRANCIS LEWIS

Richard Stephen

Blankfein

0285 GEORGE WASHINGTON

Donald Keith McKee

0305 FAYETTEVILLE CENTRAL CITY

H. Edward Tracy

0393 WADDINGTON

Ross C. Martin

0399 MAINE

H Richard Weber

0406 HUMANITY

Charles F. Stutz Jr

0414 SCRIBA

Ronald Sterling

0417 WADSWORTH

Alfred C. Hamilton Jr

0419 ARCADE

James Philip Johnston

0439 DELAWARE RIVER

John R. Bramley

0445 CASSIA

Harold A. Trebatch

0471 TOMPKINS

Robert I. Hayes

0477 WILDWOOD

James Sayer

0483 ZEREDATHA

Arnold Boyd Genatt

0486**GOLDENRULE CLERMONT MCKINLEY**

Robert L. Weiss

0487 NORMAL

John McCulloch

0506 RISING LIGHT

Jay M. Young

0517 FRONTIER

Marvin Eugene Drown

0555**YORKTOWN-DIAMOND-THISTLE**

Michael Russak

0575 OLIVE

Daniel L. Smith

0608 LESSING

Werner O. Herbold

0627 WALLKILL

John Kenneth Ross Jr

0647 AURORA GRATA-DAY STAR

Mortimer Bryan Larsen

0729 ANCHOR-ASTORIA

John H. Bisack II

0737 GUTTENBERG

Walter G. Ragotzkie Jr

0789 WHITEFACE MOUNTAIN

Douglas G. Bombard

0826 SUTHERLAND

Jan P. Reeves

0847 RAQUETTE RIVER LODGE

Joseph Edward Fazio

0877 WEST POINT

Ernest N. Dulaney

0922 AMOS-FORT GREENE

Robert Bernard

Eugene Rothkopf

0950 KONOSIONI

Alan P. Shepherd

0956 SPARTAN

Harold W. Grant Jr

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS

Robert W. Kluesener

1066 HARRY S TRUMAN

Arthur J. Gotlieb

Murray H. Warschauer

1118**LODGE OF THE UNITED SERVICES**

Stanley Moore

1147 CARROLL

Willard W. Cass Jr

1175 FELLOWSHIP

Wayne B. Cameron

1185 WESTERN STAR

Charles C. Greiner

1186 KEN-TON

Donald H. Rutter Sr

60 YEARS**0006 ST. GEORGE'S**

Walter R. Miller

0007 MONUMENTAL**HUDSON WIDOW'S SON**

James A. Kellerhouse

William T. Nack

David R. Steitz

0009 UNITY

Edwin A. Keil

Richard Mason Nuhn

0013 APOLLO-KING SOLOMON'S

Albert J. Greene Jr

George H. Tashjian Jr

0020 MOUNT MORIAH

Edmund Dollinger

0022 FRANKLIN

Dennis B. Beek

0023 HANCOCK-DIRIGO-ADELPHI

Gilbert Savitzky

0045 UNION

Guy E. Ball

0047 UTICA

Roger S. Williams

0055 GRANVILLE

Philip A. Berke

0063 WANTAGH MORTON

Frederick D. Summers Jr

0082 PHOEBUS

Donald J. Elliott

Donald Lee Higgins

Richard S. Smith

0083 NEWARK

Harold G. Schraffenberger

0087 VAN RENSSELAER

Robert K. Van Alstyne

0095 GENERAL SULLIVAN
Thomas D. Angelo

0109 INSPIRATION
Ronald N. Ogren

0118 ADDISON UNION
Dennis E. Hopper

0134 LOWVILLE
Douglas S. Brodie
Donald C. Rogers

0145 MOUNT MORIAH
Jerold L. Hull

0151 SENTINEL
L. Frederick Kirk Jr

0157 TRUMANSBURG
Peter L. Ditmars

0159 PULTNEYVILLE
James P. Ocque

0172 CHAUMONT
Donald Francis Sheley

0178 CORNERSTONE
Bernard Louis Levine

0195 FRANKLIN
Nicholas Pavlides
Sven Skjolberg

0200 GAROGA-SINCERITY
John L. Bowles

0201 GENESIS
Ronald A. Dauphinee
William H. Freese Jr

0219 SUMMIT
David W. Rohman

0224 ORIENTAL-FAXTON
Angelo Dimare

0231 CORNERSTONE
Paul Miller

0232 KING SOLOMON-BEETHOVEN
Jay R. Simons

0285 GEORGE WASHINGTON
Charles H. Wahler Jr

0294 CANANDAIGUA
Thomas J. Bay

0303 SYLVAN
Robert S. Williams

0358 ANCIENT LANDMARKS
Kenneth C. Gill
Donald G. Williams II

0386 JORDAN
Gary L. Bird

0394 COBLESKILL
Fenton
Romyne Mereness Jr

0399 MAINE
William L. Jermyn

0417 WADSWORTH
John G. Guile

0419 ARCADE
Philip Martin Murray

0433 FORT PLAIN
William D. Brust

0434 PLEASANTVILLE HIAWATHA
Robert W. Bennett

0442 WINDSOR
John Robert Peck

0466 ONEONTA
Robert V. Hunt

0477 WILDWOOD
Richard T. Harker

0491 SCHOHARIE VALLEY
William J. Vroman

0506 RISING LIGHT
William B. Kellogg

0517 FRONTIER
Kenneth R. Cheyne

0521 SULLIVAN
Martin Fein

0544 WARWICK
Robert Carl Frauenstein

0545 COPERNICUS
Howard C. Hafner
Otto R. Palmer

0565 GUIDING STAR-ANGLE
William H. Collister
Kenneth James

0575 OLIVE
Harold L. Scott

0581 WINFIELD
Ronald H. Crist

0586 ADVANCE SERVICE MIZPAH
John R. Castro

0595 SOCRATES
Joseph Mayerhofer
Harry von der Lieth

0611 ST. JOHNSVILLE
Thomas A. Tompson

0616 CAZENOVIA
William James Goff
Roland Merle Maracle

0627 WALKILL
Norbury P. Chambers
Roland
Arthur Schofield Jr

0671 WAPPINGERS
Richard A. Arnoff

0677 REMSEN
Alan C. Jones

0696 PEACOCK
James E. Bond

0701 BEACON LIGHT
Allan K. Brier

0727 BUNTING-CHARITY
Jack K. Zisblatt

0737 GUTTENBERG
William Frederick
Sandmeyer

0754 NOAH
Roger I. Briggs

0765 VON MENSCH
Heinz K. Graumann

0779 CLIO
Kenneth R. Mullen

0793 BABYLON
Allan Birk
Leo Burns Jr

0808 GUIDING LIGHT-OLYMPIA
Robert Ditty

0818 MELROSE
Philip R. Sortore

0849 NORTH WOODS
Arthur E. Eyre Jr

0859 COLLABERGH-RADIUM
George J. Kyriazis

0877 WEST POINT
Richard Edward Entlich
Karl Otto Schwartz
Gary Franklin Vote

0916 PHILADELPHIA
Roderick K. Simonds

0922 AMOS-FORT GREENE
Allen I. Miller

0934 JOSEPH WARREN-GOTHIC
Roy H. Gordon

0948 SWEET HOME
Robert Kerr
Bernard N. Reznick

0956 SPARTAN
William R. Fensterer
S. Robert Kroll

0970 JOHNSON CITY UNITY
Jerry R. Pilkington

0977 AMITYVILLE
George H. Eastwood Jr
Wesley Cornelius Powell

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS
Warren W. Ungerer

1068
JAMES W. HUSTED-FIAT LUX
Lawrence Klein
Edward Weinstein

1097 ALLIANCE WHITNEY
Herbert Oliver

1118
LODGE OF THE UNITED SERVICES
Kenneth E. Hoyt
Richard P. Miller

1129 HELLENIC - PLATO
George L. Stamatiadis

1180 DRUMLIN SQUARE
Leslie C. Wilde

1188 RENAISSANCE
Thomas E. Grupp

1193 TOWPATH
Robert R. Rook

55 YEARS

0003 MOUNT VERNON
Leonard Charles Finke

0004 ST. PATRICK'S
Perle B. Stearns

0007 MONUMENTAL
HUDSON WIDOW'S SON
Arthur Girard Smith
Wayne G. Weber

0019 MIDWOOD FORTITUDE
Edward A. Bracher Jr
Raymond G. Kathmeyer

0020 MOUNT MORIAH
Norman T. Strauss

0031 MANHATTAN
Robert J. Cave

0034 COURTLANDT
Edward O. Curry III

0039 OLIVE BRANCH
David J. Wilson

0056 ST. ALBANS
Boyd B. Nelson
Howard Hugh Tear
Garrett N. Wildung

0079 UNITY
Col Warren
Henry Wiedhahn

0084 AMSTERDAM
Ronald H. Krutz

0093 CROSSROADS UNITED
Richard Alan Forth

0103 RISING SUN
Samuel Sid Gordon

0109 INSPIRATION
John W. Dense
Richard J. Russell
Raymond E. Sterling

0111 ST. LAWRENCE
Robert W. Collins
David M. Speer

0124 AUBURN
Robert A. Ward

0126 EASTERN LIGHT
George Warren Estey

0128 OGDENSBURGH-ACACIAN
Kenneth J. Crobar

0129 SANGER
Bruce C. Coe

0130 PORT BYRON
Richard E. Cunningham

0134 LOWVILLE
Lawrence C. Peacock

0154 ERAC
Robert George Helmes

0155 FRATERNAL
Willard L. Gordon
John D. Kitchen
John W. Moore
Clinton E. Wagner

0167 TRI-TOWN
Owen Ayre

0168 CORNING PAINTED POST
George
N.T. Whitbred III

0172 CHAUMONT
William
Frederick Cuppernell

0177 BINGHAMTON
Richard E. Williams

0178 CORNERSTONE
Robert Bennett Boykin
Leonard S. Sands

0201 GENESIS
Robert W. Smith

0203 MUNN
Samuel Kovler

0217 GOUVERNEUR
Clarence J. McAdam

0224 ORIENTAL-FAXTON
Arthur G. Jones
John W. Vanderland

0230 UNIVERSITY
David L. Metzler

0232 KING SOLOMON-BEETHOVEN
Robert D. Katz

0233 PACIFIC
Michael F. Neidorff

0241 HARMONY
Kenneth G. Berton
George W. Koch Jr

0246 ARCANIA
Harvey Reibel

0252 ENCHANTED MOUNTAINS
Vernon M. Grom

0262 PHOENIX
Alfred McIlvenna

0263 MOUNT VERNON
Michael E. Driver

0273 FRANCIS LEWIS
Cesidio Di Cristoforo

0298 FISH HOUSE
Harry O. Whitman Jr

0308 SENECA LAKE
James E. Fairbrother

0333 WESTBROOK
Christopher J. Williams

0334 CHERRY VALLEY
Michael Wayne Fox

0369 CALLIMACHUS
Laverne C. Williams Sr

0381 HUGENOT
Richard Norman Egbert

0383 NORTHERN AURORA
George A. Burke
Cameron John Herdman

0384 CHERRY CREEK
David L. Snyder

0392 SODUS
Richard W. Dement
Ronald H. Paton

0393 WADDINGTON
William E. Fisher

0406 HUMANITY
Donald L. Fletcher

0414 SCRIBA
Douglas Shaw

0415 PULASKI
Burtiss V. Goodnough
William Edward LaVeck
J Henry Porter

0434 PLEASANTVILLE HIAWATHA
Heinz G. Hublitz

0439 DELAWARE RIVER
Joseph A. Reynolds

0458 SHEKOMEKO
John I. Melgalvis

0462 ATTICA
Larry E. Lyons
Dale B. Slocum

0464 DOWNSVILLE
Charles J. Reside

0476 FAIRPORT-FLOWER CITY
Wayne A. Beckwith

0479 UNITY
Robert K. Humphreys Jr
Ernest A. Kirkpatrick
Ronald A. Ladue

0481 CAMBRIDGE VALLEY
Russell D. Smith

0491 SCHOHARIE VALLEY
Lee Richard Schaeffer

0501 LIVERPOOL SYRACUSE
B John Golden
Donald C. Pair

0521 SULLIVAN
Arthur W. Hellerer
Saunder Perlman

0524 MORNING STAR
Barrett L. Jones

0549 WARSAW
Howard W. Brubaker

0551 RANSOMVILLE
Stanley L. Phillips

0552 HANCOCK
Thomas C. Cook

0565 GUIDING STAR-ANGLE
George M. Leopold

0586 ADVANCE SERVICE MIZPAH
Richard E. Meyer

0589 NAURASHANK
George H. Cade
Niels S. Favre

0602 IROQUOIS
Willard J. Kohen

0616 CAZENOVIA
Richard A. Hauck

0620 CLINTON F. PAIGE-BEREAN
Michael A. Harshbarger

0645 RIVERHEAD
David R. Cooke

0647 AURORA GRATA-DAY STAR
Henry G. Kunz

0649 ROBINSON
James Edward Lucy
Phillip E. Pfeifer

0725 SOUTHERN LIGHT
Walter Dean Madison

0729 ANCHOR-ASTORIA
Robert H. Billharz

0740 ALLEMANIA
Richard Schultz

0750 SHAKESPEARE
Archer H. Smith Jr

0772 RESCUE
Edwin Charles Tuthill

0776 RELIANCE
Robert William Speicher

0784 KING HIRAM
Ian A. McCord

0793 BABYLON
Gordon R. Hall

0794 MOUNT DEFIANCE
Donald Johnson

0819 COMPOSITE
Mrs Joseph A. Schwartz

0826 SUTHERLAND
Robert N. Bell

0863 DUNWOODIE
Gerald J. Hurwitz

0877 WEST POINT
Daniel B. Baker
David Wallace Gerard
Kim Jury Henningsen

0890 JOSHUA
Edwin Fisher
Clifford T. Soss

0892 QUEENSBORO
Carl J. Meinhardt

0912 GREAT KILLS
Frank J. Borello Jr
Santo A. Borello Sr

0913 HEIGHTS
Robert W. Cordick

0922 AMOS-FORT GREENE
Stuart H. Coleton

0925 TYRIAN
Eugene E. Higby

0948 SWEET HOME
Marshall S. Lipman

0958 MORIAH
Wayne Jacobson

0968 PHILO-MOUNT SINAI
Irwin L. Davis
Avery David Wheelock

1041 BROTHERHOOD
George Leipsner
Marvin Levy

1072 DEXTER
Frederick
Michael Bachner

1111 WEST SENECA
Joseph A. Eisenried
Ronald T. Puckett

1174 SCHENECTADY
Lawrence M. Gordon
Harold A. Heusner

1180 DRUMLIN SQUARE
David L. Harner

1187 NORTH ROSE WOLCOTT
Richard E. Crane

1188 RENAISSANCE
Robert O. Sharpe

50 YEARS

0006 ST. MARK'S-VESTAL
Daniel R. Vergason

0012 TRINITY
John F. Westerfeld

0013 APOLLO-KING SOLOMON'S
Paul J. Clifford

0021 WASHINGTON
Carlos Jorge Munoz

0022 FRANKLIN
William Stanley Arnold
Charles
William Escher Jr
Charles Ray Mckinster

0047 UTICA
Frederick E. De La Fleur

0056 ST. ALBANS
Loy Julian Latham
Christian D. Urig

0066 STATEN ISLAND
Mark Wilson Allen III
Paul Martin Hormann Jr

0067 MARINERS
Dennis Roy Corsalini

0073 CHARLOTTEVILLE
Carl M. Henderson
Ernest A. Stahl

0083 NEWARK
Richard A. Giles

0084 AMSTERDAM
George H. Howe
Gregory J. Melita
Robert L. Swanker

0095 GENERAL SULLIVAN
Douglas C. Nelson

0097 RENOVATION
Allen B. Lackey

0109 INSPIRATION
James Phillip Verdi

0110 SCPIO
Daniel G. Fultz

0115 PHOENIX
William Alexander Huver

0127 LAKE CITY
Edward Andrew Dennis

0128 OGDENSBURGH-ACACIAN
Richard C. Fox

0129 SANGER
Kenneth
George McConnell

0136 HIRAM
David James Harvey Sr

0139 MILNOR
James E. Van Wyk

0153 VALLEY
Gerald L. Beatty
Harold Bonning II

0154 ERAC
William C. Sawyer

0157 TRUMANSBURG
Wayne Butler

0167 TRI-TOWN
Richard Dale Palmatier

0173 MONROE
James E. Whipple

0178 CORNERSTONE
Ronald Krugman

0196 SOLOMON'S
Carter L. Dorzbacher

0199 HARMONY
Arnold Geisler
Goetz D. Vehse

0211 POCAHONTAS
Samuel Kaye Clark
Charles Edwin Uplinger

0223 ROMAN-HATHEWAY
Thomas L. Bates
Maxey Allan Piper
Mark J. Schuldiner

0224 ORIENTAL-FAXTON
Dennis B. Rahn

0230 UNIVERSITY
David A. Hardy

0231 CORNERSTONE
Russell C. Wright

0233 PACIFIC
David
Samuel Friedberg Esq

0246 ARCANIA
Abraham Jackie Sussman

0252 ENCHANTED MOUNTAINS
Robert L. Brushingham
Rex A. Mcintosh

0255 LIVING STONE
George A. Spengler

0290 MOUNT OLIVE
Danny L. Argetsinger
Charles Kelly

0301 DUNKIRK-IRONDEQUOIT
Richard Norman Sam

0306 CUBA-FRIENDSHIP
Manley A. Clark

0309 HUDSON RIVER
Thomas K. Clawson

0313 STONY POINT WAWAYANDA
Gilbert Teitel

0319 BLACK LAKE HAMMOND
David L. Wilson

0333 WESTBROOK
Carl Lee Green

0347 CLINTON-HAMPTON
Charles L. Thaler Jr

0359 RANDOLPH
Dennis Carnahan
Kirk Carnahan

0369 CALLIMACHUS
Terrell V. Norris

0394 COBLESKILL
Richard Allen Kuhn

0396 DEPOSIT
Walter Fred Ottens

0398 HOME
Alan F. Potter

0404 CONSTELLATION
Frederick G. Bauer
Richard J. Blythe

0412 HOFFMAN
John D. Norman

0415 PULASKI
Douglas Skinner

0439 DELAWARE RIVER
George C. Lafever

0455 NEWPORT
Ronald Thomas

0462 ATTICA
David John Buchheit
Robert Walter Strang Jr

0472 TRITOWN
Frank Leigh Yager

0477 WILDWOOD
Arthur W. Whitmarsh

0478 SOUTH DANSVILLE-WAYLAND Peter L. Krog	0586 ADVANCE SERVICE MIZPAH Lawrence Jacques Hammel Jr A Kennedy Owens	0696 PEACOCK James R. Willcockson	0854 ARCHIMEDE-ROMA Dennis Gene Feldman	1016 FLORAL PARK Edward C. Kaercher
0483 ZEREDATHA Ashley Hoffman	0589 NAURASHANK Alden L. Hansell	0701 BEACON LIGHT William A. Sorensen Jr	0855 PAUMANOK-PORT WASHINGTON Donald Alfred Kurz	1037 VICTORIA SEA GATE Brian Craig Rappaport
0484 COLUMBIAN Seth M. Black	0595 SOCRATES Johann Grein	0739 MAIMONIDES-MARSHALL Philip Schatten	0859 COLLABERGH-RADIUM Joseph Frank Jr	1068 JAMES W. HUSTED-FIAT LUX Bradley A. Cannon
0486 GOLDENRULE CLERMONT MCKINLEY Ron Melamud Alan Yates	0602 IROQUOIS Alan Herbert Kline	0757 SILVER Marvin L. Smith	0867 DAMASCUS James E. Kando	1116 ABRAVANEL Arnold L. Winters
0494 JEPHTHA Arthur M. Landman	0622 CENTRAL SQUARE Roger O. Haag	0779 CLIO Armour Louis Mack	0912 GREAT KILLS Kenneth Baker	1178 GREAT VALLEY Donn Burke Baker
0513 MASSENA John Richard Boyce	0627 WALKILL Norman A. Matthias Jr	0784 KING HIRAM Philip R. Rumsey	0916 PHILADELPHIA Harry A. Gill	1180 DRUMLIN SQUARE David G. Borland Norman M. Cole George L. Tegart Jr
0521 SULLIVAN George Fulton	0630 GILBOA William Louis Snyder	0793 BABYLON John Mackie	0922 AMOS-FORT GREENE Arnold Stern	1181 ALL SEEING EYE Guy Vigne
0538 WEBSTER Thomas F. Pellett Jr	0634 SCOTIA Rudolph McIntyre	0794 MOUNT DEFIANCE Stephen E. Boyce	0934 JOSEPH WARREN-GOTHIC Joel Gary Soren	1185 WESTERN STAR James R. Kintzel
0563 CORNUCOPIA Louis Duve McKenney Jr	0647 AURORA GRATA-DAY STAR Peter Philip Saliu	0797 SENECA Frank E. Johnston Jr	0942 UNITED LODGE Michael Steven Kohel	1186 KEN-TON Ronald Tetro Cecil William Wolcott
0568 ST. CECILE Bruce Beckerman MD	0653 JOHN JAY Peter A. Jaskow	0808 GUIDING LIGHT-OLYMPIA Lester M. Horowitz	0948 SWEET HOME Edward J. Goldstein Larry L. Hoffman	1188 RENAISSANCE Victor A. Moseley Robert J. Parks Bruce E. Vesper
0570 AVON SPRINGS Robert E. DuBoise	0664 AMICABLE Michael T. Benson Richard N. Stathes	0813 HEBRON Joseph Anthony Manzi	0950 KONOSIONI William David Vanderhoof	
0581 WINFIELD Lyle D. Aney	0682 NUNDA STATION Arthur E. Alexander Gary E. Ludwig	0814 SCONONDOA-SHERRILL Willard A. Lewis Jr	0956 SPARTAN John C. Punger	

Masons confer the 3rd degree

On Thursday, February 15 the officers and members of North Woods Lodge 849 conferred the Third—Master Mason—Degree, including the Hiramic Legend, upon Kyle Lindsay. Kyle took his oath upon the Bible that belonged to his second great-grandfather, James S. Watkins, who was a member of North Woods 849 nearly 100 years ago (1924).

Walter D. Marks was then Master, Leon Burnap was Senior Warden and Harry J. Ball was Junior Warden.

The evening began with a chicken parmesan, pasta and salad meal catered by the Front Door. Camaraderie was enjoyed by all.



Officers and members of the conferring team are pictured with Kyle above. First row: Jack Dempsey (SMC), RW Andrew Getty (WM), RW Timothy Harwood (conferring WM) Kyle Lindsay (holding Bible), Gary Hamburg (JMC), Edmund Girtler (Tiler). Second row: Joseph Stefanko Jr. (Ruffian). Jon Brosemer (Steward). Tory Dunn (Jr. Warden), RW Carl Klossner (JD), Randy Kull. Third row: Tim Brennon, W Wayne Beckingham (SD), Gary Kinny (Steward), Scott Gaffney (Sr. Warden), Thomas Smedley (Chaplain) and Paul Morin.



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FROM THE WEBMASTER

The Mystery Schools, which included knowledge of Geometry, were exclusive for several reasons. First, specialized knowledge was power. Those who knew could lead projects—and get paid accordingly. Secondly, the average person would not understand, not having been taught and trained, mouth-to-ear or otherwise. Science is still like magic to those who do not know it. But is there a need to preserve secrets today?

Over time, the veils between the arcane and the profane have been pushed aside. As printing technology progressed, written works became widely available. As society improved, education was no longer limited to certain classes and professions, and even became a recognized human right. As communication advanced, information sped across seas, then wires, then waves again in the form of radio and television. Now we all send and receive information at will. Much of the world's libraries and papers are literally at our fingertips. There is virtually nothing you cannot look up.

So why are we not smarter? If we consider Knowledge in terms of supply and demand, it has lost more value than it has gained. One would think Freemasonry could hold no secrets even if it has them. Everything is online, sort of. But some would say our secrets are hidden in plain sight—and they would be right. Maybe Freemasonry does not really offer us anything we could not find ourselves. Maybe its purpose is to encourage us to seek, ask, knock—to teach us how to

search. Discoveries are not made because you can get the right answers, but by asking the right questions.

This is not as abstract as it sounds. I love doing research, on any topic, really. I am inquisitive and learning anything is an adventure to me. But it is mostly because there is no grading and passing of courses to take away the fun of it. As Masons, we are charged to add to the sum of human knowledge, not just pass an exam. That means asking questions that have not been asked before. That means knowing where to look. A web search will not help you if you do not even know what you are looking for. There are entire areas of libraries that are fascinating, yet remain untouched for years because no one knows the secrets are there, hidden in plain sight.

So what are the intellectual skills of a Speculative (philosophical) Mason? We are incited to seek what we do not yet know, but the path is perilous. Too many people go down rabbit holes and get lost in conspiracies and illusions. We do not even try to discern what is true and what is not. Even worse, all knowledge and arguments seem equally valid because they are equally visible. We do not have a solid grasp of the Liberal Arts and Sciences, which are not only excellent guideposts, but railings to keep us from falling over the edge. And because of the Web, we need such things more than ever.

Masonry demands we ask the big questions, not just the mundane ones. But will we?

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Whirlwind Trip to Alexandria

When the Brothers of White Plains Lodge 473 (WPL473) first heard about the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Cornerstone Rededication Ceremony, they knew it was a once-in-a-lifetime event. When else would they have a chance to attend a historical Masonic event that coincided with the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America? In short, this would be an opportunity to come together with Brothers from all over the world, march through the streets of Alexandria, Virginia, and help honor one of the most revered Masons and Americans of all time. It was decided that WPL473 must be represented at this event.

Fast forward a few weeks to the morning of Sunday, February 19, 2023, when the WM, SW and JW of WP473 (Steve Petty, Andrew Haight and Anthony Fella) began the journey to Alexandria at 10:00 a.m. Roughly six hours later we arrived at the Embassy Suites, right across the street from the George Washington Masonic National Memorial (GWMNM). We had just enough time to change into our suits and make it to the GWMNM for the New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education 1786 meeting.



Given all the Brothers in town, we made fast friends in the hotel lobby, Theismann's Restaurant.



The parade and rededication ceremony were planned for Monday the 20th. With some help from Grand Secretary RW Richard Schulz, we were able to link up with Brothers from the New York Grand Lodge for the parade. We were honored to meet such a distinguished group of Brothers and march with them through the streets of Alexandria to the GWMNM.



Following the rededication ceremony, we jumped back in the car and headed home. And six hours later our whirlwind trip was over but our memories will last a lifetime.

Stony Point Lodge 313

Thank you, Stony Point Lodge 313 for your hospitality. Your Lodge had a nice Third Degree and we welcome our new Master Mason!



50 Year Apron



W Harold Goodsell was recently presented with his fifty-year Masonic pin, apron and certificate. District Deputy Grand Master RW Lester Losaw of the Saratoga-Warren District performed the ceremony at a recent meeting of Rising Sun Lodge 103. Also present were W Jeff Kurto, Master; W Doug Missimer, Chaplain; and W Paul Levin, Secretary of the Lodge.

Articles due date for the **FALL** Edition of the *Empire State Mason* magazine is **July 1, 2023**

Submission guidelines for publication in the ESM

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Send photographs, flashdrives and CD-Rom discs (formatted as instructed as in previous column) via United States Postal Service or other delivery service to:

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GRAND MASTER'S FAMILY DAY AT WEST POINT



COME AND JOIN US!! READ THE ARTICLE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 44